

# TAKE ME OUTSIDE

## 2022 IMPACT REPORT



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It became part of our daily routine. Every single day we got outside for meaningful learning opportunities. It became more than what we did. It was who we were. My kids craved it and loved it. It changed all of us.

Primary teacher, Drayton Valley, AB



**TAKE ME  
OUTSIDE**



## Mission:

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 where spending time outside learning, playing and exploring is a regular and significant part of every learner's day.

Take Me Outside (TMO) would like to acknowledge and celebrate the diverse environments and peoples of our country whose Lands inspire our mission statement here. It is important we begin by acknowledging that outdoor learning would not be possible without access to the natural world that has been stewarded since time immemorial by the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all Indigenous peoples who have walked and continue to walk and steward these places on Turtle Island. We begin with gratitude and the utmost respect for original peoples whose Lands support such wonderful outdoor learning experiences for the youth of today. We thank the guardians of these spaces as well as the educators fluent in the languages of connection to these places. We also acknowledge that we as an organization have much to learn and grow as we begin our work in support of reconciliation and in supporting educators in rising to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's calls to action numbers 6, 12, & 62-6.

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*The ease in anxiety slowly melted away as the year progressed and they have now settled quite nicely into their newly developed relationship to the land. It's been a long and bumpy road but with repeat visits to our school community's land, we are all making our way back home.*

*Early years educator, Mono Cliffs, ON.*



# Message from our Executive Director

As we look back on 2022, it was a year of growth, both in the number of educators we reached as well as organizationally and an attempt to build capacity. But even more than that, it was a year of relationship building. There are so many educators, administrators, organizations and individuals who are committed to this work of extending learning beyond four walls, and it has been incredible to connect in meaningful ways. We celebrate this important work with a growing community of folks who care deeply about outdoor learning and walk alongside us.



Over the past year, Take Me Outside had numerous projects, initiatives, events, and partnerships worthy of celebrating and sharing, as well as areas we still need to work on. This report acts as a recap of our activities while helping us set a roadmap for this upcoming year. If you were able to be a part of any of our initiatives, we thank you for your support and hope this annual reflection shows just how much collective and ongoing enthusiasm exists for outdoor learning across the country, and beyond. And we hope you find it as inspiring as we do.

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*When students are outside, we've noticed an increase in focus and attention to the educators and the nature world, they're not over stimulated (like we had seen while they were inside our school), they showed more curiosity and inquiry with the lessons or provocations that they took part in, and they had increased risk assessment for the outdoor activities.*

*Teacher, Cambridge, ON.*

## 2022 IN REVIEW

**12 years**

Since Colin Harris, TMO founder and Executive Director, ran across Canada and the number of times we've celebrated Take Me Outside Day

**14,000+**

Educators participating in a Take Me Outside event or campaign

**148**

New resources and organizations represented in our database

**645,000+**

Learners that participated in TMO initiatives

**5000+**

Educators participating live in Outdoor Learning workshops



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*The way they all came together and participated was unlike any participation I had seen in class (even in PE class).*

*Students were curious and wanted time to explore and spend time in the forest. Being unconnected from technology and the constraints of the school they were able to play, discover, and connect.*

*Intermediate teacher, Kelowna, BC.*



## Celebrating 12 years of Take Me Outside Day: October 17th - 21st, 2022

Take Me Outside Day 2022 saw learners across North America (and beyond!) participate in our largest annual initiative. Three prevailing themes of Indigenous knowledge, health and wellbeing, and environmental and environmental and climate change education helped guide the week's activities, speakers, and workshops.

Everyone participating is encouraged to take inspiration from the events and spend at least an hour outside, extending learning beyond the traditional classroom. To help prepare educators for TMO Day and week, two professional development opportunities were available the week prior. The first session featured award-winning author David Robertson and partner organization Natural Curiosity speaking on how to incorporate Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing into pedagogy. The second session featured Learning for a Sustainable Future and the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, with a focus on bringing meaning, intention, and community connections into outdoor teaching while meeting curriculum.

Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences in our inbox and on social media! As 2023 begins, we look forward to planning another successful week of events and activities in October.



# TAKE ME OUTSIDE DAY 2022

6500+

Educators signed up from coast to coast to coast

346,000+

Learners who went outside during  
Take Me Outside Week

21+ million

Minutes of collective outdoor time

14,000+

Interactions on social media

50+

Partnering organizations



## Host Organizations

This year, we collaborated with different organizations who could host their own Take Me Outside Day event. This gave our audience another opportunity to participate outside of the traditional classroom and engage in local, place-based learning initiatives. The following organizations were part of this new effort, spearheading their own events by combining their mission with ours!

- BC Parks
- Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley
- Invasive Species Council of BC
- Ocean Wise
- Ontario Parks
- Outdoor Play Canada
- Project WET
- Sask Outdoors
- Water Rangers
- Wild About Outdoor Learning

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*Every day is Take Me Outside Day for us now, and our kids love it. There have been many benefits to learning including self-regulation, less transition time cutting into play and learning, oral language development, social skills, innovative and creative thinking, etc.*

*Early years educator, Dwight, ON.*

*I loved the commitment we made to engage in outdoor activities regardless of the weather. Over the course of the year, I really saw my students develop a special relationship with the land we were on. They very much felt a sense of responsibility towards it - it was a special place for them!*

*Teacher, Vancouver Island, BC.*

# Take Me Outside for Learning Challenge

The Take Me Outside for Learning Challenge is a commitment to ongoing outdoor learning throughout the school year, with a pledge to try taking your learners outside at least once a week. While it initially began as an extension of Take Me Outside Day each October, the desire from educators to continue the momentum throughout the entire year has turned the Learning Challenge into its own unique initiative! The Challenge is designed to be accessible, simple, and fun for those involved. Whatever outdoor learning looks like to you, we are here to support and celebrate it. All participants are provided with a monthly mail-out featuring professional development opportunities, seasonal resources, and outdoor learning activity ideas to support the journey and spark inspiration.

## 2021/22 By The Numbers

Participation represented in every province and territory except Nunavut

**6,900+**

Educators signed up for the Learning Challenge

**282,000+**

Learners engaged in regular outdoor learning

**78.3%**

Of 2021/22 participants were able to fulfill the learning commitment at least 60% of the time

**92.7%**

Intended to join again for the 2022/23 school year





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*Whenever we go learn outside, the kids are the happiest! They always say 'This is the best day ever!!' It has helped me grow as a teacher and get me out of my comfort zone of the classroom! We love it!*  
*Early years educator, Winnipeg, MB.*

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*Students have learned to cooperate and test their boundaries. They are emotionally prepared for learning and they are happy. That is the power of being outside.*

*Primary teacher, Deep River, ON.*

## Learning Challenge Community

Increasing the sense of community among participants is an ongoing goal for Take Me Outside. From December to June, informal Virtual Campfire Connections were hosted in conjunction with the Global Environmental and Outdoor Education Council (GEOEC) and the Outdoor Learning Store to provide a space for educators to gather, share stories and successes, troubleshoot challenges, and ask questions in a welcoming, open format.

Our final celebration of the year saw a special campfire where we hosted honoured guest Preston Huppe, a Cree/Métis educator & Indigenous Education Strategist based in Alberta, who spoke to the group and brought the year to a close.

Campfires will continue throughout the 2022/23 school year with more featured speakers and opportunities to share and connect for all outdoor educators.

