

Alberta Council for Environmental Education

Annual Report

2022



ACEE Alberta Council for
Environmental Education
ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ALBERTA

Message from our leaders

ACEE focuses on building resilient communities, advocating for systems change, and empowering people to take meaningful action toward environmental literacy and stewardship. We recognize that it is critical to work together to find innovative solutions to the environmental issues facing Alberta, our country, and our planet. The ACEE team developed new strategies to best deliver on our mission to create a more just and sustainable future for all Albertans using the power of education.

Thanks to all our partners, Affiliates, donors, and supporters, 2022 was a year of exciting growth and development for ACEE. As our work expanded throughout the province, we were able to reach more Albertans with high-quality environmental education. We collaborated with our partners, Affiliates, and others to demonstrate and elevate the value of environmental education to engage and inspire students who were learning in their schools and communities. We supported and celebrated formal and informal environmental educators, positively impacting the province. We also witnessed how deeply social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access must cut across all our work.

This past year, we prioritized supporting youth leaders to advocate for integrating quality environmental education into the school curriculum. Youth were empowered to act on climate solutions. We also focused on providing formal and informal educators with training and resources so they could successfully integrate environmental, climate, and sustainability education into their teaching and programming.

We are proud of what we accomplished last year. We are excited about what we can continue to achieve together to advance environmental learning and civic engagement for all Albertans. Our achievements would not be possible without our partners, donors, board members and other supporters who continue collaborating with us and understand that our work is essential.

Thank you for sharing our vision of a future where all Albertans are responsible for stewarding a healthy and sustainable environment.



Kathryn Melrose
Executive Director



Brian Callaghan
Board Chair

About ACEE



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Vision

Alberta is a leader in environmental education, resulting in an environmentally literate province where all Albertans are responsible for stewarding a healthy and sustainable future.

Mission

To drive systems change, engage partners, and support educators and youth so we can bring quality environmental education to all of Alberta's students. We strive to advance environmental learning for all Albertans.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Drive Excellence and Deepen Impact

Goal 2: Support and Engage K-12 Teachers and Environmental Educators

Goal 5: Sustain a Thriving Organization

Goal 4: Champion Environmental Education through Advocacy, Communication and Outreach

Goal 3: Support and Empower Alberta Youth

Our Impact

3500

Educators supported through workshops and presentations



23 TONNES



CO2 was sequestered from school ground greening activities

101

Schools across Alberta— Fort MacMurray to Pincher Creek – signed up to create real-life climate solutions through the *EcoSchools in Canada* program



66

Workshops facilitated across the province, including 7 teacher's conventions

Through **248** completed EcoSchool Actions, **9176** hours of outdoor learning took place. **340** trees were planted.



66

Youth Climate Leaders



About our Resource Hub

"I will definitely use the Resource Hub and share it with the teachers at my school. Seeing all the grants, teaching resources, and other agencies out there to support my teaching has really inspired me to embark on environmental projects with my future students."- Pre-Service Teacher

Our Work



Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education

The **Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education (AYLEE)** program engaged **66 youth** leaders representing **20 urban and rural Alberta schools**. AYLEE members were able to connect with like-minded youth; learn about the environment, energy, and climate change; and collaborate on projects that advance environmental education and climate action. **19 youth** attended the first in-person gathering since the pandemic at the University of Calgary and again in October during their Fall Summit in Lacombe, AB, to begin action planning for the new school year and discuss topics such as leadership and advocacy.

"[I value AYLEE because] It helps me connect with like-minded people and develop skills such as speaking" - Student, Lacombe Composite High School, Lacombe



AYLEE Receives an Emerald Award

On June 1, 2022, AYLEE was recognized for its achievements at the 31st Annual Emerald Awards under the following category - Youth - Recognizing people, 25 years of age and under, who have made meaningful contributions and have taken positive action to improve the environmental health of their community.

Receiving the Emerald Award with AYLEE has been one of my proudest achievements. It felt like the pinnacle of AYLEE, like a cumulative recognition of all of AYLEE's success since it began.

