



**Saturday, February 4, 2017**

---

This one day conference provides professional learning in Environmental Education (EE) for TDSB teachers, OISE students, and others who want to be engaged in the important work of the EcoSchools Program. Two keynote talks and twenty interactive workshops will share a wide range of ideas, approaches, and teaching strategies for EE in classrooms and community settings for novice and experienced K-12 teachers and those who support them.

**Schedule:**

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2017

Time: 10am – 3:30pm

Locations: Auditorium (keynotes), classrooms (workshops) & library (EcoFair)

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 10am - 11am      | Opening Keynote by Gil Penalosa<br>"The 8-80 City: Vibrant & Healthy Cities for All"         |
| 11am - 12:15pm   | Morning Workshops  |
| 12:15pm - 1:30pm | EcoFair and Lunch  |
| 1:30pm - 2:00pm  | Afternoon Keynote by Pam Miller<br>"Changing the Climate at the TDSB Towards Sustainability" |
| 2:15pm - 3:30pm  | Afternoon Workshops  |

## Registration

Visit OISE's Student Services website at:

<http://uoft.me/ClimateofChange>

This conference is open only for TDSB employees and OISE graduate students until **Jan. 9th**; after that, anyone may register. The conference is free for TDSB employees and OISE graduate students; for all others who would like to attend, there is a \$100 registration fee (which includes lunch). Registration fees must be paid upon arrival the day of the conference; please bring exact cash as no credit or debit card services will be available.

Register for one morning workshop and one afternoon workshop on the Registration website - full workshop descriptions are below, as well as available on the site. Registrants are automatically registered for the EcoFair and both keynotes. Workshops fill up quickly, so if your first choice is full, please make another selection. Once your registration has been completed, a confirmation email will be sent to you; a reminder email with room numbers will be sent a week before the conference.

### **10am – Opening Keynote: Gil Penalosa, Founder and Director, 8 80 Cities** ***The 8 80 City: Creating Vibrant and Healthy Communities for All***

Room: OISE Auditorium

How can we create vibrant and healthy cities for everyone, regardless of age or social status? What is the role of streets - the largest public space in any city? How can parks improve the quality of life that attracts and retains people to their communities? Gil Penalosa answers these questions while also explaining a simple and effective principle for inclusive city building: ensuring that the safety and joy of children and older adults (from 8 year olds to 80 year olds) are at the forefront of every decision we make in our cities. Highlighting international best practices, Gil also provides practical, doable ideas that can be done right away to help community leaders address some of our most important global challenges.

*Gil Penalosa is passionate about cities for all people; he advises decision makers and communities on how to create vibrant cities and healthy communities for everyone regardless of age, gender and social, economic, or ethnic background. Gil is the founder and chair of the internationally recognized non-profit organization 8 80 Cities. He is chair of World Urban Parks, the international representative body for the city parks, open space and recreation sector, and runs his own international consulting firm. His advice has been sought out in more than 200 different cities across six continents. Before immigrating to Canada, Gil was Commissioner in Bogota. He holds an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management, where he recently was selected as one of the "100 Most Inspirational Alumni" in the school's history.*

## **Morning Workshops (11am - 12:15pm) – Select one of the following:**

### **Workshop 1.1: *Greening STEM***

**Pam Miller, TDSB EcoSchools**

#### **Focus: Elementary**

Developments in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are growing faster than ever and the need to find engaging ways to teach lessons in these subjects grounded in real-world experience is clear. Our natural environment is a ready-made classroom for teaching STEM. This workshop brings environmental topics and discussions into hands-on STEM lessons to frame subject matter in the context of real-life environmental examples

### **Workshop 1.2: *Engaging in Ecojustice Education***

**Erin Sperling, OISE**

#### **Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

This workshop creates a space to talk about and work with Ecojustice Education, in theory and practice. Appropriate for teachers at all levels, it will utilize experiential activities and photography as ways to enter into uncomfortable spaces and challenging issues as educators and citizens.