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*My students have had the most authentic, land based learning of grade 1 curriculum that I have ever seen in my 20 years of teaching! Experiencing the 4 seasons outside and the water cycle (with our VERY wet spring) made teaching so easy and relaxing for me. Nature provided and I feel like I guided learning and the result was students who are now ambassadors to our land, knowledgeable about their community, respectful of the environment and appreciative of all the land and our forest can offer. I feel we also handled mental health concerns after these last 2 years much better by being outdoors.. the healing power of nature!!! :)*

*Early years / Primary educator, Winnipeg, MB.*

# Annual Winter Challenge

Take Me Outside's Winter Challenge occurs annually in February and encourages educators to extend learning beyond the four walls of the classroom - yes, even in the winter! We believe spending time outdoors helps nurture our relationship with the outdoors and each other, ultimately balancing screen time with time spent outside while seeing opportunities for growth and connection with the land in every season.

In 2022, our challenge spanned the last half of February, and partially overlapped with the Winter Olympics happening in China. Participants were encouraged to cheer for the Canadian Olympic athletes in Beijing while spending time outdoors through a variety of activities. Prizes and medals were awarded at the end of the challenge based on how many times groups made it outside.

We supported educators throughout by providing daily suggested activities around a central theme, while extending the learning with additional resources and plans covering a variety of subjects and grades. We want the Winter Challenge to be accessible and inclusive, and strive to include easy entry points for all who participate. The sharing aspect on social media each year also provides a valuable opportunity to connect and build community among those involved and anyone who comes across the hashtags #TMOWinterChallenge & #DéfiHivernal.

**475+**

educators participating over 10 days

**69,000+**

Twitter accounts reached

**17,650+**

learners outside throughout the challenge

**147,000+**

overall reach of #TMOWinterChallenge



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*We've done a lot of learning in nature, and taking care of the community. The kids really enjoy community clean ups and after a looooong winter with record high snowfalls, there was a lot of garbage that we found after the snow banks melted. Students have become more resilient when it comes to inclement weather. Our "Polar Bear Recess" club is always a highlight. Normally, at -27 degrees, students stay inside at recess. Our Polar Bear Club can go outside until -40! These kids love the fresh air and exercise, the inside students get a calmer indoor recess, and the teachers are happy because everyone is a bit more calm and ready to learn!*

*Early years educator, Winnipeg, MB.*

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*I have loved all of the virtual learning sessions and feel they are exceptional resources. And thrilled that there is access to the recordings as it is beneficial for me to listen again to them.*

*Primary teacher, Surrey, BC.*

# Seasonal Virtual Workshop Series

Presented in partnership with the Outdoor Learning Store, this ongoing professional development series continued throughout 2022. We co-facilitated 17 workshops to over 5000 live participants throughout 2022, with many thousands more who registered and watched recordings. With sessions in the winter, spring, and fall, we hosted experts and featured resources across a multitude of subjects that held inspiration for all, whether experienced in outdoor learning or new to the practice. All recordings remain available online to create ongoing learning opportunities for educators.

**Outdoor Learning 2022 Spring Virtual Workshop Series!**  
 4 PM PT / 7 PM ET Thursdays Apr - Jun 2022  
 14 April 2022: Mapmaking with Children: Sense of Place Education for the Elementary Years  
 21 April 2022: Looking Closely: Supporting K-7 Emergent Inquiry Outdoors  
 28 April 2022: The School Garden Curriculum: Discovering Science, Ecology & Whole-Systems Thinking  
 12 May 2022: Walking Forward: Indigenous Perspectives in Learning from Place  
 26 May 2022: FoodCycler for Schools: Activating School Communities to Reduce Food Waste  
 9 June 2022: Indigenous Resources for Educators and Learners  
 REGISTER AT [OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM](http://OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM)

**Outdoor Learning Fall Virtual Workshop Series!**  
 TUESDAYS 160 mins Sept - Nov  
 13 September: Classrooms to Communities: The Best Resources for Outdoor Learning  
 20 September: Life Underground: Student Soil Exploration Resources & Activities  
 27 September: Animals Care for Mother Earth: An Indigenous Resource for Personal Development  
 4 October: Nature Connection: Sensory Activities for All Ages  
 15 November: Teaching Green in The Elementary years  
 29 November: Accessibility in Outdoor Learning  
 17 - 21 October: Take Me Outside Day & Week!  
 REGISTER AT [OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM](http://OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM)

