

Government of the Northwest Territories

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs Sport, Recreation and Youth NWT Youth Corps Program 2003-2004 Report





Minister's Message

As Minister Responsible for Youth, I am pleased to present the ***NWT Youth Corps Program, 2003-2004 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 *Rae Edzo Trapper Training Program*. Over 150 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 2003-2004 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 MACA office in your region.

Honourable Michael McLeod
Minister Responsible for Youth



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Summary of Financial Contributions

NWT Youth Corps Youth Contribution Programs 2003-2004 Budget Summary¹

Region	Program	2003-2004 Contribution
Inuvik	Inuvik Works	40,000
	Inuvik YELS Program	10,000
		<u>50,000</u>
Deh Cho	Nahanni Program	66,800
	Puppetry Project	10,300
		<u>77,100</u>
South Slave	Fort Smith CYCLE	61,740
		<u>61,740</u>
Sahtu	Sahtu Trapper Training Phase II	95,000
	Fort Good Hope Youth* (*deferred until 2004-2005)	98,035
		<u>193,035</u>
North Slave	Dogrib Peer Support	100,000
	CJB Trapper Training	21,600
		<u>121,600</u>
		<u><u>503,475</u></u>

¹ The 2003-2004 Budget included \$750,000 for the NWT Youth Corps Program, however, this amount was not fully expended. As this was the program's first year in operation, fewer applications were received than anticipated.



Inuvik Works

November 2002 to December 2003

Ten youth participants

The *Inuvik Works* program was established to improve the employability of youth by developing specific career skills and personal improvement habits through on-the-job training and targeted training events. The objective was to have participants obtain full-time employment or continue with education opportunities that will assist them in reaching their career goals.

Program participants were exposed to job readiness, workplace and personal skill development opportunities. They received training in life skills, workplace competencies, job readiness, personal development and labour/trade skills. Some of the topics covered included winter survival skills, firearms safety, conflict resolution, parenting, work ethics, nutrition and carpentry.

Partners:

- Town of Inuvik
- Community businesses and organizations



“[Inuvik Works] is **developing into a great community organization.**
They are quick to respond to requests for assistance and **many groups**
have supported them.”

– Contributor



Inuvik Youth Entry Level Skills Program (YELS), Year 2

May to June 2003

Four youth participants

The *Youth Entry Level Skills Program (YELS)* was established to offer current or potential high school dropouts the prerequisite training necessary to access job training programs and/or employment. In year 2 of the program, youth were offered the opportunity to explore a career in tourism, earn high school credits and receive training in setting career and life goals.

Youth were shown how to start a career in the tourism and hospitality industry. They received industry specific training in professionalism, office procedures, safety and sanitation, job search skills, and general knowledge of the tourism industry. An opportunity was also provided to obtain certification in work place health and safety, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, food safety and host training.

The Tourism Careers for Youth is one of three YELS programs offered since the program's inception. Other programs included an Oil and Gas Program and Information Technology and Computer Maintenance Program.

Partners:

- Beaufort Delta Education Council
- Department of Education, Culture and Employment (Early Childhood Development and School Services, Yellowknife, and College and Career Development, Inuvik)
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Canadian Human Resources Tourism Council



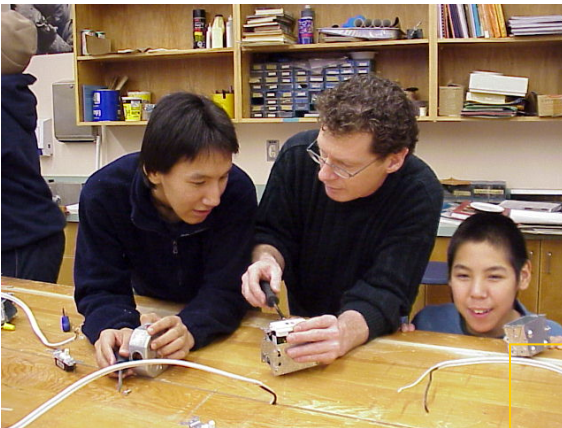
“Tourism for youth helped me a lot. I found out about aviation, and now I am going to be a pilot. I don’t think I would be this far without it.”

– Participant



“This project was a good thing. I was a drop-out but when I went to the YELS program they showed us and told us how important it is to be in school and school programs. After the program I went back to school and got a job the following year.”

– Participant





Nahanni National Park Cultural Interpretation and Guide Training Project, Year 1

May 2003 – Ongoing²

Thirteen youth participants

The *Nahanni National Park Cultural Interpretation and Guide Training Project* is a three year program established to improve leadership skills in Fort Simpson youth through experiential learning opportunities and, for those interested, an opportunity to receive training that will assist them in seeking a career in outdoor guiding and the ecosystem industry. Participants are also being provided with an opportunity to learn about traditional skills and the cultural history of the Deh Cho.

The first year was divided into three components. During the summer session youth received training in paddling, aircraft use, river safety, geology and geomorphology, and wilderness living skills. In the cultural component youth were taught medicinal and traditional plant uses, animal and track identification, traditional ceremonies and Slavey translation. The winter practicum helped develop winter camping, survival and leadership skills during a ten-day on-the-land trip.

Partners:

- Liidlii Kue First Nation
- Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
- Deh Cho Friendship Centre
- Nahanni National Parks Services
- Village of Fort Simpson
- Spirit Discoveries

² It is anticipated that this project will run over three fiscal years (2003/04; 2004/05; and 2005/06), pending approval of funding.

