

Boreal Wildlife Summer Teacher's Institute Summary Report

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

July 2-6, 2019 | Edmonton - Lac La Biche - Conklin - Fort McMurray

A five-day experiential learning event for educators to gain first-hand information about issues, innovations, leading practices and the future of wildlife in Alberta's boreal region.



Introduction

Inside Education developed the 2019 Boreal Wildlife Summer Teachers Institute for teachers to explore the many facets of Alberta’s wildlife, specifically in the Boreal region. The program aimed to build awareness and understanding of the key wildlife topics in Alberta and provide teachers ideas and resources to enhance natural resources education in the classroom. The program explored the multiple perspectives that shape the interaction between natural resource development and wildlife in Alberta’s north.

Building upon 34 years of experience designing experiential teacher professional development programs, Inside Education endeavored to provide teachers with a comprehensive overview of wildlife topics in the boreal region of Alberta through speaker sessions, tours, workshops, and learning materials.

We are excited to share the outcomes and impacts from this unique teacher professional development program through this summary report. The demand for this program in addition to overwhelmingly positive feedback from teacher participants indicates a strong desire for future wildlife education initiatives in Alberta.



The Program

Through this dynamic program, **28 Alberta educators**:

- **CONNECTED** with the people, places, and perspectives related to Alberta’s boreal wildlife
- **DISCOVERED** how natural resource industries interact and innovate with respect wildlife like Woodland caribou, Grizzly bears and their respective habitats
- **PARTICIPATED** in a unique professional development opportunity that modeled a hands-on, experiential and inquiry-based approach to learning
- **CONSIDERED** issues and innovations through discussions with experts representing multiple perspectives in the wildlife and natural resources fields
- **CREATED** lasting networks with like-minded educators from across the province
- **ENHANCED** their lessons with current, accurate and meaning content that will engage future generations of environmental stewards

Working with a broad spectrum experts, Inside Education developed a dynamic program that exposed teachers to wildlife topics, including landscape impacts, through on-the-ground tours and discussions. From touring natural resource industry operations and reclamation areas, to visiting the habitats the boreal encompasses, we created a one-of-a-kind education event that inspired conversations, ideas and classroom connections.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, July 2
Program Welcome & Introduction An Overview of Alberta’s Boreal Current Topics in Wildlife Habitat Boreal Wetland Field Tour
Wednesday, July 3
Portage College Habitat Field Research Forestry and Trapping in Alberta
Thursday, July 4
Oil Sands Mining & Wildlife Wildlife Monitoring Citizen Science - Classroom Connections Overnight at an oil sands work lodge
Friday, July 5
In Situ Oil Extraction & Reclamation Field Tour
Saturday, July 6
Education Workshop - bringing wildlife topics to the classroom Royal Alberta Museum visit

The Participants

The 2019 Boreal Wildlife Summer Teacher's Institute attracted over 90 high-quality applications from which Inside Education invited 28 engaged educators with varying levels of experience incorporating wildlife topics into their classroom. This group represented both formal and non-formal educators working with students from Kindergarten through to Grade 12.

These dedicated educators gave the first week of a precious summer break for personal professional development. Ultimately it will be the hundreds of students these teachers impact every year who will benefit from this commitment. We proudly recognize these exemplary teachers and cannot wait to learn about the exciting means through which their experiences this summer impact the lives and learning of their students.

- Christine Avey** | Westmount Charter School, Calgary
- Jennifer Barranoik** | Our Lady of Peace, Edmonton
- Bryanna Belanger** | Aurora Middle School, Lac La Biche
- Maya Blomme** | William Roper Hull School, Calgary
- Nadine Blum** | Centennial High School, Calgary
- Joanna Chu** | Jasper Place High School, Edmonton
- Carmen Cornelius** | Lilian Schick School, Bon Accord
- Dominique Davidson Befus** | St. Matthew School, Calgary
- Jay Doolittle** | St. Mary's School, Taber
- Alex Drummond** | University of Alberta, Edmonton
- Heidi Exner** | Colonel J Fred Scott School, Calgary
- Benjamin Gee** | Edmonton Islamic Academy, Edmonton
- Gail Gilowski** | Mckenzie Highlands, Calgary
- Amanda Hyatt** | Kisipatnahk School, Maskwacis
- Kendra Kerr** | Our Lady of Peace, Edmonton
- Emma Kniel** | Work Wild Program, Edmonton
- Alain Levesque** | Ecole Parc Elementaire, Fort Saskatchewan
- Grazyna Makarewicz** | St. Basil, Edmonton
- Sharon McLellan** | Colonel J Fred Scott Elementary, Calgary
- Barb Nemeth** | Gold Spring Colony School, Warner
- Alana Nigh** | Inner City High School, Edmonton
- Ania Ossowska** | Alberta Education, Edmonton
- Sandra-Jane Savrtka** | St. Alphonsus Catholic School, Edmonton
- Sara Strydhorst** | Spruce Grove Composite High School, Spruce Grove
- Agnes Tomkow** | Father R Perin, Janvier
- Jesica Torres** | Our Lady of Peace School, Calgary
- Samantha Vertone** | Falconridge School, Calgary
- Qian Zhang** | DA Ferguson Middle School, Taber



