



# *Outdoor Learning* RESOURCE HUB

A comprehensive guide  
to outdoor learning  
organizations and resources  
across Canada



# Introduction



Over the past several years, outdoor learning has gained momentum and support as an important pedagogical approach within our school systems. Evidence-based research is showing the positive impacts that can happen when the learning environment includes time spent outside for students. Learning outside has the opportunity to address Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing, health and wellbeing, and crucial environmental issues like climate change.

This resource is a collection of educators and organizations committed to this work of extending learning beyond four walls. By no means is it exhaustive - this is a living document that will grow and evolve, but it's a starting point to share some of the great work that is being done across Canada. We encourage sharing this resource with other educators, administrators and anyone who has a vested interest in the future of younger generations.

- *Colin Harris, Executive Director,  
Take Me Outside*

This is a living document. Do you know of an organization that should be added? Let us know: [info@takemeoutside.ca](mailto:info@takemeoutside.ca)



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*Feature: Indigenous Knowledge: Gathering  
and Tobacco - Preston Huppie .....38*



# Active for Life

**Email:** [outreach@activeforlife.com](mailto:outreach@activeforlife.com)  
**Website:** [activeforlife.com](http://activeforlife.com)  
**Resources:** <https://activeforlife.com/resource/elementary/>  
<https://activeforlife.com/fr/resource/primaire/>  
<https://activeforlife.com/20-outdoor-sensory-play-activities/>  
<https://activeforlife.com/fr/20-activites-pour-veiller-les-sens-de-vos-jeunes-enfants/>  
<https://activeforlife.com/20-nature-activities-for-kids/>  
<https://activeforlife.com/fr/plus-de-20-activites-en-nature-pour-les-enfants/>  
<https://activeforlife.com/create-a-nature-mandala/>

## Key Event:

Active play, especially outdoor play, is key to the physical, emotional, and social well-being of all children, and it can be a powerful tool for helping new Canadians to fit in. That's why Active for Life provides free active play and physical literacy resources in many languages beyond English and French.

English: <https://activeforlife.com/resource/more-translations-of-physical-literacy-resources/>

French: <https://activeforlife.com/fr/resource/traductions/>

Active for Life helps Canadians raise physically active kids who love to move. At **ActiveforLife.com** you'll find fun activities, engaging articles, and free resources to get kids happy, healthy, and active.



"I love your website! You guys always have fun outdoor activity ideas for all types of people and you share why it is important to keep kids moving. I share your website with parents regularly. Thank you!"



## AdventureSmart BC

**Email:** [execdirector@adventuresmartbc.ca](mailto:execdirector@adventuresmartbc.ca)  
**Website:** [adventuresmart.ca](http://adventuresmart.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://bcsara.com/outdoor-education/>  
<https://www.adventuresmart.ca/trip-plan-app/>

### Key Events:

AdventureSmart is a national program dedicated to encouraging Canadians and visitors to Canada to “Get informed and go outdoors”. AdventureSmart combines online and on-site awareness with targeted outreach (outdoor education) to try and reduce the number and severity of Search and Rescue Incidents.

All programs, for all ages (K - gr. 12 +) and abilities: <https://www.adventuresmart.ca/programs/>

AdventureSmart (which started in BC 18 years ago by the BC Search and Rescue Association), and its suite of five programs, is a national prevention program focused on reaching Canadians, and visitors to Canada, who participate in outdoor recreational activities.

AdventureSmart combines online and on-site awareness with targeted outreach in order to reduce the number and severity of Search and Rescue Incidents in Canada.

In order to provide the largest possible number of Canadians and visitors to Canada with consistent and relevant safety information, and to ensure that opportunities to engage the public are maximized, AdventureSmart and its partners take a broad, encompassing approach to the delivery of adaptable safety information in-person and online.

Through the collaborative efforts of our various partners, regional coordinators, and volunteers, AdventureSmart is dedicated to encouraging participants to “Get informed and go outdoors”.

Heading outdoors in British Columbia? Start here: @BCAdvSmart



**Heading Outdoors?**  
**Leave a Trip Plan.**



# Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM)

**Email:** [info@eecom.org](mailto:info@eecom.org)  
**Website:** [eecom.org](http://eecom.org)  
**Resources:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCcqW7823glZRUq5-A9mHZw/featured>

## Key Events:

**Leadership Clinics** are a proven and effective way to build capacity within provincial, regional, and national environmental learning organizations, thereby improving the quality of environmental education and communication in Canada. The Leadership Clinic model is fundamentally different than a conference because it provides an intensive focus on organizational and leadership skill development for environmental learning professionals.

**EECOM National Conferences** are Canada's largest, regular gatherings of environmental learning stakeholders, and provide unparalleled professional development and networking opportunities. Hosted in partnership with local groups and organizations, this has been one way EECOM has successfully supported regional capacity building for environmental learning for over a decade.

EECOM is Canada's only national, bilingual, and charitable network for environmental learning. EECOM works strategically and collaboratively to advance environmental learning and literacy from individuals and organizations across Canada working in environment and sustainability.







Canada's  
Forest  
Trust

# Canada's Forest Trust

**Email:** [grow@canadasforesttrust.ca](mailto:grow@canadasforesttrust.ca)  
**Website:** [canadasforesttrust.ca](http://canadasforesttrust.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://www.canadasforesttrust.ca/build-your-smart-forest#school>  
[https://youtu.be/ln9qloJa\\_rU](https://youtu.be/ln9qloJa_rU)

## Key Event:

For upcoming events and news, visit: <https://www.canadasforesttrust.ca/news/>.

Canada's Forest Trust (CFT) is a leading ESG company that offers a nature-based solution to getting to net-zero by building Smart Forests™. With proprietary tools and in collaboration with Forest Stewards (businesses, schools, organizations, communities, and individuals), CFT is on a path to procure, prepare, plant, preserve and protect millions of acres of forests around the world. CFT will sequester tens of millions of tonnes of carbon. Our Forever Forest Guarantee ensures that every forest built by CFT undergoes expert management, reporting and monitoring, and silviculture maintenance. Smart Forests sequester CO<sub>2</sub>, rehabilitate ecosystems, learn from Indigenous land knowledge keepers, and boost the green economy. Smart Forests are smart investments.



New Brunswick, Canada

Sunnybrook School



# Child and Nature Alliance of Canada

**Email:** [admin@childnature.ca](mailto:admin@childnature.ca)  
**Website:** [childnature.ca](http://childnature.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://childnature.ca/policy-research/>  
<https://childnature.ca/thriveoutside/>  
[https://childnature.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/T.O\\_5\\_EN\\_Helpful-Weather-Tips-UPDATED.pdf](https://childnature.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/T.O_5_EN_Helpful-Weather-Tips-UPDATED.pdf)  
[https://childnature.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/T.O\\_9\\_EN\\_A-Teachers-Guidebook-for-bringing-learning-outside-1.pdf](https://childnature.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/T.O_9_EN_A-Teachers-Guidebook-for-bringing-learning-outside-1.pdf)

## Key Event:

We are running a number of webinars with CCF throughout this year on various outdoor education topics, as well as a number of practitioner courses coming out over the next year!

<https://childnature.ca/workshops/>

Relationship with the Land is at the heart of what we do, and this Land is Indigenous Land. But the origins of the Child and Nature Alliance of Canada and Forest School Canada are rooted in white settler thinking and approaches. We are an organization currently led by white settlers, headquartered on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe. We have imposed a settler colonial way of being with the Land because our programs were not co-created with Indigenous people. This approach means we perpetuate and benefit from colonization in the ways that we operate, and this causes harm.

We want to repair our relationships with the Indigenous communities, and work towards co-creating trusting, safe, and reciprocal relationships with them. We hope to recreate the Forest and Nature School Practitioners Course, and co-create all future programming with Indigenous partners across Canada. In doing that, we hope that Indigenous and Western worldviews will have equitable voice and space in our programs, so that they are safe, meaningful, and culturally relevant for all participants.



THE  
CLASSROOM  
GARDENER



# The Classroom Gardener

**Email:** [info@theclassroomgardener.com](mailto:info@theclassroomgardener.com)  
**Website:** [theclassroomgardener.com](http://theclassroomgardener.com)  
**Resources:** <https://theclassroomgardener.com/services>  
<https://theclassroomgardener.com/kits-for-school-gardeners/>

## Key Events:

Curated kits for garden learning are available through the Outdoor Learning Store here: <https://outdoorlearningstore.com/product/looking-closely-outdoor-learning-kit/>

The Classroom Gardener offers professional learning for your school community to support cross-curricular use of your school garden year-round. [Learn more here.](#)

The Classroom Gardener is a collaborative project between Room To Play Educational Consulting and Victory Gardens Vancouver. Our consultations and curated kits offer practical school garden expertise for non-profits, government agencies, community partners, school districts, and university faculties.

The Classroom Gardener offers researched and responsive whole system thinking with proven solutions for start up, maintenance, enhanced use, and seasonal frustrations associated with school garden use. We offer comprehensive and relevant pedagogical applications that support the daily practice of education professionals to ensure school gardens become beloved and shared spaces of cross-curricular learning within a school community.





# Earth Rangers

**Email:** [info@earthrangers.com](mailto:info@earthrangers.com)  
**Website:** [earthrangers.com](http://earthrangers.com)  
**Resources:** <https://www.earthrangers.com/EN/CA/educators/>  
<https://www.earthrangers.com/EN/CA/parents/>  
<https://www.theearthrangersshop.com/products/educator-microcredential...>

## Key Events:

After a two-year hiatus, Earth Ranger’s school assembly program is returning and we couldn’t be more thrilled. Our presenters and animal ambassadors will be in person and in front of thousands of children across the country through 2023..

Like many others, we needed to get creative when the pandemic first hit and challenged ourselves to find innovative ways to connect with kids. And guess what happened? We created something new that was an instant hit. Our virtual school shows allowed us to engage with students and educators from coast to coast in hundreds of communities.

The good news is, now there are two options. Our school assembly program has always been a fundamental part of what we do here at Earth Rangers. Whether it’s in person or online, our shows teach kids about the environmental issues facing our planet while empowering them to take action. And trust us when we say, when Linus the hawk flies across the gym or when Shelley, the midland painted turtle moves in for her close up, it makes an impact!

Learn more at <https://www.earthrangers.com/EN/CA/school-assemblies>

Earth Rangers is the kids’ conservation organization, dedicated to educating children and their families about biodiversity, inspiring them to adopt sustainable behaviours, and empowering them to become directly involved in protecting animals and their habitats.





## EcoSchools Canada

Email:

[info@ecoschools.ca](mailto:info@ecoschools.ca)

Website:

[ecoschools.ca](https://ecoschools.ca)

Resources:

<https://ecoschools.ca/about/what-is-certification/>

<https://ecoschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Ecoschools-Canada-Certification-Guide-2022-23.pdf>

### Key Event:

The 2023 EcoSchools EcoSummit will bring students, educators, and partners together for a free, dynamic, and accessible 3-week event. The conference will assemble and connect diverse voices to discuss important environmental issues and approaches focused on the following four themes: Low carbon commuting, outdoor learning, waste reduction and climate action. Visit <https://ecoschools.ca/ecosummit/> to learn more.

EcoSchools Canada offers a certification program for elementary through secondary schools that nurtures environmental learning and climate action. Our award-winning, curriculum-linked framework supports school communities as they assess, track, benchmark, and celebrate environmental excellence.





**EXPLORING BY THE  
SEAT OF YOUR PANTS**

# Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants

**Email:**

[ebtsoyp@gmail.com](mailto:ebtsoyp@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[exploringbytheseat.com](http://exploringbytheseat.com)

**Resources:**

<https://www.exploringbytheseat.com/for-teachers/>

<https://www.exploringbytheseat.com/secret-path>

## Key Events:

Join us in May for another round of BackyardBio to celebrate our planet's amazing biodiversity! We want to get students from around the world out into their yards, neighbourhoods, parks and wild spaces, to explore the wild world around them! [Learn how your students can take part and share their discoveries with the world.](#) And check out the 2-year [Darwin200 project](#) to learn more about the World's Most Exciting Classroom!

Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants runs digital broadcasts connecting scientists and explorers with kids through 40+ monthly free, live, interactive programs. These inspire and engage kids to think more about the diverse world around them and specifically gets them outdoors through their BackyardBio global nature campaign held every May!



# Green Teacher

# Green Teacher

**Email:** [info@greenteacher.com](mailto:info@greenteacher.com)  
**Website:** [greenteacher.com](http://greenteacher.com)  
**Resources:** <https://greenteacher.com/subscribe/>  
<https://greenteacher.com/check-out-these-videos/>  
<https://greenteacher.com/outdoor-and-environmental-education-consulting/>

### Key Events:

In partnership with Natural Curiosity, we are facilitating a free, 6-part, virtual PD series about outdoor and environmental education through an Indigenous lens. The series runs through April 2023. Visit <https://greenteacher.com/pd/> to learn more, and <https://greenteacher.com/webinars/> to view all of our upcoming learning opportunities.

