



Research Forest

Legacy Funding Supports the establishment of an Ecosystem Education Centre within Vanderhoof, BC.

School District 91 – Nechako Lakes, Career and Trades Program received funding from the CNC Research Forest Society Legacy Fund in the fall of 2023, to establish an educational trail within a wetland ecosystem within the community of Vanderhoof, BC.

Both the elementary and secondary schools in Vanderhoof are obtaining hands-on practical skills and planning experiences in the implementation of this interpretive trail. Students are involved in creating sign content and are working with Elders from Saik'uz First Nation in designing and displaying information with traditional language interpretation. Web and Graphic Design students are developing virtual component to provide learning opportunities year-round and to share with other schools in the district. The Ecology class is responsible for mapping ecosystems, setting up of the movable platforms, and collecting field data to be used for learning resources. Elementary students will be guided on ecological monitoring including bird ID and ecosystem identification.

WL McLeod Education Centre Conceptual Plan



“Funding received by the CNC Research Forest Legacy Fund was able to put ideas to action.” Darren Carpenter, Program Coordinator for Career and Trades Program.

This interpretive trail system brings connection to multiple recreation areas within Vanderhoof, with intentions to attract locals and visitors to experience the WL McLeod Education Center. With hopes that other areas will be able to establish environmental education centres within their communities.



Other partners that were involved in making this project successful include: the District of Vanderhoof, School District 91 – Nechako Lakes, Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society, WL McLeod Elementary School and Nechako Valley Secondary School. Additional groups engaged in the project are CNC Nechako Campus, Saik'uz First Nation and First Nation Education Council, Nechako Valley Food Network, Men Shed, Advanced Millwright Services, Ace Building Supplies, Four Rivers Co-op, Rio Tinto and Centerra Gold.