

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Careers in Forestry

October 12-14, 2023
Edmonton - Whitecourt

Inside Education, alongside **Forestry Futures Alliance** partners **Work Wild** and **CAREERS**, is proud to report on the **2023 Careers in Forestry Teacher Professional Development Program**. The goal of this program was to introduce teachers, career counsellors, and administrators to the diversity of current and future career opportunities that exist in Alberta's forest sector through hands-on experiences with experts working and living in Alberta's forests.



"Not only did I come away with a greater knowledge about the forestry industry opportunities. I have the feeling that I can draw on various examples of careers within government, and industries to support students."
- Kevin Carriere, Teacher, Kisiko Awasis Kiskinhamawin



Program Highlights and Participants

The program began in Edmonton and travelled to Whitecourt, which gave participants a front-row seat to the diversity of jobs that comprise Alberta’s forestry industry. Program highlights include the fire research lab at the Northern Forestry Centre, touring an active West Fraser harvest site, and seeing the manufacturing processes of various forest products at West Frasers’ Ranger Board and Alberta Newsprint Company. The program concluded at the Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre for some hands-on examples of classroom learning materials, along with discussion of implementing what had been learned with students.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE
Kickoff & Introductions
Northern Forestry Centre - Forest Research
Whitecourt Fire Centre - Dispatch
Commercial Thinning with West Fraser
Rangerboard MDF Mill Tour
Alberta Newsprint Company Mill Tour
Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre

This program attracted applicants located all across Alberta; from Calgary to Fort McMurray and everywhere in between. Inside Education invited 16 highly-engaged educators who self-reported with relatively basic knowledge of the forestry industry, representing educators working with students from Grade 2 through to Grade 12. One pre-service teacher was also in attendance during this program.

- Benjamin Gee** | Edmonton Islamic Academy
- Grazyna (Gina) Makarewicz** | Christ the King School (Edmonton)
- Janine Morrish** | David Thompson High School (Leslieville)
- Jonny Sirman** | Austin O'Brien Catholic High School (Edmonton)
- Julie Korver** | Inside Education
- Katie Whelan** | Father Mercredi High School (Fort McMurray)
- Kelsey Haggerty** | New Humble Community School (Calmar)
- Kevin Carriere** | Kisiko Awasis Kiskinhamawin (Nordegg)
- Paula Miller** | Louis St. Laurent School (Edmonton)
- Rae Ann Van Beers** | New Humble Community School (Calmar)
- Randy Huculiak** | Cardinal Collins Academic Centre Clareview (Edmonton)
- Sam Sirianni** | Rundle Academy (Calgary)
- Sandra Makarewicz** | B.Ed Student Burman University (Lacombe)
- Sara Wanner** | Father Mercredi High School (Fort McMurray)
- Scott McMillan** | W.P. Wagner High School (Edmonton)
- Stephanie Krebs** | Kim Hung School (Edmonton)

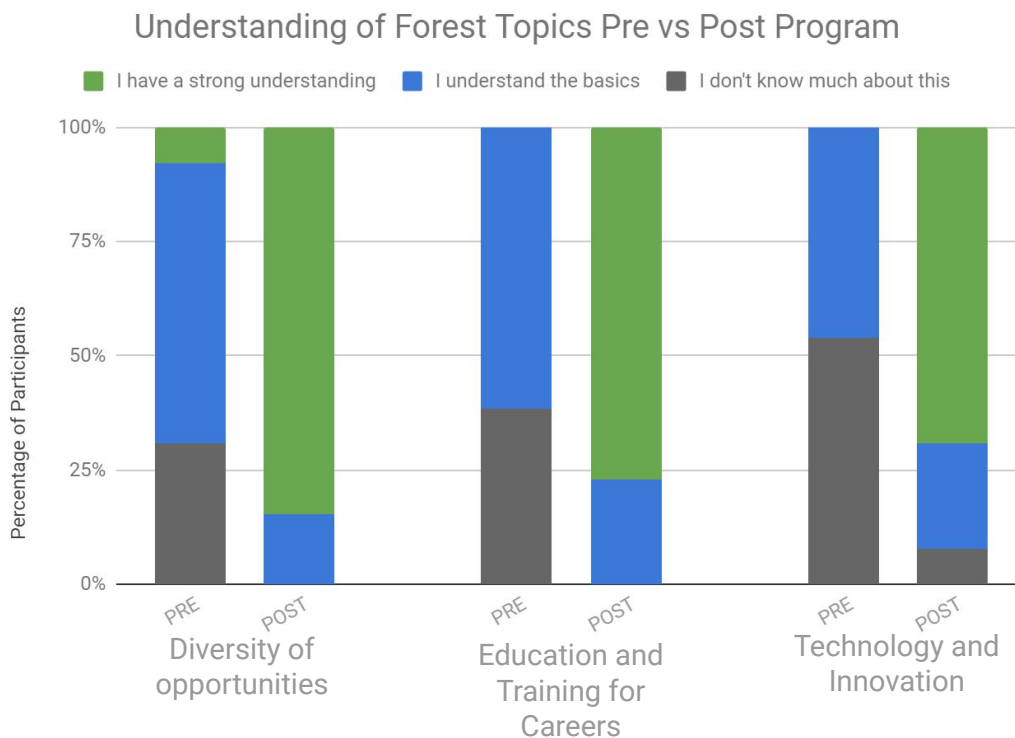


Teacher Feedback

“I am so grateful to be here and have this experience. After attending your PD I am excited about incorporating the lessons and presenting the different career opportunities to my students. I will also share the experience I went through with my colleagues.” - Sandra Makarewicz, B.Ed Student, Burman University

Inside Education is proud to report on the positive feedback gathered from this program, with **100%** of the surveyed teachers indicating that the Careers in Forestry PD program was a **high-value, high-quality professional development** opportunity, and will have a predicted reach of over **2,000 students**.

The primary goals of the program were to expose Alberta teachers to the variety of careers that will be available of to their students in the forest sector, as well as to provide a networking opportunity for teachers with an interest in forests and forestry. As demonstrated in the graph below, we were highly successful in developing an understanding of the diversity of forestry careers as well as the education and training required for those careers. We also see a significant increase in understanding of technology and innovation in the forest sector.



Sponsors and Futures

Inside Education is extremely pleased by the outcomes of the 2023 Careers in Forestry Teacher Professional Development Program and the feedback we received from the participant teachers. We are proud to report on this program as a part of our suite of forest- and forestry-related education initiatives, which also includes forest field trips, and Regenerate, our Forest & Wildlife Provincial Youth Summit. These first-hand forest and forestry experiences help the students of Alberta better connect with our forest resources and prepares them for the forestry careers of the future. As the 2023-24 school year continues, Inside Education and our Forestry Futures Alliance partners will continue to provide quality hand-on education experiences and resources to support teachers in inspiring their students to be the forest stewards of tomorrow.



“We are making the connections to what we teach and how it applies to real life experience. Students always ask “why do we need to know this?” and I now have a long list of reasons to add”
Katie Whelan, Teacher, Father Mercredi High School, Fort McMurray

Program supported by:



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Delivered in partnership with:

