

TAKE ME OUTSIDE

2024 IMPACT REPORT



“

“As an educator, integrating outdoor learning into my teaching practice has been transformative. It has encouraged me to adopt a more holistic approach to education, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. Seeing the joy and engagement of my students in these outdoor settings reaffirms the value of experiential learning and inspires me to continue exploring innovative ways to teach.”

Rosalind Chalmers, Educator and Take Me Outside for Learning Challenge participant



Mission & Vision

Take Me Outside (TMO) is a non-profit, charitable 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 learner's day.**

Take Me Outside would like to acknowledge and celebrate the diverse environments and peoples of our country whose Lands inspire our mission. 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 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 the many Inuit, First Nations, Métis, and other Indigenous 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 Commission of Canada's calls to action numbers 6, 12, & 62 – 66.

Message from our Executive Director



We have seen significant support for the work being done in relation to outdoor learning this past year. Internally, I was able to transition to a full time executive director position, and we ended the year with 3 full time staff - double what we had the previous year.

We launched an asynchronous online course that saw more than 1,000 educators enroll in its first 9 months. We saw the biggest engagement ever with Take Me Outside Day. In partnership, we hosted virtual workshops that saw thousands of teachers participating in their "free" evenings. We launched a national mentorship program, linking experienced teachers with new ones to help embed the outdoors as part of their teaching practice. We have more partners and allies in this work than we've ever had before. In all of this, we find hope that a difference is being made - that learning outside can be a path to better health and wellbeing, a path to addressing environmental issues and a potential path to reconciliation. This report acts as a year in summary, both ongoing and new, as we look ahead to the upcoming year. If you were able to be a part of any of our initiatives, we thank you for your support and hope this reflection shows just how much collective and ongoing enthusiasm exists for outdoor learning across Canada and beyond. And we hope you find it as inspiring as we do.

Year in Review

70,000+

Educators participating in a Take Me Outside event or campaign

885,000+

Learners that participated in TMO initiatives

10.6 Million+

Learner hours spent outside

400+

Resources for educators

115+

Outdoor Learning Partners





Take Me Outside Day - Are you IN to get OUT?

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our 14th annual Take Me Outside Day from October 21st to 25th, along with all of our amazing outdoor learning partners who made the event possible!

In 2024 we expanded TMO Day, offering three times the amount of virtual sessions compared to previous years, weaving the themes of Indigenous Knowledge and Ways of Knowing, Environmental Education and Climate Change, and Health and Wellbeing throughout the week. Over 4 days, we saw participation from around the world for 16 virtual field trips- including our first ever French virtual field trip and Youth Climate Action Panel.

Plus we offered 2 professional learning opportunities for educators, one on Natural Curiosity Throughout the Seasons and the other on Climate Education in Outdoor Learning. We also collaborated with GreenLearning, highlighting their Ripples of Change art activity and showcasing learners' beautiful nature mandalas in an e-card gallery.

“

Thank you for an incredible Take Me Outside Day experience! The activities provided fostered a genuine connection with nature and enriched our learning. The event was well organized, allowing all students to engage meaningfully and truly appreciate the outdoors. We look forward to more opportunities like this to continue growing our outdoor learning experiences.

Joseph Naso, Educator and 2024 TMO Day participant



Take Me Outside Day

“We loved the Polar Bear session, Tales with Whales and Heartbeat of the Earth. The activities that were shared during the Heartbeat of the Earth session were huge hits with my students and inspired a lot of our outdoor learning for the week. At the end of the week, we reflected on our learning from the week by creating reflection posters.” - Christina Cleland, Educator and 2024 TMO Day participant



We had educators and learners participate from every Canadian province and territory, plus 71 countries around the world!

16,785+

Participating educators

469,895+

Learners who went outside for Take Me Outside Day

6.2 Million+

Learner hours spent outside

18

Virtual Field Trips and Professional Learning Workshops

25+

Partnering organizations

Learning Challenge

5,510+

Educators registered for the year-long Challenge

375,300+

Learners engaged in regular outdoor learning

4.4 Million+

Hours spent learning outside

60%

First time participants

78%

of 2023-2024 participants were able to fulfil the learning commitment at least 60% of the time



Take Me Outside for Learning Challenge

When educators sign up for the Learning Challenge, they commit to ongoing outdoor learning throughout the school year and aim to take their learners outside at least one hour per week. It's a great opportunity to harness the momentum after Take Me Outside Day to support an entire school year of outdoor learning. All participants receive monthly mail-outs with seasonal inspiration, curated resources and curriculum-linked lesson plans to support year-long outdoor learning. Educators share their stories and photos with us, which we in turn share with other participants, providing an opportunity for educators to inspire each other directly and help build a community of educators passionate about outdoor learning.

