

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Watersheds and Wetlands



An immersive learning experience for educators from across Alberta to learn about watershed health, wetland areas, and innovations in the water sector.

**June 1-3,
2023
Red Deer**

Inside Education's work brings us to all corners of the province, and this program took place on the traditional territory of the Treaty 6 First Nations. The relationship the Indigenous Peoples of Alberta 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.

Introduction and Program

Inside Education is proud to report on our Spring 2023 Teacher Professional Development opportunity that was hosted in Red Deer from June 1-3.

A series of knowledgeable speakers and workshops on topics such as watershed issues like allocation, native and invasive species in aquatic ecosystems and tracking watershed health provided foundational information and inspiration for activities to bring back to the classroom.

The tours immersed participants in the worlds of waterfowl research, hydroelectricity, and of wastewater treatment from both the municipal sector and the agricultural sector.



Thursday, June 1st

Introduction and welcome

Speaker: Introduction to Watershed Issues in Alberta- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance

Speaker: Alberta's Native Trout Species at Risk- Alberta Native Trout Collaborative

Speaker: Aquatic Invasive Species- Conservation K9 Program

Tour: Wetlands and Waterfowl Research- Ellis Bird Farm

Friday, June 2nd

Tour: Water Remediation and Innovations- Olds College

Tour: Dickson Dam

Speaker: Water monitoring and allocation- Living Lakes Canada

Tour: Wastewater Treatment- clearwater County MAGNA Omni-Processor

Workshop: eDNA- University of Alberta

Saturday, June 3rd

Workshop: Alberta Water Education Resources- Alberta Water Portal

Workshop: How To Take Your Class to the Wetland- Inside Education

“This PD was amazing. I learned so much and am inspired and excited to take this learning back to my school. I look forward to incorporating this into my planning next year, and working on some community impact projects.”

- Makayla Widmer, Herons Crossing School

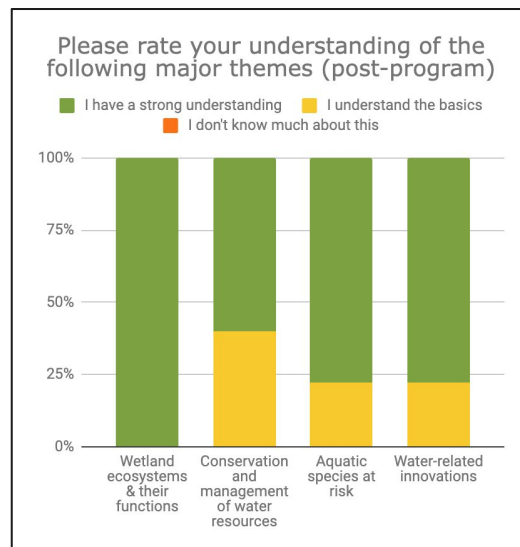
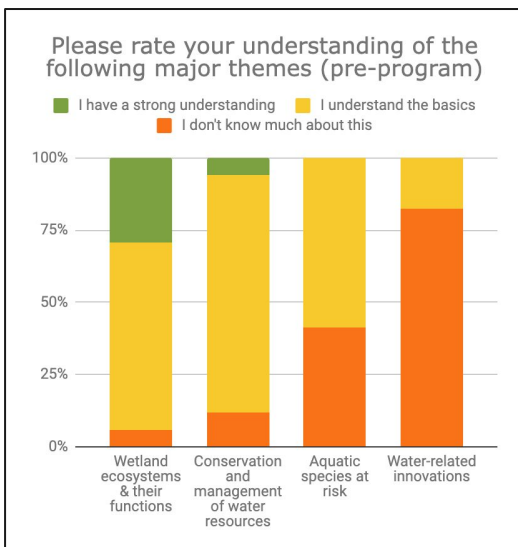
The Participants

17 teachers representing schools across Alberta joined together to learn about new innovations in water conservation and wastewater treatment as well as discuss the importance of bringing water and wetland education into the classroom. This group of teachers work in Grades 3-12 and showed a keen interest in water and a desire to engage their students in becoming water stewards

- Alleha Bowen** | University of Calgary
- Christi Cottrell** | Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik School (OPK)
- Dawn Donohue** | West Island College
- Benjamin Gee** | Edmonton Islamic Academy
- Nicola Gunter** | Edmonton Public School Board
- Faye Hollinger** | Isabel Campbell Public School
- Carbry Hughson** | Isabel Campbell Public School
- Stephanie Krebs** | Kim Hung School
- Melissa McCrackin** | Ecole Coloniale Estates School
- Narsh Ramrattan** | HJ Cody High School
- Morgan Rattai** | Ecole Lacombe Composite High School
- Wendy Ryan** | Sunchild School
- Sara Strydhorst** | Spruce Grove Composite High School
- Willow Torgerson** | River Heights Elementary School
- Michelle Warmink** | River Heights Elementary School
- Makayla Widmer** | Herons Crossing School
- Lisa Wyndham** | Ecole Lacombe Composite High School



Responses to the pre- and post-surveys indicated



100% of surveyed participants agree that the Watersheds and Wetland PD was a high-quality and high-value PD opportunity!



“I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn from Inside Education, their knowledgeable partners, and from the other educators who joined the trip. I didn't want to leave any of the stops, as we always had hours worth of more questions. There is so much to be learned and Inside Ed is such a valuable connector for educators.”
- Alleha Bowen, University of Calgary

“The presenters were all very passionate about their specific topic. Our moderators and Inside Education programmers were also very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. I will definitely be applying for more of their PD opportunities. It was fantastic.”
- Lisa Wyndham, Ecole Lacombe Composite High School



“I felt that the connections made between each of the tours was valuable in terms of deepening my understanding of the wetlands, watersheds, and water innovations in Alberta. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the PD and have already been sharing what I learned with students.”
- Carbyr, Isabel Campbell Public School

Partners, Expert Guests, and Tour Hosts

Inside Education welcomed a number of passionate experts who help to make programs like this a success. Without the support and enthusiasm they have for sharing their knowledge we would not be able to have such a valuable program!

Darian Coulter | Red Deer River Watershed Alliance

Chloe Hahn | Alberta Native Trout Collaborative (CPAWS)

Patrick Hanington | University of Alberta

Jennifer Massig | MAGNA Engineering

Carolyn Ross | Ellis Bird Farm

Cindy Sawchuk | Government of Alberta- Aquatic Invasive Species/ Conservation K9 Unit

Hunter Smith | Living Lakes Canada

Lyle Thiele | MAGNA Engineering

Kaleigh Watson | Alberta Water Portal

Melissa Zembik | Olds College Centre for Innovation



Inside Education could not do this work without the help of program partners. Our ability to offer no-cost professional development opportunities to teachers is a huge draw for Alberta educators.

Summary and Futures

Inside Education received incredibly positive feedback throughout the PD event and in the follow-up survey from participating teachers. Aquatic ecosystems such as wetlands, water issues and innovations remain relevant topics for students from both a curriculum and an interest standpoint. We are currently working on a variety of complementary educational programs:

- Water Innovation Day- Youth Summit, Fall 2023
- Wetland Field Programs- Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- In-classroom programs- Ongoing

Inside Education remains committed to developing learning opportunities for students and teachers alike on these topics. Offering these programs and opportunities allows us to reach our goal of creating the informed stewards and decision makers of the next generation.



“THANK YOU! for creating a session balanced with great hospitality, visits to cutting edge r&d & technology sites, interactive wetland encounters, great presenters, and a super balance of participants from around the province to discuss issues. I am most grateful for the opportunity to learn from passionate educators. “

- Dawn Donohue, West Island College



Contact

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