We enhance environmental literacy among young learners by equipping both practicing and aspiring environmental educators in all educational contexts with innovative, relevant, evidence-based resources.

Our vision: Each successive generation of young learners is more environmentally literate than the last.

As outdoor learning is an integral part of environmental education, we are constantly in the process of supporting educators with outdoor learning.

“When I feel like I have lost passion or inspiration I listen to this podcast for new ideas. There’s an entry point for everyone, you don’t need to be a seasoned outdoor Ed teacher to use these ideas!”





# GreenLearning

**Email:** [Kristina@greenlearning.ca](mailto:Kristina@greenlearning.ca)  
**Website:** [greenlearning.ca](https://greenlearning.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://greenlearning.ca/resources>  
<https://greenlearning.ca/challenges>  
<https://greenlearning.ca/programs>

## Key Event:

GreenLearning's Earth Month Activity Calendar — April 2023. GreenLearning is curating a whole month of free activities, based on our resources, which will cover a wide range of subjects and topics.

These resources will provide an opportunity for you to extend learning in and out of the classroom for students with fun, daily activities they can do for Earth Month. From lessons to workshops and live events, the activity calendar will have everything you need to create a rich learning experience for students.

Join Us! <https://greenlearning.ca/webinars-events>

GreenLearning creates free education programs about energy, climate change and the green economy that engage and empower students to create positive change for our evolving world. Our programs include both hands-on and critical thinking activities to equip teachers with the educational tools they need to help students understand complex environmental issues.

We believe that environmental education is enhanced when young learners have the opportunity to go outside and connect with nature. That's why several of our programs include activities that bring the learning outdoors. GreenLearning's programs go further by enabling young people to take their love for the environment and translate it into positive actions to help tackle climate change in their schools, communities and beyond.







# ImaginED: Education That Inspires

**Email:** [Gillian\\_judson@sfu.ca](mailto:Gillian_judson@sfu.ca)  
**Website:** [educationthatinspires.ca](http://educationthatinspires.ca)  
**Resources:** <http://ierg.ca/IEE/>  
<https://greenteacher.com/working-with-place/>

## Key Events:

In lieu of a Walking Curriculum 30-day challenge this year, we want to do something different! We want to go deeper with imagination-focused practices and unearth the principles that infuse the Walking Curriculum. [Learn more & sign up for Spring TIPS here!](#)

ImaginED is a blog designed to support and enable imagination-focused teaching in all contexts, from formal to alternative learning contexts, and from primary school through higher education. ImaginED is about education that inspires all learners. To support outdoor learning, ImaginED develops and shares research, resources and practices on Imaginative Ecological Education, or IEE, teaching practices.

Imaginative Ecological Education blends imagination-focused teaching with Place-based teaching. The overall aim of the IEE approach is to provide powerful learning opportunities that also cultivate students' understanding of the connectedness of all life and their sense of care and concern for the Earth. To support this goal, imaginative and ecologically shaped teaching activities engage the heart with knowledge, the body in learning, and learning in place. The Walking Curriculum is a very accessible way to begin your imaginative and ecological outdoor learning. Enjoy the resources!

“The Walking Curriculum sparks new imaginative ways to develop sense of place and allows for deep cross-curricular connections through many hands-on explorations and discoveries. It is an engaging resource that encourages students to authentically connect with their environment.”

Jolene McFadyen-Nein, Teacher

“The Walking Curriculum provides us with easy-to-use, child-centred and developmentally appropriate activities that make outdoor learning – regardless of whether you’re surrounded by trees or concrete – memorable, meaningful and fun.”

Karen Hiscott, Principal



Paula Huddy and Jennifer Perry.



# Interpretation Canada

**Email:** [info@interpretationcanada.ca](mailto:info@interpretationcanada.ca)  
**Website:** [interpretationcanada.wildapricot.org](http://interpretationcanada.wildapricot.org)  
**Resources:** <https://interpretationcanada.wildapricot.org/Blog>

## Key Events:

Interpretation Canada specializes in ongoing professional development through conferences, our awards program, and various member resources. If you are looking for an introductory training course, a certification program, or trainer to work with your staff, here are some options:

<https://interpretationcanada.wildapricot.org/Training>

<https://interpretationcanada.wildapricot.org/GAHIWebinars>

Interpretation Canada is a community that recognizes, celebrates, debates, and inspires excellence in the field of heritage interpretation in Canada. Our members are a diverse and thriving group of professionals who work to connect people with Canada's natural and cultural heritage. We enrich the experience of visitors to museums, historic sites, parks, farms, nature centres, indigenous cultural sites, zoos, aquaria, botanical gardens, and a host of other heritage sites and wilderness locations. We provide professional development opportunities, such as annual national conferences, and recognize excellence in our field through the annual Awards of Excellence program.





# Interpretive Guides Association

**Email:** [executivedirector@interpretiveguides.org](mailto:executivedirector@interpretiveguides.org)  
**Website:** [interpretiveguides.org](http://interpretiveguides.org)  
**Resources:** <https://interpretiveguides.org/events/workshop-indigenous-perspectives/>

## Key Events:

We offer courses and certifications in interpretation and on trail guiding safety and you can find out more about those courses here: <https://interpretiveguides.org/courses-2-2/>. These courses are taught in November, Feb, April, May and June. We can also set up private courses for groups of 8 or more.

<https://interpretiveguides.org/field-trips-events/>

We offer engaging virtual workshops throughout the year - [check them all out and sign up here!](#)

The Interpretive Guides Association is a not-for-profit professional body representing interpretive guides, outdoor leaders, and educators who connect people to Canada’s natural and cultural areas.

We believe that meaningful, enjoyable, and memorable experiences can be fostered through interpretation and safe guiding practices. Interpretation is an incredible communication tool that helps weave the natural heritage and history of the places we are taking our guests into engaging stories and meaningful experiences to help people feel a personal connection to the landscapes and history they are immersed in.

Like any professionals, interpreters, guides and educators need professional representation, certification, and ongoing opportunities for learning and discovery. The Interpretive Guides Association provides services that support guides and ensure visitors that go out with them have enjoyable, safe, and memorable experiences.



# Learning for a Sustainable Future



**Email:** [info@LSF-LST.ca](mailto:info@LSF-LST.ca)  
**Website:** [lsf-lst.ca](http://lsf-lst.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://lsf-lst.ca/resources/database-resources-for-rethinking/>  
<https://climatelearning.ca/>

## Key Events:

Our Free Youth Forums are back—both virtual and in person! Engage students in local sustainability issues and empower them to take action. The Youth Forums combine professional development sessions for educators and online sessions for the students to equip them with knowledge and skills needed to make change. Plus: all participating schools receive a \$500 Action Project grant! Check out our lineup here: <https://lsf-lst.ca/programs/youth-forums/>

Action Project Funding: LSF can provide grants to support your student-led sustainability Action Projects! Funding is available for schools, classes and clubs. <https://lsf-lst.ca/programs/action-project-funding/>

Professional Development: These one-hour, half-, full-, or multi-day PD workshops use experiential methods to teach practical techniques for engaging your students with inquiry, outdoor, action-based and climate learning... and more! <https://lsf-lst.ca/programs/professional-development/>

LSF’s mission is to promote, through education, the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives, and practices essential to a sustainable future.



“I learned a lot with this project about climate change and feel more confident now when explaining what it is, what causes it and how we can prevent it from getting worst. This project was overall very interesting!”

Student (Youth Forum Participant)



# Leave No Trace Canada

**Email:** [info@leavenotrace.ca](mailto:info@leavenotrace.ca)  
**Website:** [leavenotrace.ca](http://leavenotrace.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://leavenotrace.ca/video-training-page/>  
<https://leavenotrace.ca/the-seven-principles-of-leave-no-trace/>

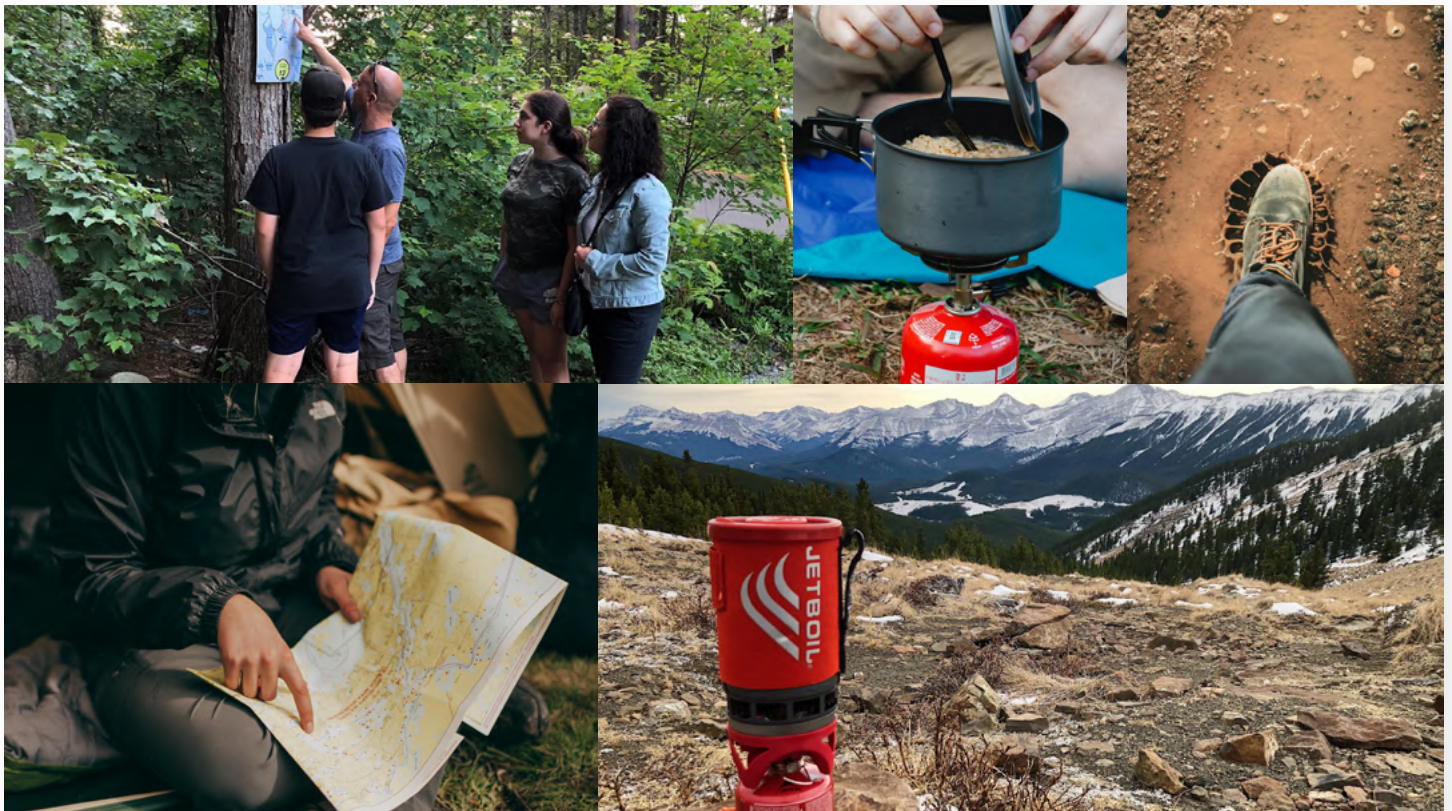
## Key Event:

Development of a “key in hands” presentation for awareness workshop coming up shortly!

For all training events, visit <https://leavenotrace.ca/training/#cid=1811&wid=1101>.

Leave No Trace Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting outdoor ethics and the seven Leave No Trace principles with the goal of encouraging Canadians to enjoy the benefits of the outdoors while protecting Canada’s natural and cultural heritage. Leave No Trace helps raise public awareness regarding the importance of respecting Canada’s wilderness and natural areas by providing the public with a science-based framework and offering proven, research-based solutions to protect and enjoy our natural areas.

Mission: To promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through science-based education and partnerships throughout Canada.