“

I notice deeper thinking, more curiosity, an enthusiasm for learning and a passion for protecting the environment. My class was so passionate about caring for the land they love they even started a school wide environment club. It started with them selling bookmarks with positive environment messages on it. From there they bought seeds and soil and had a plant sale. From that money they bought native perennial seeds and plan to give a pack to each family in our school at the last day of school this year. Who could have predicted such a beautiful journey.

Cali McCorriston, Educator and Learning Challenge participant



“

Research shows that outdoor play and exploration helps build confidence in kids - this is exactly what we were aiming for! Gaining familiarity and resiliency when faced with challenges and obstacles was an excellent opportunity for our students to improve in these areas. We saw students who were more interested in screen time now asking for our outdoor time. We saw friendships forming that weren't there before. It has also made a positive impact on me as a teacher - there is added joy, inspiration as I see these kids grow resiliency. I find myself smiling more and being more patient after these sessions.

Jenna Mackey, Educator and Learning Challenge participant





Outdoor Learning Winter Challenge

Take Me Outside's annual Winter Challenge encourages educators to embrace the magic of winter and continue leading fun and engaging outdoor learning throughout the coldest months. Our 2024 Winter Challenge took place from February 19th to March 1st and included a Snowpal Building Contest, photo contests, curated resources, and a Padlet guide to winter outdoor learning collaboratively created by participants. Educators also used the hashtags #TMOWinterChallenge & #DéfiHivernal to share their winter adventures on social media.

765+

Educators participating over 10 days

37,500+

Learners outside throughout the challenge

82%

First time participants



Bailey Black's Eco-Tourism class in New Brunswick built quinzees as part of the 2024 Take Me Outside Winter Challenge!





Congratulations to our 2024 Student Video Contest Winners!

The 2024 Grand Prize winners were Aditi Vikram and Reya Dhimi from Surrey, BC for their film "APOCALYPSE". Winners in all the categories worked hard to make some great short films about their amazing backyard in Canada and the importance of spending time outside. Winners received gift cards from Mountain Equipment Company (MEC) to help get them out there even more. Both winning films were highlighted as part of the internationally acclaimed 2024 Banff Mountain Book and Film Festival. The Grand Prize was a 3 day trip to Banff National Park!

The 2024 winners from all the categories included:

Grades 7-12 Second Place Winner: Dev Katyal from Kanata, ON

Grade K-6 First Place Winner: Amelia Pook from Port Coquitlam, BC

Grade K-6 Second Place Winner: Emaryllia Gafur from West Vancouver, BC

K-12 Class Category First Place Winner: Ecole Grosvenor Wentworth Park Elementary School Gr. K Class

K-12 Class Category Second Place Winner: Hornby Island Community School Grade 7 & 8

A huge thanks to MEC and the Banff Centre for their support in this project. We also want to thank Caribou Properties and Banff Airporter for providing food and transportation to the winning students while in Banff.



BANFF AIRPORTER.
> Leading the way



“

This is by far the most important, meaningful, and transformational conference that I have ever attended in my 30 years of teaching. Full of joy, exuberance, awe, wonder, curiosity and the deepest love of nature by all. The conference organizers have truly created something amazing and powerful that I am still in a daze, thinking about it all, weeks afterwards. I will be coming again, if I am so lucky.

2024 Conference participant feedback survey

Outdoor Learning Conference

From dancing aurora to dancing in the woods, the 2024 Outdoor Learning Conference will be remembered as an incredibly special year! 465 educators from across Turtle Island gathered to attend 140 different sessions. The 2024 Keynote Speakers included Elder Dr. Albert Marshall, Professor Louise Zimanyi, Chúk Odenigbo and Colleen Elep. Another highlight was the Youth Changemaker Panel featuring Alyssa Trick, Larissa Crawford, Leanne Sweeney, Maya Carr and moderator Dr. Sarah Brown.

