



**Proposal to Environment Canada: Community Action and Awareness Fund**

# **Project Crossroads: #Climate justice science, for trees and for people.**

*Proof of concept: #AcerPx Project Crossroads in Knightsbridge, October 2020  
Results and impacts contributed to Brampton Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program*

**Environmental Advisory Committee**

**City of Brampton**

**Presented: December 8, 2020**

**Prepared: Catherine Sople, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods**

**With: Alice Casselman, B.Sc.(Hons), M.O.Ed., Founder and President**

**ACER (Association for Canadian Educational Resources)**

# About this presentation: Requests

## REQUESTS:

- Refer delegation to Brampton City Council on December 9, 2020 to request a Letter of Support for ACER's Proposal to Environment Canada: Climate Action and Awareness Fund.
  - ACER's delegation to Peel Council for Letter of Support is scheduled December 10, 2020.
- Refer delegation to City of Brampton staff to establish a process with public school boards to extend its One Million Trees program by delivering mulch to public schoolyards for use in "Mulch, Measure and MOR" units, by students, educators and residents.
  - Deliver hands-on STEM to strengthen student academic talent.
  - Engage public schools and residents of all ages and backgrounds safely in the outdoors.
- Refer delegation to City of Brampton Staff for Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan; COVID-19 Youth Support Task Force; and Black African and Caribbean Social, Cultural and Economic Empowerment and Anti-Black Racism Unit.
  - Explore how ACER programs benefit GHG emissions reduction; how youth benefit with outdoor and hands-on cross-curricular activity, and how community tree planting can be guided by a framework to foster equity and inclusion and further understanding of racism, especially anti-Black racism.

# About this presentation: Rationale

- **Introduce: Project Crossroads: "*Climate justice science, for trees and for people*"**  
**Proposal to Environment Canada under Climate Action and Awareness Fund**  
**Period running four years, from 2021-2025: Total Value \$ 1,477,588**
- **Proof of Concept:**  
**How ACER targets planting sites to foster equity, in Brampton and in Peel**
  - **Presentation slides to Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee – 2021 Priorities Session on November 27. 2020**
  - **Results and Impacts to deliver Project Crossroads in Knightsbridge, October 2020**
- **Pandemic Protocol to deliver ACER programs in 2020:**
  - **Planting for Change, November 2020 in Malton**
  - **Mulch, Measure and MOR to extend municipal One Million Trees programs**
- **Collecting annual data, for carbon calculation, for use in GHG offset**
- **Further Background: About ACER programs, and**  
**Founder Alice Casselman, B.Sc.(Hons), M.O.Ed.**

## ACER's Project Crossroads



**Volunteers**  
**Family "bubbles"**

... and students

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program



ACER funded for Bramalea SNAP project by:



Arbor Day Foundation



Green Space Program

Interested in tree planting, measuring, and monitoring?  
Get started with Mulch, Measure, and MOR!

## 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:

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

Project Crossroads is a Proof-in-Concept for application Environment Canada under CAAF:

<https://bit.ly/ACER-Proposal-CAAF-11-2020>

Climate Action and Awareness Fund



Total Proposal value: \$ 1,472,588

EC-CAAF: \$ 816,712

In-Kind: \$ 655,876

Four years:  
2021-2025



**Project Crossroads: Climate justice science, for trees and for people 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.**

**By 2025, ACER will engage more than 2000 people from all ages and backgrounds, to plant 7,500 native tree indicator species for climate change research.**

**After Year 4, more than 18 T of Carbon will have been sequestered where people most need shade. Carbon capture will increase as tree canopies grow.**

**Using civic engagement and proven “Everyday Scientist” research protocols, ACER will develop high-exposure communities with knowledge, tools, and skills that engage residents of all ages and backgrounds in climate action to mitigate heat by planting cooling indicator species shade trees and annual recording Smithsonian data for climate change research.**

# ACER targets planting sites to foster equity

In 2019, ACER prioritized equity sites in Peel

In 2020, COVID caseload worsened unmet needs

Next three  
Slides presented  
to “2021 Priorities”  
PPRSC Meeting  
November 27, 2020

## 2019 Insight:

- Low tree canopy overlays with vulnerable social data.
- ACER moved P4C schoolyard tree planting for climate change research to where students and families live in community.

