

Walk in the Wetlands Teacher PD

In spring of 2024, two one-day PD programs were offered to help support teachers who are interested in leading their own local wetland field trips and connecting the new K-6 curriculum to the outdoors.

The first PD was held in Edmonton on April 18th, and attended by **16** teachers from Edmonton, Edson, Goose Lake, Fort Saskatchewan, and Stony Plain.

The second was held in Calgary on April 23rd, and attended by **19** teachers from Calgary and Chestermere. At this program we welcomed guest speaker Renee Lazor, a member of the Living Lakes Canada team, to talk about their National Lake Blitz program.

Each program featured activities such as invertebrate dipping, water quality testing, and safety considerations such as what to look for in a good field site. After the program, teachers received a digital folder with a variety of resources that were discussed and used during the program to be able to use in their own excursions.

By having the tools to bring their students on a field trip, teachers feel more confident in connecting wetland education with their respective curriculums, recognizing some common wetland invertebrates, and the adaptations of wetland plants and animals.



These programs are offered with funding provided by:



K-6 Outdoor Learner's Tool Kit



With the implementation of the new K-6 Science curriculum in 2024, one issue that was identified in conversations with teachers was a lack of resources available to support lessons. With this in mind, Inside Education developed the K-6 Outdoor Learners Kit, a free classroom resource for teachers that specifically connects the new curriculum outcomes to natural resource topics and offers activities and games that can be used to help bring these lesson plans outside.

Activities in this kit related to a wide range of topic areas present in the new curriculum, such as seasonal changes, animal life cycles, energy use and air quality. The intention was to create a tool kit that was Monday-morning ready, with activities that could be carried out with simple, inexpensive materials.

This tool kit was distributed to teachers through several different channels. Participants of the Connecting to the Land PD received a kit, along with a session that was centred around land-based learning and taking lessons outside of the classroom. The kits were also featured in Teacher's Convention presentations for 2024-2025, in a session that was specifically focused on supporting the new science curriculum, as well as during small group PD sessions offered in the Grande Prairie area. During these sessions, activities from the tool kit were featured and kits were given away as session prizes.

Overall, the response we have received from teachers who have received this kit has been overwhelmingly positive, and indicates high demand amongst Alberta teachers for resources to support natural resource and outdoor learning in their classrooms.

"I [enjoyed] the presentation that Inside Education provided and it [gave] me some ideas as to what I could bring to the classroom. I think it gave me a little confidence boost to go out there and try some new things" - Brianna Jones, Westminster School, Connecting to the Land PD participant