



March 2022

Lake Superior Living Labs Network Climate Action Field School Team

Report Prepared by: Rachel L.W. Portinga, Shadiya Aidid, Charles Z. Levkoe, and Lindsay P. Galway

www.livinglabsnetwork.org superiorlivinglabs@gmail.com



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Funding

The CAFS was funded through the Environment Climate Change Canada's Climate Action and Awareness Fund to support community-based climate action with additional support from Lakehead University. The Lake Superior Living Labs Network (LSLLN) is funded through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Development grant.



Environment and Climate Change Canada Environnement et Changement climatique Canada





Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada





Partners



Table of Contents

About the Lake Superior Living Labs Network (LSLLN)	6
LSLLN Hubs	6
Thunder Bay, Ontario	7
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	7
Houghton, Michigan	7
Duluth, Minnesota	8
Why Climate Action?	9
About The CAFS (CAFS)	10
Objectives	11
Statement of Values	12
Core Organizers	13
Cross-Hub Virtual Events	14
Overview	14
Thunder Bay Hub	21
CAFS in Thunder Bay	21
Thunder Bay Collaborators	22
Food Provision	23
Schedule	24
Day 1: Welcoming and Grounding	24
Day 2: Transitioning	26
Day 3 Rising Up	28
Day 4: Connecting	29
Day 5: Regenerating	31
Day 6: Co-Creating & Sustaining	33
Day 7: Looking Forward	34
Sault Ste. Marie Hub	36
Collaborators	36
Schedule	37
Day 1: Welcoming	37



Day 2: Climate & Local History	37
Day 3: Placing & Wayfinding	38
Day 4: Regenerating & Sustaining	38
Day 5: Monitoring & Mindfulness	39
Day 6: Connecting with Water	40
Day 7: Memories & Closing	41
Duluth Hub	42
Collaborators	42
Food Collaborators	43
Iteration 1: August 2021	43
Iteration I Schedule	44
Day 1	44
Day 2	44
Day 3	45
Day 4	45
Day 5	45
Day 6	46
Day 7	46
Iteration II: Reboot for February 2022	47
Iteration II Schedule	47
Iteration III: Three-Boot for June 2022	49
Lessons Learned & Reflections	50
CAFS Media	54
Contact Us	54



About the Lake Superior Living Labs Network (LSLLN)

The Lake Superior Living Labs Network (LSLLN) serves as a platform to connect academic and community partners to increase the impact of sustainability related teaching, research, and action with a focus on issues at the nexus of food, water and land, climate and energy, and individual and community well-being across the Lake Superior watershed. The partners are primarily based in four hubs located in Thunder Bay, ON, Sault Ste Marie, ON, Duluth, MN and Houghton, MI and are all rooted in partnerships with organizations and Indigenous communities and located on the Traditional lands of the Anishinaabe.

The LSLLN uses a living labs approach. Living labs are a collaborative approach to cocreating innovative solutions to sustainability challenges through interdisciplinary and place-based research, learning and community-engaged action in the built and natural environments. The LSLLN platform provides the opportunities for partners within and across hubs to develop new partnerships and collaborative initiatives. The 2021 CAFS (CAFS) was one of these collaborative initiatives.

This report provides a detailed overview of the 2021 CAFS. It explains the approach to development of the CAFS, details about the sessions, and feedback from participants and collaborators with an aim to share what we did and describe how we did it with other individuals interested in hosting a similar CAFS.

LSLLN Hubs

The LSLLN hubs are all located across the Lake Superior watershed. Their locations are indicated by the blue circles in the LSLLN logo.





The locations of Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton, and Duluth were founded and developed by white European settlers engaging in natural resource extraction activities, particularly logging, mining, and trapping. Each of the hubs serves as regional center for education, resource extraction, culture, health care, and recreation. Rich arts and culture exist in all of the hubs with tourism and recreation becoming increasingly influential in Duluth and Houghton.

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Thunder Bay is located on the Traditional lands of Fort William First Nation signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. As the largest city in Northwestern Ontario, Thunder Bay acts as a hub for regional communities to provide essential services such as healthcare and social services. The city sits along the north shore of Lake Superior and has a landscape of large mountains and boreal forests. Much of the city's culture derives from its environment as it influences the recreational and subsistence activities that residents engage in.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Sault Ste. Marie is located in Northeastern Ontario, on the Traditional lands of Garden River and Batchewana First Nations, signatories to the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850. Traditionally known as "Bawating", Sault Ste. Marie is located at a set of rapids along the St. Marys River which connects the easternmost point of Lake Superior to Lake Huron. Steel-making and other industrial activities are important economically in the "Soo", with the city also functioning as a regional and service hub for the surrounding areas. Once part of the same city, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (USA) is located across the river and is accessible by the International Bridge.

Houghton, Michigan

Houghton is located within Ojibwe homelands and the ceded-territory established by the Treaty of 1842, the territory of Native American nations in Gakiiwe'onaning (Keweenaw Bay), Gete-gitgaaning (Lac Vieux Desert), Mashkii-ziibing (Bad River), Odaawaazaaga'iganing (Lac Courte Oreilles), Waaswaaganing (Lac Du Flambeau), Miskwaabikong (Red Cliff), Wezaawaagami-ziibiing (St. Croix), and Zaka'aaganing (Sokaogon Mole Lake). Houghton is located on the Keweenaw Peninsula, jutting out into Lake Superior from the south shore, the northern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Houghton lies along the Keweenaw Waterway, opposite the town of Hancock. The Keweenaw Waterway is partially natural and partially dredged connecting to Lake Superior at north and south entries, with sections known as Portage Lake and Torch Lake in between. This region has a strong legacy of native copper mining. This gift from the deep Earth has cultivated varied relationships with copper evidenced by the oldest



metal workings in the Western Hemisphere, a valued element of the Anishinaabe people, the European Copper Boom of 1845-1968, and recent efforts to develop geotourism.

Duluth, Minnesota

Duluth is located on the Traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and Dahkota peoples within the 1854 Treaty area. Duluth is at the westernmost point of Lake Superior where the St. Louis River and Estuary flows into the Lake. Across the river lies Superior, Wisconsin and together Duluth and Superior are called the Twin Ports. Duluth serves as a regional hub for many residents in northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. While Duluth was home to the largest number of millionaires at the turn of the 20th century due to the natural resource extraction industries, this declined dramatically in the 1960's and 1970's. Following a resurgence in protecting the waters of the St. Louis Estuary and Lake Superior in the 1970's and the development of Highway 35 between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota to Duluth, Duluth and the "north shore" of Lake Superior have become major tourist attractions in the region.



