

# WESTERN CANADA OIL SANDS CAREERS EDUCATION PROGRAM

OCTOBER 18-21, 2015



*Photo: Participants taking a behind-the-scenes tour of a SAGD facility at Devon Jackfish 2.*



## THE TOUR

### Experiential oil sands careers program for Western Canadian educators

The 2015 Western Canada Oil Sands Careers Education Program saw 29 passionate career practitioners from across Canada's four western provinces come together for a learning adventure.

This three-day tour was packed with unique and exclusive opportunities to learn more about careers directly and indirectly related

to oil sands activities in Alberta. Teachers and counsellors were whisked to Fort McMurray, Conklin, and Lac La Biche for a rare day-in-the-life experiential program, with multiple facility tours and expert speakers.

The tour's objective was to provide participants with a greater understanding of the variety of careers available

in the oil sands region, as well as training requirements, employment trends, and the lifestyles that accompany these different career paths. Career practitioners left the program better equipped to infuse current, accurate, and meaningful career and training information to their students from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba!

# THE PROGRAM

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

—meet in Fort McMurray—

### 20 Reasons I Love Fort McMurray

Russell Thomas, former councillor

### Welcome, Introductions & Oil Sands 101

Steve McIsaac, Inside Education

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

### Welcome to Wood Buffalo

Melissa Blake, Mayor

### Living & Working in the North

Melonie Doucette, Northern Alberta Development Council

### Oil Sands & the Economy - Career Outlook

Alberto Benzo, Government of Alberta

### Oil Sands & the Economy - Career Outlook

Jeff Gaulin, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

### Careers in Oil Sands Mining

Ashley MacDougall, Syncrude

### Tour: Careers in Oil Sands Mining & Reclamation

Leithan Slade, Syncrude

### Tour: Careers in Reclamation

Sabrina Pelley, Suncor

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

—travel to Conklin—

### Tour: Careers in Oil Sands In-Situ Developments

Tracey Thompson & Kray Price, Devon Energy

### Report to Work! Day-in-the-Life at In-Situ Facility

Devon Jackfish, Devon Energy

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

—travel to Lac La Biche—

### Education Workshop: Connecting with Careers & Resources

Meredith Allan, Portage College; Arlene Lauer-Krueger, CAREERS The Next Generation; Ann Normand, Work Wild; Bevan Davidson, Woodland Operations Learning Foundation

### Program Wrap-Up

Inside Education

—Travel to Edmonton International Airport—

\*Appendix: detailed program itinerary

## PROGRAM GOALS

The tour aimed to allow career practitioners to:

- learn about the diverse career opportunities related to oil sands development in Alberta
- experience first-hand some of the training, lifestyle, and work conditions of several oil sands-related careers
- gain resources, tools, and personal accounts to enhance careers education for students



# OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education would like to express sincere gratitude for the time and support of our partner organizations that came together to ensure the success and variety of this program. Partner contributions allowed Inside Education to provide this unique and highly valuable careers-focused professional development opportunity.

Thank you to all of the organizations that provided expert speakers, site tours, and career resources for the *2015 Western Canada Oil Sands Careers Education Program*. A special thank you to the partners who provided the financial support that made this program possible:



**Government  
of Alberta** ■

**CAPP**  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCERS

**devon**

**SUNCOR**  
ENERGY  
FOUNDATION

**Syn crude**

**Canadian Natural**

**MarathonOil**  
Canada Corporation

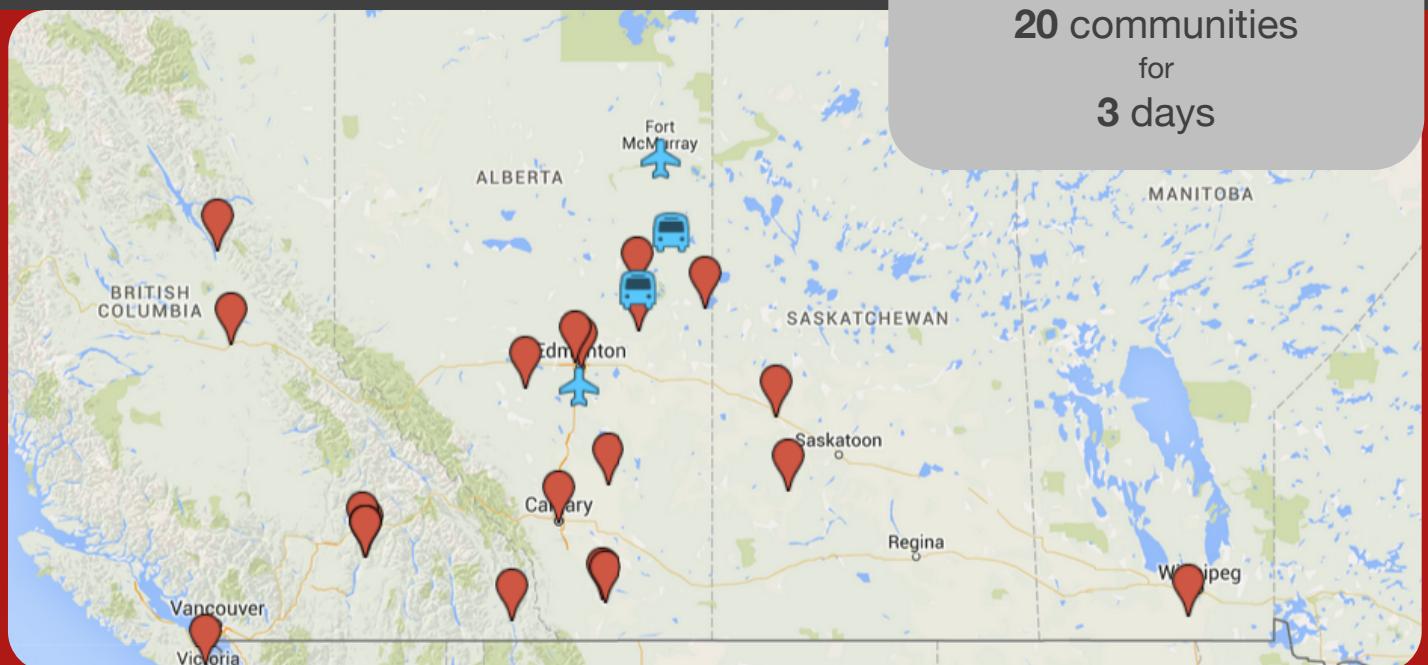
**cenovus**  
ENERGY

**ConocoPhillips**

**WELLS  
FARGO**

# THE PARTICIPANTS

29 career practitioners  
from  
20 communities  
for  
3 days



## Meredith Allan

Portage College, Lac La Biche, AB

## Susan Basudde

Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

## Paul Britton

Pleasant Valley Secondary, Armstrong, BC

## David Cataford

Undergraduate Career Services, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

## Morgan Dilts

Jaffray Elementary Jr. Secondary, Jaffray, BC

## Lisa Dribnenki

J. A. Williams High, Lac La Biche, AB

## Michelle Hughes

A. L. Fortune Secondary, Enderby, BC

## Dianne Hunt

Mackenzie Secondary, Mackenzie, BC

## Paul Jespersen

Vilna Outreach Achievement Academy, Vilna, AB

## Vanessa Lewis

Sun West School Division, Rosetown, SK

## Mark Marino

School District 83, Salmon Arm, BC

## Leslie-Anne McKenzie

Forest Lawn High School, Calgary, AB

## Melissa McQueen

University of Alberta, Drayton Valley, AB

## Leanne Merkowsky

Living Sky School Division No. 202, North Battleford, SK

## Gil Perron

Catholic Central High, Lethbridge, AB

## John Quilty

Salmon Arm Secondary, Salmon Arm, BC

## Blair Raugust

Morrin School, Morrin, AB

## Stu Rhodes

Stelly's Secondary Saanichton, BC

## Lindsay Rous

W. H. Croxford, Calgary, AB

## Michael Saad

Coalhurst High, Coalhurst, AB

## Arlin Scharfenberg

Rosenort School, Rosenort, MB

## David Snyder

Sir Winston Churchill, Calgary, AB

## Barb Tate

Southern Alberta Technology Council Lethbridge, AB

## Erin Thomas

Centre for Learning Alternatives, Prince George, BC

## Peggy Townsend

Crescent Heights High, Calgary, AB

## William Turnham

Bellerose Composite High, St. Albert, AB

## Robert Vien

École Voyageur, Cold Lake, AB Lethbridge, AB

## Mari Warrior

Tamanawis Secondary, Surrey, BC

## Danielle Wolf

Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

# THE FEEDBACK

## A few words from some of the participants...

I came to the oil sands with almost no prior knowledge of the processes or practices involved in extraction, processing, or reclamation. When talking to my colleagues the past few days they think I'm some sort of expert now.

