



EKC Supports Outdoor Learning in the East Kootenay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 11, 2021

East Kootenay –Taking students outside to learn is more important than ever, not just for reducing potential transmission but also for their mental, physical and emotional health.

East Kootenay Community Credit Union (EKC) **donated \$8,000** to Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network ([CBEEN](#)) to purchase 16 customizable classroom kits for all elementary schools in Cranbrook, Jaffray, Fernie, Elkford and Sparwood.

The kits supported teachers and students in taking their learning outdoors in meaningful and engaging ways. Nature is all around us and often a short walk from our local schools. Feedback from teachers was that one of the main obstacles to undertaking outdoor learning was having the appropriate outdoor equipment and resources to make this happen in an effective and enjoyable way.

EKC's donation supported principals and teachers at each school to purchase \$500 worth of items from the Outdoor Learning Store in conjunction with CBEEN for various equipment that best suited their schools and students. The schools' teams also had the opportunity to partake in a series of free, 60-minute outdoor learning workshops earlier in the spring.

In addition, the kits were purchased through a Canadian non-profit [Outdoor Learning Store](#).

Pam Pinch, EKC Lead on the donation, worked with principals, CBEEN and Outdoor Learning Store to ensure students had something to look forward to this spring. Branch managers were able to connect their team members with schools for the delivery of the funds, ensuring students could use the fun, new equipment before the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

EKC branch managers and teams were able to get some first-hand views on how students were participating in outdoor education.

EKC was proud to work with CBEEN in this timely initiative.

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Media Contact

Jane Davies
250.421.8687
marketing@ekccu.com

About EKC

EKC was established in 1950 and has grown to over \$427 million in assets. It serves over 11,034 members throughout the East Kootenay. EKC is a community-based financial co-operative that offers a full range of banking, financial planning (EKC MoneyWorks) and general insurance (KIS Ltd) services. Our community branches are located in Cranbrook, Elkford, Fernie, and Sparwood. Please visit us at one of our branches, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or at [EKCCU.COM](https://www.ekccu.com)

[CBEEN's](#) Mission, "To encourage environmental stewardship and sustainability in the Canadian Columbia Basin by supporting environmental educators." We encourage everyone to learn more about what they are doing."



Jaffray Elementary School students enjoying outdoor education.



Mindy (EKC), Chris and students from Steeples



Outdoor education at Pinewood School



David, Jen (EKC), Pam (EKC) and Pinewood students



Mindy (EKC), Carissa and TM Roberts students



Sarah (EKC) and students at Kootenay Orchards



Mindy (EKC), Wendy and students at KCA

