



regenero 

*Forest & Wildlife
Youth Summit*

SUMMARY REPORT

March 7-10, 2024 | Canmore, Alberta




Inside
education

REGENERATE 2024

Regenerate Forest and Wildlife Youth Summit was a provincial-scale youth summit dedicated to forest and wildlife education. The 2024 Regenerate Summit was an impactful education program that brought together 80 students, 40 teachers, and 55 diverse expert guests from across Alberta to immerse themselves in an exploration of sustainability, innovations, careers, and the future of forests.

The multi-dimensional program featured the places, people, and projects that are shaping our forested landscapes in Alberta. The opportunity to meet with leading professionals representing a myriad of perspectives provided participants the knowledge, skill development opportunities, and meaningful first-hand experiences that build engaged, informed natural resource stewards.

17 COMMUNITIES 

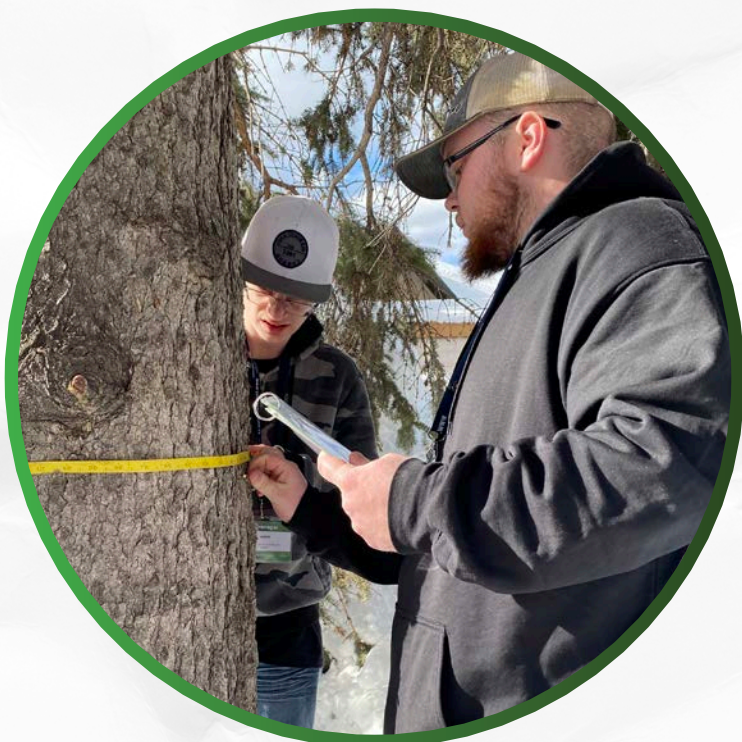
20 HIGH SCHOOLS 

80 STUDENTS 

40 TEACHERS 

55 EXPERT GUESTS 

1 INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE




“ The summit allowed our students to get out of their comfort zones and learn so much. Being from a semi-remote First Nation, our students often do not get opportunities to work with youth from other schools. This allowed them to network and connect with students that have similar environmental interests. The work that you do is valuable and incredibly meaningful. ”


- Karyn Booy, Teacher
O'Chiese First Nation School

THE PARTICIPANTS

Inside Education received over 50 applications from schools across Alberta to participate in the summit. We were delighted to accept schools from every corner of the province from Fort McMurray and Beaverlodge in the North to Lundbreck in the South. We were thrilled to have students and teachers from O'Chiese First Nation, the Piikani First Nation, and the Métis community of Wabasca.

Schools were provided a full scholarship to attend the summit, removing barriers and making the experience accessible to schools in urban, rural, and Indigenous communities.



regenero  Forest & Wildlife Youth Summit

Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School Sherwood Park, AB	Mistassiniy School Wabasca, AB
Beaverlodge Regional High School Beaverlodge, AB	O'Chiese First Nation School O'Chiese First Nation
Careeer and Technology Centre Calgary, AB	Piikani Nation Secondary School Piikani First Nation
David Thompson High School Leslieville, AB	Robert Thirsk High School Calgary, AB
Forest Lawn High School Calgary, AB	St. John Paul II Catholic School Grande Prairie, AB
Harry Collinge High School Hinton, AB	The BRICK Learning Centre Ponoka, AB
Hillcrest Christian School Grande Prairie, AB	Vegreville Composite High Vegreville, AB
Holy Redeemer Catholic High School Edson, AB	W.P. Wagner High School Edmonton, AB
John Maland High School Devon, AB	Wainwright High School Wainwright, AB
Livingstone School Lundbreck, AB	Westwood Community High School Fort McMurray, AB



Regenerate - Education in Action!

