

## ALBERTA BOREAL CAREERS PROJECT

Youth Learning Summit | APRIL 18 - 19, 2013

The Alberta Boreal Careers Project (ABC Project) took place on April 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Lac La Biche and Conklin, AB. Northern Alberta is a resource-rich region with a growing potential to open doors for young people as they embark on their future careers. Inside Education designed the ABC Project to expose high school students to the multitude of career opportunities available to them through two days of experiential learning.

Continuing the vision for Inside Education's suite of youth education summits, the ABC Project created an environment where students and teachers learn together. It provided opportunities to discuss and discover natural resources in Alberta's boreal region alongside local experts. The outcomes of the program will extend beyond the participants themselves as teachers and students share the resources and experiences back in their classrooms and communities.



### ABC PARTICIPANTS



Applications were accepted from all Alberta school districts; however, the program targeted grade 9 - 12 students in the Northern Boreal region.

A total of ten teachers and 33 students from the following schools participated in the event:

**Little Buffalo School, Little Buffalo, AB**

**Chief Napeweaw Comprehensive School, Frog Lake, AB**

**J.A. Williams School, Lac La Biche, AB**

**Elk Point Outreach, Elk Point, AB**

**Mistassinii School, Wabasca, AB**



## THE PROGRAM

The ABC Project was designed to showcase a wide variety of careers with an emphasis on experiencing the first-hand knowledge and understanding about the career

realities for both the young people and their teachers.

Inside Education strived to make real connections for students, and allowed them to explore, ask questions and become immersed in the realities of living and working in the Boreal. A theme that resonated throughout the program is that individual skills, strengths and interests should guide career paths and that the vast opportunities in the boreal region has great potential and diversity for everyone.

The program featured hands-on activities, site tours, job shadowing and a unique career networking expo.

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

### 1) Hands-on activities:

- *Tools of the Trade Demo:* This activity gave the students and teachers an opportunity use one of Inside Education's boreal forest-relevant classroom resources. This resource focuses on the tools used in the field, including a tree increment borer, diameter tape measure, soil auger and stereoscope.

- *Introduction to GPS Technology:* Portage College instructors introduced the students and teachers to the many functions of GPS units with an interactive scavenger hunt at Christina Lake Lodge.

### 2) Exposure to Careers:

- *Career Networking Expo:* Meaningful conversations are at the centre of any successful exhibition. The Career Networking Expo allowed students and teachers to visit one-on-one with 18 experts whose work is either in, or is impacted by, development in Alberta's boreal. Networkers included representatives working within various sectors of government, industry and community development, program sponsors and other career-related organizations.



### Career Networkers organizations included:

- Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
- Alberta-Pacific Forest Products
- Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation
- Cenovus Energy
- Community Futures, Lac La Biche
- Connacher Oil and Gas Ltd.
- Devon Energy
- Learning Clicks
- Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.
- Portage College
- Statoil Canada
- Work Wild



- *On-site Job Shadowing:* A highlight of the program for all involved was on-site job shadowing opportunities held at the Devon Energy and Cenovus Energy facilities. Students were able to experience what it takes to operate a Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD) facility, as well as the work lodges associated with this type of facility.

### Careers explored during the job shadow:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Camp Chef               | Safety Coordinator       |
| Control room operator   | Security Coordinator     |
| Environmental Scientist | Site Manager             |
| Operator                | Supply Chain Coordinator |
| Petroleum Engineer      | Welder                   |
| Power Engineer          |                          |



3) **SAGD site tours at Devon Energy and Cenovus Energy:** Whether the participants had an opportunity to experience the facility by bus or foot, the site tours gave them a first-hand experience of a SAGD facility. Participants were introduced to the SAGD processes including the technology used to extract the deep oil sands deposits as well as the practices being implemented to minimize the use of water resources.

4) **Overnight at a work lodge:** Another highlight of the ABC Project was the overnight stay at an oil sands work lodge. Experiencing the work-life balance of those working in the nearby SAGD facilities left a long-lasting impression on the participants.



## PROGRAM EVALUATION & FEEDBACK



Inside Education is very proud of the many success of the ABC Project. Evidence suggests that the ABC Project was an eye-opening experience for both students and teachers. The overnight stay at the work lodges and the opportunity to job shadow were highlights for all participants and added depth to the program experience.



## PROGRAM ITINERARY

**THURSDAY APRIL 18**  
Lac La Biche, Alberta

### Program Introduction & Overview, Inside Education

#### Career Networking Expo

This fast-paced unique-take on the typical career fair introduced students and teachers to professionals working in a wide range of career possibilities in Alberta's Boreal

#### Travel to Conklin

#### Group A - Cenovus Energy

This group spent the evening at Cenovus Energy's work lodge near their Christina Lake Project.

#### Group B - Devon Energy

This group spent the evening at Devon Energy's work lodge near their Jackfish site.

#### Dinner and Camp Orientation

### FRIDAY APRIL 19, 2013

#### Group A - Cenovus Energy

Breakfast  
SAGD 101 and Orientation  
Tour Christina Lake SAGD site  
Job Shadow

#### Group B - Devon Energy

Breakfast  
SAGD 101 and Orientation  
Site tour of Jackfish Plant  
Job Shadow

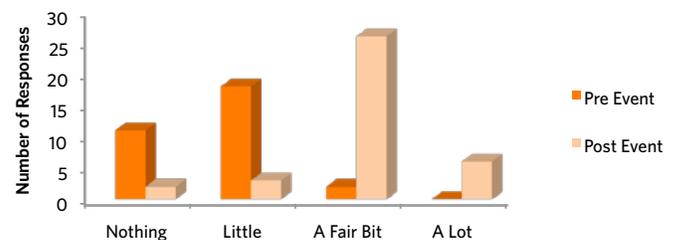
#### Christina Lake Lodge Lunch

### Innovative Wildlife Research, Statoil Scat Dogs Project

Introduction to GPS Technology  
Portage College

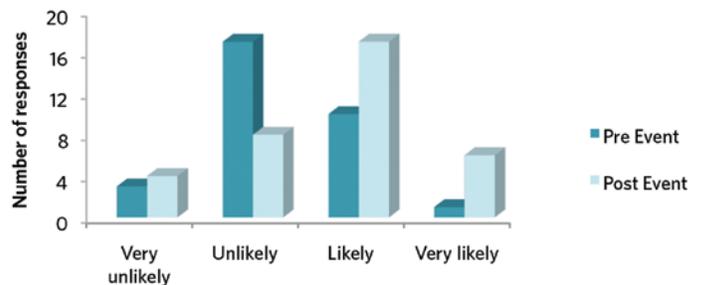
Tools of the Trade Demo  
Inside Education

### How much do you know about careers in Alberta's northern boreal forest region?



Participants were given short questionnaires at the beginning and end of the program. Based on the completed questionnaires, knowledge of careers in Alberta's northern boreal forest region increased.

### How likely are you to pursue a career in the boreal forest?



Furthermore, the likelihood that an ABC participant will pursue a future career in the boreal forest region also increased.

Post-program survey results echoed the questionnaire findings, in that participants felt the program enhanced their knowledge and understanding of career opportunities within the Boreal region and will play a role in their future career choices.

## FEEDBACK

*"I know the students will use their wonderful experience to think about their future and the possibilities of exciting and challenging careers"*

Judy Meyer (teacher),  
Mistassiniy School, Wabasca

*"I honestly loved this opportunity!"*

Lee-Anne,  
Mistassiniy School, Wabasca

*"It opened my eyes to new jobs."*  
Adam, Little Buffalo School,  
Little Buffalo First Nation

*"Experiencing camp life was monumental for all of my students. They left with a sense of optimism for the future."*

Owen Morris (teacher), Chief Napewaw Comprehensive School,  
Frog Lake First Nation

*"I had the opportunity to talk with other people and meet new people. This experience has made me think about my future a lot! Thank you for an amazing opportunity like this!"* Monica, Chief Napewaw Comprehensive School, Frog Lake First Nation



*"The experience overall was kind of 'I think I found my future job'."*

Shania, Chief Napewaw Comprehensive School,  
Frog Lake First Nation

## PROGRAM PARTNERS



Inside Education extends our many thanks to all the program partners. It was through their support that this exceptional educational opportunity was made possible. A special thank you to **Devon Canada** and **Cenovus Energy** for providing overnight accommodations at their work lodges and for organizing job shadowing at their facilities. We are also grateful to all the individuals who lent their time and expertise at the career networking expo.

Many teachers commented how grateful they were to have full scholarship for such a high-caliber education event. Most schools would not have the budget to attend and it is through the support of Inside Education partners that we can make these opportunities possible.

For more information please contact:

**Steve McIsaac**  
Inside Education  
smcisaac@insideeducation.ca  
11428-100 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 0J4  
[www.insideeducation.ca](http://www.insideeducation.ca)



Thank you to  
our sponsors:

