

THE 2020 ANNUAL

OYEP NATIONAL REPORT

STRENGTH & RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY





2020

STRENGTH & RESILIENCE THROUGH
COMMUNITY



THE OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS A NATIONAL NETWORK OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH THAT INCLUDES OUR AWARD WINNING SIX-WEEK LAND BASED SUMMER PROGRAM.

IN THIS REPORT

2020 has been a year like no other. Just like everything else, COVID-19 deeply impacted OYEP youth, communities and partners we work alongside to make OYEP happen. Despite the challenges, OYEP participants and staff did not let Covid-19 dictate their experiences, relationships and successes; nor will it be the focus of this report!

Instead we're highlighting the building blocks of resilience; community and personal strength. We want to pay homage to the amazing communities and youth we have the privilege of working with!

This report will follow the journey of several OYEP youth who have used the program as a springboard for their own careers. It will also introduce you to six remarkable First Nations OYEP is privileged to partner with. With so many changes in the last year, these communities have remained beacons of strength and support in the lives of their youth. And of course we want to tell you all about what happened at OYEP 2020! We hope you enjoy the 2020 National Report and are as inspired by these youth and communities as we are!

OYEP NATIONAL
REPORT

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RESILIENCE: AN ABILITY TO RECOVER FROM OR ADJUST EASILY TO MISFORTUNE OR CHANGE;

TOUGHNESS

A MESSAGE FROM OYEP

The most important message we have is THANK YOU! At OYEP, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support! When COVID hit in March it seemed

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

RECRUITMENT SUPPORT

DELIVERY SUPPORT

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

STAFFING SUPPORT

CULTURAL SUPPORT

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

HEALTH & SAFETY SUPPORT

as though the writing was on the wall. Like everyone else, we were anxiously watching daily government briefings and holding our breath as new closures and restrictions were announced. We knew how many youth were relying on us for co-op credits, socialization, income, and so much more. OYEP resolved to do everything possible to offer as many opportunities to as many youth as could safely be achieved. It was only because of the unwavering support of OYEP's public, private, and Indigenous partners that we were able to move forward with some semblance of normal programming. We are so grateful to everyone who helped us get through this crazy year safely and successfully! THANK YOU!



ALL THE SUPPORT!



HEALTH & SAFETY

Thanks to planning and safety measures developed in collaboration with local units, alongside the families and communities that we work with, OYEP successfully delivered a total of six summer programs all of which included; Online and Land-based components, which were reported to be incident and illness free.

The Youth were key players in making this summer's programming successful. COVID-19 measures quickly became part of everyone's daily routine, along with our standard safety procedures. Extra emphasis was placed on mental and physical health through daily safety meetings.

"HAVING READ THE PROTOCOLS THAT OYEP HAD IN PLACE, OYEP TOOK VERY ADEQUATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE WELLBEING AND SAFETY OF YOUTH, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS. IT WAS AWESOME THAT OYEP PROVIDED THIS EXCELLENT LEARNING & TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUTH GIVEN THE RESTRICTIONS & LIMITATIONS POSED BY COVID-19."

-DAN & EVA COUCHIE, TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION ELDERS

Additional precautions included online wellness check-ins, temperature checks, increased hand washing and masks when physical distancing was not possible. The youth didn't miss a beat adjusting to this new reality; instead these unique circumstances became a rallying point that helped foster a feeling of togetherness, even when socially distanced.

HOW IT WORKS

The Outland Youth Employment Program is dedicated to offering low barrier access to culturally and regionally relevant education, training and work opportunities for Indigenous youth across Canada. Once youth enrol in our network they have access to all our programs and services in perpetuity.

The OYEP Team works year round to engage youth and bring them into the OYEP fabric on their own terms. This requires patience, persistence and an ability to think like a teenager! Luckily we have lots of OYEP alumni to help us out. Generally speaking, this is the most challenging step of the process.

Once youth are fully enrolled in OYEP, and have all the pesky paperwork out of the way, they can focus on the best parts, like building relationships and skillsets while padding their resumes, obtaining co-op credits and earning a competitive wage!

Some youth choose to remain to be part of OYEP for many years, honing their leadership and bush skills. Others chose a life of academics or entrance straight into the workforce. No matter what path they choose, OYEP will continue to support youth every step of the way.

We believe the key to successful long-term engagement is the diversity and enthusiasm of OYEP's network which spans coast to coast. We are grateful for the participation of organizations from so many sectors including:

EDUCATION

MINING

FORESTRY

ENERGY

GREEN TECHNOLOGY

CONSTRUCTION

ENVIRONMENTAL

GOVERNMENT

TOURISM

Diverse opportunities are integral to unlocking the limitless potential of these youth!



APPLY

Visit WWW.OYEP.CA for more information and to complete our low barrier application form! Or visit an in-person recruitment session at a school, community or employment centre near you!



ENROLL

Congratulations! You've been hired! To complete all required paperwork for OYEP, you will need:

1. Social Insurance Number
2. Bank Account
3. Email Address

Don't have these? Don't worry! OYEP will help you get work-ready before your employment starts.



EXPLORE

Explore all that OYEP has to offer! Learn about different careers, earn training certifications, test out different jobs, earn co-op credits and meet new people from all over. Learn about you! Graduate with a whole new perspective on your opportunities beyond OYEP.



