ECOLOGY NORTH

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2025-26



867-873-6019 || admin@ecologynorth.ca || www.ecologynorth.ca

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play in Chief Drygeese Territory, traditional home of the Yellowknives Dene and homelands of the Indigenous Métis of the North Slave Métis Alliance. Our physical office is located in Sǫ̀mba K'è (Yellowknife) in Treaty 8, Akaitcho territory, within the Môwhì Gogha Dè Nîîłtèè boundary, home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We stand in solidarity with the Indigenous Guardians of Denendeh.

ABOUT US

Ecology North is a charitable, non-profit organization formed in 1971 to support sound environmental decision-making on an individual, community and regional level. A common thread throughout all of our programming is an emphasis on environmental, social, and community well-being.



VISION

A healthy northern environment forever.

MISSION

Bringing people and knowledge together for a healthy northern environment.

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Prepared By *Emily McInnis, Ecology North*



Good food and great conversation bring us together, time and again! This is the Ecology North Open House in December 2025 - we hope you'll join us at the next one.

MEET OUR PEOPLE



Dawn Tremblay
Executive Director



Emily McInnis
Office Manager



Derek Simmers
Education Program Manager



Owen Mueller
Environmental Education Project Officer



Kelsey Robson
Public Outreach Project Officer

Happy Trails to our short-term staff:

Sean Crowe - *Enviro. Education Program Coordinator*
Kaeley Cornish - *QPID Intern*
Lucas Warner - *QPID Intern*
Nicole Subryan - *WLU Intern*
Jemima Bakambu - *WLU Intern*

2024-25 Board of Directors:

Rajiv Rawat - *Chair*
Dylan Cook - *Treasurer*
Lauren Nolan - *Secretary*
Suzanne Carriere; Brenda Van Hauvert; Sean Magee; Janelle Van Den Brink; Sheila Bassi-Kellett; Brandon Pludwinski - *Directors*



THANK YOU!

ECOLOGY NORTH PROGRAMMING WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM:

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Canada
NSERC CRSNG
Government of Northwest Territories / Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
POLAR POLAIRE
United Way
Hotıì ts'eeda NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SPOR SUPPORT UNIT
MakeWay
LAURIER Inspiring Lives.
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Nature United
NWT RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION
NWT ON THE LAND COLLABORATIVE
YELLOWKNIFE FARMERS MARKET
OTTAWA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Melba Angell Memorial Fund
The McLean Foundation
CJ Foundation
Healthy Horizons Foundation
Northern Northmart

Partner Organizations

MAKERSPACE TECHSPACE ARTSPACE
A-list Organizing & Design
B•DENE ADVENTURES Authentic Cultural Tourism Experience
Naturally Dene
ykcarshare
SHIFT
NWTLC NWT Literacy Council
Alternatives North
FOODRescue YELLOWKNIFE
overlander sports
NorthWords nwt
Territorial Agrifood Association
Arctic Energy Alliance
SHS
AFCY Association Franco-Culturelle de Yellowknife
La Fédération Franco-Ténoise
CFA Yellowknife Communauté francophone accueillante
Barren Ground Coffee
SENIORS for CLIMATE LATER IS TOO LATE!
CO-OP

ECOLOGY NORTH IS GRATEFUL FOR EARTH WEEK CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

MLA Julian Morse, MLA Caitlin Cleveland, MLA Kate Reid, MLA Caroline Wawzonek, MLA Shauna Morgan, MLA Kieron Testart, MLA Robert Hawkins

And supporters like you! Mahsi cho, thank you!

FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

Ecology North was built by its members on a simple guiding principle, that the North's land, water, and people deserve a future shaped by care, not short-term gain. For decades, our members and staff have carried that conviction through every struggle and season of change. This year, the need for it has only grown.

Hard-won environmental laws and oversight are being bypassed in the rush for billion-dollar development. Climate promises are breaking, and we are seeing a return to boom-and-bust extraction instead of lasting investment in our communities.

