



**2023**  
**WEST**  
**CONFERENCE**

*Tapping into Water Sustainability*

**June 14-16, 2023**



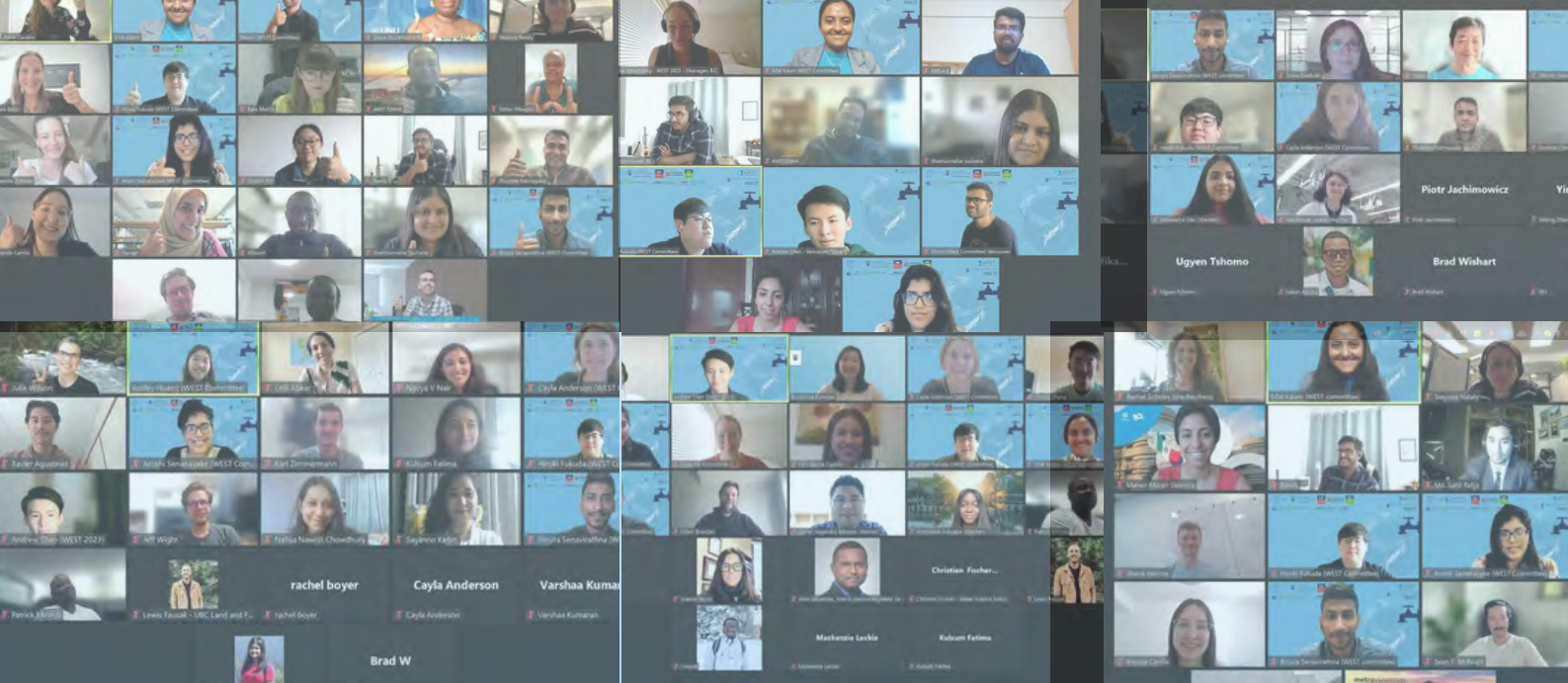
**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**University  
of Victoria**



**A multi-disciplinary conference to collaboratively address the future challenges of water and the environment.**





# THANK YOU



# FOR JOINING!





# CHAIR'S CLOSING ADDRESS

Dear All Water Enthusiasts,

We are delighted to conclude the successful ninth edition of the WEST-Conference, held from June 14-16, 2023. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our sponsors whose support made WEST 2023 possible: platinum sponsor AMS, gold sponsors UBC Applied Science and UBC Civil Engineering, silver sponsors the University of Victoria and UBC Chemical and Biological Engineering, and bronze sponsors the Canadian Association on Water Quality, KWL, Metro Vancouver, UBC GSS, and UBC iGSN.

