

ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLES COUNCIL

"Sustaining the Future of our Nations"



Youth Council Development A Tool Kit for Action

**This tool kit is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and
prepared by Chiefs of Ontario**



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Youth Council Development Tool Kit*

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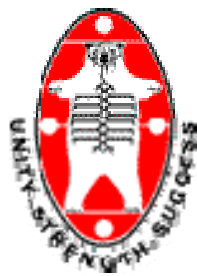
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**"GREETINGS TO OUR YOUNG BROTHERS AND
SISTERS OF THE ANISHAWBEK,
HAUDENOSAUNEE AND MUSHKEGOWUK
NATIONS"**



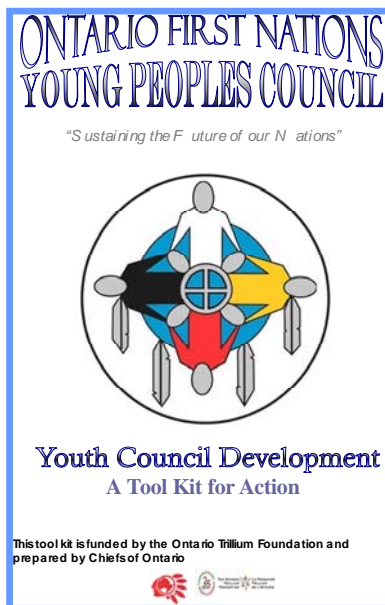


SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Welcome

To the 1st Edition of the
OFNYPC Youth Council Development Toolkit



April 2007 Updated October 2007

We trust this toolkit and the resources that it offers will serve as an effective guide for those youth striving to build vibrant youth councils.



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PREAMBLE

The Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council was formally established by the Chiefs of Ontario in 2004 to be the youth voice for the Ontario First Nations. The mandate of the Council is to take the lead to create a voice for local youth through the formation of youth led governing and decision making processes.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit was developed by the Chiefs of Ontario Youth Coordinator on behalf of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council.

The intent of the toolkit is to support youth between the ages of 15 to 29 establish a voice in their community through the formation of a youth council. The toolkit can also be an effective guide for persons involved in the development of youth initiatives.

PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT

The primary purpose of the toolkit is to provide support to the youth in the Ontario First Nations who are interested to establish and run effective youth councils. The toolkit can also be used to support the ongoing development and operation of existing youth councils in the First Nations communities.

SCOPE OF THE TOOLKIT

The toolkit provides valuable information on the development and operation of a regional youth initiative that is supported by the Chiefs in Ontario. It outlines a four step process on the formation of a youth council. The toolkit provides resources and examples to support and guide youth in the development and operation of their youth councils. A resource information binder forms part of the Toolkit. The documents put forward are intended to support each step of the youth council development process. Resources materials provided in the resource information binder are also available in CD disks.

The toolkit is not designed to provide all the answers to every problem that youth and youth workers will have in setting up and operating a youth council. It is intended only to be used as a guide and it can be adapted to suit the needs of each community youth council.



SECTION 2

ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLES COUNCIL



Left to Right

Back:

Esther McKay - Nishnawbe Aski Nation Proxy, Arnold Yellowman - Union of Ontario Indians Proxy,
Waylon Scott - Independent First Nations

Middle:

Chenoa Plain - Administration Assistant, Laura Calmwind - COO Youth Coordinator, Carolyn Kokokopenace -
Grand Council Treaty #3, Serene Spence - Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Amanda Sault - Association of Iroquois and
Allied Indians, Sasha Maracle - Independent First Nations, Sandra Albert - Union of Ontario Indians,
Justin Logan - Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Front:

Elders - Garry & Tina Sault

OFNYPC December 2007 Meeting
Toronto Ontario



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BACKGROUND

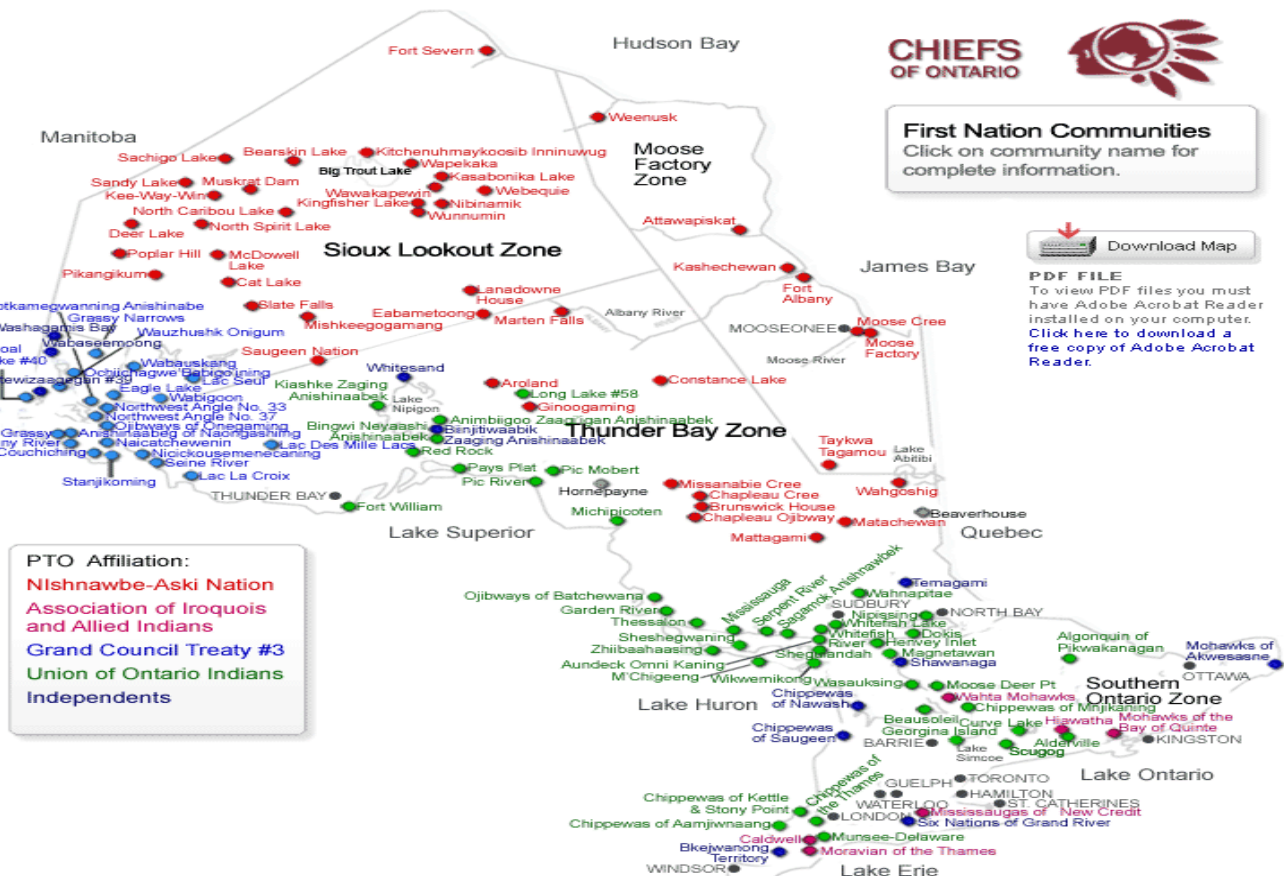
The Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council is a regional youth initiative that is developed and coordinated by the Chiefs in Ontario Political Office in Thunder Bay.