For the North, these shocks are personal. We have some of the highest energy costs in the country, yet renewable energy here remains largely underdeveloped, a reality that also makes power-hungry AI data centres impractical. One promising sign is the commercialization of sodium-ion batteries that can hold their charge and function at -40°C. We hope to see these technologies reach northern communities.

Ecology North has a pivotal role to play in giving voice to the land and water that observe no borders, supporting policies that benefit Northerners, and facing the future with clear eyes. That work is possible because of you.

Once again, I would like to thank the staff and all of Ecology North's past and present volunteers. Your time, knowledge, and brilliance keep this organization rooted in the North. As we head into another turbulent year, I remain grateful for your leadership and dedication to this work.

Rajiv Rawat
Chair, Board of Directors
Ecology North

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

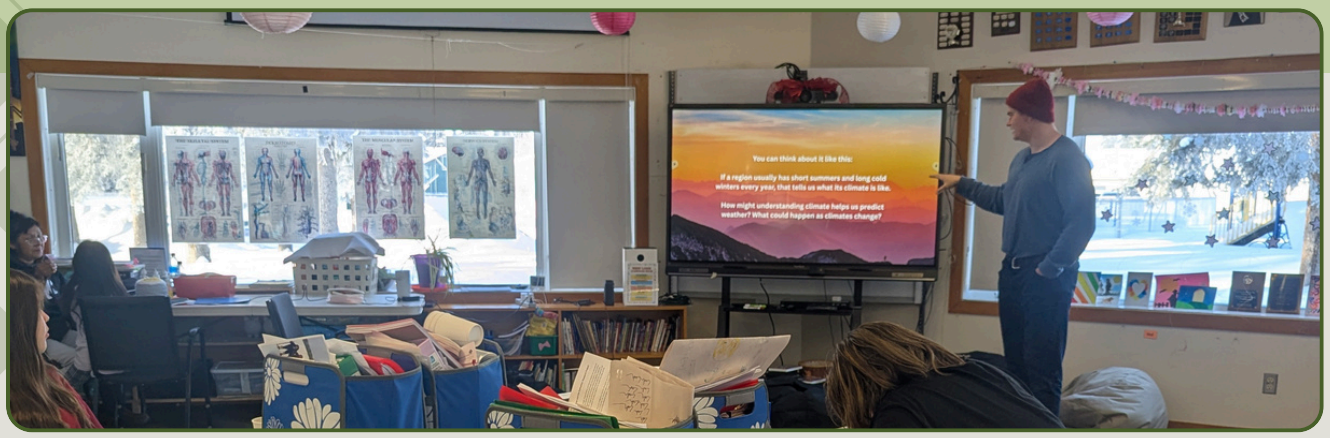
Ecology North's work is primarily as environmental educators and advocates, providing programming for many partners in Yellowknife and across the territory on our five core subject areas: climate action, water stewardship, waste reduction, biodiversity, and food sovereignty. Our programming strives to link education in the classroom with land- and place-based learning that connects the next generation of climate leaders' with tools to help make their communities more sustainable and resilient.

We continue to focus on program-based funding, in line with our strategic goals of financial stability for the organization, with a keen eye on creating opportunities for northern youth and free public education-based events for Yellowknife and the broader NWT.





