



INSIDE EDUCATION'S **ANNUAL REPORT** TO THE COMMUNITY

Bringing environmental and
natural resource education
to life for teachers and
students for 39 years!

Inside Education's work connects us to the Traditional lands of the Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 First Nations Peoples and Métis people province-wide. In our journey towards Reconciliation as an organization, we respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous people who have cared for and traveled through the land in the area currently known as Alberta since time immemorial.



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

On behalf of the Inside Education Board of Directors, I am excited to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report is a reflection of the dedication and passion the team at Inside Education brings to inspiring the next generation of environmental and natural resource stewards.

Inside Education proudly hosted Regenerate, its first-ever forest and wildlife leadership youth summit – an impactful education program bringing teachers and students from across Alberta to immerse themselves in an exploration of sustainability, innovations, careers, and the future of forests.

The team at Inside Education was honoured to work with the City of Edmonton to adapt their Change for Climate program into a classroom program! This new hands-on program supports students in discovering the many ways they can help take action on climate change.

The introduction of Alberta's new K-6 Science curriculum was another notable development in 2024, which created a significant increase in demand for our programs! Our team has worked hard to ensure teachers feel supported through our professional development programs and classroom resources.

Another big milestone that took place in the spring of 2024 took form in the shape of a leadership transition; after a thorough recruitment process, we're thrilled to announce that Kathryn Wagner, long-term Program Director, has been selected as the new Executive Director. We are excited to watch Kathryn provide new leadership and continue building on the award-winning legacy that Inside Education has created since its founding by Jim Martin in 1985.

As always, we extend our sincere appreciation to our funding partners, expert speakers, and everyone who enthusiastically supported Inside Education throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Trent Zacharias
President and Chair of the Board
Inside Education Society of Alberta



OUR MISSION

We support teachers and inspire students to better understand the science, technology, and issues related to our environment and natural resources.

OUR VISION

We envision future generations of engaged stewards who think critically about our environment and natural resources and their important relationship with our economy and society.

OUR 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Trent Zacharias
President & Board Chair

Helen Colbourne
Rob Harris
Neil Korotash
Vicki Lightbown
Allison Mostowich
Amanda Green
Billy-Joe Lafortune
Chloe Sprecker
Catherine Ohler
Jason Toner

OUR 2024 STAFF

Jill Swingler
Braeden Elenko
Mitali Robb
Katherine Hill
Colin King
Katie Reimer
Ilana Music
Jayne Nelson
Mila Mezei
Kathryn Wagner
Daniel Ball
Chloe Wiun
Laura Pekkola
Mackenzie Wegewitz
Adean Alessandrini
Steve McIsaac
Julie Korver
Terri Murray
Natalie Graveline

THANK YOU!

The Board and staff of Inside Education extend their heartfelt gratitude to David Huggill, Laura Lunt, Michael Nemeth, and David Hill for their constant support and guidance over many years. Your contributions have made a lasting impact on Inside Education!



David Huggill
Joined 2013



Laura Lunt
Joined 2019



Micheal Nemeth
Joined 2019



David Hill
Joined 2008

Special Recognition to
**STEVE
MCISSAC**

After 32 years of exceptional service, Steve McIsaac retired in May 2024. Steve is an incredible organizational leader and champion for high-quality, meaningful environmental education. Over the past 32 years, Steve’s passion for environmental education has influenced the lives of more than 600,000 young people.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to work and learn alongside Steve will tell you that his good nature, humor, and dedication to people have had a significant impact on them. You’d be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn’t have a funny or heartwarming story to tell you about Steve.

This is a lasting legacy that Steve has created, and Alberta is a better place for it.

Happy retirement, Steve. You have left such a strong foundation for us to build from. We are forever grateful.

