



The Child and Youth Advocate Office is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly that promotes the rights and views of children and youth.

YUKON ROOKIE LEAGUE PROGRAM

What is Yukon Rookie League?

The Yukon Rookie League Program is a youth led program designed to support youth from across the Yukon Territory through a series of motivational workshops and youth led community baseball leadership programs. We incorporated the participation and leadership of youth between the ages of 12-14, who signed up to be Youth Coaches.

This Yukon Rookie League program is designed with an understanding that the majority of inspiring programming offered for youth around the world is designed and led by youth themselves. The Yukon Rookie League program works with youth who want to strengthen their leadership skills and who are willing to learn and implement baseball programming with and for their peers.



INSPIRATION

This event is inspired by Chief Wilton Little Child, a TRC Commissioner, who said "we are calling on you to link arms with us, that all Canadians Indigenous or not, young or old, first-generation or tenth- generation, that we work together to heal and secure a better future" (2015).

YUKON ROOKIE LEAGUE UPDATE to COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

April 2018

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April 2017 to February 2018

Youth Advisors

In spring 2018 four Indigenous youth advisors were recruited to help with the development of the project. Our youth advisors were active in contributing leadership skills, sharing their ideas and working as part of team, as they provide guidance in developing the Yukon Rookie League project with the Jays Care Foundation and Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office. Our youth Advisors for this project are:

- Madison McKenna:** Madison is a citizen of Trondek Hwechin in grade 7 at Jack Hulland School.
- Nigel Charlie:** Nigel is a citizen of Teslin Tlingit Council in grade 7 at Elijah Smith Elementary School.
- Jennifer Tuton:** Jennifer is Tahltan First Nation in grade 8 at Vanier High School.
- Neveah Webb:** Neveah is a citizen of Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation in Grade 8 at Porter Creek Secondary School.



Recruitment for youth leadership training - July 2017 – February 2018

- Youth advisors attended the 2017 CYFN General Assembly to hand deliver information about Yukon Rookie League to Chiefs.
- Youth Advisors and YCAO attended information sharing sessions with Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Sport Yukon, MP Larry Bagnell, Honourable Minister Streiker, Honourable Minister McPhee, CYFN Grand Chief Peter Johnston, and Softball Yukon. to present at the National Aboriginal Sport Circle banquet in October 2017.
- Information packages containing registration forms, Yukon Rookie League Background info, and workshop posters were emailed to all Yukon elementary schools and to Yukon First Nations Education Support Workers.
- Phone calls were made to all elementary school principals, and Yukon First Nations Chiefs.



Working with Community Supporters

Jays Care Foundation and Child and Youth Advocate finalized our partnership in 2017 with a shared funding agreement. Community supporters were engaged to support the program.

YCAO contracted Bella Elite Consulting to assist with the proposal, planning, coordinating community supports, workshop logistics and protocols.



Community Supporter Meeting – October 27, 2018

Youth Advisor – Nigel Charlie
 BYTE: Empowering Youth – Hanna Val
 Aboriginal Sports Circle - Gael Merchant and Gord Reid
 Kwanlin Dun Elder William Carlick
 Yukon Government, Community Services - Tara Wardell
 Softball Yukon – Echo Ross
 Bella Elite Consultant Katie Johnson.
 Jays Care Foundation- Lauren Simeson and
 YCAO staff – Annette King, Bengie Clethero and Annie Blake

This meeting was held to debrief on the October leadership training workshop and to update the adult supporters on next steps for planning the second series of Youth Leadership Workshops.

This meeting created a space for community supporters to also talk about how they see themselves involved as YCAO works towards planning the second series of workshops.

Community supporters were able to identify areas of coaching and leadership workshops that they can bring to the second workshop.



December 2017 - January 2018:

-Community supporters were invited to provide a workshop for February youth coaches training:

-One on one meetings were held with community supporters to gain more insight in to what type of workshop they can host during the second youth leadership training workshops. The idea was to share what our objectives were for the workshops and work out how the community supporter workshops can be aligned with the Yukon Rookie League Objectives.

The Yukon Rookie League objectives include:

- Youth Led
- Develop youth leaders (coaches) to run youth projects
- Youth will learn about First Nations culture and history in Canada and Yukon
- Youth learn about United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and how to incorporate them into project activities
- Youth will learn about importance of, and will experience belonging, mastery, independence and generosity (Circle of Courage Model)
- Develop ball skills
- How to implement games in the community
- How to engage participants and ensure peers take part in activities/play
- Ultimately to reduce social risk factors (long term goal)



Youth Coaches training- Yukon Rookie League – February 7, 8, 9, 2018

Twenty-eight young people attended Yukon Rookie League leadership training at the Canada Games Centre. The goal of this workshop was to immerse all participants to the Yukon Rookie League Program, define what it means to be a Youth Coach, explore different games and activities youth can facilitate in community programs, develop community program plan and recruitment process.

Community Supporter Workshop

provided during the three day training were hosted by:

- Tao Adamak and Shelby Maunder of BYTE: Empowering Youth and
- Kahsha Reid of Champagne and Aishihik First Nation.

Traditional Opening:

KDFN Elder William Carlick provided an opening prayer and First Nation Youth leaders Cheyenne Bradley and Kara Sweeney welcomed the group to the traditional territories of Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwachan Council

Full time facilitation support was provided by:

- Jays Care Foundation facilitators: Lauren Simeson and Josh Appel,
- Michael Tuton Softball Yukon;
- Sarah Walz Aboriginal Sports Circle;
- Sheldon Santa, Boys and Girls Club

Additional support for youth was provided by Elder William Carlick (KDFN), Alexander Gatensby (YOTS), Kara Sweeney (Taan Youth) (YOTS), Danika Jim (KDFN), Billy Janine Richard (YCAO), and KDFN Elders: William Carlick, Anne Smith. Observers also included Kaitlyn Charlie (KDFN Recreation) and Tara Wardell (Community Services) and visits from the Honorable Speaker Nils Clarke and the Honourable Minister of Education Tracey-Anne McPhee

There was an **Elders lunch** that was hosted on the second day of the youth leadership workshop. The following elders attended: Annie Bernard, Judy Gingell, Mary Decker, and Louie Smith, Elsie Cletheroe. (May be missing some names).

