



# Open minds

**schoolprogram**

# Zoo School

Annual Report 2017 - 2018



Andrea Beaty, Zoo School Coordinator  
The Calgary Zoo

# Introduction

Zoo School is a part of the Campus Calgary Open Minds curriculum-based program which is a citywide network of 15 learning sites. This program, funded by the Chevron Corporation, is founded on a ground breaking educational model that represents inquiry learning at its finest. Students from grades 2-12 are immersed for a week into the world of plants and animals at the Calgary Zoo. Through hands-on activities, animal encounters, careful observation and interactions with zoo experts, students are able to experience learning beyond the walls of their classroom. Each week is tailored to meet curriculum objectives as well as a 'big picture' idea for the class. This can encompass a year of learning which helps to generate a lasting impact on students.

With the number of threatened or endangered species on the rise and children becoming increasingly disconnected from the natural world, it has become paramount to engage citizens with nature and to present opportunities for students to become ecologically literate. Chevron Zoo School helps students form a lasting bond with nature which will hopefully result in the conservation stewards of our future.



**Mission:** Take and inspire action to sustain wildlife and wild places



“It gave the students a new way to look at the world through conservation.”  
~ Teacher



“While at the Calgary Zoo, we met with experts, went behind the scenes, observed various animals and analyzed biofacts. It truly was a **remarkable experience!** We are now about to create a **gorilla sculpture**, as an **awareness campaign** to help save the gorillas, which will eventually be displayed at the Zoo.”  
~Teacher whose class created the sculpture on left

## Vision: Canada's leader in wildlife conservation



“The students are very interested and wanting to participate in **conservation**. They shared their experiences with their parents and with other classes in the school. **They decided on a follow up action plan** project to support conservation at the zoo.”

