

EASO

EDUCATION ALLIANCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE ONTARIO

Formerly the "Ontario Education For Sustainable Development Working Group"

UPDATE

MARCH 2007

YOUR SUPPORT . . .

The success of this initiative will come from the commitment and work of many individuals and organizations who are already making excellent strides in educating in the diverse areas that fall under the umbrella of Education for Sustainable Development. A list of those involved in these efforts so far appears on page 4 and we thank all of you for your contributions to date.

We continue to seek your involvement and appreciate your feedback. We welcome all forms of support and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please forward ALL information to:
Nanyi Albuero
Secretariat Coordinator EASO
E-mail: esd_ontario@lsf-ist.ca

Background Information

about this initiative can be found in the *March, 2006 Update*. This can be found on the web at:

www.lsf-ist.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php

or it can be requested via email from:

esd_ontario@lsf-ist.ca

A New Name—A Clearer Vision

Over 25 members of the working group met in January at Queen's Park, hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Chaired by Cyn-die Jacobs of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. They met to address the following objectives: finalize the EASO vision, purpose and goals; to develop action plans in support of the new goals and to identify the

next steps necessary to move the process forward. From the cumbersome Ontario Education for Sustainable Development Working Group, the OESDWG will henceforth be known as the Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario (EASO).

Its vision, mission and goals are outlined below. Subcommittees were

formed to move ahead each of these objectives and two co-chairs, Dr. David Bell and Merebeth Switzer were nominated.

Although some of the goals will be refined as the subcommittees work on the specifics to implement them, there was a consensus that these would form the foundation of EASO.

VISION

All people and ecosystems in Ontario are thriving sustainably, supported by an educated and engaged society.

MISSION

The Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario (EASO) will provide the forum for collaboration and leadership to advance education for thriving, diverse communities and ecosystems.

GOALS

EASO will:

1. create an expectation that all relevant policy, regulatory and operational frameworks support sustainability education;
2. lead in establishing strategic collaborations among governments, education sector leaders, business, NGOs and community groups to leverage sustainability education;
3. establish a process for assessing formal, non-formal and informal learning/ education sectors, and for reporting to appropriate provincial, national and UN bodies (*Research and Reporting Subcommittee to determine what indicators will be used*);
4. equip stakeholders with the competence, education tools and materials to be agents of change related to sustainability;
5. ensure a viable governance structure, sustainable processes and adequate funding and resources for EASO.

Our Deliverables to March 31, 2007

In our initial proposal to create EASO we agreed that we would bring together leaders involved in formal, informal and non-formal education to:

- Build ESD within the formal school system and key publics including OESDWG and subcommittee members, municipal and business sector leaders and so on.
- Establish leadership and strategic collaborations among all these groups to increase cohesion and leverage in creating a culture for ESD.
- Relay a sense of urgency and the latest science on critical sustainability issues such as, climate change, HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction, energy, sustainable cities, health and so on.
- Coordinate and facilitate connections for policy input, debate and planning to enhance delivery of ESD activities in support of the UN's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

We agreed to the following deliverables and will report on these to LSF and our funders at the end of March.

Year 1:

- establish the Ontario ESD Working Group
- inventory ESD activities and groups in Ontario
- identify appropriate indicators (based on those identified by UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.)
- create a vision of where we want to be including a gap analysis—what's happening? what needs to be done? what support is needed?
- create a plan and structure for the operation of the OESDWG including the creation of subcommittees where much of the "work" and action will take place)
- identify representative for the National Expert Council.

SINCE OUR LAST UPDATE . . .

Our Updates have been maintained by a volunteer and, despite our best intentions, they have not occurred as often as we would like. However, with our new coordinator (see sidebar on page 3) we hope to be able to provide these communications on a more regular basis, perhaps in an e-newsletter or other form.

SubCommittees

At EASO's January meeting, it was decided that governance and actions should be addressed simultaneously. The following subcommittees were created to move ahead on both of these, addressing the five goals outlined on page 1:

- Policy
- Communications & Networking
- Research and Reporting
- Building Capacity
- Governance

Please note:

- **these names may be modified or changed entirely as the committees meet to address their tasks**
- **we are refining the Terms of Reference for EASO based on our work to date and will be outlining and balancing the tasks among the various groups**
- **if you are interested in assisting in one of these areas, please contact one of the co-chairs to discuss further. Please note: You do not need to belong to EASO's Core Working Group (see page 4) to participate on the subcommittees or to contribute to our efforts.**

Policy

The Policy group will be looking at Goal 1: "(EASO will) create an expectation that all relevant policy, regulatory and operational frameworks support sustainability education." which includes working to address sustainability within the school curriculum.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Although this group has yet to meet formally, members of EASO have had the opportunity to provide input to the Ministry of Education in two separate areas. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Education staff who made this possible and to all of those who too part. We look forward to further opportunities to work together in future.

