



Forests Worth Knowing
Atlantic Teachers' Tour

2019 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 19 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 2019 English tour had to say about their experience.

What did you enjoy most about the program?

- I found the sites very informative. Beneficial to see things rather than just hearing about them. Nice to see private woodlots as well;
- Fully funded and guided program. Access to highly skilled and knowledgeable professionals. Outdoor trips are hands-on experiences and firsthand information. Interactive sessions;
- The diversity of the speakers enabled a broad view of the industry;
- Learning more about what the forest industry does to protect/preserve ecosystems, species at risk, etc. I was not aware of the extent of planning that is involved even before the first tree is cut!
- Networking with other teachers and forestry company professionals. Seeing at ground level what forestry companies are doing to maintain, sustain and grow the industry;
- I enjoy the various tours, especially being able to see the operations of the sawmill. Also, having the hands-on/visuals of the tree specifications;
- I really think as a whole, the cohesiveness of those involved in forestry, the complex nature of the industry, the commitment to ecosystems, biodiversity, the entire environment, it was all fascinating. I also really noticed and appreciated the passion of those who work in this industry have. It was infectious!
- The frequency that we got into the field to see and experience the various sites was fantastic. And to do it on a very well planned out schedule with such awesome planners and participants made it even better!
- I loved the people! The mill tour was awesome. The blueberry part was delicious. The information from various companies/professionals;
- The opportunity to visit the woods, mill tour and blueberry crop visit. Networking and meeting educators from the Atlantic Provinces;
- Having the opportunity to be out on site in the woodlots seeing the vast variety of forestry operations in action. An awesome "hands on experience". Getting to experience the information live and in action really makes the learning experience awesome;
- Industry hosts and the levels of information shared;
- The variety of destinations and speakers;
- Loved the hands on – outdoors seeing the actual topic being spoken instead of being in a boardroom;
- Site visits to see machines in operation and the industry from start to finish;

- Learning more about the industry, challenging misconceptions. Networking with other teachers;
- Learning about the environment and the forestry industry. Great people sharing a common goal. Awesome program!

What could we improve about the program?

- More time for questions during/after the presentations on Thursday;
- Overall everything is good. More programs like this – rotation amongst various places. A mini program for high school students would be great. PD on labs, hands on activities which can be done in class. Sessions on oceanography, agriculture. Resources to teach EAL students;
- Sometimes due to the size of the group, it was hard to hear, especially if you were at the back of the group.
- It would be great to have conversations with private woodlot owners;
- If possible, to see other factory operations of the forest industry. Simulators of equipment would be fun to try;
- Great program. It is jam packed and non-stop. There is also a nice balance with the great meals in the evening. There may be some fine tuning, little things you could improve but I cannot think of any at this time;
- Include some more information about wildlife/habitat impact. Perhaps a few less stops per day so as not to overwhelm (or extend by one day). Less formal presentations, more outdoor events!
- More hands-on rather than formal presentations;
- Very rigid time frame – need to have a little bit more time between activities to meet and confer with other participants and colleagues. Planned ice breaker activities for participants. Water bottle in orientation package instead of store bought to reduce plastic consumption. Activity packages for teachers to implement in the classroom at appropriate grade level;
- More down time – evening off or a 2-hour block somewhere. Dedicate time to discuss lesson planning/trip funding/products for teaching. Visit a forest school if there is one nearby. Higher focus on renewable/recyclable products (no

bottled water). Have a recreational activity in the woods;

- I would suggest making the tour 3 days instead of 4. Monday through Wednesday and have arrival Sunday night;
- More “classroom” type activities. So maybe tours based on elementary, middle school or high school levels. Covering specifically those levels of education and how to bring it back to the schools;
- I would like to see more presentations from conservation groups, 50-50 industry-conservation (or 25 conservation & 25 private woodlot owners). I’d like to see reusable water bottles given to participants with refill stations instead of plastic bottles;

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

- More information on the different province’s perspectives/directions on crown land management. Also, more information re: spraying – for example a visual of hectares involved, etc.;
- Aquatic life, oceanography, forest, etc. (how does one impact the other). Impact of climate change and plans to take care (long and short term). Latest technology used. Online free resources – list of useful links will be good;
- Not that I can think of. It was a very comprehensive program;
- Silviculture Planning – have the opportunity to work with different scenarios to try applying a silviculture plan to a parcel of land;
- It was overwhelming and a lot of information as is, so no!
- I think it would have been interesting to see how paper products are produced;
- Animals habitats/wildlife impact. Pollution output VS cleanup. More information about the industry in NL;
- For my purposes more on habitats. More focus on how to incorporate forestry into primary classrooms;
- More about training/career path;
- Application to classroom instruction;