We want to thank the amazing people that made the 2024 Outdoor Learning Conference possible, including all the volunteers, participants, speakers and workshop facilitators who shared their knowledge, experience and energy!





Outdoor Learning Conference

465

Educators present

140

Workshops delivered

95%

Workshops held outside

1

Unforgettable aurora borealis show!

Thank you to our incredible supporting partners: The Outdoor Learning School & Store, The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) and The Global, Environmental & Outdoor Educator Council (GEOEC,) along with the Banff Centre for hosting us!



“

Attending the TMO Outdoor Learning Conference made me feel very privileged and fortunate to learn a great deal about outdoor learning from a diverse group of individuals from across Canada who willingly shared their authentic selves and best practices. These experiences were unforgettable and at times emotionally touching. My pedagogical practices have deeply shifted. I am truly grateful for this experience.

2024 Conference participant feedback survey

Mentorship Program

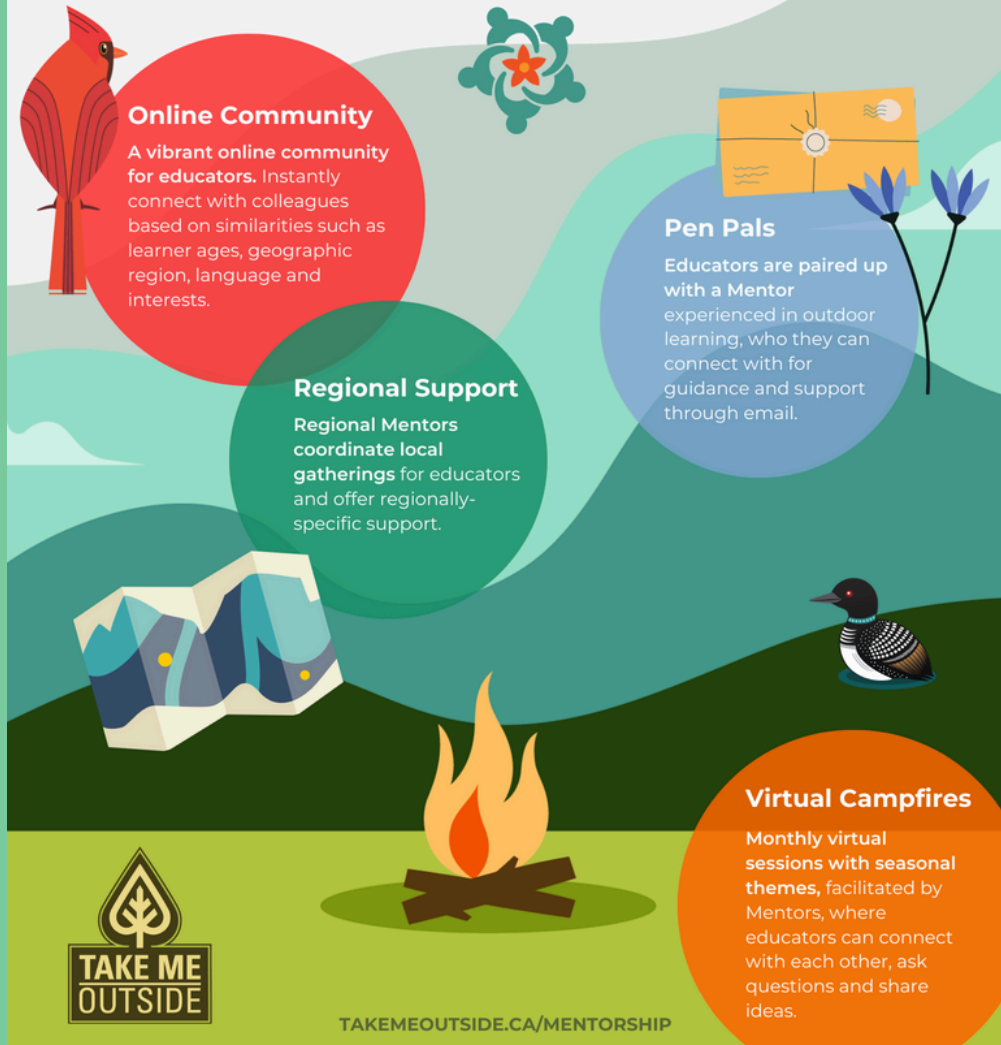
Take Me Outside launched a new Mentorship Program in 2024, where educators newer to outdoor learning (Mentees) can connect directly with educators with more experience in outdoor learning (Mentors). This program centres the value of relationship-building, connection and support in helping advance outdoor learning as a teaching practice.

For our 2024-2025 pilot program, we are full of gratitude for our knowledgeable and experienced Outdoor Learning Mentors who are generously volunteering to provide guidance and feedback to our Mentees!

We have educators participating from across Turtle Island, covering all learner ages, from early years educators to professors. Participants include educators, support staff and school system leaders working in public, private and alternative schools, along with forest, nature and farm schools, non-profit environmental/outdoor education organizations, as well as land-based and homeschool educators.

OUTDOOR LEARNING MENTORSHIP

SUPPORT *connect* GROW



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS ENGAGED IN OUTDOOR TEACHING.

Impact at a Glance

90

Outdoor Learning Mentors

250

Mentee participants

8

Virtual Campfires

4+

Different ways to connect with Mentors





Impact at a Glance

1400

Participants enrolled in course

9

Virtual sessions offered

270

Course completions in 2024

Certification Course

In the spring of 2024, in partnership with The Outdoor Learning School and Store, Take Me Outside expanded our professional learning offerings by launching a new Outdoor Learning Certification Program for K-12 educators- and the positive response was bigger than we anticipated! We had 1400 participants from around the world register in the first year. The course is offered in 10 online modules which explore different pedagogical approaches and Indigenous Ways of Knowing, along with guidance around core routines and lesson planning.

“

I think this process was the most beneficial professional development I have ever experienced! It was practical and inspiring! I highly recommend other educators do this course too! I wouldn't change a thing! The modules were easy to follow and so informative. I love how there were videos embedded right there to hear and get inspired by too.

Tara Frew, Outdoor Learning Certification Program participant

“

A HUGE thank you for this incredible and inspiring learning experience. I have been busy incorporating new adventures, opportunities, learning, and discoveries for my students outside day one of this course. Thank you for offering so many wonderful resources, inspiration, and "lightbulb" moments!

from the OL Certification Program feedback survey

TUESDAYS
60 mins
Jan - Feb
FREE!

Outdoor Learning

Winter Virtual Workshop Series!

16 January
Managing Eco-Anxiety Through Outdoor Learning



23 January
Outdoor Learning Astronomy



6 February
Indigenous Resources for Outdoor Learning



13 February
Apprentissage de l'astronomie en plein air



20 February
Stories in the Wild: Animal Tracks and Traces



27 February
Enhancing Climate Education through Active Learning



OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

TAKE ME OUTSIDE

TUESDAYS
60 mins
April-June
FREE!

Outdoor Learning

Spring Virtual Workshop Series!

16 April
Wonders of Water: Practical Ideas and Resources for Educators



23 April
Invasive Species and Action



30 April
Developing a Sense of Place by Sparking Curiosity and Wonder



21 Mayo - En Español
Recursos en español para aprender al aire libre



28 May
Using Sit Spots and your Senses to Connect with Nature



4 June
Métis Learning for the Summer Solstice



OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

TAKE ME OUTSIDE

TUESDAYS
60 mins
Sept - Oct
FREE!

Outdoor Learning

Free Fall Virtual Workshops

17 September
Land-based Learning and Reconciliation: Resources for Teaching TEENS



24 September
Land-based Learning and Reconciliation: Resources for Teaching CHILDREN



1 October
How to Teach Nature Journaling: Curiosity, Wonder, Attention



22 October
Climate Connections: Outdoor Learning and Climate Change Education



29 October
FutureMakers: Resources to Inspire Students for Sustainability



OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

TAKE ME OUTSIDE

Seasonal Educator Workshops

44,000+ educators participated in 2024 seasonal Outdoor Learning workshops!

Our 2024 seasonal educator workshops, put on in partnership with our good friends at The Outdoor Learning School and Store, featured incredible leaders in outdoor learning from across Turtle Island/North America. Themes ranged from Indigenous Resources for Outdoor Learning to Climate Education and Sustainability, along with sessions highlighting core Outdoor Learning routines like sit spots and nature journaling. This year we also offered workshops in French and Spanish, as well as a workshop centred on Métis learning.