ATTEND

Pack your bags! You're headed to work! Attend one of OYEP's semi-remote camps in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta or British Columbia. Be sure to double check the packing list before you head out. Contact OYEP for help acquiring the necessary equipment for a season in the bush.

CONTINUE

Finished a season in the bush with OYEP?
Keep the momentum going! Use the connections, knowledge and skills you've gained to make your next move!

EMPLOYMENT

Ready for work?
Let OYEP help you get connected to program partners looking for workers with your new skillset! Put that resume to good use!

EDUCATION

Post Secondary Education for you?
OYEP can help with applications, funding and sorting through all the options. Contact us today!

TRAINING

Enjoyed all the hands-on learning at OYEP?
We can connect you with specialized training to help you get that dream job!

ADVOCACY

Broadcast your voice! Speak up on what matters to you! OYEP will support you and causes you want to promote by connecting you to like-minded organizations and individuals.

WHICHEVER PATH YOU CHOOSE, OYEP

IS HERE TO HELP!

Young people's resilience is determined by the interplay of their individual characteristics (including skills they have developed), the characteristics of the families in which they live, and the characteristics of their physical and social environments.

-CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Resilience, like a muscle, can be trained and toned, and can atrophy if not exercised. OYEP strives to create an environment that fosters resilience through pre-emptive problem solving and confronting challenges with innovative thinking, strategic planning and teamwork approaches. Through a variety of real-world challenges, youth have the opportunity to practice and strengthen their resiliency muscles with the support and guidance of staff, educators, cultural leaders and trainers.

**"PLANTING TREES IS HARD . . . BUT IT'S FUN!
THE BEST THING THAT I HAVE EVER DONE, IN
MY ENTIRE LIFE."**

**- CATHERINE THOMAS
TAKLA FIRST NATION**



Resilience helps youth overcome psychological challenges by helping them to develop the following: autonomy through employment and education, the framework for thought process and problem solving, a positive sense of self, and confidence in their strength and ability

This confidence can also help with stress-related illness. When a person has awareness of both self and their environment, they manage their feelings more effectively, keep a handle on their thoughts, emotions and behaviors, and understand that life inevitably has its ups and downs. OYEP has its share of stressful moments, but we work hard to positively manage outcomes and resolve these situations; tapping into the resilience that exists in all of us and developing the confidence to recognize it.



A person wearing an orange hard hat, safety glasses, a high-visibility yellow vest over a white t-shirt, and patterned pants stands in a forest clearing. They are holding a small tree sapling in their gloved right hand. A red-handled shovel is on the ground near their feet. The background shows a line of trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

ESSENTIAL OYEP

HELPING REFOREST OUR PLANET

Earlier this year, tree planting was deemed an essential service in Canada, contributing to the cycle of forestry and the natural resources sector.

Indigenous Youth from across Canada set out to plant a record number of trees in one summer with OYEP, and many achieved their personal bests. Collectively, OYEP youth planted over 200,000 in 4 provinces this summer!



At OYEP, we recognize that Indigenous Youth face a disproportionate number of barriers when entering the workforce. One of our goals at OYEP is to support youth as they connect to various employment opportunities and career paths. This year in particular, many OYEP grads also graduated high school and quickly transitioned into the workforce. Immediately following the 2020 program, OYEP ensured that 100% of graduates seeking employment successfully found a work placement. Many of these placements are with OYEP partners in the natural resources sector!

CAREER CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING YOUTH TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

"OYEP PROVIDES YOUTH A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT FOR VARIOUS YATAW PROJECTS...WHEN I HIRE YOUTH THAT HAVE BEEN CONNECTED THROUGH OYEP, I KNOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED TO ADHERE TO ALL BASIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND HAVE DEVELOPED WORK ETHIC FROM COMPLETING PROJECTS THROUGH OYEP. OYEP PARTICIPANTS GARNER EXPERIENCE IN A REMOTE CAMP SETTING THAT PREPARES THEM FOR REMOTE WORK. THIS OPENS MANY DOORS WITHIN OUTLAND AND MANY OTHER COMPANIES WITHIN THE INDUSTRY"

-CEILIDH MILLIGAN, EASTERN HIRING AND RECRUITMENT MANAGER, YATAW CAMPS & LOGISTICS



POST-OYEP

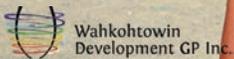


JACY JOLIVET

BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION
WAHKOHTOWIN DEVELOPMENT GP INC. - SEASONAL
GUARDIAN

JACY JOINED OUR TEAM FULL TIME FOR THE SEASON AS PART OF AN INDIGENOUS YOUTH WORKER EXCHANGE PROGRAM THROUGH MNRF. JACY WILL DIRECTLY EXPERIENCE THE EARLY STAGES AND GROWTH OF OUR GUARDIAN PROGRAM AS A SEASONAL GUARDIAN. JACY CARRIES THE GIFT OF DRUMMING WHICH HE IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO SHARE AND IS KEEN TO SEE OUR YOUTH EMPOWERED TO LEAD FUTURE STEWARDSHIP AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY GOALS. A KEY PART OF JACY'S SEASON WILL BE ATTENDING THE OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN AUGUST.

-- WAHKOTOWIN DEVELOPMENT GP INC.



