

# SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

MAY 8-10, 2013



Participants preparing for some fun evening activities to learn more about the environment, history, and stakeholders in and around Moose Mountain Provincial Park.



## THE TOUR

### Inside Education's First Teacher Professional Development Program in Saskatchewan

The *2013 Saskatchewan Environment Education Program* gathered teachers from southern and central Saskatchewan for a first-of-its-kind professional development opportunity.

The program showcased the diversity of landscapes in southern Saskatchewan as participants traveled from Regina, southeast to

Kenosee Lake and back, via Moosomin. Over the three days of the tour, teachers gained understanding of the cumulative effects of development in the region and how stakeholders are working together to mitigate negative impacts and to conserve and restore the native prairie ecosystem.

The tour's objective was to present multiple perspectives on historical and current development, prairie management, and multi-stakeholder collaborative initiatives, which in turn allows teachers to infuse current, balanced, and locally-relevant information into their lessons.

# THE PROGRAM

## THURSDAY, MAY 9

### Welcome & Introductions

Kathryn Wagner, Jill Swingler, & Milena McWatt,  
Inside Education

### Carbon Capture and Storage & Community Stakeholders

Amanda Boyd, University of Calgary

### Shale Resources - an Industry Perspective

Karen Carle, Shale Resource Centre

### Ranching and the Environment

Les Johnston, Rancher  
Leah Clark, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

### A Prairie Tour - Interpretive Hike & Activities: Moose Mountain Provincial Park

## FRIDAY, MAY 10

### Water and the Grasslands

David Pattyson, Upper Souris Watershed  
Association

### Multi-Stakeholder Prairie Conservation

Natasha Wilkie, Saskatchewan Prairie  
Conservation Action Plan

### Wildlife and the Changing Prairie Landscape

Rebecca Magnus, Nature Saskatchewan

### Wind Energy on the Prairie - Site Tour

Ryan Verrier, Algonquin Power & the Red Lily  
Wind Project

### Outdoor Environmental Education - Activity Showcase

Kathryn Wagner, Jill Swingler, & Milena McWatt,  
Inside Education

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

### Education Workshop: Bringing it All Together

Kathryn Wagner & Jill Swingler, Inside Education  
Barbara Hanbidge, Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Natasha Wilkie, Saskatchewan Prairie  
Conservation Action Plan

*\*Appendix: detailed program itinerary*

## PROGRAM GOALS

The tour aimed to allow teachers to:

- learn how development is changing the prairie landscape
- experience some local biodiversity and gain context to understand the prairie ecosystem
- gain teaching tools and ideas to enhance environmental and natural-resource programming in the classroom



Learning about wind turbines - inside & out! - with Ryan Verrier from Red Lily/Algonquin Power.



# OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education sincerely appreciates the time and support of our partners who came together to make our first teacher program in Saskatchewan a great success. These relationships have allowed us to offer a truly valuable professional development opportunity for Saskatchewan teachers.

Thank you to all of the organizations that provided expert speakers, site tours, and classroom activities and resources for the *2013 Saskatchewan Environment Education Tour*. A special thank you to the partners who provided the financial support that made this program possible:



Teachers spend a fun evening learning about the natural history near Kenosee Lake.



