

## Our Staffing and Facilities

Our team consists of positions staffed by graduate students who receive remuneration and hands on experience in running the daily operations of the IEL. Our team consists of: Program Manager; Communications Coordinator; Grant Writer; Web Coordinator; and Designer. The IEL currently operates out of the SFU Burnaby Campus.

## Our Institute Background

The genesis of the IEL began in 2006 when the BC Working Group and Network on Sustainability Education was founded in partnership with Environment Canada in response to the United Nations' DESD initiatives and developed the critically important Web 2.0 Walking the Talk Network website.


On December 4, 2009, this group was officially chartered by the UN as an RCE on ESD, representing BC in the UN's global network of RCEs as the "BC North Cascades UN-RCE".

In December 2010, the group was transformed into the IEL when the SFU Senate formally approved the IEL as a university institute. This was made possible by a joint application being made by the SFU Faculty of Education and Faculty of Environment.

To make a contribution to the IEL, please send your donation to  
Institute for Environmental Learning  
(Attn: D. Zandvliet)  
Faculty of Education  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby BC V5A 1S6

<SFU TAX NUMBER>

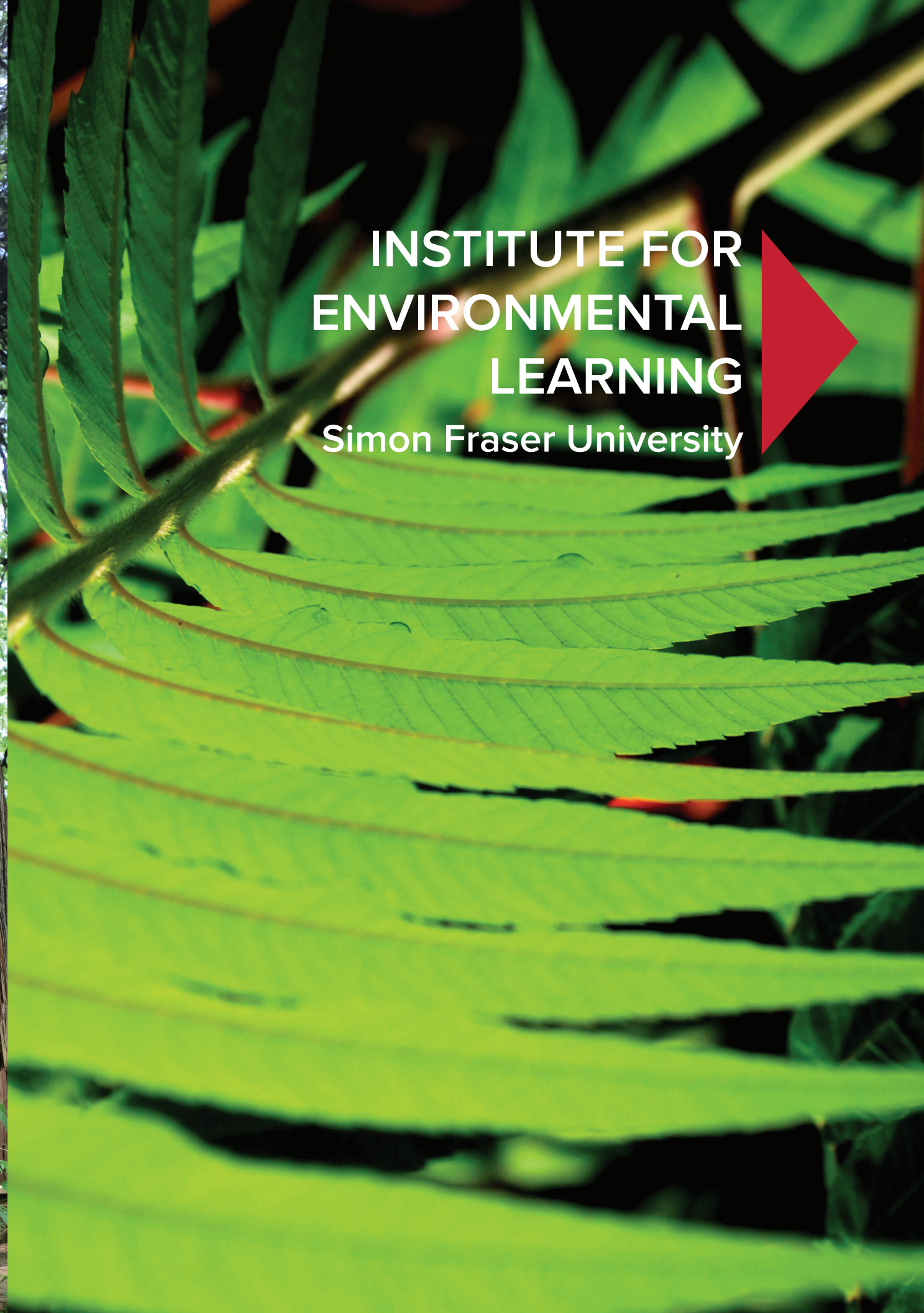


 For more information,  
please contact

Dr. David Zandvliet, Director  
Institute for Environmental Learning  
Simon Fraser University  
Faculty of Education  
8888 University Drive,  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6  
778-721-5680  
[www.walkingthetalk.bc.ca](http://www.walkingthetalk.bc.ca)  
[eco-learning.org](http://eco-learning.org)



INSTITUTE FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEARNING  
Simon Fraser University



# INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

## Simon Fraser University

At the Institute of Environmental Learning (IEL) at Simon Fraser University, we have a vision to play a leading role in the development of environmental learning curriculum and practice in BC and as part of the global sustainability network and making this knowledge accessible to all.

It is our mission to provide British Columbia communities with a vibrant, active research and education network working towards a sustainable future for all generations.

### Our Objectives

- Promote multi-sectoral collaboration, community based problem solving and a network of research into effective teaching practices;
- Develop and support research and programs on environmental learning in communities, schools and post-secondary institutions;
- Focus on an interdisciplinary approach to research with multi-institutional involvement and expertise;
- Coordinate research and development activities; and
- Increase private and public involvement in environmental learning and related research, fund distribution and policy development

The IEL at Simon Fraser University (SFU) is a cutting edge educational research group working towards a sustainable future for BC. We have partnerships with researchers, educators, and government stakeholders to develop, support and facilitate environmental learning and action-oriented research in BC communities, schools and post-secondary institutions.