AYLEE won this award because it ultimately supports and connects youth to change-making opportunities. Many youth are ambitious to drive change but lack direction for their efforts. AYLEE has been supportive enough to channel these ambitions into meaningful projects while still maintaining the youth's voice behind it all. This was exemplified in our revision of the 2016 AYLEE student's White Paper on Education Recommendations to the Alberta Government.

I think the success of our collective effort on this project was a major motivation to continue on to more ambitious things. This included our series of community workshops, led by youth trying to engage different perspectives on environmental education and facilitate a more universal knowledge of the importance of environmental education. The initiative and student-led nature of our projects like these are what I think led to winning the award since it demonstrates that youth are capable of channelling their ambition in major ways rather than just holding sentiment without action.



Winning the emerald award has tremendously impacted me, as it has validated my faith in youth accomplishment. Seeing everyday students from regular schools all over Alberta made me realize that all youth can achieve their ambitions. I'm so grateful to the community of support and opportunity that AYLEE has provided to facilitate the sentiments of youth into meaningful action. The Emerald Award has inspired me to continue being an environmental advocate and connected me to a network of environmental leaders to help along the way. *Logan M.-AYLEE Member*

EcoSchools in Alberta

As the service delivery partner for EcoSchools Canada, ACEE supported **101** schools across the province that engaged in Eco Action projects. The certification program nurtures environmental learning and climate action and is free to all publicly funded Alberta Schools.



"The nice thing is our teaching has remained the same, but EcoSchools solidified the great work we are doing. We are already planning for better connections next year."

Congratulations to the 19 schools that received certification in 2022! The EcoSchools program offers many benefits for students, teachers, and schools:

- A step-by-step process for creating a flexible environmental and climate action plan
- A user-friendly online platform
- Opportunity to network, share, and celebrate with other schools, teachers, and students.
- Ongoing, on-the-ground support for Alberta schools provided through ACEE.

Calgary Mayor's Environment Expo

ACEE played a key role at the May 2022 Mayor's Environment Expo, where **11** Calgary Schools were publicly acknowledged for participating in EcoSchools.



Crescent Heights High School reached Platinum for the second year in a row!



John G. Diefenbaker School and Rundle College reached Silver.



West Springs School reached Bronze.

Workshops and Conventions

ACEE staff designed unique professional learning opportunities for educators and delivered presentations at ATA conventions, conferences, and professional development learning days. During the convention season, February to March 2022, teachers received information and resources on climate education, climate justice, climate solutions, EcoSchools, energy, green careers, Indigeneity, outdoor learning, and youth leadership. Workshops allow teachers to connect and collaborate with other passionate educators and youth across Alberta.

1,399 teachers supported at conventions

66 workshops delivered

Summer Institute with Climate Generation

In partnership with Climate Generation, ACEE was the Canadian Lead for the 2022 Summer Institute 'Find[ing] Our Collective Strength,' a three-day virtual professional development course designed for education faculty members, current and future teachers, and non-formal educators. The institute focused on five key areas:

- Climate Observations and Data
- Climate Change Communication
- Equity and Justice
- Power of Education
- Overcoming barriers to teaching



What attendees had to say:

80% felt "very confident" about teaching about the causes of climate change after attending the institute.

100% felt they can mitigate and address barriers that previously prevented them from teaching about climate change.

100% felt hopeful, and 80% felt joyful at the end of the Institute.

Our Team

Our Staff

Kathryn Melrose, Executive Director
Dixie Taylor, Director of Programs
Sandra Robinson, Operations Manager
Amy Thompson, Environmental
Education and Engagement Coordinator
Nicole Chang, Environmental Education
and Engagement Coordinator
Sneha Jigo-Rose, Youth Facilitator

2022 Board of Directors

Brian Callaghan, Board Chair
Tanya Doran, Past Chair
Jim Sandercock, Vice-Chair
Tom Gee, Treasurer
Melissa Easton, Director
Tim Weis, Director
Jennifer D'Aoust, Director
Lesley Margetak, Director
Donna Ross, Director
David Kleiman, Director

Thank you to our 2022 Supporters!



