

OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

2021 NATIONAL REPORT



NEW
OPPORTUNITIES

OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MISSION

Equity & opportunity for Indigenous Youth through land-based learning.

VISION

To support networks working towards inclusion in the natural resources sector through education, training and work opportunities.

VALUES

- Respect for land and culture.
- Responsible and inclusive resource management.
- Listening to understand, engage and collaborate.



THROUGH THE YEARS

- X** 727 TOTAL GRADUATES
- X** 122 COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED
- X** 1293 HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS EARNED
- X** 391,000 HOURS WORKED
- X** 255+ PROGRAM PARTNERS
- X** 2.3 MILLION TREES PLANTED



PROGRAMING

- 5 ABOUT OYEP
- 8 2021 OUTCOMES
- 9 LOOKING FORWARD

YOUTH

- 6 NEW PATHS
- 10 AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT
- 13 TRAIL BREAKING

PARTNERSHIP

- 11 NEW NETWORK
- 12 NEW PARTNERSHIPS
- 14 FINANCIALS
- 15 2021 PARTNERS

OYEP 2021

2021 was the year of NEW!:

New curriculum, new partners, new participating communities, new services, new innovations and getting used to the new normal.

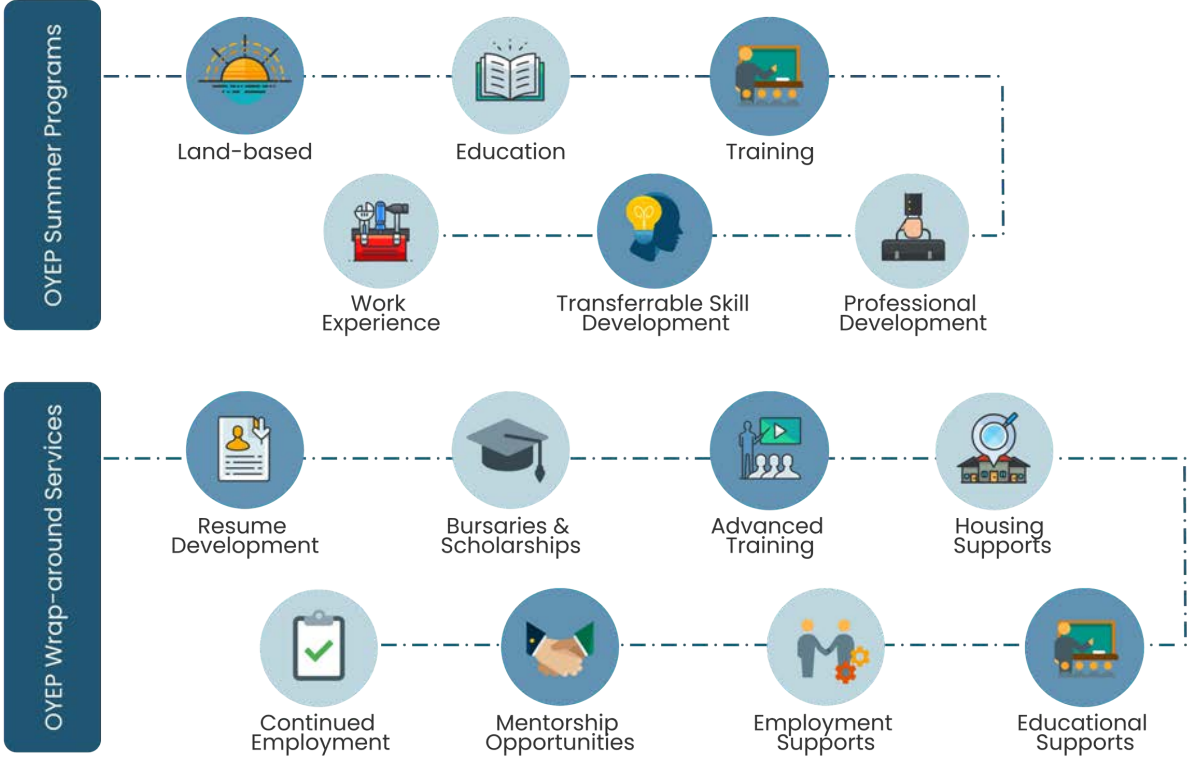
This report will highlight all the new opportunities available through OYEP and beyond. We saw amazing innovation and creative thinking from youth over the past year. From a virtual fishing derby to impressive entrepreneurship, OYEP graduates continue to prove they are a force to be reckoned with!

