



ALBERTA BOREAL CAREERS PROJECT

Career Discovery Days

November 18, 2025 - Bonnyville

November 19 - 20, 2025 - Lac La Biche



This program took place in regions inhabited by the First Peoples of Treaty 6 and the Métis people of the St. Paul - Cold Lake and Lac La Biche Territories since time immemorial. In the spirit of reconciliation and reciprocity, Inside Education respectfully acknowledges all Indigenous Peoples whose deep respect for the environment forms the foundation of our personal responsibility for the stewardship of our environment and natural resources, a connection we strive to foster through all of our programs.

Introduction

Inside Education is pleased to report on a return of our Alberta Boreal Careers (ABC) Project, a series of educational events designed to give students a firsthand look at natural resource development and careers in Alberta’s Boreal Forest. Throughout the program, students connect with professionals in a variety of environmental and natural resource sectors including forestry, wildlife, agriculture, energy, reclamation, monitoring, conservation and stewardship.

Two Alberta Boreal Careers events were held in November 2025 - one in Bonnyville, AB and another in Lac La Biche, AB.

Students participated in tours at active work sites, dynamic roundtable workshops with expert guests, and learned more about various research and innovation in the local areas. This year’s program saw **23** expert guests interact with **25** students from **3** schools.



“There are a lot of learning opportunities and it really opens students eyes to the number of different career paths that are out there. Inquisitive kids really make the most of it.”

- Devin Barrett, teacher, Bonnyville Centralized High School

“I realized how many different trades there are. The program was fun and very informative.” - Student, Bonnyville Centralized High School

Program Funders



Program Overview

The Alberta Boreal Careers Project took place in Bonnyville and Lac La Biche. In attendance was **25** grade 9-12 students from schools in Bonnyville, Cold Lake, and Lac La Biche:

- Bonnyville Centralized High School, *Bonnyville*
- Assumption Jr. / Sr. High School, *Cold Lake*
- J.A. Williams High School, *Lac La Biche*



Students at the Bonnyville ABC program participated in an on-site tour at the Strathcona Resources Orion Facility, where they learned more about energy innovations, efficiencies, technologies, along with the various energy career opportunities in the Boreal Forest. Students at the Lac La Biche ABC program visited Portage College, where they explored various program offerings, learned from instructors, and participated in hands-on laboratory demonstrations.

Both programs included an interactive Career Conversations Roundtable workshop, where students had meaningful conversations with industry experts and post-secondary representatives about various careers, skills, education, and programs available to students in the Boreal.

Each program ended with a networking session that encouraged connecting with other students and sharing their experiences about the various careers available.



Expert Guests | Organizations:

- **Jocelyn Beniuk-Elkins & Samuel Alward** | *Alberta Environment & Protected Areas*
- **Isabelle Villeneuve & Jess Arnold** | *Bonnyville Forest Nursery*
- **Leo Paquin, Paul Kip, & Matthew Tompkins** | *Canadian Natural*
- **Jasmin Arndt & Rena Landriault** | *CAREERS: Next Generation*
- **Alyssa Belanger-Haig** | *Environmental Educator*
- **Curtis Cassibo** | *Lakeland College*
- **Stephanie Sampson** | *Lakeland Industry & Community Association (LICA)*
- **Al Bertschi** | *Portage College*
- **Adrienne Lem** | *Strathcona Resources Ltd.*
- **Ellen Macdonald** | *University of Alberta*
- **Aaron Krips & Laura Brandon** | *WorkWild*

Summary and Futures

One of Inside Education’s missions is to connect students with careers in natural resource fields, especially students from populations underrepresented in these areas. It was with this objective in mind that the **Alberta Boreal Careers (ABC) Project** was brought back, with the goal of showcasing careers opportunities in the Boreal region over various sectors including forestry, water, energy, agriculture and wildlife.

By connecting students with experts in environmental and natural resource careers, students were able to gain a better understanding of the expectations and skills required, as well as the paths that these professionals took to get to their careers.

We believe that the incredible mentors and the engaging nature of this program will help inspire the next generation of environmental and natural resource stewards. With this, Inside Education intends to continue showcasing and developing hands-on, careers-focused programs that highlight a wide variety of environmental and natural resource topics!



“The program was very interactive and informative for myself and students. Presenters were very open to questions and being meeting the kids where they are at. Students from any level can gain information from all levels including entry level employment with little education required. I would take students again!”

- *Melissa (Missy) Jackknife, teacher,
J.A. Williams High School*

Contact

For More Information Contact:
Inside Education Society of Alberta
www.InsideEducation.ca

Natalie Graveline, Program Manager | ngraveline@insideeducation.ca
Kathryn Wagner, Executive Director | kwagner@insideeducation.ca