Building Capacity

2024 was a year of significant growth for Take Me Outside!
Highlights include:

- expanding our staff team to three full-time positions: Executive Director, Program Manager and Education Coordinator
- welcoming three new Advisors: Alyson McMullen as Indigenous Learning Advisor, Dr. Ellorie McKnight as Environment and Climate Change Advisor and Dr. Aaron Orkin as Health and Wellbeing Advisor
- increasing the size of our newsletter community to 50,000+
- creating and launching a new Outdoor Learning Certification Course
- developing a new national Outdoor Learning Mentorship Program
- our annual 2025 Outdoor Learning Conference selling out within 3 hours of registration opening in the fall of 2024
- record high registration numbers for our seasonal educator workshops
- introducing a new TMO Podcast
- increasing our number of Outdoor Learning partners, deepening our relationships with those we're already partnering with, and creating more opportunities for collaboration

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA)

We continue to embed EDIA into every aspect of our work. This includes (but is not limited to) working to honour Indigenous Knowledge and Ways of Knowing, weaving it throughout our programs and events. We're also building deeper relationships with outdoor learning leaders with diverse lived experiences, centering and amplifying their voices and work. We offer subsidized and priority registrations for our Outdoor Learning Conference to increase access for historically marginalized and underrepresented communities. We get direct feedback from educators about the challenges/barriers they may be experiencing with outdoor learning so we can work to remove barriers and best support them and their learners. We continue to value and highlight a wide variety of approaches to outdoor learning and prioritize the accessibility of outdoor learning for ALL educators and learners across Canada.



Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC)

Recognizing the importance of considering the unique needs of educators across Canada, we are so thankful to be working with the TMO Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC) to increase feedback from educators who are currently enmeshed in outdoor learning, supporting TMO to make decisions that best support the large diversity of needs of as many educators as possible. Formed in fall 2021, the Committee meets online every month during the school year to help share the direction and work of Take Me Outside. The TAC has 32 teacher representatives from a diversity of geographical, teaching grade levels, and cultural groups in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and PEI. 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 2024, the TAC provided valuable feedback on the new Mentorship Program and multiple TAC members also volunteered as Outdoor Learning Mentors. TAC members helped promote TMO events regionally, provided input on TMO initiatives, and were actively involved in the review process of presentation proposals for the annual Outdoor Learning Conference.



School Board Subscription Package

We have 5 school board subscribers for 2024! This subscription service is offered in partnership with Take Me Outside, The Outdoor Learning Store, and Green Teacher, and includes a comprehensive package that provides school boards and districts with the newest resources, ongoing support, professional development opportunities for administrators and staff, swag, and more. Both Enhanced and Standard Subscription options were offered to those wanting to take the next step to place-based learning outside. Thank you to our 2024 school board subscribers!



Conseil scolaire
francophone de la
Colombie-Britannique



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5
SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY



Resource Directory Impact

356,000+

Page views

131,000+

Unique visitors

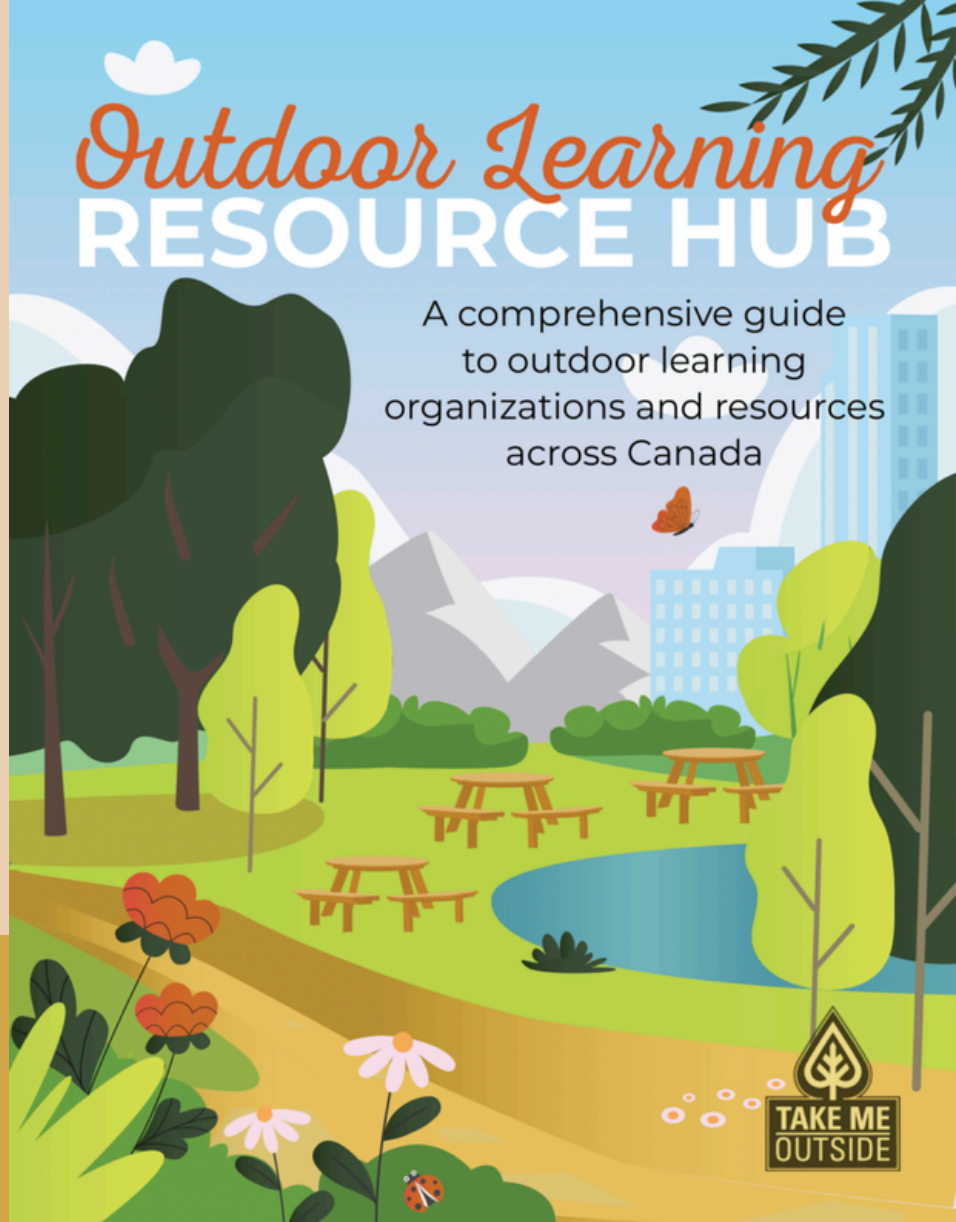
400+

Resources for educators

Resource Library and Resource Hub

Take Me Outside offers an online Educational Resource Directory which includes diverse approaches and curated resources, activities and curriculum-linked lessons that educators can find easily by using search criteria such as subject, theme or age of learners. We especially love featuring resources from our 115+ Outdoor Learning partners, sharing their valuable contributions to this field!

Our Outdoor Learning Resource Hub focuses on highlighting the many incredible organizations leading the Outdoor Learning movement across Canada and also features many of our Outdoor Learning partners, offering a comprehensive guide and creating a network of connections to help strengthen the OL movement.



“

I think you do a wonderful job of providing ideas and presenters to inspire. Keep up the great work!

Rebecca Holly, Educator
and 2024 TMO Day
Participant



Summer Collection in MEC Stores

Another 2024 highlight is that our Take Me Outside summer collection was featured in Mountain Equipment Company (MEC) stores across Canada! Having our TMO t-shirts and hats displayed and sold in MEC stores was a wonderful way to celebrate being a MEC Outdoor Impact partner since 2011.

Take Me Outside Podcast

take me outside
PODCAST



In 2024 we also launched a Take Me Outside Podcast! TMO worked with our friends at Green Teacher to take over their podcast Talking with Green Teachers. We've rebranded to be the Take Me Outside Podcast and in late 2024 we launched our first episode.

TMO ED Colin Harris explores important questions and conversations around education, learning outside, our relationship with the outdoors, and other current topics. In our first episode, Colin speaks with Dr. Jenellen Good about issues like climate change, technology, and eco-spirituality. They discuss how these issues are communicated, both societally and educationally, and the role these issues play within the education system.