Congratulations to all the new OYEP graduates for completing another successful year!



NEW GROUND AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Dexterra Group's Outland Youth Employment Program is a national network of education, training and work opportunities for Indigenous Youth that includes our flagship six-week land-based summer program and comprehensive wrap around services. Our land-based programs run July and August, and wrap around services are available year round through the support of partners.



Since launching our new wrap around services:



100% of youth enrolled in the 2021 education portion of OYEP were successful in receiving two high school credits

25 YOUTH

participated in a mentorship program



OYEP supported 19 graduates to secure continued employment

19 Graduates

85 YOUTH access wrap-around services monthly

"I enjoyed the incorporation of Indigenous teachings. I learn better with them"

Jessica Iserhoff Edwards, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, ON



NEW PATHS

For more than two decades, OYEP graduates have pursued their passions and broadened their horizons. Here are some of their stories.

ZOEY SAWDO

Lac Des Mille Lac First Nation, ON

Zoey is an OYEP graduate and entrepreneur in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She is the owner/operator of Beary Cleaning Services (BCS). Established in 2017, BCS provides cleaning services to both residential and commercial buildings in the city. Zoey thrives on the positive impacts her services can bring to people stating, "Connecting with new people gives me the opportunity to learn new things and understand different cultures and backgrounds."

She took a moment to reflect on how OYEP has also positively impacted her life:

"OYEP has completely changed my life. It has not only made me understand that my true passion is working in the outdoors, but it also opened many job opportunities. The way I connected with other youth and supervisors completely changed my perspective. At OYEP I got my First Aid training and ended up having to use it on my one-year-old niece, and saved her life twice. OYEP gave me the skills to manage a business with financial literacy classes, and was there to help when I was first starting out. They offered me jobs and gave me the room for me to grow, learn, and get better. Wouldn't be who I am today without OYEP!"



MEGHAN JOURDAIN

Fort William First Nation, ON

"Spending six summers with the Outland Youth Employment Program has been a positive life-changing experience. Working as a Ranger to Crew Leader in Training to Crew Leader in multiple camps across Canada has encouraged me. I've gained valuable work experience and skills needed to successfully achieve my goals. Most recently, I graduated from the Native Child and Family Services Program at Confederation College and accepted a position as a Program Coordinator with Junior Achievement working out of the Outland Thunder Bay Office.

I have had unbelievable support from individuals I met along the way, who believed in my potential. I am truly grateful to be on the path I am on today."



BLAZE HEAD

Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB

Blaze graduated from OYEP in 2020. His good humour and leadership skills helped him fit perfectly into his role this summer as a Crew Leader in Training. Blaze plays an active role in his community and culture, bringing this passion to the workplace. He is currently working with Outland at Hudbay Minerals' Snow Lake Camp in Manitoba and has been accepted to a welding program at University College of the North for the winter. He plans to return to OYEP next season as a Crew Leader. This year Blaze spearheaded a community project through PLT's Green Leaders Program, which encourages mentorship, skill development, and community action. He successfully designed and executed a virtual family ice fishing derby to address the isolation brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. His high-level thinking, in recognizing the damage done by loneliness and alienation during the pandemic, is perfectly paired with the creative and fun problem-solving that he displays. Blaze is a natural leader. When interested in coming back next summer in a more involved role, he replied, "I want to do everything I can to help make it a better place for everyone."

Indigenous

Opaskwayak Cree Nation student plans virtual ice fishing derby



Blaze Head wanted to organize an event to get people outdoors and lift spirits



Lenard Monkman · CBC News · Posted: Mar 20, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: March 20



Blaze Head organized a virtual ice fishing derby for families in Opaskwayak Cree Nation. There are prizes for the biggest fish, ugliest fish and best video on how to fillet a fish. (Steven Feyereisen)

asked if he would be "This town is my home."

