



regenero 

*Forest & Wildlife
Youth Summit*

SUMMARY REPORT

April 16-19, 2026 | Canmore, Alberta



REGENERATE 2026

Inside Education’s provincial-scale youth summit, the Regenerate Forest and Wildlife summit, was an impactful program that brought together 80 students, 38 teachers, and over 50 diverse forest and wildlife experts from across Alberta. Participants travelled to Canmore, Alberta where they immersed themselves in forest education, exploring topics related to sustainability, innovation, careers, and the future of Alberta’s forests.

Students and teachers had the opportunity to engage with leading professionals with a diverse range of background and expertise. These experts speakers provided knowledge, skill-building opportunities, and meaningful first-hand experiences with the intent of giving participants the tools to become engaged and informed natural resource stewards.

19 COMMUNITIES 

20 HIGH SCHOOLS 

80 STUDENTS 

38 TEACHERS 

50+ EXPERT GUESTS 

1 INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE 



“*Experiential, in-person summits like Regenerate are essential because they transform abstract environmental concepts into tangible, living realities that students can touch, smell, and explore. By stepping out of the classroom and into the forest, students forge a visceral connection to the land that fosters a deeper, more personal commitment to long-term stewardship.*”

- Reem Khalid, Teacher,
Al Mustafa Academy, Edmonton



TOPICS & THEMES

- Ecosystem resilience and sustainable forest management
- Current and emerging issues, including climate change, wildfire, water, and species at risk
- Forestry and wildlife careers and post-secondary opportunities
- Leadership and environmental action
- Innovation and technology in the environmental sector
- Indigenous perspectives and land-based learning
- Wildlife and habitat research

Participants gained a deeper understanding of forest and wildlife topics while developing the skills and knowledge needed to become informed decision-makers for the future of our forests. They were equipped with the tools to pursue careers in forestry, wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, environmental science, and related fields.

Inside Education’s Regenerate Forest and Wildlife Youth Leadership Summit was a resounding success, bringing together diverse perspectives, expert knowledge, and hands-on experiences to empower the next generation of environmental leaders.

THE PARTICIPANTS

Inside Education received over 60 applications from schools across Alberta to participate in the summit. We were delighted to accept schools from every corner of the province.

Schools were provided a full scholarship to attend the summit, removing barriers and making the experience accessible to schools in urban, rural, and Indigenous communities.

regenero Forest & Wildlife Youth Summit

Participating Schools:

- Aayaaksima (Kainai) Alternate Academy Standoff
- Al Mustafa Academy Edmonton
- Archbishop MacDonald Catholic High School Edmonton
- Bev Facey Community High Sherwood Park
- Christ the King School Leduc
- Clarence Jaycox School Loon River First Nation
- Coalhurst High School Coalhurst
- County Central High School Vulcan
- Holy Trinity Catholic School Fort McMurray
- Hugh Sutherland School Carstairs
- J. A. Williams High School Lac La Biche
- John D'or Prairie School John D'or Prairie
- North Trail High School Calgary
- St. Andrew's School High Prairie
- St. John Paul II Catholic School Grande Prairie
- Sturgeon Lake School Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
- Sunchild First Nations School Sunchild First Nation
- Thorhild Central School Thorhild
- Wheatland Crossing School Standard
- Willow Creek Composite High School Claresholm



“

Before coming to Regenerate and learning about forestry, I thought it was a simple concept; however, I now understand how much thought, effort, collaboration, and work go into maintaining our environment.

- Ravneet, Student,
Thorhild Central School, Thorhild

”



Regenerate - Environmental Action Projects!

Each school was challenged to share their Regenerate experience and learnings with their peers upon returning to school. Students were supported with ideas and inspiration, as well as the tools to communicate their learning. Check out some of the projects underway following the Regenerate Summit!



