



Forests Worth Knowing
Atlantic Teachers' Tour

2018 English Tour Evaluation Report

The Atlantic Teachers' Tour provides a great benefit and value to the forest sector and based on the positive feedback that has been received over the last 18 years from both teachers and supporters alike, it continues to be described as one of the 'best hands-on professional development programs of their career'.

The following pages recap what participants from the 2018 English tour had to say about their experience.

What did you enjoy most about the program?

- Very informative, diverse topics, networking, meeting new people. I love that you gave out thank you letters at the end!! That way you are ensured that they get done.
- Learning about the new forest practices, as well as the innovation aspects.
- I enjoyed visiting the different sites and hearing the varying perspectives on how to best manage our forests. I like the passion of everyone involved.
- It was amazing to meet so many passionate and knowledgeable people in the industry. Seeing a variety of places and hands-on experiences allowed deeper learning. It was a very eye-opening experience.
- Career information in forest management, mill/bio fuel facilities. Presenters on the sites, Moncton forestry guru Heather and Moncton Maple.
- Intimate size of group, great host hotel, contacts for teacher conference presentations.
- The variety of different industries visited to see how forestry is so important in daily life.
- The tours of the facilities and the onsite experiences with the harvesting. The tour of the watershed.
- The wide variety of site visitations along with the knowledgeable and dedicated presenters in their field.
- The variety of industries and speakers was AMAZING. It was very well organized, thoughtful and informative. The swag was useful and I can start using it in the class immediately.
- I enjoyed seeing the harvesting operations and pre commercial thinning, it was neat to see those forests compared to forests that had not been thinned.
- I enjoyed the plants, sawmill and private lots, being outdoors was enjoyable.
- The breadth of information I obtained in various aspects of forestry and its related fields.

- Everything! Wonderful presentations, great site tours, generous sponsors, great lodging, delicious meals, and fantastic organizers! Great job! Thank you so much for allowing me to participate. Plus the fab new friends and peer contacts, drivers and other support people!
- Probably the freedom to talk and ask questions with all of the leader volunteers, I enjoyed all of it, the presentations were excellent but the one on one discussions during our walks and social time was a highlight for me.

What could we improve about the program?

- I would suggest that for the orientation, that you have a teacher who has done the tour already joins your group of “welcomes”.
 - Have some actual educators who could present ideas on how they implement forestry into their curriculum.
 - I would have liked to spend some more time outdoors the first day with the tree identification and attempt to explore the various trees with help to put in practice and gain a further understanding of what trees are rather than doing the forestry 101, maybe shorten the forestry 101.
 - There is quite a bit planned which is great, however, there is a lot of info to take in and early morning starts. It would have been great to be back at the hotel a little earlier to relax before dinner.
 - Encourage more 3-6 teacher participation to get presenters into the schools to catch the children’s imagination early!!
 - See if you can get the virtual harvester for the tour to have teachers to try.
 - This tour seemed completely full and very engaging.
- Everything seemed to run smoothly, not sure what could be improved on this one. Sometimes it is nice just to do things right!
 - It is an intense few days (that’s the only critique I can come up with) but at the same time, it was amazing to see all the different industries and meet all the people who are in the industries. I’ve rambled, bottom line, I can’t think of a way it needs to change!
 - I felt that the Irving Personal Care tour could have tied in their use of wood fibers in their diapers a bit more.
 - Maybe not as much talking as a large group, more discovery and questions by participants in smaller groups. The presenters were very knowledgeable and a wealth of information.
 - Perhaps do mini one-day workshops or follow ups for new or old participants to elaborate on what we already learned. This could be delivered over the course of the following year to participating in the four day event.
 - Was perfect as is; very informative very inspiring, couldn’t ask for more!
 - There were a few times outside when a small hand-held microphone would have helped, just a small portable something. Believe it or not, slightly more time on the tree ID, not a lot just 30 mins or more, I’m still unsure how to ID the different confers.

Is there any aspect of forestry in Atlantic provinces, or in Canada, that you wish you had learned more about?

- Innovation, curriculum ideas.
- More about the Atlantic provinces, species and animal impacts, misconceptions etc.
- Raw material to finish product, spruce to studs, to strapping, to pulp to fiber.

