

January 2012 Update: Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak – City of Winnipeg Aboriginal Youth Strategy

Background:

In April 2008, City Council passed a motion to adopt an Aboriginal Youth Strategy. Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak, Ojibway for Young Aboriginal People Leading, is the name given to the Aboriginal Youth Strategy by Elders in the community. This name pays tribute to Aboriginal youth as leaders of today as well as tomorrow.

The mission of Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak is to give Aboriginal youth positive opportunities in the community (*stream one*) and civic system (*stream two*) by bridging and providing culturally appropriate programs and supports related to employment, literacy and recreation to increase resiliency, self-sustainability, pride and future opportunities.

Stream One: Community-based strategies

In 2011, partnerships with nine community organizations delivering youth-focused programs resulted in participation of 287 Aboriginal youth in structured employment development programs, of which 66.0% or 124 youth formally graduated. More detailed information follows:

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc.: Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Youth Employability and Education Program

The Eagle's Nest works with Aboriginal youth, aged 15 to 30 years, in leadership developmental activities that include areas of physical, mental and emotional skills that will assist them to transition towards successful participation in continued education or employment.

Of the 84 Aboriginal youth accepted into the program in 2011, 41 participants completed the program and obtained 148 certificates to increase their employability including: ASIST (38), Best Customer Service (16), CPR and First Aid (32), Food Handlers (40), Non-Violent (8), and WHMIS (14). At the close of the program, 19 Aboriginal youth were employed and 46 went on to further their education.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Winnipeg Inc.: Youth Recreation Activity Worker Program

This program provides formal education, training, work experience and life skill development to inner-city adults aged 18 to 29 years with the aim to empower students to further their education and ultimately obtain work in community-based youth serving agencies. In 2011, seven Aboriginal youth participated, of which six graduated. All graduates secured employment.

Broadway Neighborhood Centre Inc.: Just TV

Just TV aims to provide education and hands on experience related to creating a video and develop other artistic talents, as well as support and activities that foster positive options for youth. In 2011, eleven Aboriginal youth participated in ongoing, informal programming. Of participants, five Aboriginal youth secured employment while five were pursuing education. On Wednesday, December 7, Just TV hosted their 7th Annual Film Festival that featured videos, documentaries and live performances created by Aboriginal youth participants.

Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, Inc.: Aboriginal Construction Technology Program

This 36-week program prepares participants for employment in the construction industry by providing training to achieve their Accredited Level 1 Carpentry certificate as well as the opportunity to achieve their mature student grade 12 diploma. In 2011, all 12 Aboriginal youth

participants graduated the program, obtained their Mature Student Grade 12 and secured full-time employment.

Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.: Honouring Gifts

This program provides up to 18 Aboriginal mothers, aged 15 to 30 years, opportunities to discover their gifts and talents through individualized life planning and career aspirations. In 2011, 24 Aboriginal youth participated resulting in 15 graduates. Participants obtained 80 certificates including ASIST (14), Best Customer Service (18), CPR/First Aid (16), Food Handlers (14) and WHMIS (18). One-third of participants decided to pursue education while four secured employment.

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc.: The Future is Yours

This initiative provides at-risk youth between the ages of 15 to 30 with employability skills, volunteer experience, job shadowing, personal development, and Aboriginal cultural awareness. In 2011, 50 Aboriginal youth participated of which 39 completed the program. Participants obtained 99 certificates including CPR/First Aid (27), Food Handlers (25), Level 1 Coaching Theory (10), Non-Violent (30) and Red Cross Babysitting (7). Thirty-three participants went on to secure employment.

Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.: Youth Resource Centre Recreation Program

The program objective is to train youth in several sports so they learn proper techniques to participate at which ever level they choose. Focus is on physical fitness, well-being, reducing self-destructive behaviours, building a stronger community and teaching life skills. In 2011, programming resulted in 4960 participant visits.

Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc.: Growing Opportunities Program

Growing Opportunities works with street-entrenched and homeless youth to reduce their barriers to employment and to sustain employment once it is obtained by addressing the varied personal circumstances that keep youth out of the labour market. Eighty-eight Aboriginal youth participated in this on-going, informal program in 2011, of which 26 participants secured employment and nine pursued education. Twenty-seven percent of Aboriginal youth participants reached at least three of the following milestones: obtained identification, opened bank account, resume prepared, personal budget prepared or completed job searches.

Spence Neighborhood Association Inc.: First Jobs 4 Youth Project

This program aims to strengthen the capacity of Spence neighbourhood youth to find and keep employment by providing job skills training, part-time summer employment and a part-time fall work placement with a local business. In 2011, 11 Aboriginal youth participated in the program. Employment outcomes will be available February 2012, after the fall/winter placements end.

The next update will include 2011 outcomes of Stream Two – Civic System strategies. Should you have any questions regarding Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak, please call Rhonda Forgues, Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak Coordinator at 204-986-6929.

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