



*Manitoba's Best Kept
Northern Secret!*



RECLAIMING OUR FUTURE THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Youth Conference Final Report

August 29-31, 2022



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF LARSON ANDERSON



The Inaugural “Reclaiming our Future” Youth Conference was held in Norway House on August 29-31, 2022. The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Reclaiming our Future through Economic Development.’ The goal of the youth conference was to empower youth to reach their full potential by providing the resources and tools they need to reclaim a better quality life for the community of Norway House.

A total of 151 youth participated in the Youth Conference with a majority of participants ranging in age from 10-35 years old. There were over 32 speakers, 14 workshops, sports camps, 2 live hip-hop concerts, meals provided all day, over 100 prizes to be won and Norway House’s first ever pyro-musical fireworks show. It truly left an impact on the whole community.

We believe that by providing young people with the necessary knowledge and support, the youth will be able to achieve their goals, ambitions, and make our community a safer and better place. Youth have been encouraged to consider the impact their lives can have on their future and the future of their community. It was incredibly wonderful to receive positive feedback from the youth who participated in the event. Who have said positive, learning remarks such as “I feel like the community and other representatives will help me the most, everyone came together for the conference and was so polite and kind. I love that everyone was well-mannered and was participating in the activities.”

Understanding what our youth require to succeed is a vital part of long term goals of this event and looking back on what was presented and the activities we organized, will allow us to learn and grow with the youth to give them an even better experience next year.

Conference Objectives

The objective of the conference is to introduce youth to the different community resources and opportunities that are available for them to further their education, careers, and dreams. The four main objectives of the conference include:

- 1) **how to develop a healthy lifestyle,**
- 2) **how to build leadership potential,**
- 3) **how to build positive values and character,** and
- 4) **how to increase educational success.**

All workshops, activities, speakers, and keynote addresses fell within these objectives.



Highlights

The youth conference had many highlights throughout the 3 days, some include:

- The largest fireworks show Norway House has ever seen!
- The healthy living camps.
- The Drezus and Jayred concerts.
- The MNP youth engagement session.
- The KSMA teamwork activity.
- The Dragons Puppy's Den. (Business Competition)
- Used goods and services of local entrepreneurs.

Problems faced and resolved

Throughout the youth conference and its planning, many unforeseen problems occurred in which we managed to resolve. Problems include:

- Initial size of the planning committee.
 - Increased size of the planning committee from 3 to 8.
- Lack of youth participating in early-registration.
 - Added an incentive to give pre-registration a boost.
- We had a few last-minute guest speaker cancellations.
 - Able to fill the panels shortly afterwards.
- Low Participation from target age group (15-25)
 - Participation from youth that were 7-15.

Key Recommendations

To ensure that the youth conference is meeting its objectives, the Economic Development Department will begin collecting data regarding the well-being of the youth. We will do this by getting the youth to fill out a brief survey that will ask questions that relate to the conference objectives. We will do this shortly before the next youth conference and will be a part of the registration process. A list of recommendations are listed below:

- Venue had a lot of distractions including dogs and weather
 - Hold at the Multiplex – less distractions and not permitted to the weather
- Plan the conference with more lead time (6-9 months)
- Increase participation rate from other First Nation communities residing within the Treaty 5 territory.
- Hold the Youth Conference during the school year to target ideal age group.
- Reach out to potential sponsors earlier and collect contributions before conference (ex. Manitoba Hydro, RBC).
- Do a group photo of the Youth Conference participants.



PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS

DAY 1 – Monday, August 29		
8:30-9:30	Breakfast	
9:30-11:30	Drezus and JayMak Workshop • Music Workshop	Drezus and JayMak (Separate Registration)
11:30-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-3:00	Registration	
3:00-3:15	Opening Prayer	Gordon Walker, Elder
3:15- 3:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks • Conference Expectations and Objectives • Community Unity	Co-Emcee Tyler Duncan and Melanie Halcrowe, Chief and Council
3:45-4:30	Keynote Speaker • Unpack the “Reclaiming Our Future” Theme	Rob Campbell, MNP
4:30-5:30	Community Workshop/ Engagement Session • Table Discussions	Rob Campbell, MNP Katheryn Graham, MNP
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner	
6:30-9:00	Concert	Drezus and JayMak
DAY 2 – Tuesday, August 30		
8:00-9:00	Breakfast	
9:00-9:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Chief and/or Council Member
9:30-9:45	Introductions and Expectations	Jimmy Thunder
9:45-10:00	Recap of Day 1 and Day Expectations	Emcees