Why Climate Action?

Climate change is one of society's most pressing challenges and also a great opportunity for radical transformation to a more just, sustainable, and healthy society. The best of today's climate science tells us that the actions we take in the next decade are critical to meeting climate goals and stemming the effects of the climate crisis for future generations¹. In the Lake Superior Watershed, the implications of rapid and widespread climate change include species extinction, loss of biodiversity, human health impacts, more severe and frequent extreme events, and increasing socioeconomic inequality. Building sustainable futures and turning the tide on climate change demands a radical transformation of our social and economic systems which will require innovative and collaborative new initiatives from well-trained climate leaders and engaged, informed communities. It is therefore essential to create spaces that connect, train, and motivate young people to be next-generation leaders that are connected to each other, the land, and community and have the skills, motivation, and knowledge to demand and take radical climate action. Today's youth are the most important generation in the climate action movement and in the next 10 years - they will be pivotal to our collective future.



¹ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.



About The CAFS (CAFS)

In response to today's climate change reality, the CAFS was developed to provide a week-long experiential training program consisting of virtual workshops, site visits, and events in coastal communities across the Lake Superior Watershed in the summer of 2021. The CAFS was organized by members of the LSLLN in partnership with community partners, and scholars.

The overarching objective of the CAFS was to provide hands-on, in situ training for the next generation of climate leaders. The CAFS offered opportunities for participants to explore and enhance their knowledge and skills related to taking climate action in the next decade and build relationships with one another and with those already engaging in climate action.

The CAFS was unique in its approach because it included teaching and learning about climate change grounded in place. This occurred at two scales: the on-site experiences within each community and within the larger Lake Superior watershed. It was also rooted in an experiential, problem-based pedagogical approach, and a head-hearthands model for transformational learning² developed through co-creation and colearning with LSLLN members. The CAFS also focused on relationships: to individuals in each hub, across each hub city, across the watershed, and to the place and watershed. This approach was operationalized through intentional opportunities for social and professional relationship building and engagement with the people and places across the Lake Superior watershed. Building relationships was particularly important because climate action will require meaningful collaboration across many boundaries. The CAFS was also unique in delivery mode and scale. We used a hybrid mode of delivery integrating in-person and virtual engagements and workshops. In doing so, we brought together people across a large geographic region and connected participants to local, regional, national, and global climate actions and movements. This multi-scale thinking is essential given that climate change is a global crisis but will be mitigated, and adapted to, through collective actions at the local, regional, and global scales.

In each hub city, and across the Lake Superior watershed, there are many local organizations, city partners, academics, and communities who are addressing climate change through their work in various ways. Throughout the CAFS, participants had the

² Orr, D. (1992). *Ecological literacy: Education for a post modern world.* Albany, NY: State University of New York.



opportunity to learn from, and with, these groups to inspire change-making and climate action in their future endeavours.

The CAFS took place in the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands and waters of the Anishinaabeg – the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples and their more than human relatives. The CAFS was originally intended to take all participants around Lake Superior to meet and learn from people involved in climate action, but due to the covid-19 pandemic, we used a hybrid model where on-site engagement occurred within two distinct hubs (Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie Ontario), and virtual engagements included participants from Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton Michigan, and Duluth Minnesota.



LSLLN

Objectives

Statement of Values

The following values grounded the CAFS's organizers and guided our decision-making and actions:



These were the objectives and values of the whole CAFS, and to honour a place-based approach we allowed each hub to play to their strengths and assets in development of their unique activities and sessions. This meant some objectives or values were added in different hubs (more below).



Core Organizers

The core organizers of the CAFS included the seven LSLLN Steering Committee members (Dr. Charles Levkoe, Dr. Lindsay Galway, Dr. Nairne Cameron, Dr. Kathryn Milun, Dr. Randy Hanson, Dr. Erika Vye, and Rachel Portinga, PhD Candidate) and two additional students: Brigitte Champaigne-Klassen (Lakehead University) and Jen Bridge (Algoma University).



CHARLES LEVKOE Cross Hub Connections Thunder Bay, ON



LINDSAY GALWAY Thunder Bay, ON



KATHRYN MILUN Duluth, MN



BRIGITTE CHAMPAIGNE-KLASSEN Cross Hub Connections Thunder Bay, ON



RACHEL PORTINGA Thunder Bay, ON



NAIRNE CAMERON Sault Ste Marie, ON



RANDY HANSON Duluth, MN



JEN BRIDGE Sault Ste Marie, ON



ERIKA VYE Houghton, MI



Cross-Hub Virtual Events

Overview

Throughout the CAFS, participants were connected virtually across all the hubs around the Lake Superior watershed. These events provided one mechanism for enacting the CAFS values of place-based watershed perspectives, climate justice orientation, socialecological thinking, and relationships and relationality. By creating opportunities throughout the CAFS for collaborators, participants, and LSLLN members to learn and discuss together, we created a CAFS that expanded beyond each hub city. One event also included members of the general public. This model allowed us to demonstrate that climate action occurs simultaneously across many scales.

There were four virtual cross-hub events:

- Welcome Event A LSLLN Virtual Circle Tour
- What is Climate Action? An Interactive Discussion
- Experiences with Climate Justice around the Lake Superior Watershed
- Postcards for Climate Action What Now? What Next?

Taking advantage of the virtual setting of these events, Corrina Keeling (http://www.lovelettersforeverybody.ca/) was invited to capture graphic recordings for the second and third events (pictured below). As Corinna illustrated the conversations that were happening live, participants were welcome to interact with them during and after their development. The purpose of this was not to provide a comprehensive summary, but to create illustrations that would help the themes and key highlights rise to the surface so that the audience could have a visual experience to help move their work forward.

Welcome Event - A LSLLN Virtual Circle Tour

Facilitators: Brigitte Champaigne-Klassen and Charles Levkoe **Audience**: CAFS participants, collaborators, and organizers, & LSLLN members

At this event, we located ourselves and welcomed all participants and LSLLN members across the watershed to kick off the start of the CAFS. We took a "virtual circle tour" around Lake Superior where each hub was introduced through a short presentation describing the historical and contemporary context about each city and surrounding region.



What is Climate Action? An Interactive Discussion

Facilitators: Brigitte Champaigne-Klassen and Rachel Portinga **Audience**: CAFS participants, collaborators, and organizers, & LSLLN members

The climate crisis implicates all living things but impacts and solutions look different everywhere for everyone. This interactive panel explored different perspectives of climate action from across the Lake Superior Watershed from LSLLN Steering Committee members. Following a series of short presentations, participants reflected and shared their perspectives and experiences on the question, "What is climate action?" Find a link to the recording in the "CAFS Media" section below.