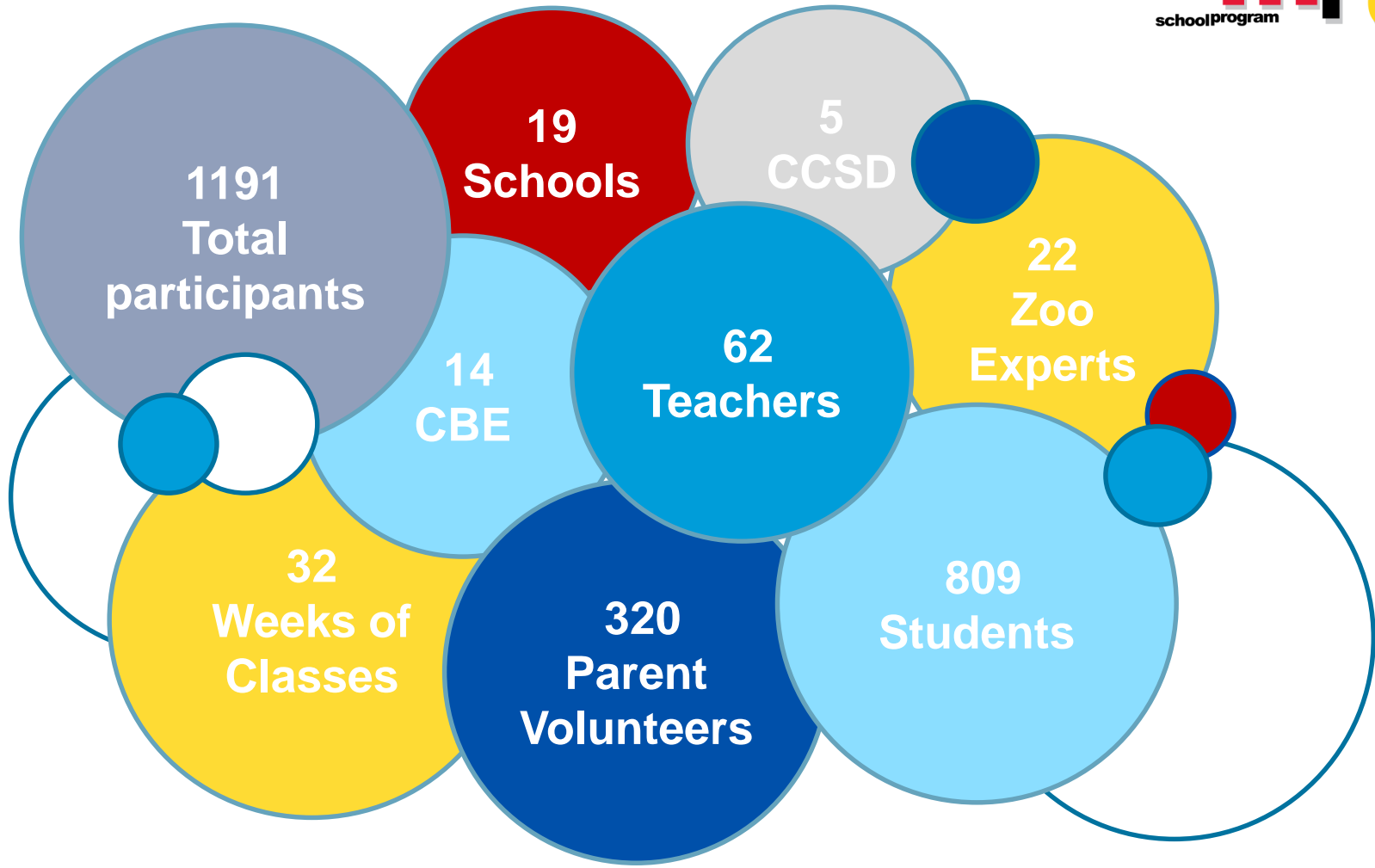
~Teacher



“My students were very interested in learning about the zoo's **local and global conservation projects**. This program also **fostered their love** of many endangered and at risk animals. The students are interested in continuing to explore how they can help protect these animals in the wild.”

~Teacher

# Our Year in Numbers



# Historical Application Statistics



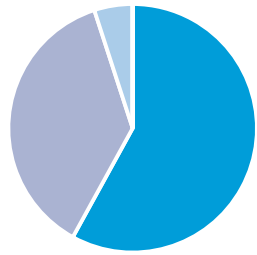
Historic Summary	2018	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01
Total Number of Applicants	39	30	29	30	24	28	29	18	40	26	43	31	34	26	31	49	35	33
Total Weeks Requested	71	64	56	57	44	62	56	40	74	47	74	53	56	44	49	82	55	46
Total Weeks Rejected	42	32	28	17	16	32	29	13	47	19	46	25	29	18	23	54	27	18
Total Weeks Accepted	29	32	28	31	28	28	27	27	27	28	28	28	27	26	26	28	28	28



# Survey Results: TEACHER



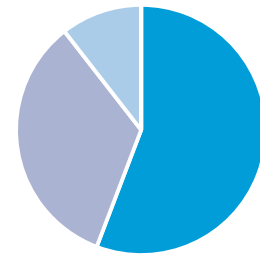
Q1. Because of my participation in Open Minds, I have a better understanding of my role in the inquiry process.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Q2. Because of my involvement in Open Minds, I am more likely to practice inquiry-based learning/teaching on a regular basis



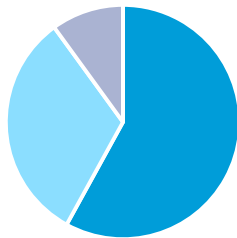
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



# Survey Results: TEACHER

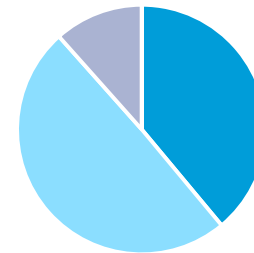


Q3. My ability to identify and create relevant and authentic connections among disciplines has increased and deepened after my participation in the Open Minds program.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q4. Personalizing learning comes from an awareness of students' strengths and needs. My ability to personalize learning has grown after my participation in the Open Minds program.



