

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

In response to a deepening understanding of the intersections between environmental and social movements, four members of the Carden Field Naturalists (CFN) - a group long committed to the conservation of the Carden Alvar - are working in a sub-committee of the CFN Executive. This sub-committee is called EDIN; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Nature.

EDIN's mission is to make our environmental clubs more welcoming and inviting for nature lovers of all identities by recognizing barriers to participation and enjoyment of nature and where possible removing them. Starting with CFN, EDIN's work includes political activism & advocacy, community outreach, events & programming, and personal growth.

Here is EDIN's present Plan of Action;

1. To develop the capacity of CFN to lead free, guided walks in nature that are accessible to all.
2. Outreach to racialized, economically challenged and differently abled communities to welcome their engagement with the Carden Alvar.
3. To facilitate diversity in participation, membership, and leadership in EDIN and CFN.
4. Develop a Communications strategy working with community partners that includes;
  - i. EDIN brochure
  - ii. Maps of Carden and surrounding areas
  - iii. CFN Website update including an EDIN page within
  - iv. Social Media Accounts on Instagram and TikTok
  - v. EDIN Articles in CFN Newsletter 'The Prairie Smoke' and other news publications

We are asking for support from local leadership because EDIN members feel it is a priority to dismantle barriers to access to nature. Additionally, in the true spirit of diversity and inclusion, it makes sense to us that our work positively adds to the collective local movement for social equality.

EDIN's main requests of City of Kawartha Lakes Council are;

Network building - We believe that building bridges is the best way to create truly inclusive social and environmental communities. Thus we are asking for City of Kawartha Lakes Council to help connect EDIN with similar groups/initiatives if they are known.

Collaboration - We are happy to work with City of Kawartha Lakes Council through committees and individual leaders who are interested in expanding community inclusion through social and environmental groups like the EDIN and the CFN. Be it events, discussions, presentations and beyond, we are open to creative collaboration with our local leaders.

Thank you for considering these requests. Let's start a conversation together.

Sincerely,  
Courtney-Anne Craft  
EDIN Chairperson