

# ‘Everything is interconnected;’ Respecting Mother Nature is a lifelong commitment

*This article is about a two minute read.*



**Note:** All photos were provided by Lynn Short.

If you have attended an Indigenous Education & Engagement (IE&E) workshop at Humber College or been to the Humber Arboretum, you know Lynn “Aunt Lynn” Short.

Before working as the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator at the Humber Arboretum and as an Indigenous Education Specialist at Humber, Lynn was an elementary school teacher specializing in mathematics and science. She also worked at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre as a Nature -Interpreter and at Humber’s Centre for Urban Ecology tending to the land and educating students.

As the Indigenous Education Specialist, Lynn develops and delivers land and culture-based programs for Indigenous students and alumni. She also co-led the development of a Land-Based Two-Eyed Seeing course for second-year Early Childhood Educator students, which will pilot in Fall 2021.

Children and youth are a motivator for Lynn’s lifelong dedication to protecting the environment. When asked why she is passionate about sustainability, Lynn said “I have three children and five grandchildren. I want my family and other people’s families to benefit from the earth in the ways that I and those who have come before me have. I want the future to sustain those yet to come.”

Lynn is most widely known for her work with invasive plants. In 2016, Lynn received the Bob Whittam Award for her dedication and innovation in combatting invasive species in the Severn Sound ecosystem. Lynn has also researched about invasive Phragmites in Georgian Bay and has volunteered to remove and teach about invasive plants at Tiny Mars, City of Toronto, and TRCA (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority). She has also developed a non-chemical control strategy for Phragmites australis, a wetland grass, and co-developed an Invasive Plants Control Plan that will launch on campus this spring.

When asked how she addresses sustainability in her work, interconnectedness, the sense of oneness, is a guiding principle that Lynn adheres to. “I try to keep in mind that everything is interconnected. I want to respect ‘all my relatives,’ the plants, the animals, the rocks, the water, the land. I try to live my life and to do my work in such a way as to show [my] respect by giving back. When I walk outdoors, I collect garbage that others leave behind because that shows my thanks,” says Lynn.

Lynn’s advice for anyone looking to get involved with sustainability-related projects is, “Follow your passions, whatever area you are interested in. Look for opportunities to volunteer. Experience is the best teacher. Learn from others with similar passions.”

**If you are looking to learn more about Lynn’s works visit the [Humber Arboretum’s](#), [IE&E’s](#) and the [Office of Sustainability’s](#) website.**