## Natural Curiosity

The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children's Environmental Inquiry

# Natural Curiosity

**Email:**

[naturalcuriosity@utoronto.ca](mailto:naturalcuriosity@utoronto.ca)

**Website:**

[naturalcuriosity.ca](http://naturalcuriosity.ca)

**Resources:**

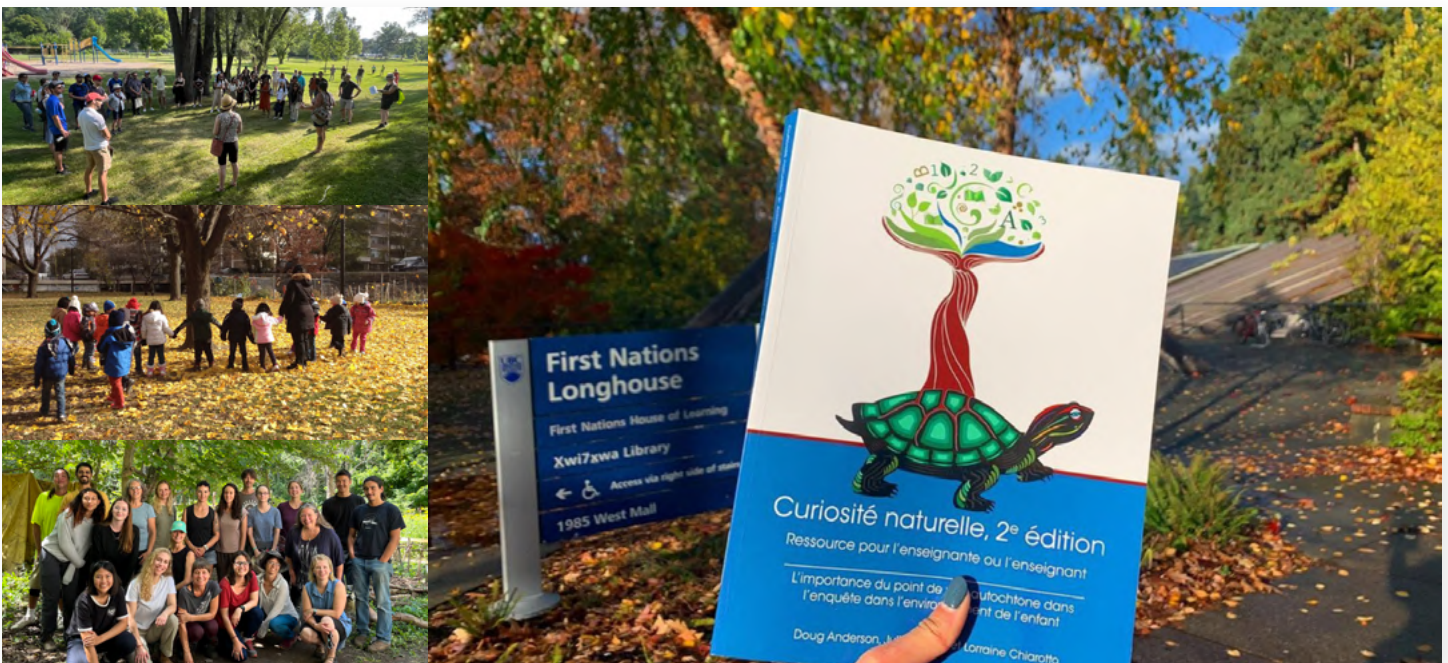
<https://www.naturalcuriosity.ca/selfguidedlearning>

<https://www.naturalcuriosity.ca/book>

### Key Event:

Online Group Coaching supports educators in transforming and/or deepening their Natural Curiosity teaching practice by providing a safe online space for open conversation, community and collegial friendship. The next program will begin in Fall 2023. Learn more here: <https://www.naturalcuriosity.ca/group-coaching>

Natural Curiosity (NC) is an environmental education program housed at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School, OISE-University of Toronto. In 2018, NC launched a new resource for educators, Natural Curiosity 2nd Edition: The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children's Environmental Inquiry, which supports a stronger basic awareness of Indigenous perspectives and their importance to environmental education. The driving motivation for a second edition was the burning need, in the wake of strong and unequivocal recommendations by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to situate Indigenous perspectives into the heart of Canadian educational settings and curricula, most notably in connection with environmental and outdoor education. NC continues to fulfill this mandate by directly collaborating with Indigenous partners to support educators to incorporate an inquiry-based approach into their teaching practice, connecting children's learning deeply to the natural world.





## Nature For All

**Email:** [info@natureforall.global](mailto:info@natureforall.global)  
**Website:** [natureforall.global](http://natureforall.global)  
**Resources:** <https://natureforall.global/canada/>  
<https://natureforall.tiged.org/discovery/>

### Key Events:

**Storytelling Festival:** This festival focuses on gathering, sharing and celebrating personal stories from around the world about love of nature and how that love inspires us to conserve nature. <https://natureforall.global/storytelling-festival/>

#NatureForAll is a global movement to inspire, celebrate and restore love of nature. It is a community of interested organizations and individuals from around the world who are inspired to work together to effect positive change. At its core is a very simple idea: the more people experience and share their love of nature, the more support and action there will be for its conservation.





## Ocean Wise

**Email:** [contact@ocean.org](mailto:contact@ocean.org)  
**Website:** [ocean.org](http://ocean.org)  
**Resources:** <https://ocean.org/learn-explore/education/ocean-wise-education-kits/>

### Key Event:

Live workshops guided by Ocean Wise experts, focus on inquiry-based learning with an environmental and climate change focus. Not your average digital workshops, students will play mini-games, lead their own discussions, and enjoy some surprises along the way. Using scientific findings and data collected by Ocean Wise’s world-renowned research team, they will get an inside view of the latest climate and ocean science and come away feeling empowered to make positive change. Learn more and register: <https://ocean.org/action/book-a-virtual-aquaclass/>

Ocean Wise is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower communities and individuals to take action to protect and restore our world’s oceans.

“I was really impressed by how interactive the program was, even though it was a virtual presentation. It didn’t feel like a lecture, and the students were quite engaged. I liked the length, structure, and how the educators clearly adjusted and adapted to my older students (grade 7) and the in the moment feedback they were getting from the class. The topic fit beautifully with our unit of study, and I appreciated the connections to programs like Ikaarvik and the emphasis on the interconnection between humans and animals in the arctic environment. The links to partnerships with Indigenous communities were excellent highlights.”

Teacher



“Our class of 12 Senior High School Students loved this workshop. Despite the virtual nature, Daphne kept the workshop engaging, interactive and informative. Our students were inspired to perform their own beach cleanup”

Teacher

“Our Kindergarten students loved learning about sharks and human impact on sharks! The presenter, Andrew, was so knowledgeable and was able to steer the presentation based on student questions and interest. This was a great experience!”

Teacher





**OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF CANADA**  
CONSEIL CANADIEN DE PLEIN AIR  
*Partners In Leadership / Partenaires En Leadership*

## Outdoor Council of Canada

**Email:**

[admin@outdoorcouncil.ca](mailto:admin@outdoorcouncil.ca)

**Website:**

[outdoorcouncil.ca](http://outdoorcouncil.ca)

**Resources:**

<https://outdoorcouncil.ca/resources/canadian-outdoor-summit/>

### Key Event:

Our courses provide the foundations for learning judgment and decision making and enabling the leadership of safe and enjoyable experiences outside. [Learn more.](#)

Our mission is to integrate outdoor activity into our national identity. In other words, our mission will be accomplished when going outside on a regular basis becomes second nature to 38 million Canadians.

In regard to supporting outdoor learning, we offer Field Leader certification courses. These courses present the foundations of classroom management outside and enable teachers to feel confident that they implement industry accepted practices. This means higher quality educational experiences outside, reduced risk exposure and an easier time achieving their Duty to Care towards students.



**“I’ve only recently joined the OCC after seeking out a professional development workshop for teachers with our School District and being truly inspired by my instructor to continue my pursuit of incorporating outdoor education into my teaching. I really enjoyed the Hiking Leader course, a nice addition to other courses I’ve taken elsewhere. I look forward to what the OCC will offer next!”**

**Emily, VSB K-12 French Teacher & Outdoor Enthusiast**



# The Outdoor Learning Store



**THE OUTDOOR  
LEARNING STORE**

OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

**Email:**

[info@outdoorlearningstore.com](mailto:info@outdoorlearningstore.com)

**Website:**

[outdoorlearningstore.com](http://outdoorlearningstore.com)

**Resources:**

<https://outdoorlearningstore.com/podcast/>

<https://outdoorlearningstore.com/routes-to-resources/>

<https://outdoorlearningstore.com/custom-webinars/>

**Key Event:**

The Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshop Series continues through June 13th 2023 for 8 engaging spring sessions with expert ideas, resources, and prizes!. Visit <https://outdoorlearningstore.com/workshops/> to learn more!

The Outdoor Learning Store is a charitable social enterprise offering excellent outdoor learning equipment & resources with 100% of proceeds going back to supporting outdoor learning non-profit initiatives!

“I liked that I could identify a short tailed weasel when I saw one for the first time after I learned what they look like in my booklet.”

Nicholas (grade 4), Invermere BC

**FREE!** TUESDAYS 60 mins April - June

## Outdoor Learning Spring Virtual Workshop Series!

<p><b>11 April</b> Resources for Earth Month</p>	<p><b>23 May</b> Race and Nature for Educators</p>
<p><b>18 April</b> Taking a Closer Look: Investigations in Nature</p>	<p><b>30 May</b> How to Teach Nature Journaling: Curiosity, Wonder, Attention</p>
<p><b>25 April</b> Nature Activities for Year-round Learning</p>	<p><b>6 June</b> Walking Together: (Re)Connecting to Nature through Two-Eyed Seeing</p>
<p><b>16 May</b> Resources for World Oceans Day</p>	<p><b>13 June</b> Animating Outdoor Learning using Finger Puppets</p>

THE OUTDOOR LEARNING STORE  
OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

TAKE ME OUTSIDE

## Animals Care for Mother Earth

**INDIGENOUS LEARNING RESOURCES**

**NEW RESOURCE**

**Indigenous created resources for creative learning**



# Outdoor Play Canada

**Email:** [info@outdoorplaycanada.ca](mailto:info@outdoorplaycanada.ca)  
**Website:** [outdoorplaycanada.ca](http://outdoorplaycanada.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/resources/>  
<https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/plato-net/>

**Key Event:**

Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit is a two-day summit happening in 2023 from Sept 27-29. Thought leaders, practitioners, researchers, and policy makers will connect and share best practices at the Ottawa Forest and Nature School & Wesley Clover Parks Campground.

The theme for the 2023 summit is ‘Research, policy, and practice – their intersections for the promotion of outdoor play’. The summit will feature inspiring keynote addresses and open conversations on how these three elements may promote and shape the future of outdoor play in Canada and abroad. Visit <https://outdoorplaysummit.ca/>.

Outdoor Play Canada is a network of advocates, practitioners, researchers and organizations working together to promote, protect, and preserve access to play in nature and the outdoors for all people living in Canada. Outdoor Play Canada provides leadership to galvanize the outdoor play movement across Canada to promote the health and wellness of Canadians and the environments in which we live, work, learn and play.





## Outward Bound Canada

**Email:** [info@outwardbound.ca](mailto:info@outwardbound.ca)  
**Website:** [outwardbound.ca](http://outwardbound.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://www.outwardbound.ca/research-publications/>  
<https://www.outwardbound.ca/adult-courses/obc-training-academy/participant-information/>

### Key Event:

We are working with many educators and school boards to engage youth in our high-quality outdoor education programming. One, three and five-day and custom program options available. Funding is also an option for specific groups. Reach out to [groups@outwardbound.ca](mailto:groups@outwardbound.ca) for more info or visit <https://www.outwardbound.ca/school-and-group-programs/>.

OBC offers scholarships and bursaries to youth in Canada who are interested in an OBC summer course but for whom finances are an obstacle.

At Outward Bound Canada, we envision a Canada where all youth have access to high-quality, impactful outdoor education experiences that help them realize their potential.

Through our world-class research, we've identified the direct impact our programs have on positive physical, mental and emotional well-being, and preparing youth for future success at school, work, and in their communities.

Our programs leverage the power of nature and adventure to build social and emotional intelligence and environmental leadership among youth. Led by highly skilled instructors, who are trained in risk management, OBC creates supportive and inclusive spaces where youth can learn, grow and thrive.

We are on a shared mission to be a vocal champion and leading provider of social-emotional and environmental outdoor learning experiences for underserved youth. OBC's programming for underserved youth strives to remove barriers and supports fair and equitable access to life-changing opportunities.





## ParticipACTION

**Email:** [info@participaction.com](mailto:info@participaction.com)  
**Website:** [participaction.com](http://participaction.com)  
**Resources:** <https://www.participaction.com/programs/>

### Key Event:

Check out the 2022 iteration of the ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth here: <https://www.participaction.com/the-science/children-and-youth-report-card/>

ParticipACTION is a national non-profit organization that inspires and supports Canadians to make physical activity a vital part of their everyday life. As Canada's premier physical activity brand, ParticipACTION works with its partners to help Canadians reduce sedentary time and move more through innovative engagement initiatives and thought leadership.

This includes sharing the myriad benefits of spending time outdoors and how being active helps people Think, Focus and Learn Better.





