

# We Unite for Water: An African Speaking Tour

March 21-25, 2011

Presented by



*“Words are the most powerful thing in the universe...”*

Join us as we celebrate World Water Week 2011 in Toronto with *We Unite for Water*, a unique global education program for students in grades 6 through 12.

Featuring special guest speaker Getu Hunde from Ethiopia, WaterCan's Youth Ambassador Rhiannon Cobb, and musical performance by David Celia, this program aims to engage and inspire youth to think differently about our precious water resources at home and around the world.

Water is in us, we drink it, we play in it, we wash in it, we can't survive without it, yet 1 billion people around the world don't share our enviable access to clean, safe drinking water at the turn of a tap. What can each of us do to change the way our generation thinks about water? How do we move from wasting it and taking it for granted to respecting, conserving and ensuring that everybody everywhere has access to this most basic need?

We invite you and your students to take part in this exciting program, which celebrates our personal power to create change in the world.

## Featured Speakers

### Mr. Getu Hunde:

Development expert, economist and educator, Getu is truly a multifaceted speaker whose presentations propel audiences to the heart of the global water crisis affecting nearly 80% of Ethiopia's population. Getu is the Executive Director of the Oromo Self-Reliance Association (OSRA), one of Watercan's Ethiopian partner organizations, which seeks to support social and economic development through community empowerment and small-scale development projects.



### Rhiannon Cobb:

Sixteen-year-old Canadian student and WaterCan Youth Ambassador, Rhiannon has seen the effects of the global water crisis firsthand. While traveling in eastern Africa visiting WaterCan project sites with her journalist father, she documented her insights on paper and on camera. She's passionate about using her experience to engage her peers across Canada in the global water and sanitation crisis. Through her storytelling, Rhiannon invites us all to do our part and reminds us that our voices are our most powerful tool in promoting social justice.



### Musical Performance

#### David Celia

Toronto-based singer-songwriter, David Celia, has played for audiences all over the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada. His musical style has been described as “roots-rock with hints of folk wrapped up in a pop package.” Find out more at [www.davidcelia.com](http://www.davidcelia.com).



### We Unite for Water Program Details:

**Dates:** Monday, March 21st to Friday, March 25th (inclusive)

**Time:** Morning and afternoon presentations available.

Start times are flexible.

**Length:** 75 minutes

**Age Group:** Grades 6 through 12

**Presentation Type:** Assembly

**Format:** Two short presentations, photos, videos, musical performance

**Technical Requirements:** Laptop, projector, whitescreen, electrical outlets

### Book Today:

For further information and to book your school's participation in *We Unite for Water*, please contact:

#### Andrea Helfer

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### WaterCan@Schools

Learn more about WaterCan’s educational and fundraising programs by visiting [www.watercan.com/whatyoucando/schools.htm](http://www.watercan.com/whatyoucando/schools.htm)

WaterCan appreciates the continued support of the Canadian International Development Agency.



### The Global Water and Sanitation Crisis – A Snapshot:

The world water and sanitation crisis is one of the most lethal public health emergencies of our time, and condemns hundreds of millions of people to struggle for survival at subsistence level.

- Around the world, 890 million people— about a seventh of the world's population— don't have access to clean drinking water. 2.6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation facilities like toilets and latrines.
- Each year, some 1.5 million children under the age of five die from water and sanitation-related diseases. This accounts for a greater loss of life amongst this age group than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined.
- As a result, healthcare costs soar, countless school and working days are lost, and communities around the world sink deeper into poverty.

### About WaterCan:

WaterCan is a leading international development charity dedicated to fighting global poverty by helping vulnerable communities gain access to clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education. Our vision is simple: Clean Water for All! Since 1987, WaterCan's small-scale, community-driven programs have reached more than 1.2 million children, women and men in 32 countries, breaking the cycle of poverty and disease and increasing opportunities for health, education, gender equality, and economic growth.

Website: [www.watercan.com](http://www.watercan.com) for further information.

