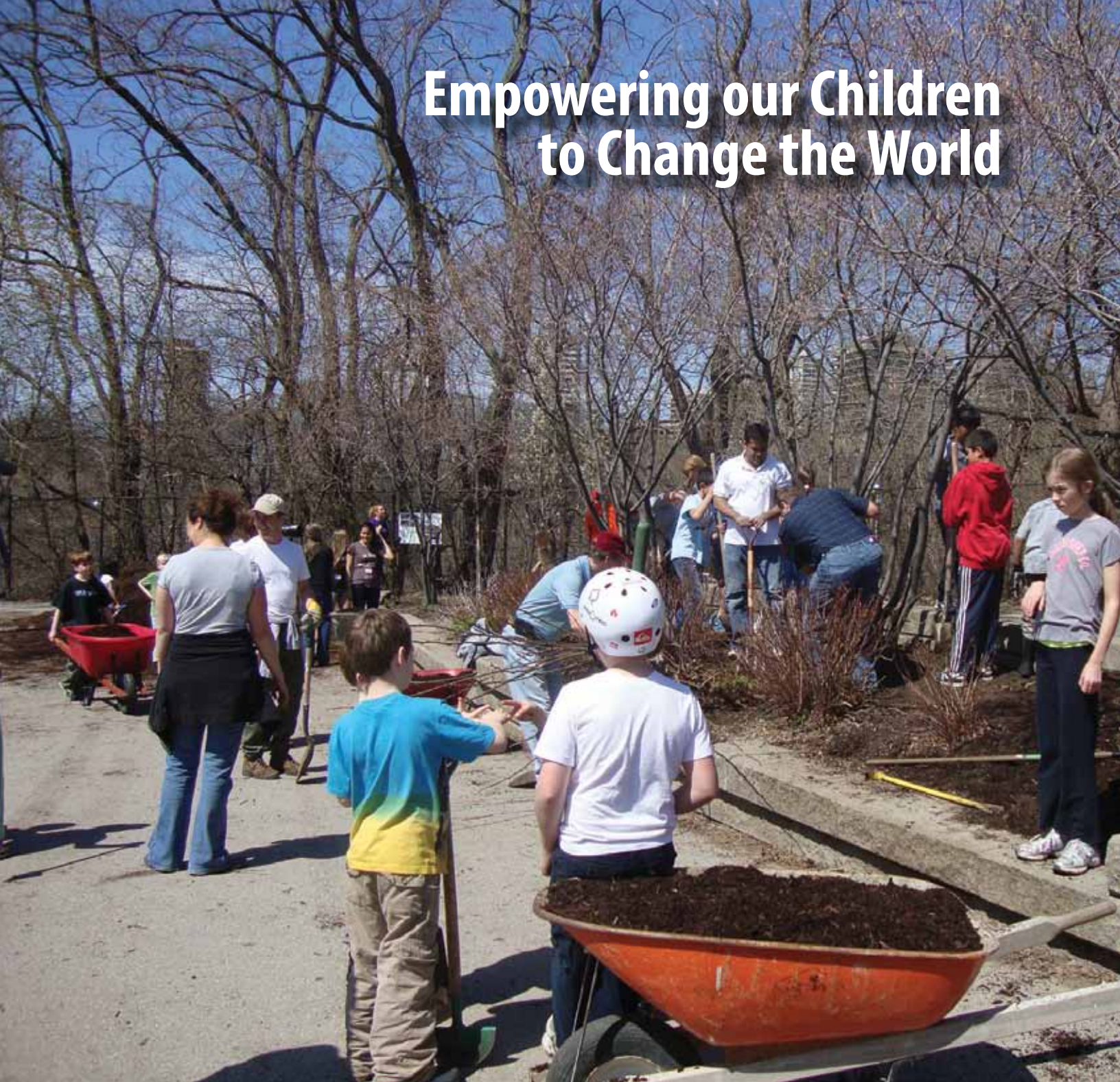


Empowering our Children to Change the World



Learning for a
Sustainable Future

LSF

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Learning for a Sustainable Future

Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) is a Canadian charitable organization founded in 1991.

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 (ESD).

When the United Nations declared the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, from 2005-2014, LSF was well positioned to serve as a Canadian partner for the delivery of Canada's response to the Decade.

Our Mission

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

Our Team

LSF's team is comprised of a strong Board of Directors, experienced staff and consultants from across the country, and committed graduate and undergraduate researchers from leading Canadian universities.

Our Reach

In 2014, LSF reached over 275,000 Canadians through our programs.