NICK WABANO

EABAMATOONG FIRST NATION
OUTLAND - SLASHPILE BURNER / KITCHEN SUPPORT

Nick has been working for Outland since his start as an OYEP Ranger in 2016. Since then, Nick has continually worked different contracts for the company, building upon all the skills he learned at OYEP.

THROUGHOUT MY YEARS WORKING FOR OUTLAND, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING DIFFERENT JOBS, SUCH AS TREE PLANTING, SLASH PILE BURNING, CREW LEADER IN TRAINING, AND KITCHEN HELP POSITIONS. IT'S HARD TO PICK A SKILL I'VE LEARNED BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE I HAVE IMPROVED ON SO MANY. CURRENTLY I AM WORKING IN PICKLE LAKE AT THE WATAY CAMPS FOR OUTLAND.

-NICK WABANO



JUDAH BERKAN

LAC DES MILLE LAC FIRST NATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LIAISON - GOLDER
ASSOCIATES

Judah works for Golder Associates as the Environmental Assessment Liaison in Thunder Bay. He is a key member of both Golder's Indigenous Engagement team and field crew for the Waasigan Transmission Project's environmental assessment.

"THE EXPOSURE TO A WIDE VARIETY OF DISCIPLINES AND CAREERS WITHIN NATURAL RESOURCES DURING MY TIME WITH THE OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM INSPIRED ME TO PURSUE FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AS A CAREER. WITHOUT THAT INFLUENCE, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WHERE I AM TODAY." -JUDAH BERKAN



EMPLOYMENT



JARED ERICKSON

MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND
HUMBER COLLEGE - FILM AND MEDIA PRODUCTION

After graduating high school, Jared continued on to study Film and Media Production at Humber College in Toronto, ON. Jared produced and edited a short video featuring OYEP West 2020 for our TransMountain partner this year.

"OUR FAVORITE PART OF THE VIDEO WAS SEEING THE BIG SMILES OF THE YOUTH HE CAPTURED, ESPECIALLY IN A TIME WHERE THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19. WE HOPE HE RETURNS TO OYEP NEXT YEAR SO HE CAN USE HIS FILM MAKING TALENTS AGAIN." - MARIANNE FOX, TRANSMOUNTAIN

CAT LANGILLE

SEINE RIVER FIRST NATION
PROJECT LEARNING TREE - INDIGENOUS YOUTH
OPPORTUNITIES INTERN

"I AM CURRENTLY STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & NATURAL RESOURCES. OYEP HAS GIVEN ME A FOOT IN THE DOOR FOR ALMOST ANY FORESTRY JOB I COULD POSSIBLY DREAM OF. THIS PROGRAM CONNECTED ME TO THE #MYGREENMENTOR PROGRAM THAT PROJECT LEARNING TREE CANADA PILOTTED, WHICH I AM CURRENTLY WORKING FOR AS AN INDIGENOUS YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INTERN WITH PLT CANADA. THESE POSITIONS HAVE GIVEN ME A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT IS LIKE TO LIVE IN THE FOREST, WORK HARD, AND SUSTAIN THE FUTURE IN FORESTRY".
-CAT LANGILLE



LEZANE OKIMAW

DRIFTPILE FIRST NATION
THE GREAT TRAIL - TRAIL CLEARING

Lezane Okimaw is from Driftpile First Nation in Alberta. This summer was Lezane's first year as an OYEP Ranger, where he was first connected with The Great Trail of Canada. The Great Trail, created by the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) promotes the use and development of the trail at a local level, in the continued enhancement of their national network. Lezane is currently working full time on the trail, helping connect various First Nations across the country.





OYEP was largely focused around tree planting this summer due to various Covid-19 restrictions. The Youth were able to get a taste of what a commercial tree plant would resemble, with many tough days on the block.

The goal was to show the youth the different opportunities within tree planting, and promote a sense of leadership and confidence, helping youth discover their immense capabilities.

This was a record year for OYEP Rangers, collectively planting 214,800 trees in one summer.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

OYEP has many partnerships with neighbouring communities which allows us to provide the most comprehensive program structure possible. To give back to the community, each OYEP camp will typically work together to complete outreach initiatives and projects in local communities.

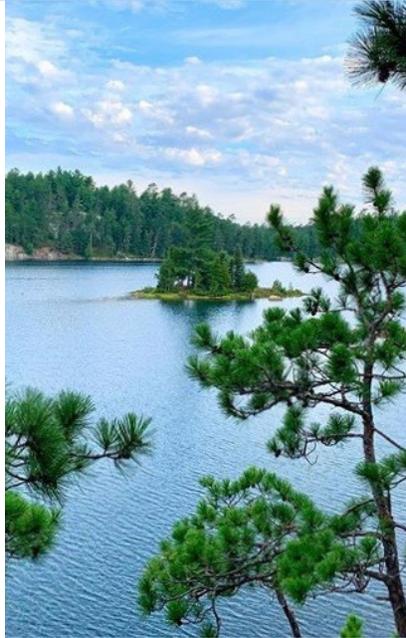
Having the youth become involved firsthand in their communities develops a sense of connection to the land and their people. The scope of OYEP is much larger than the participants and the camps themselves, creating not only a positive impact on the youth themselves, but also their communities. The idea is that the youth can take the skills they learned at OYEP and implement them directly into their daily lives and communities.





TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION

BEAR ISLAND



Well known for its old pine forests, blue waters, and bountiful fish and wildlife, Indigenous People's have inhabited the Temagami region for thousands of years. Today, Bear Island is home to over 250 people.

Temagami First Nation is the lead community at OYEP Esker Lakes Camp in Kirkland Lake Ontario. TFN was integral in establishing the project in 2018 and has been a driving force in the continued delivery of the program.

OYEP looks forward to welcoming future TFN youth to the program, and continue to support their vision statement; "With wisdom, respect, and patience for the good of our people, Temagami First Nation will create opportunities to empower our youth; build capacity to foster a healthy and prosperous nation; and develop policies and codes for good governance."

YOUTH WHO WERE SHY AND WITHDRAWN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER WERE SEEN TO BE FAR MORE CONFIDENT AND OUTGOING BY THE END OF THE PROGRAM. ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IS SEEING MANY YOUTH RETURNING YEAR AFTER YEAR - WHICH IN ITSELF SPEAKS HIGHLY OF THE PROGRAM. WITH THE HARD WORK, COMMITMENT, AND DEDICATION OF OUTLAND AND TFN STAFF, WE WERE ABLE TO RUN THE CULTURAL COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM THIS SUMMER".

- DAN & EVA COUCHIE, TFN

MISSION STATEMENT

As Chief & Council, we are proud and committed to work together to create positive change in a manner that will honor our ancestors and those yet to come.

VISION STATEMENT

With wisdom, respect, and patience for the good of our people, Temagami First Nation will create opportunities to empower our youth; build capacity to foster a healthy and prosperous nation; and develop policies and codes for good governance.

STEWARDS OF N'DAKI MENAN



FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION

ROBINSON SUPERIOR TREATY

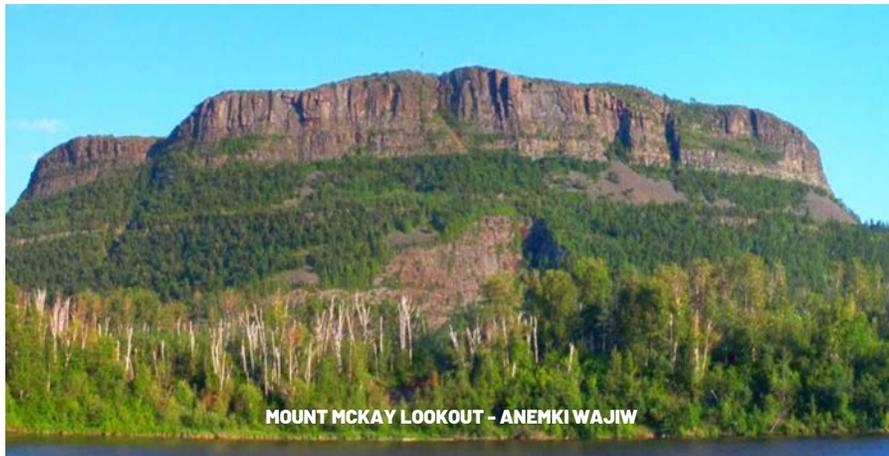
OJIBWAY OF FWFN

Located on the western shores of Lake Superior, Fort William First Nation is an Ojibway community famous for the picturesque Mount McKay, a sacred site traditionally known as Thunder Mountain. Fort William was created in 1853, as part of the Robinson Huron Treaty. Their traditional territory stretches from the Pigeon River to the northern boundary of Treaty 9 and east to Nipigon.

Fort William First Nation played a fundamental role in the inaugural OYEP back in 2000. Since then, FWFN has been a steadfast partner offering cultural guidance, financial and logistical support and employment opportunities for OYEP graduates, while supporting the operations of the Sandbar camp.

OYEP HAS PROVIDED FWFN MEMBERS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF VALUABLE SKILLS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN FIREFIGHTING, AS WELL AS OTHER LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

-ALICE NIEMI, FWFN, STUDENT CO-ORDINATOR



MOUNT MCKAY LOOKOUT - ANEMKI WAJIW

MISSION STATEMENT

Fort William First Nation is dedicated to supporting the health of our people; inclusive of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing for a successful community.

VISION STATEMENT

Fort William First Nation will be a healthy, vibrant and self-sustaining community, built on our traditional values.

MEGHAN JOURDAIN

"I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH OYEP FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND IT HAS BEEN A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE.

OYEP HAS SHAPED ME TO BE MORE CONFIDENT WITH MYSELF, AND TO BE A MENTOR TO THOSE AROUND ME.

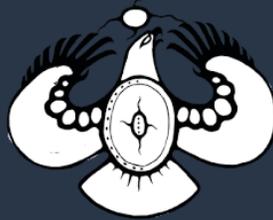
WITHOUT THE PROGRAM, THE SUPPORT OF MY COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE I HAVE MET ALONG THE WAY, I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY.

I HAVE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, COMPLETED THE GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE PROGRAM AND IN APRIL OF 2021, I WILL COMPLETE THE NATIVE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AT CONFEDERATION COLLEGE."