Experiences with Climate Justice around the Lake Superior Watershed

Facilitator: Brigitte Champaigne-Klassen **Audience**: CAFS participants, collaborators, and organizers, LSLLN members, & the general public

What is climate justice and what does it mean to be a good future ancestor? This panel showcased stories and perspectives from folks engaged in climate justice across the Lake Superior watershed and beyond. Chuk Odenigbo (Future Ancestors) kicked off the conversation with a keynote address, followed by Shadiya Aidid (Fossil Free Lakehead), Shelby Gagnon (Indigenous Food Circle) and Candace Day Neveau (Baawaating Water Protectors) who shared experiences of their work in climate justice. Find a link to the recording in the "CAFS Media" section below.



Chúk ODENIGBO

is a black Franco-Albertan from Calgary. He is passionate about the interactions between health, culture and the environment. This passion inspired him to pursue his PhD in Medical Geography after completing his master's degree in Environmental Health. He is one of the Founding Directors for Future Ancestors Services Inc., and the Co-founder of The Poison and The Apple. He is interested in the multidisciplinary nature of our existence and in exploring new solutions that respond to recurring problems.

Chúk was ranked amongst the top 30 Sustainability Leaders under 30 by Corporate Knights, the top 30 Change-Making Albertans under 30 by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, and the top 10 young Franco-Albertan leaders by Radio-Canada. Chúk was MEC's ambassador for the outdoors and is an alumni of the first Ocean Bridge cohort, a group of young Canadians leading ocean health and literacy projects across Canada.



Shadiya Aidid

is a poet, community organizer and educator based in Thunder Bay, ON. She believes that art, activism, and academia are all tools to educate her community on climate change and hopes that she can contribute to strategies that reimagine what an equitable and healthy planet can look like.

Shadiya organizes with Fossil Free Lakehead and the Divest Canada Coalition and she's currently pursuing a Masters of Health Sciences degree exploring the operation of climate justice in student-led divestment campaigns.





Shelby Gagnon is an artist from Aroland First Nation but has lived in Thunder Bay for most of her life. Shelby is a graduate of Lakehead University in the Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts program where she explored the reclamation of identity and traditions of being an Indigenous woman in Canada. Shelby currently works at the Indigenous Food Circle, where she promotes and supports awareness around food sovereignty, security, climate action and advocacy for the protection of the land and waters.



Candace Day Neveau Memingwans Anishinaabe kwe from Turtle Island,

from the North shores of Lake Superior and Lake Huron areas. Proud mother of 2 sons Edward Morningstar and Maquinna Fox, she is co-founder of Baawaating water protectors and is currently building her home and living off the grid at resurgence language camp Nimkii Aazhibikoong, where she homeschools her sons and focuses on learning their language. Candace is a ceremonial singer and a full-time student of gitchi manidoo.









Postcards for Climate Action - What Now? What Next?

Facilitators: Brigitte Champaigne-Klassen, Charles Levkoe, and Betty Carpick **Audience**: CAFS participants, collaborators, and organizers, & LSLLN members

In this final cross-hub session (which also served as the final session for Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie hubs), participants and collaborators came together one last time to share and reflect on experiences during the week. Each participant received a package containing six hand-crafted postcards from multidisciplinary artist Betty Carpick, six stamps, and a zine describing how to take climate action by creating art on the postcards, writing messages encouraging climate action, and then sending to a variety of people that could include family, friends, politicians, participants in other hubs, and/or community leaders. Participants then explored next steps, and we brought the in-person CAFS events in Thunder Bay and SSM to a close while also looking forward to next steps.





Thunder Bay Hub

CAFS in Thunder Bay

The CAFS in Thunder Bay was organized by members of the LSLLN Thunder Bay hub who contributed to CAFS planning in both late winter and early spring. Many of the LSLLN hub members were also involved in facilitating the actual CAFS sessions along with additional community partners. This included over 20 faculty, staff, and students from Lakehead University, EarthCare Thunder Bay, EcoSuperior, Roots to



Harvest, Such A Nice Day Adventures, Betty Carpick (a multidisciplinary Artist) and Marcel Bananish Sr. (an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper).

The bulk of the organizing was completed by the Thunder Bay core organizing team: Dr. Lindsay Galway, Dr. Charles Levkoe, Brigitte Champaigne-Klassen, and Rachel Portinga. The core organizing team met weekly between May and August 2021 to plan the event, with numerous additional meetings with collaborators to plan specific sessions. Additionally, a subset of four volunteer LSLLN members reviewed applications for the CAFS in Thunder Bay alongside Galway and Portinga. Meeting covid-19-related regulations was a significant factor in the planning process.

Participants of the CAFS in Thunder Bay were youth (aged 18 - 30) who demonstrated experience and interest in climate action and engagement, including students enrolled in a range of postsecondary programs at Lakehead University.



Thunder Bay Collaborators

EarthCare Thunder Bay

- Summer Stevens (Sustainability Coordinator)
- Jacob Porter (Climate Adaptation Coordinator)
- Keira Essex (EarthCare Assistant)

EcoSuperior

- Sue Hamel (Executive Director)
- Marcel Bananish Sr (Climate Health & Land Relations Program Coordinator)

Lakehead University

- Connie Russell (Faculty of Education)
- Paul Berger (Faculty of Education)
- Shadiya Aidid (MHSc Student)
- Ledah McKellar (Sustainability Coordinator)
- Rob Stewart (Faculty of Geography)
- Keri Pidgen-Welyki (Greenhouse Manager)
- Devon Lee (PhD Student, Education)
- David Greenwood (Professor, Faculty of Education)
- Aynsley Klassen (MHSc Student)
- Gavin Shields (MEd Student; CAFS videographer)
- Nicole Westlund-Stewart (Research & Knowledge Mobilization Facilitator)
- Nathan Wilson (PhD Student, Environmental Biotechnology)

Roots to Harvest

- Kim McGibbon (Food & Kitchen Director)
- Jordan Lees (Community Grower)
- Airin Stephens (Program Director)

Such A Nice Day (SAND) Adventures

- Zach Kruzins (Owner & Lead Instructor)
- Darrell Makin (Lead Instructor, Guide & Educator)

Community Members

- Betty Carpick (Multidisciplinary Artist)
- Shelby Gagnon (Artist)



Food Provision

We were intentional in making catering decisions that aligned with the values of the CAFS. This meant ordering healthy meals with lower carbon footprints (plant-based), ordering from local caterers who prioritize the use of locally produced foods and biodegradable packaging to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, offering a diversity in cuisines, and honouring all participant's food restrictions. This intentionality in food choice, and the role of food choices as climate action was discussed with CAFS participants during the week.