Projects in Progress:

County Central High School

The team at County Central will work with the Birds of Prey Center in Coaldale to fundraise the rehabilitation costs to support a hawk's rehabilitation journey, their school mascot.

Holy Trinity Catholic School

The team at Holy Trinity Catholic School will write and illustrate a book for elementary students on fire management and prevention in their community.

Sunchild First Nations School

The team at Sunchild School is working to reduce paper waste by implementing a recycling program with proper bins, increasing awareness of paper waste, and considering how to reuse paper after it is used or how to reduce paper waste in the first place.

THE PROGRAM

The Regenerate 2026 program featured hands-on workshops, interactive roundtable discussions, and boots-on-the-ground field tours, offering students and teachers a variety of ways to engage with expert guests and forestry topics. Through these various sessions, students gained practical skills and a deeper appreciation for the issues, science, and careers that are involved in managing forest ecosystems.



2026 PROGRAM GUIDE

THURSDAY APRIL 16		SATURDAY APRIL 18	
	TRAVEL TO CANMORE	7:15 - 8:15 am	BREAKFAST
5:00 - 7:00 pm	TEAM REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN Check in with Inside Education staff, receive your Welcome Package and let us know you've arrived safely! Take some time to drop off your bags, find yourselves some dinner, and settle in before the evening's festivities.	8:30 - 10:00 am	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS 3 & 4 Breakout Workshops will be hosted by a diverse array of expert guests that will deliver hands-on sessions on topics related to wildfire, climate change, species at risk, wildlife management, forest planning, technology and innovation, environmental communication, and much more! <i>Speakers: GEOEC, Government of Alberta, Junior Forest Rangers, LSLBO, Work Wild</i>
7:00 - 9:00 pm	REGENERATE KICKOFF AND MIXER Get to know the 20 Regenerate teams from across Alberta through a fun and casual mixer led by Inside Education. Snacks will be provided!	10:30 am - 12:00 pm	CAREER & TOPIC ROUNDTABLES Experience the diversity of forestry and environmental careers with this fast-paced, networking-style session.
FRIDAY APRIL 17		12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH
7:15 - 8:15 am	BREAKFAST	1:00 - 2:00 pm	PROJECT PLANNING & NETWORKING Spend time refining your team's Environmental Action Project and connecting with teams from schools across Alberta.
8:15 - 9:15 am	INTRODUCTION & TREATY WELCOME Welcome to Regenerate 2026! Inside Education will set the stage for the Regenerate with an interactive overview of forests and wildlife to introduce the topics and themes that we will hear about over the course of the program. <i>Speakers: Elder Heather Poitras, Sawridge First Nation</i>	2:00 - 3:30 pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS 5 & 6 Breakout Workshops will be hosted by a diverse array of expert guests that will deliver hands-on sessions on topics related to wildfire, climate change, species at risk, wildlife management, forest planning, technology and innovation, environmental communication, and much more! <i>Speakers: Government of Alberta, NorQuest College, Project Forest, University of Alberta</i>
9:15 - 10:00 am	BOREAL FOREST 101 KEYNOTE Kick off the summit with a broad overview of current issues and innovations in forestry and forest management from the President of the AFPA! <i>Speakers: Jason Krips, Alberta Forest Products Association</i>	3:30 - 6:00 pm	BREAK
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS 1 & 2 Breakout Workshops will be hosted by a diverse array of expert guests that will deliver hands-on sessions on topics related to wildfire, climate change, species at risk, wildlife management, forest planning, technology and innovation, environmental communication, and much more! <i>Speakers: ARCKP, ABMI, Elder Heather Poitras</i>	6:00 - 9:00 pm	SOCIAL EVENING Let loose with your fellow delegates during this evening of dinner, dancing, fun and games!
12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH	SUNDAY APRIL 19	
1:30 - 4:00 pm	OFF-SITE TOURS Experience forest management in action firsthand with a boots-on-the-ground tour of the Bow Valley Fireguard, and find out how different stakeholders help manage forests for safety, environment, and economy. <i>Tour Hosts: Bow Valley Community Fire Guard, Government of Alberta, West Fraser</i>	8:00 - 9:00 am	BREAKFAST
4:00 - 6:00 pm	BREAK	9:00 - 10:00 am	YOUTH PROJECT PANEL Hear from other Alberta youth who are making a difference in their schools and communities. <i>Speakers: The team from North Trail High School; Abel Eldhose, NorQuest; Racquel Deveau, The HOWL Experience</i>
6:00 - 9:00 pm	CELEBRATION GALA & KEYNOTE ADDRESS Get dressed up for a semi-formal gala dinner where we will celebrate our delegates and hear a keynote from Josh Dueck.	10:00 - 11:30 am	FINAL PROJECT PLANNING SESSION Time to synthesize everything you've learned and your newfound network to plan the next steps for your Environmental Action Project.
		11:30 am - 12:00 pm	INSIDE EDUCATION WRAP-UP & GOODBYES