LAC LA CROIX FIRST NATION

PLACE OF THE PINES



EMILY OTTERTAIL

"THIS PAST SUMMER WAS MY THIRD YEAR PARTICIPATING IN OYEP, AND EACH YEAR I LEARN MORE AND MORE. I FEEL PROUD TO BE ABLE TO REPRESENT MY COMMUNITY, LLC, WHILE AT OYEP. I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL OTHER YOUTH FROM LAC LA CROIX TO APPLY TO OYEP AS IT POSITIVELY IMPACTS BOTH THE YOUTH AND OUR COMMUNITIES."



Lac La Croix is the partner community for the Mink Lake Camp located across from Quetico Provincial Park and on the traditional territory of the community. In 2013, LLCFN, OYEP and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry collaborated on the inaugural OYEP Mink Lake Camp which has been successfully operating ever since!



CHIEF MICHAEL OTTERTAIL

"OYEP HAS BEEN A GREAT BENEFIT FOR OUR YOUTH IN FURTHERING THEIR LIVES WITH REGARDS TO THE WORKPLACE. THEY LEARN DIFFERENT SKILLS DURING THEIR TIME WITH OYEP; DRIVERS LICENSE, WHMIS, TREE PLANTING AMONG OTHER LIFE SKILLS THEY NEED. ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE THINGS TO COME OUT OF THIS PARTNERSHIP IS THE POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE HAD WITH OUTLAND. HOPEFULLY WE CAN CONTINUE THIS PARTNERSHIP IN THE FUTURE."



MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND

TSE'KHENE NATION

EMMA BERLE

"MY FAVOURITE PART ABOUT OYEP WAS ALL THE AMAZING PEOPLE I GOT TO MEET AND CALL FAMILY. I ALSO VERY MUCH ENJOYED TREE PLANTING. OYEP HELPED ME FIGURE OUT WHAT FORESTRY WAS BECAUSE I HAD NO CLUE, AND HOW MUCH WORK TREE PLANTING WAS SO I AIN'T GONNA DO THAT. IT SHOWS US THAT THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR US AS WELL AS OTHERS."



PEOPLE OF THE ROCK

McLeod Lake Indian Band is part of the Tse'khene group of Aboriginal peoples that also includes bands at Fort Ware (Kwadacha) and Ingenika (Tseh Kay Dene). The main community of McLeod Lake Band is located on McLeod Lake Indian Band Indian Reserves #1 and #5 near the unincorporated village of McLeod Lake, approximately 150 kilometers north of Prince George.

McLeod Lake and OYEP formally partnered on British Columbia's first ever OYEP project in 2018, just outside of Prince George. The McLeod Lake administration played a crucial role establishing all elements of the BC project including securing a partnership group, recruiting, developing curriculum and supplying community based projects for youth to complete. The OYEP Prince George program is still going strong and helped create the building blocks for another OYEP operation in the Kamloops region.

**"Wu'tun'e wee'zooch yi'yalh,
whes'keghe s'o ududeh'chi oo's'o
ghu'nuyelh'o."**

**Making sure the footprints we
leave behind are the ones our
children will be proud to walk in.**

MEGAN JACKSON

"I JOINED OYEP AGAIN AS A 2ND YEAR RANGER. I GO TO PRINCE GEORGE SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HOPE TO GRADUATE NEXT YEAR AS I AM ENTERING GRADE 12. MY FAVOURITE PART ABOUT THIS CAMP IS GETTING CLOSE WITH THE NEW RANGERS, LEARNING ABOUT THE DIFFERENT JOBS IN FORESTRY AND THE NEW SKILLS FOR WORKING.

I'VE LEARNED ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT WITH DIFFERENT COMPANIES AND NEW WAYS TO TREEPLANT. WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE OUTDOORS IS SEEING THE DIFFERENT WILDLIFE WALK BY."





KEE TAS KEE NOW TRIBAL COUNCIL

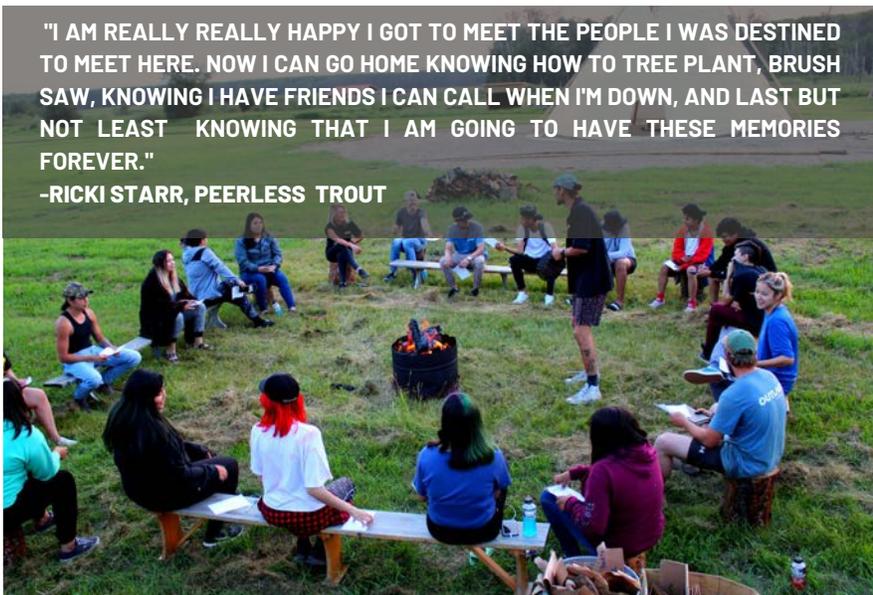
WE WILL WORK WITHIN A UNIFIED ENVIRONMENT

KTC COUNCIL

In Alberta, OYEP works closely with the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council, which is composed of 5 local communities. This past summer, 11 youth participated in the program from these communities, making up more than half of the OYEP participants from Alberta.