- Survey tools to early stages of property planning;
- Managing for non-timber, non-pulp, non-biomass products. Management for species at risk;
- Promoting summer jobs in forestry to students;
- No. I learned so many things that I was not expecting;

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

- I have a better understanding of the reasoning behind some clear cuts. Also, have more confidence in all the tree being utilized. Found the Lahey report very interesting;
- Greater appreciation. Increased awareness about job opportunities. We should be more responsible in taking care of the existing resource. Future is not that bleak; it is still hopeful. Great to know that forests regenerate naturally after a clear cut;
- The degree of the impact it has on the economy & environment;
- The planning that is done. The work that goes into replanting a site and the stages of regeneration. How we go from raw material to product so quickly (using technology – impressive!);
- Forestry companies and the forest products industry working together at times to make use of the full product: sawlog lumber, pulp, wood shavings, sawdust, etc.;
- The amount of skilled labour and advanced skills in this industry is insane! The technology is very exciting, cutting edge and evolving exponentially. Conservation and protection of the environment are of paramount importance;
- That they are concerned with conservation and minimizing the impact of their operations;
- I feel as though I understand a lot more why clearcuts happen and the benefits they can have, as well as how companies are trying to become more sustainable. I also didn't realize how many different career options there were in the industry. I didn't know about insect devastation.
- The process of the mill. I never really thought much about how the forestry makes lumber, tissue products, etc.;

- How hi-tech everything is and the education/expertise of those working in the industry;
- The variety of jobs available. The “whole tree” is used in the industry. The importance of hard and soft wood;
- Didn't realize how many middlemen it takes to make the industry successful. And didn't realize how many “small private people are involved;
- Clear cutting is not the end of the world and private woodlot ownership really is a sound investment when managed properly;
- Industry is doing good things to ensure that their footprint is minimized;
- Forestry is done ethically, sustainably and is very public if we are willing to ask;
- I have realized that everyone is responsible for the sustainability of our forests and environment.

How will you use the knowledge you've acquired?

- Share with students in my classroom;
- I will be sharing it with students, staff and friends;
- Will be teaching Environmental Science, Agri-science, Oceanography and Animal Sciences – will be incorporating most of this. Promote job opportunities;
- Discuss/give more students options to study the forestry industry. I feel more confident doing so now;
- To better educate students and others about the forest industry;
- Goal: to develop a forestry program for Grade 8 students which would include history of the industry, skill development, introduction to silviculture practices and post-secondary education and employment opportunities;
- Share with my class the pictures and videos I took. Class sharing of knowledge and interests. Share with my teaching team and perhaps a staff meeting share;
- I will promote the opportunities within the industry and am excited because I have students in mind already for their career/future paths. The knowledge I have gained will allow me to

use cross-curricular activities to incorporate more aspects of the industry and practices, as opposed to simply the sciences;

- I plan to let my high school students know about all the employment opportunities that exist for them in forestry;
- Lesson implementation. Sustainable choices/impact on environment. Talking with students about future career opportunities and about how they can help with environment impact;
- Looking very much forward to using the iNaturalist app with students;
- Teaching students about career and job opportunities in the forest industry. Sustainable forestry practices. Environmental issues. Technological advances in forestry development such as GPS;
- Teaching sustainability/economics/ environmental concepts. Take the kids outside more;
- Integrate it into my ecology unit;
- Definitely in the science and biology classroom;
- Job discussion with senior high – career or summer student position. Global Geography curriculum reference;
- In a forestry course for high school students;
- I will be integrating the information into hikes and conversations with my forest school students;
- I will pass along as much information as possible to my students. I will let them know about the many opportunities for employment in this industry.

Anything else you would like to add?

- A great effort by organizers and speakers. Well done!
- Would like to learn more about recycling, saving the environment by reducing waste;
- Excellent program! Thank you!
- I have participated in the program on two occasions, both in Nova Scotia. It would be great to explore the industry in NB;
- Please keep doing this for years to come!
- I really enjoyed this tour and I felt like I learned a lot. The people were friendly and welcoming. It was very well organized. I think it would be great to have a refillable bottle/suggest participants bring one to avoid plastic bottles;
- Thanks for a lovely time!
- An awesome experience! You were very accommodating to my physical limitations;
- Great job!
- This was a wonderful experience. Thank you so much for the opportunity. The pace, facilities, food and transportation were wonderfully roomy and much care was taken for our personal comfort; You established an excellent learning environment for us!
- Thank you. It was great. Really appreciate the care and planning put into it;
- Thank you. It was wonderful and so informative!
- I have really enjoyed my experience and will definitely apply next year.

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

