



Education for Sustainable Development





Internationally

- The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Nationally

- provincial/territorial working groups, National Expert Council and other activities



Ontario ESD Working Group

Regional Centres of Expertise

- Toronto RCE



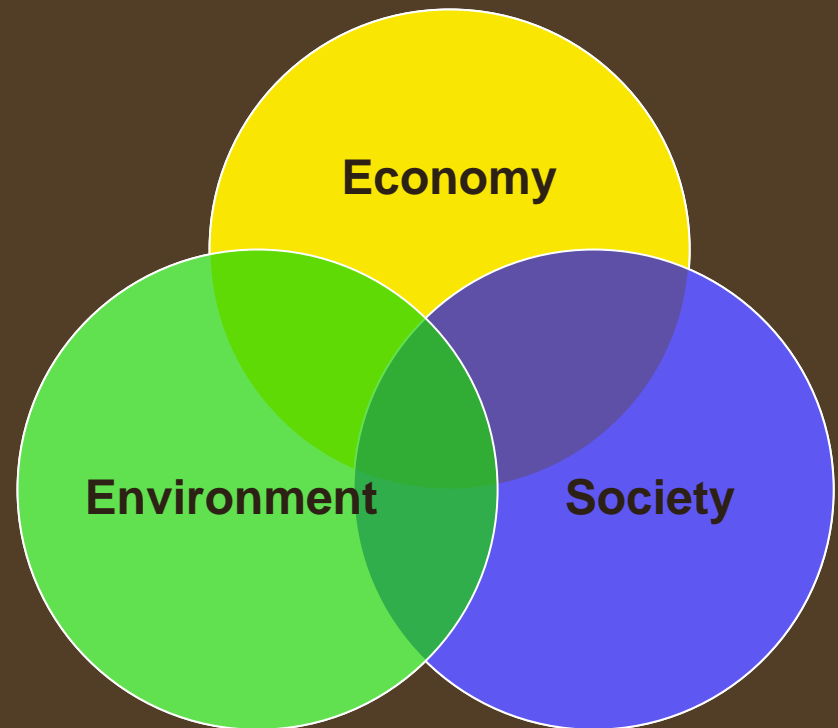
What is ESD?

Sustainable Development

- different definitions
- concerns over the term “development” (esp. in North America, Europe)

Education for Sustainable Development

has similar challenges





ENVIRONMENT

- natural resources (water, energy, agriculture, biodiversity and habitat conservation, fish, forests, air)
- climate change
- rural transformation
- sustainable urbanization
- disaster prevention and mitigation



ECONOMY

- poverty reduction
- corporate responsibility & accountability
- market economy
- energy efficiency & conservation
- consumption & waste management
- economic performance
- agricultural viability
- resources (mining, forestry, hydro, fisheries)
- employment
- education



SOCIETY

- human rights
- peace & human security
- justice
- gender equality
- cultural diversity & intercultural understanding
- community and culture
- health
- HIV/AIDS
- governance
- demographics
- equity & rights

Internationally



- The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) began in 2005 and runs to 2014.
- UN definition of ESD includes four thrusts :
 - Public Awareness
 - Access to quality education
 - Reorienting teacher education
 - Training
- UN encourages governments to include measures to implement the Decade in their respective education systems and strategies.



UN-ECE Strategy



March 2005:

- High-level meeting of Environment and Education Ministries to adopt the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and the Vilnius Framework for its implementation. Canada adopts strategy.



Aim:

To develop and incorporate education for sustainable development (ESD) into the formal, non-formal and informal education systems in Canada.



Specific objectives



- To ensure that policy, regulations and operations **support ESD**;
- To **promote ESD** through formal, non-formal and informal learning;
- To **equip educators** with the competence to include SD in their teaching;
- To ensure that ESD **tools and materials are accessible**;
- To **promote research and development** of ESD; and **strengthen cooperation** on ESD at all levels.

The UN Decade in Canada

First Steps . . .



- meetings in Ottawa, September and December 2004
- Environment Canada - facilitated stakeholders' meeting (March 2005): 60+, foundation work
- Co-ordination, committees: Network
- Provincial/territorial ESD working groups & National ESD Expert Council
- Regional Centres of Expertise

Environment Canada's Strategic Frame & UNDESD



Environment Canada's objectives:

- Accelerating behaviour change towards sustainability – short term changes in actions & purchases
- Building skills and capacity of key sectors to integrate SD into business decisions
- Increasing ecological literacy for the long term
- Building a constituency of support to influence others
- Raising the bar for how “education and engagement” is (E&E) done in Canada

Environment Canada: Education & Engagement



Behaviour change (research-driven)

- Mapping “pathways to behaviour change”
- Aligning the diffuse efforts (under development)



Education for Sustainable Development

- Working through partners to build a more ecologically literate Canada for the long term



