

A3

SOUTHERN ALBERTA AWARENESS TO ACTION SUMMIT

December 4, 2018 | Medicine Hat

These programs will examine how local energy efficiency and conservation actions connect to the larger climate conversation and discuss the role that students play in the future of energy.

The program will emphasize key themes including renewable and alternative energy, net-zero and green building, sustainable transportation, technology, careers and more!

This experiential learning event will include tours, workshops and expert presentations and students will be provided tools and resources to share the experience back in their schools.



Introduction



Inside Education was very pleased to launch the inaugural Southern Alberta Awareness to Action (A3) Youth Summit in December 2018. A3 is part of a suite of regional summits across the province, known as the ACES City Summits. These summits first started in Edmonton with Edmonton Energy Efficiency (E3) in 2012, followed by Calgary Climate Change (C3) debuting in Calgary in 2016 and then Wood Buffalo Student Sustainability Summit (S3) S3 in Fort McMurray in 2017.

These summits take place in multiple regions of the province within 60 days of each other, allowing Inside Education to reach a wide range of students and examine the local topics that need to be addressed as youth develop their sense of stewardship for their communities and the environment. In addition, the student delegates share a sense of camaraderie; the summits follow similar program structures and cover similar topics, helping students to see that they are part of a growing movement across the province promoting sustainability in communities and schools.

Building upon 33 years of experience designing experiential education programs using a multiple perspectives approach, Inside Education endeavored to provide students and their teachers with a introductory overview of *what sustainability looks like in their backyard* through speaker sessions, tours, a workshop focused specifically on the Big Questions their region faces in the near future.

We are excited to share the outcomes and impacts from this unique youth summit program through this summary report. The demand for this program in addition to overwhelmingly positive feedback from teacher participants indicates a strong desire for future education initiatives in Southern Alberta.



The Program

Through this dynamic program, our delegates:

- **CONNECTED** with the people, places, and perspectives that give insight into Alberta's mining sector
- **DISCOVERED** how Medicine Hat is working to incorporate renewable energy into their energy story
- **PARTICIPATED** in a unique youth summit that modeled a hands-on, experiential and inquiry-based approach to learning
- **CONSIDERED** issues and innovations through discussions with community members representing multiple perspectives
- **CREATED** lasting networks with like-minded students from across the region
- **ENHANCED** their understanding of sustainability with current, accurate and meaningful content to help them see their self in Alberta's sustainable future.

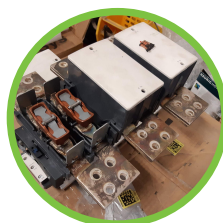
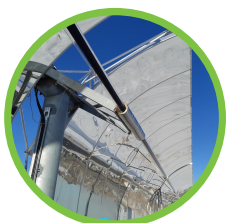
Working with local experts Inside Education developed a dynamic program that exposed delegates to renewable energy technology and From touring a metallurgical coal mine to a post-secondary research centre we created a one-of-a-kind education event that inspired conversations, ideas and classroom connections.

PROGRAM THEMES

- **Personal and Community Stewardship**
- **Energy & Climate Innovations**
- **Sustainability Initiatives in the Southern Alberta Region.**

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, December 4
Opening & Welcome <i>Introduction to Energy, Climate and Sustainability</i>
Medicine Hat - Hat Smart - <i>Jass Baidwan, City of Medicine Hat</i>
Energy and Climate Innovation Tour <i>Box Spring Wind Farm City of Medicine Hat Solar Concentrator</i>
Buildings Blocks of Sustainability <i>Connecting with local stewardship organizations</i>



The Participants

The inaugural Southern Alberta Awareness to Action Youth Summit was highly anticipated and happily attended by four schools from the Medicine Hat Region. The 34 students and 7 teachers hailed from a wide spread of Grades 7-12, and each school is known for its existing passion around natural resource education and innovative stewardship-based projects. We were very pleased to see familiar teachers with new students, and this was a wonderful opportunity for each school to connect with like-minded, passionate people.



Brooks Junior High School | Brooks, Alberta



St. Joseph's Collegiate School | Brooks, Alberta



St. Mary's School | Taber, Alberta



Senator Gershaw School | Bow Island, Alberta



Partners, Expert Guests, and Tour Hosts

We extend deep thanks to our program partners for their enthusiastic support of the 2018 Southern Alberta Awareness to Action Youth Summit. Our student and teacher participants voiced their appreciation for making the program such an accessible opportunity, especially for the participants traveling great distances.