# Physical and Health Education Canada

**Email:** [info@phecanada.ca](mailto:info@phecanada.ca)  
**Website:** [phecanada.ca](http://phecanada.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://phecanada.ca/programs>  
<https://phecanada.ca/activate>

## Key Events:

2023 PHE National Conference - [www.phecanada.ca/phepei2023](http://www.phecanada.ca/phepei2023)

PHE Learning Centre - [www.phecanada.ca/phelearningcentre](http://www.phecanada.ca/phelearningcentre)

PHE Canada Training & Certification Program - <https://phecanada.ca/activate/training-and-certification>

Access to Action - Quality School Sport, Physical Activity, Physical Literacy Granting Program - [www.phecanada.ca/accesstoaction](http://www.phecanada.ca/accesstoaction)

Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE Canada) empowers schools, teachers, students, and the broader PHE Community with quality programs, professional development services, and community activations to ensure equitable access to the benefits of quality physical and health education and healthy learning environments. By promoting and advancing quality physical and health education and healthy learning environments, PHE Canada helps ensure each and every child and youth in Canada has the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to lead resilient, active, and healthy lives.



“Schools provide a unique opportunity to reach and support the development of each and every child across Canada, helping foster the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that promote healthy, active habits and behaviours that can last lifetime. PHE Canada supports and builds capacity in schools across the country, opening up opportunities for millions of children and youth to experience, and benefit from, quality physical and health education programming and healthy learning environments that help support the health and well-being of children and youth now and for years to come.”



PLT is an initiative of SFI

# Project Learning Tree

**Email:** [PLTCanada@forests.org](mailto:PLTCanada@forests.org)  
**Website:** [forests.org](http://forests.org)  
**Resources:** <https://pltcanada.org/en/mentorship/>  
<https://pltcanada.org/en/green-jobs/>  
<https://pltcanada.org/en/indigenous-voices/>

## Key Events:

Please visit our website [www.pltcanada.org](http://www.pltcanada.org) for more information.

Visit <https://pltcanada.org/en/forest-literacy> to download the complete Forest Literacy Framework explore each section by grade level, hot topic, or theme.

FableVision and PLT Canada are working together to create an engaging online experience for 18-25 year olds that explores sustainable forest management.

Join our upcoming Interactive Experience [Forest Quest](#).

Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada) is a bilingual charity committed to fostering inclusive environmental education and growing a diverse and resilient Green Jobs workforce, using trees and forests as windows on the world. PLT Canada is an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

## GREEN JOBS

**WE CONTINUE TO ENSURE TOP-NOTCH SATISFACTION RATES**  
**99%** OF 110 SURVEY RESPONDENTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION with their Green Job placements in 2020

**PLT Canada offers a 50% WAGE MATCH TO HIRE YOUTH aged 15-30 into Green Jobs.**

Green Jobs are those that support nature-based solutions for a more sustainable planet, such as positions in the forest, conservation and parks sectors.

## EDUCATION

**WE HAVE HELD 14 ONLINE EVENTS WITH OVER 900 ATTENDEES** to support diversity and inclusion in green jobs

**WE HAVE RELEASED 5 FREE ONLINE COURSES** to support professional development and personal well-being

**WE HAVE PUBLISHED 6 ONLINE RESOURCES** to help teachers introduce green careers to youth, and to support environmental education in the classroom

**WE PUBLISHED A COMPANION WORKBOOK TO OUR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GREEN PATHWAY PLAN** to help youth take active steps in developing themselves personally and professionally.

**WE DEVELOPED AN INTERACTIVE GREEN JOBS CAREER EXPLORATION QUIZ** on our website where youth discover career suggestions based on their UNIQUE PERSONALITIES AND INTERESTS

**We made LEARNING AVAILABLE to everyone**

Online programming has become more important than ever due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We launched a series of free online professional development courses, and our workshops and webinars focusing on youth facing barriers have attracted many hundreds of job seekers and employers.

## MENTORSHIP

**MENTORSHIP SINCE 2020**

**PLT CANADA'S GREEN MENTORS HAVE COME FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS SINCE 2020**

Alberta Forest Products Association	IRI research	Resolute Forest Products
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.	Grand River Conservation Authority	Sila-Econ Ltd.
Aster Conscience Inc.	Independent Wood Processors Association of BC	Standards Council of Canada
B.C. Council of Forest Industries (COFI)	Interfor	Sula
BioForest	Irving Consumer Products	Toronto Regional Conservation Authority
British Columbia Parks	JD Irving	Temper Corp
Canadian Forest Service	JFS Inc.	University of British Columbia
City of London	Knauf	West Fraser
City of Toronto	Kruger	Wildfire Management Inc.
Comflex Timber Inc.	Litchfield Forestry Services	Weyerhaeuser
Country of Renfrew	McCurdy Consulting Inc.	
Denison Forestry	Mercer Intl.	
Dominor	Mosaic Forest Management	
Ducks Unlimited	Natural Resources Canada	
EACOM Timber Corp	Norbord	
Enbridge NB Power	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Forestry	
First Resource Management Group	Paper Excellence	
First Gene Conservation Association	Pinech In	
Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)	Preferred by Nature	
Fort Laroche	PRIC	
FP Innovations		

**WE SUPPORTED OVER 200 PARTICIPANTS** IN NATIONAL AND INDIGENOUS MENTORSHIP COHORTS

**WE SPONSORED OVER 90 YOUTH** TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

**WE SECURED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT** FOR ALL OUR GREEN JOBS AND GREEN MENTOR YOUTH

## SUCCESSES

**SINCE 2018**

**PLT CANADA'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WORK EXPERIENCES AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS SUPPORT YOUTH IN RURAL, URBAN, AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES** - including newcomers to Canada and those living with disabilities - overcome barriers to employment and find career success.

**WE PLACED YOUTH IN OVER 3,500 GREEN JOBS**

755 IN 2018  
1,304 IN 2019 AND 1,512 IN 2020-2021

**WE PLACED YOUTH INTO JOBS IN 10 AND 2 PROVINCES TERRITORIES**

**WE CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE GENDER BALANCE** THROUGHOUT ALL GREEN JOB PLACEMENTS year after year

**WE HAVE HOSTED VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS FOR OVER 900 ATTENDEES** with a focus on diversity and inclusion

**WE HAVE SUPPORTED OVER 250 EMPLOYERS** WITH WAGE-MATCHING

113 ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI) NETWORK  
 10 PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PARKS AGENCIES THROUGH THE CANADIAN PARKS COUNCIL NETWORK  
 143 OTHER VALUED PARTNERS

**WE SUPPORTED OVER 500 INDIGENOUS YOUTH** FROM OVER 80 DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES INTO GREEN JOBS

**WE SUPPORTED OVER 140 INDIGENOUS YOUTH** FROM ACROSS CANADA IN OBTAINING ADVANCED SKILLS TRAINING in brush saw operation, first aid, bear awareness, health and safety, fork lift counterbalance, and more!

**WE CONTINUE TO ROUGHLY DOUBLE EVERY YEAR** THE NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS EMPLOYERS SUPPORTED BY GREEN JOBS WAGE-MATCHING



project **WET**  
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

## Project WET Canada

**Email:**

[ProjectWET@cwra.org](mailto:ProjectWET@cwra.org)

**Website:**

**French:** [coordinatrice.projetwet@cwra.org](mailto:coordinatrice.projetwet@cwra.org)  
[projectwet.org](http://projectwet.org)

**Resources:**

<https://cwra.org/en/affiliates-programs/project-wet/project-wet-resources/#curricular-connections>

**French:** <https://cwra.org/fr/societes-affiliees-et-programmes/projet-wet/project-wet/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MWqJdHILLK9Axcx5BM2bHVeMmXSL-RdE/view>

### Key Event:

Certification workshops are organized by our provincial and territorial coordinators. Please visit the map on our home page for your coordinator's information - <https://cwra.org/en/affiliates-programs/project-wet/>

Project WET Canada is a fun, hands-on, inquiry learning based, water education program for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. It is designed for use by both formal and non-formal educators to supplement the existing provincial and territorial curricula in science, environmental and outdoor education, social studies, language arts, math, health and wellness and career education. It is suitable for both indoor and outdoor learning environments.

**Project WET**  
Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0  
Educate. Empower. Act.

**GETTING LITTLE FEET WET**  
Project WET's  
Early Childhood Education Guide

**Project WET**  
Guide d'activités pédagogiques  
Module 1

“I think I will use the resource in the gr. 8 science renewed curriculum. The biology unit and the unit on climate change will really benefit from this resource. I also think it will be a very good resource when it comes to providing support for outdoor education.”

A Nova Scotia science teacher on Project WET 2.0 Educator Guide





# Room To Play

**Email:** [meganzeni@mac.com](mailto:meganzeni@mac.com)  
**Website:** [meganzeni.com](http://meganzeni.com)  
**Resources:** <https://meganzeni.com/blog/>  
**Key Events:** <https://meganzeni.com/outdoor-classroom-professional-learning/>  
<https://meganzeni.com/learn-with-me/>

Room to Play is an independent education consultancy influenced by pedagogies of place and play.

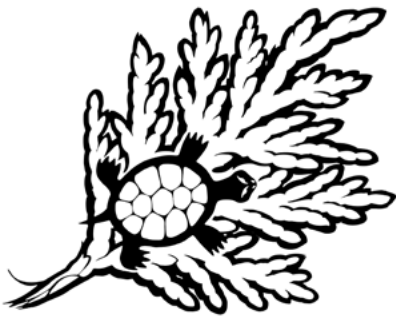
Room to Play consulting offers whole systems thinking, strategic leadership, inspiring keynotes, research support, and practical professional learning for educators who locate their curriculum in school gardens and outdoor classrooms.

Room to Play consulting currently supports schools, school districts, parent advisory groups, education networks, ministries of education, faculties of education, and community partners as we collectively re-think where learning happens in our schools.

Room to Play consulting is currently available to speak, consult and mentor on topics relevant to childhood outdoors. Topics include, but are not limited to, unstructured play, risky play, playful learning, loose parts play outdoors, curriculum planning and assessment outdoors with school aged learners.

Megan Zeni is a SSHRC funded scholar researching teachers' experiences and perceptions of education outside the classroom at the University of British Columbia. Learn more at [meganzeni.com](http://meganzeni.com)





# Strong Nations Publishing Inc.

Email: [contact@strongnations.com](mailto:contact@strongnations.com)  
Website: [strongnations.com](http://strongnations.com)  
Resources: <https://www.strongnations.com/information/>

## Key Events:

A new addition in the *By Day and By Night Nature Series*, arrived this December: Preview Fernwood Forest [here!](#)

We are excited to announce the release of our new middle-grade graphic novel that explores the Tribal Canoe Journey! Available [here!](#)

Strong Nations provides an open service of information to support, and hopefully transform, the lives of Indigenous peoples by providing access to, and demonstrating the use of, Indigenous text in literacy acquisition. It is our hope that we can bring Indigenous content into the lives of all peoples in order to create pathways that support the building of strong nations together.





# Take Me Outside

**Email:** [info@takemeoutside.ca](mailto:info@takemeoutside.ca)  
**Website:** [takemeoutside.ca](http://takemeoutside.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://takemeoutside.ca/resource-directory/>  
<https://takemeoutside.ca/resource-directory/professional-development-opportunities/>

## Key Events:

**Take Me Outside Day** is our biggest event of the year. Take Me Outside Day helps to raise awareness about outdoor learning by encouraging teachers to take their students outside. The entire week is full of activities, speakers, and prizes from our partners, each focusing on the 3 key areas of: Indigenous Perspectives and Knowledge, Health and Wellbeing, Environmental and Climate Change Education.

As an extension of TMO Day, the year-long **Learning Challenge** is designed to be simple and fun with tangible tools to help achieve success. The goal is to foster a community of peer support where educators from all walks of life and education systems can share ideas, lessons, and stories. Registration opens each fall, and involved a commitment of spending at least 1 hour/week outside with your learners throughout the school year. It can be class time, extended recess, picnic lunches, field trips, or all of the above.

Take Me Outside is a non-profit organization committed to raising awareness and facilitating action on nature connection and outdoor learning in schools across Canada. We believe in a future in which spending time outside playing, exploring and learning is a regular and significant part of every student's day. We work collaboratively with other organizations, school boards and individuals to encourage children and youth to spend more time outside through various projects and initiatives.





# TrailCollectiv

**Email:** [hello@trailcollectiv.com](mailto:hello@trailcollectiv.com)  
**Website:** [trailcollectiv.com](http://trailcollectiv.com)  
**Resources:** <https://linktr.ee/trailcollectiv>

## Key Events:

Let's change the future of hiking together! [Learn more and apply to our Ambassador Program here.](#)

TrailCollectiv is breaking down barriers families face when hiking by providing detailed information to make it quick and easy to find places to explore and connect as a family.

"It started with a baby..."

