

INSIDE EDUCATION

PRESENTS

# gener8 2017

## FINAL REPORT

March 9 - 12, 2017  
KANANASKIS, ALBERTA



# Generate 2017 Youth Energy and Climate Leadership Summit



## Summit Themes

- » Alberta's Climate Strategy
- » Energy Innovations and Futures
- » Emissions and Energy Efficiency Innovation
- » Young Energy Leaders

## INTRODUCTION

Generate 2017 was an inspiring, energizing and engaging summit where 120 students and teachers from across the province came together in Kananaskis Country March 9-12, 2017, eager to gain knowledge and perspective and be engaged in Alberta's climate and energy futures. Over the course of four days, participants were exposed to multiple perspectives related to energy and climate change in Alberta. Building on what they learned at the summit, each team left equipped with the skills and knowledge to lead an education project designed to make a valuable contribution to energy, climate change stewardship and education in their schools and communities.

Generate 2017 is unique because it emphasizes **experiential learning, critical thinking, and student leadership**. This summit was a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students and teachers to come together to better understand the science, issues, technology and careers related to energy and climate change in Alberta and ultimately, it encouraged participants to think critically about what they learn and examine their own role in shaping Alberta's future.

# THE PROGRAM

The exploration of key topics and themes allowed for valuable conversations and critical thinking about the environmental, social and economic challenges and opportunities related to energy use and development. A series of interactive workshops, hands-on activities, speakers and reflection exercises enabled both students and teachers to connect their learning back to their classrooms and communities.

Over 35 expert guests - **Idea Generators** - from a wide spectrum of energy and environmental fields participated in the program. Each Idea Generator contributed valuable perspective and understanding that helped lead the conversations that shaped the student's energy education journey. Special guests included **Michael Fulsom** from the Alberta Climate Change office, former Gener8 program participant and one of Alberta's *Top 30 under 30*, **Jasveen Brar**, and **Walter MacDonald Whitebear** who addressed the connection between Indigenous peoples, Traditional Knowledge, sustainability and reconciliation.

Inside Education was also honoured to announce the Jim Martin Legacy Fund at the Generate Gala, in honour of our Founding Executive Director who passed away in July 2016. The fund will help support schools from Alberta Indigenous communities attendance in future Generate and Navigate youth summits.

For a complete list of the Generate 2017 Idea Generators, please visit: [www.gener8.ca/summit-program/activities-and-workshops](http://www.gener8.ca/summit-program/activities-and-workshops)



## PROGRAM GOALS

**Engaging high school students:** providing opportunities to interact with topic experts, peers and teachers at a professional summit designed for multiple learning styles.

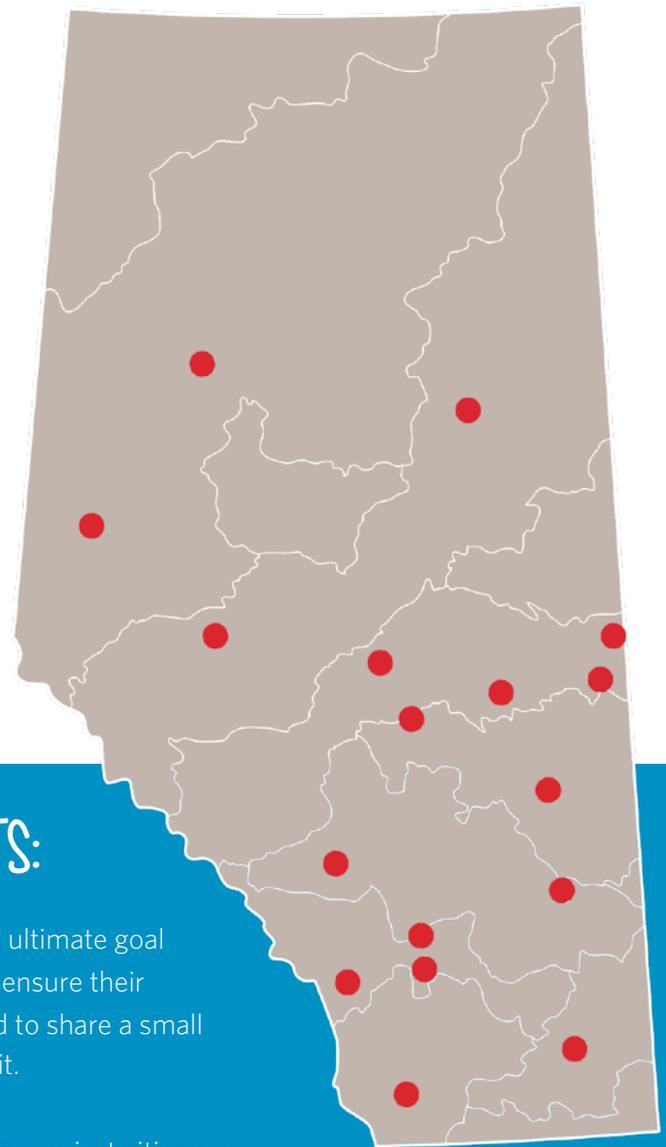
**Inspiring students:** Showcasing local examples of youth who have become leaders in Alberta's energy, environment and climate sectors.