In 2002, the United Nations (UN) adopted a resolution announcing the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and stressed the need to reorient existing education towards sustainability. The idea is that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) helps people better understand themselves and their links to the wider natural and social environment; it also helps individuals and communities adopt behavior and practices that enable all to live a full life, without being deprived of basic necessities. Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) are designed to implement these.

The success each RCE achieves on the local level is brought to scale through the global RCE Network. Local knowledge, expertise, and best practices are shared globally through the network and are able to be adapted and applied successfully in other regions. Chartered by the United Nations as a Regional Centre for Expertise on Education (RCE) for Sustainable Development in 2010, the IEL proudly represents BC and the North Cascades.



An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal organizations that facilitate learning towards sustainable development in local and regional communities. A network of RCEs worldwide constitutes the Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development with each RCE translating global objectives into the context of the local communities in which they operate. RCEs think globally and act locally and are the best keepers of knowledge about sustainability challenges in their home regions.

### OUR PROGRAMMING

#### Programs, Publications and Events

- K-12 Curriculum and Resources (ELE Guide/ELE Curriculum Mapping Project)
- Environmental Education conferences
- Dialogue and Action Events
- Environmental Learning Dissemination Project
- Online networks and Publications

#### Education Research

- MEd / MA / PhD / EdD programs
- Field Program Development
- Eco-Thinking Journal
- Research and Policy Reports



### Environmental Learning Dissemination Project

We disseminate best practices documents such as the Ministry of Education's Environmental Learning and Experience guide across British Columbia through professional development seminars, conferences and workshops funded by the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Over 30,000 copies have been downloaded ([www.bced.gov.bc.ca/environment\\_ed](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/environment_ed)).

### Pacific Region Stream to Sea Learning Resources

In collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, work was done revising their Pacific Region Stream to Sea Learning Resources ([www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/education/index-eng.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/education/index-eng.htm)) to incorporate the methodology and practices set out in the ELE.

### IEL Associated Programming

The IEL and our partners sponsor a number of credit and non-credit courses throughout BC and abroad. MEd / MA / PhD / EdD programs are possible through member institutions such as Simon Fraser University, Royal Roads and the University of British Columbia.