“Often we only hear what the media and others want us to hear, but by seeing and EXPERIENCING these opportunities hands-on I feel better suited to teaching my students that there is many layers to what we learn. We need to approach these subjects with an open mind, because not all is as it seems!”

- Amanda Hyatt, Kisipatnahk School, Maskwacis





“On our trip back to Calgary, we sketched out a rough plan of how we are going to integrate conservation throughout the year next year, looking at the grade 3 science and social studies curriculum.”
- Sharon McLellan, Colonel J Fred Scott Elementary, Calgary



“Thank you for opening my eyes to the northern part of the province that I have always lived in! Being physically present in the forest and in industry offers a depth of insight that no info-pack could ever provide.”
- Ania Ossowska, Alberta Education, Edmonton



“ Ah-Ha Moments ”

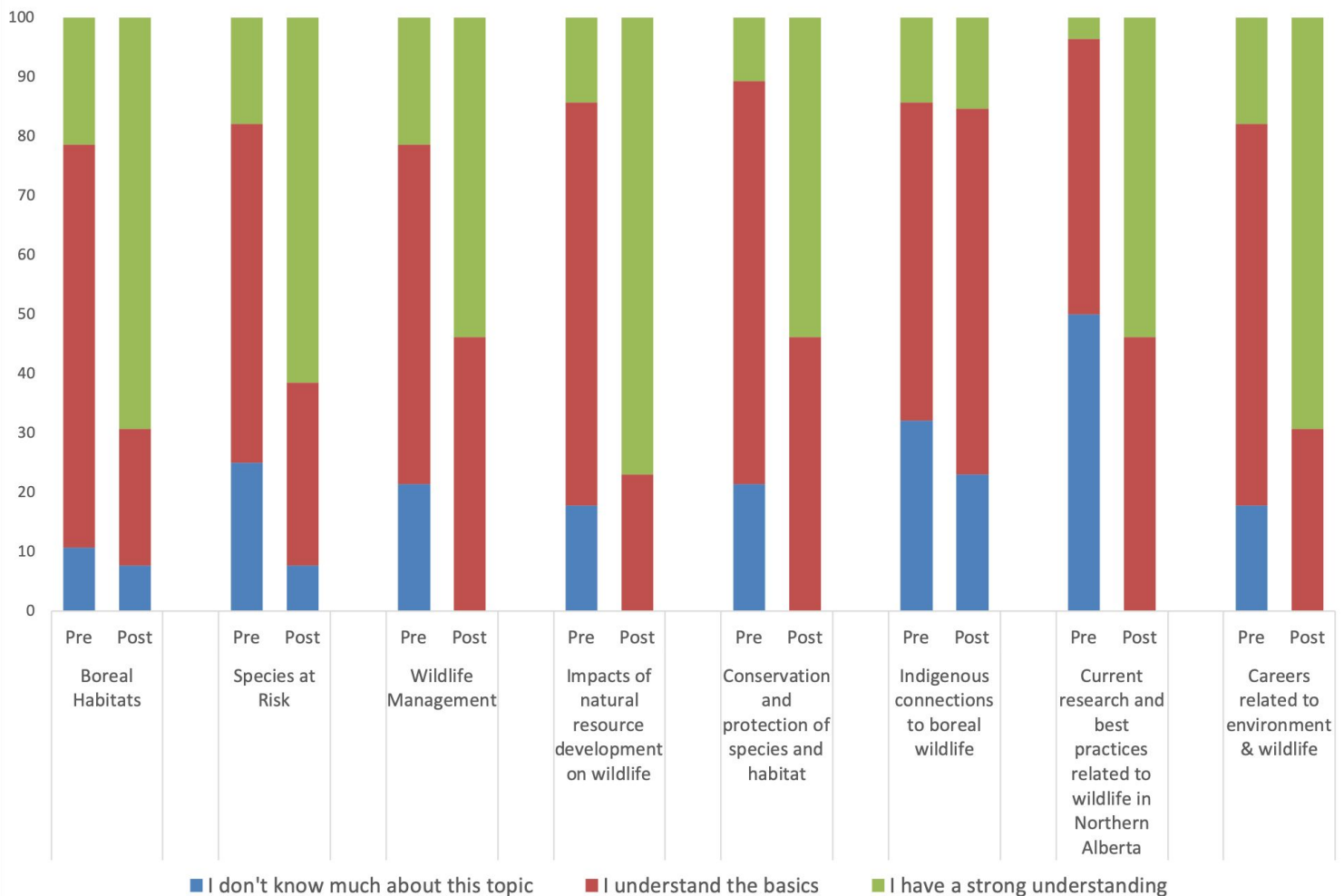
“I realize there is so much more to know related to these topics but feel I have a much better understanding of them and feel confident speaking to them and guiding activities related to them within my classroom.”
- Carmen Cornelius, Lilian Schick School, Bon Accord



