

OUR PROGRAMS

1. AHEAD (Aboriginal Heritage Education and Dialogue) program

The **AHEAD** program is a **community dialogue resource kit and field support program** for **First Nations** Band Councils to involve their citizens, from elders to youths, in identifying the unique heritage values in their communities including **environmental, cultural, social and historical** aspects. The **AHEAD** program helps First Nations communities meet their obligation to integrate **heritage and cultural awareness** in all local decision-making on critical issues and **share that indigenous knowledge with the greater society of non-aboriginals**.



The program relies on many **First Nations volunteers** who liaise with their Band Councils to get community participation and support. Communities are better able to maximize citizen input into local decision making. Most importantly, disenfranchised **aboriginal youths** participate, thus improving their communications skills through volunteer work, leading to employment opportunities in a self-sufficient, sustainable economy as a result. Volunteers and mentors from non-aboriginal societies in FORED's network also contribute leadership and capacity-building opportunities. The program involves some travel to BC regions to assist in training and community implementation.

CONTACT FORED (info@foredbc.org) if you'd like us to deliver this program in your BC community.

2. SCAN: Sustainable Communities And Neighbourhoods

The **SCAN** program provides **resource kits, workshops, tools and information** that engage citizens and community stakeholders **throughout BC** in lifelong learning and dialogue in support of **community sustainability**. Maintaining sustainable communities entails citizen understanding of the impacts of environmental practices on health, species protection, community lifestyle quality. It also involves citizen understanding of the importance of community culture and heritage as part of the sustainability equation.



This improved knowledge leads to increased participation in activities to improve those outcomes.

Through our broadly-based membership, drawn from **53 BC municipalities and 196 First Nations** and volunteer partners, we establish **working alliances with numerous community-based cultural groups, youth organizations, community centres, school boards, employee associations, businesses, labour unions,**

health sector, and governments. These COMMUNITY alliances add value and credibility to the SCAN program at the community level.

The **SCAN** program builds community capacity through workshops, and partnerships, providing **best practices templates** and **socially responsible sustainability models for determining community options**. These alliances act as both idea sources and

delivery channels for our public information and lifelong learning programs. Our programs are developed through a continuous process of surveys and consultations to ensure that they have the broadest applicability to the wide-ranging sustainability goals of communities throughout BC. Our information kits are readily adaptable because they utilize **community volunteer speakers** and **donated resource and research materials** from industry, government and NGOs.

The net benefits to communities are **improved citizen awareness and increased volunteer participation** in sustainability forums and processes.

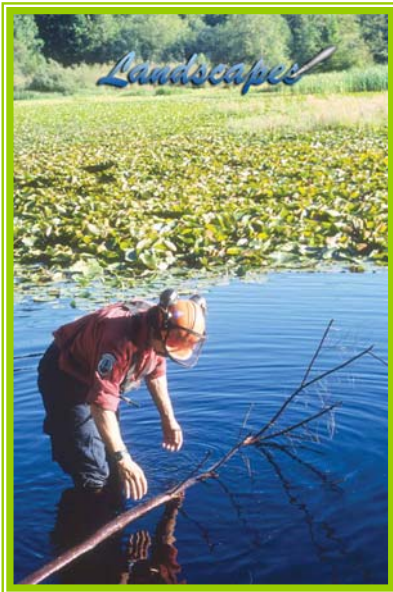
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3. Landscapes Magazine

Landscapes Magazine has won many national and **international awards**, including the **Vancouver Mayor's Award for Sustainability**, as well as **Best Association Magazine in Canada** honours in recent years. LANDSCAPES magazine is distributed to a broad demographic readership on a complimentary basis in all BC communities including government, business, cultural groups, community opinion leaders, youth groups, public libraries, School Boards, First Nations, NGOs, and the volunteer sector among others. See **Community Testimonials** link below.

<http://www.landscapesmag.com/common/main.cfm?ind=2&sin=4&ssi=0>.

The magazine utilizes **creative design and highly readable content** to identify trends and success stories in sustainable practice that community stakeholders in BC can adapt to their local requirements. FORED information programs such as Landscapes build **environmental literacy** across the board in communities so better environmental



decisions and hence better **health outcomes** can be achieved. The increasing prevalence of **health problems directly related to environmental indicators** means that education for sustainability is a primary step in prevention.

The net benefit to communities is increased public awareness of the community impacts of harmful emissions, and landfill waste, as well as more community conservation programs, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, and economic diversification such as eco-tourism, among others. Much of the editorial content is submitted by volunteer partners and reviewed by volunteers who work in the sustainability sector. Many of our magazines and resources are promoted and distributed by our volunteer network.

Please CONTACT FORED (info@foredbc.org) if you'd like to be a donor to any of our programs,

including Landscapes or be added to our complimentary mailing list for our magazine. You may also download our magazine from our website in the Landscapes Back Issue Archive.

<http://www.landscapesmag.com/common/main.cfm?ind=4&sin=3&ssi=0>

4. YES - Youth Engaging Sustainability

YES program provides **youth in BC communities** with the means to identify **environmental risks** to health and quality of life in their communities and the tools to work with the **media** to bring their findings to the broader community audience, resulting in positive change. Programs such as **YES** give youth **hands-on experience in constructive community action**, which in turn, **increases their self-esteem** and gives them **valuable media relations and communications skills**. The program also provides them with **community volunteer credentials** essential to their future career aspirations. One of our youth group **volunteer partners, The Spirit Bear Youth Coalition** has led development and distribution of this program.



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