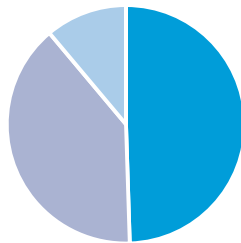
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



# Survey Results: TEACHER

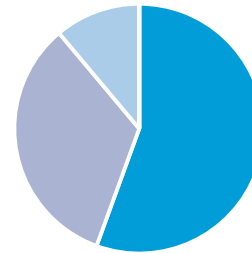


Q5. My practice of listening to student voice through journals, conversation and experiences and responding with flexibility as we co-design learning tasks, has grown since my participation in the Open Minds program.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q6. The orientation, summer in-service, planning meeting and CC/OM workshops throughout the year have met my needs.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

# Survey Results: TEACHER

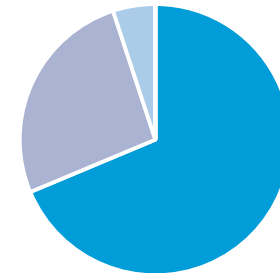


**“It allowed me as a teacher to see genuine learning in my students because they wanted to learn, not because they had to learn. The students were in search of information rather than just being presented information.”  
~ Teacher**

**“I love teaching, and the above statement should read "elevated my passion for teaching and learning", because it really has!” ~ Teacher**