THOMAS SAVILLE

Temagami First Nation, ON

Thomas – Tommy – Saville recently started working for Temagami First Nation's Lands and Resources doing all things forestry, including tree planting, tree tending and surveying. Tommy was part of the inaugural OYEP Esker Lakes program and graduated in 2019. He reflected on his recent career choice saying, "I chose this job because I have the skills needed to be successful at it because of the training I received during my time with OYEP. OYEP provided me with training and other skills I need to be successful at my job in forestry. I had some of the greatest times of my life when I was with OYEP. I made friends and memories I will have with me for the rest of my life. OYEP also helped me graduate high school with their co-op credit program."



SARAH DIXON

Esk'etemc First Nation, BC

Sarah joined OYEP in 2018 for the inaugural year at the OYEP Prince George program. She completed two years as a ranger and joined the program this year as a Crew Leader in Training. Sarah is currently attending UNBC and recently specialized in First Nations studies with a minor in Political Science.

"My time with OYEP has given me more confidence to be more open and honest with myself and with others. I got to use my leadership skills throughout the program helping my fellow rangers or management. OYEP has taught me so much about myself and allowed amazing doors to be opened."



A LOOK AT

NATION-WIDE

2021



OYEP strives to capitalize on regional opportunities offered provincially and by local communities. Each camp is tailored to its surroundings to create the space for youth to engage locally. Examples of this are: providing boater licenses for youth in Manitoba to prepare them for work in fisheries, and ORCKA canoe training in Ontario to help youth develop towards employment in tourism and guiding.

PARTICIPANT STATS

- X** 91, 000 TREES PLANTED
- X** 117 SUMMER JOBS CREATED
- X** 466 HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS EARNED
- X** 55 ORCKA CERTIFICATIONS
- X** 111 FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS
- X** 113 FINANCIAL LITERACY CERTIFICATIONS
- X** 20 BOATERS LICENCES
- X** 111 FOREST FIRE FIGHTING CERTIFICATIONS

“I think the biggest thing I’ve learned from the program is how to be independent.”

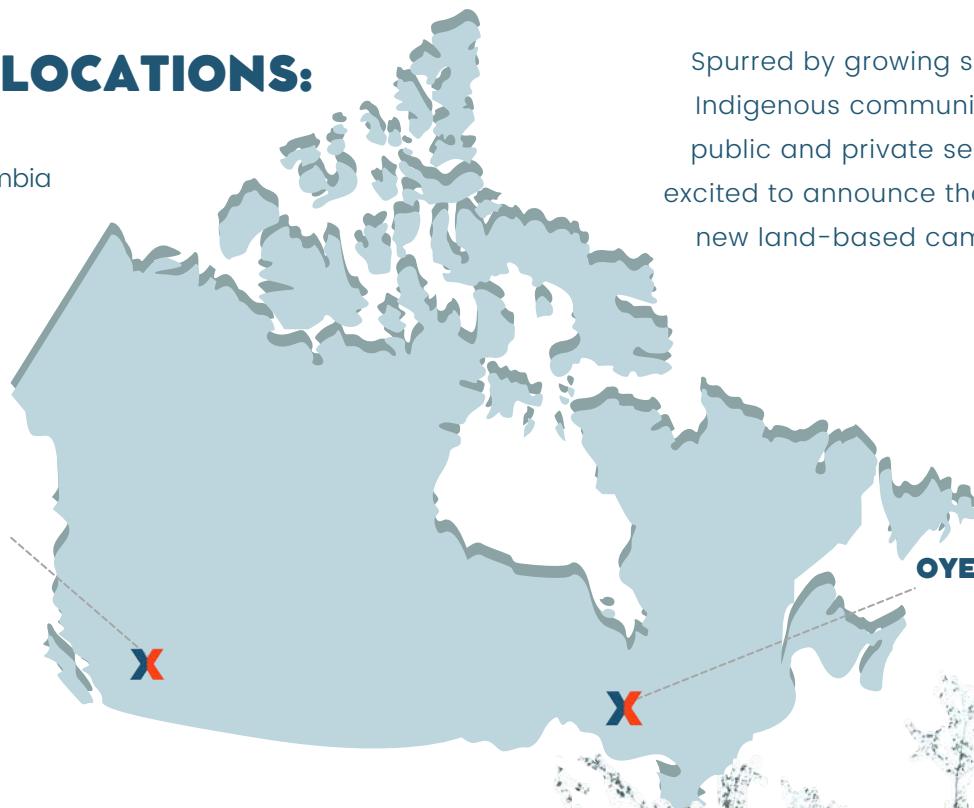
Neepin Cook,
Misipawistik Cree Nation, MB