Caterers:

- A Fine Fit Catering (https://afinefitcatering.ca/)
- Bonobos Foods (https://bonobosfoods.com/)
- Chef Rachel Bayes
- LaLuna Café
- Roots to Harvest (http://www.rootstoharvest.org/)
- Royal Aleppo Food (https://www.royaleppofood.ca/)







Schedule

CLIMATE FIELD ACTION SCHOOL

Thunder Bay Schedule



Not shown in the schedule above were the daily scheduled reflective periods when participants were given time to reflect on a question with their journals, a partner, and/or small groups.

Day 1: Welcoming and Grounding

Objectives:

- Grounding ourselves in, and acknowledging land and place
- Orienting participants to the CAFS objectives, goals, locations, timing, schedules, and organizers (Thunder Bay and Cross-Hub)
- Setting the tone for learning together and examining what we are bringing with us to the CAFS
- Relationship-building among participants, facilitators, and LSLLN members



Sessions: <u>Thunder Bay Opening and Grounding Ceremony</u> Facilitator: Marcel Bananish Sr. Audience: CAFS participants and organizers

Marcel, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper and Climate Health & Land Relations Program Coordinator with EcoSuperior, offered an opening song and prayer to open the Thunder Bay CAFS in a good way on the shore of Lake Superior.



Dipping into the Well

Facilitators: Sue Hamel & Connie Russell **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers



Using water metaphors (e.g., waters are rising with climate change; the need for water protection; recognizing the well of knowledge in the group; the safer the group feels, the deeper the group can dive; the need to replenish one's own well in order to contribute one's best), this introductory session allowed the group to dip their toes into this new learning community. A series of activities enabled the group to get to know one another, to recognize the diverse skills, strengths, and intentions of group members, and to establish how they wanted to work together as a team.



Welcome Dinner

Facilitators: Kim McGibbon and Airin Stephens **Audience:** CAFS participants, collaborators, and organizers

Participants gathered at the Roots to Harvest backyard for an evening of free time to engage in conversation with CAFS participants and collaborators while creating and cooking pizzas in an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven. Occurring simultaneously in the same space was a Sacred Fire to honour and remember the children who died in Residential Schools. Participants were able to learn about the Sacred Fire and attend.



Day 2: Transitioning

Objectives:

- Relationship-building
- Orient participants to the LSLLN and cross-hub CAFS objectives.
- Explore and consider various perspectives of "Climate Action"
- Engage with the role of urban planning and infrastructure as climate action
- Discuss and identify how urban infrastructure and planning can support a transition to low-carbon communities
- Learn about Thunder Bay's EarthCare Net Zero plan and the practical implementation of the plan

Sessions:

Sustainable City Walking Workshop

Facilitators: Jacob Porter, Keira Essex and Summer Stevenson from EarthCare **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

In this active workshop, participants learned about the ways a municipality can influence sustainable decision-making and address climate mitigation and adaptation at the city level by employing a sustainability lens. After this discussion, participants took to the streets and began applying a sustainability lens to the streetscape in Thunder Bay's north core. With a focus on topics like waste, mobility, greening, stormwater, and smart growth, participants engaged in in-



depth discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of the current streetscape and identified opportunities to improve its overall sustainability while addressing climate change. Participants left with more information about how to get involved and participate in local decision-making.



Movie Screening: Percy

Facilitators: Brigitte Champaign-Klassen and Charles Levkoe **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers



Participants came together to watch the film outside and points from the film were raised throughout the remainder of the CAFS.

Film Synopsis: Percy Schmeiser, a third-generation farmer, gets sued by a corporate giant for allegedly using their patented seeds. With little resources to fight a legal battle, Percy joins forces with up-and-coming attorney Jackson Weaver and environmental activist Rebecca Salcau for a monumental case that leads all the way to the Supreme Court.



Day 3 Rising Up

Objectives:

- Relationship-building
- Listen to, learn from, and engage with, Indigenous teachings as they relate to climate impacts and action
- Learn about and discuss climate activism and diverse ways to engage in climate activism
- Consider the intersections between climate activism and climate justice

Sessions:

Zaagibagaa: Teachings for Climate Action

Facilitator: Marcel Bananish Sr. **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

In this session, Marcel re-joined the CAFS participants on the shore of Lake Superior and shared teachings and learnings from the Anishinaabe 13 moons in relation to climate change and climate action.





Are you an Activist? Climate Activism Workshop Facilitators: Shadiya Aidid and Paul Berger Audience: CAFS participants and organizers

In this interactive workshop, participants learned about the various ways that climate action could transpire through community activism. Participants discussed how destructive they thought the climate crisis would become if there was no strong action, the lengths they would go to engage in activism, and the rewards and risks involved. Participants learned about the



different scales and methods of engaging in activism and the power and influence that each individual has in their community and networks.



Day 4: Connecting

Objectives:

- Relationship-building
- Examine the impacts and legacy of resource extraction and industry on the land and water
- Learn about the Jackfish Bay Area of Concern, its history, and efforts towards remediation
- Explore teamwork in a voyageur canoe
- Discuss our connections to all our relations



Session:

Jackfish Bay Voyageur Canoe Expédition

Facilitators: Darrell Makin and Zach Kruzins **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

This session was held at the Jackfish Ghost Town, on the site of the former town beach. Collaborators chartered a bus to drive participants from Thunder Bay to Jackfish Bay MNR Boat Launch where SAND (Such a Nice Day Adventures) already had equipment prepared for a voyageur canoe trip. Everyone ate lunch, received a brief description of the area and why it was of interest, and basic paddling instruction. Then the voyageur canoe was loaded up and we set sail to the ghost town of Jackfish Bay. The inside of Jackfish Bay is an ideal spot for kayak skills instruction and rescues, with consistent shallow protected water. A separate motorboat holding two researcher collaborators, the CAFS videographer, and a local community member who lived in Jackfish Bay before it was abandoned accompanied the voyageur



canoe - sometimes up close, and other times going ahead of the canoe to prepare.