At WEST 2023, we had the privilege of welcoming a diverse and brilliant group of water researchers, united by our shared commitment to '*Tapping into Water Sustainability*.' Throughout the conference, keynote speakers Dr. Emily Tow, Gwen Bridge, and Dr. Zafar Adeel shared invaluable insights on water reuse, indigenous knowledge, and achieving climate resilience. Our program also featured two enlightening panels—one focused on watershed management, hosted by OBWB, and the other exploring the role of research in the water industry. We express our gratitude to the panelists for their valuable contributions.

As an international conference, we aimed to gather global perspectives to address water challenges, and we are thrilled to have had 250 registrations from around the world. Moreover, we hosted 50 education presenters across eight sessions, showcasing groundbreaking water research. We are grateful to our esteemed audience for actively participating and enriching the discussions.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for making WEST 2023 a resounding success. Your enthusiasm, knowledge, and engagement transformed this conference into a vibrant platform for idea exchange, collaboration, and progress in water sustainability. As we conclude this conference, let us carry the spirit of WEST forward, continuing our efforts to tackle the global water challenges that lie ahead. Thank you once again for your invaluable support, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming you to future editions of the WEST Conference.

Best regards,

Hiroki Fukuda and Aroshi Senanayake  
WEST 2023 Conference Co-Chairs



A dynamic splash of clear water against a light blue background, with the splash curving across the frame. A semi-transparent blue rounded rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the text.

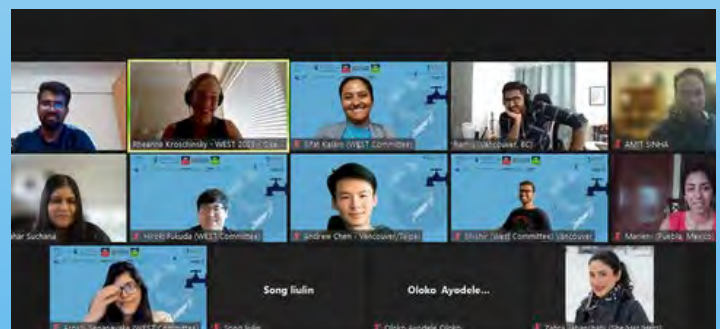
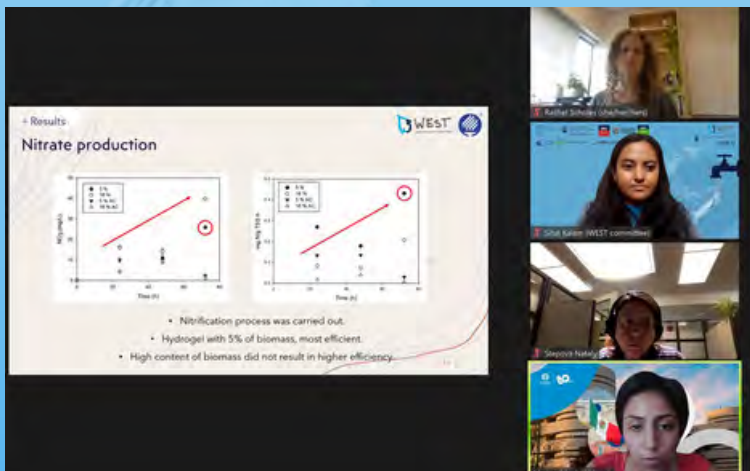
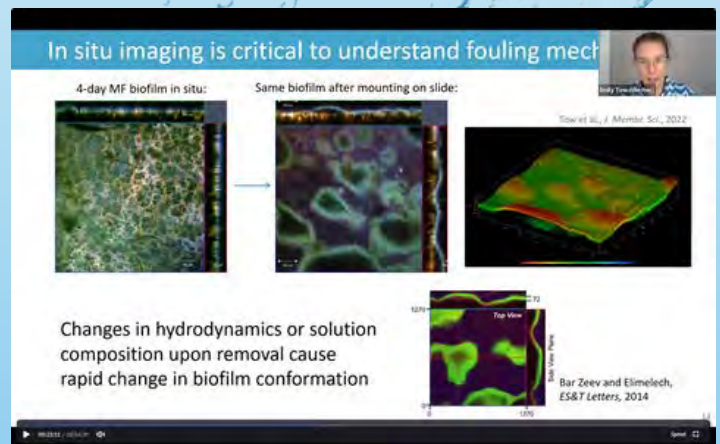
# **WEST 2023 REWIND**



