

ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Template

Program Area:	4.0	Community Relations
Sub Program:	4.2	Building and Sustaining Positive Community Relationships
Template:	4.2.2	Alberta's Future Leaders Program
Sponsor(s)	<i>Alberta Sport, Recreation Foundation</i>	

Objective

Through sport and recreation, Aboriginal youth are offered healthy activities which renew self-worth and help build leadership in the youth and communities alike. It is through these activities that negative issues such as high crime rates, substance abuse, amongst other things are decreased. It is our belief that by "working together, we can make a difference".

Description

Since its inception since 1996, the Alberta's Future Leaders program has been hosted by 32 Aboriginal communities across Alberta. Summer youth workers are recruited, hired and trained by Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks, and Wildlife Foundation (the Foundation) to live and work in the hosting community for the summer months. The role of the youth workers in the community is to develop, coordinate and facilitate sport and recreational activities for the youth of the communities, while acting as strong, positive, healthy role models.

Youth workers use previous work, education and life experience in sport and recreation, working with youth, and/or working in Aboriginal communities as a platform for the work in the communities. Youth workers also implement leadership training in the communities as well, as strong community members identified by summer youth workers are brought through workshops that enhance leadership, team building and self-worth skills. Youth workers also implement summer sport camps as well as arts and drama workshops in the communities.

Implementation

Although recruited, hired and trained by the Foundation, summer youth workers are employees of the communities that they are placed in. As such, youth workers will work with other community members, recreation departments, leaders, etc. in the implementation of sport and recreation programming. With the program being a community effort, hand in hand with the knowledge that every community will have different needs, a greater success is achieved.

Aboriginal communities may approach the Foundation to request the program. If there is a demonstrated need and an initial three-year commitment, a community may be eligible. Sponsors may get involved in the program by being approached by the Foundation or the hosting community, or if the sponsor sees a need for the program in an Aboriginal community and is prepared to partner with the community, the sponsor can approach the Foundation.

Timeframe for Results

Results are measurable in each summer's programming, as increased participation numbers in programmed activities will occur. Also, due to each community initially making a three-year commitment to the program, success can also be viewed in the growth of sustainable sport and recreation programs (i.e. sport teams, youth groups, etc.) in the communities over these periods. After an initial three-year agreement, communities can access the program on a year-to-year basis.

Measurable Criteria

Success is measured through a variety of means such as increased and sustained program participation numbers or the development of youth workers and/or recreation directing positions. However, much of the programs' success is not easily measured - by virtue of sport and recreation used as a preventative and intervening measure in the lives of youth, the positive results are not necessarily displayed immediately but in the future of the youth.

Budget

Each community operates on a \$25,200 budget for each summer. Approximately two thirds of this amount is salary for two qualified summer youth workers. The other portion is used for programmed events in the communities such as sport camps, leadership training, etc.

Partners and Sponsors

The Alberta's Future Leaders Program is a three-way partnership between the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the hosting community, and corporate partners as well. Usually, each equally shares in the cost of programming in each community. For some communities two or three corporate sponsors are found. Corporate partners are recognized at community events, the Community-Sponsor Recognition Barbecue, as well as in the program's community and executive final reports. Summer youth workers keep corporate partners informed throughout the summer by providing information on programming in the communities as well as inviting contacts to events in communities.

Experience with the Program

The program has been hosted by 32 Aboriginal communities across Alberta. The program has helped in the establishment of 14 full-time or summer term recreation/youth coordinator positions in these communities. The program is seen as positively influencing the lives of Aboriginal youth by working hand-in-hand with communities and corporate partners alike. There have been a wide range of program sponsors including Weyerhaeuser, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Syncrude, Suncor, ATCO Electric, TransAlta, Husky, Shell Canada, EnCana, etc.

General Applicability

The program works on the philosophy that every community will be different. It therefore, works with each community to meet the hosting community's needs. This program may be of interest to any company or organization willing to sponsor community-based initiatives aimed at improving the health and esteem of Aboriginal youth.

Additional Information or Support

Darcy Lindberg, Coordinator, Alberta's Future Leaders Program, Edmonton, AB

Telephone: (780) 422-9254

Email: Darcy.Lindberg@gov.ab.ca

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