### Eco-Thinking Journal [www.eco-thinking.org](http://www.eco-thinking.org)

An international, peer-reviewed, open access journal focusing on diversity in environmental academic research developed with the intent of making research more accessible to educational practitioners.



### Our Governance

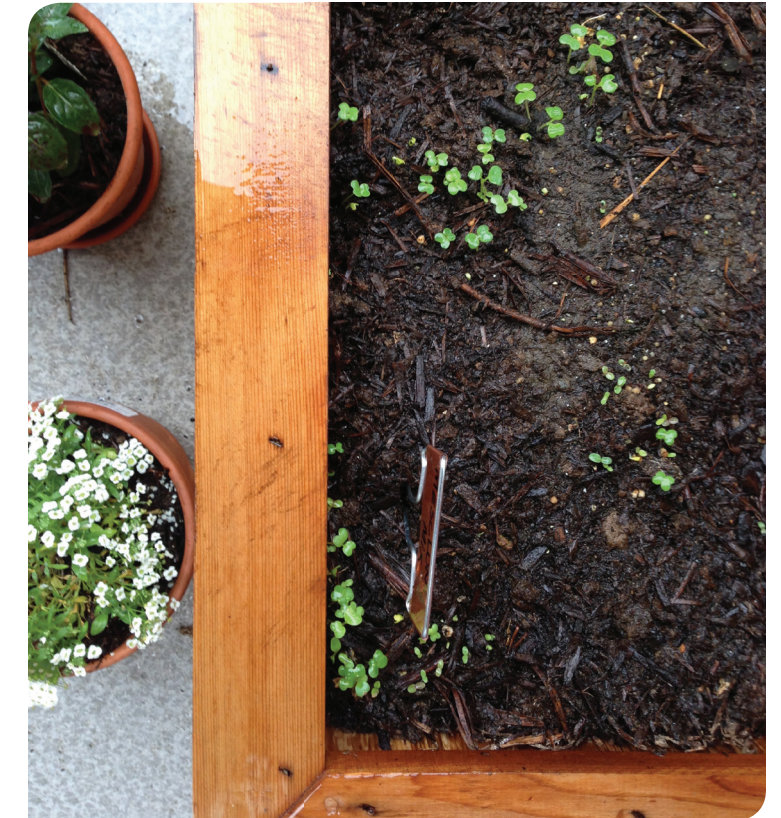
The IEL consists of a steering committee with members from organizations and includes the director, who serves as the steering committee chair. Steering committee members manage research and other activities of the IEL.

### Steering committee members

- Siobhan Ashe (Douglas College)
- Hartley Banack (University of BC)
- Susan Chung (Vancouver School Board)
- Dolf DeJong (Vancouver Aquarium)
- Erin Desautels (City of Surrey)
- Vicki Kelly (Simon Fraser University)
- Stanley King (Co-Design Group)
- Rick Kool (Royal Roads University)
- Carlos Ormond (Haida Gwaii HES)
- Val Schaefer (University of Victoria)
- Frank Williams (Langara College)
- David Zandvliet (Simon Fraser University)
- Kerrie Morton (HCTF/WILD BC)
- Susan Gerofsky (UBC)
- Jonathan Dyck (EEPSA/BCTF)

### 9th WEEC World Environmental Education Congress

The World Environmental Education Congress – WEEC – is the largest international congress addressing education for environment and sustainable development, worldwide. WEEC 2017 takes place in Vancouver, Canada, between the 9 and 15 of September 2017. Simon Fraser University and the Institute for Environmental Learning hosts the congress together with the WEEC permanent secretariat. The congress is an international meeting point for those working with education for environment and sustainable development. WEEC 2017 mandates an opportunity to learn more about the latest in environmental and sustainability education, and to commune with like-minded people, to share your own work and to learn from others.



### Our Finances

Our annual operating costs are approximately \$128,000 per year. To conduct the important work we do, we accept gifts for research and operations. The following supporting agencies have made donations to help Institute activities:

- National Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Welch Community Fund
- Vancouver Foundation
- Simon Fraser University VP Academic
- Simon Fraser University Faculties of Education and Environment

### Fundraising Revenues Key Sources

Major Gifts	\$10,000
Grants	\$80,000
Faculty Subsidy	\$10,000
Sponsorships	\$20,000
Annual Dinner	\$8,000