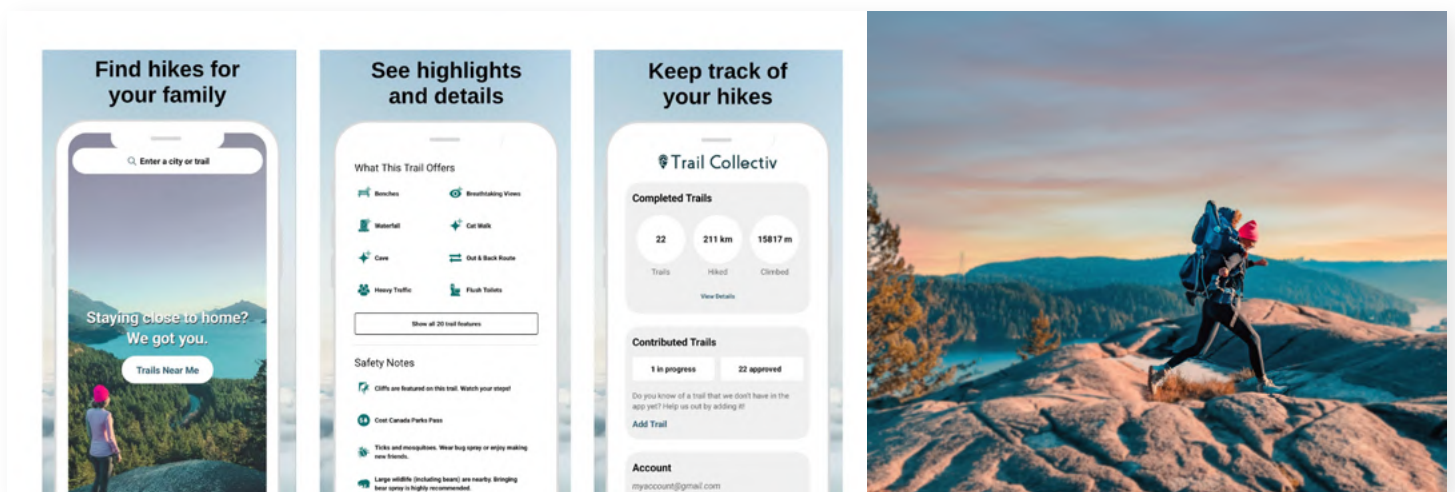
After I had my first baby in 2013, I knew that I had to take her outside. Part of it was because I wanted her to benefit from vitamin N (nature) but also because I needed it for my own post-partum health. I found that I was happier if I took my baby outside at least once a day and that the crying was not so loud outside.

But, the search for useful trail information and nearby attractions to these trails that benefit families was hard to find. Oftentimes, it did not even exist. I did not want to keep going to the same outdoor spot every day. I also was exhausted and trying to figure out where to go was overwhelming.

I learned that I was not alone.

Other families wanted to learn about these places too, whether it was the best mountain summit for a toddler, great all-terrain stroller-friendly trails, or local gems for ice cream and coffee."

- Annika Mang (Co-Founder)





# Water Rangers

**Email:** [contact@waterrangers.ca](mailto:contact@waterrangers.ca)  
**Website:** [waterrangers.ca](http://waterrangers.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://waterrangers.ca/act/educators/>

## Key Events:

Testing season starts this spring! Visit <https://waterrangers.ca/testing-season/> for more information. And check out our education program in Quebec, which includes subsidized kits: <https://waterrangers.ca/2022/07/22/education-quebec/>

Water Rangers mission is to lower barriers so that everyone can participate in water quality monitoring to gather missing water health data. Youth of all ages can get to know water bodies and understand when they're healthy or need our help. We believe that when people spend time outdoors getting to know water bodies, they're more willing to help when it's needed.





# Indigenous Knowledge: Gathering and Tobacco

*We are grateful for the expertise and knowledge shared in these pages. We have also featured a number of special guest authors throughout the Resource Hub to provide a space for them to explore important topics more deeply within the context of outdoor learning. We appreciate their valuable contributions to the community, and hope you enjoy reading each one.*

Wherever you are in your teaching journey, learning Indigenous knowledge always takes time. We learn as much as we feel comfortable teaching, or just a little bit at a time. There are certain things that can be taught and there are certain things that cannot be taught. It is a good thing to teach what you learned from an elder who tells you it's ok to teach it: they will say it can be passed onto others and you have the honor to do so. You will know it is ok and they will tell you it is ok to teach this knowledge. It is ok to teach a little bit or as much as you feel comfortable in teaching.

Ways to gain knowledge include: learning from an elder or knowledge keeper from the local Indigenous community; having the teachings since you can remember; conferences or resources; and the many new ways of knowing being developed.

What cannot be taught are sacred ceremonies like sweat lodges or pipe ceremonies. Sacred Sun Dances and sites like the Nose Hill Siksikaitstapi Medicine Wheel in Calgary need an elder. Families and communities use traditional protocols and sacred songs from the

land to pass on to other families or community members. Indigenous peoples' have the experience, from singing the songs to knowing the different protocols that need to happen for ceremonies to be conducted in a proper and traditional way. One could call upon an elder or knowledge keeper for sacred ceremonies in a school like a feast, a round dance or for smudging.

On the other hand, Sun Dances cannot be conducted by schools, as these ceremonies are from Indigenous families who have the rights to hold Sun Dances at certain times during the summer months. Community members and visitors can view a Sun Dance but need to know when and where they are held, along with some protocols like where to sit. Powwows are always a welcome space for all to enjoy, as are round dances in the fall and winter months.

When it comes to smudging with sacred medicines like sage or sweetgrass, anyone who is properly taught can smudge as long as they know its meaning and how to use the medicine in its proper way such as handling, storage, picking, and protocols. One can have this displayed in the class or school but not left alone for extended periods of time like holidays. Always care for medicines like a baby, and bring

them home with you and care for them like they are alive.

One medicine to use when giving respect back to the land is tobacco. Tobacco is a respected plant given by the creator to give respect back to plants and animals of Mother Earth. We honor the teachings and learning from the land with tobacco. When there is a plan to go outside to explore, give back to the land first using tobacco. It is a respectable protocol to do with everyone. One can grow tobacco and dry the leaves - one can use tobacco from the store but it is better to grow if you can. Then, crush them and store them in a jar or container. Once all are in a circle outside, we take a pinch of tobacco and put it in our left hand (this hand is closest to the heart to which we use to give). We think of good thoughts and give thanks for the learning coming from the plants, animals or anything coming from the land. Place the tobacco on the ground, or by a tree, or in the water as the action of giving back. When we bring in leaves in the fall or are ready to dissect a frog, we will use tobacco to say thank you for the learning. These are just a couple ways of Indigenous knowing, being and doing, integrated into your learning journey.

Ekosi



**Preston Huppie** is an Indigenous Education Strategist in Calgary, Alberta. He is currently working in Education for 16 yrs with a Bachelor of Education in 2005 and a Master of Indigenous Peoples Education in 2013. Worked for Kehewin Cree Nation for 10 years and now for Calgary Board of Education for 6 years. His passions are to have Indigenous education curriculum content for schools, classrooms, teachers and educators who need to know foundational Indigenous Knowledge perspectives.



# West Coast

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## Classrooms to Communities (C2C) Education Network

**Email:** [info@c2c-bc.org](mailto:info@c2c-bc.org)  
**Website:** [c2c-bc.org](http://c2c-bc.org)  
**Resources:** <https://www.c2c-bc.org/c2c-action-plan>

### Key Events:

Stay updated with our upcoming events by visiting <https://www.c2c-bc.org/upcoming-events-1>.

Save The Date:

Biannual C2C Solstice Events - June 22 and December 14, 2023

C2C Annual Provincial Conference - October 20-21, 2023

The C2C Education Network was formed in 2018 by a group of partners with roots in sustainability, experiential learning, climate and environmental education in B.C. Since then, we are growing into a role as the preeminent provincial network supporting outdoor, experiential, place and land-based education, and community-connected learning with local and regional hubs around the province.

C2C envisions a province where all students and teachers are deeply connected to place, land, community and planet, are able to effectively communicate their stories of connectedness, and are taking responsibility to do so.

The network supports educators, school districts and communities through local, regional and provincial initiatives and events across B.C. Our core partners and supporters have over 30 years of experience organizing, hosting and facilitating professional development initiatives in every corner of the province. C2C hosts an annual Provincial Conference in October, regional Solstice networking events and Leadership Clinics, and partner-led events and initiatives throughout the year. We also have a broad and growing communication network supporting our partners and supporters to engage in and amplify our shared work.





**EEPSA**  
Environmental Educators  
Provincial Specialist Association

# Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association (EEPSA)

**Email:** psac66@bctf.ca

**Website:** eepsa.org

**Resources:** <https://eepsa.org/resources/>  
<https://eepsa.org/position-statement-on-education-outside-the-classroom/>

## Key Event:

The annual Leadership Clinic is an opportunity for EEPsa local chapters to team-build and plan while networking and collaborating with other local chapters. This year we are encouraging all local chapters to invite a member of their school districts Aboriginal/Indigenous Education Team to further support connections between Environmental Education and Indigenous Knowledge. <https://cbeen.ca/leadership-registration/>

## EEPSA Goals:

1. Assist educators with curriculum support, professional development and networking opportunities to members across the province.
2. Build partnerships and collaborations with other place-based, EE stakeholders.
3. Promote greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of the environment and nurture skills in teachers to use Place-Based Education (PBE).





## The Invasive Species Council of BC

**Email:** [info@bcinvasives.ca](mailto:info@bcinvasives.ca)  
**Website:** [bcinvasives.ca](http://bcinvasives.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://bcinvasives.ca/for-youth/for-educators/>  
<https://bcinvasives.ca/resources/learning-centre/>

### Key Event:

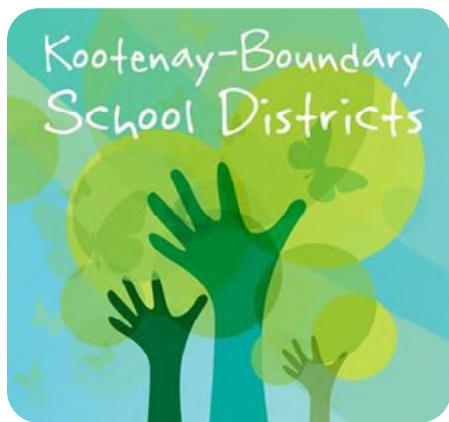
Educators in BC: Join Invasive-Wise Education for a free and engaging virtual visit to your classroom and one-on-one support to teach about and take action on invasive species in your community! Contact us to learn more, and check out all of our upcoming events at: <https://bcinvasives.ca/news/category/events/>

ISCBC's mission is to take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities, through education and responsible practices to prevent the spread of invasive species. Through our Invasive-Wise Education program we provide free curriculum-linked resources, activities and professional support to educators across BC so they can teach the next generation of environmental stewards to do their part to protect biodiversity against invasive species.



“I loved how very authentic the experience was. It was so local in its content and with the current emphasis on outdoor and Indigenous learning, it was a perfect fit with my grade 4 curriculum for both science and socials. The students were super engaged.”

Rebecca, Grade 4 Teacher, 150 Mile House



# The Kootenay-Boundary Environmental Education Initiative

**Email:** [info@kbee.ca](mailto:info@kbee.ca)  
**Website:** [kbee.ca](http://kbee.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://kbee.ca/activities/>  
<https://kbee.ca/resources/>

## Key Event:

Educators in School Districts 5, 6, 8, 10, 19, 20 & 51: Commit to taking your learning outside at least one day/week! Registration for the 2023/24 school year will open in August 2023. <https://kbee.ca/outside/>

The Kootenay-Boundary Environmental Education Initiative (KBEE) is coordinated by a committee of the Kootenay-Boundary Chapter of the British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA). This includes School Districts 5, 6, 8, 10, 20 and 51. The goal of the KBEE is to better support students' understanding of their local environment and empower thoughtful action, through learning that is outdoor, experiential, place-based and place-conscious.





## NatureKids BC

Email:

[info@naturekidsbc.ca](mailto:info@naturekidsbc.ca)

Website:

[naturekidsbc.ca](http://naturekidsbc.ca)

Resources:

<https://naturekidsbc.ca/be-a-naturekid/stewardship-citizen-science/>

<https://naturekidsbc.ca/educational-resources-2/>

<https://naturekidsbc.ca/introducing-the-salmon-toolkit/>

### Key Event:

View a list of upcoming Explorer Days and read our Explorer Day Etiquette [here](#).

NatureKids BC is a nature discovery and environmental action organization that helps children form meaningful and enduring connections with nature alongside their families.

Powered by passionate volunteers, members and donors, we engage young families in exploring the wonderfully diverse ecosystems of British Columbia through nature clubs in all corners of the province. We are passionate about making it easy for families to get out and explore, play, learn about, and take action for nature together. We introduce kids ages 5-12 and their families to the great outdoors through Explorer Days, NatureWILD Magazine, Citizenship Science and Stewardship initiatives and Awards programs.





## Science World

**Email:** [info@scienceworld.ca](mailto:info@scienceworld.ca)  
**Website:** [scienceworld.ca](http://scienceworld.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://www.scienceworld.ca/resources/?pg=0>  
<https://www.scienceworld.ca/resource/organ-systems-jigsaw/>  
<https://www.scienceworld.ca/resource/biodegradable-seedling-pots/>

### Key Event:

The Sacred Journey exhibition takes visitors on a voyage to experience the resurgence of Northwest Coast canoe cultures. Visit <https://www.scienceworld.ca/exhibition/sacred-journey/> for more information.

