



2011 Environment & Diversity Mini-Grants Grantee Project Descriptions

Bonnechere River Watershed Project (\$3,900)

BRWP will enhance its engagement with the aboriginal community within the Bonnechere Watershed to help raise awareness of environmental issues of mutual interest and concern and to address environmental degradation. The desired outcome is to establish a relationship of mutual respect, trust and collaboration in relation to environmental awareness and stewardship particularly now as we are facing the need for developing adaptation strategies to deal with impending environmental effects of a changing climate.

FutureWatch (\$5,000)

Changing Faces: Reflecting our diverse communities in our leadership, staff and participants! will build from FutureWatch's experience in engaging newcomer and immigrant communities to participate in environmental initiatives, and our synergies with the Toronto Green Community and Transition Oakville. Together, they work to identify their current engagement practices and to determine best avenues to map and engage the newcomer and immigrant groups within their communities. Staffs and volunteers will attend workshops that will provide them the practical tools, policies and procedures by which they will be better poised to engage and interact with the communities they serve.

Greenest City (\$5,000)

The Managing Diversity Initiative of the Greenest City aims to address some of the challenges we face in working with individuals from different ethno-cultural communities by providing workshops and training to ensure that every one in the organization shares a common understanding of diversity and an approach to working together that is open, inclusive and tolerant of difference. The learning and their experiences will be documented in a diversity 'Best Practices' guide that will act as a foundational piece for Greenest City's future work.

Halton Environmental Network (\$5,000)

HEN would like to increase the effectiveness of its outreach by connecting with the various ethno-cultural communities in Halton. In making these connections and determining the environmental mindsets and needs of these communities, links can be made with other environmental organizations to provide mutually-beneficial services and establish ongoing relationships. A more inclusive programming and communications may enhance cooperation between environmental, settlement, and other organizations.

Ontario Environment Network (\$5,000)

The Ontario Environment Network initiative focuses on providing opportunities for OEN and its member organizations to learn about Indigenous cultures, our shared history, the process of reconciliation, Ways of Knowing, including how it supports the International Environmental Protocol. It also aims to establish a base for a continued sharing between Indigenous Peoples and ENGO'S to address the needs of our shared environment and our future generations and the creation of an OEN Indigenous People's Circle.

Women's Healthy Environments Network (\$1,500)

Since 2010, WHEN has initiated seminars with newcomer women and families from diverse regions such as South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America to help address their exposure to environmental health hazards. The sessions emphasize "healthy homes", featuring demonstrations, interactive discussions, and questions and answers about environmental exposures affecting health. Due to the success of these seminars, WHEN is working to expand these seminars to other communities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).