"I AM REALLY REALLY HAPPY I GOT TO MEET THE PEOPLE I WAS DESTINED TO MEET HERE. NOW I CAN GO HOME KNOWING HOW TO TREE PLANT, BRUSH SAW, KNOWING I HAVE FRIENDS I CAN CALL WHEN I'M DOWN, AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST KNOWING THAT I AM GOING TO HAVE THESE MEMORIES FOREVER."

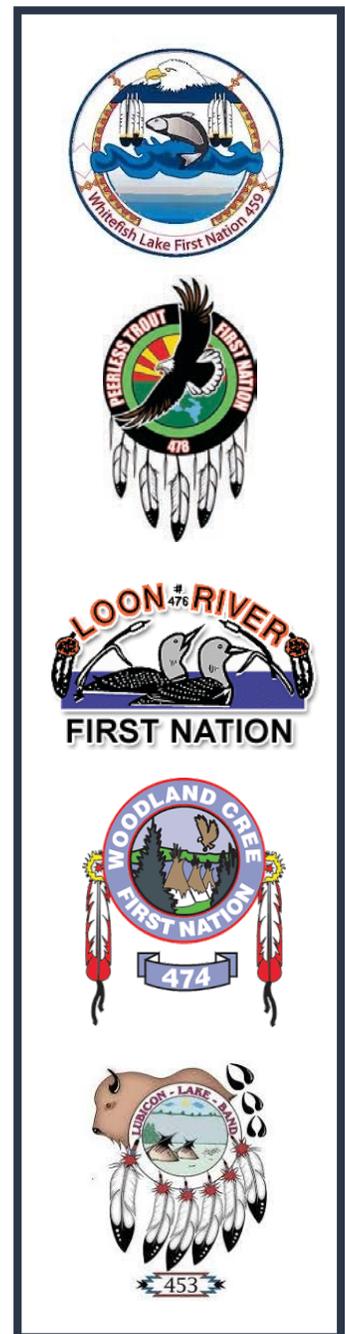
-RICKI STARR, PEERLESS TROUT



The location of the Mihkowapikwaniy Cultural camp (MCC) was the original home of the Lubicon Lake Cree people. The goal of having a cultural camp is to give youth an opportunity to develop skills and resources that will help them succeed in life.

"THE PAST TWO YEARS OF HAVING OYEP YOUTH AT THE MCC HAVE BEEN REWARDING TO THE STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY. WE CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO BE WORKING WITH OYEP, AND WE ARE REMINDED OF THEIR STAY WITH THE WORK PROJECTS THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMP EACH YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN YEARS TO COME."

-SHIANNE MCDERMOTT, CULTURAL COORDINATOR





OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION

TSE'KHENE NATION

SWAMPY CREE TERRITORY

Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) is part of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council in Manitoba. OCN is located close to The Pas, in Northern Manitoba, which also happens to be the location of the Egg Lake Camp. Established in 2019, five youth from OCN have participated in the program. OYEP looks forward to working alongside Opaskwayak Cree Nation, within their traditional territories.



Jarvis Bighetty

"I WAS A HUNGRY LEARNER AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT, TO LEARN AS MUCH AS I COULD. OYEP HELPED IMPROVE MY EATING HABITS AND SLEEPING PATTERNS. I WOULD LOVE TO BECOME A TREE PLANTER, LIKE THE STAFF. THE STAFF WERE BEYOND GOOD. EVERYONE TREATS ME WITH RESPECT, SO I RETURN THAT RESPECT."



"ONE OF OUR STATED MANDATES, ALONG WITH OUR FIRST NATIONS AND BAYLINE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, IS TO PROVIDE REAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN NORTHERN MANITOBA. THE SKILLS THEY LEARN AT 16, 17 AND 18 YEARS OF AGE THROUGH THE OYEP PROGRAM - REAL EMPLOYABLE SKILLS IN THE NATURAL RESOURCE, FORESTRY AND OTHER SECTORS PROVIDING REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCEMENT.

THE ABILITY TO HIRE QUALIFIED WORKERS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR ABILITY TO GROW AND CONTINUE OUR BUSINESS AS AGG. THIS STARTS WITH YOUTH AND THE OYEP PROGRAM HELPS TO MAKE THEM THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTH,"

-ONENORTH CO-CHAIR ONEKENEW CHRISTIAN SINCLAIR

EXCLUSIVELY OYEP

With over 20 years of experience in developing and delivering education, training, and work opportunities, OYEP has emerged as a leading choice by Indigenous youth across the country. Over all this time, the OYEP commitment to youth, communities, and the partners we serve has not faltered. This season was very different than any other season to date, though it was still delivered with the same high quality care that OYEP has been known for. Check out the following pages to see what OYEP did differently and the outcomes produced over 20 years.



OYEP ONLINE

It's no secret that online curriculum is not our expertise! We have historically promoted "land-based hands on" opportunities. This year, just like so many other organizations, we were challenged to adapt to a new reality, though it was certainly not without growing pains. Staff, youth and partners all pitched in to make the inaugural OYEP Online a success!