# DAY 1

Wednesday, June 14th

WEST 2023 begin with an excellent keynote talk from Dr. Emily Tow on "*Strategies for High-Recovery, Low-Energy Water Reuse*", where we learnt of the impacts of fouling on water recovery processes. The rest of the morning we enjoyed presentations from education sessions #1: *Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology I* and #2: *Emerging Contaminants*.



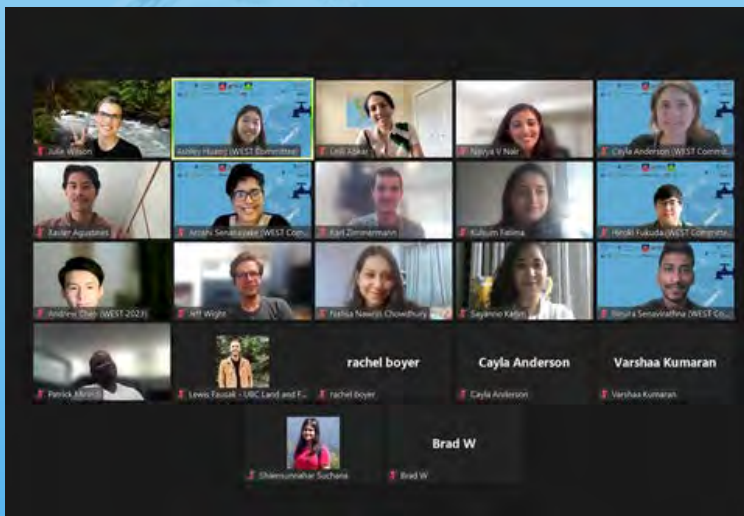
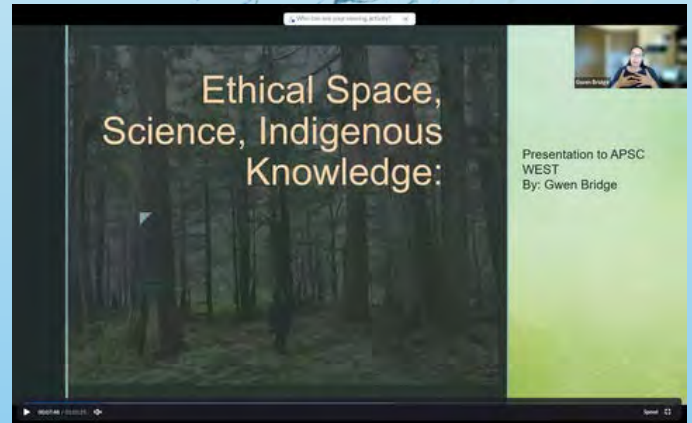
After lunch we had an engaging discussion with the Okanagan Basin Water Board on *Watershed Management* throughout BC's most arid communities and listened to several inspiring presentations in our final education session of the day, #3: *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene*. In the evening we held a lovely networking event for participants, *Fluid Friends*.

# DAY 2

Thursday, June 15th



The day began with an inspiring keynote talk by Gwen Bridge from Gwen Bridge Consulting. Gwen's presentation provided valuable insights into ethical space and indigenous knowledges, highlighting the intriguing dynamics between Western written culture and indigenous oral culture.



After the keynote, the audience enjoyed more than 20 presentations, including the 3-Minute WESTalk (3MWT) session. During this session, presenters effectively communicated their research to a general audience within a brief 3-minute timeframe.



# DAY 3

Friday, June 16th



Day 3 commenced with an engaging panel discussion featuring Dr. David Kratochvil, Dr. Farokh Kakar, and Dr. Shona Robinson. Together, we explored the vital role of research in the industry. Their valuable insights generated meaningful interactions with the audience, providing students with a deeper understanding of research in the industry and its implications for their future careers.