A brief profile on the Chiefs of Ontario is presented to generate awareness and promote the understanding of the regional governing structure of the Ontario First Nations.

Chiefs of Ontario

In March of 1975, at the First All Ontario Chiefs Conference, a joint First Nations Association Coordinating Committee was formed. The purpose of the committee was to provide a single Ontario representative to the Assembly of First Nations. From this committee emerged the Chiefs of Ontario office.

The Chiefs of Ontario is a coordinating body for 134 First Nation communities located within the traditional territories of five major First Nation groups in Ontario. The map of the Ontario First Nations can be accessed on the Chiefs of Ontario website at <http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/>. A profile of each First Nation community and Provincial Territorial Organizations is readily available for review.



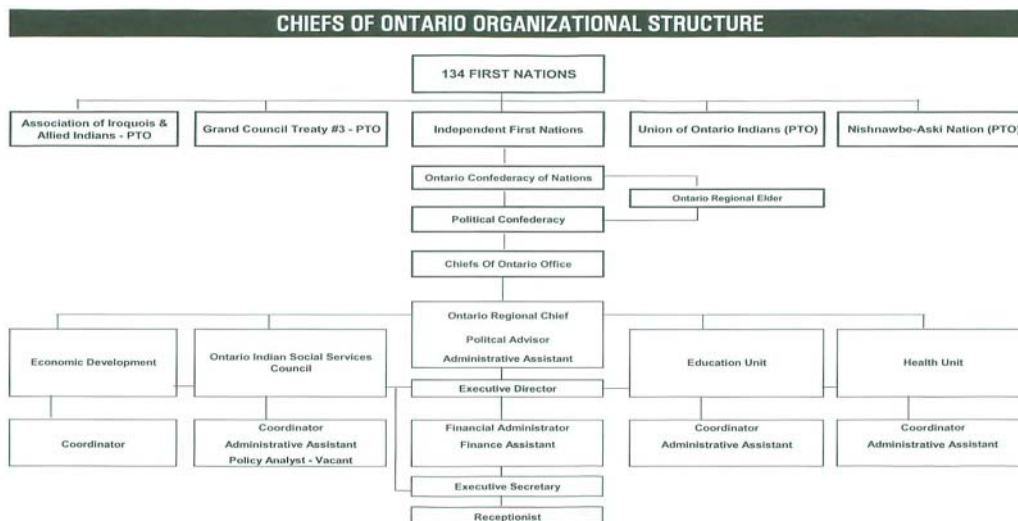


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Organizational Objectives:

The main objective of the Chiefs of Ontario office is to facilitate the discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of all local, regional and national matters affecting the First Nations peoples of Ontario

Organizational Structure



Key Activities:

The Chiefs of Ontario office is operated by the Executive Director, who is responsible for establishing, maintaining liaison and communications between both levels of government and the Political Confederacy. The office is actively involved in Provincial/Federal/First Nation tripartite discussions.

Logo

The circle and the map represents the continuity, strength and harmony of the First Nations peoples of Ontario; the five feathers signify the four political organizations of the chiefs of Ontario; the fifth feather represents the independent nations and First Nations who are not forgotten. The overall symbol of the war-painted chief with a circle and five feathers as a headdress is the continuance of the First Nations peoples of Ontario's struggle for pride, culture, self-determination and spirituality.



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Mandate

In 2003 the Chiefs of Ontario was mandated to create a youth working group to develop a regional youth council in response to the requests received at the 2003 Economic Indigenous Youth Symposium. In November 2004, the Chiefs in Ontario passed Resolution 03/04 mandating the Chiefs of Ontario to formerly establish the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council for the purpose of representing Ontario First Nations youth by being a voice and lobbyist for youth issues with all levels of government.

In 2005, Chiefs of Ontario secured funding from the Trillium Foundation to resource the development and activities of the newly established youth council.

Under the auspices of the Chiefs of Ontario, the regional youth council is coordinated to carry out its mandate to discuss and address regional, political and national priorities affecting First Nation youth in the communities and to provide a unified voice on these issues.

For further information on the Chiefs of Ontario, please log on to the COO website at <http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org>. Follow the link for the regional youth council.





THE ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLES COUNCIL

Purpose

The Ontario First Nations Youth Peoples Council is a regional youth council that represents the youth of all First Nations in Ontario by being a voice for youth issues at all levels of government.

Membership

The OFNYPC is made up of two regional representatives from each of the Provincial Territorial Organizations in Ontario as well as the Independent First Nations. This structure ensures that there is accurate and fair representation of the diverse regions and communities at the provincial level.

The current members are:

Grand Council Treaty # 3

Nick Mainville Jr.

Carolyn Kokokopenace

Couchiching First Nation

Grassy Narrows First Nation

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Serene Spence

Esther Mckay Proxy

Male NAN Representative (TBA)

Constance Lake First Nation

Bearskin Lake First Nation

Union of Ontario Indians

Sandra Albert

Travis Boissoneau

Chippewa of the Thames

Garden River First Nation

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Amanda Sault

Justin Logan

Mississaugas of New Credit

Moravian of the Thames

Independent First Nations

Sasha Maracle

Waylon Scott

Six Nations of the Grand River

Wabseemoong First Nation



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The existing membership consists of new three members and members that have served over two years on the Council. This year 2007 marks the nomination and selection of new members.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference designed by the youth working group and approved by the Chiefs in Assembly through COO Resolution# 04/09 serves as the guiding document for the activities of the Council. The original terms of reference were amended in 2006 to further define the role and activities of the Council's portfolio structure.