A LOOK AT NEW GROUND 2022

2022 NEW LOCATIONS:

Amos, Quebec
Kamloops, British Columbia

Spurred by growing support from Indigenous communities and the public and private sector, OYEP is excited to announce the delivery of new land-based camps in 2022!



2021 YOUTH AWARDS



DOMTAR SCHOLARSHIP

**CATHERINE LANGILLE - SEINE RIVER
FIRST NATION, ON**

"I am beyond thankful to Domtar for this scholarship. It really helped me feel confident and supported while moving away from home for university. I am really excited to be starting the Indigenous Environmental Program at Trent University."



SYDNEY KENEQUANASH AWARD

**SHAW-BAA ASH - MISHKEEGOGAMANG
FIRST NATION, ON**

In memory of OYEP Graduate Sydney Kenequanash, this award is presented to an OYEP youth who shows exceptional leadership and teamwork skills. Congratulations, to Shaw-Baa Ash!



TAYLOR BERLE SPIRIT AWARD

SYLIAS ALEXIS - SAIK'UZ FIRST NATION, BC

The Taylor Berle Spirit Award was named in memory of one of the most positive and uplifting rangers to participate in OYEP West. Sylias Alexis was been chosen by his peers as this year's recipient due to his artistic talent and creative thinking.



GROWING OYEP TEAM

SAGE MOSES

Youth and Community Liaison

"My name is Sage Moses, I am the newly hired Youth and Community Liaison for the Outland Youth Employment Program.

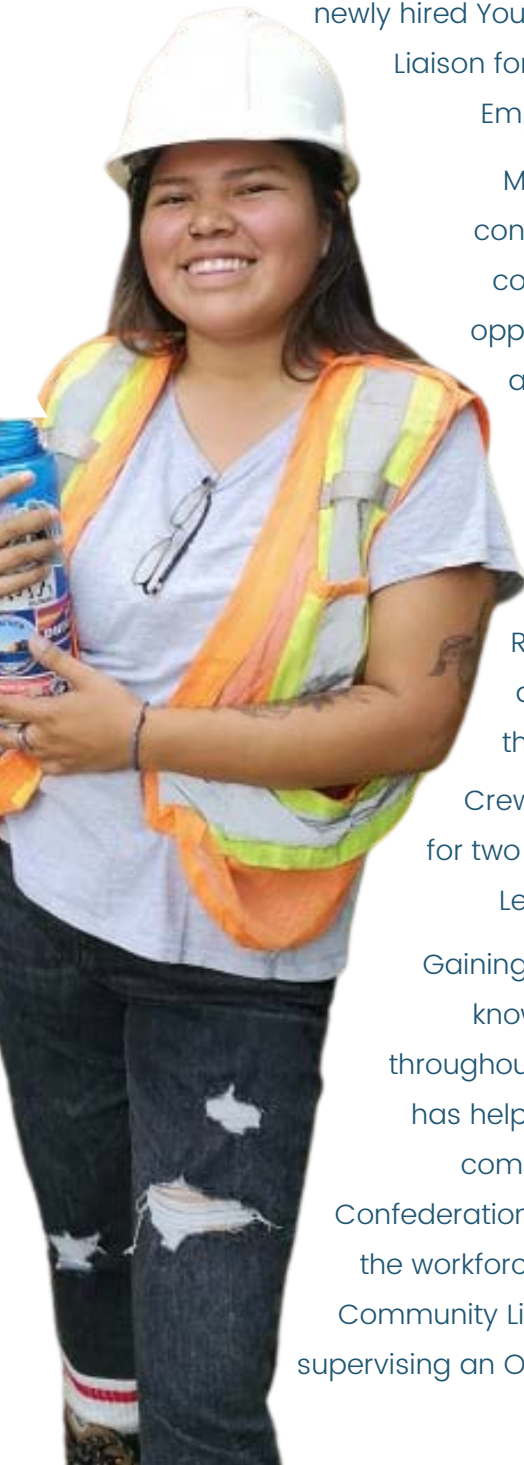
My mission is to help connect our youth and communities with the opportunity we provide as an organization.

