

Introduction to the Debates

Earth Sc 2EI3

Fall 2017



Perspectives to Environmental Problems



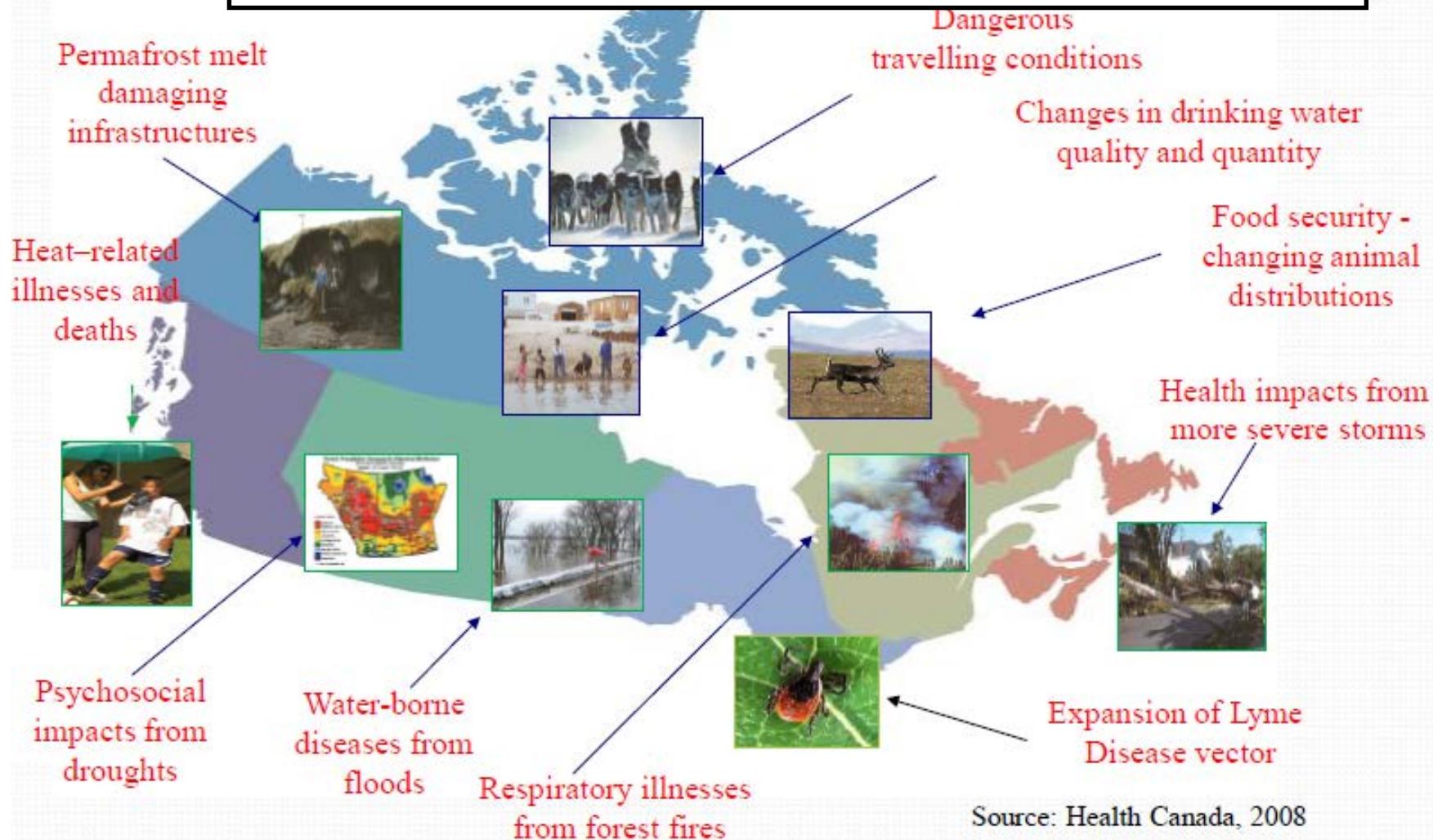
Human inventiveness & technology

The solutions proposed to these problems tend to fall in 2 broad categories



Low impacts & ecology

Health Reducing Climate Change costs (\$)