**“I wish I could go every week!” ~ Teacher**

**Q7. My participation in Open Minds has renewed my passion for teaching and learning.**

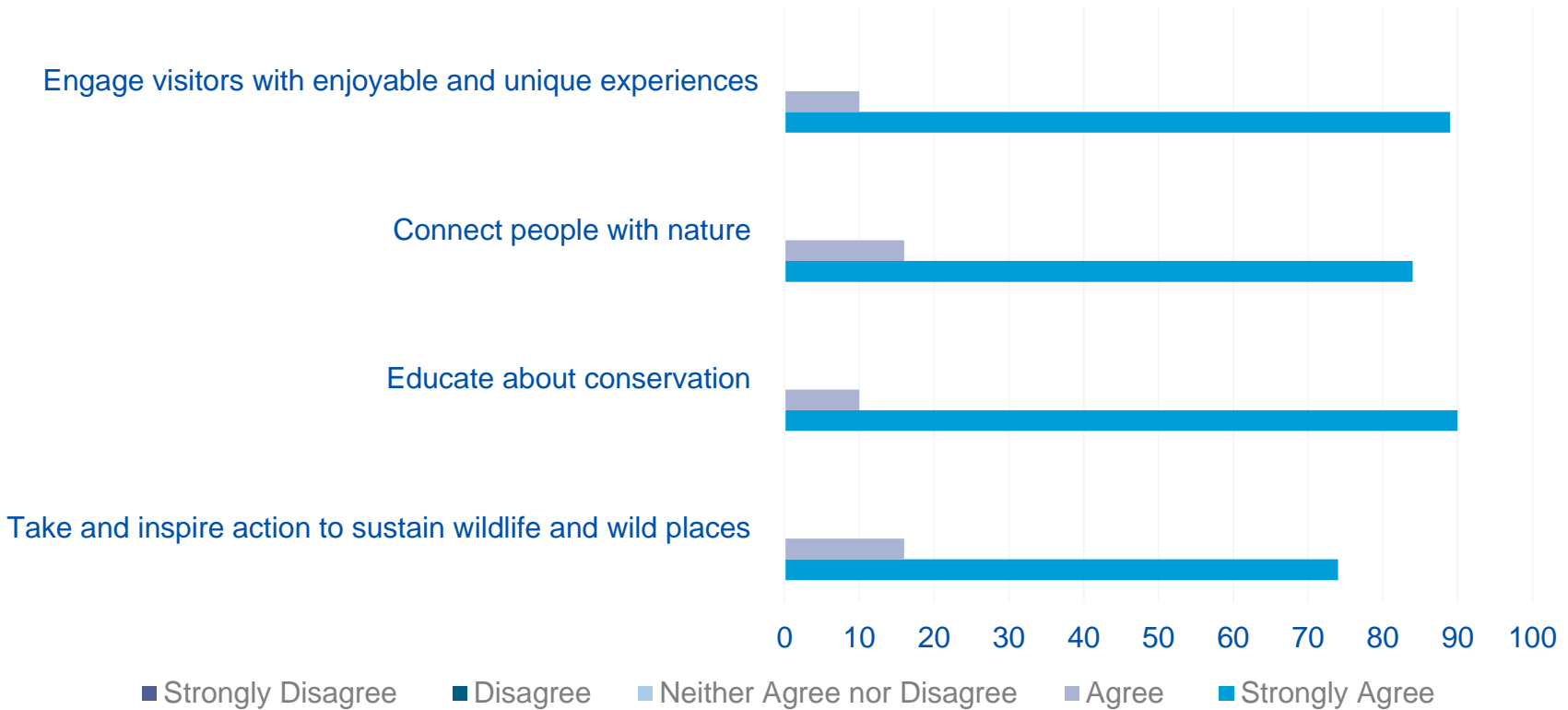


- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

# Survey Results: TEACHER



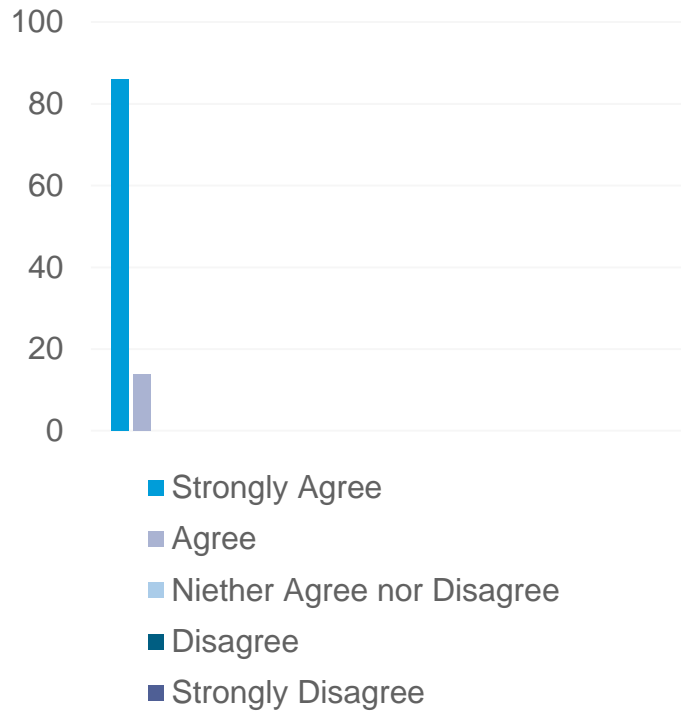
Q8. Your Zoo School experience met the Calgary Zoo's objectives to:



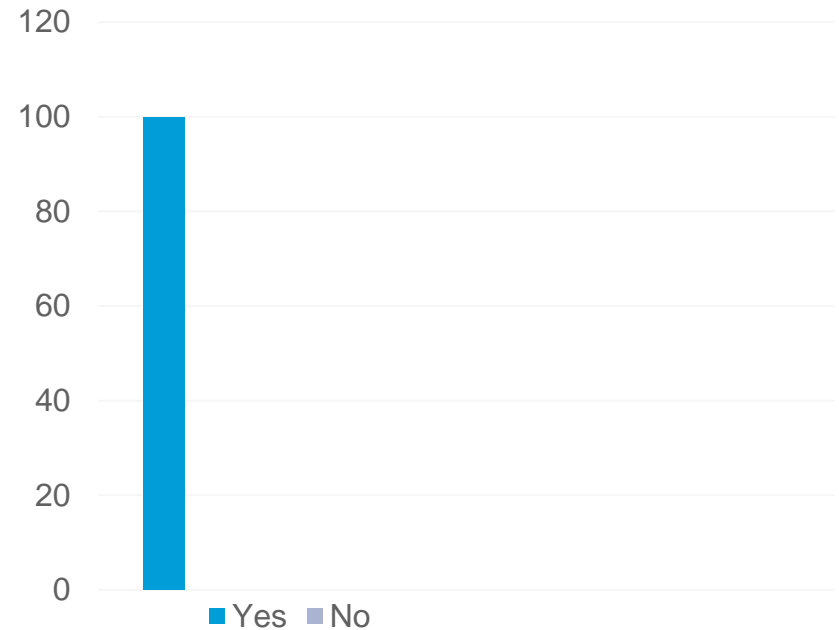
# Survey Results: TEACHER



How strongly do you agree with the statement, "Supporting the Calgary Zoo is a good way to support wildlife conservation."