Vision Statement

Knowing that the Creator placed us here to live in peace and harmony with all Creation

Carrying the legacy of our ancestors forward on to our children and generation yet unborn

Being free in accordance with our own traditional Constitutions and our sacred laws

We are the original sovereign nations in Turtle Island

And living by our inherent gifts and covenants, we envision the time of our Nationhood and traditional governance and governments

- *Where our Elders, Men, Women and Youth are once gain fully participating citizens in traditional governance, Where our children have the best opportunity to complete the life cycle from childhood, adolescence, adulthood and elderhood in healthy families and communities*
- *Where our First Nations communities enjoy cultural, political, social and economic self-sufficiency and the inherent right to self government*
- *Where our peoples have free and total access to the land, air, water, environment and resources of their territories in accordance with their inherent jurisdiction, customs, values and traditions*

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement gives us Unity of Cause and Purpose Toward our Vision

To be the young leaders of Ontario by accepting our roles and responsibilities in ways that balance traditional values with the modern concepts of today. Also, the



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OFNYPC are committed to revitalize traditional governance and governments and secure the resources to do it; and to strengthen our support systems in the transition toward nationhood.

The goals of the Council are to:

- Work also side the Ontario Chiefs in Assembly and the Political Confederacy in their decisions relating to but not limited to: Governance, Social Development, Economic Development, Education and Health.
- Identify the issues that are affecting the First Nations Youth in Ontario and develop projects to address these issues.
- Act as role models and ambassadors at regional, national, international forums involving youth.
- To promote the importance of living a health lifestyle by identifying the negative impacts of physical and mental abuse.
- Build the capacity of the youth to assume their future roles and responsibilities

The Ontario Chiefs in Assembly and the Political Confederacy shall accept the positions of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council; these decisions will affect their future.

Principles Guide us in our journey

*Our original Constitutions and Traditional Law are the Supreme Laws of our Nations
Inherent Jurisdiction is exercised through Temporal Laws and Public Policy of our governments*

Our Elders are the keepers of Traditional Law

Our relationships are based on the International Treaties among our respective Nations that predate contact with settler nations

The spirit and intent of our Treaties with the Crown, as we understand them, are the basis for a peaceful and harmonious co-existence with Crown governments.

The trust relationship between our Nations and the Crown in right in Canada is for as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass is green.

While working towards the goals the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council shall adhere to the following principles:

- *To strive for unity of all First Nations within the borders of Ontario by understanding and respecting the diversity of all our Nations*
- *Seek and understand the principles and teachings of your respected Nations*
- *Walking the balanced path by balancing traditional, mental, physical and spiritual well-being.*



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Mandate

It was at the Economic Indigenous Youth Symposium 2003 that the youth in attendance requested the development of a regional youth council. The OFNYPC has received their mandate to function through the Chiefs in Assembly Resolution 03/04 dated November 19th, 2003.

<http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/youth/resolutions.html>

Membership

The Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council shall consist of representatives for each of the four regional organizations as well as two (2) representatives (1 male, 1 female) of the Independents First Nations:

- Union of Ontario Indians
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Grand Council Treaty # 3
- Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
- Independent First Nations

Council

- The Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council shall be reflective of the four regional organizations and Independent First Nations with each having 1 males and 1 female representative
- Only First Nations status youth may be members
- Each member shall sit for a term of two years (unless a regions youth council's terms of reference states otherwise)
- Council members may be residing on their community (on reserve) or in and urban center
- Council members must be between the ages of 18-29; when a member turns 29 years of age they will have a 6-month period to complete their work and train a replacement

Elder

An Elder from the territory; in which, OFNYPC is in, shall advise the activities of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council



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Resources

The Chiefs of Ontario shall secure funding on annual basis to support the activities of the OFNYPC. A youth department shall perform the activities of the OFNYPC and shall consist of the following:

Youth Coordinator (COO)

A youth coordinator shall oversee all the technical aspects of the activities requested by the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council

Administrative Assistant (COO)

The Administrative Assistant shall undertake all the administrative aspects of the activities requested by the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council (i.e. travel, accommodations, minutes, etc)

Selection Process

The OFNYPC shall select two representatives from each of the four regional organizations, as well as two from the Independent First Nations. The COO shall respect the selection process of the regions according to their customs, traditions and cultures. If the region does not have a process in place to select their youth leaders they shall consider the following options.

1. Criteria-Each region shall develop a criteria based on their expectations of their representatives. The criteria may consist of or be a combination of the following:
 - Education
 - Council Experience
 - Involved in youth initiatives
 - Essay Contest
 - Past Achievements
 - Employment Record
 - Volunteer Work
 - Language Speaker
2. Nominations- Each region shall develop a nomination form in order to receive nomination from the communities that will identify the appropriate youth to represent them. Whether the youth may or may not nominate themselves is at the discretion of the region.



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3. Appointment-Each Grand Chiefs of their respective region shall select the appropriate youth to represent their region. The method by which the youth are selected is solely at the discretion of the region.
4. Election – Each region shall develop a process whereby each community within the region can select youth representatives. Those youth elected at the community level, who wish to run for the two positions may step forward in a nomination by the region. The Election Day procedures are at the discretion of the region.

Funding Objectives

Having secured multi-year funding four years from the Trillium Foundation, the following objectives are apart of the agreement between the OFNYPC, and the Trillium Foundation. These objectives form, in part the work plan of the OFNYPC.

- Creation of one (1) full time position to support the Council
- Development of 25 youth councils per year
- 4 information session per year
- 6 OFNYPC meetings per year
- Development of a Community Youth Council database, email network, and website
- Training program to OFNYPC members and equip them to train others in their communities
- Annual Youth Symposium
- Annual plan to develop and report on Chiefs of Ontario sustainability strategy for OFNYPC

Portfolio Structure

The current OFNYPC governing structure consists of ten youth of five major First Nations groups in Ontario. In the interim, until an inherent governance structure is developed, a portfolio system has been activated by the Council. Each member holds a portfolio of interest and he/she is responsible to represent and advocate for the interests of all youth in Ontario.