- Small production sawmill might be good to see.
- Not at this time, the brain is full, need to process future thoughts will occur.
- Using wood as a fiber is fascinating (I'm sure this was extensively touched on, but my brain is exploding).
- I would be good to learn and see a bit more about the conservation efforts that some of these operations are doing.
- Pulp and paper industry.
- I plan to follow through on the leads, resources provided in order to either create a new course or else quit my job and join the forestry industry (seriously); I am very inspired by this past week and really believe in your message.
- The impact on animals and what's done about it, a little more about the laws and policies surrounding forest management.

What new perceptions do you have about forests, forestry and the forest products industry?

- My perceptions are very similar to where I began; I learned many new things about technology in the industry. I was really surprised with the Prest woodlot and the JDI personal care facility.
- The large amount of technology used in the industry.
- I clearly needed more exposure and understanding of the commitment people responsible for managing our forests make to protecting them and our environment. I think maybe the green party needs a three day tour as well .
- It was great to know why these companies are tree cutting and the benefits to tree clearing.
- The new technologies and discoveries on how wood can improve many economical issues.

- How do we open the publics' eye's to see how the majority of forestry is done selectively and eco- friendly. Education of the general public, starting with the children.
- Thinking about it in terms of a "crop" and the idea like row planting, heather mentioned trying this with sugar maple plantation for maple syrup production.
- Its huge!
- Inter-relevance along all aspects of the supply management chain of the various experiences involved.
- There are way more renewable efforts undergoing that I originally thought. And having a better understanding of wood as a renewable/economic/diversified product and material.
- The level of thought going in to sustainability is great to see.
- How important it is to properly manage our resources, like the forest! I had no idea what was entailed in proper forest management until coming to this.
- I have taken your message to heart and really want to become more involved, I plan to contact several of the organizations introduced to learn more.
- Totally changed my views, too much to say. I now strongly agree our forests are our future and I want to be a part of it somehow.

How will you use the knowledge you've acquired?

- I always try and share information about the forestry industry with people I work with and people I know.
- Now I can share more info about research and applications/prescriptions that are happening through the Atlantic Provinces.

- To help students consider career opportunities in forestry
- I will incorporate forest management and forestry ideas in my learning outcomes in my classroom.
- I will add it into daily routines (try to) talk to others about it!
- In-class tied to content/curriculum, hands on models, web quests
- Promote as sustainable industry to students, viable career opportunities for students, cultural importance to Atlantic Canada, historical, economical.
- Ecosystem and water system units.
- This knowledge will be very easy to incorporate into various aspects of all courses that I teach.
- To keep the forest ranked as a top priority in all aspects of my teaching, and now I feel a little better informed at the developments and future direction this sector is going in.
- Will try to incorporate into new PLT Canada materials.
- Share with other teachers and incorporate into the curriculum.
- To provide my students with better information of career choices in the industry and provide a more educated outlook on local forestry management practices.
- Definitely in my classroom (I teach ecology, Agriculture and run the sustainability Environmental club) on a personal level to develop my own woodlot and connect with the marketing board and other conversations.

- I will share it with everyone (that's just me!) I will probably cut the old fat of Bio 12 and add a week + unit of forestry; also, I would like to get my own students interested in the forestry industry.

Anything else you would like to add?

- A one day "forestry conference" for students would be great.
- Make sure principals (who pass on to the teachers) know that this is not only for science teachers, several of the teachers here this week mentioned that their principal only gave it to their science teachers. Also, do a quick ice breaker in the first 10 minutes so we can learn each others names.
- I highly enjoyed the tour! Zac's presentation with an example of a useful activity we could use in the classroom! More examples would be beneficial!
- Thank you so much for a very thoughtful and extremely well planned and executed PD session. It was very obvious the passion for our forests that is shared amongst all shareholders.
- Forests are definitely the fiber that holds the fabric of our communities together.
- I liked that it had many different groups represented, Irving had a strong presence but they are so multifaceted; but I tended to like SNB ACFOR, City of Moncton, Turtle Creek and the live cuts the best!

“Feedback shows that the tour strengthens the participant’s knowledge of forestry and the industry”