### **Workshop 1.3: *Lights, Camera, Environmental Action!***

**Farah Wadia & Jenn Venalainen, TDSB**

#### **Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Are you looking for a creative way to tell a story with your class or ECO club using film? This interactive workshop explores ways in which you can use digital technology to raise awareness or promote environmental action about an issue you care about. Join Farah & Jenn, both experienced EcoTeam leaders, to experience a variety of hands-on activities that will introduce you to the basics of storytelling, camera angles, sound effects, writing, and editing to create a short film to share with others. Please bring an iPad or tablet to try out ideas in the workshop.

### **Workshop 1.4: *Natural Curiosity: Building Children's Understanding of the World through Environmental Inquiry***

**Haley Higdon, Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study**

#### **Focus: Elementary**

Develop your Natural Curiosity! Join Haley to experience the power of inquiry-based learning to develop environmental stewardship with elementary students. Investigate collaborative knowledge building principles and methods, and explore how inquiry and other strategies maximize student engagement.

### **Workshop 1.5: *Exploring the Impacts of Fashion's Global Supply Chain through Image & Inquiry***

**Sarah Peel, Fashion Takes Action**

#### **Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Using photographs, group collaboration, and questions that stimulate critical thinking, you will unravel the complicated supply chain that brings fast fashion to your favourite stores at the mall. You'll place yourself in the life cycle of a garment, and better understand your role as a consumer and potential leader for a more sustainable and just world. This workshop draws on the 'My

Clothes, My World' program offered by *Fashion Takes Action*, and is equally engaging for elementary and secondary teachers and their students.

**Workshop 1.6: *Classroom Seats to City Streets***

**Josh Fullan, Maximum City**

**Focus: Secondary**

Maximum City's *Build a Better Bloor Street* challenge works with local schools to ask students to reimagine an iconic Toronto street as a more complete, sustainable, and safer place for all of its users. This workshop will take participants through the design challenge process that Maximum City has been using with local schools as part of the iCity project led by the University of Toronto Engineering Department. By exploring this multidisciplinary unit (aimed at the high school level), you'll develop an understanding of concepts related to safe, sustainable cities, and develop skills for application in a real-world design challenge that helps students strengthen their sense of place and commitment to pressing urban design issues related to the environment and liveability.

**Workshop 1.7: *Designing New Approaches to Outdoor Kindergarten Spaces***

**Gail Bornstein, TDSB EcoSchools**

**Focus: FDK & Early Years**

Play is critical for the development of children on emotional, physical, cognitive and social levels, so designing outdoor spaces for early learners should focus on providing a play-learning framework with both moveable and fixed components. This workshop will explore the integration of loose parts and loose parts play into kindergarten outdoor spaces. Using the *Landscape and Child Development Resource* to guide us, we'll discuss how loose parts are essential components to meet children's developmental needs, and demonstrate how loose parts enhance play environments, ensuring that children can become creators, innovators, and animators.

**Workshop 1.8: *EPIC (Environment, Partnerships, Integrated and Community-based) Learning***

**Catherine Kurucz & Karen Stelling, TDSB**

**Focus: Secondary**

Join TDSB teachers Karen & Catherine as they discuss their journey to bring Environmental Education into their curriculum while simultaneously taking their students out of the classroom. Teaching secondary geography, science and math, these teachers utilize place-based education to engage their students and provide context for their learning. They will share the benefits and challenges of this EPIC journey, as well as have participants try out some of their activities, as a way to sharing their learning with others.

**Workshop 1.9: *Combating Climate Change through 'Complete Communities'***

**Kathleen Watt, EcoSpark**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

The Greater Golden Horseshoe is one of North America's fastest growing regions. Learn about how our communities will mature and grow in the future, as well as about the concept of 'complete communities' as one way to combat climate change. Discover resources to bring to life lessons and discussions in resource management, land use planning, urban sprawl and

human geography. This workshop will include a hands-on exploration of the Neptis Geoweb and its many applications, inquiry activities, with links to outdoor and environmental education.