Kathryn Wagner
Inside Education,
Executive Director

**STEVE’S CAREER
MILESTONES**

- 1992:** Steve begins his career at Inside Education (at the time FEESA)
- 1995:** Steve creates and delivers one of the first caribou species at risk education programs in Alberta
- 1997:** Steve establishes forest field trips at Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest, facilitating land-based learning. This learning model has since been replicated at six other sites across Alberta
- 2005:** Steve becomes the Executive Director of Inside Education.
- 2011:** Steve brings his vision of youth environmental leadership to life through award-winning youth education summits.
- 2012:** Inside Education wins ECO Canada’s Canadian Environmental Employer of the year award, thanks to Steve’s leadership and the company culture he cultivated.
- 2016:** Partners with local airsheds to develop a Citizen Science Program - Clean Air Responsible Schools (C.A.R.S), including school idle-free campaigns!
- 2020:** Steve helps expand Inside Education’s youth programming to include agriculture education with the launch of the first Cultivate: Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit.
- 2023:** Steve is awarded the Emerald Lifetime Achievement Award for Environmental Excellence and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.
- 2024:** Steve announces his retirement from Inside Education.



**IMPACT
REPORT
2024**

In 2024, we were
proud to directly
impact over

25,477
STUDENTS
from over
115
Communities
across Canada



12,393

Students Participated in
Forest & Wetland Field Trips



10,929

Students Participated in
Classroom Presentations



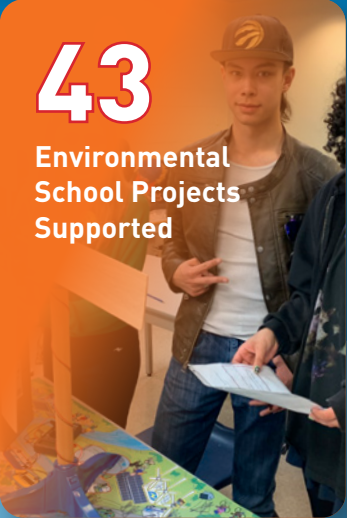
243

Teachers Attended
Our Professional
Development Programs



924

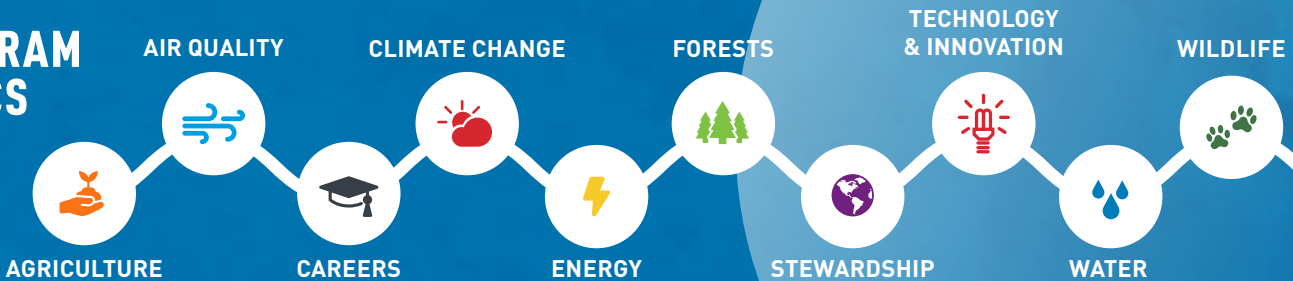
Teachers & Students
Participated in
Youth Summits &
Innovation Days



43

Environmental
School Projects
Supported

**PROGRAM
TOPICS**



CHECK OUT OUR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS




Hosted two Women in Outdoor Careers events, bringing

OVER 200

female and female-identifying students together to educate on the diverse opportunities in environmental careers.

NEW PROGRAMMING

Our program team created new programs to align with the new Alberta Program of Studies and delivered workshops across the province to support teachers as they navigated the new K-6 Alberta Program of Studies




18 YEARS OF A+ FOR ENERGY

In its 18th year, A+ for Energy received the most applications yet supporting 30 school based projects!



AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN EDMONTON

Hired a full-time Agriculture Educator in our Edmonton office!



HOSTED OUR 13TH YOUTH SUMMIT

and first Regener8 Forest and Wildlife Youth Summit, with 120 students and teachers from 20 high schools across Alberta and Northeastern British Columbia.




ENERGY EDUCATION

Canadian Natural and Cenovus volunteers joined us to assemble 100 energy education tool kits for schools across Alberta



LEARNING RESOURCES

Launched our Change for Climate Program learning resource in collaboration with the City of Edmonton, bringing climate and climate resiliency education to classrooms across Edmonton



THE GRASSLANDS SUMMER INSTITUTE

was a four-day immersive experience for 25 Alberta teachers exploring sustainability practices, innovation and research that is shaping agriculture in southern Alberta.

