

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, March 12, 2012

### Forum for Young Sustainability Leaders kicks off on Tuesday, March 13 with eager and experienced delegates and a 'Funds for the Future Challenge'

**VANCOUVER** – Leading Change ([www.leadingchange2012.ca](http://www.leadingchange2012.ca)) is a Canada-wide movement started by young environmental and sustainability professionals working together to catalyze action and influence positive change locally, regionally and internationally. Leading Change will be kick-started during the 2012 Globe Conference ([www.globe.ca](http://www.globe.ca)) with a week-long program, including a one-day **Forum for Young Sustainability Leaders** on March 13, 2012 in Vancouver. Leading Change is a volunteer partnership lead by The Delphi Group ([www.delphi.ca](http://www.delphi.ca)), Young Environmental Professionals (YEP) and Connecting Environmental Professionals (CEP).

The audience is 150 Emerging Leaders – youth and young professionals interested in the environment, clean energy and clean technology. The Forum complements the GLOBE Conference and is focused on building the next generation of corporate leaders, policy thinkers, entrepreneurs and community actors.

On **March 13, 2012**, the Forum will kick-off with a high energy day filled with motivational speakers, engaging dialogue with peers and mentors and hands-on learning around critical sustainability issues. From March 14-16 participants will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including mentoring workshops, focus groups, company tours, and the GLOBE Conference networking events, trade show and sessions.

The outcomes of the Forum include an expanded network of informed emerging leaders; established relationships between the emerging leaders and mentors; new employment opportunities for young leaders; and education and community project ideas for the emerging leaders to implement. At the end of the Forum the goal is for participants to take professional action — such as making presentations to local government, implementing community sustainability projects, and/or starting up new businesses — when they return to their communities, post secondary institutions or workplaces.

Become a part of the movement, visit [www.leadingchange2012.ca](http://www.leadingchange2012.ca).

#### Featured Delegates

##### Jennifer Arthur - Water



- Source Water Protection Planner for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Source Protection Programs Branch
- Recently completed a Master's of Integrated Water Management through the International WaterCentre and the Universities of Queensland, Monash, Griffith and the Western Australia, focussing on Community Development aspects of water provision
- Interests and pursuits focus on promoting the inclusion of community engagement practises in policies, particularly ensuring that Aboriginal peoples are given the opportunity to be involved in programs and discussions that centre around water management practices in Ontario.

## Alexandre Vignault- Global Emissions Management



- PhD candidate in the Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in the field of clean energy and distributed hydrogen production.
- Initial board member of the goBEYOND project, supporting thousands of students across B.C. to take meaningful action on climate change and sustainability.
- Currently sits on the board of Leadnow, an independent advocacy organization to achieve progress through democracy.
- Works as a consultant for Raincity Strategies and Beyond Climate Solutions.

## Tonya Lagrasta - Corporate Sustainability



- Manager of Community Leadership for KPMG Canada
- Led the development of the firm's National Sustainability Strategy and is responsible for its full integration
- Certified Environmental Professional (EP), with more than eight years experience in he sustainability and environmental compliance sectors
- On the Board of Directors at Big Art for Little Minds and the Board of Advisors for Toronto Greenhouse
- Recently appointed to the Program Advisory Council for Ryerson's School of Continuing Education post-graduate Certificate in Sustainability.

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### Highlights of the Funds for the Future Challenge

In this challenge, aspiring entrepreneurs have been selected from participants of Leading Change 2012 to develop and pitch proposals for sustainability-related projects to a panel of judges. The forum provides participants with an opportunity to learn from leading experts in the sustainability field, while connecting them with other highly-driven and successful entrepreneurs on issues that are important to them and their community.

In keeping with Leading Change's theme of continued action, the Forum will serve as the launching point for the Funding Competition, as teams will continue to showcase their ideas online in interactive formats after the Forum, encouraging feedback and fostering collaboration. Solid, well thought through ideas will receive funding for implementation from a pool of sponsorship dollars.

### For more information:

Elizabeth Watterworth, Event Manager  
403-510-6845

[elizabeth@leadingchange2012.ca](mailto:elizabeth@leadingchange2012.ca)

OR

Jessica Ward, Marketing Director  
[jessica@leadingchange2012.ca](mailto:jessica@leadingchange2012.ca)