OYEP WORKS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH BY OFFERING THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE TWO HIGH-SCHOOL CREDITS EVERY SUMMER.

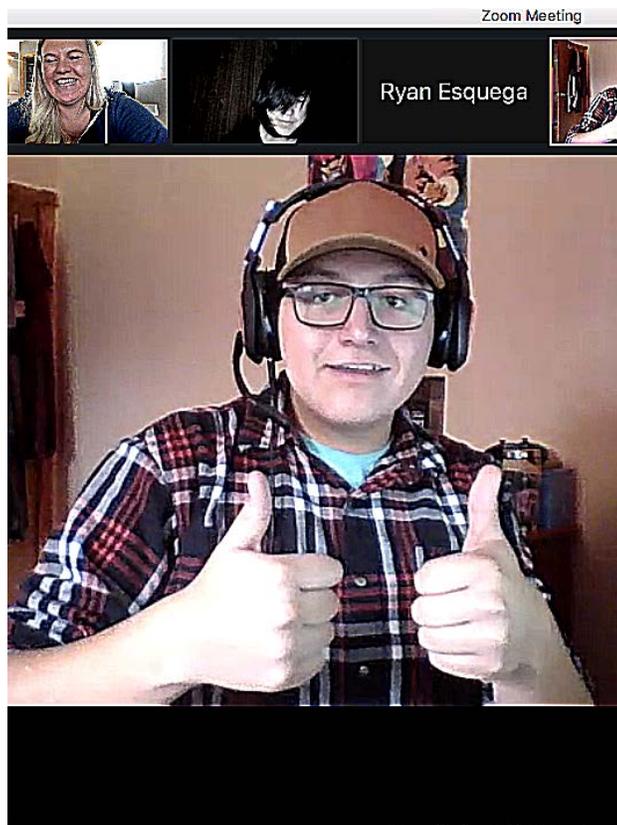


With the help of our amazing partners at SFI and Project Learning Tree Canada, the core curriculum typically delivered on-site at every OYEP camp was adapted for virtual delivery and instruction. All of the components were available to the youth from day one of the online launch, allowing youth to make individual arrangements and schedules to complete the curriculum at their convenience. Teachers were available for guidance and support, along with other OYEP support staff. This included technical support and technology availability support for those that required it.

Students who were not able to finish their studies prior to camp, were able to complete their work at camp. Each OYEP camp has a designated, qualified teacher on-site to deliver the curriculum and support student learning.

"THE ONLINE TRAINING WAS SIMPLE AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND WITH THE TEACHERS HELP. THE PROJECT LEARNING TREE AND CANVAS PLATFORMS MADE IT ENGAGING WHILE COMPLETING EACH TRAINING BY PUTTING TOGETHER THE POWER POINTS AND VIDEOS."

- CASSANDRA BANANISH, LONG LAKE #58



ONLINE MODULES



Orientation



Health & Wellness



Interviewing & Networking



Resume & Cover Letters



Goal Setting



Teamwork & Problem Solving



20 YEARS OF OUTCOMES

610 OYEP GRADUATES

827 HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

2.2 MILLION+ TREES PLANTED

365,000 HOURS WORKED

110 COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED

2,304 HOURS OF WEB BASED TRAINING

250+ PROGRAM PARTNERS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Founded over 20 years ago, OYEP has developed into a nationwide initiative with the goal of continued growth. Our success and expansion can be attributed to the sustained investments and new partnerships of public, private, and Indigenous organizations. OYEP is forever grateful for the generous contributions which allows more Indigenous Youth each year to participate in this life changing and valuable experience.

NATIONAL FUNDING BREAKDOWN



INDUSTRY

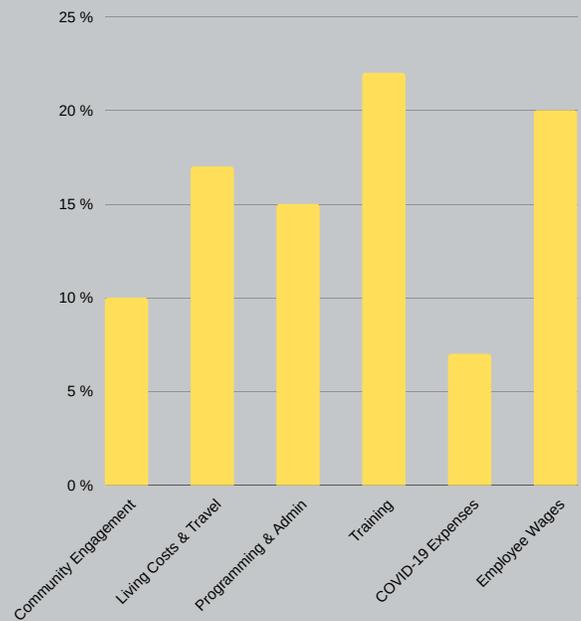


GOVERNMENT



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

PROGRAM COSTS



FAREWELL TO HAMISH

Back in 2018, Hamish returned to the Outland family to supervise the inaugural OYEP Program in British Columbia. From this point, Hamish quickly took on a crucial role within the company, helping expand OYEP's national network as the OYEP West Program Manager.

