

## Keynote Presentation Description: "**Hope Through Action**"

Join us for a transformative 45-minute guest lecture, "Hope Through Action," tailored specifically for students at the Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Science Fair (FLASF) on March 22, 2024. This presentation, led by the dynamic duo Dan Hendry and Cedric Pepelea, aims to inspire the young minds of our community through real-world examples of climate action and sustainability initiatives.

Our journey begins with an insightful look into the pressing issues our planet faces due to the climate crisis. But despair turns to hope as we delve into the heartening stories of Dan and Cedric—local climate champions whose projects in transit and energy not only showcase their remarkable impact on our community but also demonstrate the power of actions in driving significant positive change.

As participants of the science fair, students will discover the critical connection between their scientific explorations and the broader fight against climate change. Through the lens of observation, hypothesis, experimentation, and data analysis, Dan and Cedric will highlight how these foundational skills equip our young scientists to devise real, impactful projects within their communities.

The presentation culminates in a high-energy, solutions-based segment, spotlighting a wide range of strategies and innovations aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and paving the way for a sustainable future. "Hope Through Action" is more than a presentation—it's a call to action, encouraging our students to harness their learning and creativity to make a tangible difference in the world around them.

### **Speaker Bios:**

**Dan Hendry** is a social innovator and TEDx speaker renowned for his contributions to sustainable transit and community projects. Known for his pioneering work that led to the Kingston Transit High School Bus Pass Program & Field Trip Pass, evolving into the national "Get on the Bus" movement. Hendry's work spans sustainable initiatives for educational institutions and local communities, emphasizing environmental sustainability, innovation, and mentorship. With a master's in strategic leadership towards sustainability, he has become a leading figure in driving forward the conversation on climate action. His projects, characterized by their ingenuity and impact, serve as a testament to what can be achieved when passion meets purpose. Dan's commitment to education and empowerment makes him an ideal role model for youth, showing that with the right approach, everyone has the potential to contribute to a greener future.

**Cedric Pepelea** embodies the spirit of environmental stewardship and creative problem-solving. His work in renewable energy and community-led sustainability initiatives has marked him as a key player in the fight against climate change. He does this through his multiple roles, including being a Professor in the Energy Systems Engineering Technology program at St. Lawrence College, his work with Indigenous Clean Energy and his own consulting company working with cities nationwide. Cedric's stories and insights promise not only to educate but to inspire students to become active participants in creating a sustainable future for all.