

Empowering our Children to Change the World



Learning for a
Sustainable Future

LSF

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Learning for a Sustainable Future

Learning for a Sustainable Future is a Canadian charitable organization founded in 1991. LSF's team is comprised of a strong Board of Directors, experienced staff and consultants from across the country, and graduate and undergraduate researchers from leading Canadian universities. Working with business, governments, school boards, universities, communities, educators and youth across Canada, LSF acts as a connector, a resource, and a facilitator for change.

LSF's innovative programs and strategic partnerships are reshaping education policy and transforming learning methods, helping students address the increasingly difficult economic, social and environmental challenges of the 21st century. This learning process is referred to as education for sustainable development (or ESD).



Message from the Chair and President/CEO

Global sustainability challenges are unfolding at an alarming rate: within the environment, as evidenced by climate change, pollution, and species extinction; within the social sphere, as evidenced by population growth, growing disparities between rich and poor, and increased conflict and violence; and in economies around the world, as evidenced by unemployment, changing energy use, and unsustainable production and consumption. Clearly humankind must learn to live more sustainably on this planet.

Education imperatives are also changing. The information age has transformed one of the principal roles of education, that of transmission of knowledge and information. Research on learning has shown that the way we teach must be more engaging, holistic and contextual.

As learning is transformed – driven by need, informed by what we know about learning, and enabled by technology, LSF works to ensure that education policy and curriculum explicitly consider the sustainability challenges that define the global context. An exciting new focus on global competences for students provides the opportunity for Ministries of Education across Canada to address these challenges, embrace new pedagogical approaches and ensure that learning honours traditional and Indigenous knowledge.

2015 marked an important year for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In September, the UN General Assembly committed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that represent a new agenda to end poverty, promote prosperity and improve people's wellbeing — while protecting the planet — by the year 2030. Most of the goals are connected to education, and Goal #4 specifically references education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

In May, LSF brought together 80 decision-makers at our *What's Worth Knowing: Educating for the 21st Century Green Economy Symposium* to discuss ways to reorient the economy through education. LSF's Honorary Patron, the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Paul Madden, President & General Manager of 3M Canada; and the Hon. Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change all provided passionate addresses about the need for urgent and transformative leadership.

In 2015, LSF provided 78,575 educators from FNMI (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) communities and 103 school boards across Canada with access to ESD resources and professional development workshops, and engaged over 63,000 students from 350 schools in community action projects. Thirty-six youth ambassadors delivered Our Canada Project Workshops to over 4,500 young people across Canada, engaging them in visioning a more sustainable Canada that will include a transformed relationship with Indigenous peoples.

Internationally, LSF participated in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ESD Steering Committee meeting in Geneva. LSF's Resources for Rethinking database has been included as a best practice exemplar in UNESCO's final Monitoring and Evaluation Report of the UN Decade of ESD. LSF delivered workshops to teachers and students from Indigenous schools in New Caledonia, and collaborated with their Department of Education to incorporate LSF materials into a resource for New Caledonia teachers.

LSF looks forward to continuing to work with our stakeholders, partners and funders to advance research and policy, professional development and student engagement in support of ESD across Canada. We would like to thank our Board of Directors, staff, consultants, partners and funders who enable us to “empower our children to change the world” and thereby create a more sustainable future.