## 2020 Innovation:

- Pandemic Learning: ACER pivots to digital delivery
- NFP Agency embedded ecosystems benefit from outdoor/ on-line/ remote activity to reconnect digitally and in the field with client students and families.

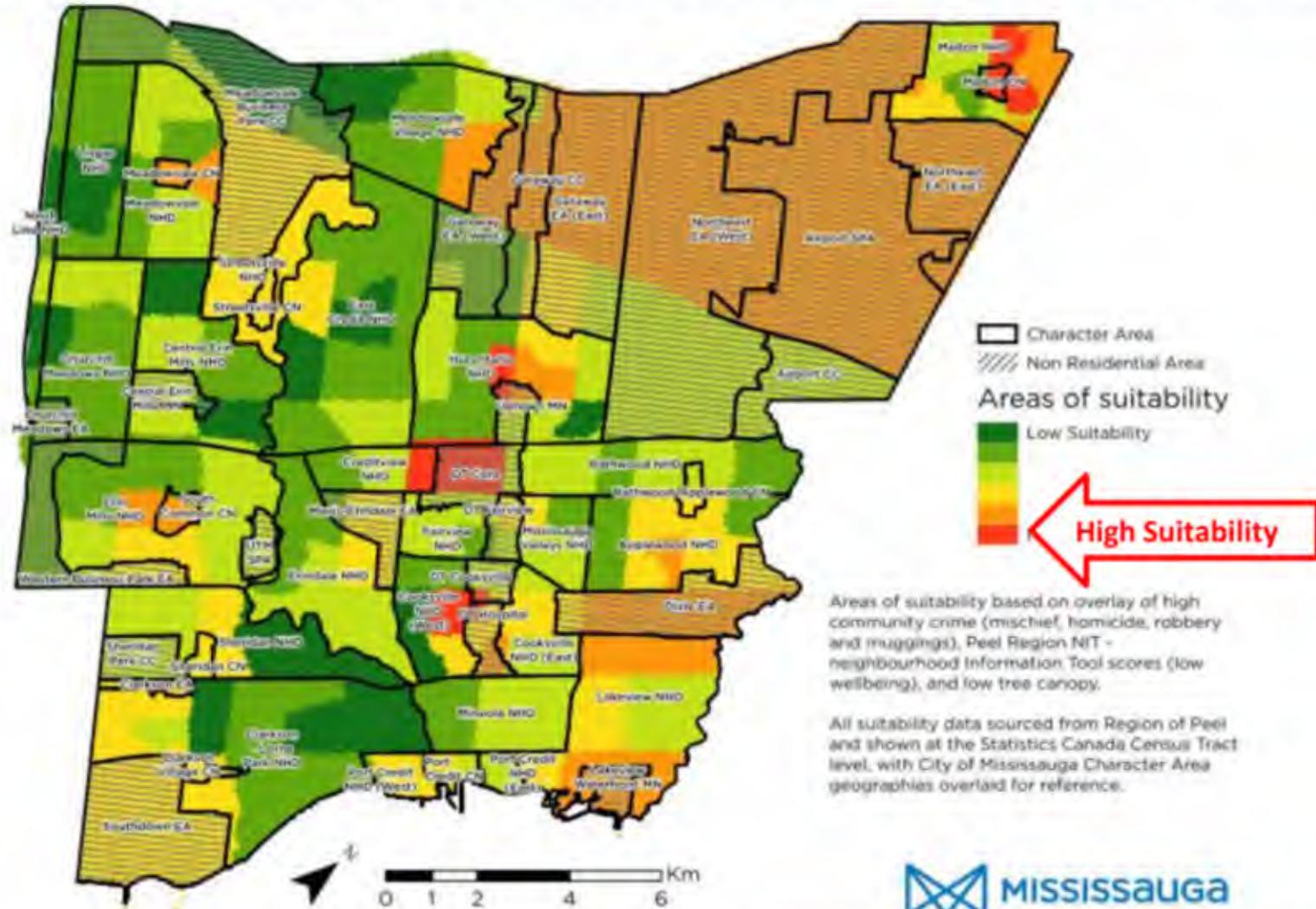
# Project Crossroads – Bramalea (January 2020)