The Secret to our Success

LSF believes that building comprehensive programs starts with a solid base. LSF's core program strengths are:

- 1 **Advancing Education Policy, Standards and Good Practice**
- 2 **Reorienting Teaching and Learning**
- 3 **Fostering Sustainable Communities – Linking Education to Action**
- 4 **Supporting Collaborative Initiatives, Networks and Champions**

Message from the Chair and President

The challenge of sustainability is fundamentally educational - we need to learn to live sustainably on this planet.

Throughout the balance of this century humankind will face increasingly profound and complex sustainability challenges. We must ensure that we do not undermine nature's capacity to make human life on this planet possible, while meeting the basic needs for food, water, energy and shelter of a population that will exceed 9 billion. Designing and implementing educational systems that will help meet this challenge is the focus of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It is at the heart of LSF's mission "to promote, through education, the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives and practices essential for a sustainable future".

In Canada and around the globe, 2014 was an important year for ESD. The United Nations Decade on ESD came to a stirring conclusion at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in November in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. In his opening remarks to the 1,100 delegates from 148 countries, Ban Ki moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that . . .

"Sustainability is the only way we can protect our precious planet. There is no Plan B. There is no Planet B. Sustainability must be built into everything we do. And education is the starting point".

As a follow up to the Decade of ESD, the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP) was launched by UNESCO. The priority action areas outlined in the GAP closely align with LSF's strategic priority areas, positioning LSF very well to continue to deliver on this important work in Canada and internationally.

2014 was highlighted by many successful LSF initiatives. Internationally, LSF hosted educators from New Caledonia and the Dominican Republic at a Summer Professional Development Institute, and facilitated a 1.5 day Roundtable with education, business and community leaders in the Dominican Republic. LSF was part of the Canadian Delegation to the World Conference on ESD in Japan. Finally, LSF was recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education, receiving the 2014 EECOM Award for Excellence in International Environmental Education

Nationally, LSF's paper, *21st Century Learning Viewed through a Sustainability Lens* was presented to the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada – Deputy Ministers. It was well received and has resulted in a discussion of ESD that will be ongoing. LSF's newest resource, *Connecting the Dots: Key Strategies that Transform Learning for Environmental Education, Citizenship and Sustainability* was released and distributed to Ministries of Education, Teachers' Federations, School Boards and Faculties of Education across Canada.

LSF continued working with teachers, providing workshops and resource materials. *Connecting the Dots* provided the framework for over 50 professional development workshops engaging over 1,800 educators. Over 65,000 students and teachers undertook EcoLeague action projects in their schools and communities. Over 4,000 youth across Canada participated in Our Canada Project (OCP) workshops and posted 138 projects on the OurCanadaProject.ca website.

Organizationally, with the generous pro bono support of Norton Rose Fulbright law firm, LSF revised our bylaws to comply with the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

For a non governmental organization with a permanent staff of 3 full time employees, supported by 2 dozen consultants, the scope and impact of LSF's work is remarkable. Our success flows from the knowledge, experience and hard work of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, the commitment of our funders, and the active engagement of our extraordinary Board. Most of all we would like to thank the teachers and students who have joined us on this journey of transformational learning, providing us with optimism for the future of the planet.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David V. J. Bell".

DR. DAVID V. J. BELL
CHAIR



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Schwartzberg".

MS. PAMELA SCHWARTZBERG
PRESIDENT and CEO

Advancing Education Policy, Standards and Good Practice



"Thank you for preparing the paper on 21st Century Learning Through a Sustainability Lens. It provided for a good discussion at the Advisory Committee of Deputy Ministers of Education which will be ongoing."

Gerald Farthing, Deputy Minister of Education and Advanced Learning, Manitoba

a) Advice to Canadian Ministries of Education

A major focus of LSF's work involves research and collaboration to advance education policies, standards and good practice. LSF advises Ministries of Education, school boards and faculties of education on policy and curriculum development using ESD as a lens.

2014 Highlights

- Meetings/discussions with Ministry of Education staff in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, PE, and NL
- Paper on *21st Century Learning viewed through a Sustainability Lens* presented to the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada – Deputy Ministers
- Collaboration with the Calgary Board of Education on curriculum development prototyping
- Review of all Provincial curriculum documents to identify opportunities for teaching through Invasive Species

"I am currently revising the Grade 9 Science curriculum, recommending that invasive species be used as a project theme. Thanks for providing an opportunity for the development of contextualized learning for our students using an issue that has serious provincial, national and global implications."