Dr. David V. J. Bell
DR. DAVID V. J. BELL
CHAIR



P. Schwartzberg
MS. PAMELA SCHWARTZBERG
PRESIDENT and CEO



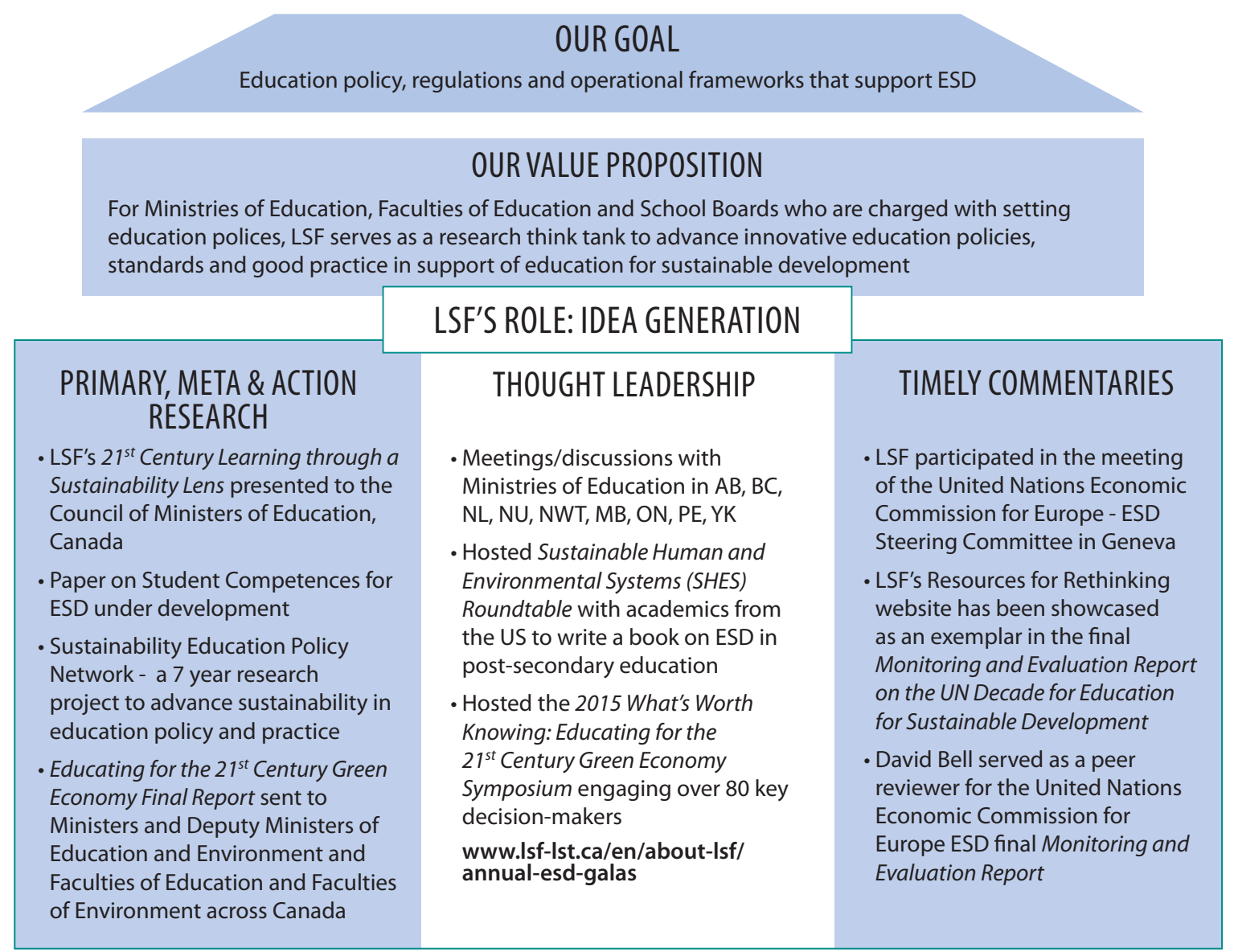
Expert Panel: Connecting the discourse on 21st century education to learning for a green economy



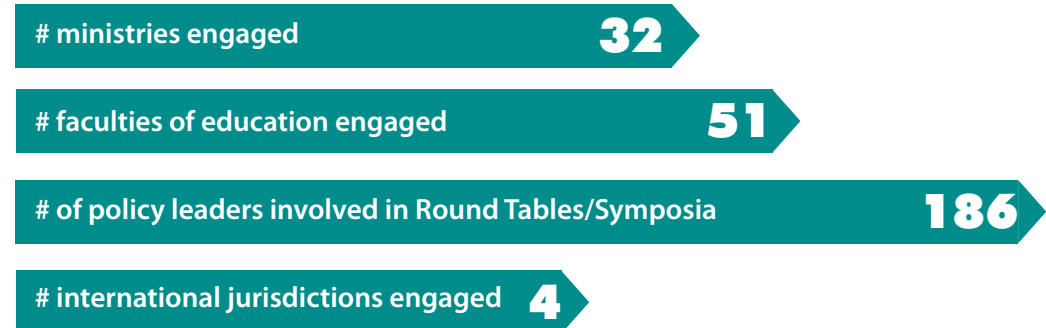
Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, provides inspirational opening keynote address.