1. Ontario Science Curriculum Review—December 2006.

EASO reviewed and provided input into the science curriculum review for K-8 and Grades 9 and 10. We were able to bring forward comments relating to sustainability education and to reflect insights

from a variety of groups working closely on these issues. These efforts were led by consultant Stan Kozak who worked within tight deadlines and with a challenging process involving a range of perspectives. Contributors to this process included representatives from Conservation Ontario, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Earthday Canada, EEON, Learning for a Sustainable Future, OEN (Ontario Environment Network) and OISE, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

2. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

The Ministry of Education recently introduced this program to allow secondary school students to focus on knowledge and skills that are of particular importance in certain economic sectors, and to obtain certifications recognized in those sectors, as they work towards meeting the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Members from EASO attended a meeting to explore the feasibility of a SHSM in

Energy and the Environment.

Twenty-seven Ontario school boards are currently piloting 8 Specialist High Skills Majors in Arts and Culture, Construction, Hospitality and Tourism, Manufacturing, and Primary Industries: Agriculture, Forestry, Landscaping, and Mining. The website with the draft sector-specific guides for these Majors is: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/studentssuccess/pathways/shsm/index.html>

Other Achievements:

NEW— Review of Environmental Education in Ontario Schools

Roberta Bondar will be heading up the first-ever review of how the environment and conservation are taught in Ontario schools.

Efforts by David Bell, Pam Schwartzberg and David Israelson to ensure appropriate coordination between this Working Group and EASO, as well as to strengthen support for EASO have been underway through a series of meetings with provincial ministers.

These have already borne fruit. The Ministry of Transportation for Ontario will name a representative to EASO and Pam Schwartzberg from Learning for a Sustainable Future, located at York University, has been invited to sit on the provincial Working Group headed by Dr. Bondar and Dr. Thiessen of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Stay tuned for other results of future meetings!

Communications & Networking

David Israelson has developed a Draft Communications Plan for discussion at EASO's March meeting. However, following on our desire to keep things moving ahead, extensive efforts are already underway to increase the profile of EASO and expand its reach. (see #3, Policy)

Listserv—Many members are interested in sharing information with each other about upcoming events and their work. We recognize that we need to have a fast and practical way of disseminating information as the interest in EASO continues to grow. We have explored using already existing listservs, such as EEON or ECO-ED, but realize there are limitations and will be exploring other options.

Research and Reporting

EASO, the Toronto Regional Centre for Expertise and Learning for a Sustainable Future have been collaborating on the creation of a survey tool to collect data on ESD programs and activities. This survey will be relevant to all organizations that are providing learning opportunities and programs that foster understanding and action towards sustainable development.

The information, collected from formal, non-formal and in-formal education stakeholders, will be collated to support the reporting to the United Nations and to be used for program planning purposes for the National ESD Expert Council, Provincial/Territorial Working Groups and the Regional Centres of Exper-

tise on ESD and the survey will be administered by these groups.

It is hoped that funding can be secured to create a searchable database of this information for public use. The survey will be available on the LSF website in early April and will be distributed to stakeholders by email.

Governance

The Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario needs to be managed responsibly. An initial Terms of Reference was drafted to outline some of the role and relationships but needs to be revisited. A group of individuals has taken on the task of trying to design the most appropriate way for EASO to operate and to address the many questions that arise with any new association (for example—how should its members be selected and what are their responsibilities, how should it operate, what are the legal considerations, how should funding be handled and so on).

Individuals have participated in these discussions during our meetings and newly-formed Governance Subcommittee met by conference call this week. They will be meeting again immediately after the March 31st EASO meeting.

Building Capacity

EASO members bring expertise to the table covering many diverse areas. One of the important aspects of EASO's work is finding ways to share this expertise and to build the capacity of all of our members to create change relating to sustainability within their own organizations.

This subcommittee will look at ways of building the capacity of education for sustainability. The committee has yet to meet but we will keep you posted and welcome your participation or suggestions.

Biodiversity Subcommittee

The Biodiversity Subcommittee, led by Alan Crook, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, addresses both EASO's interests and the communications/education needs of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.