The participants worked together to canoe around the shore of northern Lake Superior and visited an Area of Concern where a small creek, full of pollutants from a local pulp mill flows into Lake Superior. The facilitators explained the history of the mill and pollution, of actions taken in an attempt to mitigate the pollution, and ongoing dumping. One of the collaborators on the motorboat had collected a sample of water from further out on the lake in a clear mason jar to show everyone, then dumped that and collected a sample from inside the bay which was a dark brown.



From here, the canoe continued on to Jackfish beach which is made up of sand, with a bit of train coal and beach glass left over from the ghost town. Some swimming at the Jackfish Beach and a short hike around the ghost town were the final stops before canoeing back to the Boat Launch where participants loaded onto the bus and returned to Thunder Bay.

Logistically, this day included a stop in Nipigon both on the way to and from Jackfish Bay for bio breaks. Additionally, on the way back, the stop allowed participants to eat dinner outside on the shores of Nipigon Bay.



Day 5: Regenerating

Objectives:

- Relationship-building
- Learn about and explore the different ways agriculture can be climate action
- Discuss the ways youth programing, and programming with vulnerabilized populations, can be climate action
- Explore riverbank restoration as climate action
- Consider how a Climate Action Park engages with different populations to demonstrate, actively be, and encourage climate action.

Sessions:

Climate, Community, and Agriculture Workshop

Facilitators: Kim McGibbon, Jordan Lees and Airin Stephens **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers



Roots to Harvest offered a hands-on workshop on agroecology in a northwestern Ontario context. Participants explored seed saving as a way for practicing seed sovereignty and the importance of having seeds that are adapted for our cooler northern climate. Students then participated in the seed harvest including spinach and the 800-year-old gete okosomin, discussed urban agriculture and its role in community building.



What is a Climate Action Park? Regenerating in the Era of Climate Facilitators: Ledah McKellar, Keri Pidgen-Welyki and Rob Stewart Audience: CAFS participants and organizers

Participants met at the site of the future Lakehead University Climate Action Park. Participants and organizers learned about the park and the design principles and goals of the park. Rob Stewart (Lakehead University) led the group on a walking tour of campus to learn about, see, and discuss water management and restoration opportunity on Lakehead University Campus.







Day 6: Co-Creating & Sustaining

Objectives:

- Relationship-building
- Learn how the arts can be mobilized as part of climate action
- Engage in Climate Action Arts work
- Complete the Labyrinth walk to contemplate the mental and emotional health dimensions of climate change and to support reflective practice
- Consider how we can sustain ourselves, movements, and all our relations in the work of climate action

Sessions:

Marking Place with Natural Inks from Native Plants

Facilitator: Betty Carpick

Audience: CAFS participants and organizers



Different parts of plants have been used since ancient times for medicines, dyes, functional items, construction, and more. Regardless of where you live, the entire wild plant trajectory from identification, understanding, gathering, and using - invites deep listening and grace. In this art workshop, participants looked at water as a collective responsibility through a connection to plants that grow on Lake Superior's shorelines (Fireweed, Harebell, Tansy, Blueberry, and Native Willow (Salix)). With these plants, and water collected throughout the CAFS, participants made inks and used them to create art pieces. Through sensory exercises with prompts, participants explored Lake Superior to gain an understanding of how the natural inks offer a different language for interaction and telling stories.



Labyrinth Walk: Sustaining our Work from the Inside Out

Facilitators: David Greenwood and Devon Lee **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

The participants met at the labyrinth on the grounds of St. Paul's Anglican Church; an 11-circuit pathway. David Greenwood and Devon Lee led the group in a reflective and restorative labyrinth walk centered on the notion of sustainability from the inside out followed by a group listening circle.



Day 7: Looking Forward

Objectives:

- Relationship-building
- Apply lessons learned during the CAFS to brainstorm specific climate actions for Lakehead University students, staff and faculty (to support the Lakehead University Year of Climate Action campaign)
- Apply lessons learned during the CAFS to personal lives, decisions, and future actions.
- Begin reflecting on how to share personal experiences during the CAFS with people who were not part of the week.

Sessions:

YOCA Climate Action Brainstorm Blitz

Facilitators: Ledah McKellar and Lindsay Galway **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers



Participants were introduced to the Lakehead University Year of Climate Action which aims to unite our community in learning about, amplifying, and taking climate action. Ledah McKellar and Lindsay Galway (members of the Year of Climate Action organizing committee) led the group in a Climate Action Brainstorm Blitz. Together, we crafted ideas to support the 36 climate actions social media campaign.



Thunder Bay Looking Forward

Facilitators: Lindsay Galway and Rachel Portinga **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

In this fun final in-person session, participants reflected on the entire CAFS. Each participant shared feedback from the week, identified something to leave behind, and named new lessons to take forward into the future.





Sault Ste. Marie Hub

The CAFS in Sault Ste. Marie (SSM) was also held August 21-27, 2021 by the LSLLN Sault Ste. Marie hub and the Department of Geography, Geology, and Land Stewardship at Algoma University. Mr. Frank Belleau from Garden River First Nation generously shared his knowledge as part of the CAFS in SSM. Jen Bridge and Dr. Nairne Cameron served as organizers with many guest collaborators.

The SSM hub expanded on the CAFS objectives and values to include intergenerational learning, outdoor learning (connecting directly with the local environment), and wayfinding and geographical analysis skills. Participants of the CAFS in SSM were youth (aged 18 - 30) who demonstrated experience and interest in climate action and engagement, including students enrolled in a range of postsecondary programs at Algoma University.

Collaborators

Batchewana First Nation

• Joe Tom Sayers

Garden River First Nation

• Frank Belleau

Algoma University

• Dr. Andrew Judge (Assistant Professor of Anishinaabe Studies)

Great Lakes Forestry Centre

- Dr. Jason Leach (Research Scientist, Forest Ecohydrology)
- Dr. Kara Webster (Research Scientist, Forest Soil Ecologist)

Rural Agricultural and Innovation Network (RAIN)

• Kylee Adam (Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation Intern)

Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy's Canoes for Conservation

• Joanie McGuffin (Canoe Guide)

Community Members

- Brad Webkamigad
- Dr. Paul Hazlett


Schedule

CLIMATE FIELD ACTION SCHOOL

Sault Ste. Marie Schedule

Day 1 Welcoming	Day 2 Climate & Local History	Day 3 Placing & Wayfinding	Day 4 Regenerating & Sustaining	Day 5 Monitoring & Mindfulness	Day 6 Connecting with Water	Day 7 Memories & Closing
A LSLLN Virtual Circle Tour	What is Climate Action?	Mapping & GIS	Environmental Approaches to Soil Management & Waste	Turkey Lakes Presentation	Voyageur Canoe Tour	Brunch, Photos & Reflections
Welcome Ceremony	Whitefish Island Tour	Geocache & Great Lakes Conservation	Sustainable Diet	Mindfulness Walk Experiences with Climate Justice	Movie Screening: My Octopus Teacher	Postcards for the People

Day 1: Welcoming

Welcome Ceremony

Facilitator: Jennifer Bridge **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

Participants gathered together for a group meal on campus at Algoma University and welcoming to the CAFS.