# THE PARTICIPANTS

**Scott Sherven**  
Valley Manor  
Elementary  
Martensville

**Dani Vavra**  
Landis School  
Landis

**Heather Saarela**  
Westcliffe Composite  
School  
Marengo

**Ryan Flood**  
Balfour Collegiate  
Regina

**Al Wandler**  
Assiniboia Composite  
School  
Assiniboia

**Laurel LaBar-Ahmed**  
Ecole Massey  
Regina

**Janice Haughn**  
Westberry School  
Kindersley

**Shirley Jones**  
Elrose Composite  
School  
Elrose

**Katie Letnes**  
Mossbank School  
Mossbank

**Bill Sherven**  
St Augustine School  
Wilcox

**Emily Knowles**  
Westberry School  
Kindersley

**11**  
teachers

from

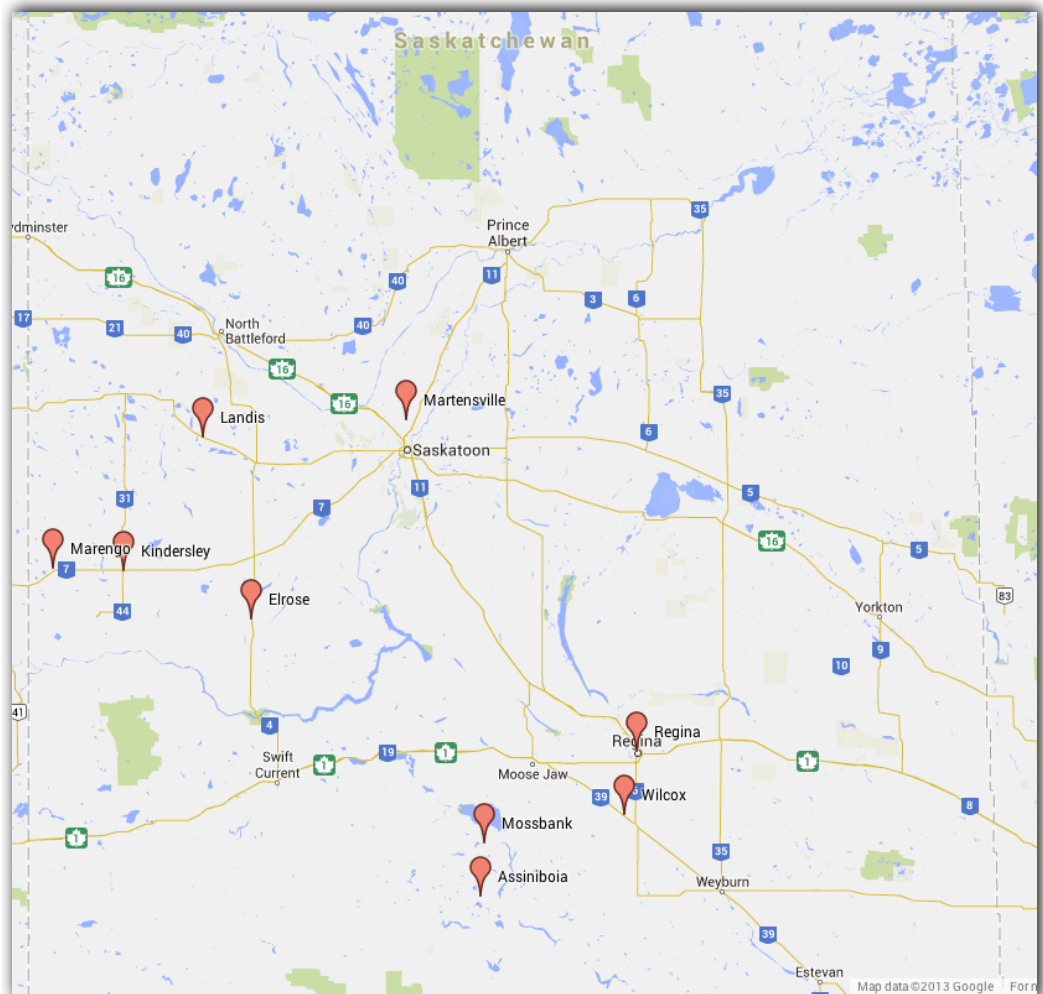
**9**  
communities

for

**3** days

These teachers:

- represent urban and rural schools
- teach a wide variety of grade levels & subject areas
- represent a diversity in years' experience teaching
- are highly engaged



# THE FEEDBACK

## A few words from some of the teachers...

*Thank you for providing such an inspirational and beneficial PD. So often when taking workshops we experience teaching practices that follow the “do as I say, not as I do” philosophy. Your workshops were such a refreshing change as they modeled good teaching practices that reflect critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and multiple perspectives. I was thrilled with the experience.*

Dani Vavra, Landis



*Fabulous! Not only did it give me so much new information, but it was also inspiring!*

Heather Saarela, Marengo



There are so many ways I plan to incorporate my knowledge and experiences into the classroom. I have already shared a photo essay of my experience with my current students and they had so many questions about what I had learned and experienced. Thank you so much for creating opportunities for authentic teaching and learning experiences!!!

Janice Haughn, Kindersley



*Will certainly use the multiple perspective approach when presenting big ideas. Excited to tap into all the resources presented to us.*

Bill Sherven, Wilcox



# THE EVALUATION

The 2013 Saskatchewan Environment Education Tour was a **SUCCESS!**

As Inside Education's first Saskatchewan-based teacher professional development program, we are confident that the objectives of the tour were reached. Participants increased their understanding of the changing prairie landscape, including developments in the agriculture and energy sectors of southern Saskatchewan. The tour provided teachers a great diversity of engaging speakers, meaningful discussions, behind-the-scenes tours, and hands-on activities.

Participants were able to engage with numerous stakeholders directly, as well as learn how these different groups are working together towards stewardship practices on the prairie. The tour, which culminated in a dynamic education workshop, connected teachers to the science, issues, technology, and careers related to the changing prairie landscape of the region. We have no doubt the learning will only continue and grow as the enthusiastic participating teachers return to their classrooms.

