

## Success Criteria for **Edward Burtynsky Award for Teaching Excellence in Environmental Education** – 2025/2026

- **Personal Commitment** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate demonstrates clear evidence of a deep commitment to environmental education and provides personal and/or professional examples.

- **Inquiry & Engagement/Lighting the Fire** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate honours the heart and spirit of students by engaging their curiosity about the natural world, placing their ideas at the centre of knowledge building, and encouraging them to actively pursue their questions in a variety of ways. Students are encouraged to negotiate their evolving ideas with one another as a *community of learners*.

- **Experiential Learning/Sending Out Roots** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate provides opportunities for students to learn from experience, developing a sense of place and personal connection to the land on which they live and learn. The candidate prompts students to test, reflect, revisit, and grow their ideas in relationship with their learning space — whether that learning space be outdoors, indoors, or virtual.

- **Integrated Learning/The Flow of Knowledge** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate authentically integrates environmental inquiry with diverse strands of curriculum. Students work with real world problems and questions that are relevant to them. The learning process demonstrates integration of diverse sources of knowledge, such as community, family, land, and traditional knowledge-keepers, supporting students' understanding of the interconnectedness of the world around them.

- **Moving Towards Sustainability/Breathing with The World** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate demonstrates a long-term commitment to developing a culture of reciprocity with the Earth “where children have an ongoing, intimate, and deeply informed relationship with their environment.” The candidate empowers students to grow their own environmental initiatives from topics that have been explored in and out of the classroom.

- **Importance of Indigenous Perspectives** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate demonstrates an ongoing commitment to Indigenous perspectives in environmental and all education. The candidate carries out this commitment in a way that is uniquely meaningful to them, and in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

- **Professional Initiative & Community Collaboration** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate demonstrates evidence of their effort to involve and inspire other educators and staff. By sharing their learning, the candidate also engages the wider community of parents, grandparents, neighbours and/or partners.

- **Innovation and Impact** - 1 2 3 4 5 6

The candidate's application offers promising and innovative ideas about environmental education to the teaching community. The candidate stands out from the rest.