



Forestry for Bachelor of Education Students and Beginning Teachers

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

September 26-28, 2024 | Edmonton - Hinton



This program toured through regions inhabited by the First Peoples of Treaty 6 and the Métis people of the North Saskatchewan Territory since time immemorial. In the spirit of reconciliation and reciprocity, Inside Education respectfully acknowledges all Indigenous Peoples whose deep respect for the environment forms the foundation of our personal responsibility for the stewardship of our environment and natural resources, a connection we strive to foster through all of our programs.

Introduction

Inside Education, alongside Forestry Futures Alliance partners Work Wild and CAREERS, is proud to report on the 2024 Forestry for B.Ed Students and Beginning Teachers Professional Development Program. This program was developed with the intention of introducing pre-service and beginning teachers to the diversity of careers and opportunities in Alberta’s forest sector through hands-on experiences with experts working and living in Alberta’s forests, and provide them with knowledge and resources to bring forest education back to their classrooms.

24 participants attended from six different post secondary institutions and five different school districts across the province, including 6 beginning teachers and 18 pre-service teachers working towards their Bachelor of Education.

This program was planned with this specific audience in mind, with the hopes of equipping them with skills, knowledge and experience to bring forestry and forest education to their classrooms from the very start of their teaching careers!

“This PD has been very insightful! I have learned so much about the forestry industry and tools that I can use in a classroom” - Rylee Jade White, B.Ed Student, University of Alberta



Program Highlights and Participants

The Forestry in Alberta PD began in Edmonton and travelled to Hinton, giving participants a first-hand experience of the careers, opportunities, and innovation in Alberta’s forestry industry.

Program highlights include a behind-the-scenes tour of entomology, dendrochronology, and pathology labs at the Northern Forestry Center, a tour of Hinton Wood Products Lumber Mill, conversations with Wildlife Biologists and a Forester from fRI Research, and participating in a stream sampling demonstration with the Athabasca Watershed Council. Participants took part in two forest education sessions, where they explored hands-on examples of forest education and brainstormed ways to bring what they learned during the program into the classroom. Overall, it was a jam-packed schedule that incorporated a wide variety of perspectives on the importance of forests and forestry.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE
Kickoff & Introductions
Northern Forestry Center - Forest Research
Hinton Wood Products Lumber Mill Tour
Hands-On Forest Education Workshop
fRI Wildlife Research Talks
X-Stream Science with the Athabasca Watershed Council
Education Workshop featuring the Boreal Wildlife Video Game

- Kathleen Buckman** | Wolf Creek School Board, Ponoka
- Taryn Dyck** | University of Calgary
- Hollis Emes** | University of Lethbridge
- Jada Fiddler** | University of Alberta
- Megan Gitzel** | Red Deer Polytechnic
- Peyton Graham** | University of Lethbridge
- Emily Johnston** | University of Calgary
- Harpreet Kaur** | Ecole McTavish Public School, Fort McMurray
- Tegan Keenleyside** | Concordia University of Edmonton
- Douglas Li** | University of Calgary
- Kaleigh Maclean** | Red Deer Polytechnic
- Sarah Manning** | Medicine Hat College
- Josh McCrea** | Duggan Elementary School, Edmonton
- Jennifer McFadden** | Red Deer Polytechnic
- Mia Rentz** | Red Deer Polytechnic
- Meghan Roberts** | Red Deer Polytechnic
- Anastasia Sowinski** | Edmonton Catholic School Division
- Pien Steinbusch** | Edmonton Public School Board
- Brooklyn Stephens** | University of Calgary
- Willow Torgerson** | École les Cypres, Medicine Hat
- Nam Vu** | University of Alberta
- Fallon Wadelius** | University of Alberta
- Rylee White** | University of Alberta
- Emilee Wood** | University of Alberta



Teacher Feedback

Inside Education received overwhelmingly positive feedback from this program, with **100%** of surveyed teachers indicating that the Forestry In Alberta PD program was a **high-value, high-quality, and inspiring educational opportunity** and that they would recommend Inside Education programs to a colleague.

