

Climate change and sustainability education funding received

Learning for a Sustainable Future receives \$3.8 million in federal government funding

For Immediate Release

[Toronto, Ontario, Nov 9, 2021] Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) will receive approximately \$3.8 million over 5 years from the Government of Canada to support their project: *Empowering Youth for Climate Action/Habiliter les jeunes dans l'action climatique*. This funding will allow the organization to increase climate change knowledge, understanding, and action for the targeted 1,125,600 students and teachers across Canada.

“This funding will help transform Canada's education system through research and innovative programs that empower youth and educators for climate action,” explained Pamela Schwartzberg, President and CEO, LSF. “Our project will engage youth directly through Youth Leadership Forums and Action Projects and provide professional development opportunities and resources for teachers as a strategic and sustainable way to impact hundreds, if not thousands, of students over the course of these teachers’ careers.”

This announcement coincides with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which is taking place in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12, 2021, and the 16th UN Conference of Youth (COY16) which preceded it.

LSF's Empowering Youth for Climate Action Project will help to fill a system-level gap in teaching and learning about climate topics in Canada as identified in LSF's 2019 national survey of 3,196 Canadians entitled, “Canada, Climate Change and Education”. The survey found that 68% of Canadians agreed that it is the role of schools to educate students about climate change; however, only a third of teachers reported teaching climate change in the classroom. For those teachers who do include climate change content, most teach on the topic only one to 10 hours per year or semester. Only a third of educators feel they have the knowledge and skills to teach about the topic. Almost half of students (46%) understand that climate change is human caused, but don't believe that human actions in mitigation will be effective.

“The need for better climate change information and learning resources is clear. To prepare our young people for a climate-altered future, our school system needs to do more. Our teachers need to be better equipped with climate knowledge and resources, and our students need more opportunities to learn about and take action on climate change,” said Schwartzberg.

LSF is currently undertaking a follow up to the national climate change education survey as part of the Empowering Youth for Climate Action project. “We hope to see a rise in support for climate change education being driven by younger generations, their parents and their teachers that will help infuse a sense of urgency among all stakeholders in Canada,” said Schwartzberg.

The Government of Canada's [Environmental Damages Fund](#) is the source of funding for this project under its Climate Action and Awareness Fund. The [Climate Action and Awareness Fund](#) is investing \$37.8 million in climate change projects for youth across Canada. These projects will engage and empower youth to take real climate action in their communities and help Canada meet our target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

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About Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)

Learning for a Sustainable Future is a Canadian charitable organization founded in 1991 by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. LSF's goal is to work together with educators, students, parents, government, community members and business leaders to integrate the concepts and principles of sustainable development into education policy, school curricula, teacher education, and lifelong learning across Canada. LSF's innovative programs and strategic partnerships are reshaping education policy and transforming learning methods, helping students learn to address the increasingly difficult economic, social, and environmental challenges of the 21st century. LSF acts as a connector, a resource, and a facilitator for change.

Climate change and its consequences are a growing concern. Learning for a Sustainable Future will be releasing a climate change survey focused on how the public, teachers, parents and students view climate change education in Canadian schools and what supports are needed to effectively teach climate change in classrooms. This survey is being conducted with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Canadian Teachers' Federation. More information will be sent to the media when the results of this survey are released.

Media availability

If you would like to speak to a representative from LSF, please contact:

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Media kit (with photos, video and backgrounder):