

Canadian Outdoor Summit

Workgroup #2 – Best practices, Structures, and Systems

Mandate:

To support the vision of the Canadian Outdoor Summit of enabling a national dialogue and strengthening connections within the diverse outdoor sector in Canada, Workgroup #2 was tasked with a mandate to “compile and share best practices, structures, and systems related to Led Outdoor Activities across Canada as well as celebrating quality practices across the many sectors of our industry.” To this end, we present the following model that reflects current acceptable practices, structures, and systems of Led Outdoor Activities (LOA) in Canada.

Membership:

Workgroup #2 was composed of seven members:

- Morten Asfeldt (University of Alberta) – Workgroup Chair
- Janet Barlow (Hike Nova Scotia)
- Renée-Claude Bastien (Aventure écotourisme Québec)
- Katie Baum Mettenbrink (NOLS)
- Rob Crew (Ontario Camps Association)
- Michael Foster (NOLS)
- Tim Patterson (Interpretive Guides Association)

Overview of Model:

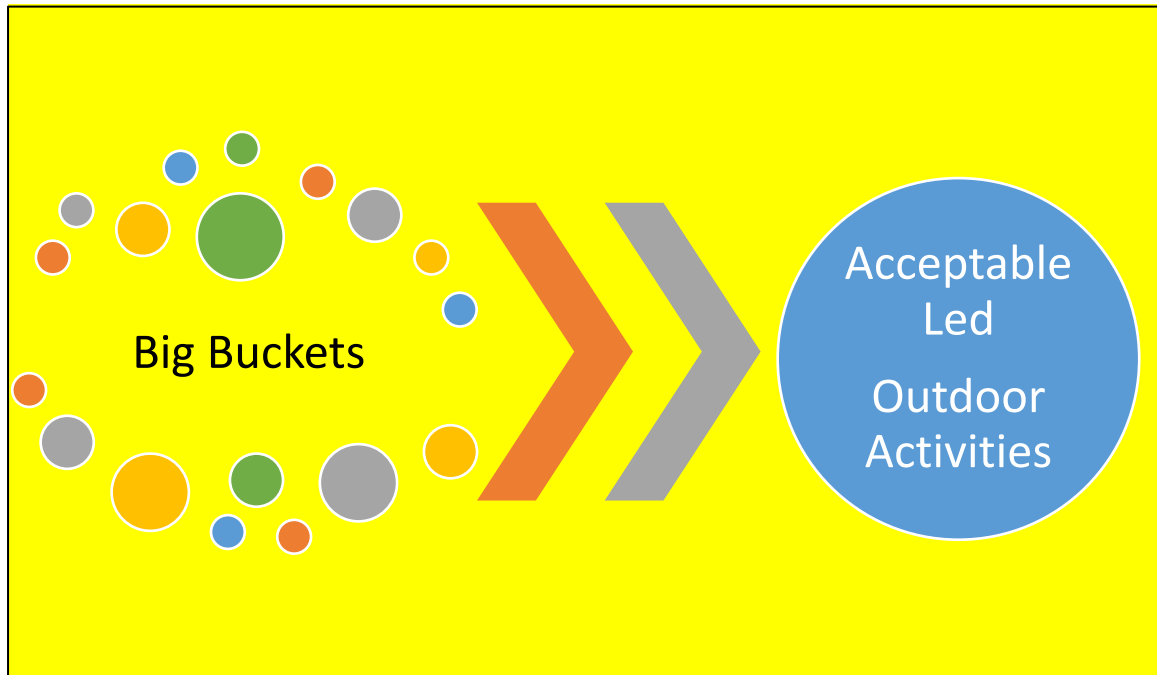
In developing this model, the members of Workgroup #2 provide a few points of clarification that guided our work:

