

# Wetland Field Trips

September & October 2023



Inside Education's work brings us to all corners of the province and as such we acknowledge the Indigenous people who lived among and traveled through the land in the area currently known as Alberta. Inside Education is grateful for the opportunity to bring students and teachers to various sites across Treaty 6, 7, and 8 territories and throughout the territories of the Metis Peoples.



# Overview and Participants

In fall 2023 grade 5, junior high and senior high wetland programs were held at local wetland or naturalized stormwater ponds in **Calgary, Donnelly, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert**. By fostering a relationship to a waterbody in their own or school’s neighbourhood, students are able to make deeper connections with the environment and gain a better understanding of human impacts on the land.

Along with the student numbers listed in the table, Inside Education would also like to acknowledge and thank the **114** teachers, school staff and parent volunteers for dedicating their time to planning, accompanying and supporting these students in our programs.

Grade Level	# of Students	# of Classes
Elementary	511	21
Junior High	75	4
Senior High	224	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>33</b>



**“The program was well thought out and the instructor was knowledgeable and kind with the students”**

*-Kristyn McGregor, Teacher, Win Ferguson School*





**“I thought the program was informative and kid-centred and the activities were engaging and fun”**

***-Jason Chris, Teacher,  
Battalion Park School***





# Program Impact and Feedback

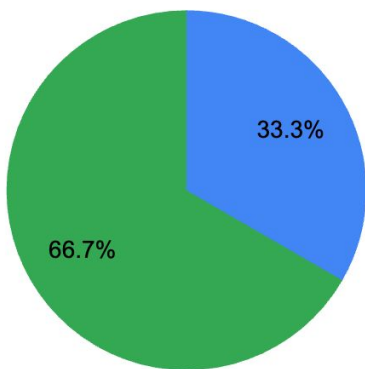


Following our field programs, a survey was sent to participating teachers to allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs, in terms of accessibility, effectiveness linking to curriculum and how well programs engage students of all grade levels in learning about wetland and riparian health and environmental stewardship.

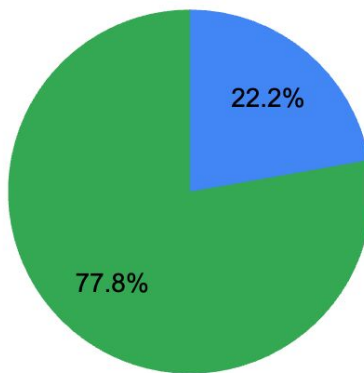
Overall, the feedback received in the survey indicates that our wetland field programs are meeting our organizational goals. Our knowledgeable field staff and their ability to adapt programs to student needs and environmental factors play a vital role in the success of these programs. Teachers value the opportunity to bring their students outside and according to the survey, consider the wetland programs that Inside Education offer to be immersive, professional, well-organized, and connect extremely well to the curriculum.

**“The program got the kids active and provided hands-on experiences. It applied directly to our program of studies in grade 5.”**  
*-Shelley Warholm-Leman, Teacher, Fish Creek School*

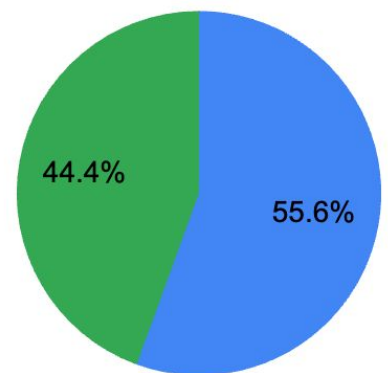
Exposing students to numerous values of Alberta’s wetlands



Providing a professionally led outdoor education program



Linking to curriculum objectives



# Summary and Futures

Inside Education is dedicated to providing high quality and accessible water and wetlands education throughout Alberta. Inside Education expects to see the demand for these programs to continue province-wide. To help meet that demand in Calgary and Edmonton we have planned two teacher PD sessions for April to support teachers in gaining their own wetland knowledge so they feel confident in taking their own students outdoors.

Throughout the year, we have planned other programs to engage with water stewardship including Water Innovation Days and classroom programs. We look forward to supporting teachers and inspiring students to be caretakers of our wetlands and watersheds.



### Contact

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