Local restoration

- Capitalizing on investments made in community engagement

EC Actions for ESD



Increase access to quality, curriculum-linked learning material

- support dissemination & use
- review (& improve) EC's resources

Accelerate uptake of SD education in the formal system

- Working Groups to influence change
- help educators to make the case for ESD



Expand existing efforts for experiential learning

- support NGOs in the delivery of “watch” programs





EC priorities - UN Decade

- Support creation and actions of p/t working groups and of the National ESD Expert Council
- Collaborate - UNU RCE initiatives
- Cooperate with and build capacity of some partner organizations in support of strategic frame (ex: leadership clinic)
- Collaborate on curriculum-linked education initiatives; (ESD resource database, curriculum review);
- Support innovative training programs (SEdA);
- become more engaged and efficient at supporting ESD





Education for Sustainable Development

National Partnership



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Government of Manitoba



- **MECY (Education, Citizenship & Youth)**
– sets priorities and allocates funds for the Province’s public and independent Kindergarten to Senior 4 (K-S4) school system and for citizenship and youth initiatives.
- **MAET (Advanced Education & Training)**
– sets priorities and allocates funds for post-secondary institutions, skills development and training initiatives.
- **MECY** has identified Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as one of the top five emerging and developing priorities.



Learning for a Sustainable Future

- LSF is a national, bi-lingual, non-profit organization founded in 1991
- promotes, through education, the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values essential to a sustainable future
- works with partners and stakeholders to integrate the concepts and principles of sustainable development into education systems in Canada
- offices at York University





ESD Strategic Initiatives

- National ESD Expert Council
- Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups
- Canadian Sustainability Curriculum Review Initiative
- The ESD Resource Database
- Sustainability Education Academy for Education Leaders (SEdA)





Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups

Vision

- to support and foster a culture of ESD in each jurisdiction



Provincial/territorial ESD Working Groups:

- intended to align with and be supported by the UNECE Strategy and the Vilnius Framework





Objectives - Working Groups:

- build Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into the formal/non-formal and informal education culture.
- establish strategic collaborations between governments, education sector leaders, business, and community NGOs
- relay a sense of urgency and the latest science on critical sustainability issues (e.g. climate change, HIV/Aids, poverty reduction and energy)
- coordinate, facilitate connections and bring together stakeholders for policy input, debate, exchange, planning to enhance delivery of ESD activities



Process



- June 2005 - Pilot Working Group established in Manitoba
- January 2006 - six additional provinces/territories were selected to establish ESD Working Groups – British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Nunavut
- Alberta and Quebec likely to be added shortly
- 2007 - all 13 provinces and territories will have working groups



National ESD Expert Council

- includes representatives of the Provincial/Territorial ESD Working Groups as well as other key national ESD players
 - will address cross-cutting issues of ESD and promote research, communication and the sharing of best practices.
 - part of Canada's response to the UN Decade for ESD
-
- May 2006 - preliminary meeting of 40+ individuals to discuss composition
 - December 2006 – 1st conference call





Objectives of the National ESD Expert Council

- support the co-ordination and delivery of the objectives of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development in cooperation with the Provincial/Territorial Working Groups;
- monitor and report on progress in ESD in Canada in cooperation with the Provincial/Territorial Working Groups;
- liaise with other relevant National and international structures;
- coordinate and facilitate delivery of national activities, including research, communication, and sharing of best practices.



Canadian Sustainability Curriculum Review Initiative



- Identifies what should be included in formal curriculum policy, as well as the most appropriate instructional methods for learning about key action themes selected from the Themes of the United Nations Decade of ESD.
- National ESD Curriculum Steering Committee
- Resources being developed include 12 theme documents

Creation of an ESD Resource Database



- A searchable national database of excellent, peer-reviewed curriculum resources relating to education for sustainable development.
- Searchable by jurisdiction, grade, subject, ESD theme and language





Sustainability Education Academy for Education Leaders

- Sustainable Education Academy – 3-day Education Leaders' Seminar
- Partnership of Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF), York University -Schulich School of Business and Faculty of Education and the UNESCO Chair in ESD.



Goal:

- To motivate and equip senior education officials to lead the integration of ESD as a core value in all aspects of formal education including: policy, curriculum, teaching, learning, professional development, and the sustainable management of human, physical and financial resources.