Recently Landscape Ontario requested help to enhance the College Horticulture Apprenticeship Program with biodiversity components. A small working group of Caroline Greenland (Toronto Zoo), Francine McDonald (OFAH), Terry Murphy (Landscape Ontario), Alan Crook (Ministry of Natural Resources) and Barb McKean (Royal Botanical Gardens) worked on this task, drawing on expertise within their own organizations.

This work is still underway, but it illustrates the valuable networking and support role that EASO members can play.

MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING: EASO members will meet Thursday, March 29th. Thank you to the York Region District School Board for providing a meeting space.

FUTURE MEETINGS: EASO meets every two to three months at sites provided by our members. While some of our earlier meetings have needed to be quite lengthy, we hope that our future meetings will be short and succinct.

SUBCOMMITTEES will meet in between these meetings to carry on the important action work. If desired, they will also have the opportunity to meet immediately after the EASO meeting.

MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE GTA will be given the opportunity to join the meeting via teleconference, resources permitting.

NEW

EASO Coordinator

Coordinating the EASO is a big task and from the very beginning we recognized the need to recruit an individual to help us to move ahead. We received applications from many well qualified individuals and after a careful selection and interview process have hired Nanyi Albuero, who we introduce below.

Nanyi Albuero can still recall the precise moment that opened her eyes to man's inhumanity to the environment – it was TIME's 1988 "Planet of the Year". She was then living in Hong Kong and was the first non-British national to be named editor of a prestigious hotel publication.

Born in Manila, Nanyi parlayed her broadcasting career onto the international scene through a scholarship grant on TV production from the French Government. She worked in Singapore as an advertising copywriter prior to her move to Hong Kong. In 1989, she joined a group of elite communication professionals recruited worldwide to enhance the then newly revamped Information and Public Affairs Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. As editor, Nanyi wrote on environmental issues and participated in preparatory activities leading to the Earth Summit in Rio. Her second UN posting took her to their head office in New York.

In Toronto, she worked with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Eco-Ed, the Canadian Committee for UNICEF, TFO and Environmental Earth Angels.

Fluent in English, French and Pilipino (Tagalog) with an excellent working knowledge of Spanish, Nanyi hopes to continue her involvement in "issues that matter".

“... EASO is a coordinating and networking body designed to help create a “whole that is greater than its parts.”

National Education for Sustainability Expert Council—NESDEC

Each Working Groups was asked to nominate five candidates for the NESDEC of which three would be selected. This was done to allow balance in representation within the council relating to sectors, organizations, type of education and so on. The following individuals represent Ontario:

- Dr. Susanne Jakobsen, Senior Research Advisor, Environmental Innovations & Emerging Sciences Branch, Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Cyndie Jacobs, Director, Curriculum and Assessment, Ontario Teachers' Federation
- Dr. Bob Willard, author and lecturer

In addition, Dr. David Bell, Co-chair of EASO, was nominated to the Council by the National Roundtable on Environment and the Economy.

The first meeting of the NESDEC was held by conference call last month and the group will be meeting in person on March 23, 2007.

Subcommittees

We extend our reach and share the workload through our subcommittees. You do not need to belong to EASO's Core Working to participate.

EASO MEMBERS

It is a challenge to involve the many diverse groups and talented individuals interested in education for sustainability. Our current members were invited to take part after a long process and screening of over 300 groups and individuals. These members agreed to an initial one-year commitment to September 2007 and we thank them for their support.

Since our initial invitation a few new members have come on-board and others have been suggested. We also recognize that there are many important partners who are not at the table. The Governance and Communications & Networking Subcommittees are both exploring aspects of our membership and the will be developing this further.

CURRENT MEMBERS:

AMO - Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Collen Jordan

Association of Canadian Publishers, Ross, Krys

Canadian Association for Media Education Organizations, Barry Duncan

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Tara Zupancic

Canadian Businesses for Social Responsibility, Kathrin Bohr

Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention, Kady Cowan

Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, CIELAP, Carolyn Webb

Canadian Museum of Nature/ Cdn Centre for Biodiversity, Anne Breaux

Chiefs of Ontario, April Powless

Children's Water Education Council, Susan Reid

Conservation Council of Ontario, Chris Winter

Conservation Ontario, Ralph Beaumont, Alternates: Renee Jarrett and Greg Meredith

Council of Ontario Directors of Education, Jean Hanson

Council of Ontario Universities, Ian Clark

Ducks Unlimited Canada, Merebeth Switzer

Eastern Ontario Model Forests, Elizabeth Holmes

EEON - Environmental Educators of Ontario Network, Alice Casselman, Alternates: Dave Arthur, Elise Houghton

