



Move to Learn Outdoors Programme Information

Welcome to Move to Learn Outdoors!

We're thrilled to introduce a unique and pioneering outdoor education experience in Nova Scotia! This exciting initiative brings together passionate teachers like you with experts from the fields of outdoor education to explore how outdoor learning, grounded in Mi'kmaw and Earth Education traditions, can enrich science teaching for Primary to Grade 3 students.

About the Programme

Move to Learn Outdoors (MTLO) is an initiative by Hike Nova Scotia, supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This programme is designed to engage a small group of dedicated P-3 teachers from across Nova Scotia in developing outdoor, science-linked learning activities that can be shared with the wider educational community. By the end of the project, you will help create an online resource hub with 50 new outdoor education activities tied directly to the science curriculum.

Programme Structure

The programme is divided into several enriching seminars that will guide you through the process of integrating outdoor learning with the science curriculum.

- February 2025 (Seminar 1): Exploring Our Relationship with Wksitqamu (The Earth), Introduction to Guided Nature Play, and Community Visioning (2 full days)
- March 2025 (Seminar 2): Accessibility and Inclusion in Outdoor Learning, Loose Parts Play, Safety in Outdoor Education, and Co-Design Session (2 full days)
- April 2025 (Seminar 3): Guided Nature Play Workshop (1 full day)

- April – June 2025: Teacher trial of newly developed lessons with virtual check-ins (if required)
- Late June – Early July 2025 (Seminar 4): Activity Sharing, Debrief, and Next Steps (1 full day)

Throughout these seminars, you will collaborate with fellow teachers to co-create outdoor science activities for your classrooms, test these activities with your students, and share your feedback for continual improvement.

Participant Expectations

As an MTLO participant, you will:

- Attend all seminars and workshops (within reason).
- Design at least 3 science-related outdoor activities for inclusion in the project's online resource hub.
- Engage in collaboration and co-design with other educators and your students to refine these activities.
- Share your trial experiences and insights for ongoing project improvement.

Logistics and Compensation

- Honorarium: \$250/day for each seminar day.
- Per Diem: \$60/day for meals and snacks during seminar days, outside of seminar hours.
- Mileage: Compensation for travel at \$0.5838/km (provincial rate).
- Accommodation: Provided as needed.
- Meals: Warm drinks, healthy snacks, and lunch provided on seminar days.

Compensation will be processed after each seminar and can be issued via cheque or direct deposit. T4As will be issued at year-end. Please bring your banking information and SIN number to the first seminar (Hike NS will store this information in a secure location).

Participant Resources

Participants will receive new print resources and equipment kits to support you in your application of the concepts learned during our professional development sessions.

What to bring to Each Seminar

Weather-appropriate outdoor clothing, water bottle, backpack, and warm, waterproof footwear. For portions of each seminar we will be outside (in all weather) for extended periods of time. Our activities will have us exploring the forest, getting down on the earth, and seated on the forest floor. We will always have access to indoor spaces, but please come prepared to be outside for hours at a time. Walking distance to and from our outdoor programming areas will vary depending on the activity and the park we are using – but please expect to walk along forest paths and uneven terrain for extended periods of the day.

This online resource can help you prepare your outdoor learning clothing:

<https://www.adventuresmart.ca/gear/>

Weather Postponements

Should the need to postpone a seminar due to unsafe driving conditions arise, Hike NS will notify participants by **4pm of the Thursday prior to each scheduled weekend seminar**. For example, for our first seminar on February 1-2, we will make a weather call and notify you **via email** of any postponements by 4pm on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Videography

A videography team will likely be engaged later in the seminar series to:

- Document our project
- Aid in the creation of some how to videos for teachers

There may be opportunities for further collaboration with the videography team and teachers as well.

Seminar Dates and Locations

Seminar 1: Exploring Our Relationship with Wksitqamu and Guided Nature Play (2 Full Days)

- Dates: February 1-2, 2025 (Weather dates: February 8-9, 2025)
- Location: Fairbanks Interpretive Centre, Shubie Park, 54 Locks Rd, Dartmouth, NS (plenty of parking available at the Fairbanks centre)
- What to Bring: Weather-appropriate outdoor clothing, water bottle, backpack, and warm, waterproof footwear. For portions of the seminar we will be seated on the forest floor and getting down on the earth. So think warm!
- Please see page 5 for the Seminar One daily agenda

Seminar 2: Accessibility, Loose Parts Play, and Co-Design Session (2 Full Days)

- Dates: March 29-30, 2025
- Location: Adventure Earth Centre, Sir Sanford Fleming Park, 68 Parkhill Rd, Halifax, NS
- What to Bring: Outdoor clothing for extended periods, water bottle, and expertise in P-3 science curriculum (feel free to bring curriculum documents).

Seminar 3: Guided Nature Play Workshop (1 Full Day)

- Date: Late April 2025 (exact date TBD)
- Location: Adventure Earth Centre, Sir Sanford Fleming Park, 68 Parkhill Rd, Halifax, NS

Seminar 4: Co-Design and Activity Sharing (1 Full Day)

- Date: Late June – Early July 2025 (exact date TBD)
- Location: TBD

Participant Waiver and Photo Release

All participants will need to sign a waiver and photo release form on February 1, 2025.

Project Contact:

Please contact Britt Vegsund, Move to Learn Outdoors Project Lead with questions.

brittvegsund@hikenovascotia.ca

Seminar 1: Exploring Our Relationship with Wksitqamu and Guided Nature Play (2 Full Days)

Dates: February 1-2, 2025 (Weather dates: February 8-9, 2025)

Location: Fairbanks Interpretive Centre, 54 Locks Rd, Dartmouth, NS (plenty of parking available at the Fairbanks centre)

Daily Schedule

February 1, 2025

9-10am – Arrival, warm drinks and social time in the Avery Room

10-12pm – Welcome, introductions, community visioning

12-1pm – Lunch (provided at the Fairbanks Centre)

1pm-4pm – Introduction to Guided Nature Play (with Ally and George Taylor)

4-5pm – Quiet reflection time and closing circle

February 2, 2025

8:30 – Arrival, warm drinks and social time

9am 12:00pm – Exploring Our Relationship with Wksitqamu (the Earth) (with Gord Pictou)

12-12:45pm – Lunch (provided at the Fairbanks Centre)

12:45-3pm – Exploring Our Relationship with Wksitqamu (the Earth) Continued and day closing