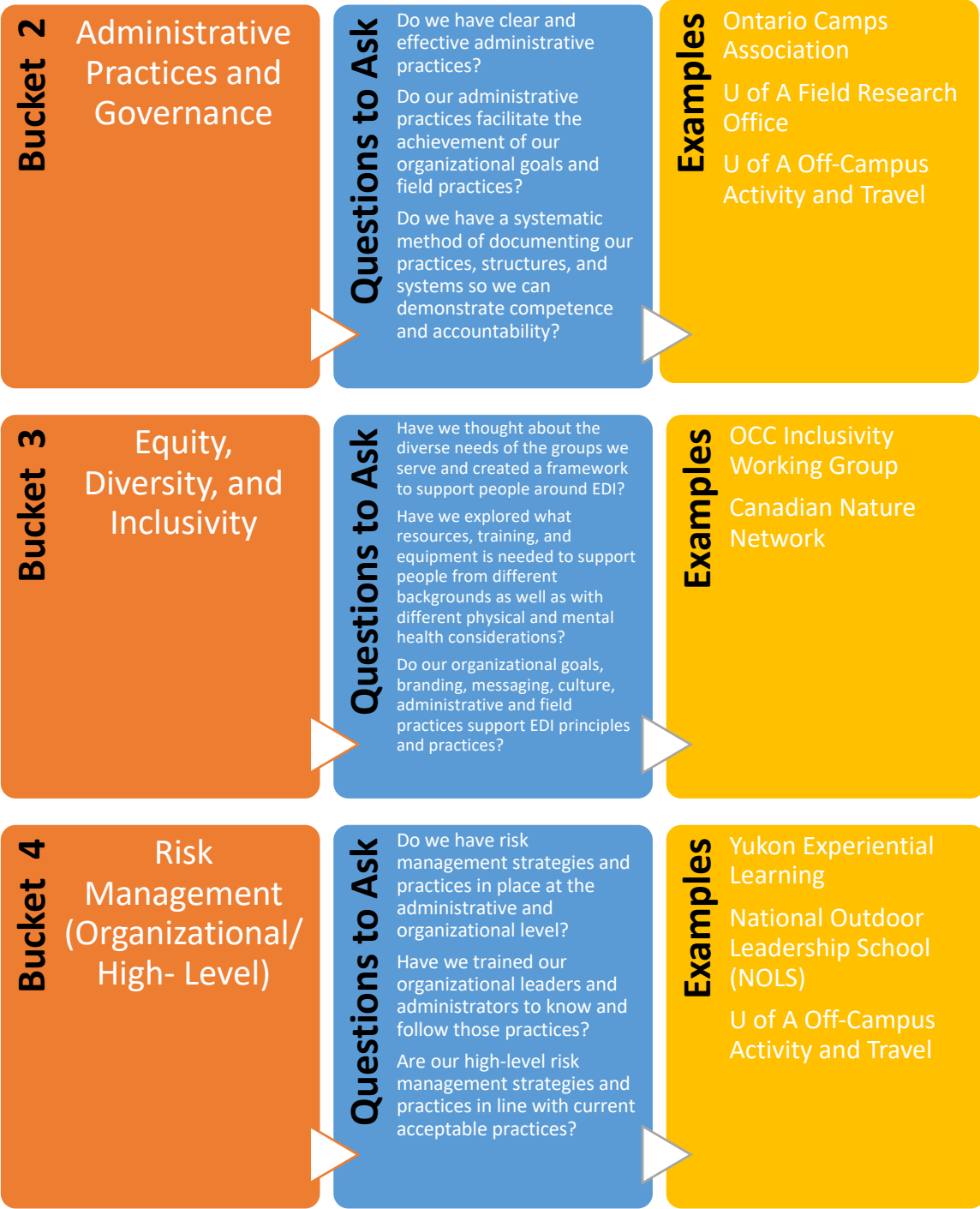
- We believe that there is no “one-size-fits-all” acceptable practice, structure, or system across all sectors (i.e., K-12, post-secondary, camps, tourism), or all regions (i.e., east-west; north-south; ocean-mountain-prairie-boreal forest-Canadian Shield) of Canada.
- However, we do believe there are common “big-bucket” themes and issues that programs are wise to consider in order to provide safe and effective programs.
- We also believe that the big buckets themes as presented here are somewhat artificial. That is, in practice these buckets are not as neatly or distinctly separate as they appear. For example, issues of sustainability, risk management, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) are best considered as organizations address themes and issues in each big bucket.