I've been working with OYEP for seven years now.

I started off as a Ranger back in 2015 and 2016 in Ontario, then proceeded to a

Crew Leader in Training for two years, then a Crew Leader for the next 3.

Gaining all this experience, knowledge and money throughout my years at OYEP has helped me pay for and complete my degree at Confederation College and enter the workforce as the Youth and Community Liaison. I will also be supervising an OYEP camp in 2022!"



GROWING OYEP NETWORK

12 NEW COMMUNITIES!

Since 2000, OYEP has worked with youth from over 122 distinct Nations across Canada. OYEP's growing network provides a unique opportunity for youth, staff and the entire network to learn about the rich culture and diversity within each Nation. We look forward to welcoming more communities and youth into the OYEP network!

In 2021, OYEP hired youth from 12 new Nations:

Tl'esqox, BC

Ts'il Kaz Koh, BC

Williams Lake First Nation, BC

Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, BC

Nlaka'pamux First Nation, BC

Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, AB

Walpole Island First Nation, ON

Painted Feather Woodland Metis, ON

Mathias Colomb First Nation, MB

White Bear First Nations, SK

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
First Nation, ON

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

SANJEL

EMPLOYMENT

Sanjel Energy is a leading energy services company providing oil well-cementing services throughout the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. OYEP is happy to partner with Sanjel this year at OYEP AB.



Sanjel facilitated a mock interview with the participants to help them prepare and succeed when they are ready to enter the workforce.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

MENTORSHIP

September 16th, 2021 marked the official kick off for the Green Leaders program with PLT Canada. OYEP Youth receive one on one mentorship from an industry professional to complete a community action project during this six month program.



"OYEP leads with purpose. It's been a fantastic partnership that has elevated the wonderful work that OYEP already does so well and allowed PLT Canada to become an ally to Indigenous youth across Canada." - Maria Chiarella, PLT Canada Sr.Mentorship & Youth Coordinator,

FPAC

WRAP AROUND SERVICE

FPAC contributes to support OYEP's new wrap-around program that supports youth to be the drivers of their personal and professional health and well-being – recognizing this path to socio-economic health is different for everyone.



"As Canada's forest sector builds its talent pipeline of the future and its leaders of tomorrow, we see incredible potential in young people from Indigenous communities," - Derek Nighbor, FPAC's President and CEO.

CAREER LAUNCHER

TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

OYEP welcomed Career Launcher as a funding partner in 2021. Over 45 youth in Manitoba and Ontario were supported through their Science & Technology Internship Program. This initiative is provided in part by the Government of Canada through Natural Resources Canada's Green Jobs - Science and Technology Internship Program, as part of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy.



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BREAKING NEW TRAIL

The OYEP summer program now includes a full week dedicated to trail education and training, thanks to an exciting new partnership with the Trans Canada Trail (TCT).

TCT designed a curriculum that delivered fun and interactive training aimed at helping youth develop an understanding of trail creation and trail use.

Training includes: how to plan, sustainably design, build and maintain a trail, all under the guidance of instructors recruited by TCT.



“Trans Canada Trail has an important role to play in the essential act of reconciliation and relationship building with Indigenous peoples.”

**Eleanor McMahon,
President & CEO.**

The variety of skills learned and nationally connected nature of this project made it a favourite of youth participants across the country.

As a leader in cross-country trail development since 1992, TCT has enduring relationships with many Indigenous communities, which have led to the creation of the world-class Trans Canada Trail. OYEP is based on 20 years of respectful, mutually beneficial relationships with over 100 First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada.



