



ALBERTA BOREAL CAREERS PROJECT
2016 Youth Education Summit



ABC Project Lac La Biche/Conklin - April 13-14, 2016 Summary Report

Inside Education's sixth Alberta Boreal Careers (ABC) Project took place on April 13/14, 2016 in Lac La Biche and Conklin Alberta. During the program, 39 students and 7 teachers representing three rural and First Nations' high school and middle schools participated in hands-on experiential careers education. Students were exposed to the diversity of careers across a variety of industries all working within Alberta's boreal region. Further, by staying a Conklin-Area work camp, students were able to further extend their 'real world' experience..and have some fun.

The ABC project is designed to showcase the multitude of career opportunities in the resource-rich boreal region. This unique program connects local experts, people living and working in Alberta's boreal region, and creates a meaningful dialogue with students and teachers. With an emphasis on student engagement, exploration and experience we empower students to make informed decisions as they begin to map out their career path. The outcomes of this program extend beyond the participants as they share their learning and experiences with their families, schools and communities.

The Program

Inside Education's ABC Project uses first-hand experiences and experiential learning to engage students and teachers in career education. Through real world connections students are able to explore, engage and experience the diversity of careers within Alberta's boreal forest region. Exposure to the multitude of career opportunities that suit almost every set of skills, strengths and interests is invaluable for students taking the first few steps on their career paths.

Program Highlights

1. **Engage: Your Career Path** - This session is an introduction to career planning. The unique session hosted by Learning Clicks served to bust common career myths using personal anecdotes from young adults on their career path. The session also covers available resources for students consider continuing on with school, entering the workforce or trades.
2. **Explore: Career Conversations** - Our flagship event, career conversations connect students with professionals living and working in Alberta's boreal region. Professionals working in government, industry and non-profit sectors were all represented.

Experts participated from:

- Alberta Waste Water Operators Association
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Alberta Trappers' Association
- Devon Energy - Aboriginal Affairs
- Lakeland College - Renewable and Energy Conservation Program
- Community Futures Lac La Biche
- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.

3. **Explore: Careers in Motion Workshops** - This session features interactive and hands-on opportunities for students to learn by doing. This session allows students to make connections between career opportunities and their skills, interests and aptitudes.



Participants

Applications were accepted from all across Alberta. School selection targeted junior and senior high school students living in Alberta's boreal region.

A total of 7 teachers and 39 students from the following schools attended:

- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation School
- Calling Lake School
- Aurora Middle School, Lac La Biche

Sessions Featured :

- *First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) - learning about watersheds and water quality sampling.*
- *WorkWild - students had the opportunity to try out a day in the life of a machine operator using forestry simulators.*
- *Careers, the Next Generation - exploring careers and career opportunities.*
- *Portage College - used radio telemetry equipment to track large mammals.*

4. **Engage: Tour Wildfire Operations** - Students and teachers had the opportunity to explore the wildfire operations offices in Lac La Biche. Students met: forest fire scientists, professional foresters, warehouse managers, Alberta’s RAP-attack crews, and wildfire technicians. Groups toured the various offices, command centres, warehouses, vehicles and hangers. Students were able to see how different the positions and work environments were within one organization and even use some of the tools forest fire fighters use in their important work. Throughout the day students were provided with resources and ideas for how to pursue a career in wildfire operations.
5. **Explore: Life in a Camp** - Students and teachers visited the Monias Camp near Conklin, in the SAGD oil sands region of Alberta’s boreal. Students dined, toured and slept at the camp, learning and experiencing what it would be like to live and work in a remote environment. The camp staff were able to share personal experience and provide information about working in hospitality, sales or management within one of the many camps across Northern Alberta.



Student and Teacher Feedback

"The speakers were all optimistic about the future of the careers ... I especially enjoyed staying overnight in the staff units, it gave me an experience I would not ever otherwise know." - Marshall Mah, teacher, Alexis Nakoda Sioux Nation School

"I had a lot of fun when I was there. I enjoyed the experience of camp life. I learned a lot of interesting things" - Bailey, Aurora Middle School student

"I liked all of the things we did, good job!" - Kelly, Aurora Middle School student

"It was a very good way to introduce the different careers in the boreal forest to students." - Sharon Loonskin, Teacher, Calling Lake School

Inside Education extends its thanks to our partners and supporters who made the 2016 Alberta Boreal Careers Project possible:



Special thanks also to Portage College and Meredith Allan as well as the staff at Canada North's Monias Lodge, for their generous hospitality

Summary and Next Steps

Inside Education's plans on continuing to expand and diversify careers programs in the environment and natural resources. We will continue to host ABC events in Alberta's north focusing on students in Alberta's Aboriginal communities. Our next ABC Project is planned for Whitecourt in the fall of 2016.

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