—*Stu Rhodes, Stelly's Secondary, Saanichton, BC*



It was a real eye opener. I had the chance to meet many who work and live in this region of Alberta

—*Gil Perron, Catholic Central High School, Lethbridge, AB*

The oilsands career PD program was an incredible and worthwhile experience. It gave me a grasp on concepts that I didn't have before, and opened my eyes to a place that my own community revolves around. It will be incredibly useful for me to engage my students by using local examples that they talk about in everyday life.

— *Melissa McQueen, BEd Student, University of Alberta, Drayton Valley, AB*

AMAZING.  
Wow, what a rich and full experience. They did an amazing job bringing representatives from all different career options.

— *Arlin Scharfenberg, Rosenort School, Rosenort, MB*



SOOOO cool to be able to see a site as I did. I really enjoyed speaking with the staff who were more than willing and open to share how they came about their roles and what is required to be successful.

—*Leslie-Anne McKenzie, Forest Lawn High School, Calgary, AB*

# THE EVALUATION

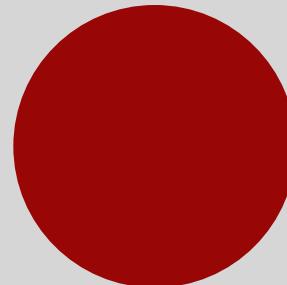
The 2015 Western Canada Oil Sands Careers Education Program was a **SUCCESS!**

Inside Education's most recent teacher professional development program was available to career educators from across Western Canada. Participant evaluations demonstrated that program objectives were met and exceeded, and teachers found the program valuable to their work. Career practitioners in attendance expanded their understanding of the wide variety of careers related - directly and indirectly - to development in the oil sands region, as well as their availability, compensation, training requirements, and lifestyle. Participants had unique opportunities to go behind-the-scenes and have firsthand experiences to take back to their students.

Participants were able to engage with numerous experts and learn what training, working and living conditions, and actual day-to-day jobs are like. These experiences, coupled with additional resources and network connections provided during the program, gave career practitioners in attendance a wealth of information to bring back to their students.

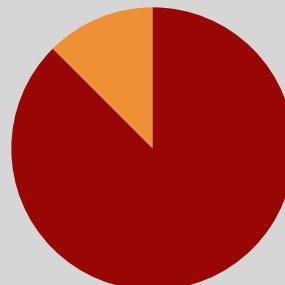
Feedback from teachers and counsellors was collected through a formalized written questionnaire, in addition to emails, cards, and letters received in the weeks following the program. Testimonials - such as the examples on the preceding page - and survey responses provide a summary of the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from participants and indicated the immense value they place on this type of professional development opportunity.

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



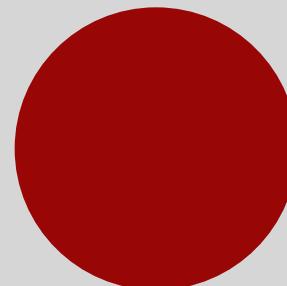
This education program **exposed me to a breadth of careers related to oil sands development.**

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



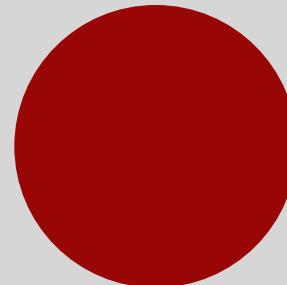
I have **gained the knowledge needed to advise my students of the oil sands career opportunities in Alberta.**

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



This experience introduced me to resources that will help me to further explore career opportunities relating to oil sands development with my students.

● Strongly Agree ● Agree



I would **recommend an Inside Education Professional Development Program** to my colleagues.

# APPENDIX: DETAILED PROGRAM

## Western Canada Oil Sands Careers Education Program October 18-21, 2015

### Sunday, October 18

#### **Welcome and Registration - 6:00pm**

Timberline B Banquet Room, Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre, Fort McMurray (530 MacKenzie Blvd)

—Banquet Supper—

#### **Introductions**

Who are we and what are we going to do? An opportunity to get to know your hosts, but more importantly each other!

Facilitator: **Inside Education**

#### **Oil Sands 101**

So, what are the oil sands exactly? This session will help familiarize you with some of the vocabulary, processes, and issues that our expert speakers and tour hosts will expand upon throughout the program.