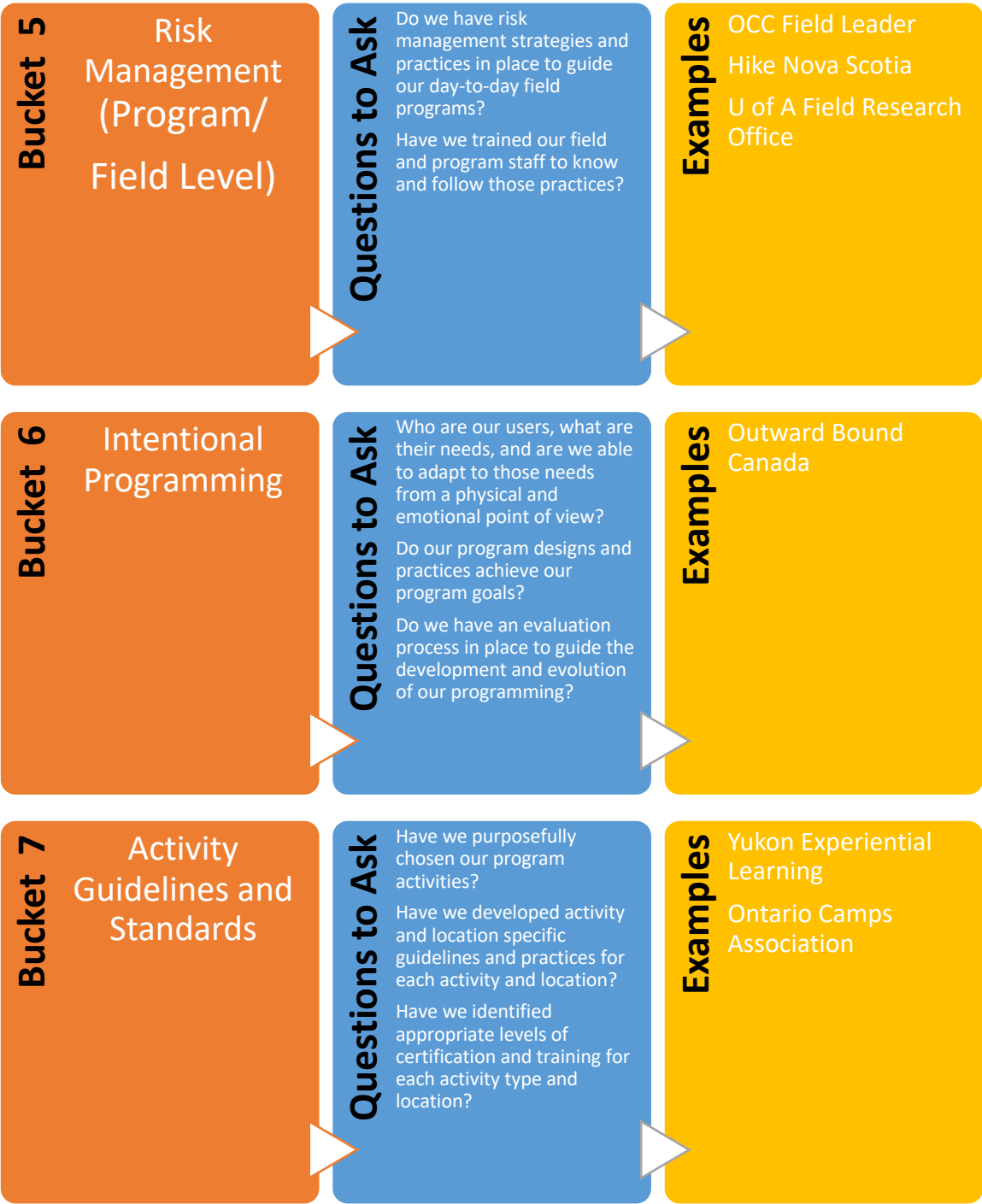
Inspired by the approach of Leave No Trace, we present eight “big-buckets” themes to guide the development of safe and effective outdoor programs. As with Leave No Trace principles, the specific implementation of each theme will vary depending on the program goals, user characteristics, and organizational and physical environment where the program takes place.

Therefore, we also present a series of critical questions that outdoor providers can ask themselves as they develop and deliver their programs.

Finally, we have included a small sample of well-established acceptable practices, structures, and systems that can be adopted and adapted in the development of outdoor programs. Our hope is that these themes, critical questions, and examples will be a helpful starting point for newer programs and serve as a source of critical reflection for well-established programs.







Bucket 8

Sustainability

Questions to Ask

Do we have environmental, economic, and social sustainability goals and practices in place at the organizational and field level?

Do we regularly review and adapt our environmental, economic, and social sustainability goals and practices?

Examples

Leave No Trace (LNT)

OCC Inclusivity Working Group