



Empowering our Children to Change the World

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Learning for a
Sustainable Future

LSF



L'éducation au
service de la Terre

LST



Learning for a Sustainable Future is a Canadian charity founded in 1991 whose mission is to promote, through education, the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives, and practices essential for a sustainable future.

LSF works 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 (ESD).

Our Value Proposition:

To facilitate whole-systems change to achieve effective education for sustainable development, LSF takes a vertically-integrated, holistic approach focusing on ministries, school boards, educators and learners.



www.LSF-LST.ca
info@LSF-LST.ca

 @LSF.LST.ca

 @LSF_LST

Message from the President/CEO

"The current path of global development appears to be taking us toward environmental and social disaster. The trajectory we are on is unsustainable. We need to green our economy, reduce social inequity, tackle diversity and inclusion, and provide food, water, energy, housing, and clean air for more than nine billion people. To do this, we humans must learn to live more sustainably on this planet."

- Dr. David V. J. Bell

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of Dr. David V.J. Bell, Chair of Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) since 2006. David's passion, commitment and dedication to sustainability and education have left a permanent imprint on policy makers, educators and youth across Canada and internationally. LSF would not be where we are today if not for his leadership and countless contributions.

David's legacy is even more important today in light of recent global shifts in politics, priorities, and ideologies: the global cooperation needed to take tough action on climate change is threatened by rising nationalism, most notably in the newly "Brexit" UK; a president was elected in the United States whose platform includes renewed investments in the coal industry, the dissolution of the Environmental Protection Agency, and a withdrawal from The Paris Agreement, among other things; and renegotiated trade relationships are impacting the implementation of an effective carbon plan in Canada. Now, more than ever, it is essential to foster knowledge, skills, values, perspectives, and practices at all levels, from kindergarten student to national leader, that will guide us toward a more sustainable future.

To advance education policy, standards and good practice in 2016, LSF facilitated dialogue among school administrators, businesses, governments, and community members about Global Competencies, Indigenous Education, Climate Change and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In May, LSF brought together 80 thought leaders and decision makers to mobilize knowledge and action for climate change education. The international, peer-reviewed *Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability* published an article by late LSF Chair Dr. David V.J. Bell emphasizing the need for the inclusion of ESD in education policy. LSF continued to play a key role in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ESD Steering Committee, and our organization was granted official NGO partner status with UNESCO.

In 2016, LSF engaged approximately 38,000 students and over 1,500 teachers in Action Projects and Youth Forums that promoted sustainability at a local level. The Jack Layton Award for Youth Action in Sustainability and the LSF-RBC Our Canada Project Award highlighted the best of these projects so that students all over the country could be inspired to follow their example. LSF also supported nearly 90,000 educators with resources and professional development opportunities to help them integrate ESD into their teaching.

LSF's work was recognized by Canada's Clean50 for our contributions to sustainability; Dr. David V.J. Bell was awarded a 2017 Clean50 Award for Education, and LSF's Resources for Rethinking Database was voted the 2017 Clean50 Project of the Year. David Bell was further recognized with the 2016 Harry Jerome President's Award and the Jackie Robinson Fortitude Award.

Internationally, LSF partnered with the Department of Education and Indigenous educators in New Caledonia to deliver professional development workshops and worked with educators in their classrooms to model strategies for engaging their students. LSF is also investigating collaborative professional development opportunities in Aruba, Norway, and the Dominican Republic.

As we continue our work towards a sustainable future, LSF looks forward to strengthening relationships with stakeholders, partners, and funders in order to engage even more educators and students across Canada in understanding, prioritizing, and taking action for sustainability. I would like to thank our Board of Directors, staff, consultants, partners, and funders who enable us to continue David's legacy of "empowering our children to change the world."



Ms. Pamela Schwartzberg
PRESIDENT and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Schwartzberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Advancing Education Policy, Standards and Good Practice

OUR GOAL

Education policy, regulations and operational frameworks that support 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 education for sustainable development.

“Sustainability in essence poses an educational challenge for humankind... can we learn to live more sustainably on this planet?”

