



Aspen Parkland Education Program

October 3 – 5, 2013



A Case Study in Changing Landscapes

"I found myself looking out the window, examining the ecosystem through different eyes. I will never look at a wetland the same way again." – Sandy Foster, Stettler

With less than 10% of its natural habitat intact, the Parkland region in Alberta provided an excellent case study for looking at how natural resource development has changed, and will continue to change, the landscape in Alberta.

With a focus on experiential learning, this 3-day program, aimed to provide a real-life classroom to explore these changes, both the challenges and the opportunities, and understand the multiple-perspectives of the many stakeholders in the region.

The resulting adventure, a round trip tour through the heart of Alberta's Parkland, was an informative and inspiring environmental education program.



Program Goals

- 1. Discover how natural resource development is changing the Aspen Parkland landscape**
- 2. Experience local biodiversity & explore the broader context for understanding parkland ecosystems & industries**
- 3. Enhance environmental & natural resource programming in the classroom through new teaching tools and ideas**

Program Highlights

Experts from government, industry, environment and education hosted our curious and enthusiastic group on a dynamic journey through some of the rich history, and the science and issues of resource development in the region. Some highlights included:

- Learning about the ecosystems and challenges characteristic of the Aspen Parkland region
- Getting our boots dirty as we explored a wetland project site, bison ranch and conservation farm
- Exploring petroleum developments and alternative sources of energy through facility tours
- Learning more about aboriginal history in Alberta's Parkland
- Learning how many stakeholders are working together to practice stewardship in the parkland



“Thank you for providing one of the best PDs I’ve had in 8 years of teaching – saying goodbye to squirming in uncomfortable chairs watching power points and hello to hands on, active learning by experiencing” – Emilie Giroux, Fort McMurray

“This will allow me to pull in real life issues into my curriculum and make it meaningful for my students” – anonymous

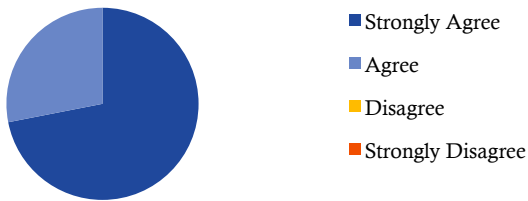


“I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to explore Alberta and kickstart some important learning about resources and land sustainability” – Laurel Howard-Mason, Calgary

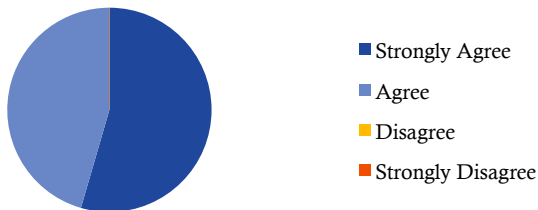
Evaluation

The Aspen Parkland Education Program provided many unique learning experiences. Program goals were met and participants indicated the value of the tour to their teaching in a post-PD questionnaire:

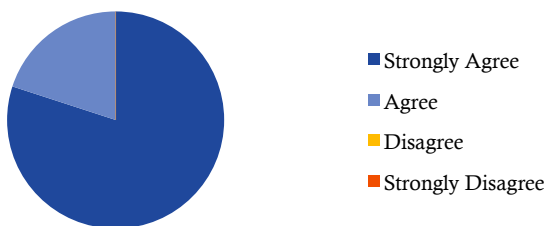
This education program increased my understanding of the local environment and natural resource development.



This education program increased my awareness of the complex relationships between energy, environment, economy, and society.



This experience introduced me to resources/ideas that will help me to further explore environmental, land use, and natural resource topics with my students.



Participants

- Carlos Schroeder, Mountain View Academy, Calgary
- Stephanie Radomski, St. Anne School, Edmonton
- Andrea Jennings, Nose Creek Middle School, Calgary
- Emilie Giroux, Fort McMurray Islamic School, Fort McMurray
- Sandy Foster, Stettler Middle School, Stettler
- Laurel Howard-Mason, Hawkwood School, Calgary
- Doris Carlson, Lakedell School, Westeros
- Meghan MacMaster, Fort McMurray Islamic School, Fort McMurray
- Les Kiffiak, Ernest Manning High School, Calgary
- Kimberley Simon, Calgary Board of Education
- Lyndsy Panizzon, St. Clement School, Edmonton
- Kathleen Dewar, Olympic Heights Elementary School, Calgary
- Devina Shah, Olympic Heights Elementary School, Calgary
- Darren Kirk, St. Mary's Catholic School, Vegreville
- Gabrielle Karpshyn, St. Clement School, Edmonton
- Nicole Lespérance, École Beau Meadow School, Beaumont
- Connie Toft, Calling Lake School, Athabasca
- Susan Woitt, Beau Meadow School, Beaumont
- Bill Van Der Weide, Calvin Christian School, Coalhurst
- Twyla Wyllie, Bishop Greschuk School, Edmonton



OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education sincerely appreciates the time and support of our partners who came together to make this program a great success. These relationships have allowed us to offer a truly valuable professional development opportunity for teachers.



Thank you to all of the organizations that provided expert speakers and tours for the program. A special thank you to the partners who provided the financial support that made this program possible:



For more information about this and other Inside Education programs, contact:

Inside Education
780- 421- 1497
info@insideeducation.ca
www.insideeducation.ca

