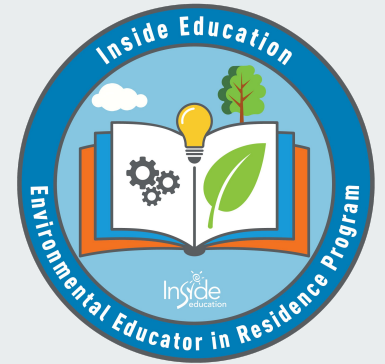


Environmental Educator in Residence Program

Spring 2026



**Acadia School | Alice Jamieson Girls Academy | Brentwood School |
Cedarbrae School | Chief Big Belly Middle School**

A week-long immersive learning opportunity that reaches five schools in Calgary area and embeds environmental education into each school. The goal of this program is to foster school-wide environmental literacy and ethics, spanning various topic areas, including forestry, wildlife, energy, water, agriculture, and climate.



This program took place in regions inhabited by the First Peoples of Treaty 7 and the Battle River Territory of the Métis Peoples 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 proud to introduce the **Environmental Educator in Residence Program**.

This *new* program consisted of five immersive week-long learning opportunities in 2026 that reached five schools in the Calgary area. The goal of this program is to foster school-wide environmental literacy and ethics, spanning various topic areas, including forestry, wildlife, energy, water, agriculture, and climate. The Inside Education Environmental Educators in Residence worked closely with each school to frame their residency toward a specific theme or guiding question connected to environmental stewardship and customized activities to align with the appropriate grade learning level of their students.



As part of the program, each school experienced unique learning opportunities, interactive displays, hands-on learning workshops, curricular-aligned presentations and activities, school-wide challenges, and local expert guest presenters, along with field trip opportunities to bring the curriculum to life!



The residency program integrated teacher professional development Lunch & Learn workshops for teachers to provide further support, background content, and additional curriculum-linked, climate-related classroom activities and learning resources—including for ongoing environmental education in the school.

We would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of teachers in making this program a success.

Thank you to our Program Funders



Program Overview

In the planning process, every participating Calgary school selected a weekly theme and school-wide challenge as a focus for their week-long programming. Each program consisted of various activities throughout the week, including an introductory and closing assembly-style presentation and an opening/closing blessing from an Indigenous Elder. As part of a Lunch & Learn Teacher Workshop, teachers were provided with various learning resources, including an [Energy Education Tool Kit](#) for their school, to further supplement the learning from their specific program.

Displayed at the front of the school, Inside Education set up an *Environment & Climate Showcase* with various hands-on activities, demonstrations, and inquiries for all school members to interact with. This *Showcase* spanned various topics including stewardship, water conservation, forestry management, energy innovations, and air quality monitoring.



PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Brentwood School, NW | March 9 - 13

Weekly Theme: Earth & Living Systems
Weekly Challenge: Paper Towel Reduction Challenge

Opening Blessing by Elder Shirley Hill, *Siksikaitsitapi*
Forest Field Trip to *Edworthy Park*
Guest Presenter - Sonja Bloom, *Foothills Forage & Grazing Association*
Inside Education Classroom Presentations

Alice Jamieson Girls Academy, NE | March 16 - 19

Weekly Theme: Water, Water Crisis, World Water Issues
Weekly Challenge: Water Reduction Challenge

Mini World-Water-Day Expo
SAIT World Water Day
Closing Blessing by Elder Clarence Wolfleg, *Siksika Nation*

Chief Big Belly School, Tsuut'ina Nation | March 30 - April 2

Weekly Theme: Waste, Recycling, and Composting
Weekly Challenge: Recycling & Waste Reduction

Opening Blessing by Elder Clarence Wolfleg, *Siksika Nation*
Field Trip to *City of Calgary Spyhill Landfill & Eco Centre*
Land-Based Forest Activities with Tsuut'ina Cultural Teacher

Cedarbrae School, SW | April 7 - 10

Weekly Theme: Waste, Recycling, and Composting
Weekly Challenge: Recycling & Waste Reduction