### **Workshop 1.10: *Exploring Urban Spaces through Indigenous Names***

**Elizabeth Pasternak & Juli Mori, TDSB**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Using a traditional "map of Canada" exercise, and a more contemporary case study of urban activism to bring back indigenous names to Toronto's streets, participants will learn ways to incorporate the naming of places in exploring our local and national landscapes. Extension activities will focus on student-centred inquiry into other Indigenous ways of naming, honouring, and mapping places and spaces. This workshop is aimed for those working at the primary-junior levels (especially gr. 3-4), grades 7-9 Geography (with some History applications), and ESL students.

## **Mid-Day Break**

### **EcoFair**

**12:15-1:30pm**

**Location: OISE Library Main Floor**

Join us for the 8th annual OISE Eco-Fair! Meet reps from over 25 ESE organizations to learn more about environmental learning locally and across Canada, get info on ESE programs, access free teaching resources, and network for jobs and volunteer positions. Those who attend will have their name entered into a draw for prizes!

### **Lunch**

**12:15 – 1:30pm**

**Location: TBA**

A vegetarian lunch will be available for TDSB teachers and others who pay the registration fee. OISE students who choose to register for lunch will be required to pay a \$25 fee (lunch is optional for students.) Lunch must be ordered in advance as part of your registration.

### **OISE's *Amazing Eco Race: Take the Stairs Challenge***

**12:15 – 1:30pm**

**Location: OISE Stairwell, Concourse Level**

Help promote awareness of energy conservation and improve your health & well-being by taking the OISE stairs! This lunchtime 'Amazing Race' challenges teams to demonstrate their knowledge of sustainability at OISE by finding the answers to questions while walking the stairs, from the concourse to the Nexus lounge on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. Show up with a cohort team of four members and get ready to play – prizes and bragging rights await the winners! Led by OISE grad students.

## **1.30pm Lunch Keynote: Pam Miller, TDSB EcoSchools' Instructional Leader** ***Changing the Climate at the TDSB towards Sustainability***

Room: OISE Auditorium

How can school boards contribute towards creating vibrant and healthy communities? Pam Miller speaks to the critical roles of students, teachers, and administrators in building inclusive and sustainable cities by tracking the impressive results of TDSB's EcoSchools program in energy conservation, waste minimization, improvements in ecological literacy, and more!

*Pam Miller supports K-12 teachers implementing ecological literacy into their classroom instruction in her role as the TDSB EcoSchools' Instructional Leader. Her work includes fostering best practices, developing resources, and building collaborative learning networks among teachers and staff to deepen teachers' skills, knowledge and approaches to Environmental Education. She has taught in the TDSB for 22 years both in the classroom and in TDSB Outdoor Education Schools.*

## **Afternoon Workshops (2:15pm - 3:30pm) - Select one of the following:**

### **Workshop 2.1: *Connecting the Dots to Transformational Learning***

**Susan Elliott, Toronto French School**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Many educators find themselves wanting to move toward a transformative understanding of learning, but working in a traditional paradigm, one based on a subject-based, command and control approach to learning. Led by an experienced teacher/administrator/researcher, join Susan as she explores transformative approaches to environmental learning, such as inquiry-based learning, that positions students as active and engaged citizens and advocates of sustainability. You will explore the traditional/transformational learning challenge, examine inquiry strategies, and discuss their application across all grades.

### **Workshop 2.2: *Climate Change Education: Lessons, Activities & Resources from the TRCA***

**Colin Love & Erica Nickels, TRCA**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Join TRCA educators Colin & Erica for an interactive experience about the issue of Climate Change. Try out some of the lessons, activities, and resources used by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff to engage learners of all ages in learning about one of the biggest issues of our time. Experience different learning stations, and discuss the benefits and challenges of bringing this learning to your classroom.