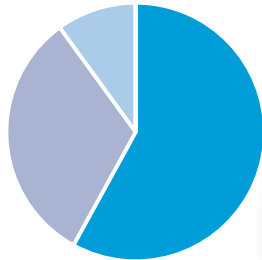
Are you aware of the Calgary Zoo's wildlife conservation efforts?



# Survey Results: STUDENTS



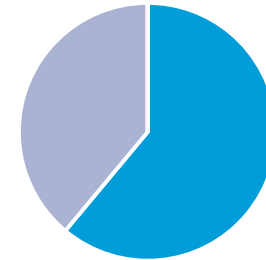
Q9. My students are likely to apply the knowledge and skills acquired across all academic disciplines since their participation in the Open Minds program.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Q10. My students have gained confidence as learners since participation in the Open Minds program.

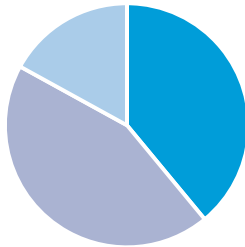


- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

# Survey Results: STUDENTS



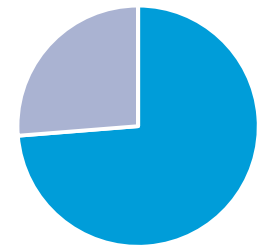
Q11. My students are more engaged as demonstrated by taking responsibility for their own learning since their participation in the Open Minds program.



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



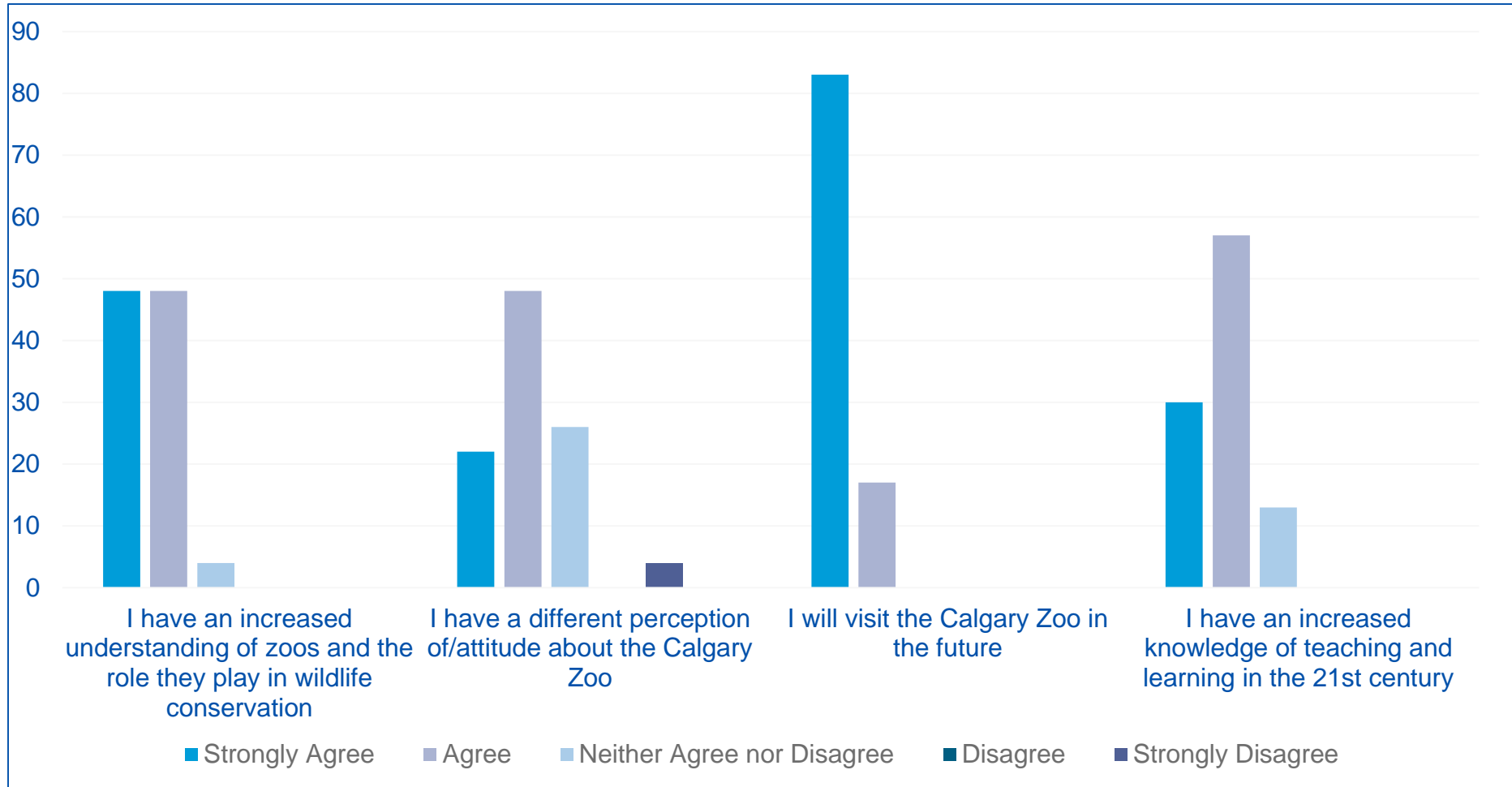
Q12. My students have gained a greater sense of environmental awareness and concern for the environment since their participation in the Open Minds Zoo School program.