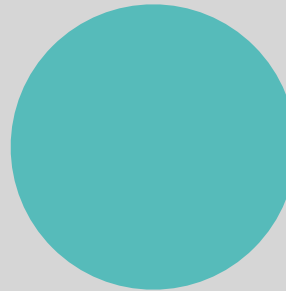
Feedback from teachers was collected through both letters and notes and a formalized online questionnaire. Testimonials - such as those on the preceding page - and survey responses provide a summary of the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from teachers.

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



This education program increased my understanding of the **local environment and natural resource development.**

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



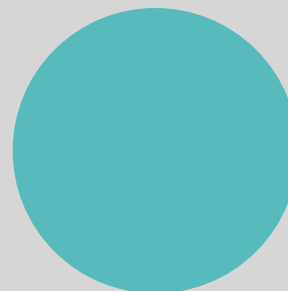
This education program introduced **multiple perspectives** relating to the environment and natural resource development.

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



This education program increased my awareness of the **complex relationships between energy, environment, economy and society.**

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



This education program emphasized the role of **stewardship and sustainability** in the context of a changing prairie landscape.

# APPENDIX: DETAILED PROGRAM



## Saskatchewan Environment Education Program MAY 9-11, 2013 Program Outline

### **THURSDAY, MAY 9**

**9:30 am – Program Registration** (Sandman Hotel and Suites, Regina (1800 Victoria Ave E)

**Welcome & Introductions** Presenters: **Inside Education** Get to know Inside Education, the program and one another. We will also introduce you to natural resource development on the prairies.

**Carbon Capture and Storage and Community Stakeholders** Presenter: **Amanda Boyd, Academic Researcher** Amanda will give us an overview of the findings of her graduate-level research on community perspectives and perceptions surrounding the carbon capture and storage operation in Weyburn.

**Shale Resources – An Industry Perspective** Presenter: **Karen Carle, Shale Resource Centre** In this session, we will learn more about shale resources, which are prevalent in southern SK, as Karen shares some of the common perceptions about the development of petroleum resources that are trapped in deep shale rock formations.

*Lunch*

*Travel to Moosomin Area*

### ***Ranching and the Environment***

Presenter & Tour: **Leah Clark, Ministry of Agriculture & Les Johnston, Rancher** Hear all about the prairie landscape from a rancher that relies on the landscape. Touring local ranching along with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture will provide give us a first-hand look at how agriculture interacts with the prairie ecosystem.

### ***A Prairie Tour***

Interpretive Hike: **Moose Mountain Provincial Park** Join us for a tour of a forest nestled in the heart of the prairies. Moose Mountain is a well- developed recreational area that is sought out for the ecological diversity it maintains and protects. This guided hike will give us a chance to experience the landscape, learn about local flora and fauna and get outdoors for a breath of fresh air.

*Dinner & Free Evening – Moose Mountain Lodge*

### **FRIDAY, MAY 10**

*7:30-8:30 am - Breakfast & Check out*



### **Water and the Grasslands**

Presenter: David Pattyson, Upper Souris Watershed Association Here, we will explore the importance of water, and the local issues and initiatives in the Upper Souris watershed. David will share how the water levels have changed over time due to both natural and human-influenced disturbances.

### **Multi-Stakeholder Prairie Conservation**

Presenter: Natasha Wilkie, SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan represents a multi-stakeholder conservation initiative underway in the region. We'll learn more about who is involved, what the plan's focus objectives are, and what has already been accomplished through collaboration.

### **Wildlife and the changing prairie landscape**

Presenter: Lacey Weekes, Nature Saskatchewan Saskatchewan's prairies are home to many distinct types of flora and fauna. In this session, we will gain knowledge of local ecology, as well as exploring some of the charismatic keystone and at-risk species and what's being done to preserve them.

*Travel and Lunch on the bus*

**Wind Energy in the Prairie – Site Tour** Host: **Ryan Verrier**, Algonquin Power & the Red Lily Wind Project Stand under a wind turbine to experience how harnessing the power of the wind is one of the fastest growing renewable energy sectors. The Red Lily Project came online in 2011 and is part of a long-term plan to incorporate wind energy into Saskatchewan electricity grid.

**Outdoor Environmental Education – Activity Showcase** Presenter: **Inside Education** Now that we've seen and heard about the environment from the experts we can begin to transform these complex topics into meaningful environmental education activities for our students. Inside Education will showcase some of our best practices as we have a little fun with outdoor education.

*Travel to Regina*

*Dinner*

## **SATURDAY, MAY 11**

**7:30 am - Breakfast & Hotel Check out**

**9:00 am – Education Workshop: Bringing it all together** Presenters: **Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan & Inside Education** Now what? If you are wondering how you will ever take all this information back to your classroom, Inside Education, along with local environmental outreach organizations are here to help. We will showcase some great 'Monday morning ready' resources and share some of the great school programs available in your area.

*10:30 am - End of Program \* Due to the dynamic nature of our programs, the above itinerary is subject to change.*