Overview

The Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council Portfolio Structure is designed in coherence with the values, principles and standards which govern the overall action and policy of the Chiefs of Ontario. The activities of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council are governed by the Political Confederacy (PC).



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The Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council Portfolio Structure forms a part of an interactive process with the Chiefs of Ontario, and with all levels of government in which young peoples will play a major role in determining their future.

The OFNYPC portfolio structure is an instrument that reflects the Young Peoples Council's approach to youth involvement and engagement in all matters that impact on their lives and communities.

Scope

The OFNYPC portfolio structure will address all issues impacting First Nations youth in Ontario.

Purpose

The purpose of the youth portfolio is to allow for the individual OFNYPC members to manage and be responsible to direct the work that is required to address the needs and aspirations of First Nations youth in wide range of areas of political, cultural, policy, and social issues.

Mandate

Each youth portfolio holder has a specific mandate to represent the interests of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council.

The mandate of each portfolio is designated by the resolution of the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council.

Membership

Each member of the OFNYPC shall be responsible for at least one portfolio.

Each member may hold a number of portfolios.

Each portfolio may be shared by a number of members.

Portfolio Selection

Each member will declare their interest of a particular portfolio.

Each member that declares their interest will have five minutes to speak on their past experience and/or their future aspirations in regards to their particular portfolio.

Each member that declares their interest will have an additional five minutes available for question and answer.



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Each member on the council will then cast a vote, and the two candidates with the most votes will be declared the portfolio holders for their specific area.

Role and Responsibilities of each portfolio

Each portfolio holder is responsible to adhere to the OFNYPC Code of Ethics and Conduct when undertaking the duties of their portfolio.

It will be the responsibility of the Youth Coordinator to liaison between the youth portfolio holders and the relevant program coordinator within the Chiefs of the Ontario.

Each portfolio holder will be responsible to access and maintain information related to their respective portfolio.

Each portfolio holder will be responsible to attend meetings, conferences, training sessions, and other functions related to their portfolio.

Each portfolio holder will be responsible to report to the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council on the activities of their portfolio area.

Each portfolio holder is responsible to advocate for the best interests of First Nation youth;

Each portfolio holder will respect the work and responsibility of other portfolio holders and will not engage in any activities related to the portfolio without prior notice to respective youth portfolio holder.

Role and responsibility of proxy portfolio holders

OFNYPC will allow for proxy portfolio holders in order to facilitate the engagement and involvement of local youth in the objectives of OFNYPC.

Each member of the Council with a portfolio may share the responsibilities of their portfolio with a youth proxy who is selected by the member and is ratified by the Council. It will be the responsibility of the Portfolio holder to provide information on the past experience, future aspirations and qualifications of the youth proxy.

It will be the responsibility of the Portfolio holder to provide supervision and direction to the youth proxy on the activities and accountability of their respective portfolio. The proxy youth portfolio will be subject to the "Code of Conduct & Ethics" of the OFNYPC. It will be the responsibility of youth proxy portfolio holder to report to the Council member responsible for the portfolio, and or to the OFNYPC as a whole.



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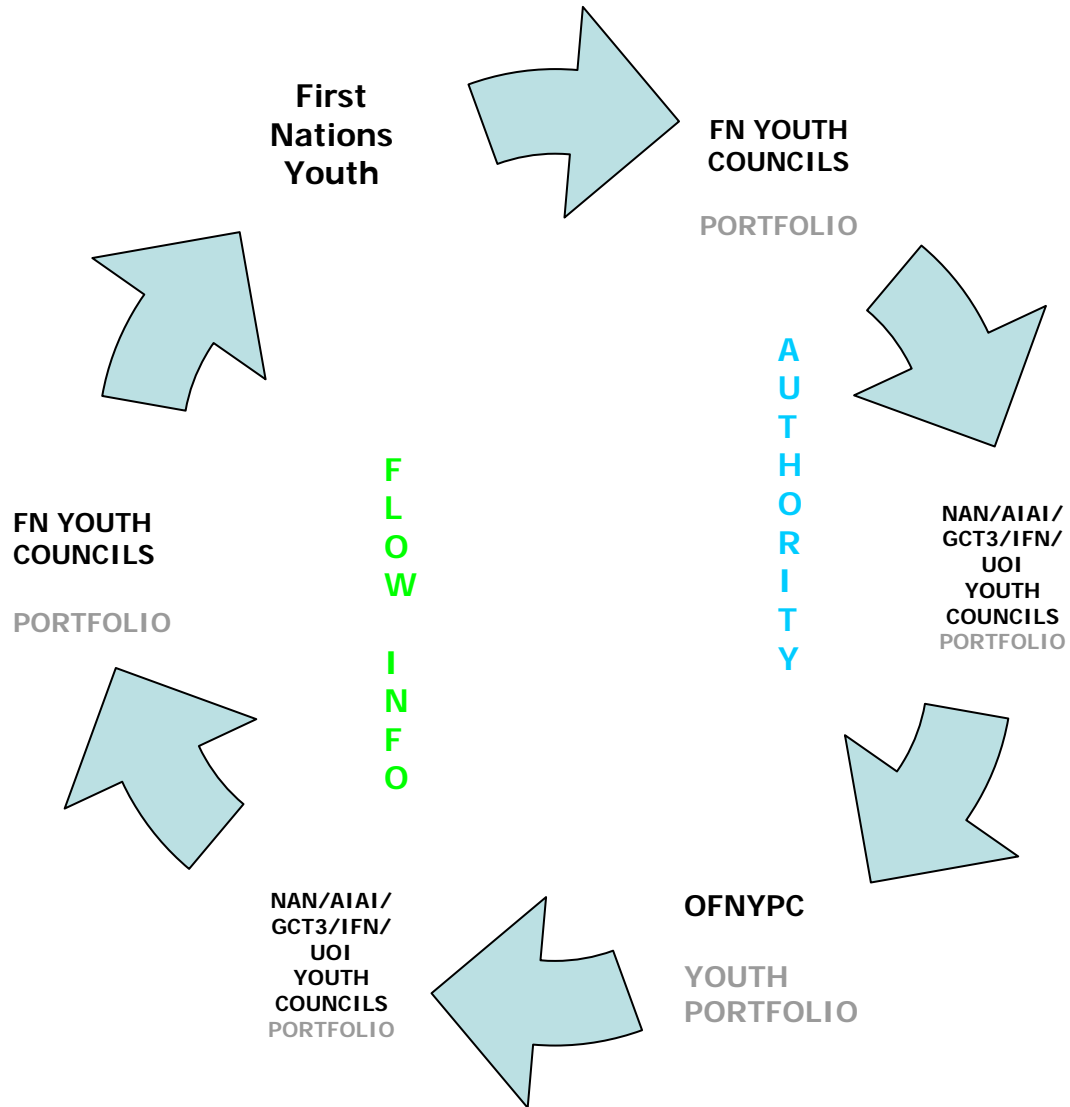
Portfolio Holders