Take Me Outside

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2027



Strategic Plan

Looking ahead for Take Me Outside, our Strategic Plan outlines three long term and impact focussed outcomes for TMO in the next 3 years:

1

Educator and Learner Health and Wellbeing:

Decreased symptoms of anxiety or depression and improved physical and mental wellbeing, as a result of learning happening outside. This includes addressing an educator population that is experiencing higher rates of burnout.

2

Environmental Literacy: Increased connection to the environment leading to a deeper understanding of environmental issues like climate change, as a result of learning happening outside.

3

Commitment to Reconciliation: By uplifting and amplifying Indigenous Knowledge, perspectives and Ways of Knowing, learners can connect more deeply to the land to help facilitate action on Truth and Reconciliation.

With amazing partners and dedicated educators, we think we can contribute to this positive change around where learning happens.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS!

A huge thank you to Lawson Foundation, Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation and Mountain Equipment Company for their generous support!

LAWSON
FOUNDATION



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. We were thrilled to welcome even more partners on board in 2024, to join together through our shared vision of learning beyond the four walls of a classroom.

Accelerating Climate Change Education in Teacher Education
Active for Life
AdventureSmart
Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association
Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE)
Arizona Association for Environmental Education
Arkansas Environmental Education Association
Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)
askenootow STEM
BC Parks
Be The Change Earth Alliance
Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley
Boone County Conservation District
Brown Girl Outdoor World
Bush Kids
Classroom 2 Communities (C2C)
California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
Camp Kawartha
Canada's Forest Trust
Canadian Space Agency
Columbia Basin Environmental Network (CBEEN)
Child & Nature Alliance of Canada (CNAC)
Children & Nature Network
CLEARING
Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO)
Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology
Columbia Outdoor School
Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Association
CoSphere
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
Door Number One
District School Board of Niagara (DSBN)
E3 Washington
Earth Rangers
EcoSchools Canada
Canadian Network for Environmental Education & Communication (EECOM)
BC Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association (EEPSA)
Empathy in Nature

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia
Environmental Education Association of Alabama
Environmental Education Association of Illinois
Environmental Education Association of Indiana
Environmental Education of New Mexico
Environmental Educators of North Carolina
Ever Active Schools
Evergreen
Exploring By The Seat Of Your Pants
Future Ancestors Services Inc.
Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council (GEOEC)
Get Outside and Play
Green Learning
Green Teacher
Green Ummah
Idaho Environmental Education Association
ImaginED
Inside Education
InterpCan: Interpretation Canada
Interpretive Guides Association
Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC)
Jane Goodall Institute Canada (JGI)
Karen Lai (accessibility consultant)
Kootenay Boundary Environmental Education (KBEE)
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
KidsGardening
Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)
Leave No Trace Canada
Maine Environmental Education Association
Manitoba Nature Summit
Massachusetts Environmental Education Society
Megan Zeni (Room to Play and The Classroom Gardener)
Michigan Alliance of Environmental and Outdoor Education
Mind Your Plastic
Minnesota Association for Environmental Education
Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance
North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)
Natural Curiosity
Nature-Action Québec
NatureKids BC

Nature Canada
Nature For All
Nature NB
New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN)
Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education
New Hampshire Environmental Educators
Outdoor Council of Canada (OCC)
Ocean Wise
Ontario Society for Environmental Education (OSEE)
Outdoor Learning School and Store
Outdoor Play Canada
Outward Bound Canada
Parks Ontario
ParticipACTION
PHE Canada
Playful Mindset
Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT)
Polar Bears International
Protect Our Winters (POW)
Project WET Canada
Remy Rodden
Rise Up Indigenous Wellness
River Institute
SaskOutdoors
Science World
Scouts Canada
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
Strong Nations
Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)
Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
Tennessee Environmental Education Association
TrailCollectiv
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Virginia Association for Environmental Education
Water Rangers
Wild About Outdoor Learning Society
Wild Child Forest School
Wildsight
Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education
World Fish Migration Foundation
Wyoming Alliance for Environmental Education

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



“

I must take a moment and say how impressed I am with all of the resources, courses, learning opportunities, and just general awesomeness that the TMO team puts on. I cannot remember how I stumbled upon your organization, but I must say that I am LOVING IT!

Shannon Hitchman, Mentorship Program participant