– Dr. David V.J. Bell, *“Twenty-first Century Education: Transformative Education for Sustainability and Responsible Citizenship”*



OUR STATS

18

Ministries engaged

39

Faculties of Education engaged

80

Policy leaders involved in symposia

5

Published articles and papers



LSF'S ROLE: IDEA GENERATION

PRIMARY, META & ACTION RESEARCH

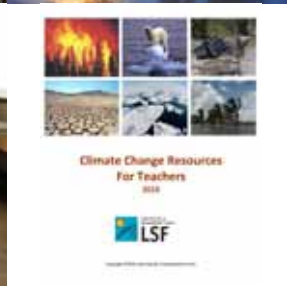
- Participated in and provided input into the National Roundtable on Environment and Sustainability Education in Pre-service Education
- Participated in the Sustainability Education Policy Network - a 7-year research project to advance sustainability in education policy and practice
- Prepared a paper on ESD Student Competencies that was shared with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada
- *The International Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability* published a LSF paper entitled "Twenty-First Century Education: Transformative Education for Sustainability and Responsible Citizenship"

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Contributed a chapter for a book on ESD in post-secondary education being written by the Sustainable Human and Environmental Systems (SHES) Roundtable
- Facilitated meetings/discussions with Ministry of Education staff in AB, BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, ON, QC, & SK
- Hosted the 14th Annual Education for Sustainable Development Gala, empowering a new generation of climate-aware citizens
- Facilitated discussions with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada related to Global Competencies and Indigenous Education

TIMELY COMMENTARIES

- Participated in the meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ESD Steering Committee in Geneva
- Participated in the Canadian Commission for UNESCO'S 56th Annual General Meeting
- A case study on LSF's Resources for Rethinking Database (www.R4R.ca) was included in the final Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development



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 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



OUR STATS

89,647

Educators Supported

111

School Boards Engaged

53

Workshops Delivered

1,300

Connecting the Dots Distributed



LSF'S ROLE: KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

QUALITY RESOURCES

- Resources for Rethinking (R4R) is a free online database with over 1,235 teacher-recommended, curriculum-matched sustainability teaching resources. R4R was awarded a 2017 Clean50 Top15 Project Award and was voted best project of the year by Clean50 delegates
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 provided innovative content, methodologies and teaching strategies, engaging teachers and teacher candidates from AB, BC, MB, NB, NS, ON, & SK
www.LSF-LST.ca/Institutes
- *Connecting the Dots* provides teachers, school boards, Ministries of Education and Faculties of Education with support for inquiry-based and action learning
- Internationally, LSF facilitated professional development workshops and in-school ESD modeling with educators in New Caledonia

TIMELY ESD OPPORTUNITIES

- Facilitated 53 workshops, engaging 1,323 educators
- Delivered a workshop at the EECOM conference
- Facilitated R4R webinars and workshops for educators across Canada
- Over 2,300 teachers subscribe to receive bi-monthly Step Outside for Nature Guides
www.R4R.ca/Step-Outside
- 1,900 educators follow us on Facebook (and 1,700 on Twitter) to receive our weekly "Resource Sunday" picks from R4R
- Over 80,400 educators visited R4R.ca in 2016



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

"I liked being able to pitch my ideas to improve the planet. I thought this was one of the best opportunities ever!"

– Student Participant at the Regina Youth Forum



OUR STATS

74

Funded Ecoleague™
Action Projects

1,630

Teachers impacted
by Action Projects &
Youth Forums

37,650

Students impacted
by Action Projects &
Youth Forums

425

Projects featured on
Our Canada Project
(OCP)



LSF'S ROLE: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

MODELING GOOD PRACTICE

- Our Canada Project Youth Leadership Forums are skill-building programs for high school youth and their teachers, informing, equipping, and inspiring them to make positive change
- 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

- 74 classes supported with EcoLeague™ funding to implement student-led sustainability Action Projects
www.R4R.ca/EcoLeague
- 57 classes participated in the Water Docs @ School Action Projects Program. WD@S 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

- 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 **www.OurCanadaProject.ca**
- EcoLeague™ engages students in linking what they have learned to action projects that address sustainability issues in their community



**Water
Docs
@School**
Action Projects



Supporting Collaborative Initiatives, Networks and Champions

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.

“Our partnership with LSF is more than a corporate social responsibility initiative; for us it’s a competitive advantage.”