After successful completion of the February Youth Leadership Workshop, youth partnered up to run their programming in their community.

There are eight youth led programs that have been formed, which include programs in Teslin, Old Crow, Beaver Creek, Elijah Smith Boys, Elijah Smith Girls, Kwanlin Dun, Boys and Girls Club, and Jack Hulland School. We have coordinated so that each group has an adult supporter in place to provide support to the youth as they coordinate and run their programming.

Jays Care Foundation has provided ball equipment for all of the programs. The equipment is to help the youth to run their ball program effectively and ensures that they have the necessary equipment in place to teach ball. Jays Care provides incentives for numbers of sessions run. When the programs complete eight sessions with their group, they will be eligible to register

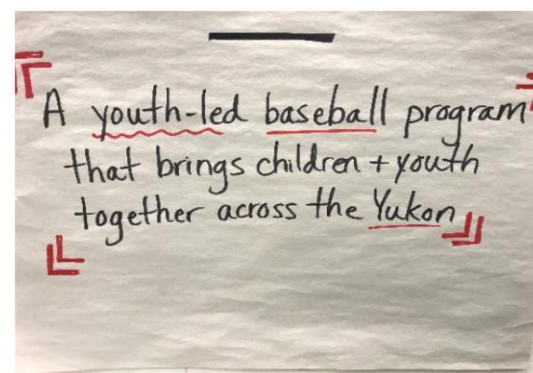
their team in the celebration tournament.

A part time coordinator has been hired to assist the youth and their adult supporters to get the programs up and running. The coordinator also attended the full three days of leadership training with the youth in February and is familiar with the youth and their programs that the youth had created for in their communities.

Full group sessions are being offered at the Canada Games Centre on the following dates:

-Sunday April 8th (1215-115pm), April 14th, May 12th and June 2th

from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. This will provide an opportunity for the youth groups to come together, share components of their programs with each other and also play a game of ball as a group. This component will also ensure youth remain connected with each other over the next few months while they run their individual group programming.





What is happening next?

Video:

Shakat Journal took photos and also recorded portions of the Feb training. Shakat will produce a video of for the Yukon Rookie League Program that can be shared with youth participants, parents, adult supporters and Yukon.

Songwriting Workshop:

Local youth artist Jeremy Linville will be facilitating a songwriter **workshop for the youth involved will be held on Saturday May 12th from 5:00 – 8:30 pm** for the background music to the video. This process will help to ensure that youth remain involved and have input in to any work that is developed from this project, and also ensures that this project remains youth led.

Tournament:

The celebration tournament will be held **June 23 and 24th, 2018** at the Softball Yukon Complex.

Jays Care Facilitators and program staff will be in attendance to assist with the event

Bella Elite will assist with planning and coordination of the events.

Dirt Exchange:

In recognition of Aboriginal Day, there will be a Dirt Transfer Ceremony. Dirt from the Rogers Stadium in Toronto will be placed in the field at Kwanlin Dun ball field. Dirt from the Kwanlin Dun field will then be given to the Jays Care Foundation representatives to transport back to the Rogers Arena in Toronto, where the dirt will be permanently placed.



October 26 2017 Jays Care Youth Leadership Workshop Participants

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	Gemini Gill-Scarff	Glenna Tetlich (ESW)
Trondek Hwechin First Nation	Madison McKenna	
Little Salmon Carmacks	Neveah Webb	
Kwanlin Dun	Kayden Davies Dante Menzi Molly Sam	Cynthia James (ESW)
Teslin Tlingit Council	Nigel Charlie	
Champagne & Aishihik First	Zoralina Martin Terence Jager Alea Griffith Jennika (Jeni) Jones	Margaret Chiblow (ESW)
White River First Nation	Kendra Neiman	Tristian Neiman
Ross River Dene Council	Kobe O'Brien-Clark	Josie O'Brien
Tahltan Nation	Jennifer Tuton	

February 7-9 2018 Youth Participants and Adult Supporters Included:

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Chief Zzeh Gittlit School	Allison Schafer Jynesta Charlie Ciara Kakfwi Jocelyn Tsetso Gemini Gill-Scarff	Glenna Tetlich (VGFN ESW) Samantha Frost (VGFN Rec) Lindsay Johnston
Teslin School	Chance Hassard David Stoneman	Tammy Gabriel Tammy Stoneman
Elijah Smith Boys	Nigel Charlie Cooper King Ben Power Chayce Tuton	Jim Snider
Elijah Smith Girls	Maddy Cave Cassie Cebuliak Erin King Jada Gaber Brooke Shaw Lily Willier	Jim Snider
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	Louis Thompson Andrew Thompson Brody Calberry Dakota Duke	Nicole Grossinger (SJFC)
Little Salmon Carmacks	Neveah Webb	
Kwanlin Dun	Molly Sam	Cynthia James (KDFN ESW)
Jack Hulland School	Ethan Candow Madison McKenna	
White River First Nation	Kendra Neiman Mary Eve Beaudoin Timothy Thomas Jr	Tristian Neiman

We have eight Yukon Rookie League Programs running in the following locations: Beaver Creek, Teslin, Old Crow, Jack Hulland School, Kwanlin Dun, Elijah Smith Boys, Elijah Smith Girls and the Boys and Girls Club.