Each school was challenged to share their Regenerate experience with their peers and community when they returned to school through an education and action project. The participating schools were given ideas and inspiration, along with tools to communicate their learning.



Projects in Progress:

Holy Redeemer Catholic High School
Forest nature walk to kick off an environmental club

Mistassiniy School
School-wide assembly from Alberta Fish & Wildlife

John Maland High School
Weekly school-wide slideshows sharing what they learned at Regenerate

THE PROGRAM

The Regenerate Forest and Wildlife Youth Summit fostered a positive learning environment highlighting diverse perspectives and encouraging participants to thinking critically while considering their role in the future of Alberta forests.

The dynamic program included panels, workshops, field tours, interactive roundtable discussions, and social events that all supported schools as they deepened their understanding and created new networks to advance forests and wildlife education in Alberta.

Participants deepened their knowledge of forests, forestry and wildlife, developed new skills and had the opportunity to experience Alberta's forests firsthand. These interactive experiences included forest management, habitat restoration projects, bear-safety, wildfire management, and an Indigenous-led land-based learning walk in Kananaskis. Through these activities, students gained practical skills and developed a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



“ Being able to go to such a beautiful place and learn about topics you are passionate about is such a perfect opportunity. Forestry is a very broad sector and there is an endless amount of opportunities for jobs that are worth considering. On top of gaining so much information that I can now bring back to my community, I had such a fun time! ”

- Maya, Student
Holy Redeemer Catholic High School
Grande Prairie



EXPERT GUESTS

The summit featured 55 expert guests who shared their knowledge and expertise with participants. Participants gained insights from a wide range of voices, including Indigenous leaders, environmental scientists, industry professionals, government, academia, and the non-governmental environmental sector.

We were especially honoured to have **Elder Heather Poitras, Elder-in-Residence for the Northern Forestry Centre** participate for a full day, sharing wisdom and offering guidance as we acknowledge the past, present, and future of Indigenous peoples on our forested lands.

The celebration dinner brought several program partners, **keynote speaker Colin Angus** and **Hon. Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks** joined the celebration dinner on Friday evening to offer his address on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

This diversity enriched discussions and broadened understanding of complex environmental issues. Their contributions provided valuable insights and inspired attendees to develop a wide breadth of knowledge and explore different career opportunities within the environmental sector.

Elder Heather Poitras	Sawridge First Nation, Elder-in-residence for the Northern Forestry Centre
Dr. Nadir Erbilgin	Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta
Jason Krips	Alberta Forest Products Association
Jessica Kaknevicus	Forests Ontario
Craig Johnson	Alberta Environment & Protected Areas
Laura Stewart	FireSmart
Stephanie Leonard	Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada/Caribou Patrol
Dr. Kevin Kemball & Dave Critchley	Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Michael Cody	Cenovus Energy
Sarah Nason, Jennifer Klutsch, Keyara Carifelle, Philip Hoffman & Denyse Dawe	Natural Resources Canada
Britney Szakacs, Ben Cress & Kirby England	Keyera
Jeremy Reid & James Agate	Canadian Natural
Britni Smith, Bob Jackle & Howard Pruden	West Fraser
Hyerin Hong	University of Alberta
Winona Lafreniere	Indian Resource Council
Michelle Harris	Canadian Wildlife Federation
Forrest Battjes & Laura Brandon	Work Wild
Denise Beaven, Kristen Foxcroft & Alta Iverson	Girls Talk Tech
Amit Saxena	TC Energy
Dr. Robert Froese	University of Alberta School of Forest Science & Management
Adam Robb	The HOWL Experience
Colin Angus	Angus Adventures
Minister Todd Loewen	Government of Alberta
Alex Drummond & Sithara Fernando	NorQuest College
Emma Kniel	CAREERS
Alix Olson & Kelvin Braun	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Michael Wagner & Louis Price	Alberta Forestry and Parks
Patti Campsall	Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory
Aspen Dudzic	Alberta Forest Products Association
Tangle McClaron & Maxine Bennett	Alberta Parks, Kananaskis Region
Sabrina Huot	Alberta Emerald Foundation
Tim Patterson	Zuc'min Guiding



IMPACT & FEEDBACK

Inside Education summits provide unique opportunities to elevate the importance of natural resources and environmental topics and offer an impactful learning experience for high schools. We have been told that the summits can be a once-in-a-lifetime event that shapes how these topics are integrated into the lives and learning of the participants.

