

King's University College at Western University to host We Canada: Dialogue and Action for Earth Summit 2012

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London, Ont.**

King's University College at Western University is pleased to host We Canada: Dialogue and Action for Earth Summit 2012 on February 28. From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Vitali Student Lounge, students, faculty, staff and community members will engage in dialogue and collective action that addresses Canada's role at the June 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The event will include three main speakers:

Dr. Radoslav Dimitrov

Dimitrov is a European Union delegate to the United Nations negotiations on climate change and Associate Professor of Political Science at Western University. He is also a consultant to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Aleksandra Nasteska

Nasteska is the co-founder of We Canada. Her career in media began as a correspondent for youth culture shows on the national network. In Canada she created Vancouver Heartbeat, a multimedia project profiling environmental and social justice leaders.

Victoria Wee

Wee is the Youth Engagement Director of We Canada and the lead organizer for We Canada's cross-country tour. She is a member of the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada's National Youth Leadership Council and the Canadian Environmental Network's Youth Advisory Board.

King's University College at Western University is the 9th stop on a cross-national tour launched by We Canada and the Canadian Earth Summit Coalition to encourage discussion regarding the relationship between democracy, sustainability, green economy, and equity.

We Canada is a non-profit social movement for Canadian leadership in sustainable development. Founded and run by more than 50 young adult and veteran sustainability advocates from across the country, We Canada aims to create a platform for civil society participation in the Earth Summit 2012. Their objectives are to spread knowledge and empower people to make change in their own lives and participate in systemic change. They foster dialogue and consultation among the public, responsible business networks and NGOs. They have forged a nation-wide civil society coalition and are coordinating with similar initiatives worldwide. They are working together to make the Earth Summit 2012 the tipping point for the sustainability movement.

"This event is being held at King's because our community is widely mobilized around social justice and sustainable development priorities," notes Erin Hannah a King's faculty member and organizer.

"Canadians were once leaders in civil society engagement and environmental and social issues at the 1992 Earth Summit. Now, we are considered "rogues" or obstructionists in international climate change negotiations. This is an important opportunity for our community to engage in a conversation about this change, to express concern about issues such as Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol or our oil sands developments, and to share ideas about how Canada can be a leader in sustainable development while securing a strong economy. This is an opportunity to take action to ensure proper representation of Canadians at the global stage."

The event is open to the public.

For more information about Earth Summit 2012 and We Canada, please visit www.earthsummit.ca, www.facebook.com/WECANADA or follow on Twitter at @wecanada hastag: #cndtour

For more information please contact:

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