Low canopy, unmet social needs – near industrial areas.



# Where to plant for Anti-Racism Action Program: City of Mississauga overlays StatCan vulnerability data

Slides presented  
"2021 Priorities"  
PPRSC Meeting  
November 27, 2020



www.acer-acre.ca



Map prepared: December 2019

# Climate Justice is at risk in Peel



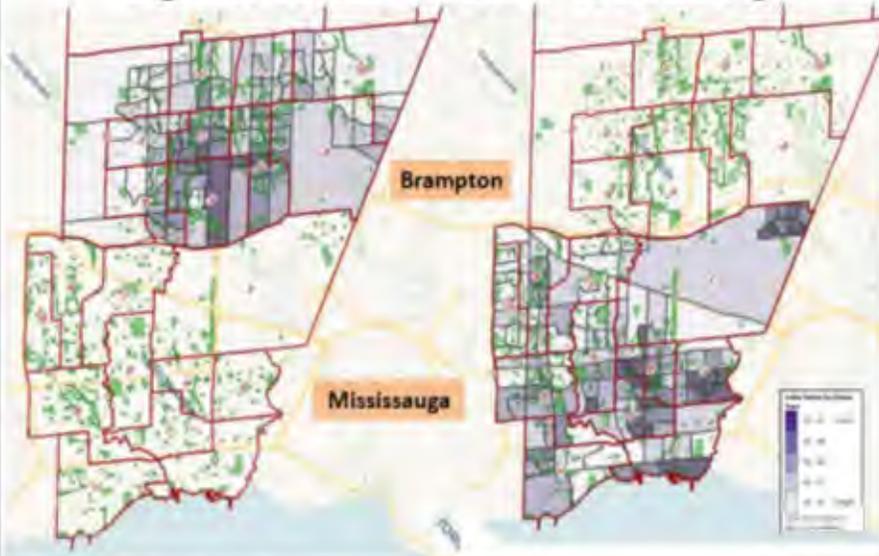
New Immigrant is less likely to reside with easy access to Tree Canopy

## Climate Change is a Crisis

## Racism is a Crisis

## Covid-19 is a Crisis

Mapping Wellbeing against Parks  
Lighter tones = Better Wellbeing



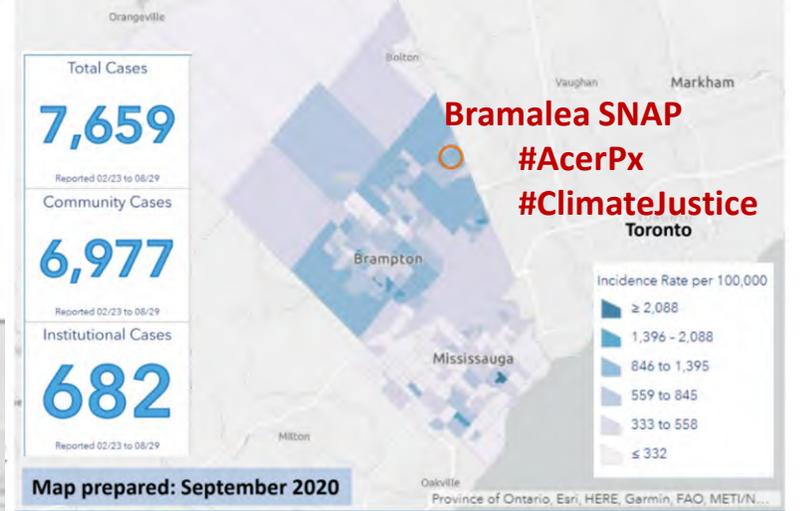
Peel Region  
Neighbourhood Information Tool



