



**THE COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR EDUCATORS OF  
ONTARIO**

[www.coeo.org](http://www.coeo.org)

July 16, 2019

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Ontario Minister of Education

Dear Minister Lecce,

We are with The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO), a volunteer-based organization that promotes the many substantive and lasting benefits of Outdoor Experiential Education (OEE) for Ontario students. Our current mission is to convince you that OEE is indeed “value for money” and that it should be an integral part of any plan for “education that works for you.”

In many ways, it already is, because there are specific outdoor education dollars (\$17.5 million for 2019-20) allocated as part of the “Student Achievement Envelope.” This is very good news, though we are asking you to take it a step further and specifically sweater these funds for OEE, as opposed to the current practice of permitting boards to use these funds for one of the other five initiatives which are a part of this envelope.

To bolster our position, we respectfully request your consideration of the following:

1. Read the attached Op Ed, published in the Toronto Star on July 15th  
<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2019/07/15/the-value-of-outdoor-education.html>
2. Invite us to a meeting at your office so that we can present further evidence that supports our position
3. Accept a standing invitation from us to visit a GTA outdoor education centre this summer or fall and experience firsthand the great power of OEE for Ontario students.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

We very much look forward to hearing back from you in the near future.

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