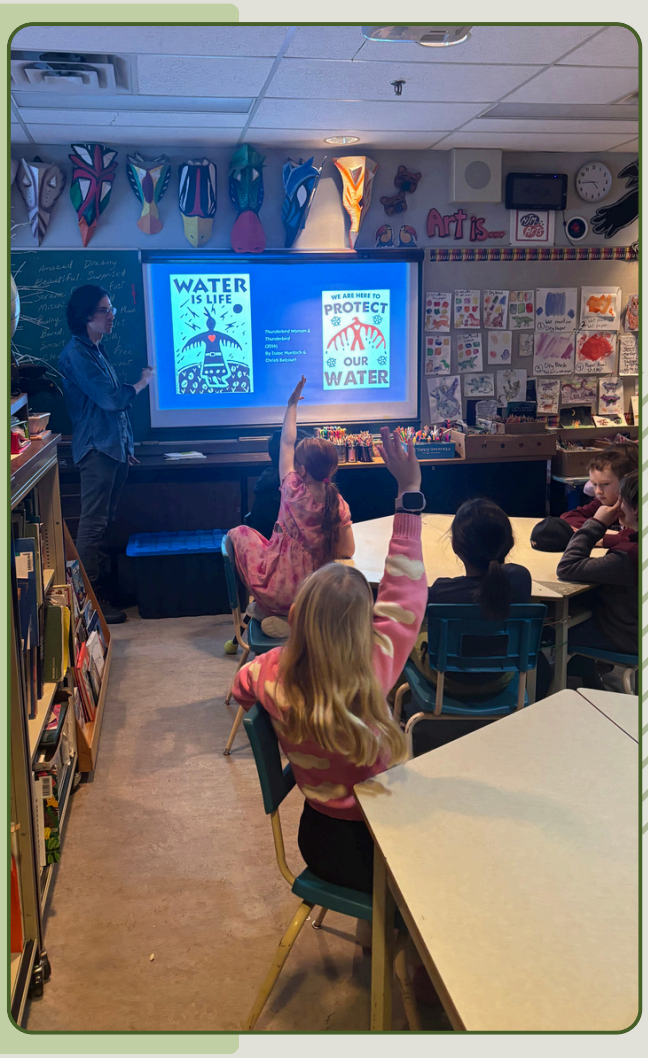




Education in the Classroom

This year we continued to maintain relationships in the Dehcho and Beaufort Delta regions, while responding to invitations to the South Slave and Sahtu regions. It was very exciting to be able to accept these invitations and work in these two regions. Staff hosted more than 200 classroom sessions; summer camps; and place-based camps in Kluane, Yukon and Ivvavik National Park. Our programming reached more than 4,000 youth across 15 communities! Mahsi cho to the community partners who make our work possible, we're so grateful to be invited to spend time learning and growing with your youth.

We continue to develop resources and activities to bring a variety of new experiences to our classroom visits and are thrilled to reach so many students across the NWT. Since September 2025 we held more than 275 workshops with 29 different schools, community governments, nonprofits and charitable organizations across 15 NWT communities, engaging thousands of northern youth. We have given workshops in Yellowknife, Ndilo, Deline, K'asho Got'ine (Fort Good Hope), Tłegǫ̀htı̨ (Norman Wells), Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Tthenáágó (Nahanni Butte), Zhahti Kų̀ę (Fort Providence) Ka'a'gee Tu (Kakisa), Tthets'éhk'edélî (Jean Marie River), Líídlı̨ı̨ Kúę (Fort Simpson), Thebacha (Fort Smith), Hay River and K'atlodeeche First Nation. We hosted our bi-annual Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change in Łù\'àn Män (Kluane Lake), YT in August 2025, and partnered with Parks Canada to host a camp for East Three High School students in Ivvavik National Park.



School Garden Program

2026 was the 16th year of our school garden program, and a huge amount of the gardens' success was due to the amazing volunteer support we received over the summer. A huge thank you to all the volunteers. Together we harvested over 700 lbs of food across Yellowknife schools!

Students learned to plant seeds indoors and outdoors, to prepare soil, to explore the key nutrients in soil, to care for their gardens, and to harvest the garden. We started and maintained gardens at 5 Yellowknife schools, including building new beds at École Įtł'ǫ, and were able to travel to the Dehcho communities of Ka'a'gee Tu, Tthets'éhk'edélî, Líídlįį Kúę, and Tthenáágó, and the Sahtu communities Tulita, Deline, Tłegǫ̀htı̨, and K'asho Got'ine to work with schools and the community at large during spring 2026. Thank you for having us, we hope to return soon!