**CBEEN's Outdoor Learning Winter Virtual Workshop Series!**  
 4 PM PT / 7 PM ET Thursdays Jan, Feb & March  
 Jan 13, Feb 3, March 3: Campfire Connections  
 February 10: Key Strategies that Transform Learning for Education, Citizenship and Sustainability  
 January 20: Resources to Teach & Learn for a Sustainable Future  
 February 24: Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way  
 January 27: Exploring Inquiry & Justice Through the Arts  
 March 10: Water: Parents, Program Mgt, and Clean Water  
 Hosted by [OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM](http://OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM)  
 REGISTER AT [OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.CA](http://OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.CA)



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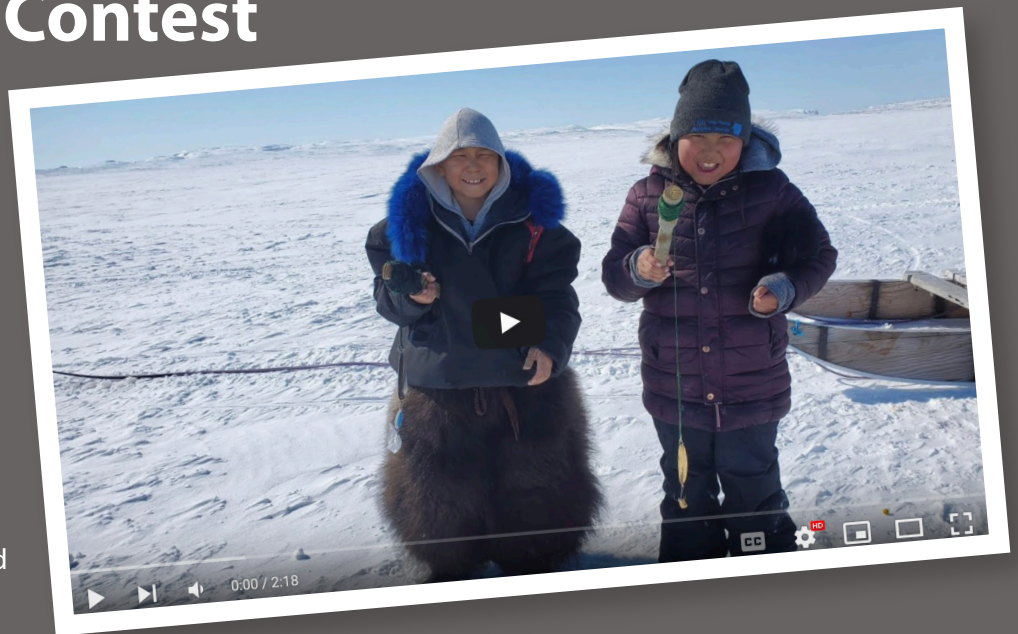
*I was inspired by different outdoor education workshops offered by Take Me Outside and its partners to bring open-ended toys out to the schoolyard and playground.*

*Early years educator, Vancouver, BC.*



# Student Video Contest

Each year, the talent and passion expressed through Student Video Contest submissions never fails to exceed our expectations in every category. In 2022, the diversity of the country's people and landscapes were showcased beautifully through the entries, and it was the students from Campus Regina Public in Regina, SK, who won the grand prize winners this year with askiy kikiskinwahamakonaw The Land Teaches Us. Second place went to students from Arviligruaq Illiniarvik School with Canada's Backyard - Kugaaruk, Nunavut. You can find their entries alongside the other winners on our blog.



And congrats to all the winners in other categories who worked hard to make some great short films about our backyard in Canada and the importance of spending time outside. All of these winners received gift cards from MEC to help get them out there even more! And Campus Regina's winning short film was highlighted as part of the internationally acclaimed Banff Mountain Book and Film Festival!



