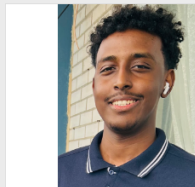


The logo for Toronto Metropolitan University, featuring the text "Toronto Metropolitan University" in white on a blue rectangular background. A yellow L-shaped graphic element is positioned behind the blue box.

Urban Water

Urban Water TMU - June 2023

Welcoming the 2023/24 UW Student Leadership Committee!



[Ayub Abdulle](#)
Treasurer and Secretary



[Brianna Limkilde](#)
President



[Kailyn Seo](#)
Social Media Coordinator



[Seren Acikalın](#)
Vice-President

Congratulations to the 4 new Student Leadership Committee members! The Student Leadership Committee's goal is to bring together students from across campus and undertake activities that support the Urban Water student community.

You can read their bios on the [Urban Water website linked here](#).

Huge thanks to the inaugural Student Committee: Zanina Ilieva, Diana Parades, Brianna Limkilde, and Jannatul Islam for all their hard work and a successful year filled with events and initiatives for the UW student network!

Roxana Suehring a New Executive Member!

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Urban Water welcomes Roxana Suehring as our newest Executive Member.

Roxana is an environmental analytical chemist whose primary research focus is the fate and transport of organic contaminants, such as persistent, mobile, and toxic plastic additives. Roxana is also co-creating research on water security with members of the Indigenous community in Northern Canada where members of the community are equal partners in the research.

Workshop with Indigenous Students from Native Learning Centre



"Unfettered Access for Our Grandchildren," a piece by Miranda Black, TMU alumnus and Haudenosaunee visual artist

On May 23rd, UW collaborated with Caleb Wesley, Coordinator of Indigenous Knowledge and Science Outreach to host Indigenous high school students from the Native Learning Centre. Visiting students explored the implications of heavy usage of road salt on our waterways. UW will continue to work with Caleb to develop Learning Modules that bring Indigenous and Western knowledge together to deliver STEAM to Indigenous high school students.

This work is part of [Urban Water's UN Commitment to Build Relationships and Collaborate with Indigenous Communities to Improve Safe Drinking Water for Indigenous People in Canada.](#)

Carbon Capture and Climate Change Workshop



On May 17th, Elsayed Elbeshbishy led a collaboration amongst TMU, UofT, and York to host a workshop entitled “**Carbon Capture and Climate Change Adaptation for Water Utilities.**” The workshop brought together 100 water industry professionals and stakeholders including the International Water Association (IWA) Board. The IWA Board was in Toronto preparing for the Annual Congress to be held in August 2024 in Toronto. The event was held at Mattamy Athletic Centre and featured a number of speakers and moderated panel discussions on carbon capture and climate change.

Urban Water at Science Rendezvous!

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Science Rendezvous, now part of NSERC's Science Odyssey, is Canada's annual celebration of science. This year, Science Rendezvous at TMU was held on May 13th on Gould Street. Among demonstrations like Indigenous STEAM and Fun with Physics, Urban Water set up a table to showcase research on road salt and its implications for our waterways, and which items should be flushed down our toilets! The event attracted a strong turnout from the public and had plenty of interactive activities for young children.

Urban Water attends IAGLR 2023!



From May 8-12, members of the Urban Water community, including Claire Oswald, Christopher Wellen, Laya Ahmadi, Rhiannon Pinkerton, Wyatt Weatherson, and Ryan Hutchins attended the International Association of Great Lakes Research 66th Annual Conference in Toronto. TMU and TRCA led the local organizing committee for IAGLR 2023.

The conference featured four days of scientific sessions and speakers focusing on the theme of *Adapting to Climate Change*.

Urban Water at the Canadian Water Summit



On June 8-9, Urban Water researchers attended the Water Canada Summit in Ottawa. The Summit featured keynotes by Hon Terry Duguid on Canada's Freshwater Action Plan and Hon Patty Hajdu on Canada's advances in Indigenous services. The Summit also featured updates on the Canada Water Agency and municipal infrastructure and climate adaptation. As well, a map of the Great Lakes associated with the [Biinaagami Project](#) was showcased.

Brianna Limkilde, President of the UW Student Leadership Committee and Yena Bassone-Quashie, Nicholas Reid Memorial Award 2023 winner also attended the Summit. UW Students were featured as Future Leaders in the latest issue of Water Canada [here](#).

Research Proposals and Funding Calls

NSERC has announced the launch of the third edition of the [Discovery Horizons](#) call for proposals. The Discovery Horizons program provides NSERC's entry-point to the [tri-agency interdisciplinary peer-review mechanism](#). Please see the summary below.

Funder: NSERC

Program: Discovery Horizons (pilot)

Value and Duration: Up to five (5) years ; from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year

Number of grants: For this competition, NSERC is expecting to award approximately [10 to 20 grants](#) this year.

View All SRC Funding Calls

Recent Publications of Full Members

Full Members are highly involved and regular contributors to Urban Water research projects and initiatives. Check out their recent publications below and full list of publications on the webpage (yellow button below).

Hidalgo-Rosa, Y., Saavedra-Torres, M., **Koivisto, B.D.** et al. Rare-earth-based metal–organic frameworks with improved visible-light-harvesting properties: a quantum chemistry study. *J Mater Sci* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10853-023-08581-6>

Ilieva Z, **Hamza RA, Suehring R.** The significance of fluorinated compound chain length, treatment technology, and influent composition on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances removal in worldwide wastewater treatment plants. *Integr Environ Assess Manag.* 2023 Apr 25. doi: 10.1002/ieam.4778. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37096563.

Johannes Sirunda, Paul Oberholster, **Gideon Wolfaardt**, Christoff Truter & Sean van der Merwe (2023) Long-term study of the drought impact on the phytoplankton concentration and assemblages in two water supply reservoirs in Namibia, *African Journal of Aquatic Science*, DOI: 10.2989/16085914.2023.2200816

Kakar FL, Aqeel H, **Liss SN, Elbeshbishy E.** Impact of Hydrothermal Pretreatment Parameters on Mesophilic and Thermophilic Fermentation and Anaerobic Digestion of Municipal Sludge. *Fermentation.* 2023; 9(6):508. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fermentation9060508>

Ralf Ebinghaus, Elena Barbaro, Susan Bengtson Nash, Cristina de Avila, Cynthia A. de Wit, Valeria Dulio, Janine Felden, Antonio Franco, Juergen Gandrass, Marco Grotti, Heike Herata, Kevin A. Hughes, Morten Jartun, Hanna Joerss, Roland Kallenborn, Jan Koschorreck, Anette Küster, Rainer Lohmann, Zhanyun Wang, Matthew MacLeod, Rebecca Pugh, Caren Rauert, Jaroslav Slobodnik, **Roxana Sühring**, Katrin Vorkamp, Zhiyong Xie, Berlin statement on legacy and emerging contaminants in polar regions, *Chemosphere*, Volume 327, 2023, 138530, ISSN 0045-6535, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.138530>.

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Quantitative Assessment of Self-Healing in Bacteria-Incorporated Fiber-Reinforced Mortar. Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering, 04023209.
<https://doi.org/10.1061/JMCEE7.MTENG-11647>

See Our Full Member Publications

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