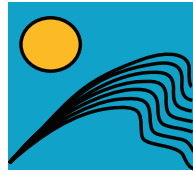


Learning for a  
Sustainable Future

**LSF**



L'éducation au  
service de la Terre

**LST**

**LSF ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017**

**EMPOWERING OUR CHILDREN TO CHANGE THE WORLD**



343 York Lanes York University - 4700 Keele Street North York, ON M3J 1P3 1.877.250.8202



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# Organizational Background

Learning for a Sustainable Future® (LSF) is a Canadian charity founded in 1991. Working with business, governments, school boards, universities, communities, educators, and youth across Canada, LSF's programs and partnerships are helping students learn to address the increasingly difficult economic, social, and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

## Our Team

LSF's team is comprised of a strong national board of directors, experienced staff and consultants from across the country, and graduate researchers from leading Canadian universities.

## Our Mission

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

## Our Value Proposition

To facilitate whole-systems change towards effective Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), LSF takes a vertically-integrated, holistic approach focusing on ministries, school boards, educators, and learners.

## Our Strategic Priorities:

- LSF works with governments, school boards, and system administrators to influence education policy that supports sustainability learning
- LSF convenes education, business and community leaders, parents, youth, and other stakeholders in round table dialogues to identify "what's worth knowing" about various sustainability themes and how to influence changes in practices
- LSF collaborates with teachers and faculties of education to make sure educators have core sustainability knowledge and the best teaching practices at their fingertips
- LSF engages students directly in becoming active, engaged, and responsible citizens.

## Our Reach

In 2017, LSF reached over 225,000 Canadians through our programs.



# Message from the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

## Honorary Patron of LSF



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO  
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

Sustainability demands a change in how we behave and, above all, a transformation in attitude when it comes to how we view the world. Holistic and systemic thinking enable us to see our surroundings in new ways, letting us move beyond longstanding societal cleavages and the traditional boundaries of academic disciplines so that we may focus on relationships, connectedness, and context.

Fundamental to this brave new world is the power of education to foster amongst a new generation an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of active and conscientious citizenship. In this, teachers play an essential role by equipping students with appropriate knowledge and by encouraging them to use all that they have learned for good.

Overcoming the profound challenges of our evolving world is no easy task. Yet I have hope in teachers and faith in students. During my travels as Lieutenant Governor, they have been a continual source of inspiration, and have strengthened my belief that there is no obstacle too great for the collective wisdom of humanity.

Learning for a Sustainable Future has contributed to my sense of optimism and is a model to others for what can be accomplished by placing sustainability and resilience at the centre of education. As Honorary Patron of this esteemed organization, I offer its leaders, staff members, supporters, and volunteers my warmest congratulations on its activities during the previous year, as well as my best wishes for all that is yet to come in the months ahead.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell,  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

A stylized, handwritten signature of Elizabeth Dowdeswell in black ink.

# Message from the Chair and President/CEO

In 2017, Canada committed to implementing *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* otherwise known as the *17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. The SDGs are the defining global framework of our time, providing a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity. For People... it aims to end poverty and hunger and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment. For the Planet... it aims to protect the earth from degradation, including urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of present and future generations. For Prosperity... it aims to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature. The SDGs challenge all of us to think, work, and live more sustainably on this planet. Learning for a Sustainable Future® (LSF) is spearheading the implementation of the SDGs in Canada through our focus on educating teachers, engaging in dialogues, convening stakeholders, and empowering youth.

Climate change is one of the most complex and far-reaching challenges of our time, and addressing climate change literacy and education was a key focus for LSF in 2017. Our work focused on innovative educational approaches to help youth understand climate change, define their values, incubate ideas and solutions, and gain skills that will serve them now and throughout their lives. Through stakeholder dialogues, LSF was successful in getting policy and funding support to foster learning experiences for both teachers and students that address the complexity of climate change and take a forward-thinking, action-focused approach to climate change learning.

Our Professional Development Institutes engaged over 1,860 educators from across Canada, providing them with the tools and competencies to teach through an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) lens. Over 95,000 educators visited our Resources for Rethinking® website to find over 1,300 of the best curriculum-connected sustainability resources to use in their classrooms. Approximately 36,000 students and 1,282 teachers were engaged in sustainability Action Projects in their schools and Youth Forums in their local communities.

As a small organization with a large “handprint,” LSF has touched hundreds of thousands of teachers, students, decision makers, and other stakeholders in the past year helping to shape education policy and practice at the local, provincial, national, and international levels.

