



RCE REGIONAL CENTRE
OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
SASKATCHEWAN



www.saskrce.ca

FINAL REPORT FOR THE 2020 RCE ESD RECOGNITION EVENT

Submitted by Margret Asmuss, Event Coordinator

June 4, 2020

On Wednesday, May 13, 2020 the 12th Annual Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Event was held as an on-line event. The original plan was to hold it at the Regina Campus of First Nations University of Canada, but this was changed to accommodate the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The event was held over Zoom and streamed live to Facebook. Attendance at the Zoom event was limited to those who presented during the event. Others were encouraged to watch on Facebook. The on-line event was made possible through the generosity of the IT staff in the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Regina. The recorded event can be seen at [RCE Sask. 2020 Recognition Event](#).

From 9:15 to 9:30 a.m., while people were logging into the event, a number of short videos featuring First Nations University of Canada were shown, in recognition of their role as hosts of the event. The program began at 9:30 a.m. with greetings given first by RCE SK Co-Coordinator, Dr. Roger Petry. First Nations University of Canada Elder Audrey Cochrane provided an opening prayer. The opening session also featured the premiere of the video "[What is RCE Sask?](#)"¹

RCE Saskatchewan's Patron His Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M. was not able to attend this year, but provided a video [message](#) for the event, which included the following statement:

I believe we all have a responsibility to contribute to our communities, and that each person has something to contribute. Furthermore, we all need to be working toward sustainability, our future and the future of our children and grandchildren is in our hands. Now is the time we can consider how to live in harmony with each other and with all the living things on this planet.

Roger Petry Introduced the special guests to the event:

¹ See additional discussion in "Budget" section of this report.

- Dr. Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair in Re-Orienting Education Towards Sustainability, York University
- Councillor Barbara Young, City of Regina
- Dr. Maureen Reed, UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation and Renewal , U of Sask.
- Dr. Bob Kayseas, Interim President and Vice-President Academic, First Nations University of Canada

Councillor Barbara Young, Dr. Maureen Reed and Dr. Bob Kayseas provided words of welcome. A message from the Honorable Gord Wyant, Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan and Minister of Education was read by Roger Petry. As well, Maureen Reed shared a short video on the UNESCO Chair at the University of Saskatchewan.

Greetings from the gold level sponsors were provided by representatives attending the event: SaskEnergy – Ms. Leslie Gosselin, APEGS – Mr. Drew Lockwood, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Dr. Larry Rosia

The remaining sponsors were also thanked: University of Regina President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan Office of Sustainability, MacPherson Engineering, Luther College, and Campion College.

Seventeen recognitions awards were presented. All projects had representatives attending who had three minutes to speak to their project or initiative, accompanied by 3-4 power point slides.

The recipient of the Lyle Benko Future Generations Award was presented to “Cree Dictionary of Mathematical Terms for Elementary Schools” submitted by the First Nations University of Canada.

The event closed with a keynote address from Dr. Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair in Re-orienting Education Towards Sustainability at York University, who joined us remotely. He spoke on “Education and Sustainability: Three Emerging Frontiers with RCE Implications.”

Event Statistics

Eighteen applications were received for the awards. Two submissions were returned to the applicants for more information or clarification. Both successfully re-submitted. One applicant decided to decline the recognition. In total 17 awards were given. This is lower than in recent years, probably due to the lack of submissions from schools.

32 people participated directly in the Zoom event, most of whom presented at some point during the program. This included 19 recipients and 11 special guests. 168 people viewed all or

part of the livestreamed event. The most at any one time was 40 attendees. 15 people watched all or part of the event while it remained posted for 48 hours upon completion of the event. The event recording is now posted on our YouTube Channel.

