

# MINI-FOREST SESSION OVERVIEW

October 19, 2023

Canada's Centre for Geography and Exploration  
50 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

## Draft Program

### PURPOSE OF THIS EVENT:

Increase Mini-Forest awareness in the Ottawa area while identifying opportunities to accelerate the deployment of Mini-Forests across Canada through the Network of **Nature initiative**. Identify priorities for the advancement of Mini-Forests in Canada that can be explored in greater depth at **GLOBE Forum's** nature-based climate solutions dialogue in Vancouver, **February 13-15, 2024**.

**ESTIMATE: 100 ATTENDEES**

### OCTOBER 19, 2023, 8:45AM - 7:00PM

8:45 - 9:00 (15 Mins)	Arrive and gather	<b>LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE</b>
9:00 - 9:20 (20 Mins)	<b>Welcome</b> to the RCGS and territory of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation and opening prayer/blessing.	<b>John Geiger, CM, LLD, CEO, RCGS, and Claudette Commanda, Elder of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation - Main Gallery</b>
9:20 - 9:30 (10 Mins)	<b>Introduction of the presenting sponsor of Network of Nature, TD</b> and remarks on the importance of Indigenous leadership in conservation.	<b>Aran O'Carroll introduces Joshua Cayer, TD Bank - Main Gallery</b>
9:30 - 10:15 (45 Mins)	<b>Why Forests Matter (Armchair Interview).</b> Claudette Commanda, Honorary Ottawa Riverkeeper, Chancellor of the University of Ottawa and Elder of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation will discuss the importance of forests in the Ottawa valley and the role they have played and need to play in reconciliation and education to help heal people and the planet.	<b>Meredith Brown (Mod) - Main Gallery.</b>

## BIO BREAK & NETWORKING 10:15 – 10:45

10:45 – 11:45 (60 Mins)

**A Critical Role for Mini Forests (Panel).**  
Aran will introduce the Network of Nature to open the session. Emphasis will be on the introduction of the Mini-Forest Methodology and the science and performance of Mini Forests. Speakers include: Jenn McCallum, Green Communities Canada, Heather Schibli, Dougan and Associates, and Charlene Williams, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.

**Aran O'Carroll**  
(Mod) – Main Gallery

11:45 – 12:30 (45 Mins)

**Funding Mini Forests, Current Funding Envelopes and Future Needs (Panel).**  
Discussion will focus on funding opportunities that can accelerate the deployment of Mini Forests in Canada. Speakers include Emelie Roberge, NRCan, Carolyn Scotchmer, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Maggie Ballantyne, Greenbelt Foundation.

**Sarah Legault**  
(Mod) – Main Gallery

## LUNCH & NETWORKING 12:30 – 1:30 UPPER GALLERY

Honourable Lois Mitchell, FRCGS, President, RCGS, honours  
Prof. Diana Beresford-Kroeger, FRCGS - Award Presentation and Remarks

1:30 – 2:15 (45 Mins)

**Mini-Forest Supply Chain (Panel).** Critical bottlenecks that could limit the speed and scale of Mini Forests in Canada. Speakers include: Blaine Pearson, Wilder Climate Solutions, Maureen Jacques, Ferguson Tree Nursery, Stephanie McNeely, Forêt Capitale Forest.

**Elyse McCann**  
(Mod) – Main Gallery

<p>2:15 – 3:00 (45 Mins)</p>	<p><b>Assisted Migration (Quest Speaker and Armchair Interview).</b> Should Mini Forests deploy what could be considered a controversial method, including the migration of genetics as well as 'near' native species? Speaker: Ken Farr, CFS NRCan.</p>	<p><b>Keith Jones</b> (Mod) – Main Gallery</p>
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**BIO BREAK & NETWORKING 3:00 – 3:30.**  
*Light refreshments available.*

<p>3:30 – 4:15 (45 Mins)</p>	<p><b>A Critical Role for Technology and Citizen Science: Monitoring Mini-Forests and Engaging Stakeholders (Panel).</b> What role can technology and measurement play in supplying evidence of Mini Forest performance and keeping communities involved with their Forests over time. Speakers Include Kat Bruce, founder Nature Metrics, Steven Hill, Dougan &amp; Associates and Julian Caspari, Accenture.</p>	<p><b>Bruce Dudley</b> (Mod) – Main Gallery</p>
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<p>4:45 – 5:00 (15 Mins)</p>	<p><b>Speed, Scale and Onwards (Armchair discussion):</b> A discussion of the importance of speed and scale and how best to achieve it in light of the day’s dialogue. Bruce and Aran will then discuss the role of the Challenge Process and why it is important to building out the future of Mini-Forests and the Network of Nature partners.</p>	<p><b>Aran O’Carroll</b> (Mod) – Main Gallery</p>
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**MINI-FOREST RECEPTION & NETWORKING 5:15-7:00**  
**ALEX TREBEK THEATRE & ENVIRONS**