CELEBRATED 25 YEARS

of learning and exploring at

DES CROSSLEY DEMONSTRATION FOREST



GROWING OUR TEAM

Hired a full-time educator in Grande Prairie to support and inspire teachers and students!



Honourable Minister of Forestry and Parks, Todd Loewen, attended Regener8 Summit

regener8



Inside Education's Board of Directors and staff proudly announce that Kathryn Wagner has been appointed as Executive Director

TESTIMONIALS

THIS EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE,
enabling me to enhance my teaching methods with hands-on activities and real-life examples that truly engage our students.

EVELYN CHAN,
TEACHER AT G.H. DAWE SCHOOL

IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTREACH
and is a worthwhile endeavor for encouraging girls or non-binary individuals to get into an outdoor career.

LARA DE MOISSAC,
TEACHER AND WOMEN IN OUTDOOR CAREERS PARTICIPANT, ALBERTA



One of the best professional learning opportunities teachers can do to help bring the curriculum objectives to life. I love the hands-on components, the tours, the experts...it was very inspiring!

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND INSIDE EDUCATION PROGRAMMING TO ANY TEACHER!

AMANDA KLAGER,
TEACHER AND ENERGY TOOLKIT PD PARTICIPANT, RANCHEVIEW SCHOOL

THE IMPACT EXTENDS FAR BEYOND OUR INITIAL EXPERIENCE.
The knowledge gained from the insightful tours and engaging activities at Edmonton Energy Innovation Days has inspired our students to become ambassadors of energy innovation within our school community.

GRAZYNA MAKAREWICZ,
TEACHER, CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL



TESTIMONIALS

THE BEST, MOST INTERACTIVE, ENGAGING, AND HIGHLY RELEVANT PROGRAMS!
The program nails curricular outcomes perfectly and understands the balance of education and fun

CHRISTINA REID,
TEACHER AND FOREST FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANT, STONY PLAIN

IT FELT LIKE SUMMER CAMP FOR TEACHER-NERDS!
In 12 years of teaching, this experience was by far the most meaningful and immersive opportunity I've ever had. It felt like summer camp for adult, teacher-nerds. I am so glad an organization like Inside Education exists!




MANDY HUTCHINSON
TALMADINA LANGUAGE CHARTER ACADEMY, CALGARY

ENERGY INNOVATION DAY BRINGS THE THEORY AND BOOKISH LEARNING TO LIFE.
It counterbalances the negative rhetoric about climate and energy. Students see that real work is happening at research and industrial scale. Youth walk away with a positive outlook for their future.