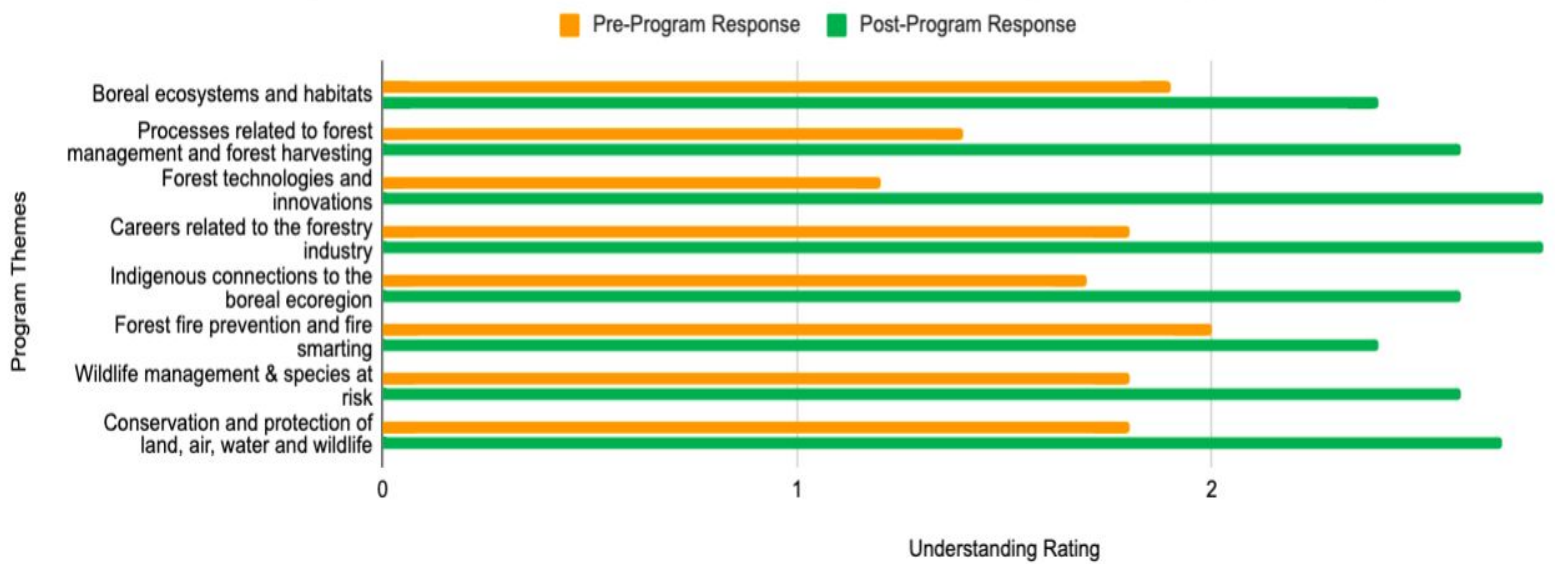
100%

of survey respondents indicated that they feel more equipped with personal knowledge, learning materials, and supports to bring meaningful forest and forestry education to their students.

Between the pre-program and post-program surveys, participants indicated **up to a 133% increase** in knowledge on topics related to **forests** and **forestry**, including processes related to **forest management** and **forest harvesting, careers** related to the forestry industry, and **Indigenous connections** to the boreal ecoregion. Teachers felt their understanding of forest technologies and innovations increased the most as a result of this trip.

Participants rated their level of understanding on the following major themes

Ratings from "Don't know much about this", "Understand the basics", "Strong understanding" (scored from 1-3)



“This experience has solidified the importance of creating hands-on and experiential learning opportunities across all subject areas to foster passion, interest and a sense of responsibility to nature for my students.”

- Pien Steinbusch, Edmonton Public School Board

Summary and Partners

Inside Education is extremely pleased with the results of the 2024 Forestry for B.Ed Students and Beginning Teachers Professional Development Program. The positive feedback received from program participants both during the program and via the post-program survey indicated that the PD was a meaningful, inspirational and an extremely valuable learning experience.

We are pleased to report on this program as a part of our suite of forest and forestry-related education initiatives which also includes forest field trips, wildlife classroom presentations, and the Women in Outdoor Careers special event days. These hands-on experiences help both students and teachers connect with our forests and helps to prepare students for the forestry careers of the future.

As the 2024-2025 school year continues, Inside Education and our Forestry Future Alliance partners will continue to provide quality hands-on education experiences and resources to support teachers in inspiring students to be forest stewards now and in the future.



“I feel well equipped to talk to my students about the forestry industry and to give them hands on activities to do. I have also gained a plethora of resources to pull from for field trips and class guests”
 - Josh McCrea, Duggan Elementary School, Edmonton



Delivered in partnership with:

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