

# Outdoor Council of Canada's Field Leader (Hiking) course



OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF CANADA  
CONSEIL CANADIEN DE PLEIN AIR

**May 15th - 16th, 2021**  
**Fredericton, NB**

"The mission of the OCC is to promote and enable accessible education and recreation in the outdoors through a national certification program for beginner outdoor leaders."

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## Todd MacPherson, CFT

Supervisor of Continuing Education

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## OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF CANADA: FIELD LEADER (HIKING)

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**FROM:** MARITIME COLLEGE OF FOREST TECHNOLOGY (MCFT)

**SUBJECT:** May 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 offering.

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The Maritime College of Forest Technology's Department of Continuing Education is pleased to offer **Outdoor Council of Canada's Field Leader (Hiking)** course with Ian Smith and Beth Johnston. The training will take place from Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The course will be held at the Fredericton campus of MCFT in our Strickland Building. Specific course details, including an agenda, instructor profile, application form, and tuition costs, are included in the attached announcement.

This course offers a systematic approach to planning and managing a hiking activity for one day. Students will be required to read a 60-page manual and complete attached quizzes before attending the course. Course length is 16 hours. Graduates of the FL (Hiking) course are qualified to lead one day trips into class 1 hiking terrain as defined in the Outdoor Council of Canada's Matrix.

*"The mission of the OCC is to promote and enable accessible education and recreation in the outdoors through a national certification program for beginner outdoor leaders." Please visit the OCC website at [outdoorcouncil.ca](http://outdoorcouncil.ca).*

The scope of practice for a FL (Hiking) graduate can be found below. This course is available now from licensed instructors. If you have any questions, please call (506) 458-0649 or email [ce@mcft.ca](mailto:ce@mcft.ca).

Sincerely,



Todd MacPherson,  
Supervisor of Continuing Education

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## OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF CANADA: FIELD LEADER (HIKING)

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- Date:** Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Duration:** This is a 16-hour course that starts on a Saturday morning and concludes on a Sunday afternoon.
- Location:** Strickland Building  
675 Strickland Lane  
1350 Regent Street, Fredericton, NB  
E3C 2G6
- In-class sessions may also be held in our outdoor classroom  
Outdoor sessions will be conducted on the UNB Forest
- Format:** This workshop will be held in an informal manner, conducive to discussion and questions.

### FROM OCC WEBSITE

**Field Leader Scope of Practice:**

This course will certify you as a Field Leader for one-day events held in 3 seasons and in Class 1 terrain only.

**Field Leader Requirements**

Field Leaders must:

- Implement the event cycle as described in this course. If a Field Leader is unable to implement a specific element of the event cycle due to particular circumstances, they must act in ways that respect the intent of the event cycle.
- Have inspected the event venue at least once in the past 12 months.
- Operate under the procedures and guidelines of a risk management plan. This risk management plan must have been created by a competent individual.

- Supervision :
  - Be supervised by another, more experienced, outdoor leader.

or

- Work within a learning community whose members are all typically OCC certified Field Leaders.

### **Apprentice Field Leaders and Experienced Field Leaders**

An Apprentice Field Leader must work under the direct supervision of a more experienced outdoor leader.

To lead others in higher class terrain, a Field Leader must possess additional training and experience that has been validated as sufficient by other respected outdoor leaders.

### **What You Will Learn:**

The Field Leader program is designed to empower students to meet the challenges found in leading others outdoors. Challenges include ensuring physical and emotional safety, managing logistics, solving problems as they arise, and providing meaningful experiences.

Effective leaders are guided by values and beliefs. These attitudes influence their actions, which increase likelihood of success. Consequently, the Field Leader program focuses on instilling such values and beliefs to future Field Leaders. These include embodying mindful leadership, creating participant-centred experiences, including purposeful programming, ensuring systematic planning, promoting team building, enacting effective communication and pursuing learning through reflection.

These concepts are delivered to students through the study of the OCC's event cycle:

- **Motivation:** students to explore their personal motivations for becoming an outdoor leader. This reflective examination introduces the lifelong process of observing how our leadership style influences the outcome of the programs we lead and how we can adapt our style for optimal outcomes.
- **Visioning:** the leader establishes specific learning or experiential outcomes for the activity that are integrated with the needs and abilities of the participants and the characteristics of the natural venue where the activity will take place.



- **Pre-event planning:** the systematic planning processes that include constructing an event plan, team-building with participants, co-leaders, the organization, and other stakeholders, and hazard identification and mitigation.
- **Last-minute checks:** conducted in the period immediately before leaving for the natural space venue.
- **Group Management:** strategies for maximizing safety and quality of experience while moving through the terrain being certified (Hiking, paddling or equine).
- **Debriefing:** The active learning process for participants, leaders, organization and stakeholders that supports a learning environment.

Courses and modules include both classroom and outdoor lessons. Lessons include lectures, inquiry-based learning, case study analysis, group discussions and field practice. Students' own experience is used to deepen learning and strengthen the understanding of principles supporting good leadership. A final exam tests the knowledge elements of the course.

However, it is important to remember that values and beliefs can only be truly assessed by observing a person's actions over time. Consequently, OCC courses can only present and instill such attitudes. Organizations working with Field Leader still have the responsibility to ensure that their actions are coherent with industry best practices.

**Limitations:** Enrolment is limited to twenty participants on a first-come, first-served basis. A seat is considered booked once we receive a completed registration form (see below). **The registration deadline is May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Course Materials:** MCFT will be responsible for supplying all training needs, manual, padfolio, pen, and pencil.

**Nutrition:** Each participant will be responsible for packing their own food and drink for the entirety of the training.

**Tuition:** \$199 + HST

**Additional Information:** Please visit our website at [ce.mcft.ca](http://ce.mcft.ca) to learn more about this course, including instructor bios.

### The Hiking Terrain Matrix

Risk Factor	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Time to additional resources at road or lodge	No more than 3 hrs.	Multiple days, but no more than 8 hrs.	No Limit.
Fall Exposure	Easily managed or avoidable.	Fall hazard exists but manageable with moderate consequence.	Short sections with unavoidable & serious consequence, but can be managed without a rope.
Technical Difficulty	Smooth & Easy. Sections of unstable footing are short & isolated.	Talus and loose footing, some rough sections, trails may be poorly maintained.	Use of hands may be required. May be sustained sections of unstable footing.
Fresh Water	Mid-calf deep for slow moving and ankle deep for fast moving with no downstream hazards.	Hip deep for slow moving and knee for fast moving with no downstream hazards.	Waist deep for slow moving and crotch deep for fast moving.
Tidal Water	Gently sloping and non-slippery intertidal zone. No rogue waves.	Surge channels and tidal entrapment easily avoided. Moderate wave hazard may exist. Moderately sloping. Some slipping hazard.	Surge channels, tidal entrapment and wave hazards may be present. Steeply sloping, rocky, and slippery intertidal zone.
Weather Exposure	Generally sheltered, or easy retreat to sheltered area.	May be exposed but can retreat to sheltered area within 45 minutes.	Exposed areas with difficult or no retreat.
Navigation	On trails, or untracked with natural boundaries and/or handrails, may require simple map.	Simple route choices. May require a map, compass and/or GPS.	Complicated navigation, difficult route finding with minimal landmarks, requires map and compass and/or GPS.

## OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF CANADA: FIELD LEADER (HIKING)

*is equivalent to 14 Continuing Forestry Education Credits*