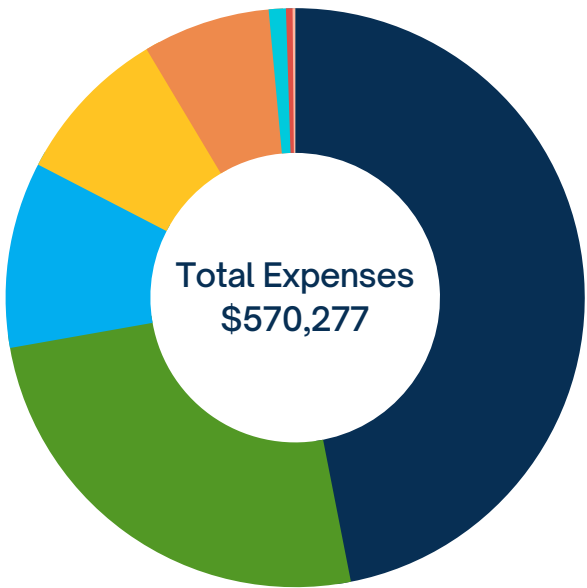
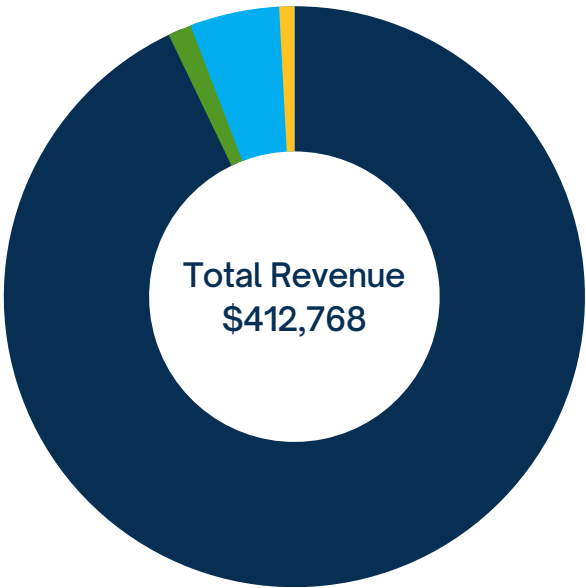
Environment and
Climate Change Canada
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The Chawkers Foundation



Financials



Revenue

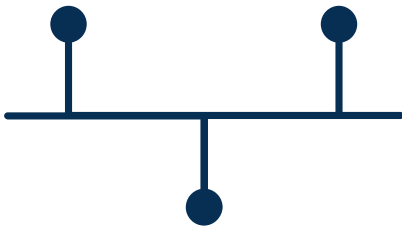
- Grants
- Donations
- Consulting fees and conferences
- Interest

Expenses

- Payroll
- Professional fees
- Programs
- Contracts
- Office and insurance
- Meetings
- Travel
- Staff PD

Net Assests - Beginning of the Year
\$370,195

Net Assests - End of the Year
\$212,686





Looking Forward

As we enter 2023, we are excited about the new opportunities and developments happening at ACEE and with our environmental education partners throughout the province, Canada, and North America. This summer, we are focusing on our commitment to empowering our youth leaders by hosting an AYLEE forum in Calgary. We are continuing our involvement with the Climate Generation Summer Institute by leading the Canadian cohort for 2023. Our new website has launched including a new resource hub, updates to curriculum links for all grade levels, and an E-learning platform. We are developing and securing funding for new programs and services, including our Green Careers Initiative for Alberta youth. Finally, we are prioritizing our ongoing support of formal and informal environmental educators in marginalized, racialized, and other at-risk communities across the province.

We expect 2023 to be a productive year for ACEE and a meaningful one for environmental education and climate action. Together, we will help to create a more just and sustainable future for all Albertans.



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