Program Impact and Feedback

Inside Education is proud of the successes of the Boreal Wildlife Teacher Professional Development Program. The follow-up survey results indicate that it was an exceptional learning experience that will translate into meaningful classroom impact. Inside Education estimates that over **1500 students a year will benefit from the experience of the teacher participants** as they infuse their learning into their lessons. We are pleased to share our program feedback below.

Understanding of Wildlife Topics Pre-Program vs Post-Program



Classroom Connections

Below are just some of the ways teachers are incorporating the content shared on the program into their lessons.

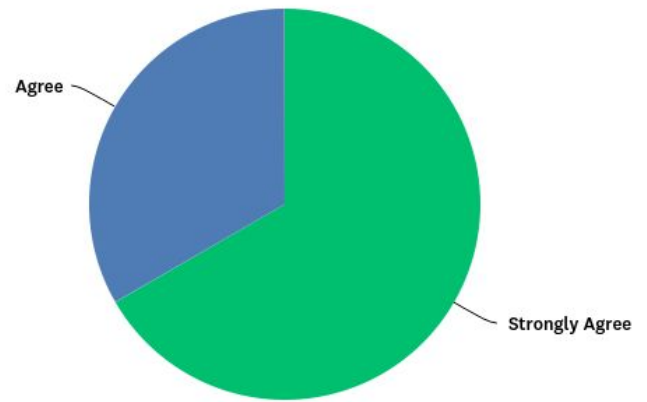
"I will be able to give more detail when teaching my students about biomes one science 14 and science 10 (especially about the boreal forest). I will also be able to use some of the information about the oil sand operations when we talk about hydrocarbons and fractional distillation in Science 20. I am going to use that food web game that Alex spoke about at the wrap up with most of my classes. The species at risk book will come in handy in my courses as well!"

- Alana Nigh, Inner City High, Edmonton

"I plan to continue to teach about resource extraction and restoration through interactive learning activities. I plan to incorporate more perspectives into topics on human wildlife interaction. I hope to connect with the resources provided and potentially Inside Education's field site"

- Maya Blomme, William Roper Hull School, Calgary

After participating in the program 100% of survey respondents indicated that they are confident in bringing wildlife related topics into their classroom.



Partners, Expert Guests, and Tour Hosts

We extend many thanks to our program partners, supporters and friends for their laudable support of the 2019 Boreal Wildlife Summer Teachers Institute. Participants voiced their appreciation for making the program such an accessible opportunity and everyone expressed gratitude at being provided a full scholarship to attend the program.



Special thanks to our remarkable expert speakers, tour hosts and tour supporters. Your hospitality and commitment to advancing environmental and natural resources is appreciated by Inside Education and our teacher participants.

- Alex Drummond | University of Alberta
- Gillian Chow-Fraser | CPAWS
- Anja Sorenson | fRI Research
- Leanne Mingo | Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Chris Conradie | Portage College
- Aaron Hayward | Alberta Pacific Forest Industries
- Romika Riquelme | Syncrude
- Angela Pohl | Suncor
- Christine Godwin | Owl Moon Consulting
- Jessica Yarnell and Cenovus' Christina Lake Team | Cenovus Energy

“Along with meeting other teachers and exchanging classroom ideas, lots of organizations (Ducks Unlimited, CPAWS, Work Wild, etc.) can be guest speakers at my school for the different grades “
- Benjamin Gee, Edmonton Islamic Academy, Edmonton

Inside Education is proud to work with partners committed to excellence in natural resource education. We appreciate the support and partnership for this program of:



Summary and Futures

Inside Education is thrilled by the outcomes of the 2019 Boreal Wildlife Teacher Professional Development Program. Topics such as species-at-risk, wildlife habitat and landscape management are all key when considering the connection between wildlife and the natural resources in our province. Wildlife is always a popular topic with teachers and students due to the numerous curriculum connections and the familiarity of the topic. Wildlife topics connect so strongly to the conversation about natural resources in the boreal region of Alberta since the landscape is a valuable habitat. Inside Education recognizes the importance of wildlife in the development of students and a generation of informed stewards and decision makers.

Contact

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