Recent Immigrants in Peel  
by Dissemination Area (2016)  
Peel Newcomer Strategy Group  
Collective Impact Report (2019)

Where to plant for Project Crossroads:  
Region of Peel – Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard

### COVID-19 Caseload by Postal Code



Bramalea SNAP  
#AcerPx  
#ClimateJustice  
Toronto

In 2019 Knightsbridge targeted for urban reforestation via community tree planting for climate change research  
In 2020, COVID had disproportionate high impact in same areas.



Slides presented "2021 Priorities"  
PPRSC Meeting November 27, 2020

# #AcerPx #Knightsbridge

*"Climate justice science, for trees and for people."*

**Where to plant for Project Crossroads:  
City of Brampton overlays low trees w/ vulnerability**

**Bramalea SNAP (Google Maps)**  
Bramalea SS  
Earmcliffe Sr. PS  
Eastbourne Drive PS  
Fallingdale PS  
Folkstone PS  
Cardinal Newman Catholic Elem...  
Georges Vanier Catho...

**Project Crossroads: Planting for Change**  
Community Tree Planting in Bramalea SNAP Areas  
(Sustainable Development Action Plan - Urban Revitalization)  
Collaboration of ACER Canada [Association of Canadian Educational Resources]  
City of Brampton Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA)



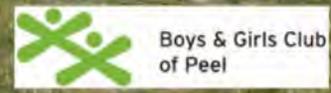
**Bramalea Schools**  
Bramalea PS  
Bramalea Senior PS  
Bramalea Middle PS  
Bramalea PS  
Bramalea Catholic ES  
Bramalea PS  
Bramalea PS

St. Anthony School  
St. Jean Baptiste Separate School  
St-Jeanne-D'Arc Catholic ES  
St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Separate  
St. Jean de Brebeuf ES  
St. John Bosco School  
St. John Fisher Catholic School  
St. Thomas Aquinas SS  
Tall Pines School  
Williams Parkway Sr. PS

**ACER Canada**  
Project Crossroads: Planting for Change - "Climate justice science, for trees and for people." [Read more...](#)  
**Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), City of Brampton, Region of Peel and Healthy Communities Initiative** are working closely with neighbourhood community leaders, residents and businesses to develop a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) for Bramalea. [Read more at TRCA site ...](#)  
**Working Dates for Bramalea SNAP area community tree planting with ACER Canada - Subject to Conditions**  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Peel Living (10 Knightsbridge Road, Brampton)  
Saturday, October 17, 2020 | 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. | Folkstone Park (830 Clark Boulevard, Brampton)  
Saturday, October 24, 2020 | 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. | Caprell Towers (11 Knightsbridge Road, Brampton)



**Embedded Agency Ecosystem**



Slides presented  
"2021 Priorities"  
PPRSC Meeting  
November 27, 2020



**Volunteers  
Family "bubbles"**

**... and students**



**ACER Canada funded by Arbor Day Foundation, under TD Green Space Program**

ACER thanks Knightsbridge residents for welcoming Project Crossroads ...  
ACER thanks Knightsbridge residents for welcoming Project Crossroads trees, to contribute much-needed cooling shade and sustained climate ...  
[us4.campaign-archive.com](https://us4.campaign-archive.com)

# P4C Planting for Change: Establish New Trees

**A schoolyard program to establish outdoor learning and research across the curriculum and grades, teaches many skills to develop tree stewards. A suite of indicator tree species is selected and installed for long term maintenance, to annually measure, report and share data for analysis. A sense of shared ownership reduces vandalism.**

**Since 2008, P4C planted 60+ schools. Morning Star Middle School planted November 2020, before frost, with ACER-designed with Covid-adapted Planting Protocols meeting Peel Health restrictions that was tested and approved by Mississauga, Brampton, TRCA and CVC on August 6, 2020.**



**Malton - Middle School planting in November 2020**



**Using Planting 4 Change program, ACER is the preferred agency for City of Mississauga – One Million Trees**

# Mulch, Measure and MOR – For 1 Million Trees

Measuring Our Resources 2020 with ACER's Covid-19 protocols

ACER is finding free mulch for school yard trees as first step to help teachers get outdoors. Why?