LSF's Honorary Patron, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario provides participants of LSF's *What's Worth Knowing: Educating for the 21st Century Green Economy Gala* with a passionate address on the importance of education for sustainable development.



2015 STATS





“This institute is a ‘must-do’ for all educators. It provides you with a wealth of examples, resources, and a network of colleagues who have a desire to use inquiry based learning.”

– Primary Teacher

OUR GOAL

Educators with the tools and competences 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

LSF'S ROLE: KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

QUALITY RESOURCES

- Resources for Rethinking is a free online database with over 1,200 teacher recommended, curriculum matched sustainability teaching resources www.r4r.ca
- *Connecting the Dots* is a systems perspective of learning to help educators meet the needs of 21st century learners www.lsf-lst.ca/dots
- *Protecting our Sacred Water* is a guide for educators to support both FNMI and non-FNMI youth in making positive changes in their communities. www.bit.ly/Sacred-Water

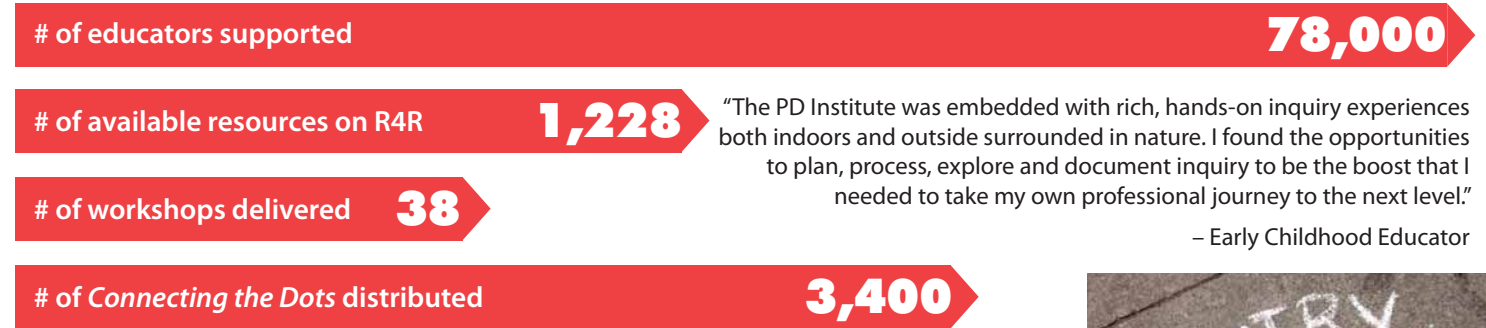
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Two- and three-day professional inquiry workshops provide innovative content, methodologies and teaching strategies engaging teachers and teacher candidates from BC, AB, MB, ON, NB and New Caledonia
- *Connecting the Dots* provides teachers, school boards, Ministries of Education and Faculties of Education with support for inquiry-based and action learning www.lsf-lst.ca/institutes

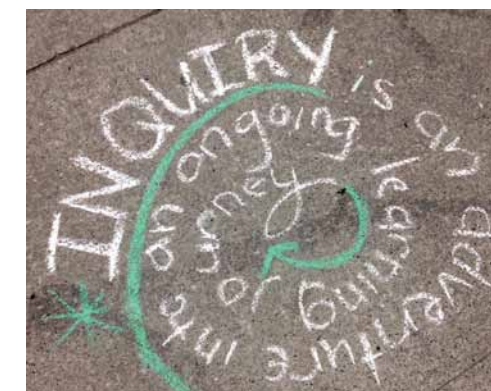
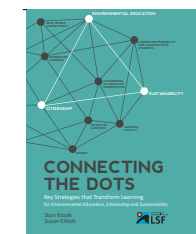
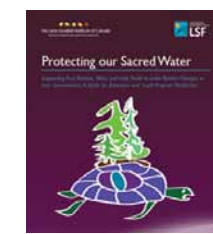
TIMELY ESD OPPORTUNITIES

