



Branching Out

December 2017 Newsletter

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Branching Out is the newsletter of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). It is published quarterly to communicate the objectives and activities of the association to members and other interested parties. The purpose of FRIAA is to enhance the forest resources of Alberta for the benefit of all Albertans. It encourages improved forest management activities over and above those required by government regulation.

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President's Letter

As 2017 comes to a close, FRIAA continues to focus on providing funding to various programs that support Alberta's forest resources. We've been impressed with the level of interest people have shown in FRIP Funds Initiative and FRIAA FireSmart Program calls for funding this past year, and the results have been overwhelmingly positive. As a result, we're pleased to announce the worthwhile projects that have been approved for funding in this newsletter, and we will continue to announce new funding opportunities under these programs as we move into 2018.

Our commitment to supporting Albertans' interest in forest resources is stronger than ever as we work with the departments of Agriculture and Forestry and Environment and Parks to design and develop new initiatives to help further enhance our forest environment for the benefit of all Albertans. These initiatives will help address continuing challenges our society faces like climate change adaptation, carbon sequestration, species at risk, and many others.

In addition to supporting our forest environment, we also recognize the importance of reaching out to the public with information and opportunities to help

them gain a better understanding of forests and forest management. This year, a number of groups used FRIAA funds to reach out to school-aged children to help them develop their own understanding and ethic as it relates to forest ecosystems and the environment. We're happy that this month's newsletter features a story about a grade 6 classroom discovering more about our forest environment in Alberta.

As a new year begins, FRIAA is grateful to have the opportunity to offer funding to many innovative organizations that deliver such worthwhile projects. We would like to send a special thank you to teachers, volunteers and parents that tirelessly assist in guiding our youth as they discover more about forests and forestry.

Thank you!

Murray Summers,
FRIAA President





About FRIAA

Our name reflects our purpose – The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). We are working to improve the forest resource of Alberta. In 1997, FRIAA was created and tasked with collecting and administering industry funds in order to enhance Alberta’s forest resources. Historically, stumpage fees were collected by Government as general revenue. FRIAA was created to oversee the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) funds, designed to ensure that a portion of stumpage fees was put to directly enhance the forest resource for the benefit of all Albertans.

Over the years, FRIAA has evolved to offer funding through a variety of programs – each designed to serve a different need, from dealing with Mountain Pine Beetle to helping communities better prepare for wildfires.

FRIAA serves the people of Alberta and is accountable to the Minister responsible for Forestry. Over nearly two decades, FRIAA has helped Alberta continue to develop world-class forest management practices and a sophisticated understanding of the relationships between things like human activity, forest resources, species at risk, and wildfire. It is, uniquely, an organization able to collaborate with academia, government, municipalities, industry and the Ministry. It has supported practical and applied research, on-the-ground forest improvement strategies as well as innovative approaches to forest inventory and planning that helps Alberta manage its forest resource in a sustainable manner.

FRIAA’s mandate has been, and continues to be, to enhance Alberta’s forest resource, for the benefit of Albertans.

FRIAA FIRESMART ACCEPTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FRIAA is working on the next funding opportunity under the FireSmart program. The Request for Expressions of Interest opened on December 15, 2017 and is currently underway. This RFEOI will be accepting submissions until the deadline on February 28, 2018 at 4 PM.

