

NWT Youth Corps Program 2004-2005 Report



**Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Sport, Recreation and Youth**



Minister's Message

As Minister Responsible for Youth, I am pleased to present the *NWT Youth Corps Program, 2004-2005 Report*.

In the Northwest Territories, young people are the fastest growing segment of our population. Over half of our residents are under 30 years of age. The NWT Youth Corps Program provides youth with a variety of opportunities that promote healthy choices, nurture leadership abilities and support positive lifestyle choices, which will result in personal well-being and a better quality of life in communities.

For example, one of the programs supported was the third phase of the *Rae Edzo Trapper Training Program*. Approximately 175 youth from Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School were given the opportunity to explore and learn about the trapping industry. They learned how to establish and maintain a trap line, about humane trapping methods, pelt preparation and other skills. They were also given instruction by elders on winter survival skills, Aboriginal traditions surrounding trapping, and the importance of this trade to the Dogrib people. This program is one example of a number of excellent programs supported through the NWT Youth Corps Program.

Although this Report is primarily focused on activity from the 2004–2005 fiscal year, information on other time periods is also included due to the long-term nature of many of the projects.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the projects supported by the NWT Youth Corps Program, particularly because the projects offer options for youth who may not respond to regular school or community programs. It is my hope that young people will continue to benefit from these opportunities and carve out new opportunities for themselves in the future.

For more information on the NWT Youth Corps Program, please contact the Municipal and Community Affairs office in your region.

Honourable Michael McLeod
Minister Responsible for Youth



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Youth Entry Level Skills Program

September 2004 to April 2005

108 Participants

The 2004-2005 *Youth Entry Level Skills Program (YELS)* expanded in its third year to include three components:

- 1) Mobile Introduction to Trades Training (MITT)
- 2) Tools for Schools
- 3) Oil and Gas Careers Awareness

The Mobile Introduction to Trades Training program was offered to community schools from September 2004 to April 2005 and included introductory level courses in small engine repair, plumbing, electrical, building construction and welding. This program was very appealing to students as they were able to attend courses that are not regularly offered in their schools. The overall student pass rate for Mobile Introduction to Trades Training module completion was 85 percent.

The Tools for Schools component of YELS assisted schools in the replacement of old, unsafe equipment in existing industrial arts shops and the setting up of new shops in schools that had none. Six schools in five communities received kits to help with their programs.

The Oil and Gas Awareness Program ran from February 14 to March 11, 2005 and consisted of three weeks of class instruction and one week of worksite placement. A total of 15 students were selected from 22 applications. Seven students successfully completed the classroom component and moved on to worksite placement. Students in the program received a total of 44 high school credits, plus certificates in First Aid/Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.



Partners offering work placements

- Beaufort Delta Education Council
- Chevron Texaco/British Petroleum
- Inuvik Gas Ltd.
- Vari-Illuq
- Shell Canada
- Encana/Akita Equitak

Quotes from Students

“Taking the oil and gas program gave me the inspiration for what I want to be in life.”

“I can’t think of anything that was not beneficial. The whole class teaches everything you need to know about a drill rig.”

Inuvialuit Development Corporation Outward Bound Leadership Program

Two Week Program 12 Participants

The Inuvialuit Development Corporation Leadership Expedition facilitated by Outward Bound Canada provided wilderness programming for young people within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The students, selected by their high school principals, embarked on a “learning adventure” where they learned more about themselves, their abilities and the world around them while also gaining important wilderness skills.

During the program, students were sent to the Horton River where they faced challenging tasks and were required to work as a team in order to meet their goals. As a result of their hard work, students left with a greater sense of self-reliance, courage, strength and compassion.

At the completion of the expedition the students and their families participated in a banquet celebration.

As a result of the program’s success, it received much positive media coverage. Articles were written in the regional “UpHere” magazine and local newspapers, and the program also received airtime on CBC Radio and national television. DVDs of the leadership expedition were also produced.



Partners

- Outward Bound Canada
- Schools in the region
- Canadian North Airlines
- Aklak Air
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation



Inuvik Works, Year Two

April 2004 to March 2005

25 Participants

The Inuvik Works project was established to address labor market needs and the social needs of residents. The project assisted residents (including youth) in education and training, with a working component to help them build the skills and abilities necessary to enter or re-enter the regular work force. The objective was to have participants obtain full-time employment or continue with further education or training that would allow them to realize their career goals.