Hamish's most significant contributions (among many), were the establishment and development of the two OYEP Western camps. OYEP is grateful for everything Hamish has done for the program and the positive impacts he has had on the youth.

Throughout Hamish's time at OYEP, everything he did was for the best interest for the youth. It is certain that Hamish's positivity rubs off on anyone who has the pleasure of working with him.

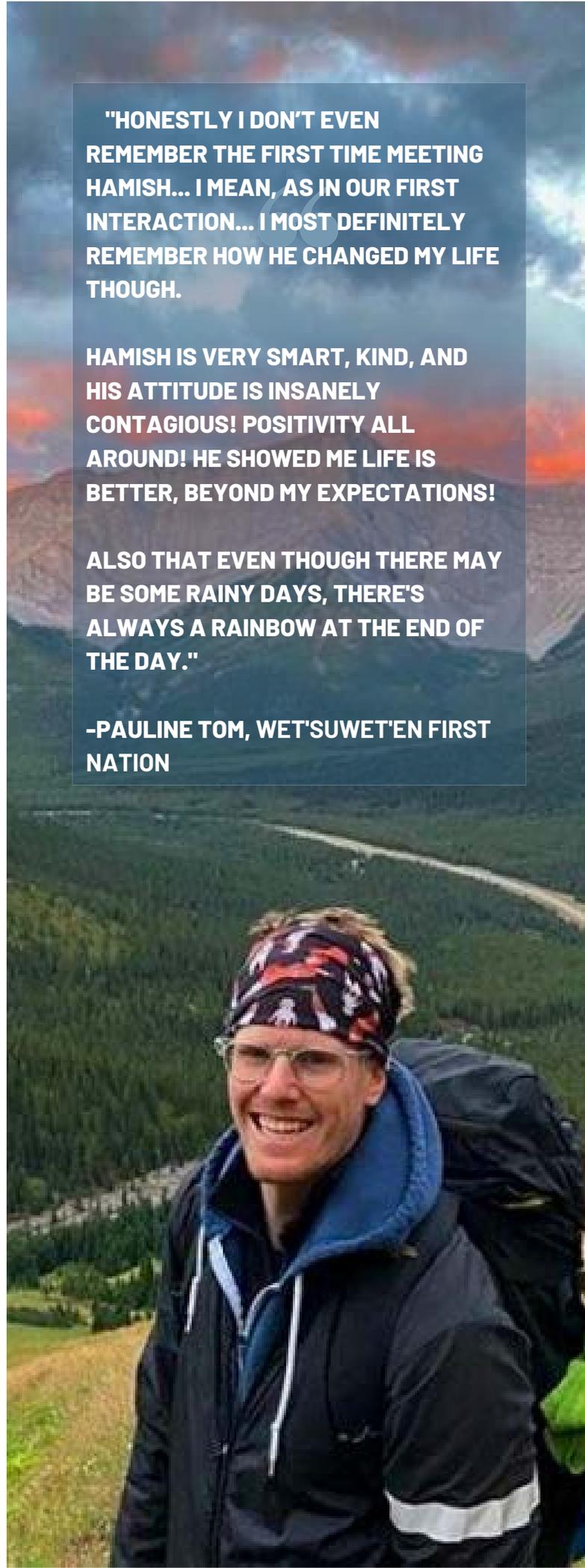
Wherever Hamish may be, we know he will do great things. We also know that although he may no longer be working for OYEP, his legacy within the program will continue to thrive.

"HONESTLY I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME MEETING HAMISH... I MEAN, AS IN OUR FIRST INTERACTION... I MOST DEFINITELY REMEMBER HOW HE CHANGED MY LIFE THOUGH.

HAMISH IS VERY SMART, KIND, AND HIS ATTITUDE IS INSANELY CONTAGIOUS! POSITIVITY ALL AROUND! HE SHOWED ME LIFE IS BETTER, BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS!

ALSO THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME RAINY DAYS, THERE'S ALWAYS A RAINBOW AT THE END OF THE DAY."

-PAULINE TOM, WET'SUWET'EN FIRST NATION



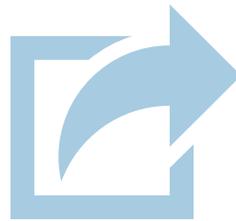
GET INVOLVED

SUPPORT



Becoming an OYEP supporter does more than just fund programs. It gives industry and business the opportunity to engage with youth and connect with future employees and leaders.

SHARE



OYEP is growing and needs your help to connect with others who see the value in offering meaningful opportunities for Indigenous Youth.

JOIN



Support educators, businesses and communities working to level the playing field for Indigenous youth!

MEET THE TEAM



MARK KMILL
**East Program
Manager**

mkmill@dexterra.com
807-986-3872



SARAH AMBROZIAK
**National Program
Manager**

sambroziak@dexterra.com
807-707-4995



BRITTANY MCCOY
**West Program
Manager**

bmccoy@dexterra.com
604-788-9329

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Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada



Western Economic Diversification Canada
Diversification de l'économie de l'Ouest Canada



"KUKWSTSETSEM
C XWEXWYET-EP,
QWESTS REN
PÚSMEN

THANK YOU
EVERYONE,
MY HEART
IS FULL"

Susan Romandia
Skeetchestn & Neskonlith
Reserve #2





**OUTLAND
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
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