Science World is a charitable non-profit and science centre based in Vancouver, BC that engages learners across the province in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & design and math).

Visitors to our iconic geodesic dome explore interactive exhibits and galleries that nurture discovery and inspire connection with their natural, physical and built environments. Participants in our outreach programs access the experience of Science World through virtual visits from scientists, livestream science shows, and weekly afterschool STEAM mentorship.





# Wild About Outdoor Learning Society

**Email:** [wildaboutvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:wildaboutvancouver@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [wildabout.ca](http://www.wildabout.ca)  
**Resources:** <http://www.wildabout.ca/category/lesson/>  
<http://www.wildabout.ca/category/blog/>

## Key Events:

Annual Tidal WAV Outdoor Festival – May 27, 2023 in Vancouver at Stanley Park

Adding to Bank of Outdoor Lesson Plans for Teachers and Community Members

Wild About Outdoor Learning Society is committed to encouraging the people living in B.C. to #getOUTdoors and #getINVolved in healthy living and learning about the environment. Our focus has expanded from a focus on educators to all of the adults that live and work with children.

Time spent outdoors creates connections with the outdoors and the people who work to protect it and opportunities for purposeful engagement.





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## Alberta Council for Environmental Education

**Email:** [info@abcee.org](mailto:info@abcee.org)  
**Website:** [abcee.org](http://abcee.org)  
**Resources:** <https://abcee.org/ecoschools>  
<https://abcee.org/best-practices-teachers>  
<https://abcee.org/aylee>

### Key Event:

ACEE will be scaling up our EcoSchools program to reach more classrooms. We have a new resource website in the works. And we will have a new strategic plan including a focus on outdoor learning, Indigenous perspectives, and climate justice.

The organization's primary mission is to drive education system change in Alberta and to integrate environmental education for K-12 students throughout the province. ACEE also offers a variety of other programs and services to support educators, students, and community partners.

ACEE has a small team of employees who operate remotely and rely on a high level of engagement with educators, students, and other community partners to successfully influence/implement systems change and deliver programming across Alberta.

ACEE offers a variety of outdoor learning workshops throughout the year. Outdoor learning is also integrated into the curriculum, training, and programming offered for educators and students.





## Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley

**Email:** [education@biosphereinstitute.org](mailto:education@biosphereinstitute.org)

**Website:** [biosphereinstitute.org](http://biosphereinstitute.org)

**Resources:** <https://www.biosphereinstitute.org/educationresources>

<https://www.biosphereinstitute.org/shift-resources>

<https://www.biosphereinstitute.org/wildsmart-resources>

### Key Event:

The Future Leaders program provides engaging environmental education and resources to K-12 students and teachers connected to environmental topics in Banff, Canmore, Exshaw and Mîni Thnî (Morley). Learn more: <https://www.biosphereinstitute.org/futureleaders>

The Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley (BIBV) is the host organization of Future Leaders, an environmental education program for K-12 students in the Bow Valley region (Treaty 7 territory) of Southern Alberta. Through experiential outdoor learning experiences, student participants in the Future Leaders programs learn about local wildlife, biodiversity and ecology. Early and continuous outdoor experiences are made equitable through free programming and promote diversity by weaving Western and Indigenous perspectives. Beyond a backdrop to education, the Future Leaders program invites the natural world as co-teacher to foster students' connection with the natural world and sense of belonging.





## The Canadian Parks and Wildlife Society Southern Alberta

**Email:** [infoSAB@cpaws.org](mailto:infoSAB@cpaws.org)  
**Website:** [cpaws.org](http://cpaws.org)  
**Resources:** <https://wearechangemakers.ca/>  
<https://climategamechangers.ca/>

### Key Events:

Since 1997, we have engaged over 150,000 Albertans with environmental programs that teach environmental stewardship through interactive programs—from in-class learning to hands-on outdoor activities, such as guided hikes and snowshoeing. Learn more: <https://cpaws-southernalberta.org/education/> and <https://cpaws-southernalberta.org/events/>

At the CPAWS Southern Alberta chapter, our mission is to safeguard, connect, and expand Alberta's parks and wilderness through education, engagement, and collaboration with Albertans. CPAWS SA is a leader in environmental education and has won provincial and national awards for our unique education programs. For 25 years, we have successfully delivered multi-visit, curriculum-linked, in-class and outdoor education programs to youth and community groups in Alberta, focusing on local stewardship. We have engaged with more than 165,000 participants in this region, inspiring and supporting Albertans to be environmental change makers for their local communities. We are committed to breaking down barriers to outdoor education so that everyone can feel welcome, safe, and included in the outdoors.





cbeen.org

# Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network

**Email:** [info@cbeen.org](mailto:info@cbeen.org)  
**Website:** [cbeen.org](http://cbeen.org)  
**Resources:** <https://cbeen.ca/resources/>  
<https://cbeen.ca/workshops/>

## Key Event:

We have many ongoing events and workshops. Visit <https://cbeen.ca/workshops-events/> for more information!

CBEEN is the regional network for environmental education in the Canadian Columbia Basin. We encourage environmental stewardship and sustainability in the Canadian Columbia Basin by supporting environmental educators.

CBEEN's vision: People in the Canadian Columbia Basin respect the natural environment and engage in sustainable activities.





## Wildsight

<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:education@wildsight.ca">education@wildsight.ca</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://wildsight.ca">wildsight.ca</a>
<b>Resources:</b>	<a href="https://wildsight.ca/educationresources/">https://wildsight.ca/educationresources/</a> <a href="https://wildsight.ca/programs/knowyourwatershed/know-your-watershed-online-2020-students/">https://wildsight.ca/programs/knowyourwatershed/know-your-watershed-online-2020-students/</a> <a href="https://wildsight.ca/programs/teach-the-columbia/">https://wildsight.ca/programs/teach-the-columbia/</a>

### Key Event:

Wildsight hosts many events across the Columbia and Kootenay regions of Canada through their six branches. [Check them all out here!](#)

Since 1987, Wildsight has been recognized as a leader in large-scale conservation, sustainable community initiatives and environmental education. While our work focuses on the Kootenays, and has received recognition from the communities in which we work, we are renowned throughout the province and across Canada for our effective conservation and environmental education programs, excellence, and innovation in all that we do.

At our heart, we are a grassroots organization, harnessing our power from the people whose lives affect and are affected by our work. We strive to inspire a conservation ethic in our children and in our communities so that the future leaders of tomorrow will be equipped to deal with the challenges of sustainability.

“Kids remember what they do. Through Wildsight environmental education programs, students made special connections to their wild backyards, with plants as their guardians, and with all the different types of animals that live there. They now have memories and language that they own in relation to the wetland and the marsh we visited. They also got to experience the passion and excitement of the educator and the visiting biologist, which was infectious. These connections are the foundation in kids learning to care about the environment.”

Quote from teacher who experienced a Wildsight environmental education program

# Breath by Breath: Transitioning from Athlete to Environmental Educator

*We are grateful for the expertise and knowledge shared in these pages. We have also featured a number of special guest authors throughout the Resource Hub to provide a space for them to explore important topics more deeply within the context of outdoor learning. We appreciate their valuable contributions to the community, and hope you enjoy reading each one.*

*“Observe me, says the Breath, and learn to live effortlessly  
in the Present Moment.*

*Feel me, says the Breath, and feel the Ebb and Flow of Life.*

*Allow me, says the Breath, and I'll sustain and nourish you, filling you with energy and  
cleansing you of tension and fatigue”*

- Donna Martin (poem excerpt from 'The Breath is Life's Teacher')

It was a brittle winter morning. In the December twilight, my body jittered in anticipation of a World Cup skate sprint event in Davos, Switzerland. Self-doubt made the moment before my start even more restrictive than my spandex race suit. To counter the pressure, I placed the palms of my hands over my belly and drank the cool air in then exhaled out.

“Just.... this....just ....this....,” I repeated to myself with each rise and fall of my belly.

Breath by breath, the tension in my chest dissolved and my nervous muscles softened. The cloud of breath hung suspended in the outside air and reminded me of life's wonder; I felt connected to a super power sense of purpose. As a nordic skiing athlete, I trained with

my breath to align body, mind and moment for peak performance.

In my life beyond sport, the breath continues to share many teachings. As a budding Environmental Educator, I no longer need to count the amount of heartbeats in a minute or track my training. Nonetheless, the breath is an incredible teacher in the principles of reciprocity; of give and take; of ebb and flow; of human connection. If we are fortunate to inhale gulps of clean air, we are actively participating in Earth's processes.

In a simple yet profound act, the breath is an environmental educational resource that can turn a moment of tension and human-nature disconnect to ease, understanding and belonging. Through my previous work at a nature connection program in Canmore, Alberta, Forest Play, I engaged with breath as a learning resource as one to both calm childrens' minds and as a way to give thanks to the plants for their offerings. Gifting breath to the plants we harvested, from Yarrow to Pine Needles, is a simple act of offering thanks.

In this field of education and time on Earth, it can feel disempowering to learn of the extensive damage humans cause on Earth. Simple attention to the breath, however, is a profound antidote to the negative news because it reminds us of our active participation, belonging and the immense wonder of being alive. When we feel this connection, we remember that human and nonhuman health

are inseparable. Deep breaths can do wonders.

One hot summer day in July, a herd of five year-olds bolted past me with stained cheeks and wild strawberries in hand. The child leading the charge screeched to a halt like a Bison might do upon discovering a plummeting cliff below. The children trailing closely behind then rammed into the halted child. Wham!

"I forgot!" she exclaimed to her confused and bumped friends. Without explaining, she ran back to the spot where they had just harvested the tiny, plump berry bombs. She then knelt down to the ground, cupped her hands over her mouth, caught an exhalation and lowered her hands to release her breath to the strawberry plant below whispering, "thank you".

In one moment, she demonstrated her plant identification knowledge, the principles of reciprocity, photosynthesis processes, empathy and gratitude.

Whether on the startline of a World Cup race, in the confines of a classroom or exploring a field of wild strawberries, the breath continues to accompany and teach me.

The next time your chest is tight or your students are rambunctious, I invite you to fill your belly with a breath while thinking "just" and exhale thinking "this". Breath by breath, I hope you too will experience the web we all play an important role in.



**Heidi Widmer** Raised by the Bow River in southern Alberta and the surrounding summits within Treaty 7 territory, Heidi is deeply committed to educating on behalf of this place that shaped her. As the Environmental Educator for the Biosphere, Heidi both coordinates and delivers K-12 curriculum-connected programs throughout the Bow Corridor.



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## Bushkids

**Email:**

[bushkidsnwt@gmail.com](mailto:bushkidsnwt@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[bushkids.ca](http://bushkids.ca)

**Resources:**

<https://gordonfoundation.ca/resource/chloe-dragon-smith-policy-paper/>

### Key Event:

The Bushkids Program is an on-the-Land learning initiative based in Yellowknife, NT. Developing healthy relationships with ourselves, each other, and the Land is one of the primary principles of Bushkids. To support this, children learn in their natural environment using an inquiry-based and play-based learning approach. Learn more: <https://bushkids.ca/bushkids-program/>

Based in Yellowknife, we provide training and mentorship to educators to bring their practice outdoors. We are grounded in a Land-based philosophy where Indigenous and Euro-western world views co-exist in a mutually respectful and welcoming space (i.e., “ethical space”). We practice play-based, inquiry-based, child-led and emergent learning approaches where safe risk taking is supported. We also work with young leaders, educators and decision-makers to integrate this way of learning at all levels.

A future where relationship with Land is supported and accessible to all NWT children and educators through their communities, families and schools. Land guides learning for all in an ethical space that balances Indigenous and Euro-western worldviews and approaches. This way of being supports healthy relationships with ourselves, each other and the Land.





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## Ever Active Schools

**Email:** [info@everactive.org](mailto:info@everactive.org)  
**Website:** [everactive.org](http://everactive.org)  
**Resources:** <https://shop.everactive.org/collections/free-downloads>  
<https://everactive.org/pe-lesson-plans/>

### Key Events:

Shaping the Future is an annual school health conference that brings together educators, health and wellness professionals and researchers to explore aspects of comprehensive school health through a variety of interactive learning formats. <https://everactive.org/events/stf/>

Still I Rise is a free one-day opportunity for Indigenous youth, educators and community members to learn, connect and share. <https://everactive.org/events/still-i-rise/>

**Mission:** To provide leadership that promotes and supports healthy, active school communities through a comprehensive school health (CSH) framework.

**Vision:** All students belong to healthy school communities that enable optimal health and learning.

Ever Active Schools supports outdoor and land-based learning in a variety of ways: Land Back programming in Indigenous schools and communities designed to help Indigenous youth reconnect with their culture; Active School Travel initiatives to get more families walking and wheeling to school, subsequently reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing community connectedness; Cold Weather Recess Planning to get students outside even in less favourable weather; and Loose Parts Play to utilize the environment for play in a respectful manner.





