

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2



October 23, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

Our government recently launched a new initiative called the [Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter](#). This is Canada's first-ever outdoor charter.

As Minister of Education, a mother and grandmother, I strongly support all opportunities to get children outside to learn and play.

The charter outlines 12 outdoor activities that children should do before their teen years. These activities include: following a trail, camping under the stars, harvesting something to eat, swimming in a lake, paddling a canoe, playing in the snow, observing plants and wildlife, building an outdoor fort, visiting a farm, exploring a park, going fishing, and creating an outdoor adventure.

While the charter specifically targets children of elementary-school age, I encourage you to invite students of all ages to safely explore the great outdoors and discover the natural beauty of our great province. Here are some [great ideas](#) for fun outdoor activities for families to consider.

Our goal is to have all students become environmentally responsible citizens by the time they graduate high school. I am proud that students are learning in, about, and for the environment — from Kindergarten to Grade 12, through the Ontario curriculum.

Let's work together with communities and families to get children outside to experience nature and discover the beautiful wonders of Ontario.

Thank you for your support in encouraging your students to get outside to learn and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Sandals', written in a cursive style.

Liz Sandals
Minister