

**INSIDE EDUCATION - TEACHER PD SIX MONTHS LATER...**

# IMPACT

## What's this?

A summary of the practical, in-school, impacts of Inside Education's popular Teacher Professional Development.



These 40 teachers spent a week with Inside Education - Summer 2012

## CANADIAN OIL SANDS EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Six months after spending a week learning about the science, issues, technologies and future of oil sands in Alberta, how have 40 Canadian teachers seen their teaching grow? What has been the IMPACT in the classroom?**

During the summer of 2012, Inside Education welcomed school teachers from across Canada - 20 from Alberta, 20 from 8 other provinces and territories - to participate in our flagship teacher professional development program: the Canadian Oil Sands Education Program. Through a variety of field tours, visits with experts from industry, government, First Nations and the environmental community, the teachers were able to immerse themselves in a balanced view of oil sands today and into the future.

By adopting this multiple-perspective approach, it is our intent to help motivate these leading educators to model this same approach in their classrooms. By allowing young people to synthesize current information and points of view on the issues, we arm them with the tools

to be critical thinkers, responsible consumers and engaged citizens.

Inside Education surveyed the participants in the Canadian Oil Sands Education Program immediately upon completion of the learning journey in August 2012. At that time we asked the teacher's *plans* to incorporate oil sands themes into their classroom. We promised to support the teachers in any way we could, and have recently followed up to survey their progress through the school year.

This document will summarize how the 40 educators' participation in the Canadian Oil Sands Education Program has already impacted their classroom this school year, and highlight their future plans for deepening their own learning and that of their students.

