**Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution (OE3C) 2024 Budget (02-04 May 2024)**

Revenue

Conference Registration (200 Attendees) = $30,000

University of Waterloo Faculty of Science = $20,000

Conference Seed Fund = $10,000

= $60,000

Expenses

Catering (2 Breakfast, 2 Lunch, 3 Dinner, Coffee Breaks) = $40,000

Keynote Speakers (1 Ecology, 1 Ethology, and 1 Evolution) = $ 5,000

Facility and AV = $ 3,000

Miscellaneous (Tables, Chairs, Website, Nametags, etc) = $ 1,000

Student Awards (Undergraduate/Graduate, Oral/Poster) = $ 2,000

10%. Contingency Fund = $ 5,000

= $56,000

**NET = $**4,000

The upcoming OE3C 2024 will mark the 50th gathering of the conference. Our current budget estimates 200 attendees which will span both undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty from across Ontario. While our current budget predicts a small net income following this year’s conference, the reality is that there remain many uncertainties with our budget. Currently we have received $20,000 from the University of Waterloo Faculty of Science, but all other university sectors have denied our sponsorship requests. We have been told by the OE3C 2023 organizing committee that there is ~$10,000 of seed fund, but we have yet to receive these funds. We have reached out to other organizations (e.g. Canadian Botanist Association, Birds Canada, etc.) and are still awaiting responses from many.

This year, the committee is prioritizing the promotion of undergraduate excellence by highlighting the research of 4th year undergraduate students. Opportunities for undergraduates to present their research outside of their home institute are rare. For many students, the financial burdens of travel and registration fees make conferences unrealistic, as labs cannot always fund students at the undergraduate level to network and communicate their research. The current organizing committee is committed to making OE3C 2024 an affordable experience for students. As part of this initiative, we are committing to providing students with meals throughout the conference at a reduced registration rate. We strongly believe in the importance of students having the opportunity to network and partake in larger conference experiences, and our ultimate goal is to subsidize undergraduate students even further to be able to attend OE3C.

We are graciously asking the American Society of Naturalists to financially support OE3C 2024 with sponsorship going toward covering the entire registration fee for undergraduate students. Your support will help us reduce the economic barriers of science that many undergraduates face, allow them to feel a part of the academic community, and provide them the opportunity to network with researchers at other Ontario institutes in hopes building potential graduate connections.