LSF owes its success to our committed board of directors, honorary advisors, staff, consultants, partners, and funders who enable us to empower our children to change the world.

Our greatest reward is seeing the young people we have engaged demonstrate, through their actions, that there is hope for a more sustainable future.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Langley".

Ms. Susan Langley,  
CHAIR

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Schwartzberg".

Ms. Pamela Schwartzberg,  
PRESIDENT and CEO



# Board of Directors

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CHAIR (May-Dec)  
Former Deputy Minister  
Manitoba Education and  
Advanced Learning  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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(JAN-MAY), CHAIR OF PROGRAM  
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Planning and Performance Divisions  
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Coleman Bright And Associates  
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MEMBER OF GOVERNANCE,  
NOMINATION & BOARD  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Former Executive Director  
Canadian Environmental Network  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Ms. Carly Welham**

MEMBER OF PROGRAM  
COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF  
GOVERNANCE,  
NOMINATION & BOARD  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Community Based Researcher  
Vancouver, British Columbia

**Mr. Scott Yarrow**

Vice President, Sustainability  
Glencore Nickel  
Barr, Switzerland





# Advancing Education Policy, Standards and Good Practice

## Our Goal

Education policy, regulations, and operational frameworks that support Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

## Our Value Proposition

For Ministries of Education, Faculties of Education, and School Boards who are charged with setting education policies, LSF serves as a research think tank to advance innovative education policies, standards, and good practice in support of ESD.

## Our Stats

20

ministries engaged

16

faculties of education engaged

170

policy leaders involved in symposia

*"The Premier's Mandate Letter to the Minister of Education includes a reference to sustainability around curriculum, in large part in response to engagement with...LSF."*

*Paris Semansky  
Former Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of the Premier of Ontario*

# LSF Generating Ideas: Catherine's Story

Catherine O'Brien was completing doctoral research learning about sustainability education through "The Barefoot College" in India. The College educated villages about sustainable agriculture and community development. Catherine found herself in a "culture of joy." It had never occurred to her we could find greater happiness leading a more sustainable life by building more positive relationships with each other and the environment.

Catherine began to dream of changing the conversation around what she called "sustainable happiness"—happiness that contributes to individual, community, and global well-being without exploiting other people, the environment, or future generations.

Filled with hope, Catherine met Dr. David V.J. Bell, former Chair of Learning for a Sustainable Future, at a conference. Catherine found great alignment between her own ideas—founded in positive psychology and sustainability—and the forward-thinking vision of LSF.

Catherine helped organize the LSF forum "Pathways to Sustainability" that showcased those who were living and working in sustainable ways. It was a "green" conference, down to the smallest detail of napkins made from scrap material; after three days of meeting, 80 people had produced only one bag of garbage!

Catherine was also the co-developer of a Masters in Education in Sustainability, Creativity and Innovation at Cape Breton University. LSF is a partner for this Masters program, providing program content and workshops, research topics for students, and promotion through our networks.

Catherine applauds LSF for playing "a key role in elevating sustainability discussions in many fora across the country and beyond." She sees LSF at the "forefront of education transformation, not only from the sustainability perspective but because LSF makes the connection to transformative learning, inspiring educators to integrate inquiry-based learning with sustainability. Without LSF's relentless contributions to this field, we would not be where we are today."

***"LSF is a knowledge builder and co-creator in ensuring that sustainability education is recognized in political and academic circles."***

*Catherine O'Brien  
Associate Professor, Education Department  
Cape Breton University*





# Reorienting Teaching and Learning

## Our Goal

Educators with the tools and competencies to teach through an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) lens.

## Our Value Proposition

For teachers who are challenged with a crowded curriculum and not enough time, LSF has developed quality resources, including materials and supports, that save time and energize the classroom.

*“The knowledge that I gained at this event has the ability to be life changing and powerful on many levels, from the way I approach my daily lessons, to my students, to the way I view my own understanding of the power of nature; a truly affirmative and thoughtful experience!”*