Environment Canada, Linda Robertson

Green Communities, José Etcheverry, Alternate: Judy Gibbens

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ted Taylor

Ministry of Economic Development & Trade, Karen Cornece

Ministry of Education, Maureen Callan, Denis McGowan, Hélène Grégoire,

Ministry of Environment, Susan Jakobsen

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jimmy Qiao, Alternate: Dan Tovey

Ministry of Natural Resources, Alan Crook

Multicultural Association of Northwestern Ontario (MANWO), Moffatt Makuto

LSF - Learning for a Sustainable Future, Pamela Schwartzberg, Alternate: Rubinoff, Elaine

Ontario Arts Council, Steven Campbell

Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, John Stunt

OEN - Ontario Environment Network, Heather Arnold

Ontario Forestry Association, Kristina Quinlan

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Jane Forbes

Ontario Principals' Council, Mike Benson

Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Catherine Fife

Ontario Public Supervisory Officials Association, John Havercroft, Alternate: Karen Friedman

Ontario Teachers Federation, Cyndie Jacobs

Ontario Trillium Foundation, Maja Saletto-Janovich

Sierra Legal Defense, Hugh Wilkins

Sierra Youth Coalition, Lauren Hortie

The Natural Step, Kelly Hawke Baxter

The Ontario Rural Council (TORC), Harold Flaming

Toronto RCE/City of Toronto, Kim Peters, Alternate: Amy T. Leung

Toronto Zoo, Dr. William Rapley

Bob Williard, Independent/Author

WWF, Ontario, Sophia Chum

NEW MEMBERS:

David Israelson, Independent/media

We also expect new members from the Ministry of Transportation and the Sudbury RCE to join us shortly.

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS:

We have asked members to bring information about their organization and its sustainability activities and education initiatives to our next meeting. We will be looking for ways to profile these to our members and to the public.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

In an effort to network and to get to know each other, we would like to profile two or three of our members in each Update. We have started with our co-chairs, Dr. David Bell and Merebeth Switzer; our newly recruited coordinator Nanyi Albuero (see page 3); and our newest member, David Israelson.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Please consider providing a photo and brief bio for our next update.



Dr. David V.J. Bell

The host of titles after his name gives one an inkling where his interests lie: Professor Emeritus, Senior Scholar and Former Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, and Past Chair, Board of Directors, Parc-Downsview-Park Inc.

David Bell is interested in Governance for Sustainability – the transformation in decision-making practices, policies, institutions and culture that will be necessary to support sustainability in the public and private sectors.

With a PhD in Political Science from Harvard (1969), Dr. Bell was Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (1981-87) and Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies (1992-1996) at York University. Formerly Director of the York Centre for Applied Sustainability which he founded in 1996.

He is Chair of Learning for a Sustainable Future (www.lst.lst.ca), and has recently completed his term on the National Round Table on Environment and Economy (www.nrttee-trnee.ca).

A believer in getting the sustainability message out through the media, Dr. Bell created a widely broadcasted

series of 12 one-hour radio specials entitled “Sustainability: Canadian and Global Perspective”

He has authored numerous papers and has contributed to many publications on sustainability topics including: *Governance implications of Sustainable Transportation Policy*, *The Role of Government in Advancing Corporate Sustainability*, *Advancing Community Sustainable Development in the Ontario Region: The Role of the Government of Canada* and others, nationally and internationally.



Merebeth Switzer

Merebeth has been involved in environmental education and communications work for over 30 years. Her diverse career has included work with national and provincial parks, conservation authorities, the Toronto Zoo, OWL/TV, the International Development Research Centre, Canada’s model forests, the Parliament of Canada, museums and other organizations.

She has been involved in many initiatives including the integration of environment and culture at historic sites in eastern Canada, the creation of the IDRC Summer Institute to link educators to issues of

sustainable development, the creation of training materials to help frontline forest workers understand new practices relating to the protection of species at risk and other environmental management issues and, with an international team, studying the feasibility of ecotourism to aid in the economic recovery of a community in northern England.

Merebeth has written extensively on a variety of environmental topics and is the author/co-author of 21 natural history books for children as well as an award-winning children’s activity book on climate change.

She is currently National Education Coordinator for Ducks Unlimited Canada and for the past year has helped to lead in the formation of EASO.



David Israelson

David joined Media Profile after an exciting career as one of Canada’s most prominent journalists. A trained lawyer who became a business writer, author and foreign correspondent for the Toronto Star, he has turned his skill and experience to provide a wider range of strategic services to key Media

Profile clients.