Council Member	Portfolio(s)
Sasha Maracle	Child Welfare, Economic Development, Housing, Fundraising
Waylon Scott	Governance, Taxation, Nation Building
Nick Mainville Jr.	Recreation, Economic Development, Health, Treaty & Aboriginal Rights, Communications
Carolyn Kokokopenace	Environment, Governance
Travis Boissoneau	Natural Resources, Culture & Tradition Treaties, Aboriginal Rights
Sandra Albert	Culture & Language, Fundraising
Amanda Sault	Education, Justice, Housing
Justin Logan	Education, Social Services
Serene Spence	Education, Social Service
Esther Mckay Proxy	Justice, Language



Portfolio Diagram

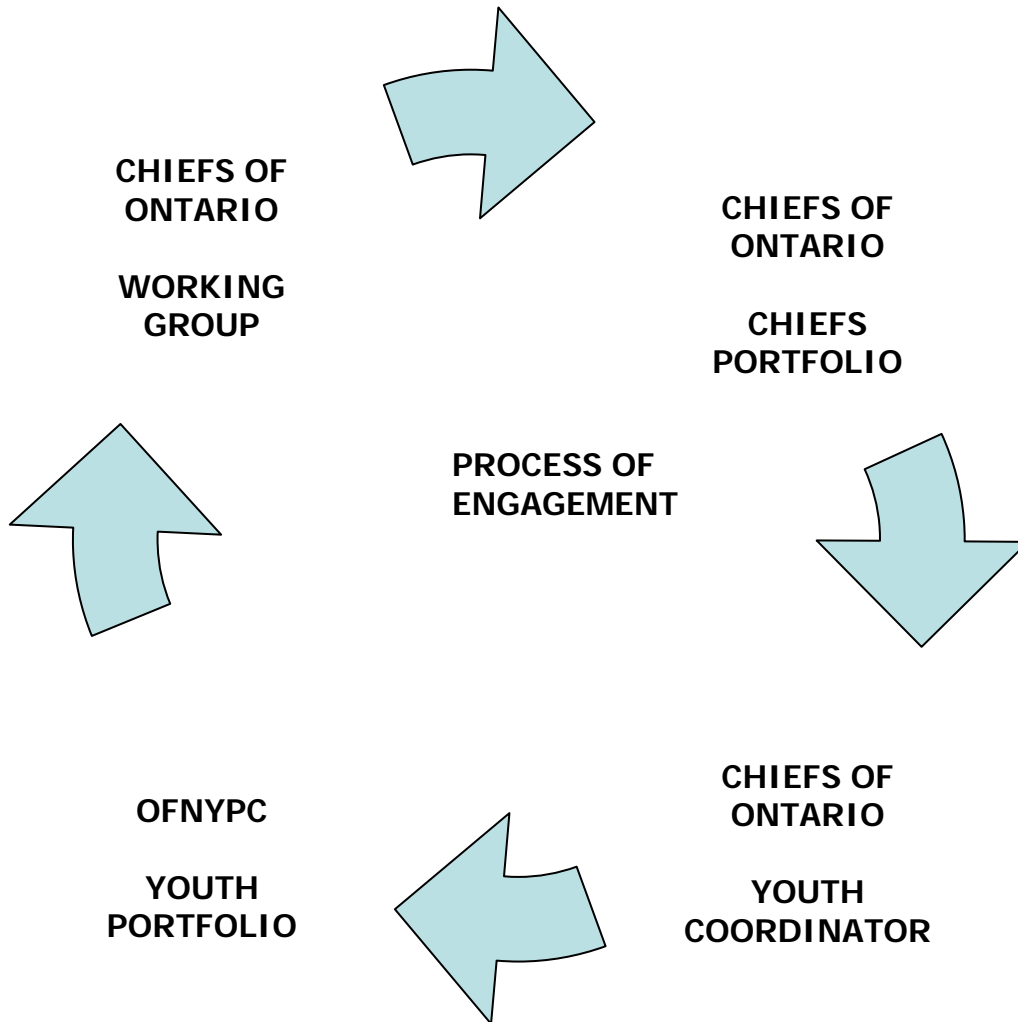
Internal Authority & Flow of Information





PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

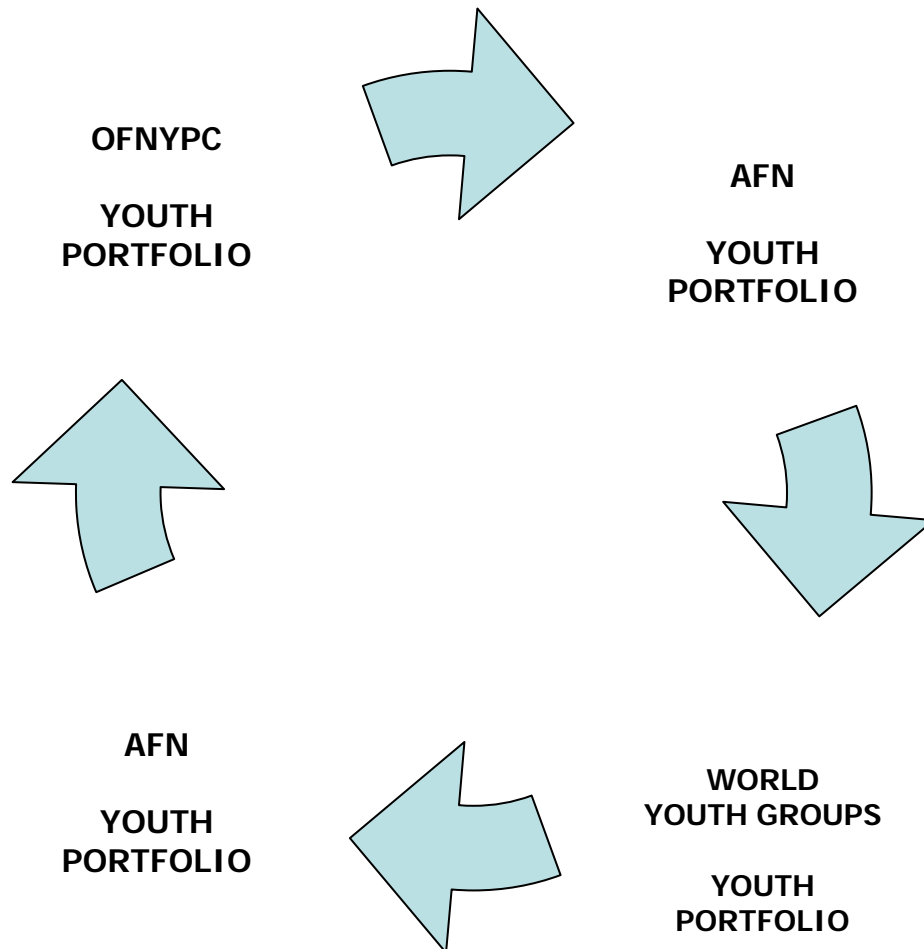
INTERNAL PROCESS ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT





PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

EXTERNAL PORTFOLIO ENGAGEMENT





SECTION 3

YOUTH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT



**Building Healthy Youth Power
Circle Session with Maheengun Shawanda
4th Annual Youth Symposium on Culture, Language and Tradition
March 2007**

GETTING STARTED



STEP ONE: ORGANIZING YOUR PERSONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

You want to start a youth council in your community. We can help you get started. The best way to begin is to organize your own personal goals and objectives first.

This is a mini strategic planning process for your personal use. You may skip this session if you feel you do not need it. There are sample questions and answers provided. There may be other questions you want to ask yourself to prepare for your role to plan and organize a youth council in your community. List all your questions and answer them according to your own readiness and understanding.

Practical Vision

Every young person has a different vision of the future, of what is important and what is compelling.

Visualize your future and write down your personal goals for the future. The purpose of this exercise is to help you understand that when you have a vision of your own future, then you can see clearly a vision for your peers, community, government and Nation.

1. What do you want to see happen in your own life?

Example: I want to be the leader of my community someday.

2. What are some of the critical tasks in the role of organizing a youth group?

Example: I will go around the community to speak with other interested youth.

Underlying Obstacles

Each person experiences blockages and challenges whenever they start a worthwhile initiative. While there are blockages that are difficult to change in a short period, they can eventually be removed through perseverance and determination. Challenges too are healthy as they provide for the opportunity to grow. When you pick up the challenges, one by one, you will become stronger and wiser in all your endeavors.



3. What is the reality I am dealing with here?

Example: No one listens to the youth in my community. Does the community believe that young peoples can become equal partners in the decision-making process and in the implementation of solutions?

4. What are the underlying obstacles to me enacting this role?

Example: I am a full time student and I am hardly in the community during the winter months. I may not be to attend meetings.

Strategic Directions

Each person sets a strategic course for the realization of goals. Strategy is about process and it sets the direction for moving forward towards something you want to accomplish. Strategic direction is also about discovery and finding ways to do what you want can be fun and informative.

5. Who can I enlist to help me in the community?

Example: I can always approach the youth workers or someone on the Band Council with the youth portfolio or interest to assist youth form a youth council.

6. What are some new directions I can move in to deal with the obstacles and realize my vision for a strong youth voice in my community?

Example: I can be the youth leader in my community and be a positive role model.

Action Plan

Each person has an action plan for whatever they want to do. It is important to set a strategic direction within a timeframe and to prioritize what needs to be done first and what can be done at a later date. Action planning is about being realistic and progressive on what you can do within a period of time.

7. What do I want to accomplish in the role of a youth council member?

Example: By the end of the summer, I will have a group of youth working together to develop the terms of reference for our local youth council.



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8. What are my project priorities and who will I ask for help?

Example: I want to promote healthy recreational needs for my peers. I will contact the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council to advocate for funding on behalf of the youth in my community.

These are basic sample questions just to help you think first about what you want to accomplish and how you are going to do it. Many times people will begin a project only to find they were not able to carry it through or feel discouraged because they were not sure of themselves. By personally assessing your own strengths, challenges, barriers, knowledge, strategic directions, goals timeline and personal needs, you will be an effective team player because you will know what you are all about.

As previously noted, this is a mini strategic planning process for personal use only. You may skip this section if you feel you do not need it.

STEP TWO: STARTING A COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCIL

I. Youth Working Group

Organize a youth working group comprised of interested youth and supporters in your community. Suggestions are:

- ❖ Talk to your peers in the community and encourage them to join the youth working group;
- ❖ Post a recruitment flyer with a contact number;
- ❖ Plan a youth meeting to engage and mobilize the working group;
- ❖ Name your working group with something fun, creative and positive;
- ❖ Talk to your Chief and Council and confirm their support;
- ❖ Form an advisory council of parents, leadership, and representatives of youth service delivery organizations.
- ❖ Solicit the support of community youth workers and use the resources available for youth activities;
- ❖ Seek out the support of your Elders for spiritual direction;
- ❖ Contact the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council and or another established youth group and ask for an information and or training session;



II. Roles and responsibilities for the Youth Working Group

Once you have a number of interested youth form themselves as a working group, you need to determine who is going to be responsible to do what?

- ❖ Set out the roles and responsibilities of the working group;
- ❖ Develop a draft work plan;
- ❖ Divide up the tasks amongst the group members in an even and fair manner;
- ❖ Work as a team and respect everyone's opinion and input;
- ❖ Get an Elder on your team at the onset of the planning process;
- ❖ Chief and Band Council Resolution to support the work of the youth working group;
- ❖ Network with community resources;
- ❖ Begin to formulate the draft terms of reference for the community youth council.

STEP THREE: TERMS OF REFERENCE DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference for the Youth Council

The Terms of reference set out the framework for the planning and decision making processes to be followed by the Council in all its activities. The terms of reference of a community youth council can have the following suggested components. A brief explanation for each term is provided only to assist those that may require this support. The resource information section of the toolkit provides examples on the Terms of Reference for various First Nation youth councils.