Following the panel discussion, we facilitated an interactive poster session that prompted numerous insightful questions from the audience.



Our final keynote speaker, Dr. Zafar Adeel joined us and delivered an enlightening talk on global water challenges. He shed light on the intricate connection between these challenges and broader issues like poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Adeel's insights provided valuable perspectives for our attendees.



The WEST conference concluded with the networking luncheon with our water industry partners, which provided an invaluable opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing to all the attendees.

A dynamic splash of clear water is captured in mid-air, arching across the frame from the bottom left towards the top right. The water droplets are sharp and detailed, set against a light blue gradient background. A semi-transparent blue rounded rectangle is positioned horizontally across the center of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# **WEST 2023 AWARDS**



# WEST 2023 AWARDS

## Philip H. Jones

Awarded by the Canadian Association on Water Quality (CAWQ) to recognize the two best oral presentations by students at Canadian Universities during the education sessions.

First Place is \$300, Second Place is \$200



## Education Sessions

Awarded by the judges at each education session to recognize the best two presentations.

First Place is \$200, Second Place is \$150

## 3-Minute WESTalk & Poster

Judge's choice for the two best presentations and posters and an additional People's Choice award for each.

First Place is \$150, Second Place is \$100, People's Choice is \$50

\*Please note that there will be no duplicate awards to one presenter.

# AWARDS WINNERS



## Ed Session #1: Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology I

***Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):***

***Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)***



**Shane Hancox**

**University of Massachusetts  
Amherst**



**Ramis Rafay**

**Simon Fraser University**

**Judges:**

**Dr. Jongho Lee, University of British Columbia**

**Dr. Rachel Scholes, University of British Columbia**



# AWARDS WINNERS



## Ed Session #2: Emerging Contaminants

***Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):***

***Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)***



**Shamsunnahar  
Suchana**

**University of Toronto**



**Yuemei Ye**

**North Carolina State  
University**

**Judges:**

**Dr. Zeina Baalbaki, University of British Columbia  
Dr. Noboru Yonemitsu, University of British Columbia**

# AWARDS WINNERS



## Ed Session #3: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

***Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):***

***Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)***



**Tao Wen**

**University of Toronto**



**Camille Zimmer**

**University of Victoria**

**Judges:**

**Dr. Grace Oluwasanya, United Nations University**

**Dr. Sara Beck, University of British Columbia**



# AWARDS WINNERS



## Ed Session #4: Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology II

***Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):***

***Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)***



**Ali Khadir**

**University of Western  
Ontario**



**Yinchuan Yang**

**UBC**

**Judges:**

**Dr. Ryan Ziels, University of British Columbia**

**Dr. Ehsan Banayan Esfahani, University of British Columbia**

# AWARDS WINNERS



## Ed Session #5: Water in Changing Climate

***Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):***

***Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)***



**Jessica LeNoble**

**Kerr Wood Leidal Associates**



**Kayla Linden**

**University of Waterloo**

**Judges:**

**Julie Wilson, University of British Columbia  
Dr. Leili Akbar, University of British Columbia**



# AWARDS WINNERS



## Ed Session #6: Water Governance, Policy and Stewardship

***Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):***

***Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)***



**Carmen Castillo**

**Universidad Michoacana de  
San Nicolás de Hidalgo**



**Yiming Zhang**

**UBC**

**Judges:**

**Oliver Brandes, University of Victoria / POLIS Project  
Dr. Joanne Taylor, University of British Columbia**

# AWARDS WINNERS



## 3-Minute WESTALK (3MWT)

**Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):**

**Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)**

**People's Choice**



**Aishwarya Das**  
UBC



**Vannary Seng**  
UBC



**Fatemeh Zeidabadi**  
UBC

**Judges:**

Dr. Paul Onkundi Nyangaresi, UBC  
Hayat Raza, Continental Carbon Group

## Poster session

**Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):**

**Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)**

**People's Choice**



**Hanieh Shakeri  
Moghaddam**  
Simon Fraser University



**Kelsey Shaw**  
University of Victoria



**Soobin Yim**  
Simon Fraser University

**Judges:**

Dr. Abhishek Dutta, University of British Columbia  
Dr. Tim Rodgers, University of British Columbia