Participants in Inuvik Works were also offered courses and training in various areas such as Global Positioning Systems, First Aid/Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, Resume Writing and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

Partners

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Canada Council of Arts
- Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Town of Inuvik, Northwest Territories



Inuvik Family Centre Trades Training

June 2004 to March 2005

Two Participants

The Trades Training program provided training for two youth at the Inuvik Family Centre construction project. Over ten months, the Town of Inuvik provided employment to train the youth in carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

Ninety North Contractors Ltd. provided supervision, tools and training for these employees over the ten-month period, which allowed them to acquire the skills necessary to make them employable in the construction trades.

Partners

- Ninety North Contractors Ltd.
- Town of Inuvik, Northwest Territories



K'asho Got'ine Youth Program

August 2004 to March 2005 12 Participants

The K'asho Got'ine Youth Program offered several activities and events for youth (ages five to 18) in Fort Good Hope. Programming ran for seven months and included youth assemblies, on-the-land activities, traditional events, recreation and sport activities, youth workshops, Elders assistance and youth-community relations activities.

Participation in the program helped the youth establish self-awareness of the issues they face today and in the future. The program successfully gave the youth a vital role within their community.

Partners

- K'asho Got'ine Community Council



Nahanni Butte and Kakisa Lake Outdoor Education Project, Year One

September 2004 to June 2005

18 participants

The youth of Charles Yohin School in Nahanni Butte and Kakisa Lake Territorial School participated in a comprehensive Outdoor Education Project. The project was established to teach youth specific skills required for survival in the wilderness and enhancement of their quality of life in a small isolated community.

The group participated in various programs, including cross-country ski clinics and meets, a First Aid course, two traditional camps, a rope course, and paddling skills practice. The project wrapped up with a rafting trip down the South Nahanni River from Virginia Falls to Nahanni Butte and a community feast. The experience provided youth with a wealth of skills in safety, sporting, leisure, fitness and leadership.

This program offered valuable youth programming in outdoor education that encourages careers in tourism, recreation and on-the-land professions. It also incorporated valuable instruction and role modeling for cultural appreciation of Elders, the animals, and the land.

Partners

- Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Nahanni Butte District Education Authority
- Parks Canada, Government of Canada
- Nahanni River Adventures
- Dehcho First Nations
- Kakisa Lake Band
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Anadarko Oil and Gas
- Deh Cho Divisional Education Council



Chief Jimmy Bruneau Trapper Training Program, Year Three

October 2004 to April 2005
175 participants

This land-based, trapper-training program focused on trapping in the Tlicho Settlement Area. Through this program, students learned from Elders and gained greater respect for the land and others.

In its third year of operation the program expanded its trapping lines, acquired more specialized equipment and included Elders. The main focus activity in 2004-2005 was the construction of a new cabin.

Students learned, through hands-on experience, the different phases of building a cabin. The construction of the cabin allowed students to implement classroom math and science concepts. Students also participated in traditional trapping, fishing and rabbit snaring. The cabin is now available for future trapping seasons.

The students within this program enhanced their current skills while learning more traditional skills.



Partners

- Dogrib Rae Band
- Chief Jimmy Bruneau School



Kole Crook Fiddle Camp

March 22 to 26, 2005

29 participants

The Kole Crook fiddle camp was established as a three year program to teach fiddling skills to youth. The camp educates youth on how to share their knowledge and skills with other budding musicians. Students of the camp are given the opportunity to travel to other fiddle camps in Canada.

The students received daily lessons and participated in evening activities such as jigging lessons and arts and crafts. Through participation in the camp, the students learned self-discipline and service to society through music. The camp ended with a wind-up concert.

Program evaluations show that students thoroughly enjoyed learning with their peers. The experience improved the student's skills and increased their enthusiasm for their instrument.

Partners

- Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Fort Smith Metis Council
- Aurora College, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Northwestern Air Lease



Nahanni National Park Reserve; Cultural Interpretation and Guide Training Program

May 2004 to June 2004
10 participants

Through the Cultural Interpretation and Guide Training Program, Fort Simpson youth gained knowledge of fundamental rafting and guiding skills. The group learned about raft construction and camp preparations required for guiding. Mental and physical preparation essential for rafting and guiding were also practiced. The activities of this training program provided youth with opportunities to build self-esteem and leadership skills.

The cultural component of the program was a great success. Much of the cultural significance and history of the park was incorporated into the training sessions and activities. Youth constantly reconnected with traditional Dene skills and culture.

The program ended with youth and instructors rafting 118 kilometres from Virginia Falls to Nahanni Butte. The trip allowed the youth to practice the skills and knowledge they learned during the program.



Partners

- Liidlil Kue First Nations
- Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Village of Fort Simpson
- Nahanni River Adventures
- Business Development Centre
- Regional Justice Coordinator

Whati Youth Empowerment Program

July 2004 to March 2005
15 to 20 participants

The goal of this program was to build and operate a safe traditional learning site for the youth of Whati. With the guidance and support of the community and Elders, youth were involved in building log cabins. This environment allowed youth to gain valuable survival and coping skills while building self-esteem.

