

# Welcome to the Conservation Education Project

The Conservation Education Project (CEP) toolkit is a multi-media package for educators, youth leaders and students. Our aim is to provide students across the province with **locally informed** and **curriculum-based** conservation education material. The CEP includes lesson plans, reading comprehension and activity sheets, print and video reference materials, an inventory of websites, an inventory of classroom innovators and a detailed glossary.

The **Conservation Education Lesson Plans** are intended to provide school students in the province, from Grades 4-12, with an understanding of local conservation goals, the rationale for the protection of biodiversity, and information on native plant and animal species, with reference to endangered species. The lesson plans and extension activities were designed to carefully match the provincial school curriculum. Connections can easily be made with numerous science, art, literature and social science learning outcomes. However in creating this manual we focused on outcomes in the science curriculum, specifically for the following units:

- **Grade Four: life science, habitats**
- **Grade Six: life science, diversity of life**
- **Grade Eight: environmental interactions**
- **Grade Nine: diversity of living things**
- **Environmental Science 3205**

There are also some connections with Biology 2201 and 3201. All lesson plans are labeled with the target grade and subject matter, however these are guidelines only. Refer to the matrix of curriculum connections to find an activity that best suits the learning outcomes for your grade level. Contact us if you discover connections that we did not include. Please note that any activity can be adapted or used in part to suit the needs of students of any age or grade level.

The **Ecoregion Brochure Activity Sheets** that supplement our ecoregion brochure series provide reading comprehension questions. The activities for further exploration have project ideas for deeper exploration into the ecology, geology and conservation issues of the region.

All of these activities have also been designed such that they may be used individually or as part of a larger unit. Environmental issues are multi-disciplinary, so they encourage an appreciation of several diverse bodies of knowledge. It is hoped that classroom teachers, youth group leaders, and others will find useful reference material and stimulating activities to fit throughout their curriculum.

The CEP manual will be in the hands of educators across the province early in 2008. Once distribution is complete, we plan to move into the second stage of the project where the CEP will become a dynamic web-based resource. Watch for additions, updates and supplementary materials being added to the on-line version of this package starting very soon. There, we will update and expand the curriculum connections and will develop connections specific to other youth group programs as well. Visit the PAA website at <[www.paanl.org](http://www.paanl.org)>. Please feel free to contact us with ideas, improvements and success stories!

The protection and preservation of our natural areas and species is vital to a healthy and sustainable environment. Educating the leaders of tomorrow about these issues is just as important to the province's conservation goals, as action is today. It is hoped that these activities will encourage our province's youth to appreciate the unique beauty of our province, and understand the importance of protecting its biodiversity.

Enjoy being a part of Protected Areas Association's **Conservation Education Project!**

