

# FORED Projects

(summary of 2019 and ongoing 2020)

*FORED's community sustainability activity is made possible with the immeasurable contribution of our members, volunteers, directors & staff. Our hands-on, diversified volunteer Board of Directors from law, business, education, accounting, public relations, & academe, governs our policy & programs with outstanding leadership. Program highlights and stakeholder feedback follow:*

## Sustainable Communities & Neighbourhoods (SCAN):

- Landscapes magazine continues to be a popular online resource.
- Community best practices in sustainability resources from our magazine Landscapes and other sources are downloaded by **56,000 individuals monthly** from our website [foredbc.org](http://foredbc.org)
- We receive commending emails from teachers, students and others who download our materials.
- FORED is an advisory member of the **Institute for Environmental Learning**, led by SFU's Dr. David Zandvliet, FORED director & volunteer. This **UN-designated organization** develops and supports research on environmental learning & sustainable development across BC.

## Aboriginal Heritage, Education & Dialogue (AHEAD):

The global pandemic was a major disruptor on many events and activities of FORED BC, which were reliant on larger gatherings. A planned indigenous workshop in the Prince George area and one at a Musqueam location were both cancelled. Our Traditional Knowledge and Medicine poster contest for indigenous youth was extended to a later date in June with only electronic entries permitted.

We will continue to offer online, complimentary activities and social media promotion to our targeted audiences. We hope by this time next year, we'll be able to resume regular programs.



To celebrate cultural & heritage traditions of BC's aboriginal people, FORED offered its annual **Traditional Knowledge (TK) & Medicine** artwork contest for aboriginal youth. Their posters are **displayed each year in the Ministry of Education office (Victoria) for National Aboriginal Day (June 21<sup>st</sup>) at gov't request**. Prizes are awarded to winners and featured on our [website](#). We also did Facebook ads and social media videos to target youth, parents and their teachers, obtaining **close to 150,000 views** according to Facebook analytics.

FORED provides annual **Traditional Knowledge scholarships** to First Nations students selected by Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). Candidates offer a short essay on how Traditional Ecological Knowledge is applied to natural resource management in their community. Sarah Gruen and Adrienne Goodridge (pictured), each received a \$500 FORED **Traditional Knowledge scholarship**.



This year, FORED BC launched some new [social media videos](#) promoting a stay-in-school ethic, with the help of our First Nations volunteer mentors who offered traditional knowledge natural resource management tools. We noted with some small measure of pride that **aboriginal high school graduation rates have significantly improved, reaching their highest ever at 70%**,

according to the latest report from the BC Auditor-General. We have been long-term partners in supporting this outcome.

We also acquired a new and influential aboriginal partner and volunteer for FORED programs. Karen Ogen Toews, BSW, MSW, CEO of the First Nations LNG Alliance. She was a founding member of the Alliance, and former Chief of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation for six years. Karen's LinkedIn page displays a copy of one of FORED's [First Choices, First Nations resources](#) she obtained at an LNG event.

FORED will be delivering a youth leadership and succession planning workshop for Karen's northern BC-based First Nation.

The Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) continues to promote FORED's [YouTube](#) channel, featuring **First Nations mentors sharing** natural resources career advice to youth, on the Ministry of Advanced Education social media channels. The videos collectively have more than 100,000 views.

### Youth Engaging Sustainability (YES):

FORED BC's annual youth poster contest for National Forest Week was expanded to include photography submissions. The event drew hundreds of entries from BC youths K-12. The contest theme was **"Canada's Forests: Diverse Outdoor Classrooms"**.

Prizes were awarded to the following students with some posters featured in this report.



- **Emme, Kootenay Christian Academy, Cranbrook**
- **Zentaya, Glanford Middle School, Victoria**
- **Michael, North Surrey Secondary School, Surrey**

All winners on our [website](#).

### Traditional Knowledge & Medicine Poster Winners:

- **Nessaya, Kwadacha Nation, Clearwater**
- **Lakaya, Kwadacha Nation, Clearwater**
- **Cayleigh, Squamish Nation, Watson Road Elem., Kelowna**
- **Alexandria, Northern Cree, Métis, Rutland Senior Sec., Kelowna**
- **Emily, Lake Babine Nation, Shuswap Middle School, Salmon Arm**
- **Silas, Esk'etemc, Salmon Arm Sec. — Jackson, Salmon Arm**

### Partnerships:

Thanks to our many volunteers for their continued support, and our social media friends for sharing our programs widely. This broadens FORED outreach to thousands of BC citizens, particularly youth. **We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia** through gaming funds, as well as our members and the Vancouver Foundation.