Opening Blessing by Elder Clarence Wolfleg, *Siksika Nation*
Forest Field Trip to *Fish Creek Bebo Grove*
Inside Education Classroom Presentations

Acadia School, SE | April 27 - May 1

Weekly Theme: Environmental Stewardship & Land-Based Relationships
Weekly Challenge: Green Transportation Challenge

Opening Blessing by Elder Clarence Wolfleg, *Siksika Nation*
Forest Field Trip to *Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest*
Guest Presenter - Amy Thompson, *Alberta Council of Environmental Education*
Inside Education Classroom Presentations

5 Schools

70 Classes

1738 Students

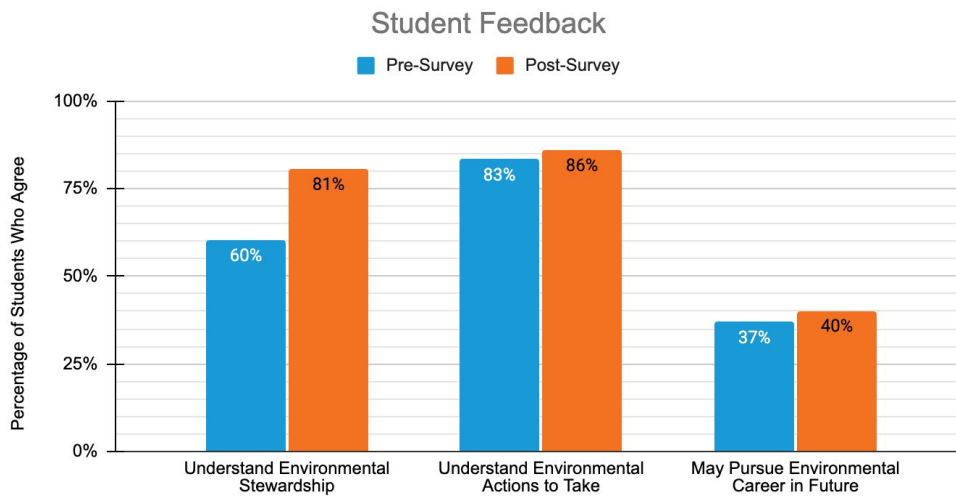
113 Teachers / Adults

39 Expert Guests

Program Impact and Feedback

Inside Education is proud to report that feedback for the **Environmental Educator in Residence Program** was overwhelmingly positive and will result in a meaningful impact on the students and the teachers of the five participating Calgary schools. The aim of the project was to provide an experiential and immersive learning approach to prepare young Calgarians to address crucial environmental issues, while empowering them to move from awareness to action in their community. The program successfully fostered school-wide environmental literacy and ethics through unique learning experiences.

It was noted that there was a **21%** increase in student respondents who claimed that they learned more about what it means to be an environmental steward after the program had completed. Teachers reported that a majority of their students gained significant new knowledge about environmental and stewardship topics, and teachers are mostly confident in incorporating new knowledge back into their classrooms.



“It was a great learning experience that helped to teach and review learning expectations for each grade level. It was cool to have grade-level teams within the school focuses on a different area of recycling. Thank you to the team at Inside Education for providing our school the opportunity to learn about recycling and stewardship on the land, in community, and through unique field trip opportunities. We appreciate the support in getting our own composting and more thorough classroom recycling programs up and running.”

- Kendra Himsl, Teacher, Chief Big Belly Middle School

Summary and Futures

One of Inside Education's missions is to provide immersive hands-on learning experiences for students and teachers that promote critical thinking and environmental stewardship. The **Environmental Educator in Residence Program** fostered school-wide environmental literacy and allowed for a deeper understanding of various environmental topics through a wide range of hands-on learning opportunities, guest speaker workshops, field trips, and unique school-wide challenges.

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

"The team [at Inside Education] did a phenomenal job leading the residency at our school. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to participate as the first pilot school. Our students had a great time, and I'm really excited to use the Energy Education Tool Kit with my students."

- Ann Hu, Teacher, Brentwood School



Contact

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