Protecting the Health of Oceans and Fisheries





Ending the Decline of Forestry



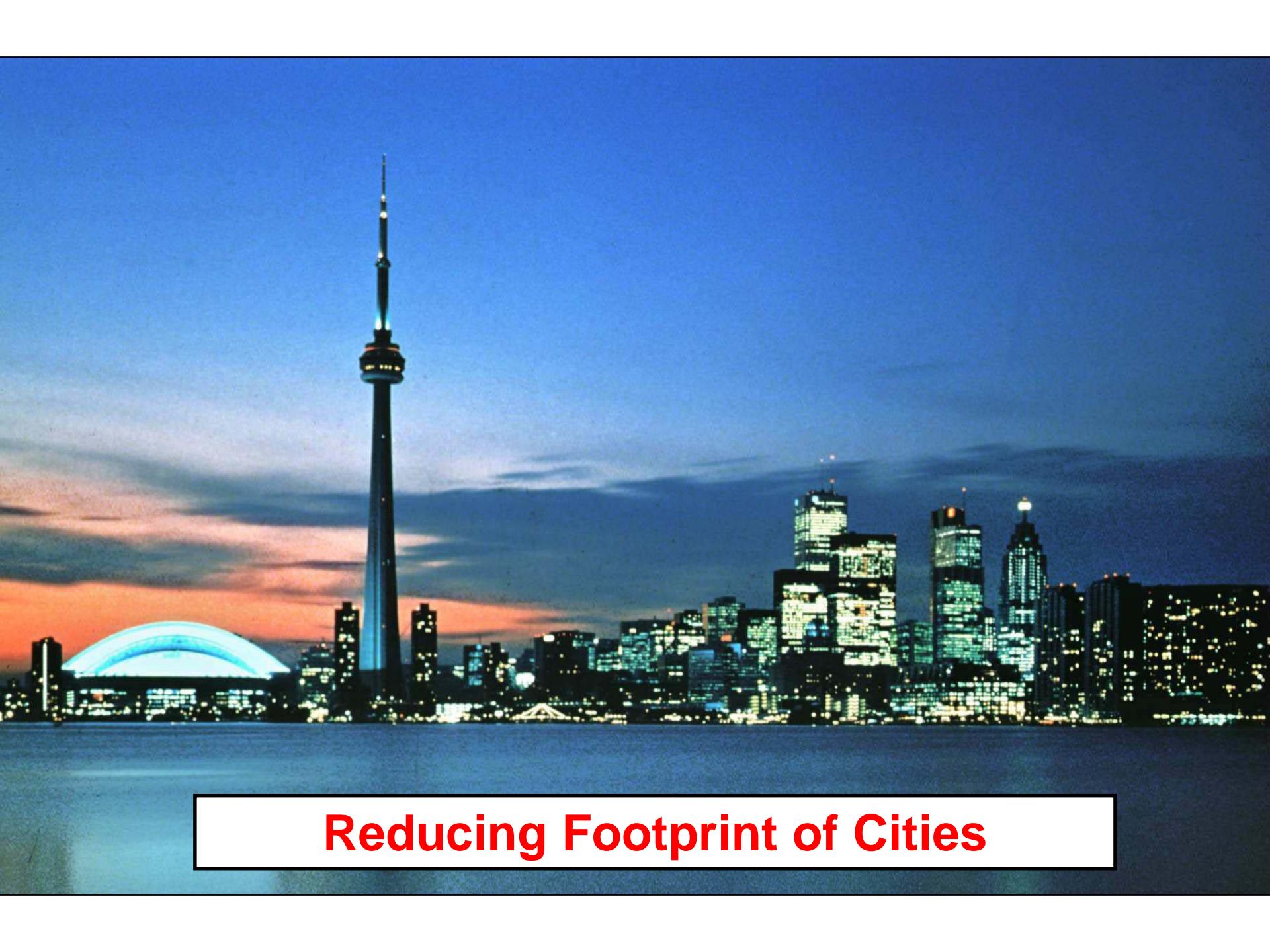
Making Agriculture more Sustainable



Reducing Stress on Aquatic Systems



Limiting Impacts of Developing Energy and Mineral Resources



Reducing Footprint of Cities



Protecting Biodiversity

Debates

- You will form a group (4-5 students) which will need to propose a solution to one of the major issues suggested
- The solution you will propose must be explicitly stated, and must be under one of the broad perspectives to environmental problems.
- You will present your solution during a debate with another group, who is defending the opposite perspective.

2. This week – week of Oct. 23rd

Group Contract (2% of your grade in the course)

1. As a class, choose the debate topics that will later be argued
2. Form groups of 4-5 students
3. Decide which topic your group will debate, and which position it will adopt: your TA will determine randomly the order of the debates
4. Write and submit your **Group Contract**

Group Contract

It must contain the following information:

- Names and contact information for all group members
- Guidelines for scheduling group meetings
- Guidelines adopted for conduct as a member of the group
- *Conflict resolution scheme*: this may become the most important part of your contract. This is the procedure you will follow if a conflict arises.
- *Peer evaluation scheme*: what tools will you use to document the contribution of each group member, if this becomes an issue at the end of the project
- **Signature of all group members**

3. Following weeks

- **Week of Oct. 30:** tutorial to finish preparing for Debates and for feedback from TA;
- ***also Group Discussion (the last one)***
- **Weeks of Nov. 6, 13, 20, and 27:** Debates in scheduled order; as required

4. Debates

6% of your grade in the course:

- Each side has 5 minutes to present its case
- 5 minutes to debate; TA will moderate discussion
- 5 minutes for questions/comments from audience
- Visuals (e.g. Powerpoint; poster; etc.) can be used; but not mandatory
- **Mark for debate will be: same mark for members within group**
- Half of the mark will come from the average of the evaluation completed by your peers
- The other half will come from your TA's evaluation

Evaluation Category	Group Evaluation: Evaluate on a scale of 0-5				Group Members:
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	
1. Was the team presentation well organized and effective?					Group 1:
2. Did the team make its presentation interesting to the class?					
3. Was the team perceptive to the weak points on the opposite side?					Group 2:
4. Did the team appear to work as a team?					
5. How effective was the formal statement?					Group 3:
6. How effective were the group's points?					
7. Was eye-contact made and was the team speaking loudly and clearly?					Group 4:
8. Did the team appear to know the subject?					
9. Was the team able to answer questions effectively?					
TOTAL (/45)					

Name: _____

Student ID #: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Debate Evaluation Form

**Make sure to
print it and
bring a copy
with you**

**Will be used as
record of
participation: 2%
of grade in the
course**

YOU are responsible to bring up to your TA/instructor as early as possible any issue with your group, and for providing corroborating evidence

**For missed debate, group contract:
REFER TO THE COURSE OUTLINE**

PLEASE NOTE: MSAFs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR MISSED PARTICIPATION TO DEBATES.