**BANFF AIRPORTER.**  
> Leading the way



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*Nature became our teacher and we were able to incorporate Indigenous Education into many of our Learning Challenges while outdoors and then do more follow-up on a variety of topics back in class. I feel this type of education brings out the best in the students (and the teachers!).*

*Primary teacher, Ottawa, ON.*

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are areas we continued to address in 2022 both at organizational and personal levels. These were some of our milestones:

### Organizational:

- Formed a DEI Committee that met once per month in 2022.
- Added three new members to the DEI Committee.
- DEI Committee informed and assisted with the planning, delivery, and implementation of Take Me Outside Day.
- Partnered with Strong Nations for Every Child Matters campaign and donated 10% of t-shirt proceeds on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- DEI Committee has provided feedback and guidance in the planning process for the 2023 National Outdoor Learning Conference that TMO is hosting in May.
- DEI Committee actively involved in the selection process for OL Conference presenters and workshop hosts.

### Communications:

- One of the DEI and TAC members authored two blog posts for TMO highlighting Black educators using outdoor learning in their practice.
- Video partnership with PAUW Foundation that highlights Nakoda Elementary School's Wild Program.
- Additional resources and events for Francophone and Francophile educators: New French category in the online resource library; Virtual Campfire Connections offered in French; Formation of Outdoor Learning Facebook Group "Communauté d'apprentissage en plein air"
- Highlighted Indigenous Knowledge as a theme for Take Me Outside Day, with speakers and activities reflecting this focus
- Pre-TMO Day pro-d focused on Indigenous ways of knowing and being in land-based learning
- Increased focus on decolonizing outdoor learning through highlighting Indigenous perspectives in social media content
- Utilizing imagery and content that ensured diverse representation in website, blog, newsletter, and social content.
- Hosted virtual workshops alongside the Outdoor Learning Store that focused on inclusion and accessibility, land-based learning, and incorporating Indigenous perspectives.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work is ongoing and constantly evolving. We at Take Me Outside believe it is important that we navigate the work of embedding DEI into our organization at a pace that allows us to engage deeply and authentically. With the formation of the DEI committee this past year, we are moving into 2023 with the intention of refining our goals and commitments to ensuring that the land is a place for every single learner and educator.



# Outdoor Learning Resource Library

Part of what we offer at Take Me Outside includes a searchable, online resource directory, with numerous subjects and lessons to support all educators in their outdoor learning practice. With over 34,000 page views, we are providing an important source of information representing many diverse views, subjects, and topics.

We now have over 50 partners in this work across North America, and will continue to feature their important contributions to the field, while refining the Take Me Outside website. Just this past year, we added approximately 150 new resources, with constant updates in progress!

# Teacher Advisory Committee

The Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC) aims to work collaboratively with Take Me Outside to increase the shared understanding of outdoor learning and education in Canada, thereby supporting TMO to make decisions best allowing it to accomplish organizational missions. Formed in fall 2021, the Committee has met online every couple months to assist the direction and work of Take Me Outside. The TAC has 13 teacher representatives from a diversity of geographical, teaching grade levels, and cultural groups in British Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, PEI, and New Brunswick.

The advisory members are helping connect TMO to a wider audience while increasing their reach throughout the country and coming up with effective ways to empower educators in getting their learners outside on a regular basis. In 2022, the TAC helped promote TMO events regionally, and are actively involved in the review process of presentation proposals for the 2023 Outdoor Learning Conference.

Looking for something specific? Refine your search by clicking on one or more category!

Art	Climate Change and Sustainability	Community Science
Diversity Equity Inclusion	Early Learning	Early Years
Elementary	Environmental Education	Equity
French	Geography	Habitats and Ecosystems
History	Inclusion	Indigenous Resources
Inquiry-Based Learning	Language	Lesson Plan
Loose Parts Play	Math	Middle
National Organization	Nature Based Education	Outdoor Education
Outdoor Learning	Physical Education	Place-Based Education
Pre-School	Professional Development	Regional Resources
Risky Play	Science	Secondary
Social Studies	Unit Plan	