Program graduates indicate that the program was a success for all involved, and that youth did connect with their community and Elders. Participants gained a greater respect for their land, community and especially themselves. The skills and values gained have improved their employability within the community workforce and beyond.

Partners

- Whati First Nation
- Lac La Marte Development Corporation
- Whati Community Store
- Alex Confectionary



Fort Liard Community Action Team

October 2004 to March 2005 15 participants

Community members of Fort Liard established the Community Action Team in the spring of 2004. The Team created a program comprised of youth workshops that focused on addressing negative peer pressure. Four three-day workshops ran separately throughout the 2004-2005 school year.

In addition, Fort Liard youth also got a chance to experience a Don Burnstick community performance. Mr. Burnstick performed the Sex, Alcohol and Drugs workshop and a play titled I AM ALCOHOL. Mr. Burnstick demonstrated the circle of human life and the importance of controlling your own life. The performance was very inspiring and influential for youth.

Partners

- Hamlet of Fort Liard, Northwest Territories
- Dehcho Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Echo Dene School
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Fort Resolution Youth Development

April 2004 to March 2005
100 participants

This program assists youth in development through various activities. As a direct result of this program, the youth of Fort Resolution established a Youth Council to provide youth with a voice in their community. The Youth Council was very active in establishing a Youth Drop-In program, a gymnasium program and arena operations.

The Youth Council also played a significant role in the decision-making process to establish Zamboni training for youth, as well as a setting up a hockey school. The hockey school was instructed by former National Hockey League player Steve Larmer and current NHL player Scott Walker among others.

Partners

- Deninu K'ue Council

NWT Youth Abroad Program (Pilot Phase)

October 2004-Present 20 participants

The NWT Youth Abroad Program is a program derived from the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program. Participants, 15-21 years of age, develop cross-cultural awareness and establish individual career goals through work and learning experiences in southern Canada and international placements. The program has two phases. In phase one, participants receive a Canadian placement. Eligibility for the second International phase is based upon completion of phase one.

The life changing experiences that occur within this program promote leadership and healthy self-confidence and self esteem development.

An exceptional amount of hard work and dedication has gone into the pilot phase of the program. Working volunteers have adapted the Nunavut program to meet specific needs of the NWT program, while maintaining the format of past successes. Meeting mostly by conference call, the working group established a specific vision and work plan for the NWT Youth Abroad Program.

A definite highlight of the pilot phase was the participant selection. After a very positive application response from youth in every region, ten participants and ten alternates were selected.

The Pilot Phase has proven to be a great success, preparing the program to move forward into phase one.



Partners

- Education Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Wildlife Health Project
- Canadian North Airline

Lutsel K'e Dene Bush School

April 1, 2004- March 31, 2005
20 participants

The Lutsel K'e Dene Bush School has been in the works for many years. This past year, two seasonal phases of the School occurred on Francoise Lake and Great Slave Lake. The school's objective is to educate at-risk youth in traditional skills, knowledge and values within a traditional setting. The school aims to form employable, respectful and understanding future leaders of Lutsel K'e.

With the guidance of traditional instructors, youth learned how to hunt, trap and net fish and game. The instruction included butchering and tanning animals, as well as traditional preparation and practices.

A drug and alcohol councilor provided ongoing support and structured counseling. Youth were encouraged to experience and appreciate a substance free lifestyle. This experience allowed youth to identify the importance of self well-being, as well as respect for others.

Academically, a local teacher assisted youth with a specially developed curriculum focused on achieving employability skills. Participants gained computer and general academic skills. Attaining these skills provided youth with a positive learning experience.

In addition to traditional and academic instruction and effective counseling, youth were able to attend on-site courses in the following: first aid; wilderness first aid; gun safety; trapping safety; Global Positioning System; survival skills; mapping and land orienteering skills; land monitoring; and small engine repair.

The Lutsel' Ke Dene Bush School played a vital role in the lives of the youth that attended. As a result, the community will benefit now and in the future.

Partners

- Education Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories
- Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, Government of the Northwest Territories

- Impact Benefits Agreement
- Lutsel K'e Dene School/South Slave District Education Authority
- Lutsel K'e Health and Social Services
- Diavik
- Akaitcho Territory Government (Education)
- Brighter Futures
- Justice Committee
- Local RCMP
- Co-op Store
- Wildlife, Lands and Environmental Development, Lutsel K'e Band
- Lutsel K'e Band Council