Teacher  
Winnipeg Professional Development Institute

## Our Stats

**131,361**  
educators supported

**119**  
school boards engaged

**43**  
workshops delivered

**829**  
Connecting the Dots  
books distributed



# LSF Supporting Educators: Tanya's Story

**T**anya Murray was working for one of her school board's Outdoor Centres when she enrolled in a LSF Professional Development Institute. Tanya became a LSF convert and she returned to her workplace with newfound zeal, excited to share the tools and concepts she had learned with her peers to help shift the way they operated their outdoor education programs. Typically, outdoor environmental educators tend to follow the "walk and talk" interpretative hike model, imparting knowledge and providing answers. Tanya was inspired by the LSF concept of letting the students' questions drive the learning. She and her team applied this approach to their pond study days, allowing students to cultivate their curiosity and observation. The pond became a centre of joyful discovery. Students and teachers shared "moments of amazement." Tanya was always a believer in long-term environmental citizenship and "adventure facilitation" but she said LSF's model of inquiry-based learning "shifted the way I envision myself as a teacher. If I am teaching from a place of joy, the students will have joyful learning." She says many of her peers found that this new approach reinvigorated their love of teaching. Tanya has since partnered with LSF again to guide an inquiry approach for her whole staff team as they explored how to incorporate their board's strategic priorities into their classrooms.

Today Tanya is embarking on a new role as an Environmental Literacy and Outdoor Learning Consultant. Tanya thanks LSF for being a source of professional inspiration: "What role has LSF played? When I started teaching I stayed up half the night to know everything inside and out. I was so worried I would be found out as an imposter because I didn't have all the answers. What a weight off my mind to recognize that I too am a learner! We are all learners. Each us brings knowledge; each of us must tap into the group to reach our own potential."

***"LSF is a gem of an organization that can help change systems by changing the way we view and interact with our world."***

*Tanya Murray  
Environmental Literacy and Outdoor  
Learning Consultant  
York Region District School Board*

## Our Programs



**Professional Development**





# Fostering Sustainable Communities - Linking Education to Action

## Our Goal

Youth with the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives, and practices essential for a sustainable future.

## Our Value Proposition

For learners who want to bring about positive and significant change in the world, LSF has developed quality programs that provide a real world sustainability context to engage students in linking what they have learned to Action Projects in their schools and communities.

*"I learned we can actually make a difference and I got a lot of cool ideas on how."*

Student  
Halifax Youth Leadership Forum

## Our Stats

**74**

funded EcoLeague®  
ActionProjects

**1,260**

teachers impacted by  
Action Projects & Youth Forums

**33,725**

students impacted by  
Action Projects & Youth Forums

**588**

projects featured on  
Our Canada Project™



# LSF Empowering Youth: Kendra & Sophia's Story

**K**endra Lê is a teacher at St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg and a decade ago, a new student approached her with a simple question: "Where are the blue bins?". Kendra took the question to her administrators. It resonated with the school's mission of nurturing the positive emotional, physical, and spiritual wellness of young women and developing them as leaders with a social conscience. Ten years later, that social conscience is in full bloom and Kendra coaches the Green Team. Every spring the students choose a cause.

Last year, then 16-year-old Sophia noticed that, though compostable plates were used at school events, the cafeteria was still using non-recyclable and non-biodegradable Styrofoam. Sophia and the school Green Team approached the private operator who runs the cafeteria about switching to compostable plates; the operator denied their request because of the higher cost of the eco-friendly plates.

In November, Kendra and the Green Team attended LSF's Our Canada Project Youth Leadership Forum, where they learned lessons about driving social change, shared ideas with other local schools, and created a plan for action.

The team applied for funding through LSF's EcoLeague program to support a pilot run of compostable plates for the cafeteria. They then surveyed the school to see if students would support a price hike on certain menu items to fund the ongoing purchase of the biodegradable plates. They had success on both fronts! After a LSF-funded pilot run, students paid up to a dollar more per dish to support the long-term sustainability of the program.

Sophia says she has learned that "it takes one person to step up with an idea for change". She says "that first step is the hardest. But once you speak up, you find support."



*"Change starts with a single voice."*

Sophia  
Student  
St. Mary's Academy



## Our Programs







# Supporting Collaborative Initiatives, Networks and Champions

## Our Goal

Stakeholders at all levels working together to support Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) innovation and advancement.

## Our Value Proposition

For ESD leaders who are looking to advance innovation and strengthen cooperation for ESD, LSF showcases “bright spots” in innovation and builds relationships amongst stakeholders, influencers, leaders, and decision makers.

*“Thank you for the leadership your organization is providing to educate our youth and enable them in positively impacting the future of our environment and communities. We are proud to be partnering with you in achieving your goals.”*

Mojdeh Poul  
President and General Manager  
3M Canada

## Our Stats

**\$7,000**  
awarded to outstanding  
Action Projects

**30**  
international  
jurisdictions engaged

**236**  
community  
partners engaged

# LSF Convening Stakeholders: Gordon's Story

**G**ordon Lambert spent his career convening thought leaders and driving positive change for sustainable development, especially during his 17 years as Vice-President of Sustainability at Suncor. But he was involved in so much more beyond Suncor, including the Alberta Round Table on the Environment and the Economy and the creation of a book called "Changing Course" about the role of business in tackling global sustainability challenges. In 2002, his work caught the attention of the first Chair of the LSF Board, Jack MacLeod, former President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Shell Canada Limited. Jack recruited Gordon, who became a passionate advocate for the LSF cause.

