

Items for the Information of the Outdoor Education Task Force

TO: Chair and Members of the Outdoor Education Task Force
Meeting #03/20, Monday, October 19, 2020

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **SUMMARY OF OETF I-THINK WORKSHOP 2**

KEY ISSUE

Summary overview of the results of the Outdoor Education Task Force (OETF) *Workshop Two* facilitated by I-THINK on June 15, 2020 related to developing a draft statement for a framework of the future of outdoor education in the Greater Toronto Area school boards.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following workshop summary and draft statement (as prepared by I-THINK) from the Outdoor Education Task Force Workshop Two held on June 15, 2020 be received;

BACKGROUND

At the Outdoor Education Task Force meeting conducted via video conference on June 15, 2020, staff from I-THINK facilitated a workshop with OETF members focusing on models and mechanisms for the future of outdoor education. After a brief introduction, task force members were divided into two groups and placed in separate, virtual meeting rooms to discuss and record their thoughts related to the following topics:

- Outdoor Education and Community Building;
- Outdoor Education and Taking Action/Leading;
- Outdoor Education and Problem-Solving Fun.

Task force members and/or TRCA staff captured these ideas using the interactive whiteboard, *Jamboard*. Upon completion of the exercise in small groups, the task force members reconvened to review the queries together. Data was then downloaded for analysis and summary.

RATIONALE

From the June 15, 2020 OETF meeting facilitated by I-THINK staff, ideas generated by the Task Force members were collected and synthesized to form a draft statement (see attachment) for review and input from OETF members at the October 19, 2020 OETF meeting. The draft statement begins to develop a vision for outdoor education and roles that offer support for school boards and GTA communities in their pursuit of outdoor education excellence. Please see attachment, *Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Outdoor Education Task Force: Statement Draft for Feedback*, as prepared by I-THINK.

Next steps for the OETF include finalizing the draft statement, including formation of broad strategic public policy goals that inform and support the overall objectives of the OETF and will guide future efforts to optimize out-of-classroom learning for students of the GTA. At the next meeting of the OETF, a final report, including recommendations related to the draft statement, framework and broad strategic policy goals, will be provided for consideration and adoption.

Item 8.2

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

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

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

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Date: October 7, 2020

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Outdoor Education Task Force: Statement Draft for Feedback