In our inaugural year, we are very pleased to connect and build relationships with such a diverse and passionate group of organizations in the Medicine Hat Region. We look forward to working with you again!



A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FANTASTIC EXPERT SPEAKERS AND TOUR HOSTS! YOUR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

- Brooklyn Neubeker & Natasha Rogers,** South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (SEAWA)
- Ken Perl,** Palliser Airshed
- Leann & Gord Tessmann,** Pheasants Forever and Medicine Hat Fish & Game Association
- Patty Rooks,** The Praxis Society
- Jass Baidwan,** City of Medicine Hat
- Tracy Kupchenko,** Alberta Energy Regulator
- Cathy Linowski,** Environmental Reclamation Program, Medicine Hat College
- Charlene Gilmore-Shauf,** Methanex

Great for the students to see that companies and corporations are not always "just about the profits". Taking company resources to make yourself relevant to students is an excellent strategy for your company's "sustainability" in the future.
- Jay Doolittle, St. Mary School, Taber

Classroom Connections

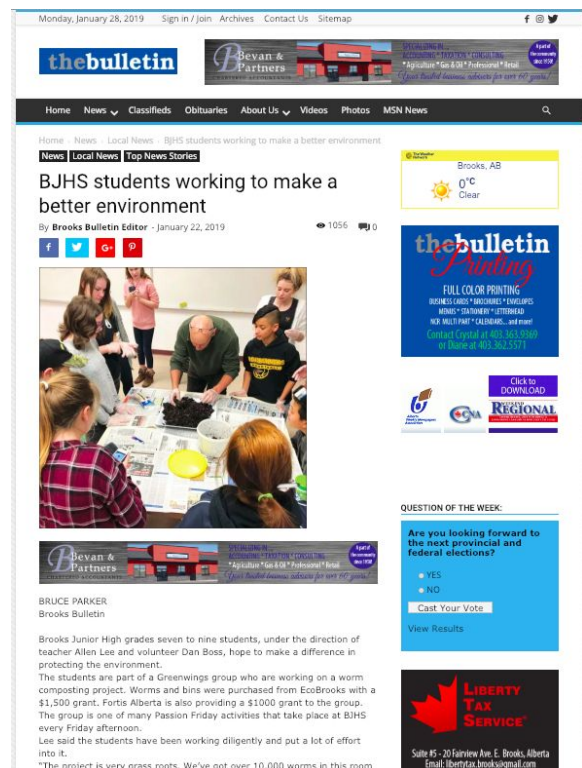
Inside Education is proud of the success of our first A3 Youth Summit. Our four school participants were appreciative to have a youth summit offered in their region, and we had much interest from the follow-up survey results indicate that it was an exceptional learning experience that will translate into meaningful classroom impact. Inside Education estimates that over **>3000 a year will benefit from the experience of the teacher participants** as they infuse their learning into their lessons.

Considering the strong connection to agriculture in Southern Alberta, it is no surprise that each school has focused on building stewardship in their students through growing.

“At Senator Gershaw School, we just completed a greenhouse development where the students can use the space to grow vegetation. I hope the students I am planning on taking to this conference can bring sustainable resource ideas back to the school and implement them in the utilize them in the greenhouse.

St Joseph’s Collegiate is focused on adding more students to their Ecological Justice Team and building momentum around their past successes:

“ We are an extra curricular team that plans programs and initiatives for our school and external community to increase awareness and involvement around ecological issues. Last year we installed a "living wall" project that we are hoping to continue this year and we are looking for more ways to make a difference in our communities!”



Brooks Junior High School was recently featured in their local newspaper for their Greenwings Composting Project, a collaboration between Grade 7-9 students and community volunteer Dan Boss.

Advancing A3

Inside Education is proud of the success of our first A3 Youth Summit. Our four school teams were very appreciative to have a youth summit offered in their region, and are actively encouraging A3 2019! Surprisingly, we had few applications from within the City of Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. One of our previously active schools in the region saw their teacher leadership retire last year, leaving behind a noticeable void in that school's passion and enthusiasm for natural resource education. We have well-established relationships with high school teachers in the region, and after discussions with our contacts, recognize that many schools or junior high teachers were simply hesitant to participate in an unproven program. We have created a strategic plan to build interest and enthusiasm for A3 2019.