### **Workshop 2.3: *'Putting Toronto in Perspective': Analyzing interactions between the Mississauga and European settlers using active simulations***

**Paul Hackl & Heather Carlson, TUSC**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

This session will be a snapshot of the 'Putting Toronto in Perspective' program developed by the Toronto Urban Studies Centre. You'll experience hands-on, experiential activities designed to help students better understand the positive and negative impacts of the interactions between the Mississauga, French, and British in the early 1600s from various perspectives. Activities focus on the distribution of land and the decision-making process with reference to the recently resolved Toronto Purchase land claim, while fostering respect, responsibility, teamwork, co-operation and fairness in students.

**Workshop 2.4: *Exploring Eco-Art as Eco-Activism***

**Hilary Inwood, Jessie Sawyers & Kristen Schaffer, OISE**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Art education is an engaging way to help children and youth become more environmentally-attuned, and introduce them to age-appropriate forms of environmental activism. Learn more about the environmental art movement, and experience it first hand by experimenting with three different approaches to art-making that can be used in your elementary or secondary class or Eco-team. No previous skills in art-making are necessary and all materials are provided.

**Workshop 2.5: *Telling Stories: Being A Part of Nature, not Apart from Nature***

**Ron Ballentine, Halton DSB**

**Focus: Elementary**

Join Ron to discover ways to tell stories about nature! This elementary session will introduce the elements of environmental inquiry, with direct connections to the *Natural Curiosity* guide, to examine and experience the critically important role of outdoor experiential education. We will connect this to indoor classroom experiences that complement and support learning outdoors.

**Workshop 2.6: *Edible Elementary Environmental Education***

**Sunday Harrison, Green Thumbs Growing Kids**

**Focus: Elementary** School gardens are an elegant way to provide environmental and nutrition literacy while maintaining a high level of student engagement and meaningful curriculum connections. Join Sunday as she digs into the research about the benefits of educational food gardens, and shares her experiences as a master gardener. This workshop will feature equal parts of the 'why' and 'how' of school gardens, providing participants with sample lesson plans and hands-on learning activities.

**Workshop 2.7: *EcoSchools & EcoFoodprints***

**Cynthia Chan, EcoSchools**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

You've heard of your ecological (or carbon) footprint, but what about your EcoFoodprint? Food



waste is a critical, emerging issue - households in Canada waste on average \$28 worth of food each week. Let's divert organic matters from landfill by reducing the amount of food waste we produce at home and school! In this workshop, we'll begin the conversation of how our food choices impact the environment, and use hands on activities to become more aware of true food costs.

**Workshop 2.8: *A Balanced Approach to Environmental Education in the Elementary Classroom***  
**Bonnie Chu & Thomas Mullrooney, TDSB**

**Focus: Elementary**

Learn from two experienced Ecoteam leaders! This presentation focuses on Environmental Education's ties to curriculum in the elementary grades, and shows examples of how to integrate it into daily instruction. We'll introduce a balanced approach to learning experiences in, for, and about the environment that includes inquiry, critical thinking, higher-order thinking

**Workshop 2.9: *Wacky for Worms: Vermicomposting in the Classroom***

**Linda Ryan & Ben Huynh, PDSB**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

In this hands-on workshop, Linda & Ben will explore the joys of vermicomposting as a way to engaging students in environmental stewardship. Practical aspects of vermicomposting will be demonstrated, including preparing the bin; bedding, feeding, and caring for your worms; and harvesting the worm castings. Curriculum connections and examples of how vermicomposting can support your EcoSchools program will be discussed. Participants who would like to prepare their own mini-vermicomposting bin should bring their own small container - worms will be provided!

**Workshop 2.10: *Climate Leadership: Teaching & Learning Strategies for Tackling Climate Change***

**Elanor Waslander, Ontario EcoSchools**

**Focus: Elementary & Secondary**

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and we all have a role to play in climate leadership. Teachers addressing climate change in the classroom and beyond need practical, age-appropriate tools and strategies to unpack this complex and inter-sectional issue. This workshop will help participants shift from climate change to climate leadership by exploring the Ontario EcoSchools' *Toolkit for Schools: Climate Leadership* resource through discussion and hands-on activities.