



NEWS RELEASE

Nature Canada congratulates Mehvish Khanam of Scarborough, Ontario, as a 2025 Young Nature Leaders Grant recipient

(Unceded Algonquin Territory, Ottawa, August 12, 2025)—Nature Canada's *Women for Nature* are proud to celebrate Mehvish Khanam of Scarborough, Ontario, as a recipient of our 2025 **Young Nature Leaders Grant**. This grant encourages, fosters and nurtures youth to demonstrate their leadership in nature.

Mehvish is launching workshops in Scarborough, Ontario, designed to engage post-secondary students in building wildlife shelters. These shelters will help support biodiversity while providing hands-on opportunities to develop conservation skills and promote environmental stewardship within the community.

The workshops are scheduled to take place from August to September and will include wildlife shelter construction as well as an educational presentation to deepen participants' understanding of local ecosystems and conservation needs. The initiative is being supported in part through collaboration with *Regenesis*, a student-run environmental organization at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Mehvish shares that her motivation for this project comes from a deep connection to nature. She says, "my fondest memories are of hearing frogs croak at night and watching birds fly early in the morning. Over time, seeing the decline of local species in our community has become a personal call to action, and I am compelled to help create shelters and rehabilitation habitats that provide safe spaces for the creatures that have always been a part of our lives."

Mehvish is a Young Nature Leader alongside these other amazing local youth leaders:

- Wendy Ihama of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Kaite Martin of Kimberley, British Columbia
- Megan Castelino of Thorold, Ontario
- Jasmin Skinner of London, Ontario
- Aidan Williams Dale of Brampton, Ontario

The **Young Nature Leaders Grant** began in 2017 to empower youth to develop and implement a youth-led, community-based project centered around nature and sustainability in Canada. This year's recipients join an impressive list of previous recipients with unique and complementary ideas.

Related Links:

[Recipients of the 2025 Young Nature Leaders Grant](#)

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[About Nature Canada](#)

Nature Canada was founded in 1939 because of the passion and initiative of Mabel Frances Whittemore, a teacher and nature lover whose main goal in life was to share her passion for nature with others. Today, Nature Canada represents a network of over 175,000 members and supporters and more than 1200 nature organizations across the country. Over the past 85 years, Nature Canada has helped protect more than 110 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species that depend on this habitat and connected hundreds of thousands of Canadians - especially children - with nature through its activities.

[About Women For Nature](#)

Nature Canada's signature "Women for Nature" initiative raises awareness about the need to connect more Canadians of all ages to nature. Our members champion efforts to inspire youth and families to spend time in nature, to learn and experience our natural heritage and in doing so, ensure the health and well-being of our Canadian society.