



Li Black

Water Policy Research Intern

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper




Master of Science in Sustainability Management UofT



About L.O.W.

- Canadian charity dedicated to promoting **swimmable, drinkable, fishable water**
 - legal cases • defense of public participation rights
 - advocacy for watershed protection
 - public engagement and right to know • water literacy
- Swim Guide** app – provides up-to-date water quality information for 7000+ beaches
- Watermark Project** – archive of thousands of water stories demonstrating the importance of swimmable, drinkable, and fishable water – and Canada’s cultural connection to it

Key Takeaways

- Water quality is fundamental to our way of life; yet the most local and pressing issues may be unknown to us.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in environmental protection and sustainable development. 
- Communication and framing are paramount.
- Personal:** to hit your stride, you have to get in the ring!

Major Milestones

5 public events / conferences / talks

- 2 speaking opportunities



3 major research assignments

- First-ever Canada Beach Report (water quality monitoring)
- Sewage impact and wastewater systems/infrastructure
- City of Toronto’s wet weather flow management initiatives



2 published blog posts

- Triclosan as a chemical threatening the Great Lakes
- Microfibres as a widespread form of plastics pollution

1 summer-long water sampling project

in the Toronto Harbour – on land and by boat

- Sample collection, lab results, logistics coordination, etc.

