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## RE: Call for Action for Healthy, Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Outdoor Learning and Play Settings for All Children in Canada CRM:0871301

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**Kiritsis, Lyndsy** <Lyndsy.Kiritsis@novascotia.ca>

Wed, May 6, 2026 at 2:19 PM

To: "kieran@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca" <kieran@healthyenvironmentforkids.ca>

Cc: "Burke, Jennifer L" <Jennifer.L.Burke@novascotia.ca>

Kieran Maingot,

Thank you for your email. As Director of Curriculum Renewal, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), the Premier of Nova Scotia has asked that I respond on his behalf, to your email of April 23, 2026, regarding outdoor learning and play environments in public schools.

Across the province, many schools are successfully integrating outdoor learning throughout the school day. EECD supports this work through a range of initiatives, including collaboration with community partners on Active Smarter Kids, which offers professional learning opportunities for elementary and secondary educators to implement outdoor learning experiences aligned with curriculum outcomes. In addition, in 2021, EECD provided funding to every elementary school in the province to support the development or enhancement of outdoor learning spaces.

The Nova Scotia Pre-primary Program also recognizes the importance of outdoor learning environments as critical spaces for early development and encourages programs to spend approximately 40 percent of the day outdoors. Early childhood educators working in Pre-primary are trained to thoughtfully use outdoor environments, identifying safe, engaging, and stimulating play areas both on school grounds and in nearby parks or natural settings. These environments support children's learning through the use of loose parts and other natural materials.

EECD also supports a range of initiatives focused on outdoor education and environmental sustainability. Programs such as EcoSchools, delivered in partnership with Clean Foundation and Move to Learn, encourage educators to engage students in outdoor learning and sustainability-focused activities. At the high school level, Netukulimk 12 provides opportunities for students to explore environmental science through the guiding principle of Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing).

Should you wish to learn more about EECD's work in support of outdoor learning and environmental sustainability, please feel free to contact Nick Baskwill and Paula Danyluk-MacDonald, who lead related initiatives within the Physical Activity Framework. They can be reached at [nicholas.baskwill@novascotia.ca](mailto:nicholas.baskwill@novascotia.ca) and [Paula.Danyluk-MacDonald@novascotia.ca](mailto:Paula.Danyluk-MacDonald@novascotia.ca).

Thank you for sharing information about your organization and your call to action. We appreciate your advocacy and recognize the important role of this work in supporting outdoor learning and environmental sustainability.

Yours truly,

Jennifer Burke

Director, Curriculum Renewal

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development