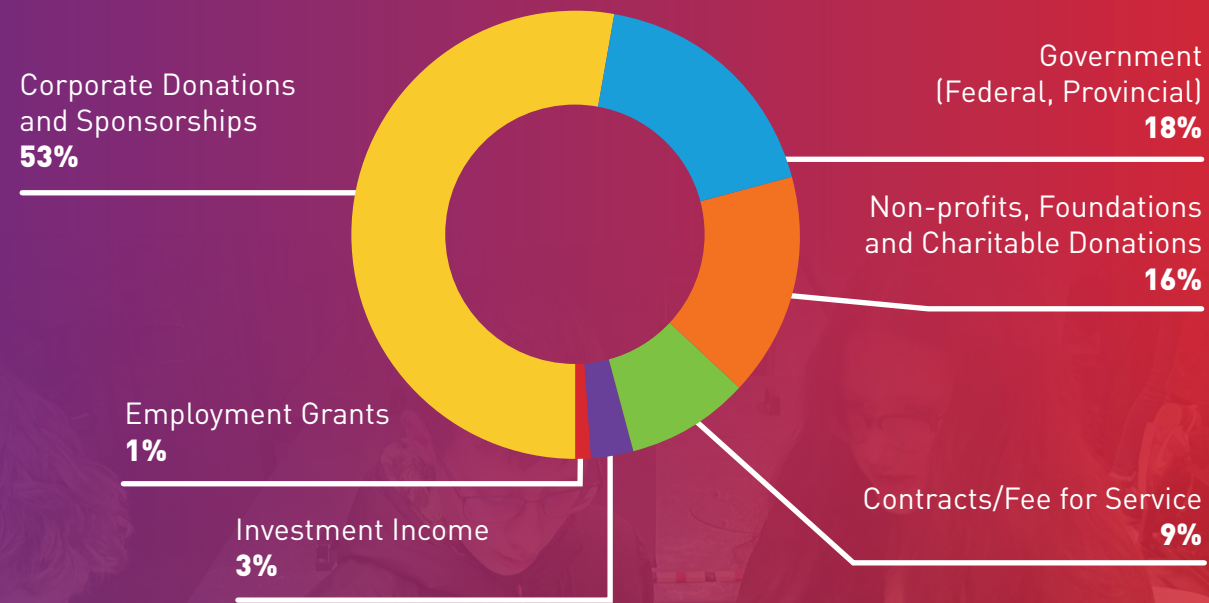
DEEPAI MEDHEKAR
ENERGY INNOVATION DAY PARTICIPANT AND TEACHER, HEADWAY SCHOOL

IT IS ALWAYS GREAT WHEN WE GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE LEARNER.
Every time I attend the A+ For Energy PD sessions, I come away with valuable resources to use in the classroom

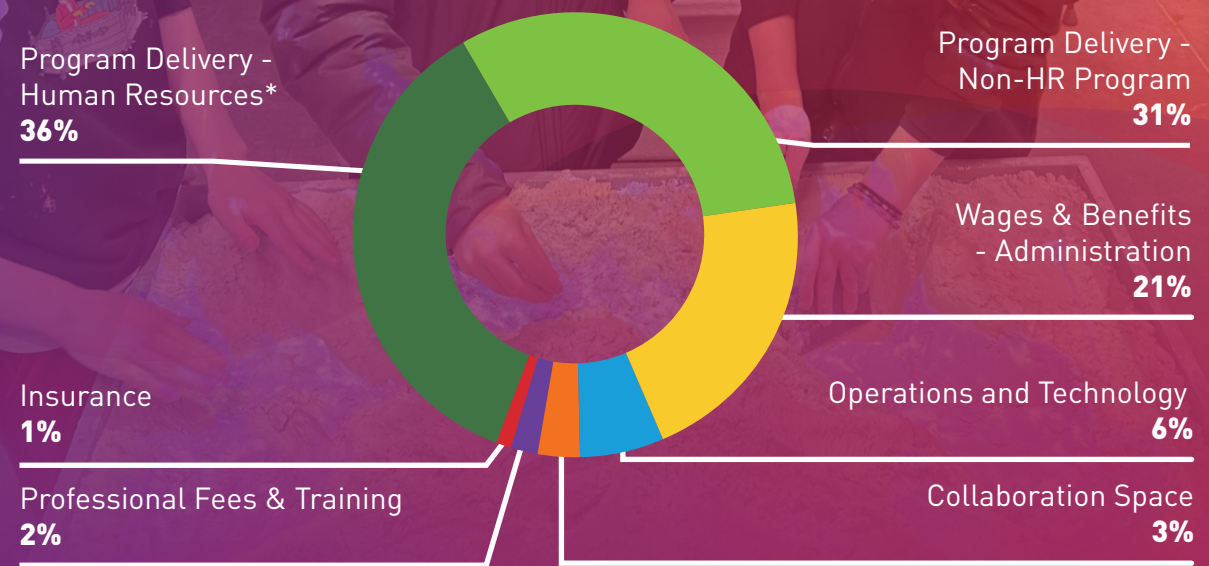
SHELLY SUTCLIFFE,
ST. THERESA SCHOOL



REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



* Nearly all of Inside Education's programs involve our staff directly delivering learning experiences. So our people are also our programs!

OUR FUNDERS

Inside Education sincerely appreciates our funding partners for their support and commitment to our mission of helping create the next generation of engaged and informed stewards of our environment and natural resources.

ALLIANCE



SUSTAINING



SUPPORTING



WITH APPRECIATION

In addition to our formal funders, Inside Education extends its sincere thanks to the organizations that provided in-kind support for our programs throughout 2024. To the hundreds of individuals from each of these organizations, we thank you for giving your time to support all of our programs throughout the year.



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