It was wonderful that we got to see multiple sides of everyone's stories and jobs and how the vulnerable and professional parts came together to show how people can change and how passionate everyone was about forestry and how much people care about our environment.

- Ava, Student,
Holy Trinity Catholic School, Fort McMurray



EXPERT GUESTS

The summit invited over 50 expert guests to share their knowledge and expertise with participants. Participants gained insights from a wide range of voices, including Indigenous leaders, environmental scientists, industry professionals, government officials, academics, and the environmental sector.

This diversity enriched discussions and broadened understanding of complex environmental issues. Their contributions provided valuable insights and inspired participants to broaden their knowledge and explore a wide range of career opportunities in the environmental sector.

We were especially honoured to have Elder Heather Poitras from Sawridge First Nation and Treaty 6 participate for a full day, sharing wisdom and offering guidance as we acknowledge the past, present, and future of Indigenous peoples on our forested lands.

Elder Heather & Anastasia Poitras	Sawridge First Nation
Jason Krips	Alberta Forest Products Association
Terra Lottemoser	Alberta Regional Caribou Knowledge Partnership
Mike Toffan	Project Forest
Sarah Kristoff, Shannon Wagner & Sara Barszczewski	Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Court Rustemeyer	Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council
Amit Saxena	Wildlife Consultant
Forrest Battjes, Laura Brandon & Aaron Krips	Work Wild
Michael Wagner	Alberta Forestry & Parks
Diane Haughland & Cilena Marshall	University of Alberta
Erin Humeny & Brendan Frey	West Fraser
Adam Robb, Mark Westman & Racquel Deveau	The HOWL Experience
Ben Cress	Keyera
Samantha Brett	TC Energy
James Agate	Canadian Natural
Caitlyn Lawrence	Cenovus Energy
Robert Matheson	Government of Alberta
Doug Dewar & Yvette Rath	Pembina Pipeline
Travis Butler & Matthew Woofter	Strathcona Resources
Alex Drummond	Canadian Institute of Forestry
Patti Campsall	Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory
Trevor Nichols	Junior Forest Rangers
Jeff Battigelli	N.A.I.T.
Abel Eldhose, Emily Williams & Environmental Technician Students	NorQuest College
Samantha Clarke	ConocoPhillips

The round table conversations were we learnt about careers it opened my eyes to the other options for my future career.

- Mila, Student,
North Trail High School, Calgary



PROGRAM IMPACT

Inside Education youth summits provide a unique opportunity to showcase the importance of natural resource and environmental topics and to offer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to shape how these topics are integrated into students' and teachers' lives and learning.

These summits don't only allow for an in-depth learning experience for students, it also allows them to network with like-minded students from across the province. On top of this, the Environmental Action Projects allow students to extend their learning and share their experience at the summit with their school community.

Finally, the summit is also a chance for attending teachers to interact with expert speakers and gain new experiences, enriching their teaching of forest and wildlife-related topics.