“OESDWG”



Ontario Education for
Sustainable Development
Working Group’

Putting Ontario Into Perspective



- larger than France & Spain
- home to one in three Canadians
- 80% live in cities in the south (12 major including 5th (4th?) largest in NA)
- BUT 2.4 million are rural residents
- significant cultural diversity
- First Nations – settlements & land claims

ONTARIO



- **half of Canada's highest quality agricultural lands**
- **generates more than 25% of Canada's agriculture revenue**
- **17% of Canada's forested land (2% of world's)**
- **over 1/4 million lakes plus rivers, streams, wetlands and other water resources including the Great Lakes**

Initial Support Letters from:

- CIELEP – Cdn Institute for Environmental Law and Policy
- Canadian Museum of Nature/Canadian Centre for Biodiversity
- Clean Air Champions
- Conservation Ontario
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Eastern Ontario Model Forests (EOMF)
- EEON – Environmental Education Ontario
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ontario Nature
- Toronto Zoo
- Upper Canada College
- and others

Proposal – January 2006

“We look forward . . . to working with the Ontario ESDWG to educate all students and the population in general about concepts and issues related to the environment and sustainability.”

- Ministry of Education

“ . . . a very positive step . . . shows leadership and collaboration that is needed to advance environmental literacy, awareness and ultimately more sustainable living by all Canadians today and in the future.”

- Conservation Ontario

About the project



January 2006

- Proposal with 15 letters of support

March

- initial work plan produced; funding from Ministry of Environment



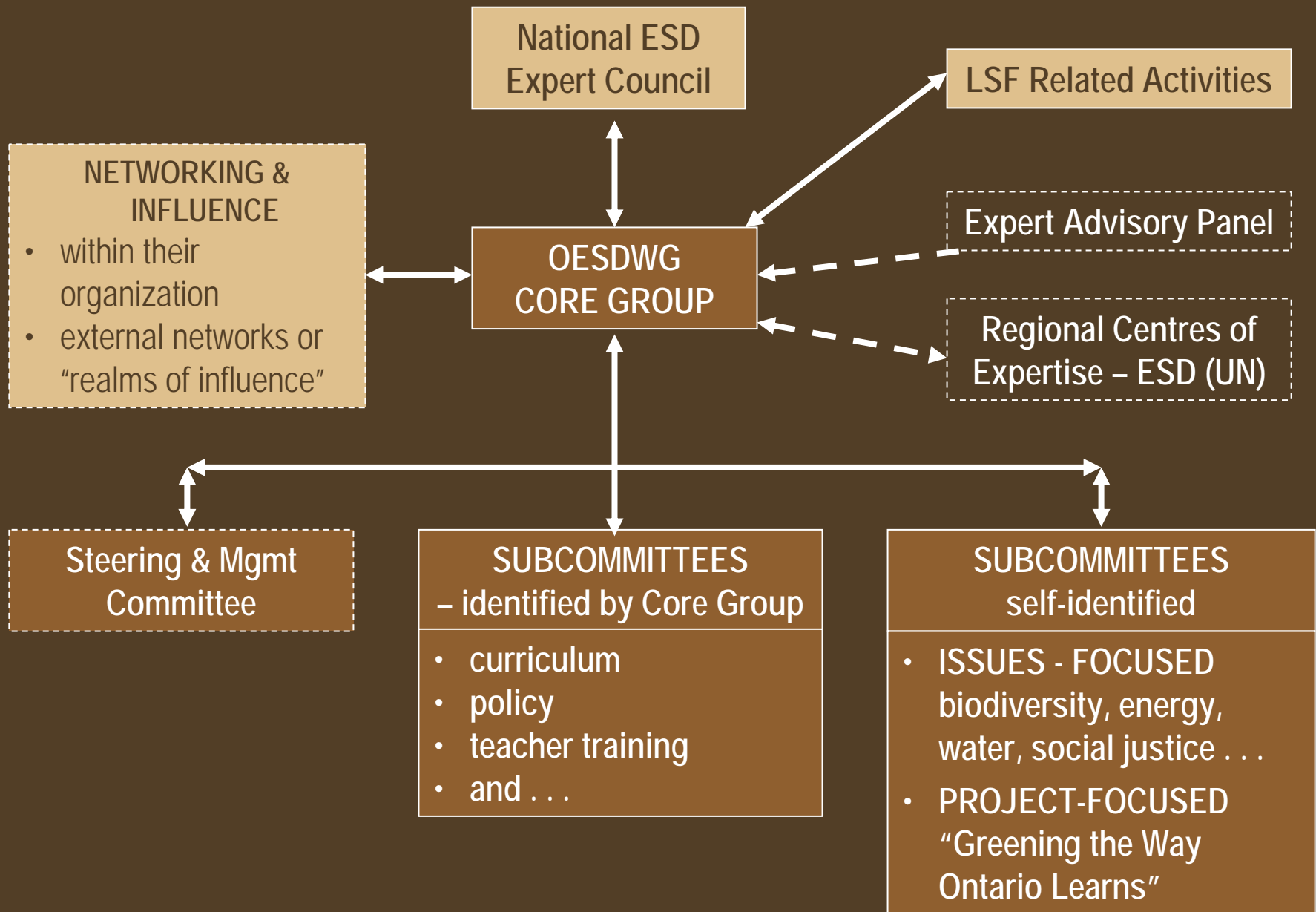
April

- funding from Ministry of Education; meeting of advisory group; meeting - Environmental Commissioner of Ontario