Presenter: **Inside Education**

### Monday, October 19

—Breakfast from 6:45 - 7:45am (hotel restaurant)—

#### **Morning Sessions begin at 8:00am**

Timberline B Banquet Room, Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre, Fort McMurray (530 MacKenzie Blvd)

#### **Welcome to Wood Buffalo**

We are honoured to have an official welcome to Wood Buffalo to kick off Monday's sessions!

Presenter: Mayor Melissa Blake, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

#### **Living and Working in the North**

What's it really like to live and work in Northern Alberta? In this session, speakers will go into detail on what Northern Alberta offers, including lifestyle and careers.

Presenter: Melonie Doucette, Northern Alberta Development Council

#### **Oil Sands & the Economy - Career Outlook**

The first instalment of Oil Sands & the Economy will go into detail on the impact of oil sands development on Alberta and Canada's economies, as well as give a look ahead to labour projections in the region.

Presenter: Alberto Benzo, Government of Alberta

—Refreshment Break—

## ***Oil Sands & the Economy - Career Outlook*** (continued)

In this second instalment of Oil Sands & the Economy, we will hear an industry perspective on the kinds of opportunities there are now for work related to oil sands, and what careers will be available for your students. This speaker will also speak to the contributions of oil sands development to the economy, direct and indirect.

Presenter: Jeff Gaulin, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

## ***Opportunities Beyond Extraction***

In this session, we will hear the story of an *unconventional* career path into the oil and gas industry. We will learn about environmental and innovation careers related to oil sands development.

Presenter: Amit Saxena, Devon Energy & Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance

—Buffet Lunch—

Travel by bus to Syncrude downtown office

## ***Careers in Oil Sands Mining - Panel Discussion***

In this visit, you'll have a chance to speak with a human resources representative of one of the major companies involved in oil sands mining, ask questions your students might have, and hear about the variety of careers that exist in that sector.

Panel Host: Ashley MacDougall, Syncrude

Travel by bus to Mildred Lake Mine Site

## ***Tour: Careers in Oil Sands Mining - Active Mine & Reclamation***

Get up close and personal with an active mining operation as we tour a Syncrude site. This tour includes the mine, upgrader, reclamation and bison areas, as well as plentiful information on the many careers linked to oil sands mining near Fort McMurray.

Host: Leithan Slade, Syncrude

Travel to Crane Lake

## ***Tour: Careers in Reclamation***

During this stop on our tour, we will meet an expert in reclamation, who will take us for a walk and discuss the process, status, and careers of reclamation in the oil sands mining areas! We'll tour a reclaimed area that now serves many purposes, including wetlands education.

Host: Sabrina Pelley, Suncor

—Supper in Fort McMurray & free time—

## ***Tuesday, October 20***

—Breakfast from 6:45 - 7:45am (hotel restaurant)—

Travel by bus to Conklin

—Lunch at Devon Jackfish work camp & get into your PPE!—

### **Tour: Careers in Oil Sands In-Situ Developments**

Go behind the scenes to learn about in-situ oil sands operations: how bitumen is extracted from formations too deep for mining, and what kind of career opportunities in-situ projects offer.

Presenter: Tracey Thompson & Kray Price, Devon Energy

### **Report to Work! Day-in-the-Life at In-Situ Facility**

This segment of the day will give you the unique opportunity to learn first-hand about different careers from people who work at Devon Jackfish!

Host: Devon Jackfish, Devon Energy

*Travel by bus to Conklin Lodge*

*—Supper & overnight in work camp and experience the lifestyle of many workers in the region!—*

## **Wednesday, October 21**

*—Breakfast at camp—*

*Pack lunch & snacks at camp & travel by bus to Lac La Biche*

### **Education Workshop - Connecting with Careers & Resources**

This workshop features four unique organizations that will share training and career resources and showcase other career opportunities in the oil sands region.

Presenters:

- Meredith Allan, Portage College
- Arlene Lauer-Krueger, CAREERS The Next Generation
- Ann Normand, Work Wild
- Bevan Davidson, Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF)

### **Program Wrap-Up**

This session will help us reflect on what we've learned and how to bring the career information and unique experiences of the program back to students in a meaningful way.

Presenter: Inside Education

*Travel to Edmonton - drop off at Edmonton International Airport at 3:00p*

*Thank you for taking this learning journey with us! Safe travels home and please stay in touch!*