“*The activities and field trips were amazing! I feel like they broadened students' horizons and provided them with exposure to future employment opportunities that are outside of the norm. Fantastic examples include becoming a forester or a hydrologist.*”

- **Monica Posteraro**, Teacher
Archbishop MacDonald High School,
Edmonton



“*You bring an amazing perspective of balancing the environment with all stakeholders that care for and need the land. This is done in an impactful way that I cannot duplicate in my classroom. But I can bring back and share the experience*”

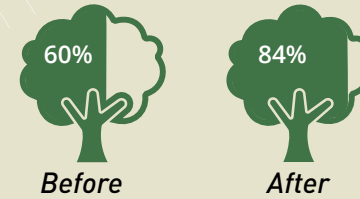
- **Adam Summerfeldt**, Teacher,
Wheatland Crossing School,
Standard

PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

Our survey results indicate that the Regenerate Summit was successful in helping both teachers and students better understand forest and wildlife management issues in Alberta, all while empowering them to take a role in environmental issues and stewardship in their communities.



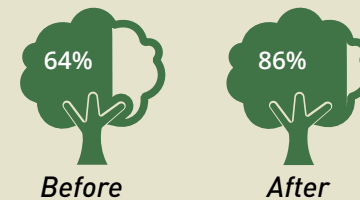
I have a good understanding of Alberta's Forestry Sector



My voice matters in conversations around forestry and wildlife in Alberta



I have a good understanding of how wildlife is managed in Alberta



I know how to take action to further environmental stewardship in my community



Survey respondents agree that Regenerate Forest and Wildlife Youth Summit did excellent at the following:

- 📌 Providing a unique learning experience (98%)
- 📌 Enriching the curriculum (100%)
- 📌 Empowering student leadership (98%)
- 📌 Broadening perspectives (98%)
- 📌 Encouraged critical thinking (98%)
- 📌 Exposed students to potential career pathways (98%)
- 📌 Promoting environmental stewardship at the school (98%)
- 📌 Considering a career in the environment sector (90%)



The summit experience was impactful for the teachers as they gained knowledge, resources, and networks to support their classroom teaching and student learning.

We are extremely pleased with the responses from surveyed participants from this program! Feedback both from the survey and in conversation with students and teachers indicates that this is a high-value learning experience that they would recommend to their friends and colleagues.

OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education is proud to recognize our program partners who make our award-winning provincial youth summits possible. Many thanks to these organizations whose support allowed us to remove all financial barriers to the 20 high schools selected to participate in Regenerate 2026.

Regenerate 2026 was a keystone project delivered through and supported by the Forestry Futures Alliance. Inside Education recognizes the input and support of our partners in the FFA - CAREERS and Work Wild and extends its appreciation to the forest companies in Alberta who support the Forestry Futures Alliance through their Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) funds.



Inside Education extends our appreciation to the Regenerate Advisory Committee, who helped guide the program!

Advisory Committee Members:

- Cori Klassen - Lesser Slave Lake Forest Education Society
- Sarah Nason - Natural Resources Canada
- Laura Brandon - Work Wild
- Sandra Cardinal - Alberta Pacific Forest Industries
- Anastasia Drummond - Alberta Forestry and Parks
- Shane Sadoway - West Fraser
- Ellen Long - Project Learning Tree

Land Acknowledgement

Inside Education's work brings us to all corners of the province, as such, we acknowledge the Indigenous people who have lived among and traveled through the land in the area currently known as Alberta. The relationship the Peoples of Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8, as well as Métis Regions province-wide have with the land is founded on a deep respect for the environment. This connection forms the foundation of our personal responsibility for the stewardship of our natural resources, a connection Inside Education strives to foster among students and teachers through our diverse programming.



www.INSIDEeducation.ca

11428 - 100 Avenue | Edmonton, AB T5K 0J4 | Info@INSIDEeducation.ca

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