Day 2: Climate & Local History

Whitefish Island Tour & History Facilitator: Joe Tom Sayers Audience: CAFS participants and organizers

Joe Tom Sayers from Batchewana First Nation led a walking tour around Whitefish Island. He shared his knowledge of Whitefish Island's history.





Day 3: Placing & Wayfinding

Mapping and GIS: Making Buffers & GPS Points for Geocaching

Facilitator: Jennifer Bridge **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

In this online session, participants learned how to make buffers in GIS and download GPS points to engage in geocaching.

Geocache Seeking Natural Features & Great Lakes Conservation Talk Facilitator: Jennifer Bridge Audience: CAFS participants and organizers

Following up from the online session, participants gathered in person for this geocaching event at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre Arboretum and Bellevue Park.



Day 4: Regenerating & Sustaining



Compost & Soil: Environmental Approaches to Soil Management & Waste Facilitator: Dr. Paul Hazlett Audience: CAFS participants and organizers

A presentation on soil science was followed by CAFS participants moving outside for a practical demonstration of soil types.

Sustainable Diet: Featuring Veganism and TEK, Hunting & Foraging

Facilitators: Brad Webkamigad and Kylee Adam **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers



Brad Webkamigad a knowledge-sharer, led a session on hunting and fishing. The group assembled outdoors in Bellevue Park. Brad related and demonstrated various hunting and finishing techniques and approaches. Following Brad's talk, Kylee Adam, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation Intern with RAIN and Algoma University presented on Veganism and Plant-Based Cuisine.



Day 5: Monitoring & Mindfulness

Turkey Lakes Presentation: Monitoring our Environment

Facilitators: Dr. Jason Leach and Dr. Kara Webster **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

Dr. Leach and Dr. Webster from the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie delivered an online presentation on climate monitoring in the context of their Turkey Lakes research station. A Question-and-Answer session followed.

Mindfulness Walk

Facilitator: Dr. Andrew Judge Audience: CAFS participants and organizers



Dr. Andrew Judge led a tour starting on the Algoma University campus. Participants visited a newly developed corn spiral and then visited a nearby site to learn about additional planting techniques within an Indigenous context.



Day 6: Connecting with Water

Voyageur Canoe Tour

Facilitator: Joanie McGuffin **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy's Canoes for Conservation guided the participants on a Voyageur Canoe tour of St. Marys River and its history in the context of climate change and action.





Movie Screening: My Octopus Teacher

Facilitator: Jennifer Bridge **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

Participants watched the movie "My Octopus Teacher" at Algoma University followed by a discussion. Synopsis: After years of swimming every day in the freezing ocean at the tip of Africa, Craig Foster meets an unlikely teacher: a young octopus who displays remarkable curiosity. Visiting her den and tracking her movements for months on end he eventually wins the animal's trust, and they develop a never before seen bond between human and wild animal.

Day 7: Memories & Closing

Brunch, Photos & Reflections

Facilitators: Jennifer Bridge and Dr. Nairne Cameron **Audience:** CAFS participants and organizers

Sault Ste. Marie CAFS participants and organizers gathered for a brunch at Bellevue Park. Algoma University Communications came to take a group photo. Final reflections on the CAFS week were shared.





Duluth Hub

The Duluth Hub of the LSLLN engaged their social and ecological community and partners in hosting a CAFS in line with the other LSLLN hubs. In bringing the Duluth CAFS to fruition with, and for, the larger community, the core organizers were the Duluth Co-Hub Leads for the LSLLN, Dr. Randel Hanson and Dr. Kathryn Milun (University of Minnesota – Duluth).

The CAFS in Duluth went through several phases and in addition to drawing upon the overall CAFS objectives (above), it was also seeking to emphasize intergenerational engagement and arts-based social communication, engagement and transformation. Given the challenges of covid-19, the CAFS in Duluth has gone through three iterations (described below).

Collaborators

Bois Forte Tribal Nation and Duluth Arts Institute

• Christina Woods (Director, Duluth Arts Institute)

Duluth Waterfront Collective

• Jordan Van Der Hagen

Fairhaven Farm

- Emily Beaton (Proprietor)
- John Beaton (Proprietor)

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

• Vern Northrup (Elder)

Honor the Earth

• Sara Boots (Organizer)

Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe

• Jim Ouray (Proprietor)

University of Minnesota

- Rumbidzai Masawi (Board Member, Regional Sustainable Partnerships)
- Vince Debritto, (Senior Lecturer, College of Design)
- Jonee Kulman Brigham (Senior Research Fellow, Minnesota Design Center)



World Climate School

• Tone Lanzillo (USA Organizer)

Food Collaborators

- Duluth Folk School (https://duluthfolkschool.com/)
- Chester Creek Café (https://www.astccc.net/)

Iteration 1: August 2021

The CAFS in Duluth was originally planned for August 2021 in harmony with the iterations in Thunder Bay and SSM. In weaving the people and projects together in preparing for that version, several in-person and virtual planning meetings with collaborators in Duluth were held. Key collaborators in planning for this event included LSLLN Duluth Co-Hub Leads Randel Hanson and Kathryn Milun, along with other collaborators: Tone Lanzillo (World Climate School), Sara Boots (Honor the Earth), Jim Ouray (Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe), and Rumbidzai Masawi (Regional Sustainable Partnerships, Univ. of MN). In addition to these core organizers, conversations with many others in the region were held to garner input and



participation in planning, recruitment and registration. The core organizers met on multiple evenings in June, July and August 2021 to discuss integration of the cross-hub CAFS events with Duluth-specific sessions, and how to bring this collaboration and learning together. Based on those conversations and reaching out to additional partners, the schedule below was developed.

Given the combination of covid-19 and the timing of the August 2021 iteration overlapping with 'the end of summer' and the beginning of school at both high school and college schedules, it was discovered that participation in a week-long, in-person field school was untenable; hence this iteration was postponed.