- LSF received 22 requests from school boards/ education organizations to facilitate workshops
- Workshop delivered to UNESCO Associated Schools
- Workshop delivered at the EECOM conference
- Over 2,200 teachers subscribe to receive bi-monthly *Step Outside for Nature Guides* www.resources4rethinking.ca/step-outside

2015 STATS



“The PD Institute was embedded with rich, hands-on inquiry experiences both indoors and outside surrounded in nature. I found the opportunities to plan, process, explore and document inquiry to be the boost that I needed to take my own professional journey to the next level.”
– Early Childhood Educator





"I think the OCP program is fantastic and gets the kids thinking about and actually making change in their communities."

– Grade 4/5 Teacher

OUR GOAL

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

OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

For learners who are looking for access to reliable, quality materials on sustainable development, LSF has developed quality, tested learning materials on sustainable development that help generate the values, ethos, opportunities, knowledge, integrated thinking and leadership and ways to put them into action!

LSF'S ROLE: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

MODELING GOOD PRACTICE

- EcoLeague™ engages students in linking what they have learned to action projects that address sustainability issues in their community
- EcoLeague™ Action Workshops model for teachers and students innovative, hands-on action projects around various sustainability issues
- EcoLeague™ Youth Forums engage school Action Teams in a one-day Forum with workshops for students that provide hands-on action project ideas that they can undertake in their school and community