10:00-10:45	Develop a Healthy Lifestyle • Questions and Answers	Jon Meikle
10:45-11:00	Health Break	
11:00-11:30	Benefits of a Strong Support Network	Rhonda Apetagon
11:30-12:00	Develop Positive Values and Character	JayRed (Jordan Apetagon)
12:00-1:00	Lunch – Keynote Speaker	Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse
1:00-2:00	First Nation Economic Development within Manitoba	David Koblisky, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
2:00-2:30	Future Economic Opportunities in Norway House	John Lee, Flying Nickel
2:30-2:45	Health Break	
2:45- 3:30	Health and Wellness • Jordan’s Principle • NHCN Community Wellness Program	Joanne Maclean and Community Wellness Workers
3:30 – 4:00	Making Healthy Choices	James Favel
4:00-4:15	Closing Remarks	Emcee
4:15-5:00	Dinner	
4:30 – 6:30	Healthy Living Camps • Ball Hockey, Basketball, Volleyball, Canoeing	Trudy Hart, Healthy Living
6:30 – 9:00	Concert	JayRed and DIILEMMA
DAY 3 – Wednesday, August 31		
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast	
9:00-9:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks • Increasing Educational Achievements	Councillor Dave Swanson



9:30 – 9:45	Recap of Day 2 and Day Expectations	Emcees
9:45-10:45	Career Planning & Professional Development	Susan Swan
10:45-11:00	Health Break	
11:00 - 12:00	Apprenticeship Trades, and panel of Trades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship MB • Northern Manitoba Sector Council 	Katherine Saunders, Felix Spence, and Sharon Lidbetter
12:00-1:00	Lunch - Keynote Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education & Entrepreneurship 	Zach Unrau, IBEP
1:00-1:30	CED Principals and Indian Act	Jimmy Thunder and Melanie Halcrowe
1:30-2:30	Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CED Bucket Exercise 	SEED Representatives
2:30-2:45	Draw	
2:45-3:00	Health Break	
3:00-3:30	Entrepreneurship 'Education through Experience' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurs in NHCN • Ian Maxwell – Lifewater Gardens • Brian Rowden – The Studio • Reggie Hart – Local Entrepreneur 	Multiple Guest Speakers
3:30 - 4:00	The CANDO Experience	Logan Tait and Melanie Halcrowe
4:00 – 4:30	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks	
4:30 – 4:45	Closing Prayer	
4:45 – 6:30	Feast	
6:30 – 9:30	Healthy Living Camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball Hockey, Basketball, Volleyball, Canoeing 	Trudy Hart, Healthy Living
9:30-10:00	Pyro Musical Fireworks Display	CanFire



CONFERENCE RECAP

Throughout the conference there was several highlights that really resonated with the youth participants. A list of notable events is listed below:

Day 1

- Formally opened up with a prayer by Elder Grant Queskakapow, followed by opening remarks by Councilors Eddie Albert and Anthony Apetagon.
- The youth participants were welcomed by MNP's Rob Campbell. Rob kickstarted the conference with an interactive engagement session. The session had the conference participants write down business ideas that they would like to see within their community.
- For the evening's entertainment, renowned Indigenous artist Drezus performed for the youth.

Day 2

- The youth participants had a shoreline breakfast at the waterfront pavilion.
- An opening prayer was made by Grant Queskakapow, followed by remarks from Councilors Eddie Albert and Dave Swanson.
- Throughout the day, each presenter emphasized the importance of developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- Rhonda Apetagon from Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency, talked about the importance of having a strong network and held an interactive team building activity.
- During lunch, Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse spoke on the importance of education and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- After lunch, the youth heard from John Lee of the Flying Nickel Mining Corporation, and representatives from Jordan's Principal.
- For the evening's activities, the youth participated in healthy living camps provided by the Parks and Recreation Department of NHCN.
- A hip hop performance from local artists Jayred and Diilema.