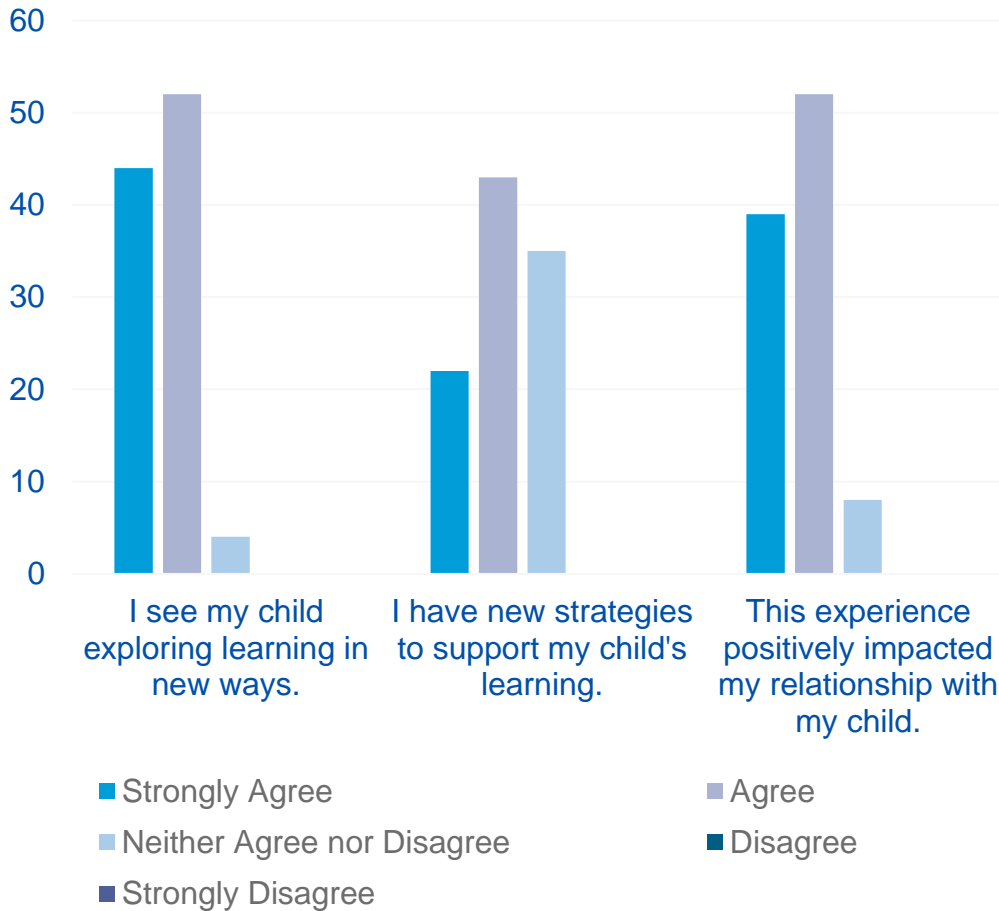
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



