

TAKE ME OUTSIDE

2020 IMPACT REPORT

“ Take Me Outside does a great job of bringing Canadian classroom teachers, parents and administrators together around the important goal of taking learning outside. Their work in this field across the country raises the bar for all children, and helps to normalize outdoor learning. ”

- Teacher, Surrey, BC



“ TMO Day reminds all staff how important it is to make time to get the students outside and gives us great examples of activities that we can do related to the curriculum. ”

-Teacher, Saint John, NB



@bakerdrivesd43

OUR 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 student's day.



@MrKSDyck PortWellerPS



@tdsb_hpas

ALL AGES. UNIQUE EXPERIENCES. SCHOOLS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY.

Take Me Outside Day is for everyone. Simple, fun and effective.
An accessible entry point for a life-long love of learning in the great outdoors!



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF TAKE ME OUTSIDE DAY

In 2011, I set out from St. John's, Newfoundland to fulfill a lifelong dream of wanting to run across Canada, focussed around my conviction that our time outside shapes who we are. Over the course of nine months, 7,600 kilometres and 181 marathons, I visited 80 schools, and talked with thousands of students about spending less time in front of screens and more time outside. On the last day of my run, we designated it 'Take Me Outside Day', hoping schools would help celebrate the initiative by committing to take their classrooms outside for an hour. A decade later, we celebrated 10 years of Take Me Outside Day, with more than 225,000 students and teachers participating across Canada in October 2020. And while 2020 was a difficult year to navigate with a global pandemic, it also provided us a sense of hope for the work Take Me Outside and other organizations are doing. Outdoor learning came to the forefront as a way to physically distance from traditional indoor classrooms and we believe this is reflective in the progress we've been working toward. As we look to the future, we believe there is opportunity to continue to amplify the lessons learned during the pandemic, foremost, that not all learning has to happen inside at a desk. We look forward to remaining an advocate of outdoor learning and bringing the experiences of the past decade with us as we move into 2021 and beyond.

– Colin Harris, Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

5,300+

Teachers participating in a Take Me Outside event or campaign in 2020

75+

Organizations added to our new Outdoor Learning Resources page

302,000+

Students and learners that participated in TMO initiatives

1,500+

Educators participating in TMO Outdoor Learning webinars

2,6+ million

Hours of learner outdoor time from participating in Take Me Outside initiatives



“

We loved being outside. We did some science and got to move and run around. My students stopped and listened to instructions better than they did inside, they were more invested in the lesson.

- Winnipeg MB

”

TAKE ME OUTSIDE DAY 2020, 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We couldn't gather for a party, but celebrate we did in greater numbers than ever.

3,300+

Schools and Educators signed up from Coast to Coast to Coast

225,000+

Students who went outside on October 21

9,375

Days of outdoor time across Canada

106,000+

Twitter impressions and trending nationally on October 21



Our class had a wonderful day celebrating Take Me Outside Day! We went on a nature walk, explored the forest, and made little trees to take home and teach our family's about TMO!

- Stacy R

Thank you Take Me Outside Day for inspiring me to get my students outside, to allow them to be active and have fun but also for challenging me to use this experience to teach those beautiful children that they can most definitely change the world, one message at a time.

- Danielle LeDrew, Windsor, NL

In the midst of this pandemic hitting us hard, [getting outside] was exactly what we all needed, the outdoors, fresh air, young creative minds, and fun. I thank you for the reminder that kids are still kids and the outdoors can be a place we can escape the chaos of what's around us. I will definitely be making the outdoors more of a priority in my everyday teaching.

- Educator in Saskatchewan

TMO FOR LEARNING CHALLENGE: GETTING LEARNERS OUTSIDE EVERY WEEK

“I love it because it is a space where all can succeed, regardless of ability, language or experience.”

Educators committed to spending at least 1 hr/week outside with their classes through the school year. This outside time took many forms such as class time, extended recess, picnic lunches, field trips, at home outdoor learning or all the above. Educators implemented strategies that best worked in response to their students' needs.