Recipients represented the following organizations:

- Aboriginal Students' Center, University of Sask.
- Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication
- City of Saskatoon
- Earth Rangers
- EnviroCollective
- Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Regina
- Faculty of Science, University of Regina
- First Nations University of Canada
- Friends of Saskatoon Afforestation Inc.
- Luther College at the University of Regina
- Luther College Student Association
- Mining, Energy and Manufacturing, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- National Agroclimate Information Service, Agri-Food Canada
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Nature Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- SaskEnergy
- SaskOutdoors
- Sustainability Education Research Institute, University of Sask.
- University of Saskatchewan Office of Sustainability

Communities represented by the recognized projects included Lumsden, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon.

Organizing committee members contributed approximately 75 hours of labour, with a value of about \$1,500. In addition to her paid work, the coordinator contributed approximately 40 hours of her time as a volunteer, with a value of about \$1000.00. The Faculty of Sciences at the University of Regina contributed about \$2500 of in-kind labour and time.

Financial Overview

This year, the event received sponsorships totalling \$6500.00:

APEGS	\$	1,500.00
Campion College	\$	500.00
Luther College	\$	500.00
U. of Regina PACS	\$	500.00
SaskPolytech	\$	1,000.00
SaskEnergy	\$	1,500.00
U. of Sask. Office of Sustainability.	\$	500.00
MacPherson Engineering	\$	500.00

In addition, a personal donation of \$150.00 for the event was received from an individual for which he received a tax receipt. This provided a total budget of \$6,650.00 for the event.

Because of the change of format, the expenditures for this year's event varied from those of previous years. Most notably:

- No expenses were incurred for travel or food.
- More costs were associated with mailing out certificates. Normally certificates are mailed out only to those recipients unable to attend. This year they had to be mailed out to all recipients.
- Printing costs were down as the program was provided primarily in digital format.
- Videography expenses were incurred to:
 - Produce a "What is RCE Saskatchewan" video to aid in the promotion of the virtual event, to solicit media attention for the event and to provide an educational component to the program (given that the usual afternoon educational programming was not included in the event this year).
 - Produce individualized "video segments" for each of the recipients in lieu of the photographs normally provided. These segments feature their presentation from the recorded awards webinar.

As a result, a surplus of \$701.27 remains after the wrap-up of the event. This contrasts with the average year when the event runs on a break-even basis when all sponsorships are applied to the event. Our intention to apply this surplus to next year's event.

Planning Committee

The 2020 planning committee consisted of Roger Petry (Luther College), Curt Schroeder (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), Matt Wolsfeld (University of Saskatchewan), Carissa Robb (University of Regina) with special contributions from Jill Forrester and AuraLee MacPherson of the RCE SK Communications Committee. Margret Asmuss was contracted as the Event Coordinator. The award judging panel consisted of Curt Schroeder, Matt Wolsfeld, Carissa Robb and Jocelyn Crivea (University of Regina).

Communications

Communications were done primarily through on-line means. Several direct emails were sent, the event web-site was kept current and referenced frequently and twitter was used, primarily on event day.

The application form and guide were edited to try to emphasize education for sustainable development and for clarity. The printed program, the PowerPoint format and award certificates remained the same. The program was primarily distributed electronically.

A media advisory announcing the event was distributed to media on May 8, followed by a news release on May 11 which announced the release of our “What is RCE Saskatchewan” video and which also referenced the event.

Their framed recognition certificates, as well as an unframed certificate and a paper version of the program was sent to each recipient after the event.

A media release was created after the event and distributed. As well, recipients were sent an email with a link to their video segment, the post-event news release, and were provided with a pdf of their certificate.



12th Annual RCE Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Event, May 13, 2020


- 9:15 a.m. Registrant log-in and orientation
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome by Dr. Roger Petry and FNUniv Elder
- 9:50 a.m. Lieutenant Governor's Message
- 10:00 a.m. Special Guests and Sponsors
- 10:30 a.m. Awards Ceremony
- 11:40 a.m. Keynote Address: Dr. Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair in Re-orienting Education Towards Sustainability, York University
Education and Sustainability: Three Emerging Frontiers with RCE Implications
- 12:00 noon Wrap-up