“I strongly feel on this trip all adults demonstrated to be very healthy role models and mentored youth participants in skills training, in the camp, on the water, with behaviour sharing circles, safety in hiking and guiding. Youth were taught to cooperate and needed to for travel and trip success. Staff were supportive, helpful, explained how behaviour impacted the rest of the group and why, and asked youth what would have worked out better. The result was re-integration into the group, and better behaviour; youth understood action and impact. Long term result: anger management, preventing violence and riskful behaviour.”

- Contributor



“I sobered up by dealing with many issues and stress; boredom lead to mistakes and bad decisions. Example: I went to JP court for supplying minors, the JP gave me a second chance in April, now I got a chance to do something with friends and stay out of trouble on the Nahanni.”

- Participant

Fort Simpson Puppety Program

April to June 2003

Twenty-two performers from 5-55 years of age

The *Fort Simpson Puppety Program* was established to offer youth participants the opportunity to develop their own theatrical performances and learn public education and performance skills.

The program used puppets to relay stories about serious issues within the community. It was a collaboration between elders, educators, a musician, other leaders and the youth participants. A video was produced that will be used as an educational tool to reflect social issues and initiate discussion in youth. Over 70 community residents were involved in the project.

Partners:

- Open Sky Festival
- Deh Cho Friendship Centre
- Liidlii Kue First Nation
- Village of Fort Simpson Recreation Centre
- Bompas Elementary School
- Thomas Simpson School

“The puppetry project was a good idea. The project was well received by the kids, the community and by the political leaders. It was not much money and the kids enjoyed it.”

– Contributor



Fort Smith Co-ordinating Youth in the Community With Leadership Experience (CYCLE) Program

October 2003 to March 2004

CYCLE was established to offer youth participants the opportunity to learn skills in leadership and business so that they in turn might run other programs for local youth. The program also fostered personal, social and professional development by encouraging youth to engage in volunteer and semi-volunteer services to help their community and school.

CYCLE was a tiered program based on a combination of volunteerism, semi-volunteerism and paid employment. Participants contributed time to the operation of the teen room and the recreation centre's concession.

Partners:

- P.W. Kaeser High School
- Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre
- Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Local organizations and businesses



“This project has a valuable **impact** on **self esteem** of ‘youth at risk’ in Fort Smith.”

– Contributor

Sahtu Trapper Training Program, Year 2

September 2003 to June 2004

Ten youth participants

The *Sahtu Trapper Training Program*, developed in cooperation with a number of partners including the Fur Institute of Canada, was established to provide an opportunity for 'at risk youth' to learn trapping skills and receive educational upgrading. Program goals included developing participant self-reliance and self-esteem through teaching traditional knowledge, language and culture skills. Upon completion of the program, it was anticipated that youth would contribute to their families and communities by taking part in a local traditional economy and by continuing with further educational upgrading.

In the first year of the program (2002-2003), seven youth were taught all aspects of trapping. In addition, they earned high school equivalency credits. Two participants were invited to apply for the Imperial Oil Apprenticeship Program.

The second phase of the program (2003-2004) emphasized academic work and achievement while continuing with an opportunity for participants to learn traditional trapping and other land based culture. The nine-month training/educational program involved two separate streams, one for young women and one for young men.

Partners:

- Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Sahtu Divisional Board of Education
- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Fur Institute of Canada
- International Fur Trade Federation
- Northern Stores



“From an academic standpoint the program was excellent in reaching its goals. On average, students earned a total of 33 high school credits, with one student earning 37 credits. The average credit allocation for a high school student in a one-year program is 30-35 credits. This project exceeded board norms. Prior to this camp, only two of the nine students were enrolled in school...These boys are now back in the school system and many now have career goals in mind... These boys have learned some incredible skills for living on the land and trapping that will be with them forever...skills they can pass on to their children.”

– Contributor

Dogrib Peer Support Program

February 2003 to June 2004

Forty-four youth participants

The *Dogrib Peer Support Program* helped youth learn about and teach to other youth, teenage health issues, culture and tradition, effects of alcohol and basic interpersonal communication skills. It also provided training in job preparation skills and encouraged youth to return to school and contribute to their community through volunteer work.

Targeted youth included those who were in danger of dropping out of school, getting in trouble with the law or were facing other risks. A youth officer, community volunteers and Chief Jimmy Bruneau High School supported the program.

Partner:

- Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School



a positive and productive place
“Giving very troubled lost youth **a positive and productive place to go** to get help was an important success. Somewhere they are **safe** and **respected** and **cared for**. This is lacking in our community... Parents were really thrilled that finally **a progressive project had been created** to help their children because for too long their children had nowhere to go and were in trouble in their lives.”

– Contributor

Chief Jimmy Bruneau Trapper Training Program, Year 2

October 2003 to April 2004

One hundred-fifty to two hundred student participants

The *Chief Jimmy Bruneau Trapper Training Program* was established to promote trapping in the Dogrib region, connect youth with elders and model a respect for the land and each other.

In 2002-2003, the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Rae Edzo piloted the program to develop trapping knowledge and bush skills in youth participants. Workshops were conducted on species recognition, trap safety, basic sets, fur industry issues and humane trapping.

In the second year of the program (2003-2004), the program was expanded to develop and improve school trap lines and to purchase equipment such as snowmobiles, sleds, traps, helmets and a satellite phone. It also incorporated elders to enhance the cultural and linguistic aspect of the program.

Partners:

- Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School
- Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
- Local Elders



“Trips to the bush often overlapped into other subject areas. **Essays in language arts, projects in social studies, science and art** have all been generated by trips to the trap line.”

– Contributor

