Parachutes For the Planet!
For Educators

What?

- A youth inspired collective international art project illustrating concern for climate change
- Started by then 13-year old Kallan Benson from Maryland in the USA
- Encourages students to think about local and global issues as they design and create a group parachute
- Gives participants an opportunity to display their message locally, nationally, and internationally
- Canadian Parachutes Display in front of Parliament in Ottawa in mid October 2018
- For questions, contact Laura Sacks: ccl.westkootenay@gmail.com or (250) 399-4313

Please read on for more details...

Why Parachutes?

Saving the environment is vital to our health, safety and future, and “parachutes” are a metaphor for this process. These parachutes (non-functional) are circular pieces of cloth decorated with artwork and personal comments about our concerns for the health of our planet.

Parachutes can be seen as “safety nets” and when held by groups during demonstrations or collectively displayed in large numbers, they transform into powerful messages of strength, hope and communal determination.

For more info on project: motherearthproject.org/parachutes/
How Do You Make a Parachute?

Here is a fun video describing how to make a parachute, by the young person who came up with the initiative.

Detailed instructions are also at this link.

You can use a large drop cloth, a play parachute, a tablecloth, or a used bedsheets. Cut into a large circle.

There are no size restrictions, but we suggest at least 3 meters in diameter.

Use acrylic, latex, or fabric paints and/or permanent markers. Be sure paint is not too thick, so parachute can be folded or rolled up without chipping. Do not use water-soluble paints or markers unless you use a waterproof fixative afterwards.

Ideas for Designing Your Parachute

- Involve your group to explore your shared values, concerns, and hopes for the future.

- Tie the project into your curriculum and link to sustainability and climate change. Here are some resources put together by the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network.

- Use the center of the parachute for your image(s) and reserve the edge to identify who you are and where you are from. Lettering should be at least 10 cm tall.

- Remember that you want a design that is eye catching from far away.

- Here are some pictures of completed parachutes.

- Feel free to use or modify this Prezi created by a couple of teenagers who brought Parachutes for the Planet into Nelson, BC schools. They include some good questions to ponder when considering a design.
What Next?

- Display your parachute at your school or other public place. Be sure to take a picture for your local newspaper.

- Consider joining a local parachutes display so students can see their parachute in a larger context and magnify your voice.

- Have your parachute be part of a national display in front of Parliament in Ottawa on October 15, 2018 (date not yet finalized), organized by Citizens’ Climate Lobby. After that it will be sent to be part of larger international displays.

- Let your Member of Parliament know it is going to be there. Ask her/him to take a picture and send it back to you. Use social media if appropriate.

- Please register your parachute here and include a brief story about it (25-300 words).

Getting your parachute to Ottawa for National Display

1. Get it to us by mail by October 1 (arrival date):
   Citizens’ Climate Lobby Canada
   435 Notre Dame Ave, Lower Level
   Sudbury ON, P3C 5K6

2. If you are in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia, you can arrange to get it to Laura by October 8. Contact info: ccl.westkootenay@gmail.com or (250) 399-4313.

3. If you know someone in your local area who is going to CCL Canada’s National Conference and Lobbying Days, ask if they will take it for you. For help coordinating, please contact Anita Payne: payanita@gmail.com or 613-267-0881.

Thank you!

canada.citizensclimatelobby.org