**Kim McBurney, Secondary Math and Science Specialist,
Department of Education, Prince Edward Island**



b) What's Worth Knowing Project

LSF undertakes research and convenes symposia and roundtable discussions engaging stakeholders and key decision-makers from across Canada to address "what's worth knowing" about various sustainability issues, and how to influence policy development and curriculum changes in these areas.

2014 Highlights

- Planning is underway for the *What's Worth Knowing: Educating for the 21st Century Green Economy* in Toronto, in May 2015
- Participation in the *Sustainability Education Policy Network* to examine sustainability education policies and practices in early childhood to grade 12 education (EC-12) and post-secondary education (PSE) in Canada

c) International Activities

LSF embraces international opportunities for policy input and program delivery.

2014 Highlights

- LSF was part of the Canadian Delegation to the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Japan in November which engaged 1,100 participants from 148 countries
- LSF has signed on to the UN Global Action Program on ESD
- LSF facilitated a 1.5 day ESD Roundtable with education, business and community leaders in the Dominican Republic
- LSF hosted educators from New Caledonia and the Dominican Republic at a 3 day Professional Development Institute to model the program for delivery in their regions in 2015

"LSF has made contributions to ESD both nationally and internationally. Canada is fortunate to have such a dynamic proponent of ESD."

Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair – Teacher Education

Reorienting Teaching and Learning



"Connecting the Dots inspires hope and promise - antidotes to despondency and despair - and underscores a sense of purposeful agency for students and educators alike in their ongoing quest to be the architects of a better present and future, both locally and globally."

**Ian Pettigrew, Director, Curriculum and Assessment
Ontario Teachers' Federation**

a) Advancing Research on Transformational Learning (lsf-1st.ca/dots)

LSF's newest resource, *Connecting the Dots: Key Strategies that Transform Learning for Environmental Education, Citizenship and Sustainability* presents a systems perspective of learning to help educators meet the needs of 21st Century learners.



2014 Highlights

- Over 1,500 copies of *Connecting the Dots* were provided to Ministries of Education, Teachers' Federations, Faculties of Education, School Boards, Non-Government Organizations and Teachers across Canada.

"Connecting the Dots helps learners develop a more relevant and realistic understanding of our world and its underpinning complexity and helps teachers engage students in the most important issues of our day."

Daniella Tilbury, Dean of Sustainability, University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom

b) Supporting Transformational Practice

LSF's innovative professional development workshops and institutes model strategies, tools and resources to help educators engage their students in addressing the increasingly complex economic, social, and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

2014 Highlights

- 50 professional development workshops/institutes were delivered engaging 1,411 classroom teachers, 232 teacher candidates and 160 community/policy makers.

"The resources, group sharing and getting connected to the environment made the possibility of learning through inquiry possible for me. I can't wait to get back to my classroom to start this new learning journey with my students."

Teacher, Ontario

"This is a great search engine - we now recommend it as a top resource for our educators to use. Thanks!"

Teacher, British Columbia

c) Resources for Rethinking (r4r.ca)

R4R is a free online database where educators can search for excellent, teacher recommended, curriculum-matched teaching resources on issues related to the development of an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable society.



2014 Highlights

- 55,000 visits to R4R.ca
- 1,235 resources available (819 English and 416 French)
- 850 lesson plans, 160 videos, 190 Children's literature books, and 73 outdoor activities

"R4R.ca is the best compilation of innovative new resources. I love the critical component of each theme."

Teacher, Alberta

d) Step Outside (r4r.ca/step-outside)

Published two to three times per month, Step Outside guides highlight for teachers seasonal events happening just outside of their school doors. R4R.ca resources are highlighted in each guide to extend the learning.



2014 Highlights

- 25,000 visitors to Step Outside
- 1,461 teachers subscribe to receive Step Outside Guides
- Created a "rubber boots" icon to identify resources that get students outside

e) Hot Topics

(r4r.ca/theme/hot-topics-calendar)

Hot Topics are published once or twice each month throughout the year to coincide with the timing of national and international campaigns taking place to raise awareness of these key issues.

2014 Highlight

- 16 Hot Topics per year with multiple R4R resources to address each issue.

Fostering Sustainable Communities – Linking Education to Action



"I like seeing kids engaged in real life problems."

Teacher, New Brunswick

a) EcoLeague™ (r4r.ca/ecoleague)

EcoLeague™ focuses on youth as the drivers of change and leaders of tomorrow. Through EcoLeague™ students are engaged in linking what they have learned to action projects that provide a real context for understanding sustainability issues in their community. Undertaking action projects allows youth to understand that they do have the ability to bring about positive and significant change in their schools and communities.