Day 3

- A shoreline breakfast
- A series of influential speakers touching on the importance of education. Speakers included Susan Swan, Katherine Saunders, Felix Spence, and Sharon Lidbetter.
- We had our keynote speaker, Zach Unrau, speak about the importance of education and how there is a need for community members to pursue the field of business.
- After lunch we heard from Jimmy Thunder and Melanie Halcrowe who explained what Community Economic Development Principals and what the Indian Act is.
- Presentation from SEED Winnipeg explaining what Community Economic Development is and also included an exercise. The exercise included a bucket and water, and showed the effects of economic leakage and how important it is to keep the money within the community to the youth.
- We heard from four local entrepreneurs who shared their story and gave a lot of useful advice to the youth.
- Logan Tait-Reaume and Melanie Halcrowe shared their respective CANDO experiences and followed with a business competition that they called “~~Dragons~~ Puppy’s Den”. This involved the youth participants to come up with a business idea and pitch it to a panel of judges. With three prizes on the line, many of the youth got involved and shared their good business ideas.
- A community feast.
- Later that evening we had the healthy living camps which involved youth participating in volleyball, canoeing, basketball and hockey camps.
- Once it got dark, we had the biggest firework show Norway House has ever seen! Everyone from the community showed up and got to witness the first ever and biggest pyro musical fireworks display in Norway House.



BUSINESS COMPETITION - DRAGONS PUPPY'S DEN

The finale of the 'Reclaiming our Future' Youth Conference was a business competition for the youth, which we called Dragon's Puppy's Den. The Puppy's Den was an opportunity for youth to give a 1-minute pitch of their respective business idea to a panel of judges and if their idea was in the top 3, they win a chance for three prizes. The prizes were an Xbox Series X, Apple AirPods, and a fishing rod.

We heard from over 30 youth who shared their business ideas about what they want to see in the future for their community. We found many youth to be shy and nervous but with some inspiration from others, they managed to get the courage to speak about their passions and ideas. Many business ideas that were shared include a café for people who want to play board games, a taxi business, a waterpark, a movie theatre, an animal hospital, an indoor adventure park, and a restaurant.

After seeing over 30 youth share their business ideas with the community and witnessing the success of the competition, it would be ideal to make this competition a yearly event that would be a very beneficial to the entrepreneurial spirit of the youth.





YOUTH CONFERENCE PHOTOS







YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Registration

Registration was collected with an incentive for the youth to pre-register for the youth conference. The participants that pre-registered, had a chance to win an all-expense paid trip to Winnipeg to attend a Winnipeg Blue-Bombers game. We had a total of 29 youth who pre-registered for the youth conference. In total, we met our goal with 151 participants who registered and participated for the youth conference.

Number of youth registered on day 1, day 2, and day 3:

August 29 th - Day 1	111 participants in total
August 30 th - Day 2	151 participants in total
August 31 st - Day 3	82 participants in total

Feedback forms

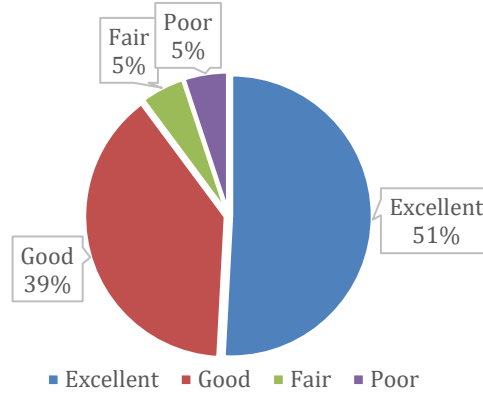
What was the overall feel of the conference?