May/06

- Preliminary Meetings - Provincial Working Groups & National Expert Council “think-tank”



Year 1 Deliverables



- establish Ontario ESD Working Group (*70 invited – 51 on-board*)
- inventory ESD activities/groups Ontario (and best practices)
- identify appropriate indicators (UNESCO)
- VISION - where do we want to be including a gap analysis—what's happening? what needs to be done? what support is needed?
- create a plan & structure for the operation of the OESDWG including the creation of subcommittees
- identify representatives - National Expert Council

AMO – Assoc. of Municipalities of Ontario
Association of Canadian Publishers
Canadian Association for Media Education
Organizations
Canadian Association of Physicians for the
Environment
Canadian Businesses for Social
Responsibility
Canadian Centre for Pollution Control
(incl. Coalition for Green Healthcare)
CIELAP
Canadian Museum of Nature
Chiefs of Ontario
Children’s Water Education Council
Conservation Council of Ontario
Conservation Ontario
Council of Ontario Directors of Education
Council of Ontario Universities
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Eastern Ontario Model Forests
EEON
Environment Canada
Green Communities
LSF
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Affairs

Ministry of Economic Development & Trade
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ministry of Natural Resources
Multicultural Association of Northwestern
Ontario (MANWO)
OEN – Ontario Environment Network
Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Principals’ Council
Ontario Public School Boards’ Association
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials
Association
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials
Association
Ontario Teachers Federation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Sierra Legal Defense
Sierra Youth Coalition
The Natural Step
The Ontario Rural Council (TORC)
Toronto RCE/City of Toronto
Toronto Zoo
WWF, Ontario



Biodiversity Subcommittee

- Ontario Biodiversity Strategy (May, 2005)
- saw link between the Ontario ESD Working Group and their own – formed in anticipation of being a subcommittee
- secretariat - Ministry of Natural Resources
- **Some of the Participants** – Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), EMAN, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto Zoo, Sheridan College, Cdn Biodiversity Strategy (Cdn. Museum of Nature), Humber College, Awkwesasnee First Nation, OFAH
- Secondary partners also being identified (DUC & others)
- Lead – Alan Crook, MNR



Networking & Communications



Networking Forum, Toronto

- with Toronto RCE
- at Downsview Park – (Cdn's 1st Urban National Park – sustainability model)
- 180+ participants; 35 groups with displays
- future ones elsewhere?
- info on website
- print and on-line “Updates”





Environmental Commissioner's Report (October 3, 2006)

“One very positive initiative undertaken in 2006 . . . Ministries of Environment and Education both agreed to provide financial support for an Ontario Working Group on Education for Sustainable Development.”



- environmental “ombudsman” overseeing 13 ministries
- oversees Ontario’s Environmental Bill of Rights
- efforts to bring the Ministry of Education into the EBR process

“Toronto RCE”



- **Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development** – 2005 designated by UN University – 1st in western hemisphere
- to strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among ESD stakeholders in the GTA
- identify gaps and opportunities, and endeavour to address them in an integrated manner
- **OESDWG & Toronto RCE** coordinating our efforts and working together



Findings

Japan RCE Conference (April '06):

- Aim is not to replace ESD programs but to improve existing programs/teaching methods;
- RCEs need structure that truly supports partnership;
- Most RCEs driven by local government or educational institution;
- There is no prescriptive approach for RCEs.





Toronto RCE: Engaged Stakeholders

Formal Education Sector

Non-formal / Informal Education Sector



University of Toronto
York University
Toronto District School
Board
Toronto Catholic District
School Board
Seneca College
George Brown College
Ryerson University

City of Toronto
Pollution Probe
Toronto & Region Conservation
Exhibition Place
Toronto Board of Trade
Toronto Zoo
Learning for a Sustainable
Future
Evergreen Foundation
Citizens' Environment Watch
Toronto Community
Foundation
United Way of Greater Toronto
Toronto Hydro



Toronto RCE: Emerging Themes



Regional Growth/Sprawl

Waste Management

Cultural Diversity

Energy Supply & Demand

Sustainable Technologies

Community Safety

Social Equity



For further information:

UN Decade

<http://portal.unesco.org/education/en>



Learning for a Sustainable Future

<http://www.lsf-lst.ca> or 1-877-250-8202

Ontario ESD Working Group

<http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php>

Email: esd_ontario@lsf-lst.ca



Toronto RCE

Kim Peters, City of Toronto Ph: (416) 392-1848 or email: kpeters@toronto.ca



“Acts of conservation without the requisite desires and skills are futile. To create these desires and skills, and the community motive, is the task of education.”



Aldo Leopold, 1944