He has played a key early role in communications for the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Task Force and has been managing services for clients that include Hydro One, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP (including its energy and environment National Practice Groups), the Clean Air Foundation, Pollution Probe and a number of other environmental organizations.

From 1994 to 1998, David’s reporting and columns in the Toronto Star’s business section included his popular Marketing column and analysis pieces on international trade. The industries he covered included: transportation and shipping, aviation, energy and the environment, advertising, travel and hospitality, as well as hemispheric and global trade.

Prior to joining The Star’s business section, he was the newspaper’s Western Europe bureau Chief, based in London, England. Earlier, David covered national and local housing issues and served on the Star Editorial Board and as their environment reporter. He is author of the critically acclaimed book, *Silent Earth*, on environmental politics, and co-author (with Dr. Angela Mailis-Gagnon) of *Beyond Pain*, published in 2003.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Conservation Council of Ontario, PEN Canada, the Safehaven Project for Community Living and the Sylvia Ostry Foundation. He also plays an active role with The Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario. In his spare time he writes songs and plays in a rock band.

“... overall goal of the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning.”

- UNESCO website

LOGO CONTEST

Lauren Hortie, Sierra Youth Coalition and Sustainable Campuses representative on EASO agreed to lead these efforts to develop a new logo reflecting our new name. This contest has been running since early February and we hope to draw on the skills of college and university art students. However everyone is welcome to submit their entry. Our **deadline is MARCH 27th** which may be extended, if required.

About the contest

The logo will reflect both the mission and spirit of the organization. It should include the following:

1. The logo should be able to be understood globally and be inoffensive to all cultures.
2. The logo may use the EASO acronym but will also include our full name “Education Alliance for a Sustainable Ontario” in the logotype.
3. The design should be able

to be reversible and use both light on dark and dark on light.

4. The logo will be used for a myriad of print and online applications. It must be readable from use on silkscreened T-shirts to fax machines to websites.

Uses:

Full colour (publicity, multimedia, Internet, etc.)

2-3 colours (booklets, simple and short-range applications)

2 colours (booklets, massive applications)

Gray scales (for newspapers or ink print-outs)

Black and white (fax print-outs, woodcuts, etc.)

Submission Criteria

1. Logos should be submitted in vector format when possible and file sizes should be no greater than 1 MB. JPEG or PNG formats are also acceptable.
2. Entrants are also required to submit a JPEG web version of the logo no larger

than 250px x 250px.

3. Submit your entry via email attachment to either m_switzer@ducks.ca or esd_ontario@lsf-lst.ca
4. All entries have to be emailed **no later than noon, Tuesday, March 27, 2007**. You may submit up to three logos but to be considered for this competition you have to submit at least one. (Typed descriptions will not be accepted.)

Entries should include:

- Your Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Mailing address
- Two to three sentences on your design inspiration and process. (optional)

And the prize?

- The winning design or team will receive \$250. A jury will select the winning entry and all results are final.
- Information about EASO can be found on the web at <http://www.lsf-lst.ca/en/pwg/ontario.php>.

How you can continue to help . . .

Help us expand the network. Share information about EASO with others—post it on your website, on your listserv or office bulletin board. We are still in the early stages but we need to start to get this important information out to everyone interested in moving ahead on our shared interested in education for and about sustainability.

Provide us ideas and feedback. We are always open to feedback. Please forward your comments to the email address below. (We will acknowledge your submissions but we are limited in our ability to provide detailed or individual responses.)

Just hearing about this initiative? If you want to be added to our email distribution list please email us and request to be added to our list.

Website and members listserv: While we want to remain closely linked to the work of other groups across Canada and to the National initiatives, we are exploring our own URL and website. If you can support the creation and maintenance of this site or help us to setup our own listserv please let us know.

Office Space. We have been looking for a downtown work space to house our part-time coordinator and allow her to carry out her administrative functions more efficiently. Learning for A Sustainable Future has graciously helped us to find a temporary workspace at York University (and we thank them and IRIS from the bottom of our hearts.) However this is requires sharing desk-space with others and maintaining a rather mobile office, locking our materials away in someone’s office at the end of each work day. If you can provide us with an alternative, near downtown or the subway we would be happy to hear from you.

French? We are currently operating only in English but would welcome any help to support to network in French or to expand our reach into other communities.

Other Volunteer or In-Kind Support? The groups that came together to start this initiative recognized that it would take all of our support to make it work. If you think you can help, we would love to hear from you.

Please forward all inquiries or feedback to:

Nanyi Albuero, EASO Coordinator at our email: esd_ontario@lsf-lst.ca