

## **Once in lifetime experience for CHS grad**

Kelter returns from trip to Paris representing Cochrane High School at Eco-Parliament

### [Cochrane Times Article](#)

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Cochranite Travis Kelter returned recently from a once in a lifetime experience of speaking on the Cochrane High School Sustainable Development Committee. The CHS grad, who now attends the University of Calgary, was chosen by the committee to represent the school at the European Youth Eco-Parliament in Paris, France. "It was just something I will never get to experience again being a youth and going over there and meeting all these people from international organizations. There were people from the UN and European commission and non-government organizations," said Kelter. "I met some people who were really interesting and opened my perspective up." The 18-year-old was one of only seven other students from Canada to be chosen to attend the first ever multi-national event.

Kelter shared an open letter at the conference for a crowd of about 500 people from all over the world.

"We each got the chance to stand up and summarize our points then people from the international organizations said what they are going to promise us and what we promise them.

"They promised to post our open letters on their websites and we promised before trying to change other peoples attitudes we would change ours and lead by example," said Kelter.

The CHS project involves using solar panels to capture energy to run the schools score clock. Other countries projects mostly involved recycling and water samples.

"They were more regional and suited to them having a bigger population crammed into a smaller area. They were kind of in awe if you will, about how we were able to raise that much money," said Kelter.

About 134 youth delegates between the ages of 14 and 17 from 14 different countries presented the findings of their school eco-project to different political and civic leaders.

"I would definitely participate again and I got a lot out of it," Kelter said.

"I thought I gained a lot of knowledge in what they are trying to do to engage the youth." All of the open letters were put on display in an exhibit on sustainability in the planetarium where the conference was held.