Vision

A vision statement usually addresses one or more of the following three questions: where the Council wants to go; what its wants to become; and what it wants to accomplish. The statement is important as it helps to ensure the Council's goals and activities reflect what the youth want today and tomorrow. A shared vision of the Council also promotes working together as a team.

Example: To be a recognized voice for the youth, and fully participating members of the decision-making processes within our community.



Mission Statement

The mission statement defines the purpose of the Youth Council. Creating the mission statement is a process of gathering ideas and suggestions for the mission and drafting them into a short, sharply focused phrase that meets specific criteria. The mission statement answers the question of why the Council exists.

Example: Our Youth Council serves to promote unity, strength and success for all youth of our First Nation community.

Principles

Principles usually set out the basic way in which something or someone works. The guiding principles can be founded on the traditional teachings such as the seven sacred teachings; respect for everyone and everything is one of the teachings.

Example: Respect the Elders who uphold the sacred teachings of the Great Spirit.

Mandate

Mandate usually means the power and authority given to the Youth Council to carry out certain activities on behalf of the youth in your community. It is always helpful to have a clear mandate; this way you know what is most important to the youth in your community. A general meeting of youth in the community is useful in securing a mandate; youth will identify what they want and need in the community and this will set the direction for the Council's work.

Example: The youth in assembly direct the local youth council to host an annual youth gathering.

Membership

Memberships can be defined by the number and type of member, in any given group. For example, a First Nation community may have membership comprised of registered band members or other communities may define membership to include everyone who resides in the community and in urban areas. Members of the Youth Council can be comprised of youth between the ages of 15 to 29 representative of both genders; male and female to ensure fair and equal representation.



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Example: Our youth council shall be reflective of the seven clans with each having 1 male and 1 female representative. Eligible members may reside in the community and in urban areas.

Resources

Resources are required to establish, operate and maintain the activities of a Youth Council. Resources may include human, financial resources and other resources needed to support the Youth Council. You will need a youth coordinator, monies to support your activities, and a meeting facility for an example. There will be a variety of resources you will require and at the onset of your planning, list all the resources you will need immediately and based on your objectives, what you will need in the long term.

Example: The Chief and Council will consider the allocation of financial resources to support the activities of the local youth council at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Selection Process

A selection process is designed to determine how a young person becomes a youth representative. This could happen through an election by his/her peers; or an appointment by leadership and/or through a volunteer basis. The criteria selection is based on the qualifications and expectations that best meets the needs and aspirations of the youth group.

Example: An election of the members of the Youth Council shall be held at the annual general assembly.

Portfolios

The purpose of the youth portfolio is to allow for the individual members to manage and be responsible to direct the work that is required to address the needs and aspirations of First Nations youth in wide range of areas of political, cultural, policy, and social issues.

Example: The holder of the Health portfolio is responsible to attend meetings, conferences, training sessions and other functions related to health.



Meetings

Meetings are best scheduled at least once a month in order to keep each other informed on council duties and activities. Secretary should put forth a notice of meetings and agendas seven days prior to scheduled time. Meetings may be open to all interested youth and the community members.

Example: Youth council is required to meet at a minimum of 6 times a year.

Code of Conduct and Ethics

Council members are to conduct themselves in a professional manner remembering they are role models to the youth in their community. Youth are required to carry out the activities of the council according to the roles and responsibilities noted in the Code.

Example: Council members are to carry themselves in a positive way and act in a professional manner when representing their council.

Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities may be defined as “a youth member’s assigned duties and areas for which he or she is responsible.” Each youth council will have a different role and will have specific responsibilities to carry out in his or her role. Roles and responsibilities may be shared in a team effort by more than one member of the council.

Example: The Council shall have two Co-chairs; one female and one male, responsible to chair all the meetings.

Accountability & Reporting

Accountability is defined as the state of being accountable, liable, or answerable to the council and community.

Example: Each council member shall take responsibility in their actions, and report to council on meetings, concerns, and anything related to council matters.



Conflict of Interest

A Conflict of Interest exists whenever a youth has a “conflict between their private interests and their official responsibilities in a position of trust”

Example: The Chair of the local youth council convinces the local youth hiring committee to hire his sister as Youth Coordinator.

Bylaws & Constitutions

Bylaws are rules that are adopted by an organization for the governance of its members and regulations of its affairs. Constitutions are written instrument embodying the rules of a political or social organization, in this case a Youth Council.

Example: Council members are required to abide by outlined bylaws and constitutions with this understanding at the beginning of term.

Resolutions

Resolution means to make a motion, proposal or proposition. A support resolution is useful to promote the development of youth initiatives. Ask your leadership to support your activities with a Band Council resolution.

Example: Therefore be it resolved, that the Chief and Council support the development of a First Nation Youth Council to serve the youth of the community.

Amendment to the Terms of Reference

Terms of reference may change as the Council develops and grows. They can be amended when they no longer meet the requirements of the youth council.

Example: Youth shall amend the local youth council terms of reference when they see fit.



STEP FOUR RESOURCING YOUR COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCIL

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human resources may vary in the First Nations. You should check out all the resources in your community; make a list of resources. Generally the following resources are available. These are recommended resources; there may be other resourceful persons in the community you can use to support your Council.

Elders

The Elder is a vital and important part of a youth initiative. An Elder, male or female is a helpful advisor. They are the keepers of our knowledge, history, ceremonies, songs, medicines, dances and sacred rituals. Their ancient knowledge has been passed to them from the proceeding generations. Every community and territory has its respected Elders.

An Elder deserves respect and it is always a proper protocol to approach them with a gift of tobacco or other gifts appropriate to your cultural practice and community beliefs.

Traditional Knowledge Practitioners

A traditional knowledge practitioner is a male or female carrier of the cultural and spiritual knowledge, teachings, skills and practices of your peoples and Nation. Usually they have mentored with Elders and are responsible to ensure the ancient beliefs and practices are preserved for the next generation.

Chiefs and Band Council

The Chief and Band Council are the leaders of the community. They can provide your Council with support, advice and information.

Community Youth Workers

Youth workers are generally hired by the community to assist with youth development initiatives.



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Youth Coordinators

Youth Coordinators are hired to assist, plan, organize, and coordinate the activities of the youth council. They can be an important part of a youth initiative

Youth Committees

Youth committees are established to assist build a stronger voice for the youth in the community. They may also provide leadership, advocacy, support, mentoring, and knowledge to the youth in the community who are seeking assistance.