NHCN Ec Dev Youth Conference Evaluation Form Short Answer Responses					
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
1. This conference was well organized	30	23	3	3	59
2. The presenters were well knowledgeable	32	19	4	2	57
3. The material was presented in an interesting manner	27	21	9	2	59
4. The material presented was relevant and helpful	27	23	7	2	59
5. The facilities were appropriate	33	13	6	5	57
6. The purpose of the conference was met	30	21	3	4	58
7. My expectations of the conference was met	32	17	6	2	57
Total	211	137	38	20	406

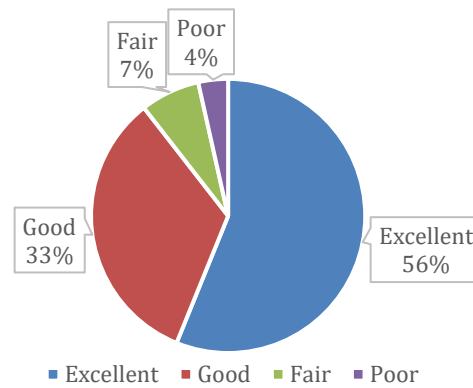
59 Feedback Forms were filled out in total. 4 questions were skipped by a small number of participants. Please see charts on the next page for a visual representation.



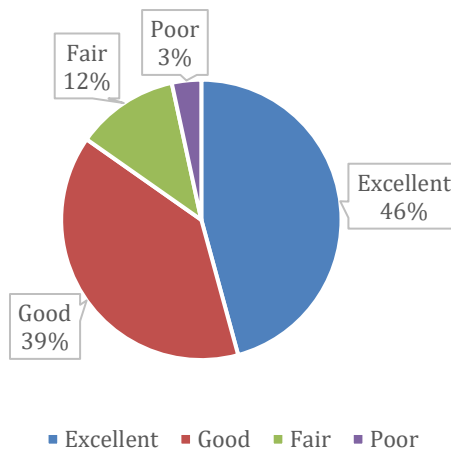
This Conference Was Well Organized



The Presenters Were Well Knowledgeable



The Material Presented Was Relevant and Helpful





EVENT SET-UP AND PLANNING

Planning Team



Photo L-R (Melanie Halcrowe, Jimmy Thunder, Eileen Apetagon, Trevor Thomas and Logan Tait-Reaume)

The planning team consisted of eight individuals. They were Jimmy Thunder, Eileen Apetagon, Debbie Burka, Melanie Halcrowe, Trevor Thomas, Logan Tait-Reaume, Trudy Hart and Dylan Arthurson.

Methodology

With consideration to which methodology would be best, we decided to utilize Project Management tools and processes to ensure the success of the youth conference.









BUDGET – REVENUES & SPONSORSHIPS

Summary

The planning committee would like to thank our sponsors for \$169,000 in sponsorship contributions. The committee reached out to 18 organizations from the Norway House area and have received contributions from a total of 15.

Funding & Sponsorship Contributions

 Indigenous Services Canada	Indigenous Services Canada	\$100,000
 NHCN PHARMACY	NHCN Pharmacy	\$10,000 +In Kind
 NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION KINOSAO SIIPI	Norway House Cree Nation Social <i>First Nations Inuit Youth Employment Strategy Program</i>	\$10,000
 NORTH WEST COMPANY	Northwest Company	\$9,000



	Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.	\$7,500
	JNR Construction	\$7,500
	Sigfusson Northern	\$7,500
	Flying Nickel	\$5,000
	Bison Modular Homes	\$5,000
	Kinosao Sipi Muchipunowin Program	\$5,000
	TIPI TMI Partnered Insurance	\$2500
	Jordans Principle	IN KIND
	Nomvd Media	IN KIND
	MNP LLP	IN KIND
	Indigenous Leadership Development Institute	IN KIND
	TOTAL	\$169,000



Budget – Vendors and Expenses

Drezus Concert	\$5,000
Jayred and Diilemma Concert	\$2,250
Pyro Musical Display by Canfire	\$24,700
Sports Camps	Sponsored by Healthy Living
NHCN Pyrotechnicians	\$700
Strength in the Circle Security Services	\$9,940
NOMVD Video Production	\$1,165
Beatos Productions	\$11,800
Transportation	\$21,222
Accommodations	\$3,900
Meals	\$10,502
Conference Materials and Swag	\$14,300
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Bombers Event	\$3,000
Collective Spark	\$1,325
Honoraria and gifts	\$14,000
Prizes	\$6,222
Security	\$9,940
Advertising	\$1,500
Administration	\$27,535
TOTAL	\$169,000



Thank you to our sponsors!





Our mission is to provide platforms, programs, and resources to support the youth of Norway House to grow, thrive and make a difference.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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