2014 Highlights

- 128 schools engaged in action projects supported by LSF across Canada
- 95 students, 18 teachers and 13 community volunteers participated in an EcoLeague™ Youth Forum in Fort McMurray, AB
- 2,000 students were engaged in hands on Action workshops delivered in NL, MB and ON

b) WATERDOCS@SCHOOL

Waterdocs@schools 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.

2014 Highlights

- 7 classes participated in the 2013-2014 pilot program
- The Grade 7 & 8 students at Star Academy won best project in 2014 for their project "**Kids Against Road Salt**" www.kidsagainroadsalt.wordpress.com
Kids Against Road Salt at the Water Docs @ School Recognition Day at the Art Gallery of Ontario
- 16 classes are participating in the 2014-2015 program

c) Our Canada Project (ourcanadaproject.ca)

Our Canada Project is a call to action encouraging Canadian youth to engage in "conversations about the future" and actions that model responsible citizenship. The *Our Canada Project* website features an interactive map where students can share their visions for a more sustainable Canada and action projects they have undertaken, including videos, pictures and text.



2014 Highlights

- 138 projects are featured on the website
- 19 Ambassadors delivered 150 presentations to schools and youth groups engaging 4,000 participants in BC, AB, ON, QC, PE, NB
- LSF is collaborating with Community Foundations of Canada and the 150Alliance in support of Canada's 150th Anniversary



Supporting Collaborative Initiatives, Networks, and Champions



Through involvement in the LEAF club, “at-risk” students at Calderstone Middle School addressed the connections between food, their health, and the environment by caring for plants, participating in cooking workshops, and hosting a “healthy iron chef competition”.

a) ESD Canada (esdcanada.ca)

In response to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, LSF established Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Canada. The ESD Canada Expert Council and Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups are comprised of leaders from the public, private and civil society sectors across Canada who collaborate to support the UN's call for systemic change toward ESD.



2014 Highlights

- Facilitated ESD Canada meetings, communication, input into the UNESCO end of decade consultation, and the Global Action Programme commitments post 2014
- ESD Canada is represented on the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Education Sectoral Commission
- On-going ESD activities within Working Groups/ Regional Centres of Expertise in BC, SK, MB, ON, NB, and NS.

b) Supporting Bright Spots in Innovation

LSF seeks out and supports ESD champions and bright spots of innovation that are taking action to implement ESD in the education system. Bright spots include teachers, administrators, schools, school boards and government officials.

2014 Highlights

- *The LSF Jack Layton Award for Youth Action in Sustainability* was presented to Calderstone Middle School in Brampton, Ontario for their *Leaders for the Environment, Agriculture ...our Future (LEAF)* project.
- David Bell, Chair of LSF, received 2014 EECOM Award for Excellence in International Environmental Education at the 43rd Annual North American Association for Environment Education Conference in Ottawa

"This award is especially gratifying because it comes from a group of educators who are passionately committed to strengthening environmental and sustainability education."

David Bell upon receiving the EECOM Award



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Toronto, Ontario

Mr. Scott Yarrow

Vice President, Sustainability
Glencore Nickel
Toronto, Ontario

Financial Statements

As approved by the LSF Board of Directors on March 11, 2015

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2014

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2014	2013
Cash	118,777	136,208
Short-term investments	525,000	650,000
Accounts Receivable and Prepaid Expenses	154,899	51,998
	798,676	838,206
EQUIPMENT, Net of Accumulated Amortization	2,765	3,950
	801,441	842,156

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities	51,735	46,907
Deferred Contributions	159,021	209,050
	210,756	255,957

NET ASSETS

Internally Restricted	300,000	300,000
Unrestricted	290,685	286,199
	590,685	586,199
	801,441	842,156

SURPLUS

Surplus at the beginning of the year	586,199	530,491
Excess of revenue over expenses	4,486	55,708

SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR

590,685 586,199

Statement of Operations For the year ended December 31, 2014

REVENUE	2014	2013
Grants, contributions and donations	631,771	682,283

OTHER REVENUE

In-kind Donations	69,384	59,188
Interest	7,127	7,843
Registration Fees	52,925	15,282
Resource Revenue	5,466	-
	134,902	82,313
	766,673	764,596

EXPENSES

Policies and Curricula	78,937	108,072
Capacity building for UN Decade	9,334	14,458
Teaching Resources and Workshops	180,578	121,541
Youth Engagement	390,772	365,691
Enhanced Programs	1,525	4,105
Administrative	101,041	95,021
	762,187	708,888

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

4,486 55,708

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

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT / DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
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