Our survey results indicate that the Regenerate Summit was successful in supporting both teachers and students to better understand their role in the future of forest and wildlife in Alberta while providing an unparalleled learning environment.



REGENERATE in the media

Pikani Nation Secondary School & O'Chiese First Nation School Shine at Forest & Wildlife Education Summit
 Hosted by Inside Education. By Tanner Smith. Feb 18, 2024, 10:00 AM.

Students from local high schools to attend Forest & Wildlife Youth Summit
 Hosted by Inside Education. By Tanner Smith. Feb 18, 2024, 10:00 AM.

Students Get Hands-On With Forest and Wildlife Science at Youth Summit
 Published Mar 28, 2024.

John Maland students, teachers attend Environmental Summit in Canmore
 Peter Williams. Published Mar 14, 2024 - Last updated Mar 14, 2024 - 2 minute read.

Regenerate Youth Summit
 Fort McMurray Matters on play 103.7. Feb 27, 2024, 9:00 AM.

80 students from high schools across Alberta to participate in Canmore summit
 By Digital Editor. Feb 19, 2024, 10:22 PM.

Ponoka students selected to take part in summit aiming to shape 'tomorrow's scientists'
 Regenerate Forest and Wildlife Youth Summit to be held March 7-10 in Canmore. Ponoka News Staff. Mar 1, 2024, 11:22 AM.

“ My students got to meet like-minded students, teachers, and experts from across the province that are doing real work. My students left with a sense of hope and look forward to taking actions themselves. They were able to bond among themselves and with students from other schools.

- Scott McMillan, Teacher
 W.P. Wagner High School

PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

Inside Education surveyed participants before and after the summit to evaluate the impact of the experience. Overall Regenerate 2024 was successful in increasing understanding of forest and wildlife topics, empowering student leadership and promoting stewardship of forest resources.



Survey respondents agree that Regenerate Forest and Wildlife Youth Summit did excellent at the following:

- 🌱 Providing a unique learning experience (100%)
- 🌱 Enriching the curriculum (100%)
- 🌱 Empowering student leadership (98%)
- 🌱 Broadening perspectives (100%)
- 🌱 Developed critical thinking skills (98%)
- 🌱 Exposing students to career pathways (100%)
- 🌱 Promoting environmental stewardship at the School (98%)



The summit experience was also impactful on the teacher participants as they gained knowledge, resources and networks to support their classroom teaching and student learning.

Several teachers cited that they can now include specific examples about how technology is used to support wildlife conservation, the importance of wildfire management for both ecosystems and communities and that they have specific information on the wide variety of career opportunities available to their students.

OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education is proud to recognize our program partners who make our award-winning provincial youth summits possible. Many thanks to these organizations whose support allowed us to remove all financial barriers to the 20 high schools selected to participate in Regenerate 2024.



FORESTRY FUTURES ALLIANCE

Regenerate 2024 was a keystone project delivered through and supported by the Forestry Futures Alliance. Inside Education recognizes the input and support of our partners in the FFA - CAREERS and Work Wild and extends its appreciation to the 17 forest companies in Alberta who support the Forestry Futures Alliance through their Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) funds.



Inside Education also extends our appreciation to the Regenerate Advisory Committee who helped guide the discussions and program elements during the summit.

Advisory Committee Members:

- Warren Lake - Teacher, Calgary Board of Education
- Brian McConkey - Millar Western Forest Products
- Sandra Cardinal - Director Aboriginal Affairs, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries
- Alix Olson - Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Alex Drummond - NorQuest College
- Forrest Battjes - Forestry Educator, WorkWild/Forestry Futures Alliance
- Emma Kniel - Forestry Liaison, CAREERS/Forestry Futures Alliance

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Inside Education's work brings us to all corners of the province, as such, we acknowledge the Indigenous people who have lived among and traveled through the land in the area currently known as Alberta. The relationship the Peoples of Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8, as well as Métis Regions province-wide have with the land is founded on a deep respect for the environment. This connection forms the foundation of our personal responsibility for the stewardship of our natural resources, a connection Inside Education strives to foster among students and teachers through our diverse programming.



www.INSIDEeducation.ca

11428 - 100 Avenue | Edmonton, AB T5K 0J4 | Info@INSIDEeducation.ca

Inside Education is a registered charity #101894319RR0001

    @insideeducation