

# Indigenous Youth Leadership Programs from Coast to Coast



# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## **Northern Youth Abroad**

Northern Youth Abroad (NYA) is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization that cultivates youth leadership, individual career goals, cross-cultural awareness, and international citizenship amongst youth from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories aged 15-22. The program strengthens the self-identity and cultural understanding of its participants and enhances their participation and success in the school system by providing a life-changing and life-directing experience relevant to the needs and aspirations of Northern youth.

Participants travel from Northwest Territories and Nunavut to Ottawa in late June for a program orientation. Here, they learn about group dynamics, self-reliance, leadership techniques, increasing confidence, health and safety in the work place, and on-the-job skills. Following orientation, Participants travel in pairs to live with host families across the country and begin a six-week volunteer work placement. Pairing the youth builds a support system for each Participant – a crucial element of the program’s success – and promotes lasting friendships and networks between youth in the North. While on placement, Participants gain hands on work place experience in a chosen field and engage in cultural sharing in their host community. Confidence is built by experiencing life away from home, but still being connected to a strong support network.

### **Contact:**

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rebecca@nya.ca  
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Northern  
Youth  
Abroad

FOR NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## **NWT Youth Ambassador Program**

The NWT Youth Ambassador Program gives youth an opportunity to build leadership skills through participation at special events and volunteer assignments:

- Opportunity to travel and volunteer at special events. Past events include: Arctic Winter Games, Canada Games, and the North American Indigenous Games.
- Build leadership and life skills through specialized training and volunteering
- Meet youth from across the NWT and Canada
- Represent your community and the NWT

### **Contact:**

Ashley Gillis

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[www.maca.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-youth-ambassador-program](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-youth-ambassador-program)



# NUNAVUT / YUKON

## **Get Happy Summer Day Camp**

This program provides a week long training session to summer day camp staff, and supports communities in hosting successful 4 – 6 week day camp programs. The program started as a pilot in 2015 with five communities and in 2018 it will see fourteen communities involved! Training includes first aid and High Five certification, team building, leadership development, program planning hands on activities. RPAN provides communities with craft supplies, t-shirts, equipment and snack funding. Partners include the Jays Care Foundation, One Ocean Expeditions, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, NorthWest and the Kitikmoet Inuit Association. In our first three years more than 100 young leaders have participated in the week-long training sessions and more than 3,000 children have participated in the day camp programs.

### **Contact:**

Dawn Currie  
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<http://rpan.ca/>

## **Recreation North**

Recreation North is a partnership of three territorial recreation and parks associations working with others to strengthen recreation capacity across the North. Recreation North is developing a meaningful and relevant community recreation leadership program in collaboration with government and communities, and with generous funding from the Arctic Inspiration Prize.

Recreation North has designed a training program based on 13 core competencies for community recreation leaders. If you live in Yukon, NWT or Nunavut, and work or would like to work or volunteer in recreation but have little or no formal training or education in the field, this program is designed for you.

### **Contact:**

Amanda Grobbecker  
agrobbecker@nwtrpa.ca  
<https://www.recnorth.ca/>



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

## **Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference**

The Gathering Our Voices (GOV) youth leadership training, hosted by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and its Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC), is held annually in March during the education break. The local Friendship Centre and surrounding First Nations are engaged to ensure the community is consulted from planning to implementation.

Since GOV began, the goal for the leadership training has been simple and unwavering: provide Indigenous youth with the tools to work towards a better tomorrow by improving themselves and the world in which they live. Over the course of four days, up to 1,500 delegates gather from across Canada to participate in ceremonies, workshops and engaging, informative and educational experiences.

Youth take part in workshops addressing important issues they face today, including:

- self esteem and leadership development
- anti-violence and anti-bullying
- health and wellness
- physical activity, sport and recreation
- education and career planning

### **Contact:**

[gatheringourvoices@bcaafc.com](mailto:gatheringourvoices@bcaafc.com)

<http://www.gatheringourvoices.ca/>



# ALBERTA

## Future Leaders Program

The Alberta's Future Leaders Program (AFL) is a community and youth development program that uses sport, recreation, arts and leadership activities to provide Indigenous youth with active, positive opportunities. Entering into a 3-year partnership with the AFL program, partner communities host two trained Mentors who run youth-focused activities and trips from May to August for 3 consecutive years.

<https://albertasport.ca/programs/future-leaders-program/>



## Nîkânîw Youth Leadership Program

The City of Edmonton is currently accepting program applications to identify 60 participants for the Nikaniw Indigenous Youth Leadership Program. Nîkânîw means “one who leads the way” in Cree. Nîkânîw combines the cultural teachings and guidance of Indigenous Elders and Leaders with the instruction of water safety education, first aid, CPR and leadership skills

This is a 2-year program. In the first year, you can receive your Amenity Attendant, Emergency First Aid and Standard First Aid. If candidates are stronger swimmers, they can challenge their Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross. In the second year, you can receive your Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Water Safety Instructor, National Lifeguard and Aquatic Emergency Care.

### Contact:

Raelee Hawkes

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[https://www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services/for\\_children\\_kids\\_youth/](https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/for_children_kids_youth/)

# SASKATCHEWAN

## City of Saskatoon Indigenous Leadership Program

A leader must be brave enough to raise their voice and act. Leaders are an inspiration to others, and help people achieve a common goal.

The program is an umbrella for a variety of exciting experiences that teach you how to be a leader in Saskatoon.

Projects include:

- Indigenous Lifeguard Program
- Indigenous Fitness Leader Program
- Adult & Community Leadership Development
- Summer Program Staff Opportunities
- Atoske Skills & Employment Summer Training Camp
- Youth Leadership Summits

## Atoske Summer Training Program

The Atoske summer training program is an excellent opportunity for students to strengthen their academic and life skills, while exploring various careers offered through the City of Saskatoon. These skills are essential for future employment with the City of Saskatoon and other youth serving agencies.

**For both programs, please contact:**

[Indigenousleadership@saskatoon.ca](mailto:Indigenousleadership@saskatoon.ca)

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/community-culture-heritage/cultural-diversity/aboriginal-leadership-program>



# SASKATCHEWAN

## **Tomorrow's Y's Leaders Grades 7-12**

Aboriginal youth will explore the opportunity to improve their self-esteem, build upon leadership skills, strengthen interpersonal values, and expand their appreciation of diversity. This will allow the youth to gain developmental assets and build relationships with peers, other adults and leaders in the community. This program will encourage youth to broaden their interests and to make healthy, positive life choices. These skill building techniques, essential to engage and empower youth, which serve as the foundation to learning and life achievement.

Leaders I – Formerly known as Youth Adventurers (Boys Group) / Girls Growing Strong (Girls Group) Grades 4-6

The program aims to provide a sense of responsibility and well-being while improving the self-esteem and confidence of your child.

Leaders II – Formerly known as Leaders in Training (LIT's) Grades 7-9

Youth participate in activities that help them discover who they are as individuals and what they can do to make positive changes in their communities.

Leaders III – formerly known as Leaders Grades 10-12

Youth learn about community service, volunteerism and health and wellness as they plan and implement projects to help their communities.

### **Contact:**

Eder Garzona

(309) 757-9622

<http://regina.ymca.ca/youth-leadership-programs/>



# ONTARIO

## Youth Leadership Retreat

Indigenous youth from across Ontario receive an open invitation to attend the Retreat at the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre in Longford Mills, Ontario. The Retreat encompasses sport development workshops, Western and Indigenous health and wellness for teens and young adult workshops, a land-based survival workshop, and an Indigenous history, games, and stories workshop.

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Retreat will give youth the opportunity to hone their skills and magnify their leadership potential in sport, culture, and developing skills for the work or higher education.

### Contact:

Lauren King  
IndigenousLIT1@gmail.com  
<http://aswco.ca/iylr/>



## Awakening Our Leadership Spirit

The Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program (AYLP) is offered by the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre and Leadership Thunder Bay to develop tomorrow's community leaders. The program is built on the seven grandfather teachings as well as the teachings of the medicine wheel to grow cultural, spiritual, mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. Participants enjoy a retreat, cultural activities, learning days, and make new connections with Aboriginal youth and other community leaders.

### Contact:

Rebecca Johnson  
info@leadershiptb.com  
<http://www.leadershiptb.com/wp-content/uploads/AYLP-HandBill-WEB.pdf>



# ONTARIO

## **MNO Infinite Reach Network**

The MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network is comprised of incoming and upper year post-secondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance their post-secondary education experience. The program is designed to ease the transition of Métis students to post-secondary education by creating a network of Métis students from across the province that can share experiences and support one another in their academic pursuits.

An integral part of the Infinite Reach Network is to ensure that Métis high school students can accomplish the transition to post-secondary studies knowing they will be supported by members of the Métis community. A key way this is accomplished is through the Infinite Reach March break camp. The camp is designed to engage young Métis students interested in higher education in a retreat that focuses on the benefits of college and university education. Students also learn about Métis history and are involved in cultural activities throughout their stay.

### **Contact:**

InfiniteReach@metisnation.org

<http://www.metisnation.org/programs/education-training/mno-youth-update/youth-leadership/mno-infinite-reach-network/>



# NOVA SCOTIA

## Youth Conservation Corp- Aboriginal Leadership Program

The Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps provides youth with environmental work experience, an enhanced appreciation of the environment and their community, and develops skills for life-long learning.

Within the Youth Corps is the unique Aboriginal Leadership Program. We partner with aboriginal organizations to provide 15-week internships to university-level students in the province. The leadership component has an increased focus on building career management skills and sustainability education to support youth as they transition to the workforce. Leadership students have a separate, more intensive training camp where the students are trained in project management, external communications, leadership, and supervision skills.

### Contact:

Caytlyn McFadden

cmcfadden@clean.ns.ca

<http://clean.ns.ca/programs/youth-engagement>



## Social Youth Outreach Program

To improve immediate and long term social, economic and health outcomes for Aboriginal Youth living off reserve between the ages of 16-19 years to access services to meet their individual needs.

This program assists youth in finding and utilizing the resources in partnership with community service providers to reduce barriers by offering services such as:

- Drop in service
- Crisis Management
- Encourage healthy lifestyles
- Programs and workshops
- Cultural Teachings
- Mentoring
- Referrals and Linkages

### Contact:

Brittany Julian

reachyouth@ncns.ca

<http://ncns.ca/social-youth-outreach-program/>



# NOVA SCOTIA

## Eagle Youth Program

The Eagle Youth Program began in 2017 and is a weekly gathering of youth who work towards earning badges based on 10 pillars. The 10 core pillars of the program are:

- Alcohol and drug free
- Mi'kmaq language
- Culture values
- Respect
- Leadership
- Academic
- Integrity
- Volunteerism
- Commitment and Participation
- Fun



Through workshops, activities, and projects, the Eagle Youth Program works to:

- Preserve Mi'kmaw Culture
- Bridge Gaps between Elders and our Youth
- Build Character
- Create a Safe Environment
- Empowering the Youth
- Creating Friendships
- Having Fun

**Contact:** Steven Googoo, [stevengoogoo@gmail.com](mailto:stevengoogoo@gmail.com)

# NATIONAL

## Outward Bound Canada

Outward Bound Canada's programs for Indigenous youth and young adults combine the philosophy of Outward Bound with the values and teachings reflected in Canadian Indigenous cultures and communities.. Outward Bound's programs for Indigenous youth and adults are guided by the following principles:

- Community-driven: direction and goals are established by our community partners.
- Culturally-grounded: built on the particular cultural strengths, traditions and values of the communities we serve.
- Capacity-building: create lasting value and build capacity for our community partners.
- Deep collaboration: we aspire to build authentic partnerships that support the long-term development goals of Indigenous communities.

### Contact:

info@outwardbound.ca

[http://www.outwardbound.ca/course\\_index.asp?Category=112](http://www.outwardbound.ca/course_index.asp?Category=112)

## GEN 7

In collaboration with Active Circle, GEN7 encourages Aboriginal youth to live, and encourage others to live, an active and healthy lifestyle through sport, physical activity, and other means. GEN7 also helps Aboriginal youth to become leaders in their community.

### Contact:

Lisa Kwiatkowski

[lisa@motivatecanada.ca](mailto:lisa@motivatecanada.ca)

<http://www.motivatecanada.ca/en/about-gen7/what-is-gen7>