Iteration I Schedule

The CAFS in Duluth was originally planned to be a week-long experiential training program consisting of seminars, site visits, virtual workshops, and related events in coastal communities across the Lake Superior Watershed. The event would be free, inperson, open to ages 18-30, with provide daily lunches, several evening meals, and snacks to all participants.

Over the course of six days, the CAFS in Duluth would have consisted of a series of inperson seminars, interactive virtual sessions, and site visits via the following schedule:

Day 1

Welcome Dinner

Facilitators: Randel Hanson and Kathryn Milun

Participants will gather for an evening of free time to engage in conversation with CAFS participants and collaborators.

Day 2

<u>A Stoic and Sustainable Path: Finding Our Place in a Climate Change World</u> Facilitator: Tone Lanzillo

Noted climate activist Tone Lanzillo will explore what it means to be a "climate citizen" and "climate activist" applying four stoic virtues (courage, justice, self-control, wisdom). How can we apply these to daily life in this climate century as we create "emergent strategies" to discover and take ownership of sustainable and regenerative pathways.

Infrastructure for the Climate Century

Facilitator: Vince Debritto, College of Design, Univ. of MN.

How does infrastructure create default choices for how we interact with a living biosphere? What does this mean for making the substantive changes necessary to respond to climate change? How do the various infrastructures of Duluth line up for 21st century needs?



Day 3

Commons Design For Energy Infrastructure Transition

Facilitators: Kathryn Milun & Jonee Kalman Brigham

How do we "make visible" our 20th century energy infrastructure, designed to go unnoticed by citizens in their everyday landscapes? How can we design renewable energy for a 21st century that avoids extractive-economy outcomes by including commons ownership principles that build strong community economies? Join Kathryn Milun and Jonee Kalman Brigham for an experiential "Power Journey" through GIS story-mapping of our region's energy infrastructure and commons design exercises for locally owned solar microgrids.

Urban Design for 21st Century

Facilitator: Jordan Van Der Hagen

How are freeways emblematic of 20th century fossil fuel systems? How do they impede the well-being of urban communities? Join Jordan for an exploration of Duluth's freeway system and ideas for reimagining it for our 21st century.

Day 4

Line 3, Climate Justice, Indigenous Realities

Facilitators: Sara Boots and Water Protectors.

How does LINE 3 create a multi-decades infrastructure to burn the most polluting fossil fuels in North America? How does the Line 3 pipeline impact indigenous rights and well-being? Sara Boots will lead a day-long visit to learn from Water Protectors at the Water Protector Welcome Center near the Mississippi River and Line 3 Crossing in Aitkin County.

Day 5

Regenerating Food/Climate/Social Systems

Facilitator: Randel Hanson

How are human food systems deeply intertwined with climate, human health, economic and social systems? How can we reorient agriculture for social ecological regeneration in playing a key role in justly addressing climate challenges via an opportunities lens?



Regenerative Agriculture in Practice

Facilitators: John and Emily Beaton

What does regenerative agriculture look like at a farm scale level in our region? What models exist to provide individual livelihoods, community economies, better health outcomes, and thriving landscapes for our 21st century? Join John and Emily for a deep dive into their multi-enterprising regenerative farm.

Day 6

Foraging, Wild Rice, and Changing Climate Facilitator: Vern Northrup

How is climate change impacting wild rice, so sacred to the wellbeing of tribal peoples in Northern Minnesota. Vern Northrup, Fond du Lac tribal member and elder, will lead us on a tour of the five wild rice lakes on and near the Fond du Lac Reservation and discuss the impact of climate change on tribal and broader landscape life.

Day 7

Dinner, Film, Art, Reflections: Art for Life Facilitator: Jim Ouray

Learn from life-long puppeteer Jim Ouray, founder and director of the Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe, in his experiences in invigorating the natural healing power of people of all ages by creating imaginative spectacles using puppets, masks, costumes, dance and music related to seasonal events, specific moments and particular places? How is this work vital to climate action?

Global In/Equality and Realities

Facilitator: Rumbidzai Masawi.

On-site viewing of the film, THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND, followed by discussions led by Rumbidzai Masawi on climate change and global inequity. How do we re-imagine our connections and obligations related to global discrimination, lack of access to economic opportunity, gaps in basic public services, and outright misuse of political power in this climate century?



Iteration II: Reboot for February 2022

The core organizers reassembled on Sept 1, 2021, and over several subsequent evenings to discuss how to reboot the CAFS in Duluth against the backdrop of rising covid-19 transmission.

The rebooted version was proposed to take place on six Tuesday evenings in February and March 2022, for 1.5 to 2 hours in length. The plan was to open the participation to all ages, making a special attempt to gain intergenerational participation by working with area high schools, University for Seniors, Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, and respective collaborators and contacts.



These week-day evening virtual sessions could be augmented with a Saturday experiential trip if desired by the collaborators, covid-19 protocols, and incidence pending. There was extensive discussion to determine how to enhance active participation in these sessions via shorter presentations followed by breakout groups and discussions.

The core organizers reached out to many people, including UMD students and fellow activists about the structure and timing of this iteration of the CAFS in Duluth and it became clear that getting full participation in these sessions would be challenging given the reality of covid-19 and related 'zoom fatigue'. In short, the target audience was already integrated in virtual zoom work for both study and social engagement; adding another series of sessions to these already filled virtual plates would be difficult. Hence, the CAFS in Duluth was postponed and repositioned for summer 2022.

Iteration II Schedule

The plan was to base the weekly sessions on the framework in Iteration I as follows:

Week I (Tues, 10/5): Introduction: What is Climate Action, why now, why us? Tone Lanzillo & others

Week II (Tues, 10/12): Food and Agriculture as Solution Randy Hanson & others



- Week IIIa (Tues, 10/19): Infrastructure is Key: Energy Kathryn Milun, Jonee Kalman Brigham & others
- Week IIIb (Thurs, 10/21): Infrastructure is Key: Urban Design Jordan van der Hagen
- Week IVa (Tues, 10/26): Water is Life Sara Boots & others
- Week IVb (Thurs, 10/28): Foraging, Wild Rice, Climate Change Vern Northrup & others
- Week V (Tues, 11/2): Art, Social Joy and Transition Jim Ouray & others
- Week VI (Tues. 11/9): Acting Locally, Acting Globally Rumbidzai Masawi & others (Film 'Harness the Wind' to be viewed prior to session via link)



Iteration III: Three-Boot for June 2022

Given the extensive planning and networking on the CAFS in Duluth with LSLLN hub partners and Duluth-based collaborators, the Duluth core organizers are currently planning to stage the CAFS in Duluth in June 2022. The focus of this 'Three Boot CAFS in Duluth' will be arts based, and there is great excitement about collaborating centrally with Christina Woods, member of the Bois Forte Tribal Nation and Executive Director of the Duluth Arts Institute.

