



## INTRODUCTION

The **Navigate 2016 Youth Water and Environmental Leadership Summit** builds on Inside Education's award-winning model of bringing students, teachers and experts together to advance literacy of Alberta's environment and natural resources. Our youth education summits are a cornerstone of Inside Education and programs like **Navigate 2016** are immersive experiences that inspire ideas, discussion and action in Alberta's young environmental leaders.

**Navigate 2016** was a memorable learning adventure. With the goal of encouraging understanding, critical thinking and stewardship, **Navigate 2016** afforded students the opportunity to study Alberta's water and related environmental themes directly from leading experts, connect with like-minded young leaders and to make valuable contributions to water education in their schools and communities. We believe that the **Navigate 2016** experience allows students to lead as responsible stewards, making informed decisions while examining their own role in shaping Alberta's sustainable future.

Based on the outcomes of **Navigate 2016**, it is evident that Alberta has a bright future of young environmental leaders who are ready to take on big challenges, innovate with creative solutions and seize opportunities. We are proud to highlight this unique learning experience and the significant impact **Navigate 2016** is having across the province.

*"This was among the very best learning experiences I have had with students. It was so well organised and thought-out that the students (and I) had authentic and meaningful learning experiences."*  
 – Jennifer Scott, Teacher, Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, Lethbridge

Inside Education's Youth Education Summits were recognized in 2015 by the **Alberta Science and Technology Leadership (ASTech) Foundation** for *Excellence in Public Awareness*. Since our first Summit in 2011, nearly 500 students and 250 teachers from across the province have experienced these unique learning opportunities. Beyond this, we estimate a total of 24,000 (4000 per year) Alberta youth have been directly impacted through the further education of the Summit Leadership Projects.



## NAVIGATE 2016: SUMMARY REPORT

March 10 - 13  
Canmore, Alberta



## THE PARTNERS

Inside Education extends its sincere appreciation to the program partners whose support made **Navigate 2016** possible. By pairing each participating school with one of the partners, Inside Education aims to make a meaningful connection and encourage collaboration between schools and organizations who are committed to advancing environmental education.

Thank you to the following partners for making such an exceptional learning event possible.



Special thanks to Federated Cooperatives and Patagonia for their contributions as well



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## THE PARTICIPANTS

Inside Education welcomed enthusiastic teams from 20 high schools from all corners of Alberta. Each team consisted of four high school student leaders and two dedicated teachers.

There was high demand to participate in **Navigate 2016** as evidenced by over 50 impressive school applications. Teams were selected based on their ideas and eagerness to apply their learning through their **Navigate Leadership Projects**; as well as geographic diversity to represent Alberta's watersheds.

Archbishop Jordan High School | Sherwood Park  
 Archbishop O'Leary High School | Edmonton  
 Athabasca Delta Community School | Fort Chipewyan  
 Brooks Junior High | Brooks  
 Centennial High School | Calgary  
 Charles Spencer High School | Grande Prairie  
 Cold Lake High School | Cold Lake  
 David Thompson High School | Condor  
 Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School | Calgary  
 Grande Cache Community High School | Grande Cache  
 Kipohakaw Education Centre | Alexander First Nation  
 Lacombe Composite High School | Lacombe  
 Lethbridge Collegiate Institute | Lethbridge  
 Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy | Canmore  
 Peace River High School | Peace River  
 Robert Thirsk High School | Calgary  
 Siksika Nation High School | Siksika First Nation  
 Stirling School | Stirling  
 Tofield School | Tofield  
 Westwood Community High School | Fort McMurray



## THE FEEDBACK

Inside Education is proud to share the outstanding results and feedback we received from the teacher and student participants of **Navigate 2016**.

100%

- of respondents state they now have a **better understanding of water** in Alberta
- state they are **more aware of different perspectives** on water in Alberta
- state they **gained information and tools** to support them as environmental leaders
- would **recommend** to other teachers/students

Overall **Navigate** was **86% Amazing** **14% Good** **0% Poor** **0% Unsatisfactory**

## THE PROGRAM

**Navigate 2016** featured a dynamic program that was developed to support science and technology (STEM) education and advance water education and environmental leadership by inspiring ideas and conversation. Students and teachers dove in to learn more about the science, innovation, issues and careers that shape Alberta's environmental landscape. A series of fun, hands-on activities, inspiring speaker sessions and reflection exercises encouraged students and teachers to connect their learning back to the water challenges and opportunities faced in their own communities.