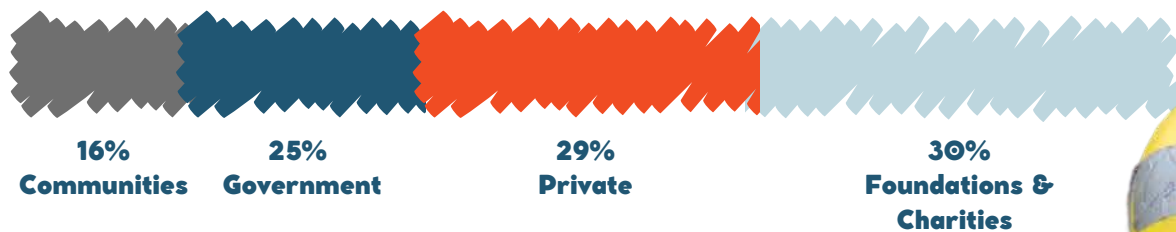
“Through our national network, OYEP’s mission is to provide land-based education, training and work opportunities for high-school-aged Indigenous youth. This partnership with Trans Canada Trail will provide the youth participants across the country with tremendous learning opportunities about the Trail, the lands it connects and the maintenance it requires.”

John Mac Cuish, CEO, Dexterra Group.

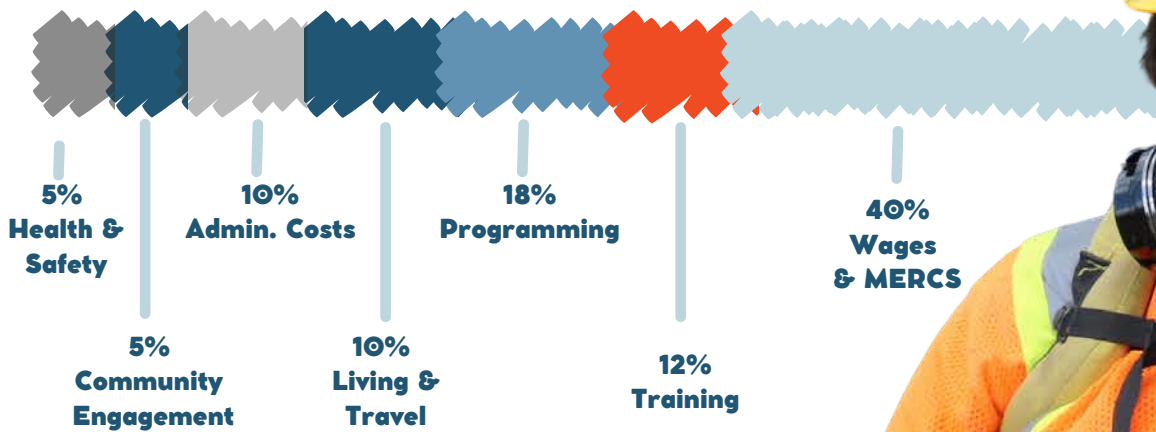
2021 BY THE NATION-WIDE NUMBERS

OYEP’s success and expansion can be attributed to the sustained investments and new partnerships of public, private, and Indigenous organizations. These contributions allow OYEP to continue supporting a workforce of dynamic and resilient Indigenous Youth!

HOW THE MONEY COMES



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



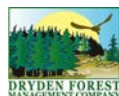
“It really opens a lot of doors for you, with jobs and tickets, self-confidence for sure and you get to meet a lot of great people. I feel like I can get a job and finish school now and have so much more confidence. I’ve learned to love myself here.”

Lovina Whitehead,
Woodland Cree First Nation, AB

2021 PROGRAM PARTNERS



Funding for this initiative is provided in part by the Government of Canada through Natural Resources Canada's Green Jobs - Science and Technology Internship Program, as part of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy.





"Ever since I've been here, I've come out of my comfort zone. I've gained so much confidence and I can be myself around people. It's been a really great six weeks with Sandbar, and I encourage other youth to apply for The Outland Youth Employment Program as well. You learn a lot, and you'll experience a lot of new things like I did."

Ashleigh Fiddler,
Lac Seul First Nation, ON