– Paul Madden, President & General Manager, 3M Canada



OUR STATS

\$7,000

Awarded to outstanding Action Projects

3

Awards and recognitions received

61

International jurisdictions engaged

297

Community partners engaged



LSF'S ROLE: CONVENER

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Through support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO; the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada; and ESD Canada/Provincial ESD Working Groups/Regional Centres of Expertise in ESD, LSF leverages relationships amongst stakeholders, influencers, leaders and decision makers
- LSF has been recognized as a formal partner of the United Nations
- Professional Development Institutes are facilitated in partnership with the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study at the University of Toronto
- Youth forums & teacher workshops are delivered in partnership with school boards, local government, and community groups

INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS

- LSF is working with contacts in Norway to scope out co-learning Professional Development opportunities for 2017
- LSF has been invited to collaborate with the Propogas Foundation, Dominican Republic
- LSF has been invited to collaborate with the Minister of Education, Aruba
- 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
www.bit.ly/LSF-JLA
- The LSF-RBC Our Canada Project Award is presented each year to the top 3 youth initiatives posted on
www.OurCanadaProject.ca
- David Bell was nominated as a 2017 Canada's Clean50 Honouree for Education
- David Bell received the 2016 Harry Jerome President's Award and the Jackie Robinson Fortitude Award



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Glencore Nickel

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A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DR. DAVID V.J. BELL LSF BOARD CHAIR 2006-2017

To continue David's legacy of empowering our children to change the world, the Dr. David V.J. Bell Memorial Fund has been established.

Financial Statements

As approved by the LSF Board of Directors on April 5, 2017

Balance Sheet as at
December 31, 2016

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

	2016	2015
Cash	135,671	149,504
Short-term investments	473,686	501,040
Accounts receivable	10,599	19,672
Prepaid expenses	3,063	2,912
HST receivable	15,473	11,464

638,492 684,592

EQUIPMENT

4,978 6,388

643,470 690,980

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	47,395	75,562
Deferred Contributions	74,841	108,348

122,236 183,910

NET ASSETS

Internally Restricted	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	221,234	207,070

521,234 507,070

643,470 690,980

SURPLUS

Surplus at the beginning of the year	207,070	290,685
Excess (Short Fall) of revenue over expenses	14,164	(83,615)

SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR

221,234 207,070

Statement of Operations For the year ended December 31, 2016

2016 2015

REVENUE

Grants, contributions and donations	520,657	446,285
In-kind Donations	70,657	162,684
Registration Fees	155,419	100,724
Resource Revenue	7,666	11,205
Interest	4,012	4,763

758,411 725,661

EXPENSES

Policies and Curricula	81,971	106,378
Capacity building for UN Decade	3,430	2,499
Teaching Resources and Workshops	286,923	291,040
Youth Engagement	300,337	305,543
Administrative	71,586	103,816

744,247 809,276

EXCESS (SHORT FALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

14,164 (83,615)

Donors and Partners

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

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT / DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Canadian International Development Agency
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Employment and Social Development Canada
Environment Canada
Heritage Canada
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
The Climate Change Action Fund

PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

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Nova Scotia
Nunavut
Ontario
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Quebec
Saskatchewan
Yukon

FOUNDATIONS AND NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network
Burton Charitable Foundation
Canadian Centre for Philanthropy
Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine
Canadian Commission for UNESCO
Canadian Museum of Nature
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Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est Ontarien
Destination Conservation
District School Board of Ontario North East
Durham Catholic District School Board
EcoCanada
Ecologos
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Kid Active
Kootenay Lake School District
Laidlaw Foundation
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National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
New Brunswick Forest Products Association Inc.
Noranda Foundation
Oil Sands Discovery Centre
Open Learning Agency
Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education
Ontario Parks
Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network
Ontario Teachers' Federation
Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan
OXFAM - Québec
RBC Foundation
Southeastern Ontario District Health

Council
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The Biosphere
The EJLB Foundation
The Kahanoff Foundation
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The Ontario Trillium Foundation
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Toronto Community Foundation
University of British Columbia
University of Manitoba
University of Toronto
Upper Grand District School Board
York Region District School Board
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TransAlta Corporation
TransCanada
Trimac Corporation
Union Gas/Centre Gas Ontario
Vale
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Note: this list includes donations of \$5,000 or more; it can be viewed online: www.LSF-LST.ca/en/donors

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343 York Lanes York University 4700 Keele Street North York, ON M3J1P3
1.877.250.8202

info@LSF-LST.ca www.LSF-LST.ca

 @LSF.LST.ca

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*"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