1. Civic engagement (1 Million Trees)
2. To provide a real and relevant activity outdoors
3. To put Snow Boots on trees to insulate their roots for survival!
4. To provide FOLLOW UP activities with on-line component

## FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES:

### OUTSIDE :

- Hands On - add measurement of DBH, silhouettes and bark photos to help identify species.

### INSIDE:

- Online – confirm species ID, map trees, use carbon calculator for Carbon stored and CO2 absorbed in Kg. Convert to metric tons for reporting.



ACER creates more living labs for “Everyday Scientists” on school yards and private lands in extending Mississauga’s – One Million Trees program with Forestry and Parks mulch

# Hands On Measurements: Annual Data









Diameter at  
Breast Height  
(1.3 metres)

DBH

A caption for this picture



# Questions ?

**Thank YOU for the opportunity today to share our work!**



[www.acer-acer.ca](http://www.acer-acer.ca)

**Alice Casselman**

**Cell 905-601-7685**

# Introducing Alice Casselman, B.Sc.(Hons), M.O.Ed.

- Ontario Teacher (Retired)  
Founding Director, Outward Bound (ON)
- Science Department Head  
Etobicoke School of the Arts
- Published author and ecology scientist
- 1987 - Founded ACER Canada to create relevant Canadian-based textbooks
- Humber Arboretum demonstrates five projects for climate change research
- Asset-Based Community Development



September 26, 2020 – Fridays for Future marched to UN for first Youth Summit on Climate Change. ACER launches Project Crossroads in Peel Region.



# Programs

## One Million Trees

**Project Crossroads-Bramalea Oct. 2020**  
Planting for Change adapts for urban reforestation in areas of low tree canopy where residents experience heat vulnerability and higher impact of extreme weather.

### Planting for Change (P4C)

We create planting sites in schoolyards and train students to monitor tree growth. The school becomes a part of our climate change monitoring network.

### Riparian Rangers (RR)

Plantings along watercourses  
Partners choose sites and species  
Long term monitoring of 10%

### Measuring Our Resources (MOR)

We teach volunteers how to inventory the existing trees on their property for our climate change monitoring network.

### Youth Stewardship Project (HYS)

Local youth are trained to restore and monitor natural areas of ecological concern through partnership initiatives.

### Go Global (GG)

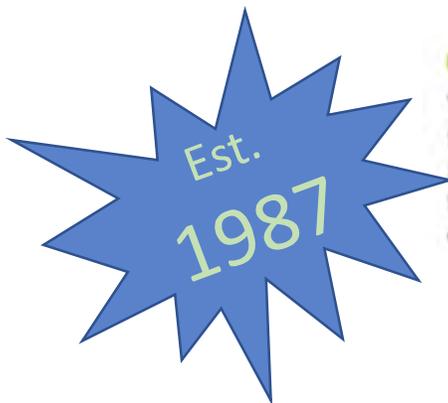
We train community volunteers to monitor one-hectare forest sites in our international network to track changes in biodiversity over time.

### Tracking for Success (T4S)

We measure survival rates of trees to add value to our partners' plantings.

### Tree Caching Trails (TCT)

Our mobile application for trails and schoolyards encourages individuals to learn more about their natural surroundings by scanning coded tree tags.



ACER creates living labs on public school yards with Planting 4 Change program.

ACER is the preferred agency for City of Mississauga – One Million Trees.