



Catherine Sople
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Mississauga, Ontario sople@sympatico.ca [@Sople](https://twitter.com/Sople)

January 8, 2021

Association for Canadian Educational Resources
Helen Street, Mississauga L5G 3B5

Attention: Alice Casselman, President

Re: Delegation to Peel Regional Council – ACER reports on Project Crossroads

I am pleased to provide this Letter of Support to ACER (Association for Canadian Educational Resources) by summarizing its success to deliver Project Crossroads urban reforestation initiative in October 2020, as a contribution of climate change labs to the Knightsbridge area of Bramalea SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program).

ACER's results and impacts were presented to Peel Regional Council as a proof-in-concept to address a trifecta of equity crises called out with unanimously adopted Declarations in 2019 and 2020:

Climate change is a crisis. Racism is a crisis. COVID-19 is a crisis.

Project Crossroads engaged the heat-prone racialized and vulnerable residents of Knightsbridge in pandemic-adapted climate action to bring cooling shade, outdoor activities and social reconnection to an area most-impacted by COVID caseload by postal code.

ACER's collaboration with Bramalea SNAP was funded with \$20,000 US by Arbor Day Foundation under TD Green Space program. Bramalea SNAP is a collaboration of Toronto Region Conservation Authority, City of Brampton and Peel Region – Healthy Community Initiative. It is an urban revitalization program intended to engage community with local government services in order to address social inequities.

ACER'S sites are prioritized by GIS data for low tree canopy, high heat vulnerability, higher reported crime, disproportionately higher newcomer / racialized populations and with households of lowest decile income.

ACER's December 10 delegation to Peel Regional Council opened with a 2-minute video of volunteers' testimonials. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds were very enthusiastic to play a role to protect nature, support healthier families and become a more resilient community. Links are provided.

- Peel Regional Council Archive Video: https://bit.ly/ACER-at-Peel-Region-Council_2020-12-10
 - The delegation merited Peel Regional Council's Letter of Support for Project Crossroads proposal to Environment Canada – Community Action and Awareness Fund. See attached.
- ACER's Presentation Slides, with links: <https://bit.ly/2Jydzap>
- ACER's summarizing Press Release, with volunteers' video testimonials: http://bit.ly/ACER-gets-nod-from-Peel-Region_2020-12-18 :
- Peel Weekly News: [ACER gets regional nod for community-engaged climate action](#)



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ACER
ACER reports on Project Crossroads

Results and Impacts are summarized:

RESULTS: October 2020, under COVID

- 5 planting events in 3 Knightsbridge locations
- 71 volunteers, include secondary students
- 153 large trees + native pollinator/bird shrubs (biomass equivalent to 1840 x 1-gallon 18" trees)

IMPACT:

- Mulch-Measure-MOR units w/ training videos
- Extend Million Trees program with mulch delivery
- Animate non-profit agency ecosystem
- Introduce Carbon Calculation for GHG emission

ACER's website www.acer-acre.ca spotlights Project Crossroads: www.acer-acre.ca/project-crossroads

[ACER's Fall/Winter 2020 Newsletter](#) notes additional successes. Sheridan College students completed program hours and produced a research paper which tagged and mapped 408 trees on William Davis Campus and calculated their carbon sequester. Graduation deferred by spring 2020 pandemic crisis was accomplished in December 2020.

Public school boards continue to be restricted under pandemic protocols from holding school yard tree plantings. ACER offers students and families and remote teachers its outdoor ecology curriculum, [Mulch, Measure and MOR \(Measure Our Resources\)](#) with ACER's training videos and digital resources available at no cost to the user from the website. Project Crossroads activities helped to refresh municipal forestry delivery of mulch to public school properties for students' learning.

Ahead of the delegation to Peel Regional Council, other municipal and civic committees received ACER's final report. Refef to attached Schedule "A".

Please do not hesitate to contact me to answer questions or provide further information.

Best regards,

Catherine Soplet
416-275-9463
Founder, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Member – Peel Poverty Action Group

December 11, 2020

Sent via Email

Alice Casselman
Founder and President
Association for Canadian Educational Resources

Catherine Soplet
Founder
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

Dear Alice and Catherine,

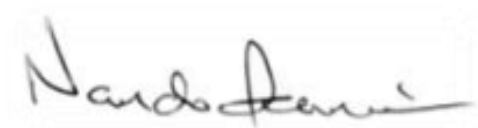
**Re: Letter of Support for a Proposal to Environment Canada Regarding
the Climate Action and Awareness Fund**

The Region of Peel is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) proposal titled "Project Crossroads: Climate justice science, for trees and for people", which supports health and wellbeing of communities with significant exposure to climate risk through action on climate change adaptation, risk reduction and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation.

ACER's proposal to enable community-based tree planting in geographic areas where tree canopy is low and coincident with some of the Region's most vulnerable neighbourhoods is strongly aligned with objectives in the Peel Climate Change Partnership's Green/Natural Infrastructure Strategy. Further, residents' tree growth data supports plans for future urban forest plantings and meets goals of the Peel Region Climate Change Master Plan for building community resilience with green infrastructure.

The Region is familiar with ACER's past accomplishments and is confident in ACER's ability to successfully deliver this important program in collaboration with its partners to accelerate much needed climate action in our community.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca,
Regional Chair and CEO, Region of Peel

Cc:
Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services
Christine Tu, Director of Climate Change and Energy Management



SCHEDULE 'A

ACER's Report on Project Crossroads Presentations and Public Mentions

DATE 2020	MEETING
November 27	Mississauga Board of Trade – Environment and Sustainability Committee
November 27	Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee 2021 Priority Setting Meeting
December 2	City of Mississauga - Equity and Inclusion Committee (Public Question)
December 8	City of Mississauga Environmental Action Committee
December 8	City of Brampton - Environmental Advisory Committee
December 10	Region of Peel – Regular Meeting of Council
December 10	Ontario Human Rights Commission – Community Advisory Group (Verbal Update)
December 17	Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee – Advocacy and Awareness Roundtable