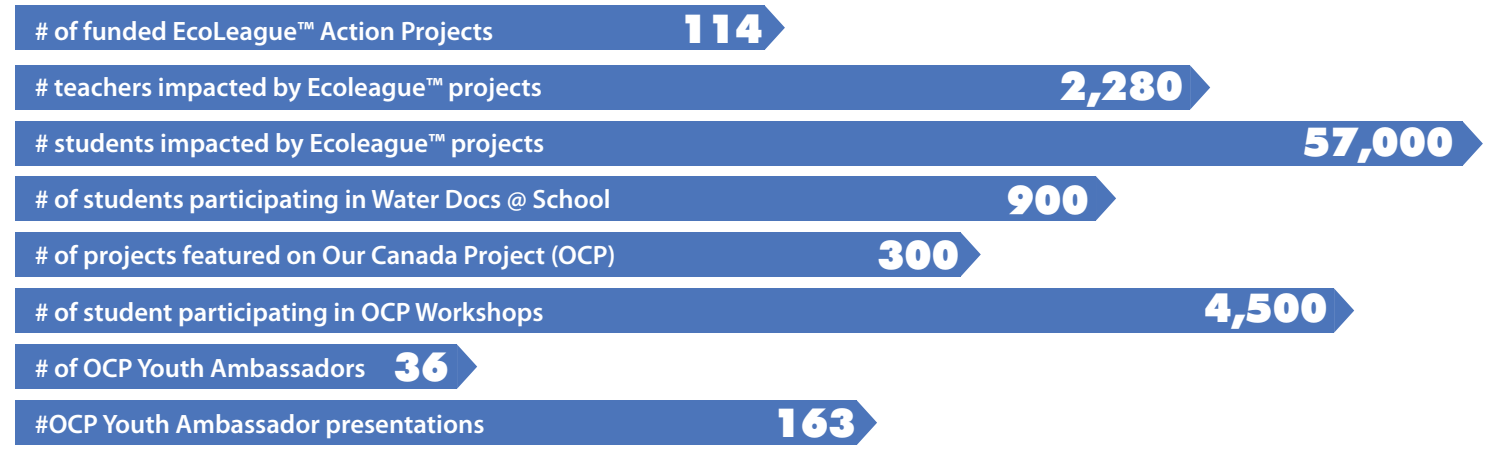
ACTING ON LEARNING

- EcoLeague™ Action Project funding provides schools with up to \$400 to implement student-led sustainability Action Projects
www.resources4rethinking.ca/en/ecoleague
- Water Docs @ School Action Projects is a hands-on, interdisciplinary learning program for grade 8 classes, delivered in collaboration with EcoLogos. Participating classes explore local water issues through study, action and film
www.bit.ly/WaterDocsatSchool

SHARING SUCCESS

- The Our Canada Project (OCP) is an innovative call to action designed by youth for youth to engage in "conversations about the future." Through OCP, young people are encouraged to articulate their vision for a more sustainable Canada, undertake action projects to achieve their vision and share their stories with others on the Our Canada Project
www.ourcanadaproject.ca

2015 STATS



Supporting Collaborative Initiatives, Networks and Champions



"I learned that we have the power to change things and make a difference!"

— Grade 6 student

OUR GOAL

Stakeholders at all levels working together to support 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

LSF'S ROLE: CONVENER

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Through support of the Canadian Council for UNESCO; Council of Ministers of Education, Canada; ESD Canada/Provincial ESD Working Groups/ Regional Centres of Excellence in ESD, LSF leverages relationships amongst stakeholders, influencers, leaders and decision makers



INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS

- Professional Development workshops delivered in New Caledonia engaged 35 teachers and 87 students, and LSF consultants worked with the Department of Education staff in New Caledonia to provide input into a new teacher resource
- LSF is working with contacts in Norway to scope out co-learning Professional Development opportunities for 2016
- LSF is a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - ESD Steering Committee

BRIGHT SPOTS

- LSF's Jack Layton Award for Youth Action in Sustainability is presented each year to recognize outstanding school action projects. For 2015, the first-place winner was Hartley Bay School of the Gitga'at Territory, British Columbia.
www.lsf-lst.ca/en/projects/education-sustainable/competitions/jack-layton-award
- The LSF/RBC Our Canada Project Award is presented each year to the top 3 youth initiatives posted on www.ourcanadaproject.ca



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Financial Statements

As approved by the LSF Board of Directors on April 8, 2016

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2015

ASSETS	2015	2014
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	149,504	118,777
Short-term investments	501,040	525,000
Accounts Receivable	19,672	130,778
Prepaid Expenses	2,912	2,906
HST receivable	6,637	21,215
	679,765	798,676
EQUIPMENT	6,388	2,765
	686,153	801,441

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities	70,735	51,735
Deferred Contributions	108,348	159,021
	179,083	210,756

NET ASSETS

Internally Restricted	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	207,070	290,685
	507,070	590,685

SURPLUS

Surplus at the beginning of the year	590,685	586,199
Excess (Short Fall) of revenue over expenses	(83,615)	4,486

SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	507,070	590,685
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Statement of Operations For the year ended December 31, 2015

	2015	2014
REVENUE		
Grants, contributions and donations	446,285	631,771
In-kind Donations	162,684	69,384
Registration Fees	100,724	52,925
Resource Revenue	11,205	5,466
Interest	4,763	7,127
	725,661	766,673

EXPENSES

Policies and Curricula	106,378	78,937
Capacity building for UN Decade	2,499	9,334
Teaching Resources and Workshops	291,040	180,578
Youth Engagement	305,543	390,772
Enhanced Programs	–	1,525
Administrative	103,816	101,041
	809,276	762,187

EXCESS (SHORT FALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(83,615)	4,486
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Donors and Partners

Since its inception in June 1991, LSF has received cash and in-kind contributions from the following:

Note: this list includes donations of \$5,000 or more; it can be viewed online: www.lsf-lst.ca/en/donors

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT / DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

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343 York Lanes
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York, ON
M3J 1P3
1.877.250.8202
info@lsf-lst.ca | www.lsf-lst.ca
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