# PHILIP H. JONES AWARD



CAWQ

ACQE

**A major goal of the Canadian Association on Water Quality is to showcase the talents of students who conduct water quality research.**

**The CAWQ sponsors a competition for the "best presentation" of a research paper made by a student at each of the regional symposia on water pollution research. Since 2000, the winners have received the Philip H. Jones Award.**

**This award was created as a memorial to Philip H. Jones who was a long-standing member of the CAWQ and who was a driving force in the development of the organization.**

**1st place: \$300**

**2nd place: \$200**

**Top Judges' scores between all oral presentation sessions**

# AWARDS WINNERS

## Philip H. Jones Award for Overall Conference

**Best Presentation Award  
(1st Place):**



**Florent Blancho**  
McGill University

*Can super-bridging agents increase water treatment plant capacity? A lab-scale and pilot-scale demonstration*

**Runner-up presentation  
Award (2nd Place)**



**Bolormaa Purejav**  
UBC

*Improving water management in Gobi Desert Mining Region*



# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ADDRESSING WATER CHALLENGES

The WEST Conference is predicated on the understanding that finding solutions to our future water challenges will require collaborations. The WEST Conference aims to unite water researchers from across disciplines, cultures, and geographies to share their water stories and to appreciate the value of including diverse perspectives.

At WEST 2023, we were excited to welcome:

- 250 registered participants around 20 countries
- Three Keynotes, 8 Education sessions, 2 Panel discussions
- 50 student presentations
- In person Water Industry luncheon







# WEST 2023 TEAM

**Hiroki Fukuda and Aroshi Senanayake**  
Co-chairs, WEST 2023



**Rachel Boyer**



**Kirsten Aasen**



**Binura Senavirathna**



**Sifat Kalam**



**Md Nurul Afcher Shishir**



**Rheanne Kroschinsky**



**Karl Zimmerman**



**Kimia Nazokkar**



**Varshaa Kumaran**



**Cayla Anderson**



**Andrew Chen**



**Hamed Sharif**



**Aishwarya Das**



**Ashley Huang**



**Esther Mbagwu**



**Devesh Rao**



**Shauna Ndoping**



**Mohammad AmirRahmani**



**Ayodele Oloko**



# Thank You!

# WEST<sup>2023</sup> SPONSORS

**PLATINUM**



Student Society  
of UBC Vancouver

**GOLD**



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Faculty of Applied Science

**SILVER**



University  
of Victoria



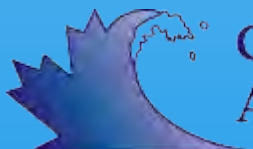
**BRONZE**



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**iGSN**  
UBC Interdisciplinary  
Graduate Student Network



CAWQ  
ACQE



GRADUATE  
STUDENT SOCIETY  
UBC VANCOUVER

Thank You!

**WEST** 2023  
**WATER INDUSTRY  
PARTNERS**

**BQE Water**



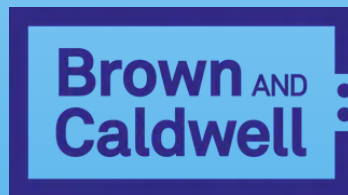
PACIFIC WATER  
RESEARCH CENTRE

ASSOCIATED  
ENGINEERING



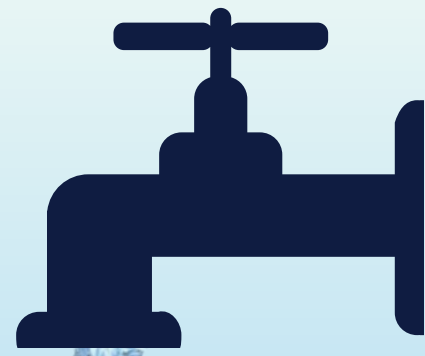
**KERR WOOD LEIDAL**  
consulting engineers

**Operators**  
*WITHOUT BORDERS*



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# THANK YOU!!

*We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this conference. To the committee members, thank you for your hard work in organizing everything. A special appreciation to the keynote speakers, panelists, judges, and presenters for their valuable contributions. We are grateful to our sponsors and industry partners for their generous support. Your involvement made this event a success. Finally, we like to thank all the presenters and attendees for your significant contributions.*