Take Me Outside provided resources, activities and professional development opportunities while also strengthening a community of educators committed to this work.



@kimkimbutler



@macaulaymst macaulayps

@growingupcurios
@Lorneparkps2



“Students that might typically have had to be pulled out or receive alternative programming were able to have a positive fully immersed and productive school year”

- LC Report

“ I always notice full engagement when we take learning outdoors. ”

- Teacher survey and report

“Many teachers who would not have gone out normally decided to teach outside in creative ways.”

- 2019/20 TMO Learning Challenge Participant (LC Report)

“ Students love being outside. I want to do it more. ”

2019/20 TMO Learning Challenge Participant (LC Report)

3,000+

educators signed up for the Learning Challenge

10 2

provinces territories

2.5+ million

million hours of collective outdoor learning

TAKE ME OUTSIDE
for learning
SCHOOL YEAR CHALLENGE
2020/2021

Join the challenge at takemeoutside.ca/learningchallenge

Because not all classrooms have four walls

GET INVOLVED

1. Commit to taking your learners outside once a week for the 2020/21 school year.
2. Join the challenge at takemeoutside.ca/learningchallenge
3. Help build a community of educators across Canada committed to outdoor learning!

www.tmo.ca

2020 WINTER CHALLENGE

Education looks pretty different across Canada this year, and whether you are a teacher in the classroom, delivering virtual lessons, an ECE, or a parent facilitating at-home learning with your kids, getting outside in the Winter is easy, important, and beneficial for all. Take Me Outside's Winter Challenge is for all educators!

“Took our math lesson outside today as part of [#TMOWinterChallenge](#). Students worked on Outcome SS7 and made 3-D shapes using snow. It was “snow” much fun. ”

- Teacher, Blackville, NB

“Du plaisir à profusion! Nous faisons le plein d'air frais tout en glissant!”

- Teacher, Ottawa, ON



264

teachers signed up

almost

10,000

hours of winter outdoor fun / time

20,000+

Twitter impressions



@dfmslivingstonedrfredmillerschool

@rosscarrock

OUTDOOR LEARNING LIBRARY (RESOURCES)

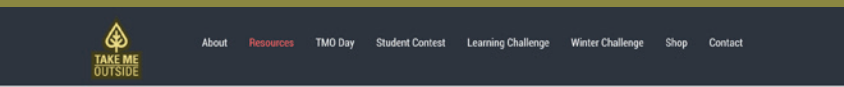
On our to do list for a few years now, 2020 was finally the year we initiated our Outdoor Learning Library, a new and expanding resource section with descriptions and links to 76 unique websites to help inspire outdoor learning adventures at home and school.

There are so many great groups and organizations creating tools, activities and resources that support learning beyond four walls and a desk. We are trying to make it easy for educators (and others) to access these. [Our resource directory](#) includes Professional Development opportunities, pedagogical resources, articles and research links as well as links to ready to go activities and great databases to search for additional resources.

We know there is a lot more out there and we'll continue to work towards populating and refining our library to bring you the most relevant and up to date resources.



19,000+
webpage views



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



A selection of excellent teaching resources including ready to go activities and great databases to search for additional resources. Found 76 Resources.

[Back](#)

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

Art Climate Change and Sustainability Community Science Early Learning Early Years Elementary

Environmental Education Geography Habitats and Ecosystems History Indigenous Education Indigenous Resources

Inquiry-Based Learning Language Lesson Plan Loose Parts Play Math Middle National Organization

Outdoor Education Physical Education Place-Based Education Pre-School Professional Development

Regional Resources Risky Play Science Secondary Social Studies Unit Plan

[Clear Selection](#)

Showing 76 Resources



SEEDS CONNECTIONS

Educational programs with a focus on diversity, leadership, environmental sustainability, and energy literacy

[Go!](#)



ACER (ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES)

Programs and resources for learning about environmental issues through a variety of ecological monitoring projects

[Go!](#)



EXPLORING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS

Full day, week and month long events covering themes like conservation, biodiversity, ocean plastics, climate change, ecosystems, technology and more!