Rivers to Oceans Day

Rivers to Oceans Day 2026 saw 11 water experts from across the sector come chat, play games, and work with students in the park. Together, we learned about water safety, avoiding water pollution, watersheds, and celebrating our wonderful water systems! (Not to mention, fish dissection!) Overall, 256 students from Grades 1 and 5 engaged in incredible water-related learning.

Summer Camps

We supported a number of different summer day camps, including sessions with the City of Yellowknife summer camps, Yellowknife Catholic School Board, Learning on the Land, Chickadee Nest, and the Foster Family Coalition NWT. We also supported a 3-day camp in Tthets'éhk'edélî which was a fantastic experience for our summer staff.



Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change

In August 2025, Ecology North hosted a successful Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change at Shakat Tun Adventures, based near Kluane Lake in the Yukon. This Summit brought 24 youth, two youth staff, and four other staff from across the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Nunatsiavut onto the land to learn about climate change adaptation from Elders, land users, scientists, and advocates.





Themes included developing youth participants' climate literacy, with education centered on reducing GHG emissions, identifying climate misinformation, food sovereignty opportunities in the North, and strategies for addressing climate anxiety. The Summit also highlighted the importance of learning with and on the land, with participants going out on the land in the mornings with Elders and cultural hosts, whose land we were hosted on, to learn about the impacts of climate change on the surrounding area. The 2025 Summit culminated with youth committing to a specific climate action in their home community. We can't wait to see what you all do next!





Ivvavik National Park Youth Camp

Ecology North partnered with Parks Canada for a second year in a row to host 9 youth from East Three Secondary School in Inuvik at Imnairvik Base Camp in Ivvavik National Park. We facilitated 5 days of On-the-Land programming, cultural learning and environmental education with Parks Canada staff and Elders. Several students described it as one of the best experiences they had participated in. They shared that the camp strengthened their confidence, brought them closer to their peers, and helped them connect with Inuvialuit culture and history. Students were especially grateful for the opportunity to spend time on the land, learn about the area's history, and experience cultural teachings in place with Inuvialuit Elder Nellie Arey.













PUBLIC EVENTS & OUTREACH

Climate Change Speaker Series

We coordinated three sessions where experts spoke about research near and dear to them. Claire Singer and Carla Johnston led one session about Protecting Food Systems in a Changing Climate. Another led by the GNWT provided an overview of practical climate change resources they have available. Finally, Micheal O'Rourke accompanied by Hans Lennie presented *Every House is Important... Once They're Gone, It's Too Late: Addressing Climate Change Impacts to Inuvialuit Heritage*.



Working With Your Harvests

We co-hosted garden gatherings at the Kam Lake Community Garden and Mildred Hall School to showcase ways you can prepare your freshly grown produce. We also hosted pickling and jam making sessions throughout the year.



The Moth Ball

This fun event closed out Summer 2025. We had presentations from biologists, crafts and activities for kids, and a moth sheet to see what night-time insects we could observe.



Bottle Recycling Contest

We were blown away by all the community engagement, hard work and commitment to recycling in the past year's bottle recycling contest. In the fall, 26 registered groups recycled 81,000 containers in a month. Nine winners kept their recyclables earnings and won up to $1,500 in prize money!

Earth Week 2026

Earth Week 2026 saw 21 free community events run over the course of April 20-26, 2026, with approximately 900 participants. Programming included a mix of workshops, presentations, discussions, outdoor activities, and large community gatherings. Earth Week 2026 successfully connected people and knowledge while promoting public education and awareness for the betterment of our planet. Mahsi cho to our amazing community partners, we couldn't do it without you!













Waste Reduction Week



Ecology North delivered a week of public events to celebrate the annual Waste Reduction Week from October 21-26, 2025 with roughly 400 attendees. We hosted a super-informative waste forum, a trivia night at the Elks Lodge, a workshop on candied fruit peels, partnered on Makerspace's Textile Repair Night, and the fall YK Community Clothing Swap with A-List Organizing & Design. We're always excited to bring new fun events, workshops and info sessions on how to reduce waste in your life.

