

*People, Plants, Pollinators*

**GARDENER-IN-  
RESIDENCE  
PROGRAM**

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# Overview

Offered to Edmonton Public Schools, the *Gardener-in-Residence (GiR)* aka **Plants, People, + Pollinators Program** is an exciting new program that enhances student education through experiential and relationship-based connection to plants and nature with the goal to give students a deepened understanding of the living world, Earth and natural systems.

The GiR program offers weekly lessons by grade that :

- are developed to link to the AB curriculum;
- incorporate First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Traditional Ecological Knowledge to promote 'two-eyed seeing';
- can help schools become eligible for Bee School status through Bee City Canada; and
- can create or maintain your indoor or outdoor school garden(s).

Research shows that the benefits of learning in natural outdoor settings include: increased student engagement, academic improvement, development of social and collaborative skills, and improved self-concept factors. Find out more about the program themes below.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## THEMES COVERED

- Plant Life Cycles + Functions
- Citizen Science + Biodiversity
- Growing as Treaty People
- Native Plants + Pollinators
- Climate Change Action
- Seed Saving + Gardening
- Soil Science + Vermicomposting

## MEET NICOLA

- Environmental Educator
- Organic Master Gardener
- Pollinator Steward certification
- Bachelor's of Social Work
- Over 15 years working with Children + Youth
- Earth Ranger's 'Eco-anxiety into Eco-action' certification
- goodworm is a registered vendor with EPSB



# People, Plants, Pollinators

As your school's GiR, Nicola will work collaboratively with teachers and students to provide meaningful and engaging learning opportunities while acting as a liaison between your school's current (or potential) school garden/green space and the classroom. The GiR Program is a blend of outdoor and indoor lessons tailored to each grade level.



*photo: prairie aster featured in a rain garden, YEG*

## TESTIMONIALS

"I have seen so many connections to science curriculum and Indigenous ways of knowing. The things Nicola has done enhanced the learning in my classroom. Students look forward to each week."

"Nicola was extremely engaging, connected perfectly with curriculum, and the students (and I) looked forward to it each week!"

"I love how we were able to spend time outdoors learning together. Nicola did a fabulous job understanding the needs of children, their developmental abilities and letting them be kids!"

## 1 MONTH SCHOOL RESIDENCY BUDGET

**GOODWORM FACILITATOR FEES** **\$1,600 - \$2,600**

EACH GRADE GETS ONE LESSON PER WEEK  
(FOUR LESSONS PER GRADE TOTAL)

**RED WIGGLER WORMS** **\$150-\$200**

FOR CLASSROOM VERMICOMPOST BINS

**PLANTS + SOIL + SEEDS** **\$250**

FOR CLASSROOM + OUTDOOR GROWING

**TOTAL APPROX PROGRAM COST:** **\$2000 - \$3050**

**\*ADDITIONAL COSTS IF YOU ARE IMPLEMENTING A SCHOOL GARDEN  
MOST SCHOOLS PAY FOR PROGRAM THROUGH PARENT COUNCIL**

**MANY OF THE MATERIALS FOR THIS PROGRAM CAN COME FROM  
REUSABLE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND OR DONATIONS**

**FEES DEPEND ON # OF GRADES TAUGHT**

**PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU  
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS  
GOODWORMGARDENS@GMAIL.COM**

# OPTIONAL COSTS

**TAKE YOUR SCHOOL'S GARDEN PROGRAM TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH THESE ~OPTIONAL~ COSTS**

## **OPTIONAL COSTS:**

**SMALL INDOOR GROW LIGHT STAND (EACH)** **\$85**  
FOR CLASSROOM WITH NO SOUTH FACING WINDOW

**BEAN SCREEN SPROUTING LIDS** **\$30**  
FOR PLANT FUNCTIONS AND NUTRITION MODULES

**LARGE INDOOR GROW TOWER** **\$1000**  
FOR ENTIRE SCHOOL WITH NO INDOOR GARDENS

**NPK SOIL KIT** **\$30**  
FOR AN ADDITIONAL FUN SOIL EXPERIMENT

**FNMI ELDER/KNOWLEDGE KEEPER HONORARIUM** **\$500**  
TO INVITE AN INDIGENOUS ELDER/KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

**LET'S CONNECT, LET'S GROW!**