Clear Selection

**RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

We are constantly looking for resources to add. If you have come across anything that you see consistently or articles that fit with the work we're all doing, please email us at [info@takeoutside.ca](mailto:info@takeoutside.ca)

<p><b>EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES</b> See all (276)</p> <p>A selection of excellent teaching resources including ready-to-go activities and great outdoor research for additional resources.</p>	<p><b>NEWS ARTICLES</b> See all (20)</p> <p>Outdoor learning making the news!</p>	<p><b>PARTNERS</b> See all (40)</p> <p>This directory lists our official partners in promoting, supporting and advocating for outdoor learning!</p>
<p><b>PEDAGOGY</b> See all (62)</p> <p>A selection of research based support for reflecting across time and increasing time spent outdoors.</p>	<p><b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES</b> See all (15)</p> <p>This directory lists organizations &amp; specific events hosted virtually or face-to-face for educators across Canada listed specifically to outdoor learning.</p>	<p><b>SCREEN TIME</b> See all (8)</p> <p>A collection of research articles and media that examine the impact of screen time on our lives.</p>



## Building Capacity



### The TMO Store

The Take Me Outside store functions as a social enterprise and is a consistently important source of operational revenue for the organization. Sales of shirts, toques, hats, and journals remained consistent throughout 2022, with the busiest fall on record since launching! Two new shirt designs were debuted, and a special orange shirt was created for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in collaboration with Indigenous artist Daniel Puglas and partner organization Strong Nations Publishing, who received partial proceeds.



### Outdoor Learning Conference

An exciting new development for Take Me Outside in 2022 was preparing for an inaugural conference in May 2023 focused on outdoor learning through the lens of Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Health and Wellbeing and Environmental and Climate Change Education. Planning is happening in conjunction with two partner organizations: the Outdoor Learning Store (OLS) and the Canadian Network for Environmental Education (EECOM).

With a theme of "Place and Pedagogy: Where Learning Happens" and a location secured in Banff, Alberta, almost 1000 people signed up to be notified when registration opened. This high interest resulted in the conference quickly selling out, and a waitlist opened for those unable to secure initial spots. The call for presentations closed in early December with over 160 proposals to be reviewed by members of the conference steering committee, TMO's staff, DEI committee and the TAC.

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:



Take Me Outside works collaboratively with other organizations, school boards, and individuals to encourage children and youth to spend more time outside through various projects and initiatives. This year, we were thrilled to welcome even more partners on board to join together through overlapping visions of learning beyond the four walls of a classroom.

Active for Life  
Alberta Council for Environmental Education  
Banff Airporter  
Banff Centre  
Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival  
BC AdventureSmart  
BC Parks  
Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley  
BushKids  
Canada's Forest Trust  
Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Canadian Wildlife Federation  
Caribou Properties  
Child and Nature Alliance of Canada  
Classroom To Communities (C2C)  
Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network

Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario  
Earth Rangers  
EcoSchools Canada  
Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association  
Ever Active Schools  
Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants  
Get Outside and Play  
Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council  
Great Mind Think Outside  
Green Learning  
Green Teacher  
ImaginED  
Inside Education  
Interpretation Canada  
Interpretive Guides Association  
Invasive Species Council of British Columbia  
Kootenay Boundary Environmental Education  
Learning for a Sustainable Future

Leave No Trace Canada  
Natural Curiosity  
Nature For All  
NatureKids BC  
New Brunswick Environmental Network  
Ocean Wise  
Ontario Parks  
Outdoor Council of Canada  
Outdoor Play Canada  
Pine Project  
ParticipACTION  
Physical and Health Education Canada  
Protect Our Winters Canada  
Project Learning Tree  
Project WET  
SaskOutdoors  
ScienceWorld  
Strong Nations  
Water Rangers  
Wild About Outdoor Learning Vancouver  
Wildsight



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*As the year winds down and I ask my students what their favourite activities in Kindergarten have been, just about all the students say “time outside”!*

*Primary teacher, Maple Ridge, BC.*