World Snow Day

We spent an afternoon with Chief Fred Sangris, where he shared stories and reflections about the land, our connections to it and one another. Mahsi cho for sharing your knowledge and the chance to connect, and spend time together.



Minnow Masters

Owen and Derek had a blast sharing knowledge about minnows and benthic invertebrates at Reid Lake and Prelude Lake Territorial Parks. Participants got tons of fun hands-on experience!





Christmas Bird Count

A huge thank you once more to Reid Hildebrandt who led the annual Christmas Bird Count. Birders recorded thousands of individual birds across 14 different species. Results are posted on the Audubon website.

Compost Education

We partnered with the City of Yellowknife and went door-knocking about the Residential Compost Program - maybe you saw us? Feel free to reach out to EN with any of your compost-related questions and we'll do our best to point you in the right direction.



Trashformation at Old Town Ramble & Ride

This event is one of our favourites, and the quality of the submissions this year blew us away! Congratulations to Madison Payne and Victoria Tweedie-Pitre with “Deja-brew”, our winners by popular vote.







Folk on the Rocks Green Team

Amazing as always! Our Green Team, led by our QPID interns Lucas and Kaeley, supported the FOTR festival in keeping waste in its space along with compost and recycling. We returned more than 22,000 cans, bottles, and other containers.

Restorying the Anthropocene

A workshop with Cassandra Blondin-Burt that allowed us to imagine environmental futures through Dene ontologies and re-story the climate crisis, moving beyond heavy narratives to envision healthier, more tangible futures.

OTHER WORK

Mineral Resources Act Review

In conjunction with Alternatives North, we participated in the public engagement process on the Mineral Resources Act policy intentions. Four submissions were made with legal assistance by Julian SpearChief-Morris from Woodward & Co. The submissions can be found on Alternatives North's website.

Supporting Youth Water Stewardship Grants

We supported 4 youth in putting together public events related to water stewardship - a rain barrel event, a photo exhibit, theatre workshops, and creative writing workshops. We love the creative direction all the grant applicants chose to take!



Professional Development

Ecology North staff participated in learning opportunities to advance our capacity for Reconciliation. Opportunities included sessions with Bobby Drygeese of BDene Adventures, Tlicho language learning with Camilia Zoe-Chocolate, a session with Tiffany and Carl Jr. Kodakin-Yakelaya from Ever Good Medicine. We also did Project Wet, Wild and Below Zero training with Stephanie Yuill. Mahsi cho for your time and expertise!





Panels and Conferences

We appreciate opportunities in our community to grow our network. Here's a sample of some of the gatherings we attended in the past year.

- Ełèts'ehdèe gathering hosted by Hotìì ts'eeda
- Hazho Elexe Lets'ezhe network gatherings hosted by the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre
- GrowNWT Conference hosted by the Territorial Agri-food Association
- Annual Water Stewardship Implementation Workshop
- NWT Educators Conference
- Youth Opportunity Fair hosted by the Hazho Elexe Lets'ezhe network
- EV Showcase hosted by the City of Yellowknife
- Northern Nursing in research Day hosted by Aurora College and Hotìì ts'eeda

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____/_____/20_____

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Postal Code:**_____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

By providing an e-mail you agree to receive Ecology North news and event announcements.

Membership Purchase and Donation

Check off boxes that apply

Individual

- ○ **Annual** - $10
- ○ **Three Year** - $25
- ○ **Lifetime** (never expires) - $150

Family

- ○ **Annual** - $20
- ○ **Three Year** - $50
- ○ **Lifetime** (never expires) - $300

○ **I would like to volunteer:** _____

Anything specific? Organizing events, helping with Earth Week etc.

○ **I would like to donate:** $_____

Thank you! Tax receipts available for $20 or more upon request, membership fees not applicable.

Please return completed form with cash or cheque to:
Ecology North, PO BOX 1684, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P3

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