Gordon admires LSF for building an incredible network of relationships founded in deep expertise, trust, and credibility. He says LSF is a catalyst for change. During his nine years on the Board, he was inspired by all of LSF's programs, particularly where they empower, support, and inspire students to learn about sustainable development and then create real, action-oriented projects. LSF sparks the curiosity in youth that is necessary for change. Gordon remains involved in LSF, recently participating in a LSF dialogue on climate change that brought together 50 diverse leaders from different perspectives: Indigenous, corporate, philanthropic, and educational.

As a grandfather of four, Gordon cares deeply about promoting responsible stewardship so that future generations can inherit a healthy planet. This is the kind of stewardship LSF strives to inspire by giving students and educators hope and knowledge. As Gordon reflects, Martin Luther King could have rightfully railed against injustice and characterized the struggle as a nightmare; instead King chose to "have a dream" that inspired massive change.



***"LSF performs magic by translating the theory of sustainable development into real behavioural change and active learning through action."***

*Gordon Lambert  
President and Chief Collaboration Officer  
GRL Collaboration for Sustainability*



# Financial Statements

As approved by the LSF Board of Directors on April 24, 2018

Balance Sheet  
As at December 31, 2017

ASSETS	2017	2016
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	149,694	135,671
Short-term investments	507,355	473,686
Accounts receivable	43,011	10,599
Prepaid expenses	3,063	3,063
HST receivable	12,405	15,473
	715,528	638,492
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	3,558	4,978
	<b>719,086</b>	<b>643,470</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2017	2016
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	59,774	47,395
Deferred Contributions	130,882	74,841
	<b>190,656</b>	<b>122,236</b>

NET ASSETS	2017	2016
Internally Restricted	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	228,430	221,234
	528,430	521,234
	<b>719,086</b>	<b>643,470</b>

SURPLUS	2017	2016
Surplus at the beginning of the year	221,234	207,070
Excess of revenue over expenses	7,196	14,164
<b>SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>228,430</b>	<b>221,234</b>

Statement of Operations  
For the year ended  
December 31, 2017

REVENUE	2017	2016
Grants, contributions and donations	543,005	520,657
In-kind Donations	71,298	70,657
Registration Fees	64,750	155,419
Resource Revenue	8,529	7,666
Interest	3,717	4,012
	<b>691,299</b>	<b>758,411</b>

EXPENSES	2017	2016
Policies and Curricula	97,245	81,971
Capacity Building for UN Decade	6,383	3,430
Teaching Resources and Workshops	227,556	286,923
Youth Engagement	264,019	300,337
Administrative	88,900	71,586
	<b>684,103</b>	<b>744,247</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,196</b>	<b>14,164</b>



# Current LSF Sponsors

## Sustaining

3M Canada  
BMO Financial Group  
Glencore  
RBC Foundation  
Suncor Energy Foundation

## Platinum

York University

## Gold

Government of Ontario

## Silver

Loblaws Companies Limited  
TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment  
The Co-operators

## Bronze

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic  
District School Board  
Barrick Gold Corporation  
Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network  
Central Okanagan Public Schools  
Chartwells (A Division of Compass Group)  
Domtar Inc.  
Ecologos  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
Garden Valley School Division

Gulf Islands School District  
HP Canada  
Halton Catholic District School Board  
Halton District School Board  
Ivey Foundation  
Kootenay Lake School District  
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Ontario Teachers' Federation  
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Ottawa Carleton District School Board  
Ottawa Catholic School Board  
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and  
Clarington Catholic District School Board  
River East Transcona  
Riverside School Board  
Seven Oaks School Division  
Southeast Kootenay School District  
Sunrise School Division  
Superior Greenstone District School Board  
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board  
Toronto District School Board  
Upper Grand District School Board  
Winnipeg School Division  
York Region District School Board  
Yukon Teachers' Association







***“If you are planning ahead 1 year, plant a seed.  
If you are planning ahead 10 years, plant a tree.  
If you are planning ahead 100 years, educate the people.”***

*Hung Hsu,  
Chinese Poet, 500 BC*