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For Immediate Release

Alberta Council for Environmental Education recognized for outstanding environmental achievements by 2017 Emerald Awards

Edmonton, AB: Last night the Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) won the **2017 Emerald Award in the Public Education & Outreach category**. The award by the Alberta Emerald Foundation recognizes and celebrates those who made a significant contribution to preserve, protect and enhance the environment.

ACEE Executive Director Gareth Thomson has been an environmental educator for 27 years and helped found the organization a dozen years ago. "In my view, environmental education is THE key strategy to meet our sustainability challenges. We need to give our children the tools to build a future that balances economic benefits, societal needs, and environmental health."

Brad Clute is the volunteer chair of the organization. "I'm just so proud of our group! We have a talented Board and staff, and we've done a lot to deliver on our mission of advancing environmental education. People are amazed when they hear we have only four employees!"

Aaron Dublenko, a teacher with Edmonton Public Schools, highlights the importance of ACEE's work. "Environmental education connects kids to our natural world, which sustains all life. ACEE's work really connects and supports teachers so that we can better prepare our youth to be good environmental stewards. ACEE deserves this recognition for the work they've done, empowering students to provide solutions to environmental problems."

The Alberta Council for Environmental Education is a non-profit with charitable status and just celebrated the end of its first decade. To deliver on its mission to advance environmental education in Alberta, the group has convened over 5000 teachers in annual provincial conferences, helped over 75 teams build their environmental education capacity, worked with the community to gather and propose content for the new Alberta K-12 curriculum, and a host of other initiatives, with funding by individuals, corporations, government, and foundations.

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