[Go!](#)



GREEN ACTION CENTRE

Projects that help the whole family learn and grow, while exploring sustainability practices

[Go!](#)



FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

A collection of multilingual books on environment and sustainable development

[Go!](#)



TORONTO OUTDOOR EDUCATION SCHOOLS

Webinars, lesson plans and resources to support in school and learn from home environmental education

[Go!](#)



NEW BRUNSWICK ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Environmental learning resources that are organized thematically.

[Go!](#)



TED ED EARTH SCHOOL

TED Education Earth School has 30 quests to connect learners to nature.

[Go!](#)

OUTDOOR LEARNING IN A COVID YEAR

The TMO Covid Response: Call for physically distancing from four walls and a desk. There has never been a more compelling case for regular and significant outdoor learning time than during the COVID-19 Pandemic. To encourage a new outdoor learning normal, TMO crafted a call to action for provincial and regional decision makers.

Our Outdoor Learning Library was accelerated by our response to Covid, recognizing that where and how learning takes place in a global pandemic is greatly variable and outdoor time needs to be highly adaptable. We also wanted to reach educators more directly, with webinar sessions that support them personally as well as professionally. To that end, we hosted our own and co-hosted a number of webinars as well as sharing ones provided by others.

“

I wanted to make sure that I wrote to your organization to thank you for yesterday's experience. I was born and raised in the Kootenays and have been a naturalist for almost 30 years. Connecting people to nature has been my world for a long time, and I have huge respect for the lessons and connections that our First Nations contribute to that. In my naturalist work in Calgary, I try to reference native medicinal and technological uses for the natural things around us, and encourage the schools I work with to connect with the indigenous resources available through the school system.

Yesterday was the first time I have heard an origin story from the First Nation of my birthplace. It was inspiring and welcoming, but also bittersweet - I was one of those people who grew up being told that the native culture in our area was extinct. All the references that I am used to making in Calgary are absent in my understanding of my own birthplace, and it's a void that really needed to be filled. As someone who loves the Kootenays deeply, I felt like a really important piece of my own connection to this space dropped into place yesterday. I hope that it is the first of many stories I take in and I will be making good use of that website.

Thank you to Chief Joe Pierre and his huge talent, and thank you to Take Me Outside for making this happen.

The work we all do really does make a difference.

Regards,

Sarah Smith

”

Webinars on a range of topics:

C2C Solstice Celebration
65 educators

LSF/TMO Winter webinar
188 educators

Natural Curiosity webinar
89 educators

Remy Rodden - TMO Day
**130 classes,
over 3000 students**

Karen Lai - Inclusion
85 educators

Chief Joe Pierre
**700 educators
and over 500 views**
with recording on youtube





TMO SHOP

We launched our new and improved online store, acting as a social enterprise to help generate revenue that will help Take Me Outside become more sustainable as a non-profit organization.

- New products: all weather journals, trucker hats, new t-shirt designs
- New product partners - Ambler for our Trucker hats
- New shopping experience on Shopify
- And best of all, 100% of our proceeds fund the work we do!





@EllengaleCr6PS2

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.

THANKING OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Active For Life | Eco Schools Canada |
| Alberta Council for Environmental Education | Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association |
| Banff Airporter | Ever Active Schools |
| Banff Centre | Global Education and Outdoor Education Council |
| Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival | Green Teacher |
| BC Parks | Nature Canada |
| Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication | Nature for All |
| Canadian Parks and Wilderness | Outdoor Council of Canada |
| Canadian Wildlife Federation | Learning for a Sustainable Future |
| Caribou Properties | P.I.N.E. Project |
| Child and Nature Alliance of Canada | SaskOutdoors |
| Classrooms to Communities | Wild About Vancouver |
| Columbia Basin for Environmental Education Network | WildBC |
| Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario | |