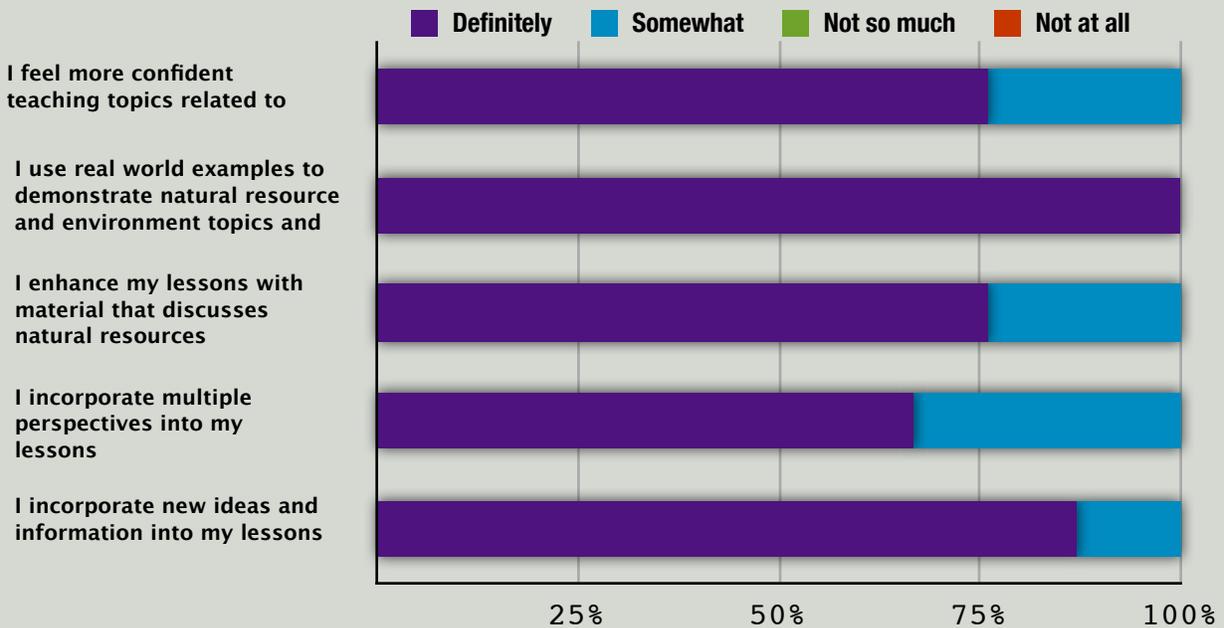


### Education Workshop

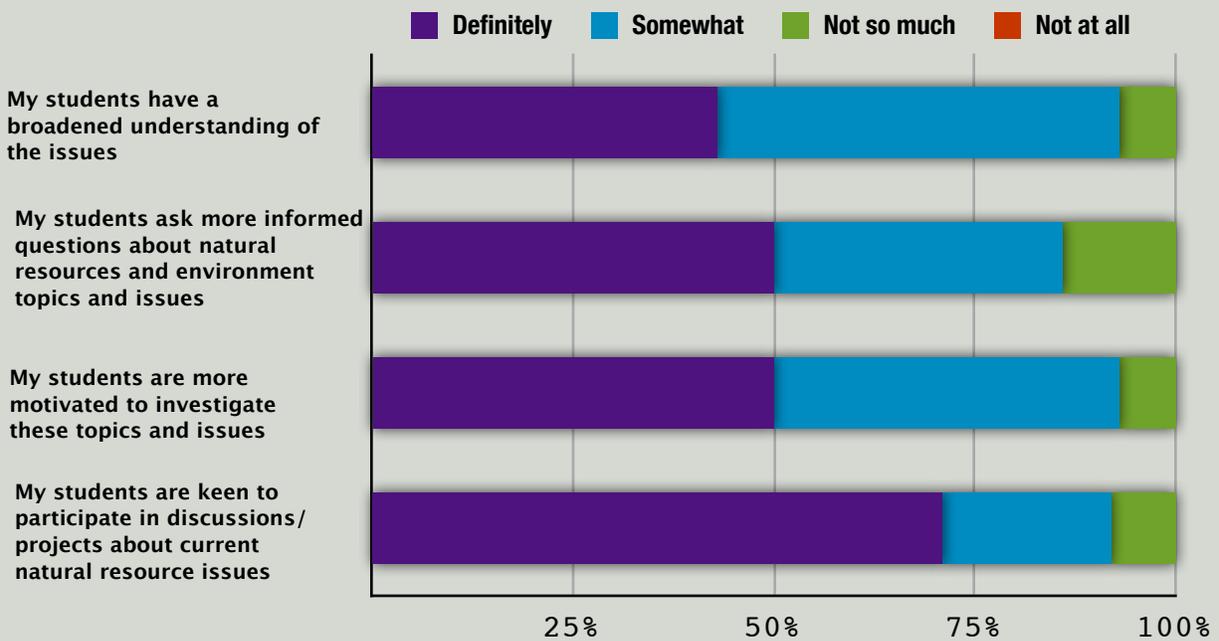
A component of the Canadian Oil Sands Education Program included best practices in curriculum materials - useful across Canada.

# WHAT WE LEARNED

We asked: **“How has the 2012 Canadian Oil Sands Education Program affected how you teach environmental and natural resources topics?”**

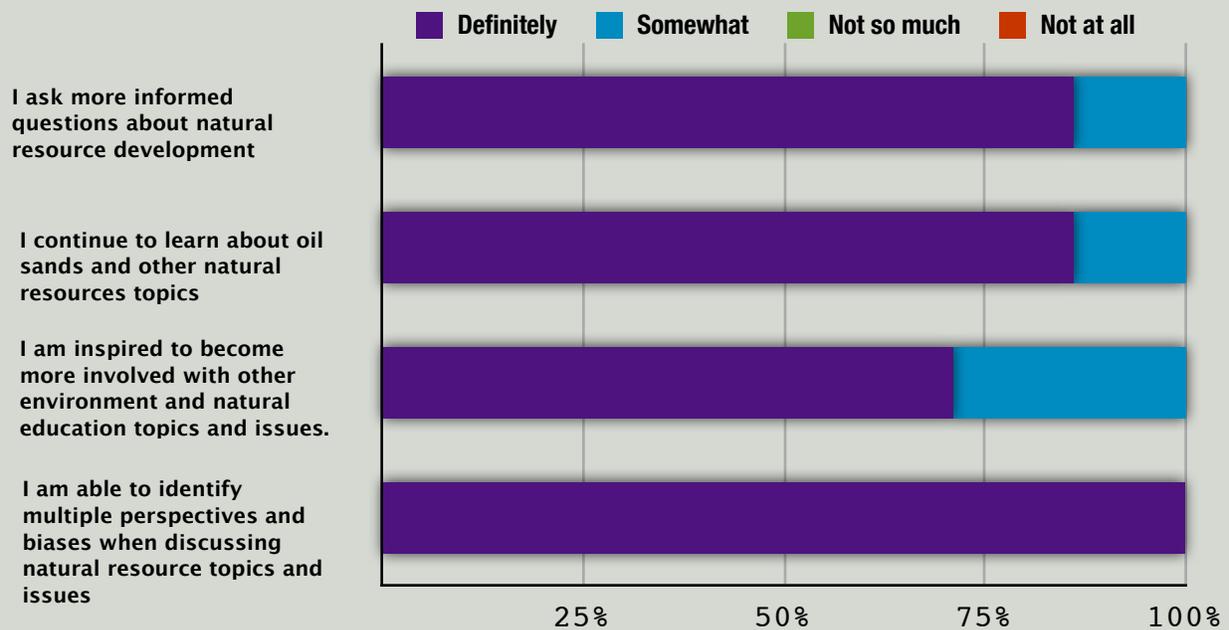


We asked: **“From your observations, how has student understanding of oil sands, natural resources and the environment been affected by the information you’ve shared?”**



# WHAT ELSE WE LEARNED

We asked: **“How have your personal perceptions been affected by your experiences last summer on the program?”**



We asked: **“In your opinion, how important is it that Inside Education makes experiences like the 2012 Canadian Oil Sands Education Program available to teachers in the K-12 school system?”**

● Extremely Important      ● Somewhat Important      ● Not at all important



# FURTHER FEEDBACK AND FUTURE FOCUS

In addition to completing the survey, we also asked the teachers if they could reflect on their experiences during the Canadian Oil Sands Education Program now that they have had time to digest the broad expanse of information they acquired last summer. We also asked them to think about the extent to which what they learned has impacted the learning of the hundreds of young people in their charge.

## Thoughts from Fort Mac

"Any experience that brings teachers together for the purpose of learning and developing new ideas is worthwhile. Not only do teachers bring new information and resources to the classroom but it also allows them to collaborate with each other and discuss education in a different context. My experience with Inside Education was very positive. It was a fun, interesting, different way for teachers to get together and learn about the issues and resources in our country." ~ Erica Vanden Pol, Fort McMurray

## Teaching, Telling Stories and Building My Network

"First, I enhanced my knowledge of available resources. I didn't realize how much that I can use in the classroom, excellent stuff! Second, the first hand experience, pictures, stories etc. make my teaching that much more interesting and engaging. Third, I met some great folks who shared their experiences that I can draw on in my own work." ~ Michelle Draper, Edmonton

## Social Science Strategy

"In my Law 12, Economics 12 and Social 10 and 11 courses I have introduced all aspects of the oil sands issues with gusto. In BC, too many people (students included) seem ready to dismiss pipe line development and oil sands issues without have much current information. I find some not actually realizing the overall impact of these on our economy and how much we benefit in the long run. I have engaged many of my senior students in discussions and they are realizing we need this economic investment to keep our standard of living! Not one of my students said they wanted to lower their standard of living (surprise?)" ~ Gregor Campbell, Victoria, BC

## Sharing What I've learned...

"I have used the information in formal lessons in my classes as well as a guest speaker in other classes. I have also presented at the Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education conference in the fall of 2012 and intent to present at Ontario Society for Environmental Education conference in May of this spring. Both are educational groups focused on geographic and environmental education. I



Our teacher friends from "The Rock" officially endorse this report

intend to give PD to my department now that the labour regulations have been lifted in Ontario. I am also using this as a send off for our sustainability summit in the school." ~ Taina Kanerva, Toronto, ON

## Sincerely, Inspired...

"The experiences with the Inside Education last summer definitely make me feel more comfortable in sharing with students information about the location, extent and geologic history of the resources as well as the extraction methods. It inspired me to learn more about the environmental consequences of extraction and I continue to follow research and developments of Canada's oil sands." ~ Gerard Ford, Cornerbrook, NL

## What's Next?

Energy education and literacy will continue to be an important focus area for Inside Education. In addition to our popular in-school classroom presentations (+18,000 students annually), we have three major oil sands-related programs planned for 2013:

### Generate 2013

This 3-day learning experience will see AB and BC students and teachers from 21

high schools investigate Alberta's energy story - including a case study on the oil sands. [www.gener8.ca](http://www.gener8.ca)

### Alberta's Boreal Careers (ABC) Project

A pilot project for high school students in Northeastern Alberta - investigating the myriad of careers in their own backyard. Will include overnight at SAGD camp. [www.insideeducation.ca/abc\\_project](http://www.insideeducation.ca/abc_project)

### Energy and Wildlife Education Institute

Our week-long summer teacher PD program turns its attention to the complex and crucial relationship between wildlife and energy development. We will tour 25 teachers through northern Alberta and investigate wildlife research and on-the-ground implementation of this work. [www.insideeducation.ca/summer\\_institute](http://www.insideeducation.ca/summer_institute)