To submit an EOI or to learn more, visit: friaa.ab.ca

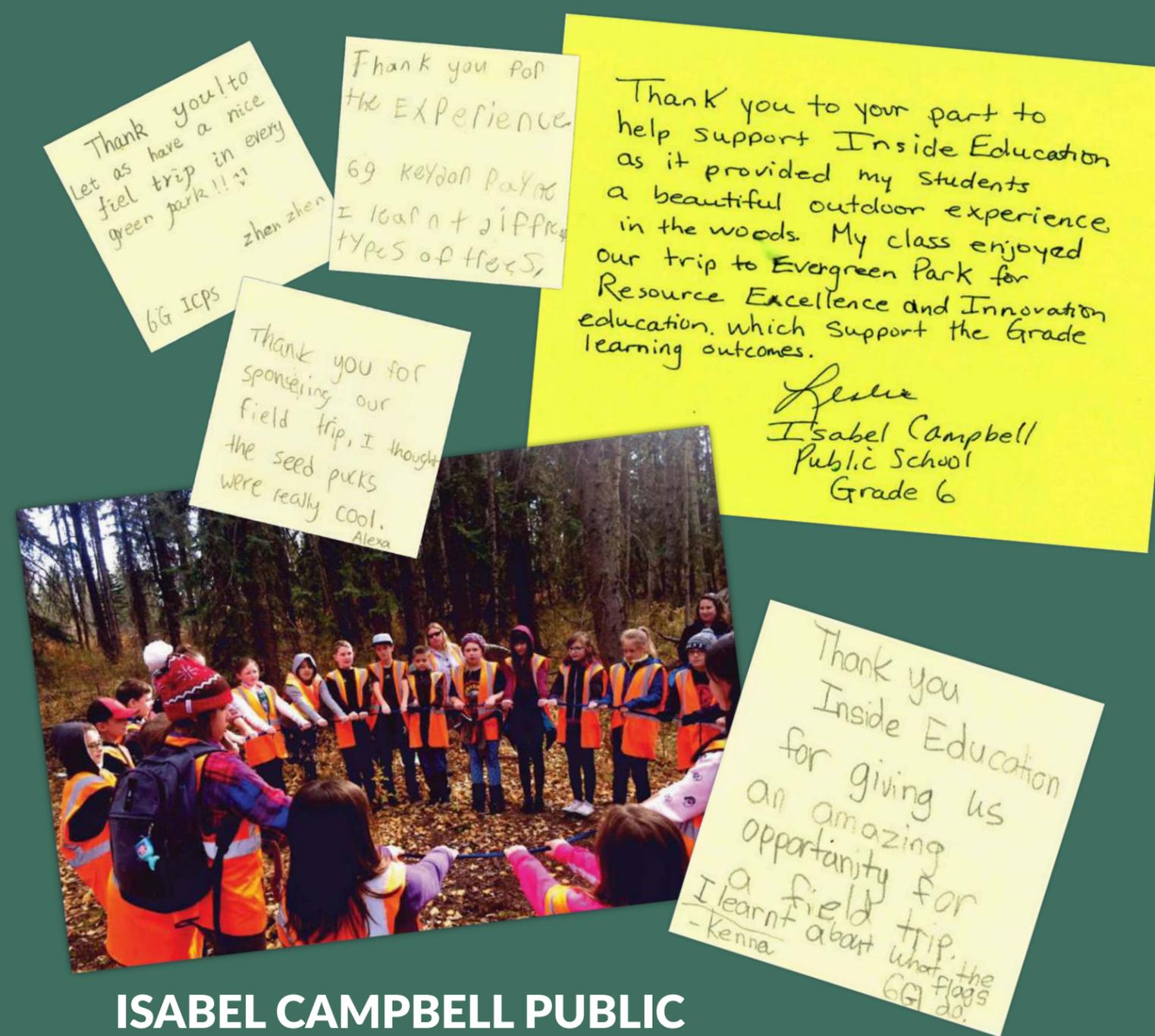
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE CARIBOU LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM (CLRP)

FRIAA issued a call for proposals for the Caribou Landscape Restoration Program (CLRP) in early December.

The objective of the request for proposals (RFP) is to develop a standardized linear restoration planning process to guide future operational treatment plans within Woodland Caribou ranges.

The CLRP RFP is set to close on January 5, 2018.

To learn more or to submit an RFP, visit: friaa.ab.ca



ISABEL CAMPBELL PUBLIC SCHOOL’S GRADE 6 CLASSROOM EXPLORES EVERGREEN PARK

Inside Education, in partnership with FRIAA’s Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP), invites students to take part in a unique field trip experience at the Evergreen Park for Resource Excellence and Innovation in Grande Prairie. Students from the grade 6 class at Isabel Campbell Public School recently had the opportunity to connect with the Evergreen Centre by examining the natural and human factors that shape our forest landscape.

The Evergreen Centre is a 14-acre plot of boreal forest located 3km south of Grande Prairie that showcases various techniques and technologies for natural resource development in the area. Isabel Campbell Public School’s grade 6 classroom spent an activity-filled day learning about the different kinds of trees found in Evergreen Park, and they left with many new discoveries and valuable learning outcomes that they were happy to share with FRIAA.