2020 RCE SK Recognition Award Recipients

- 2019 EECOM Conference: Action on Climate Change through Education**, SaskOutdoors, Sustainability Education Research Institute (USask), Can. Network for Environmental Education & Communication
- 2020 Green Vision**, Friends of Saskatoon Afforestation Inc.
- Agroclimate Impact Report; a Citizen Science Initiative**, National Agroclimate Information Service
- Campus Waste Bin & Recycling Program**, Faculty of Science, University of Regina
- Design of a Conceptual Water Distribution System for the Village of Meath Park**, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Regina
- EnviroCollective**, EnviroCollective (Regina)
- Low Carbon Stories of Saskatchewan**, Sask. Environmental Society
- Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network**, Luther College at the University of Regina
- Reclamation of Storm Water from the University of Regina Campus for Irrigation**, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Regina
- Recycled PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) as Composite Structural Material**, Mining, Energy and Manufacturing, Sask. Polytechnic
- Saskatchewan Master Naturalist Program**, Native Plant Society of Sask.
- Stand Up for the Little Guy Earth Month Campaign**, Earth Rangers, Nature Saskatchewan, SaskEnergy
- Stewards of Saskatchewan: Engaging Rural Landowners and Managers in Prairie Species at Risk Conservation**, Nature Saskatchewan
- Triple Bottom Line**, City of Saskatoon
- UN Sustainable Development Goals Staircase**, Luther College Student Union
- USask Graduation Powwow Waste Reduction Initiative**, USask Aboriginal Students' Centre, USask Office of Sustainability

The **Lyle Benko Future Generations Award** for achievement within the K-12 system will be awarded to **Cree Dictionary of Mathematical Terms for Elementary Classes**, First Nations University of Canada




**A Message from His Honour
The Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan**


These are strange times, indeed. As we all face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited and inspired by the valuable and relevant work of RCE Saskatchewan. Health crises such as COVID are exacerbated by longstanding issues of poverty, inequality, and injustice – the very issues RCE seeks to address.

I congratulate all of the groups that will present at the RCE Annual Recognition event this year. Thank you for your innovative projects and for demonstrating how we can create sustainability that benefits every living thing on this planet that we share. Your work is proof that we have the power to build a bright future for all when we work together.

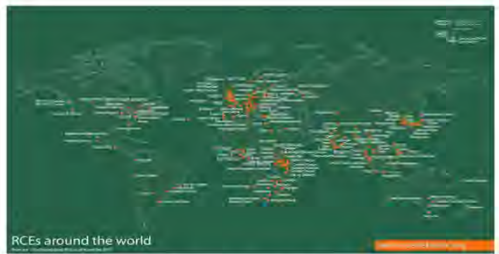
I look forward to watching your presentations online. Thank you for taking part in the RCE 12th Annual Recognition event, and for joining them in their mission to transform education for sustainability in Saskatchewan. Please accept my best wishes as you continue to create positive change in our province.



Russ Mirasty
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan



Thanks to our 2020 Recognition Event Sponsors:



Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Supports Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan by:*
- Bringing together ESD practitioners through annual Recognition Events; conferences on key ESD issues; meetings with key policy makers; and collaborations to create living laboratories for ESD
 - Researching key policy decisions by government on energy, water use, natural resource management, and sustainable livelihoods
 - Documenting hundreds of ESD projects in Saskatchewan
 - Contributing research to UN University & scholarly journals
- Strengthens Saskatchewan ESD through Global Connections by:*
- Connecting local ESD to UN Sustainable Development Goals
 - Connecting local leaders to international RCE resources
 - Presenting on SK initiatives at international RCE conferences
 - Promoting SK RCE flagship projects for recognition by the Global UN University RCE Awards
 - Hosting SK tours and presentations for international RCEs
- Contributes to Leadership of Global Initiatives by:*
- Reporting to international RCE & UN University meetings
 - Presenting at international UN events
 - Contributing to the mid-term evaluation of the UN Global Action Programme on ESD
 - Hosting the inaugural RCE Conference of the Americas
 - Mentoring and peer reviewing applications for new RCEs