# Survey Results: PARENTS



# Survey Results: PARENTS

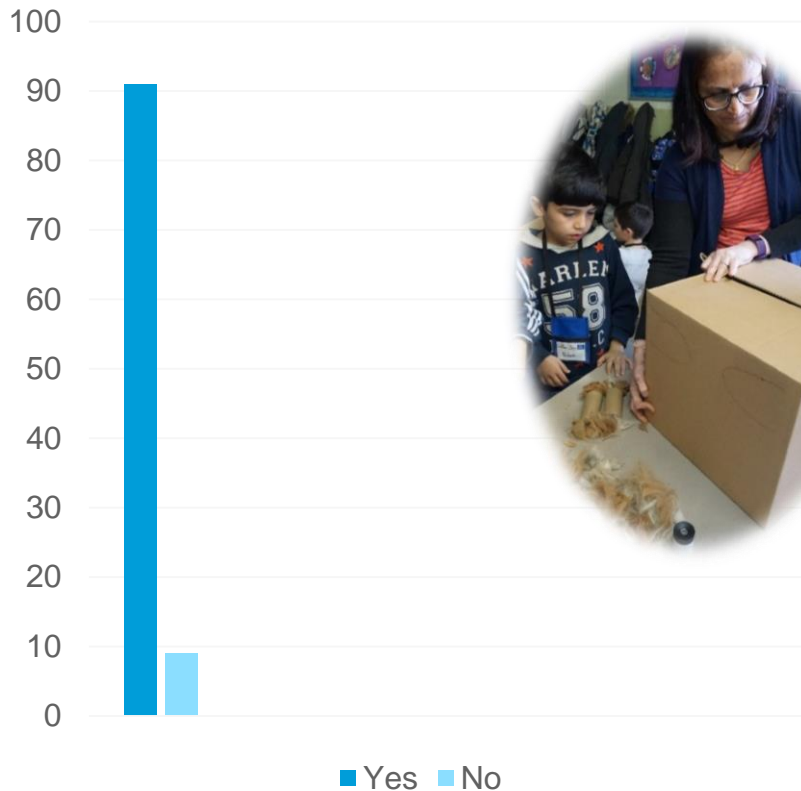


“The student participation was tremendous. Totally support this program.” ~ Parent

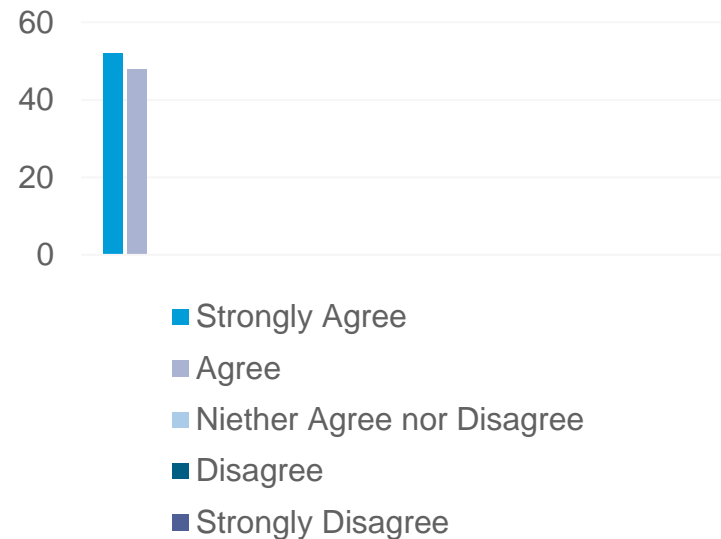
“Open Minds is a wonderful opportunity for students. I wish all students could participate and have an opportunity each year to try something different.” ~ Parent

# Survey Results: PARENTS

Are you aware of the Calgary Zoo's wildlife conservation efforts?



How strongly do you agree with the statement, "Supporting the Calgary Zoo is a good way to support wildlife conservation."



# Thank You Chevron!



“I used to think that you could only find knowledge in a text book, but now I think it’s everywhere around us.”  
~ Grade 10 student



“It is such an amazing opportunity to see students in a different setting, to watch them foster curiosity and creativity in a new space. It also allows a space for students to engage in **authentic real world** experiences that extend their learning outside the walls of the school.” ~ Teacher