## FortWhyte Alive

**Email:** [kfroese@fortwhyte.org](mailto:kfroese@fortwhyte.org)  
**Website:** [fortwhyte.org](http://fortwhyte.org)  
**Resources:** <https://www.fortwhyte.org/educators/school-programs/>  
<https://www.fortwhyte.org/families/forest-school/>

### Key Event:

FortWhyte Alive has expanded our school program offerings to include programming at our facility, as well as outreach programs in schoolyards to aid connections to place-based learning. We also offer professional development for educators. We have a focus on new climate change education programs, and integrating Indigenous perspectives into all of our programs.

FortWhyte Alive is a private, not-for-profit which is dedicated to providing programming, natural settings, and facilities for environmental education, outdoor recreation, and social enterprise. FortWhyte promotes awareness and understanding of the natural world and actions leading to sustainable living.

FortWhyte Alive is located on Treaty 1 Territory, on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota peoples, as well as the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

FortWhyte Alive offers environmental education programming for K-12 students, in the form of onsite field trips throughout the school year, and a Forest School program for pre-school children. We offer custom programming in schoolyards, and professional development sessions and resources for educators to build confidence in teaching outdoors.





## Inside Education

**Email:** [info@insideeducation.ca](mailto:info@insideeducation.ca)  
**Website:** [insideeducation.ca](http://insideeducation.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://www.insideeducation.ca/learning-resources/>

### Key Events:

We have tons of upcoming programs available at no-cost to schools! **Cultivate: Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit** - Oct 20-23, 2023 / **Energy Innovation Days** - various dates & locations across Alberta / **Generate & Navigate Youth Climate Leadership Summit** - March 16-19, 2023 / Ongoing Teacher Professional Development Workshops, Ongoing Classroom & Field Programs

At Inside Education we support teachers and inspire students! We are an environmental and natural resources education charity with over 35 years of experience encouraging K-12 teachers and students to explore their role as environmental leaders through the lenses of science, careers, innovation and stewardship. We believe experiential learning is key to making connections with the natural world.

With this we have a wide variety of curriculum-connected, no cost programs that help teachers and students step out of their classrooms and into the local environment.





## The Manitoba Nature Summit

**Email:**

[info@naturesummitmb.com](mailto:info@naturesummitmb.com)

**Website:**

[naturesummitmb.com](http://naturesummitmb.com)

**Resources:**

<https://www.facebook.com/nature.summit.mb/>

<https://www.instagram.com/manitobanaturesummitinc/>

### Key Events:

The Manitoba Nature Action Collaborative for Children - the networking group under the Manitoba Nature Summit - will be hosting a Survivor Event this spring, and will be announcing other gatherings this year! The Manitoba Nature Summit's next event is our Annual General Meeting which will be mid-March at the St. Vital Duck Pond (watch our social media for a date and time) We will be filling 2 board positions at this time. The next Manitoba Nature Summit will be held May 2-4th, 2024 at Camp Assiniboia.

The Manitoba Nature Summit Inc. was created to be a "meeting of the minds" and an opportunity for Manitoba Educators to build community and share resources.

Our mission is to inspire and engage educators of children, fostering creativity and adventure in their natural environment while embracing healthy choices and sustainable living.

We believe that every child has the right to quality green space to play freely & experience wonder.





## SaskOutdoors

**Email:** [info@saskoutdoors.org](mailto:info@saskoutdoors.org)  
**Website:** [saskoutdoors.org](http://saskoutdoors.org)  
**Resources:** <https://saskoutdoors.org/resources/>

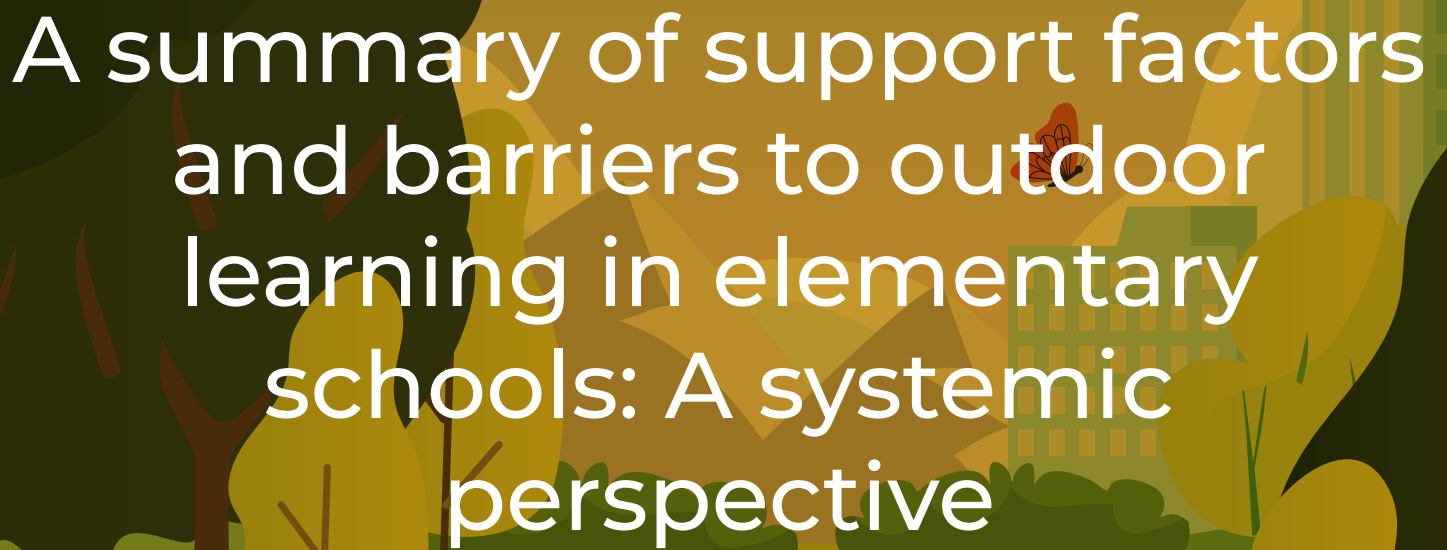
### Key Event:

Looking for practical tools for teaching outdoors? SaskOutdoors hosts both in-person and virtual training sessions that are fun, practical, and aimed at introducing educators to a variety of ideas and activity guides. Learn more: <https://saskoutdoors.org/events/>.

We imagine a province where every person can experience a deep connection with nature, where people play and learn outdoors, and live in harmony with their natural surroundings.

The mission of SaskOutdoors is to connect people of Saskatchewan to the outdoors and inspire a sense of curiosity and play within our natural environment by passionately delivering programs and services that promote awareness of outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.





# A summary of support factors and barriers to outdoor learning in elementary schools: A systemic perspective

*We are grateful for the expertise and knowledge shared in these pages. We have also featured a number of special guest authors throughout the Resource Hub to provide a space for them to explore important topics more deeply within the context of outdoor learning. We appreciate their valuable contributions to the community, and hope you enjoy reading each one.*

**Oberle, E., Zeni, M., & Munday, F., & Brussoni, M. (2021). Support factors and barriers to outdoor learning in elementary schools: A systemic perspective. American Journal of Health Education.**

Over decades, multiple benefits of outdoor play and learning have been clearly articulated in the research. An unexpected finding, which emerged from our collective experience in a global pandemic, has been a new willingness for elementary school teachers to locate curricular learning outside the classroom. As momentum builds around this pedagogical approach, elementary school teachers encounter similar barriers. This study examined Canadian

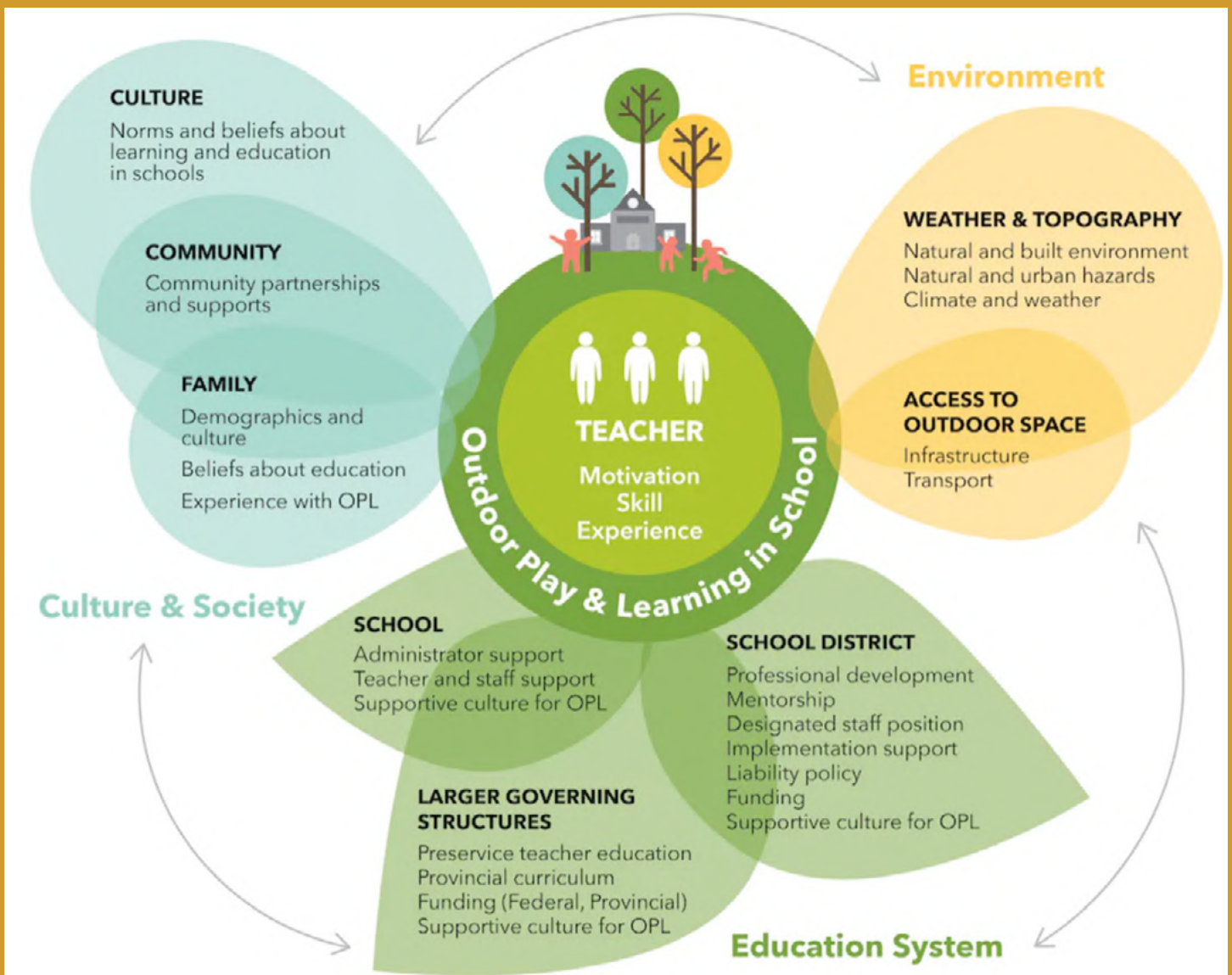
elementary school teachers' perspectives of barriers they encountered, along with specific supports which made outdoor learning more accessible. You can access the entire study [here](#). And you can read a research summary of the study [here](#).

There are four main themes that emerged from the data. Identified themes overlap one another in influence and impact in relationship



to how teachers navigate both barriers and opportunities for outdoor learning. The first considers teacher characteristics, including a teacher's confidence, skills, experience, and commitment for leading children in nature. Teachers also expressed varying levels of motivation to try teaching outdoors, particularly if they did not have extensive experience outdoors in their own childhood. Teacher

characteristics are often nested in a broader theme of culture. School culture is affected by broader societal beliefs, and families who deliver their children to school, offer their own culture of origin to the conversation of where and how learning happens. In my experience, teachers who are keen to try teaching outdoors, or want to support colleagues unsure where to start, can almost always



overcome barriers associated with these two themes by networking with colleagues in a professional learning community. In British Columbia, teachers are encouraged to join the **Environmental Educators' Provincial Specialist Association (EEPSA)** and everyone is welcome to network online through conference offerings and free webinars at **The Outdoor Learning Store**.

The most common challenge expressed by teachers engaged in outdoor learning continues to be inclement or extreme weather. Beyond the weather, environmental issues (like proximity to natural hazards, or campus proximity to wild spaces, and whether decision makers prioritize funding for outdoor learning spaces) all determine the ease with which teachers can access outdoor learning regularly from their assigned classrooms. Environmental issues are often nested within an inconsistent system of schooling that actively works to create or remove barriers for outdoor learning. Examples include having school administrators who are supported by the school district with exploration friendly walking field trip policies, targeted funding for outdoor learning at the school, district and provincial levels, and a ministry curriculum which is flexible enough

to be mapped onto nature play experiences. Other examples include developing gear lending libraries to equitably outfit learners who might not come to school prepared for inclement weather. The infographic below provides further examples of how these issues can both help and hinder access to outdoor learning in our schools.