JULY 2017 RESULTS OF THE FIRESMART REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The FireSmart Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) from July 2017 resulted in the approval of 32 projects. In total, \$3,981,081 in grant funding has been committed to supporting these projects to help reduce the growing impact of wildfires in our communities.

Number of approved projects by category:

- 1 Inter-Agency Cooperation
- 7 FireSmart Planning
- 3 Public Education
- 21 Vegetation Management

Examples of approved projects – July 2017:

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Inter-Agency Cooperation

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Regional Wildfire Tabletop Exercise, Town of Whitecourt

OBJECTIVE: This project will bring together emergency responders and wildfire professionals to conduct a tabletop exercise. This exercise is for the purpose of reviewing existing updates to the emergency plans and protocols in order to be better prepared in the event of a wildfire.

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Planning

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Community FireSmart Plan, Sunchild First Nation

OBJECTIVE: This project will educate the residents of Sunchild First Nation on the importance of FireSmart principles in terms of mitigating the effects of wildfire in the community. The information gathered will then be used to develop a comprehensive Wildfire Mitigation Strategy that will help guide FireSmart activities in the future.

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Public Education

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Structural and Site Hazard Assessments, Saddle Lake Cree Nation

OBJECTIVE: The project is intended to train staff to provide FireSmart hazard assessments for the residents of Saddle Lake Cree Nation in order to better understand how to mitigate the threat of potential wildfires to their residences.

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Vegetation Management

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: FireSmart Vegetation Management, Municipality of Jasper

OBJECTIVE: This project will conduct vegetation management in the townsite of Jasper, mitigating the effects of wildfire by removing the dead and downed woody material that is a result of recent Mountain Pine Beetle activity in the area. This will reduce the hazard in the townsite and provide a change in fuel characteristics, which will mitigate the wildfire behaviour and ignition potential in the treated areas.

JULY 2017 RESULTS OF THE FRIP CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In total, 11 projects were approved for funding under the 2017 Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) Funds Initiative, and \$1,255,584 in funding was awarded. The projects cover topic areas including education, public awareness and applied research.

Examples of projects that were awarded grants in the 2017 FRIP Funds Initiative:

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Applied Research

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Wildlife Health; An Integral Component of Forest Management, fRI Research

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this project is to determine how grizzly bear health is influenced by forest conditions and current forest management practices in Alberta. Although previous research suggests that forest conditions affect grizzly bear health, this study intends to complete a comprehensive analysis of long-term data sets of forest states and grizzly bear health that will specifically compare the connection between managed lands and adjacent parks and protected areas.

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Applied Research

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Caribou Conservation Through Better Cutblock Design, fRI Research

OBJECTIVE: This project will investigate whether specific timber harvesting regimes and silviculture practices can be applied to make cutblocks less attractive to primary prey species (i.e. reduce forage abundance for deer, moose and elk). It will collect and analyze data from capture and collar of white-tailed deer and remote cameras that monitor deer, moose, and elk use over three years and within 500 different cutblocks.

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Public Awareness and Outreach

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Your Forest Podcast, Matthew Kristoff

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this project is to develop and create digital audio content (Podcasts) related to forestry and environmental issues. Podcasts will include a wide range of topics such as sustainable forest management, Indigenous policy, career opportunities, carbon sequestration, conservation, and any other applicable topics related to the forest industry.

■ **PROJECT CATEGORY:** Other (Education)

PROJECT NAME/COMPANY: Forestry Futures Alliance – 2018 Forest Education Partnership, CAREERS: The Next Generation

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this project is for the Forestry Futures Alliance to continue to scale up their forest and forestry careers education programming throughout 2018. The Alliance will provide programs aimed at enhancing awareness of forest ecosystems, sustainable forest management, and the range of diverse and rewarding forest sector career paths. Activities will include school presentations, field trips, site tours, learning resource development, career fairs, connection with experts, educator professional development, learning resources, employer recruitment, and student internship preparation. While the Alliance will work province-wide, special emphasis will be paid to students/teachers/schools in Aboriginal communities.





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