

Finding Local Partners and Guest Speakers

To make these activities come alive, it is critical that you help your students interact with local people and organisations working on climate change and trees/forestry! There may be different systems in place in different provinces, territories, municipalities, and First Nations territories, but the following guide can get you started finding people.

Federal Government

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

NRCan has offices across the country that handle forestry, climate change, energy efficiency, mining, Indigenous natural resources, and more. To find the office closest to you, check NRCan's page "NRCan Across Canada" (<http://www2.nrcan.gc.ca/dpspub/index.cfm?fuseaction=acrossCanada.national&userLang=E>).

The Canadian Forestry Service is the NRCan branch that focuses on forestry issues. They have several offices across Canada. Office locations can be found at this website: (<http://www2.nrcan.gc.ca/dpspub/index.cfm?fuseaction=orgchart.viewOrg&orgid=526&userLang=E>).

Provinces and Territories

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers

This organisation is a forum for representatives from the provinces and territories to talk to one another and agree on Canadian policies on forestry. The Minister's office in your region may be able to help you find a good resource person.

<https://www.ccfm.org/english/aboutus-members.asp>

Municipalities and First Nations

Most municipalities and First Nations are already tackling issues related to climate change, trees, and forests (both urban and rural). Find out more about what your local government is doing and how you can get involved.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

The FCM provides support and funding for municipal projects related to climate change and green infrastructure. This may be a good site to search for projects related to the urban forest.

<https://fcm.ca/en>

Your Local Municipality or First Nation

All municipalities have a website; find it and search for “urban forestry,” “green infrastructure,” or just “trees” until you find the right department. Or just call the office and ask to talk to someone about local projects and possible guest speakers.

To find the website for First Nations in your region, use the interactive map:

<https://geo.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/cippn-fnpim/index-eng.html>

To find the website for the Métis representative organisation within your region, use this database:

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100014427/1535467913043>

To find the website for representative organizations for the Inuit people within your region, search the organizations listed at the bottom of this website:

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100014187/1534785248701#sc6>

Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations

Most communities have environmental groups working on climate change and projects related to forests and trees. To find them, speak to someone in the municipality, do an internet search for “environmental groups” in your area, or check out GoodWork.ca for their directory of green/environmental groups, organisations, networks, and associations in Canada.

<https://www.goodwork.ca/environmental-groups>

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – Community Grants Recipients

Several Canadian groups have received grants from SFI for climate change and forestry projects. See the list of current and past projects:

<https://www.forests.org/communitygrants/>

Indigenous Climate Action and Forestry Networks

Across Canada, many First Nations and other Indigenous groups are actively involved in forestry and climate action. A representative may wish to come and speak to your class, host a visit, provide information, or partner with you on an action project. Here are a few starting points:

Indigenous Climate Action

A Canadian-based group is working to reinforce the place of Indigenous people as leaders in climate change discourse who are driving solutions for today and tomorrow.

<https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/>

NRCan's Indigenous Forestry Initiative

Regional Liaison officers may be able to help you find local resource people.

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-data/funding-partnerships/funding-opportunities/forest-sector-funding-programs/indigenous-forestry-initiative/13125>

Assembly of First Nations – Provincial and Territorial Organisations

These offices may be able to help you identify a resource person in your area.

<https://www.afn.ca/about-afn/provincial-territorial-organizations/>

First Nations Interactive Map

Use this map to find First Nations near you and links to their websites, contact information, and information about their programs and services.

<https://geo.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/cippn-fnpim/index-eng.html>

Youth-Led Organisations

Fridays for Future Canada

This grassroots youth-led movement is coordinating climate strikes across Canada. They have ideas for climate action campaigns.

<https://fridaysforfuture.ca/>

Youth Climate Lab

This youth-for-youth lab, based in Canada, is dedicated to creating innovative projects for climate action. Their focus is on entrepreneurship, policy, the arts, and activism.

<https://www.youthclimatelab.org/>