

## Item 7.1

### Items for the Action of the Outdoor Education Task Force

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Outdoor Education Task Force  
Meeting #1/20, Monday, January 20, 2020

**FROM:** Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

**RE:** **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION ON OUTDOOR EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

---

#### KEY ISSUE

Inclusion of student representation and perspectives in the work of the Outdoor Education Task Force.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** at Authority Meeting #6/18 held on July 20, 2018, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) approved the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Outdoor Education Task Force comprised of elected officials from local school boards and the TRCA Board of Directors;

**AND WHEREAS** the Outdoor Education Task Force has been convened to study, develop and recommend strategic future directions related to out-of-classroom learning within the areas of jurisdiction of TRCA and participating school boards;

**AND WHEREAS**, recognizing the important role that student perspective play in the governance of school boards, the *Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, Ontario Regulation 7/07 Student Trustees (Section 3)* indicates that each Ontario school board shall have at least one but not more than three students elected as Trustees;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOVED THAT** one student trustee from each of the participating Outdoor Education Task Force School Boards be invited to participate in one of the three Outdoor Education Task Force Working Groups (Principals, Values and Destination; Models and Mechanisms; Recommendations and Policy Statements).

#### BACKGROUND

The important contribution of students to school board governance is acknowledged through the *Education Act, R.S.O., 1990*, which formalizes the inclusion of the student voice in school board decision making through Section 3 of Ontario Regulation 7/07, Student Trustees: "...*the board shall have at least one but not more than three student trustees.*" Through this Regulation, student trustees are elected by their peers and participate in board activities such as attending school board meetings.

During a discussion held at the October 7, 2019 meeting #1/19, of the Outdoor Education Task Force, members of the Outdoor Education Task Force identified an interest in including the student voice in the work of the Outdoor Education Task Force to ensure that youth perspectives related to learning in the out-of-doors were included and considered in any potential recommendations brought forward by the Outdoor Education Task Force.

#### RATIONALE

Convened to provide recommendations and strategic directions related to the long-term

## Item 7.1

provision of out-of-classroom learning related to the environment, conservation and natural-science, the Outdoor Education Task Force is currently comprised of Trustees from eight participating school boards. During the first meeting of the Outdoor Education Task Force held October 7, 2019 meeting #1/19 members requested an investigation into opportunities to include the student voice in the work of the Outdoor Education Task Force. The inclusion of Student Trustees in the work of the Outdoor Education Task Force will provide for an enhanced youth perspective related to the learning and experiential needs of students currently enrolled in the education system.

It is recommended that one student trustee from each of the participating Outdoor Education Task Force School Boards be invited to participate in one of three working groups of the Outdoor Education Task Force.

At Meeting #1/19 of the Outdoor Education Task Force, held on October 7, 2019, Resolution #OETF4/19 outlined three working groups:

- **Principals, Values and Destinations:** working group to be formed January, 2020; presentation to the Outdoor Education Task Force February, 2020
- **Models and Mechanisms:** working group to be formed February, 2020; presentation to the Outdoor Education Task Force, May 2020
- **Recommendations and Policy Statements:** working group to be formed May, 2020; presentation to the Outdoor Education Task Force, October 2020

Each of the working groups will have the opportunity to determine how best to include Student Trustees in the working group, including accommodating participation through various means, such as attending meetings in person or virtually or provide information or feedback to the working group electronically.

### **Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan**

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

#### **Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship**

### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

Participating school boards of the Outdoor Education Task Force will be provided the opportunity to invite one student trustee of their respective school boards to participate in one of the three working groups of the Outdoor Education Task Force.

TRCA staff will work with Student Trustees that have accepted the invitation to determine an appropriate working group and strategy for participation.

**Report prepared by: Natalie Harder, extension 5638**

**Emails: [natalie.harder@trca.ca](mailto:natalie.harder@trca.ca)**

**For Information contact: Natalie Harder, extension 5638**

**Emails: [natalie.harder@trca.ca](mailto:natalie.harder@trca.ca)**

**Date: January 3, 2020**