

Exemplary Environmental Leadership/Sustainability Program or Initiative

School Board __Peel District School Board_____

Contact Person and Email Address __Tracy Appleton, tracy.appleton@peelsb.com_____

Name of Program/Initiative __Peel Environmental Education Conference (Camp) for Educators_____

Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative

http://padlet.com/RangerRidley/PEECE2014_RM102 - Incorporating #EnviroEd lessons into Secondary Schools

http://padlet.com/RangerRidley/PEECE2014_RM103 - Community-Based #EnviroEd, Gaining Permission & Confidence

http://padlet.com/RangerRidley/PEECE2014_RM104 – EcoSchools Ideas, Best Practices & Lessons

http://padlet.com/RangerRidley/PEECE2014_RM210 – Value of Experiential & Inquiry-Based #EnviroEd with Early Years

Description of Program/Initiative

The 5th Annual Peel Environmental Education Conference(Camp) for Educators (PEECE) is a one-day conference designed to support and extend the infusion of Environmental Education across the curriculum and divisions. This year, a portion of the day occurred as an unconference and took place on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. The morning portion consisted of four hands-on workshops lead by qualified instructors. In the afternoon, participants helped direct the focus of conversations around four themes and padlets were created to capture the discussions. In previous years, the conference was held as an after-school event as well as a weekday event with supply release. This conference allows PDSB teachers to network with other environmentally-focused colleagues. Teachers have the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of interest (i.e., outdoor education / butterfly gardens). Each year the event opens with an acknowledgement (*We are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation*) and a keynote speaker always ends the event with an inspirational address on the identified conference theme (2014: *Environmental Education through Inquiry*) and the importance of infusing environmental education within the classroom. Participants are also encouraged to share their experiences at PEECE via Twitter using the hashtag #PEECE(+year).

What has been the Impact on Student Learning?

This conference's planning committee consists of: Instructional Coordinators (Science & Technology, Social Science & Humanities, FNMI), Outdoor Field Centres Coordinator and EcoSchools Program Leader. All workshops (hands-on, peer-to-peer, unconference) have been designed around the idea that teachers share their learning with each other and then bring their new knowledge back to the classroom and their school. Students benefit as their teachers have gained the skills and confidence required to lead them in hands-on, authentic, inquiry-based learning activities – i.e. vermicomposting, energy & waste audits, geocaching, etc.)