The core organizers are building upon the networking, curriculum development, and field school experiences of fellow hubs to bring a specific



social-ecological/arts-based approach to the 2022 CAFS in Duluth. Core organizers are in conversation with Christina Woods to discuss how to tailor sessions to most productively engage artists. Woods will also help in recruitment among artists in the Duluth region, using her extensive personal and professional connections in this community.

Core organizers plan to have in-person sessions largely modeling the August 2021 version of the CAFS while tailoring the schedule and ideas to this Duluth specific artsoriented community. There are also plans to have a 'community conversation' session several weeks after the actual field school at the Duluth Arts Institute with the CAFS in Duluth artist-participants to showcase the diverse 'climate action art' ideas and approaches that participants are integrating into their work.

Core organizers are excited to bring this important project to fruition this summer and contribute to the work of responding to the social and ecological needs associated with climate change and climate action in our community, region, and planet.



Lessons Learned & Reflections

Following the CAFS, the core organizing teams met to debrief and discuss our reflections on its effectiveness. Overall, we saw the CAFS as a great success in that we experimented with and implemented a range of innovative pedagogical approaches and tools and co-created an innovative and transformative teaching and learning experience. Because of this, the CAFS has been nominated for the Teaching and Innovation Award at Lakehead University. Our team saw evidence throughout the CAFS that we met our four primary objectives (as outlined above).

The overall success, value, and effectiveness of the CAFS is also evident in the feedback that we received from participants. In our final virtual event of the CAFS we asked participants to share a word or sentence reflective of how they were feeling after their participation. Examples included: *empowered, reciprocity, motivated, thankful, looking-forward, responsible,* and *eager.* These words are reflective of transformative and impactful learning experiences. Further evidence of effectiveness and impact are seen in the feedback from participants received from our post-CAFS survey in September 2021.

"Thank you SO much to everyone involved. You are all amazing and it's so inspirational to see that everyone is striving for change and trying to help our generation become change makers. It gives me a lot of hope and excitement for the future."

Participant Feedback "[the CAFS] truly set me on a course of action and determination to spread what I learnt here to members of my community. It was a learning tool I never would have the chance to experience in a normal university setting"

"Presenting many different perspectives and points of view surrounding the climate crisis made for an overall really engaging week!"

We also gathered feedback from community partners and other LSLLN members engaged with the co-creation and implementation process of the CAFS. The quotes



below illustrate that the CAFS was meaningful and impactful for those who were involved in organizing and facilitating the CAFS. The core organizing team, other LSLLN members that participated in the CAFS, and participants themselves have all experienced and expressed its effectiveness and value.

> "It was very inspiring to work with a

small group of highly

"I really appreciate that the CAFS activities were committed young people who interdisciplinary and multi-modal. didn't need to be convinced about The emphasis on experiential the climate crisis - who wanted to learning lent itself well to climate action. The CAFS included art, reflections, relationship-building skills, field excursions, and Indigenous worldviews. Meaningful climate leaders don't just know the facts, they are grounded in place and community. This is what the young people who participated in the CAFS were able to experience"

learn to more and effectively engage in creating change. What an effective way to support the transformations we need" **Co-Creator** & Partner "The winds of change! Feedback On and off, the whole week of the Climate Action Field

School, the winds were a-blowing. Blowing with questions, invitations and intents set to stand together with the air, waters, soils and sunlight which are all peoples -- human or otherwise -- true life support systems during these uncertain times. We are all people who determine how we will answer this wind's call."

"The climate field school was a great opportunity for EarthCare Thunder Bay to connect with, and help support the future climate leaders in our community. We were able to discuss our roles working on climate mitigation and adaptation within the city of Thunder Bay, and take them through a walking tour through an area of Thunder Bay to assess

> the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities from a climate perspective."

"I was amazed at how diverse and intense the field school schedule was. and how committed participants were when I met them halfway through. What an excellent design for creating community while tackling the biggest crisis ever faced by humanity"

Moreover, in the months following the CAFS, we have seen CAFS participants engaging in climate action work in the community and at Lakehead University. We recently received an email from one of the Thunder Bay participants who said, "I want to thank you again for organizing the field school because that really inspired me and ignited my passion to engage in climate action and environmental change".

Additional Climate Action events, inspired by the CAFS, have occurred since August 2021. These include:

1) An upcoming LSLLN event that will provide quantitative data of Lake Superior temperatures this winter indicating a change in the lake's turnover - a



characteristic that has until now been relatively stable but is shifting with climate change. All CAFS participants will be invited to join;

- 2) Line 3 protest at Canadian Banks in Thunder Bay;
- 3) A renewed Postcards for the People event for Lakehead University students;
- 4) A Climate Emotions Circle for LSLLN members and CAFS participants
- 5) World Water Day events at the Houghton, MI hub;
- 6) Post-CAFS in Thunder Bay Gathering Event. Participants, organizers, and collaborators gathered for an evening of connection, discussion about the biggest challenges and opportunities related to climate action, and brainstorming for the next CAFS.







The impact of the CAFS continues to grow in our communities and campuses. Given the overall success and effectiveness of the CAFS, we hope to run another version of it in the summer of 2023. We have already received a handful of requests about when the next CAFS will occur from members of the public who are interested in participating.

The CAFS organizers have been reflecting on the events and recognize that the use of an intensive field school approach creates accessibility challenges (i.e., individuals with childcare responsibilities and jobs). Furthermore, because some activities were physically active, future iterations of the CAFS should consider mechanisms for being more accessible to a wider audience.

The CAFS organizers recognize that the CAFS took hundreds of hours to plan, coordinate, and execute, so detailed planning proved effective. As a labour-intensive endeavor, it would be difficult to host every year given the LSLLN's current resources, so organizers will be seeking future funding opportunities to support this work.



CAFS Media

The CAFS generated many photos, videos of participant and organizer interviews, webinar recordings and an interactive 360° tour of the CAFS! Most of these media resources came from Thunder Bay. We highly recommend visiting the website below to more fully immerse yourself in the CAFS experience.

https://livinglabs.lakeheadu.ca/news-events/climate-action-field-school-e/



Contact Us

If you would like to learn more about the CAFS, you can find our videos and photos on the LSLLN website <u>www.livinglabsnetwork.org</u>. We invite you to email us directly at <u>superiorlivinglabs@gmail.com</u> if you have further questions.