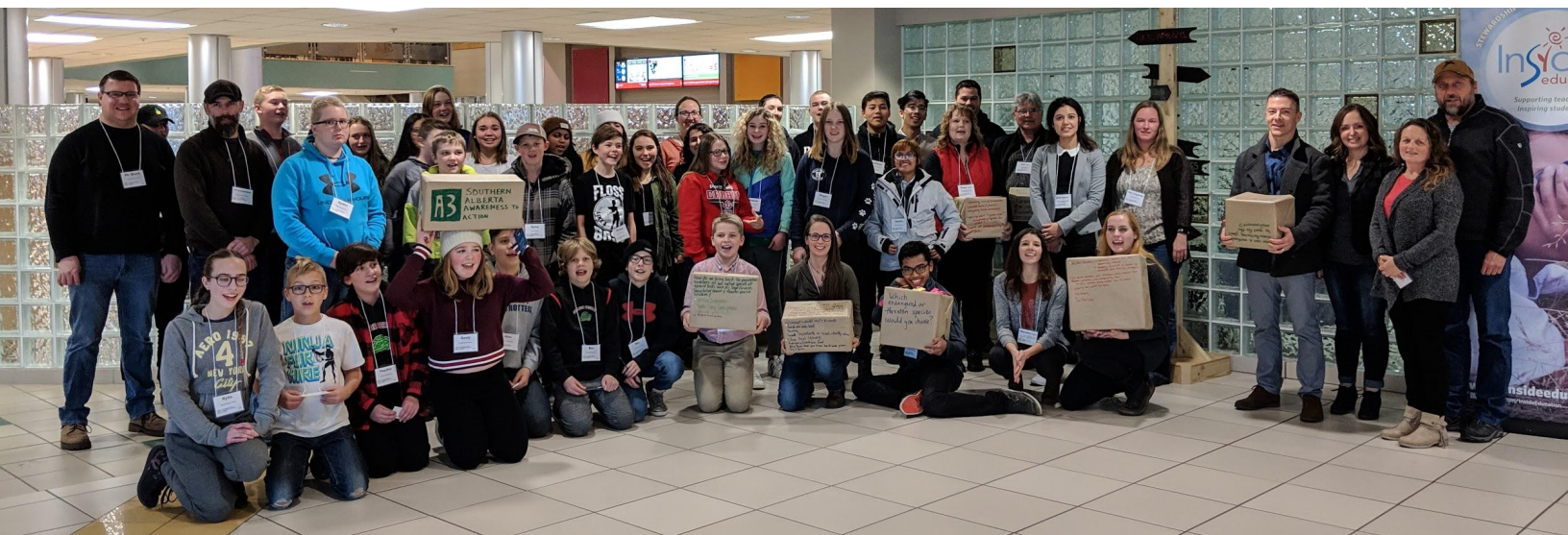
Promote A3 throughout the 2018-19 year and leverage our existing Inside Education supporters in the region

Actively work to establish connections with new schools through classroom presentations throughout the school year

Provided targeted teacher professional development through the local Teachers Convention, Learning Regional Consortium, and District events

Continue to collaborate and foster relationships with the organizations that participated in the youth summit this year

Keep in touch with organizations that expressed interest in participating but were unable to participate this year



“ Ah-Ha Moments ”



The energy, enthusiasm, and vision in Inside Education’s leadership of the event brought something to the room that I personally long for, for students everywhere. Thank you for bringing it all—heart, mind, and soul—to the table for these kids.”

Charlene Gilmore-Shauf,
Methanex



“The Building Blocks of Sustainability questions for the students were very thought provoking. Especially the table asking students to choose between the extinction of two species. This really reinforced the idea that we cannot afford to solve every problem, and that choices will have to be made.”

Jay Doolittle,
Teacher, St Mary School

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I didn’t know what to expect, but this event blew me away! I had a lot of fun and it was cool meeting other students who care like I do. Also, I think I want to be a wind turbine technician!

Student,
Senator Gershaw School

Contact

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