



OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF CANADA
CONSEIL CANADIEN DE PLEIN AIR

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To whom it may concern,

If you are receiving this letter, it is because one of your staff is planning to attend the **Outdoor Learning Conference** hosted by *Take Me Outside, The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication, the Global Environmental and Outdoor Education Council, and the Outdoor Learning School & Store* in **Banff from May 7 to 9th, 2026**.

We ask you to provide as much support as possible towards participation in this conference. This event is an international gathering enabling the development and implementation of quality pedagogical approaches outside, incorporating a wide range of perspectives, viewpoints, and research.

Since this event is in its third edition, we understand that many organizations in the country may have doubts as to the impact of the endeavor. However, we can assure you that this event is hosted and coordinated by organizations that comprise Canada's best network of educators and administrators delivering outdoor learning. The event also engages many other essential stakeholders supporting the development of outdoor learning.

Considering the proven track record of outdoor learning in fostering cross-curricular understanding, providing lessons that last a lifetime, supporting mental health resilience, developing cardiovascular health, nurturing strong interpersonal bonds, promoting equity and diversity, enabling personal growth and acting as an essential vehicle for meaningful people-nature connections, we believe that the students who attend your school will benefit from the increase in capacity that will result from your staff participation at the conference.

We understand that for many, outdoor learning may be considered an alternative approach to education. However, a plethora of research, highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown that time outside is more and more essential to the well-being of all.

By desiring to participate in this conference, your staff is demonstrating their interest in being innovative and helping define the development of education in the 21st century. Not only will your staff benefit from participating in the conference, but your organization will also increase its capacity to deliver quality, curriculum-connected education.

Please note that we are not a conference organizer and do not receive a financial return related to participation numbers at the conference. We will be present at the conference and look forward to sharing our expertise with your staff.

Sincerely,

Franz Plangger
Executive Director of the Outdoor Council of Canada