Petition to Protect TDSB Outdoor Education Centres

To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS research demonstrates that outdoor education improves physical and mental health, academic engagement, teamwork, resilience, and student achievement across subject areas, and is essential for true reconciliation; and

WHEREAS many Toronto students have limited access to natural spaces and rely on school-based outdoor education programs for opportunities to learn in forests, on trails, around lakes, and through immersive environmental experiences; and

WHEREAS these closures disproportionately impact students from lower-income families and communities who cannot independently access camps, cottages, or private outdoor programs; and

WHEREAS these decisions are being made under provincially appointed supervision without meaningful consultation with students, families, educators, or communities; and

WHEREAS outdoor education is an essential public education service that allows youth to connect with and thus protect our fragile earth, and should not be dismantled as a result of ongoing education underfunding;

We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:

1. Immediately halt the closure of TDSB outdoor education centres;
2. Preserve and protect both day-use and overnight outdoor education programs within the TDSB;
3. Restore stable and adequate funding for outdoor and experiential education programs;
4. Recognize outdoor education as an essential and equitable component of public education in Ontario; and
5. Commit to meaningful consultation with educators, families, students, and communities before making decisions that impact outdoor education programming and facilities.

PETITION SIGNATURE FORM

(To be attached to the petition text above when collecting signatures)

Signature	**Name (please print)**	**Address (street, city, province, postal code)**	**Phone**	**Email**