**Experiential learning:** Encouraging students to step outside of their comfort zone and ask the hard questions to industry experts, academics, environmental leaders, peers and themselves.

**Critical Thinking:** Exploring program themes through multiple perspectives while providing delegates tools to develop understanding, evaluate information and form their own viewpoint

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS FROM ACROSS ALBERTA

Building Futures (WH Croxford High School) - Airdrie  
Canmore Collegiate High School - Canmore  
Charles Spencer High School - Grande Prairie  
Chief Napeweaw Comprehensive School - Frog Lake First Nation  
Cold Lake High School - Cold Lake  
Consort School - Consort  
Headway School - Edmonton  
Lacombe Composite - Lacombe  
Lord Beaverbrook High School - Calgary  
Lord Shaughnessy High School - Calgary  
Medicine Hat High School - Medicine Hat  
Paul Rowe Junior and Senior High School - Manning  
Piikani Nation Secondary School - Piikani First Nation  
Spruce Grove Composite High - Spruce Grove  
St. Mary School - Westlock  
Two Hills School - Two Hills  
Wainwright High School - Wainwright  
West Central High School - Rocky Mountain House  
Westwood Community High School - Fort McMurray



## ENERGY EDUCATION & ACTION PROJECTS:

At the core of the Summit are the energy education projects, with the ultimate goal being that each team apply their knowledge, perspective and tools to ensure their projects have a lasting legacy within their communities. We are proud to share a small sample of some of the inspiring action plans formulated at the Summit.

**MEDICINE HAT HIGH SCHOOL** • The students from one of Canada's sunniest cities are looking to capitalize on their solar resource by proposing the installation of solar photovoltaic cells on the roof of their school.

**ST. MARY SCHOOL, WESTLOCK** • St. Mary students are planning a 24-hour bike-a-thon to raise funds for energy efficient water fountains for their school. They will also be raising awareness about energy efficiency in their school through this event, and bringing the entire community into the process of increasing energy efficiency in Westlock.

**PIIKANI NATION SECONDARY, PIIKANI NATION** • These students are planning to present a proposal for more solar panels at their school to the involved stakeholders including their school, the board, the chief and council and local companies. To complement the solar panel installation, the students will educate their peers about renewable energy using small solar cars.

# PROGRAM FEEDBACK

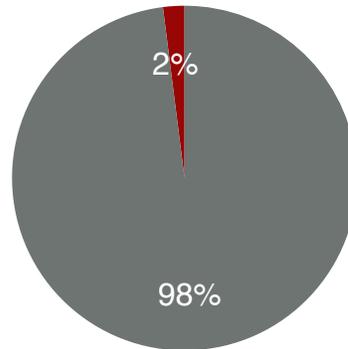
Summit participants will share the information gained from Generate 2017 with hundreds of their peers. Inside Education is excited to share the outstanding results and feedback we received from the teacher and student delegates.



"I LOVED THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONFERENCE. MY FRIENDS AND I WERE SO AMAZED TO SEE THAT IT WAS NOT JUST OUR SCHOOL THAT CARED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT BUT IT WAS MANY MANY SCHOOLS WHO HAD A SIMILAR PASSION TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT. A FEW OTHER SCHOOLS WE TALKED TO ALSO HAD SIMILAR PROJECTS TO OURS SO IT WAS COOL TO GET FEEDBACK FROM THEM AS WELL. ALL OF THE SPEAKERS WERE AMAZING TO LISTEN TO ALSO."

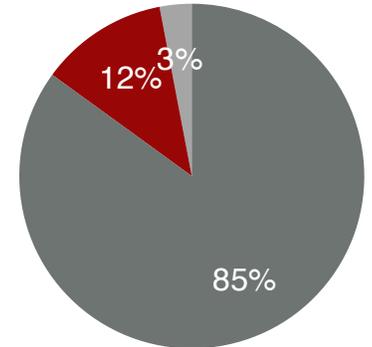
- MERCEDES PORTEOUS, COLD LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Overall, Generate 2017 was...



● Amazing! ● Other

After participating in Generate 2017 I have a better understanding of energy and climate change in Alberta.



● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Other



"I LIKED THAT WE WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. I ALSO ENJOYED THE SPEAKERS AND THE INFORMATION THEY GAVE US WHICH WE CAN SHARE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES. I APPRECIATED THAT THEY WERE VERY RESPECTFUL OF US -AS YOUTH- AND SAW US AS ENGAGING IN OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE, RATHER THAN JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS."

- ARIKA BRASCHUK, COLD LAKE HIGH SCHOOL



"I LOVED THAT WE WENT TO GENERATE WITH SOME ENERGY AND PASSION BUT REALLY FELT UNCERTAIN WITH HOW TO PROCEED. WE LEFT WITH EVEN MORE PASSION AND INSPIRATION AND I FELT WE HAD STARTED TO DEVELOP A TOOLKIT OF HOW TO MAKE THE IDEAS TURN INTO ACTION. WE LEFT EMPOWERED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THANKS FOR CREATING SUCH A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING AND GROWTH."

JOLENE BURKARD, TEACHER, WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE





## FUTURES

The success of Generate 2017, Inside Education's **seventh** youth summit, exemplifies why the youth summits have become a cornerstone in Inside Education's programming. These unique learning opportunities demonstrate Inside Education's vision of fostering the next generation of stewards of our environment and natural resources.



Inside Education believes creating memorable opportunities to experience our natural world creates a lasting connection to it. Through our unique approach to education and our full suite of programs and resources, we make these connections possible for thousands of students and teachers across Western Canada each year. With this in mind, planning is already underway for a multitude of other natural resource-based programs for teachers and students, and for Navigate 2018 - Youth Water & Environmental Leadership Summit, to be held March 2018.

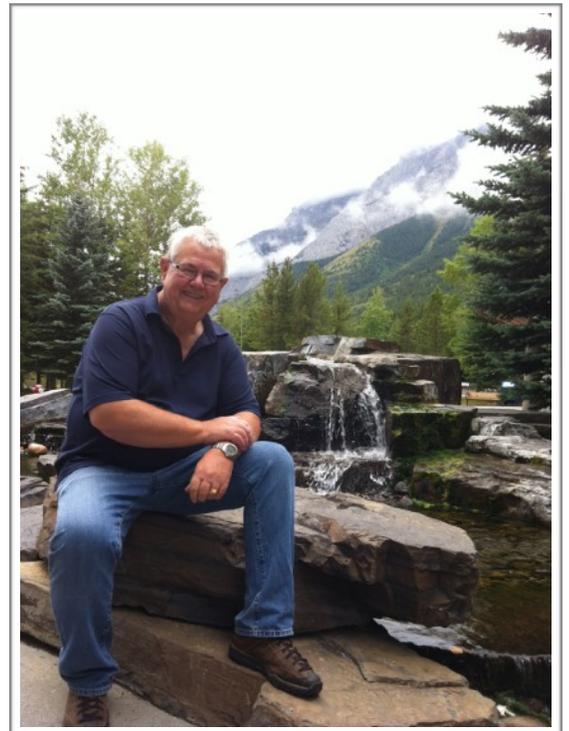
"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INSIDE EDUCATION TEAM FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. I WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL FOR THIS UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND. NOT ONLY DID I LEARN SO MUCH, BUT I MADE SO MANY NEW FRIENDS AND LEFT WITH THE BELIEF THAT MY VOICE IS IMPORTANT AND CAPABLE OF INITIATING CHANGE. NOT ONCE DURING THE SUMMIT DID I FEEL THAT I COULDN'T ASK QUESTIONS OR MAKE COMMENTS. I LOOK FORWARD TO APPLYING FOR NAVIG8 NEXT YEAR!" - ARSHDEEP BRAR, HEADWAY SCHOOL, EDMONTON

## THE JIM MARTIN LEGACY FUND

Inside Education was proud to announce the Jim Martin Legacy Fund at the Generate Gala in honour of our Founding Executive Director who passed away in July 2016. The fund will help support schools from Alberta Indigenous communities attend future Generate and Navigate youth summits.

Jim Martin's passion for having young people connect with Alberta's important issues in a meaningful, hopeful way is at the root of all we do at Inside Education. Our youth summits were a logical expression of Jim's interest in energy and water issues in Alberta and in inspiring young people to not only learn about these topics, but to act upon what they learned.

As a former teacher and principal in Indigenous communities throughout Alberta, we know Jim would be delighted and proud to know that his legacy will help remove any financial barriers to Indigenous students attending future summits.



# OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education extends its thanks to all the program partners. Each participating school was paired with one of the partners; providing effective, meaningful connections and building relationships between schools, organizations and Inside Education. Many teachers commented how grateful they were to have full scholarship for such a high-calibre education event. Most schools would not have the budget available to attend otherwise, and it is through the support of Inside Education's partners that these opportunities become possible.





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