Over 45 diverse water stakeholders shared their knowledge and unique perspectives to inform and inspire the ideas and conversations emerging from the young leaders. Our Youth Summits provide a rare opportunity for partners, experts, teachers and students to forge lasting collaborative relationships by sharing ideas, expertise and experiences.

Organizations represented included:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Alberta Agriculture and Forestry                     | Bow River Basin Council                     |
| Alberta Environment and Parks                        | Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society       |
| Alberta Innovates - Energy and Environment Solutions | Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers |
| Alberta Irrigation Projects Association              | CAWST                                       |
| Alberta WaterSMART                                   | Devon Energy                                |
| Alberta Wilderness Association                       | Encana Corporation                          |
| Aquality Environmental                               | GreenLearning Canada                        |
| Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley                | Native Counselling Services of Alberta      |
| BluEarth Renewables                                  | University of Alberta/Calgary/Lethbridge    |

A full list of "Navigators" can be found at [www.navig8.ca/our-navigate-speakers](http://www.navig8.ca/our-navigate-speakers)

Some of the unique topics and themes of **Navigate 2016** included:

- Water use in forestry, energy and agriculture in Alberta
- Cumulative effects on Alberta's watersheds
- Water and Indigenous peoples
- Municipal water and wastewater management
- Water management in response to climate change
- Environmental careers & stewardship

"I felt that kids were engaged in the messages of the speakers when the presenters were energetic and excited about what they were presenting. As teachers, we know this, but it didn't matter how many slides of pictures were shown. The presenters' passion for their topic was captivating."  
 - Eric Hugill, Teacher, Brooks Junior High School, Brooks



"It has been an amazing opportunity, no matter what I do in my life I will always cherish the knowledge. I can't wait to go back and educate my peers and community."  
 - Abbi, Student, Robert Thirsk High School, Calgary

"As a First Nations student, it is my responsibility to help better my community. We have ceremonies and traditional beliefs and values that argue why water and the environment is so important. **Navig8** is the perfect start to my journey. So **THANK YOU!**"  
 - Disa, Student, Siksika Nation High School, Siksika



"Not only did it inspire me and push me in the direction of my future job, but it also supplied me with the knowledge and motivation I need to help make a difference. This summit has helped me to open my eyes and want to make a difference."  
 - Sydney, Student, David Thompson High School, Condor



## THE IMPACT

We are confident the experience of **Navigate 2016** will continue to influence students as they return to their schools and communities and, ultimately, as they move forward into their own careers. **Navigate 2016** challenged students to illustrate their newfound knowledge, perspectives and connections by implementing a **Leadership Project** immediately after returning from the Summit.

The **Leadership Projects** are student-driven and demonstrate the significant commitment to environmental stewardship these young leaders have. The action projects exhibit creative, practical ways of extending the reach of the Summit and providing the opportunity for the students to serve as ambassadors of water education in Alberta. Through these projects an estimated 4000 additional students, teachers and community members will benefit from **Navigate 2016**.

A sample of the **Navigate 2016 Projects** underway across Alberta:

**Archbishop Jordan High School**  
**Project:** 1) Water Stewardship awareness campaign featuring a student-made video, 2) North Saskatchewan shoreline cleanup, 3) rainwater collection for indoor plants

**Robert Thirsk High School**  
**Project:** 1) School wide water stewardship campaign, 2) Research, design and build an outdoor learning garden, 3) share garden and literacy project with students at Arbour Lake Middle School

**Lacombe Composite**  
**Project:** 1) Plan, install and run a drip irrigation system for their existing garden space, 2) plan, design and install a rainwater harvesting system to feed into the irrigation system.

**Siksika Nation High**  
**Project:** Host an overnighter water literacy event with Grade 6 students from Crowfoot School

**David Thompson High**  
**Project:** 1) Create a system of geocaches to engage student in water literacy, 2) organize a shoreline clean up of Abraham Lake

## THE FUTURE

We continue to develop and evolve our programming to adapt to the needs of teachers and to the changing landscape of Alberta's environment and natural resource development. With this in mind, planning is underway for an exciting new learning experience - **Generate 2017 - Youth Energy & Climate Leadership Summit**, March 9-12, 2017 in Kananaskis Country.

"I cannot possibly describe in words just how awesome this experience was for the students and myself. Living in Fort Chip, our students rarely get the opportunity to take part in something like this. In fact, I can honestly say that this event and the great people involved somehow managed to bring out a side of my students that I didn't know existed - for that we are truly grateful."  
 - Benjamin Martin, Teacher, Athabasca Delta Community School, Fort Chipewyan