The best advice experienced educators offer for colleagues who wish to try teaching outdoors includes solid communication with your school community. Be sure principals, families and learners are clear on your intentions, and work to make learning visible to ensure complex and emergent learning is documented. Secondly, schedule plenty of time for outdoor learning. Time is the magical ingredient in this work, and daily interactions with nature increase meaningful opportunities for learning. Finally, have fun with it! Get messy, make lots of mistakes, and enjoy relationships that grow in unexpected ways when we disrupt the power hierarchy of our classrooms!

I'd love to see your progress! Share out your outdoor learning with me on social media at @roomtoplay.



**Megan Zeni** is a fifth year PhD candidate and PHE lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia. Her research includes collaborations with practicing K-7 classroom teachers to capture how pedagogies of place and play are enacted through unstructured outdoor play and learning at school. Megan has 25 over years of experience as a professional K-7 educator, and currently teaches entirely outdoors in a public school outdoor and garden classroom.

To learn more about her work, visit: [www.meganzeni.com](http://www.meganzeni.com).



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## Evergreen

**Email:** [school@evergreen.ca](mailto:school@evergreen.ca)  
**Website:** [evergreen.ca](http://evergreen.ca)  
**Resources:** [https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/MindfullyOutdoors\\_Evergreen.pdf](https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/MindfullyOutdoors_Evergreen.pdf)

### Key Events:

*Virtually Outdoors* is FREE for public schools across Ontario during the 2022/2023 school year.

*Virtually Outdoors* will be offered in French for grades 1-8 starting in January 2023, and a grades 9-12 program focused on Climate Change will be available starting in February 2023.

Evergreen is a national social enterprise with the mission of making cities across the country more livable, prosperous and green. Within this broad scope of work, we offer a variety of outdoor and experiential learning opportunities for children and youth.

Our Children & Youth education programs focus on building lasting connections between students, educators and the natural world.

These programs take a playful, experience-based approach to learning about the intersection between urban, natural and built worlds while meaningfully addressing climate change, connection to place and Indigenous reconciliation. We strive to empower the next generation to build a resilient future.

Visiting Schools Program: Based in the heart of Toronto's ravine system at Evergreen Brick Works, our Visiting School Program connects children to nature, gets them active, and cultivates their ecological literacy.





## Ontario Parks

**Email:**

[discoverschool@ontario.ca](mailto:discoverschool@ontario.ca)

**Website:**

[ontarioparks.com](http://ontarioparks.com)

**Resources:**

<https://admin.flipgrid.com/discovery/partners/ontario-parks>

<https://cangeoeducation.ca/en/maps/ontario-parks/>

### Key Event:

Ever wanted to explore nature with a guide by your side? Come experience a different side of Ontario Parks with us through staff-led programs, self-led activities, and interpretive displays. Whether you're a teacher, camper, or day visitor, there's always something to discover. <https://www.ontarioparks.com/discovery>

Our mission is to protect provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural and cultural landscape and maintain biodiversity while offering opportunities for inspiration, education, health, and recreational enjoyment; this is with the intention that these areas are/be managed to maintain their ecological integrity and preserved for future generations.





## Pine Project

**Email:** [info@pineproject.org](mailto:info@pineproject.org)  
**Website:** [pineproject.org](http://pineproject.org)  
**Resources:** <https://pineproject.org/programs/overview/>  
<https://pineproject.org/resource/articles/>

### Key Events:

We offer a variety of year-round programming options, including partnerships with school groups and adult workshops! Head over to [pineproject.org](http://pineproject.org) to learn more.

<https://pineproject.org/schools/>

<https://pineproject.org/program/other-adult-opportunities/>

The Pine Project is a Toronto-based charity dedicated to inspiring a love of nature. We provide year-round outdoor education programming for people of all ages, with a focus on children and youth. Our work addresses evidence from over 400 studies showing that time outside with caring mentors supports children's health, happiness, learning, personal development, and connection to their local environment.

Our offerings include school year programs, day and overnight camps, and adult workshops. We also partner with schools and other groups to develop custom nature programming. All of our programs take place 100% outdoors, in all seasons, no matter the weather. We integrate a mixture of naturalist knowledge, wilderness and survival skills, visual and performing arts, and games and play for fun, connective outdoor experiences that inspire a deep love of nature, motivation to learn, and transformational growth.





TORONTO  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

## Toronto Botanical Gardens

**Email:**

[education@torontobotanicalgarden.ca](mailto:education@torontobotanicalgarden.ca)

**Website:**

[torontobotanicalgarden.ca](http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca)

**Resources:**

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/learn/>

### Key Event:

We offer programs for preschool students (spring only), Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 5. Learn more: <https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/learn/school/register-your-class-today/>

The Toronto Botanical Garden connects people to plants, inspiring us to live in harmony with nature. The Toronto Botanical Garden offers teachers on site school programs where students have the opportunity to explore the botanical gardens, hike the nearby ravine trails and plant a seed in our very own teaching garden. Students learn the importance of connecting with nature while getting their hands dirty!

“Some of these kids haven’t seen nature like this before - wonderful day!”

Teacher

“The students loved being outside - especially feeding the chickadees! Thank you so much!”

Teacher





# The East Coast

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## Great Minds Think Outside

Email:  
Website:

[nben@nben.ca](mailto:nben@nben.ca)  
<https://nben.ca/en/groups-in-action/great-minds-think-outside.html>

Resources:

<https://nben.ca/en/resources-en.html>

### Key Event:

Great Minds Think Outside professional learning sessions usually take place on school grounds during a PD day. Virtual half-day and introductory sessions are now available to schools outside of New Brunswick! In-person sessions take place entirely outdoors, while the highly interactive virtual sessions get everyone out of their seats and include a component of self-guided outdoor learning. The program is extremely flexible, and we will tailor the session to the schools' needs and interests, including age group, subject matter, and according to the greenspaces the school has access to, and for the number of teachers present.

After a session, the teachers will have learned fundamental techniques for success in maintaining focus and interest in their subject matter in the outdoor environment, practice with some activities relevant to their curriculum, access to 40 NB-specific activities, plus referrals to free online banks of searchable and educator-tested lesson plans for future use. Learn more: <https://nben.ca/en/book-a-session-today.html>

Launched in 2015, Great Minds Think Outside is a bilingual, hands-on, curriculum-linked, outdoor professional development program that gives educators the skills and resources they need to teach their students outside-whatever the subject matter! Great Minds feeds creativity, improves well-being, stimulates appreciation for nature and encourages environmental stewardship through innovative outdoor learning. By offering the sessions in a daily work environment, educators discover the possibilities of teaching in their own schoolyard.





NEW BRUNSWICK ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK  
RÉSEAU ENVIRONNEMENTAL DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

## New Brunswick Environmental Network


**Email:** [nben@nben.ca](mailto:nben@nben.ca)  
**Website:** [nben.ca](http://nben.ca)  
**Resources:** <https://nben.ca/en/resources/reference-library.html>  
<https://climateeducation.nben.ca/>  
<https://nben.ca/en/groups-in-action/sustainability-education-alliance-of-new-brunswick.html>

### Key Event:

Stay updated with workshops, events, and more through the NBEN's calendar [here](#).

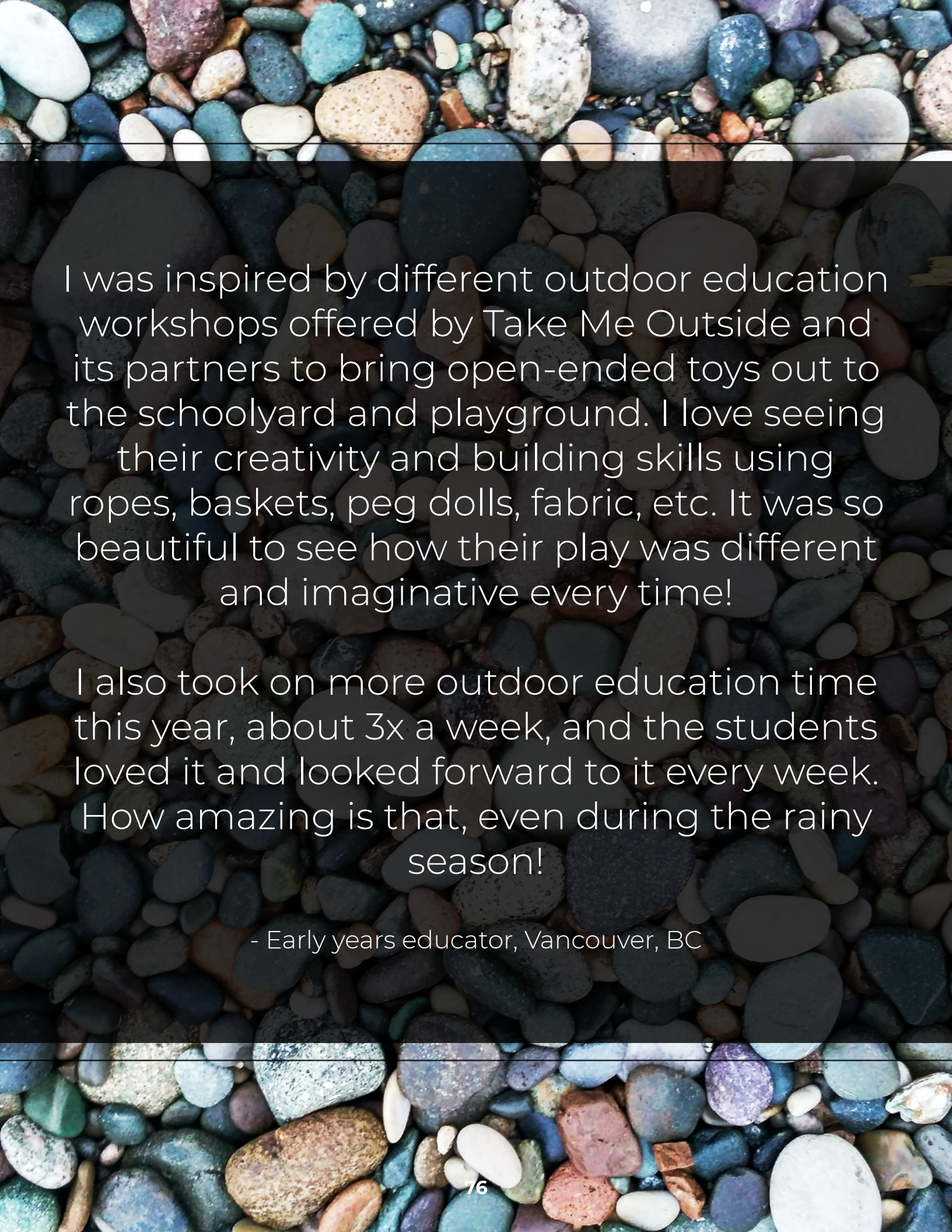
The New Brunswick Environmental Network ( ), established in 1991, is a bilingual communication network that links together over 115 non-profit environmental organizations. NBEN's work in the domain of education takes place through the Sustainability Education Alliance (SEA), which seeks to connect environmental nonprofits in New Brunswick with teachers and educators of all kinds to build capacity, resources, and environmental literacy in all its forms.





I love using the outdoors to help my students “reset”. I always find it rewarding to just take a walk outside with them and allow the fresh air to do its job. Our school has an “outdoors everyday” lifestyle, so getting outside and embracing the outdoors as a key part of education is promoted and encouraged.

- Secondary teacher, Lakefield, ON



I was inspired by different outdoor education workshops offered by Take Me Outside and its partners to bring open-ended toys out to the schoolyard and playground. I love seeing their creativity and building skills using ropes, baskets, peg dolls, fabric, etc. It was so beautiful to see how their play was different and imaginative every time!

I also took on more outdoor education time this year, about 3x a week, and the students loved it and looked forward to it every week. How amazing is that, even during the rainy season!

- Early years educator, Vancouver, BC

# Partner and Educator Thank You

We think our partnerships are worth celebrating, and we are constantly reminded how much stronger we are working together as a collective. That is why we created the Resource Hub: to support each other and elevate the unique and important mission of every organization immersed in the world of outdoor learning, experiential environmental education, and land and place-based pedagogy.

We thank you for your support and hope this document shows just how much ongoing enthusiasm exists for outdoor learning across the country. And we hope you find it as inspiring as we do.

We are deeply grateful to work with folks across the country building this amazing community that grows in its reach and impact each year. And we simply couldn't do it without the dedication of passionate educators who continuously commit to championing the cause within their own communities – **THANK YOU!**

The Take Me Outside Team





**TAKE ME  
OUTSIDE**