Youth Networks

Youth networks can provide youth with various important information and support. Most youth networks are available to promote local youth initiatives.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financing the youth council will vary from council to council. There are a number of suggested ways to secure financial resources.

First Nation Budgets

The Youth Council can approach the Chief and Band Council and formally request for monies to support the local youth council. A formal letter should be written and delivered to the Council for consideration.

Funding Proposals

Funding proposals or applications are best prepared by a designated youth technician or youth development worker. The Council can submit the proposals and or applications to a variety of funding sources, including governments, First Nation organizations and foundations. There are a great number of possibilities for funding. A step by step guide on the development of proposals is located in the resource binder. A listing of funding sources is also provided.

Fundraising Activities

The Council can organize fundraising events like garage sales, dinners, auctions, car wash, moose calling, fish fry, bingo, radio-a-thons, fashion shows, canteens, whatever is appropriate in your community. Distribute flyers and notices in areas where people can be best informed of the event. Make the advertisements colorful and friendly. Ask your local radio station to make announcements for your event.



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Use the moccasin telegraph if need be, sometimes spreading news by word of mouth is very effective.

Donations

Contact local businesses and organizations for donations. Write a formal letter of request and be sure to provide recognition. Do a blanket dance at the local powwows and other community events. Sell raffle tickets and get donations for raffle prizes. Check out what works best in the community.

TECHNOLOGY

The following are sources of technology that a youth office should contain to ensure their success as a youth council. These are suggested; make a list for your Council.

- Telephone
- Computer
- Printer
- Scanner
- Internet Access
- Website Development Software
- Digital Camera

INFRASTRUCTURE

The following are facilities a youth council may need for an office space, meetings, and fundraisers.

- Meeting facilities
 - Youth Drop-In Centre
 - Health Centre
 - Band Administration Office
 - Church

- Community and recreational facilities
 - Community Gymnasiums



SECTION FOUR

RESOURCE INFORMATION



Elders and Traditional Knowledge Practitioners



Youth Groups



ELDERS AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PRACTITIONERS

National Elders Councils

Assembly of First Nations Elders Council

Contact: Lorraine Cheechoo LCheechoo@afn.ca

Ontario Elders

Chiefs of Ontario Elder Council

Contact: Sarah General sarah@coo.org

Union of Ontario Indians Nation Elders

<http://www.anishinabek.ca/>

Traditional Knowledge Practitioners

Contact: laura@coo.org

Elder Resource Materials

Our Nations' Elders Speak

<http://www.niichro.com/Elders/Elders12.html>

"The Spirit Within"

A First Nations elder visits prisons where nearly half the population is Aboriginal. By talking about his own prison experience he encourages and teaches the prisoners to reclaim their pride. He is now carrying the message of Native spirituality to prisoners across Canada.

Contact: National Film Board of Canada.

Toll-free lines: Atlantic Canada 1-800-561-7104,

Quebec 1-800-363-0328

Ontario 1-800-267-7710

Western and Northern Canada 1-800-661-9867.



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YOUTH COUNCILS

National Aboriginal Youth Councils

AFN National Youth Council

<http://www.afnyouth.ca/>

National Association of Friendship Centres Aboriginal Youth Council

www.nafc.ca

Native Women's Association of Canada Youth Program

<http://www.nwac-hq.org/en/youthinfo.html>

National Inuit Youth Council

<http://www.niyc.ca/news.php>

Metis National Youth Advisory Council

<http://www.metisyouth.com/Home.aspx>

Quebec Cree Nation Youth Council

www.creenationyouthcouncil.com

Ontario Regional First Nations Youth Councils

Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council

<http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/>

NAN Decade for Youth Council

www.nandecade.ca

UOI Anishinaabek Nation Youth Advisory Council

<http://www.anishinabek.ca/>

Grand Council Treaty # 3 Youth Council

<http://www.treaty3.ca/>

Independent First Nations Youth Working Group

Contact person: smaracle@rogers.com



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Ontario First Nations Youth Councils

Dreamcatcher Youth Program

<https://www.akimultimedia.com>

Contact:

Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Contact: Lynn Rosales

(519) 336 8400

Alderville First Nations

Contact: John Mattson

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Contact: Peggy Dick (613) 625 2259

orw@pikwakanagan.ca

Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation

Contact: Craig Abotossaway

368 2228

Beausoleil First Nation

Contact: Nancy Copogog

(705) 247 2175

Bijitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

First Nation Sand Point

Contact: Emilia Hardy (807) 885 3401

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishnaabek

Contact: Laura Aarons

Bkejwanong Territory

Contact: Muriel Sampson

(519) 627 5670

Chippewas of Georgina Island

Contact: Kerryann Charles

(705) 437 1337

Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point
Youth Committee

Contact: Michelle Smith 519-786-4893

Chippewas of Mnjikaning

Contact: Darlene Duprey

(705) 325 3611

Chippewas of Nawash Unceded

Contact: Shannon Drane (519) 534

3818 [shannondrane.ncw@the-
matrix.ca](mailto:shannondrane.ncw@the-matrix.ca)

Chippewas of the Thames

Contact:

Curve Lake First Nation

Contact: Gwen Oliver

(705) 657 2557

Delaware Nation

Contact: Jessica Snake (519) 692 9300

j_snake_00@yahoo.ca

Dokis First Nation

Contact: Patrick Restoule (705) 763

2200 patrickrestoule@ontera.net

Eagle Lake First Nation

Contact: Donna Gardner

(807) 755 5526

Fort William First Nation

Contact: Damien Lee

connectwithdamien@gmail.com

Grassy Narrows Young Eagles

Contact: Levi Kokokopenace

(807) 925 2631

Henvey Inlet First Nation

Contact: Lanna Neville (705) 857 1221

mazla85@hotmail.com



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Isakatewizaagegan No. 39
Contact: Sherry Mandamin
(807) 733 2560

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
Contact: Darren Sainnawap
(807) 537 2263

Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation
Contact: Amanda Shebobman (807)
622 9835 amanda@tbaytel.net

Lac La Croix First Nation
Contact: Clay Ottertail
(807)485 2431

Lac Seul First Nation Youth Chief and
Council Contact: Diane Maud
807-582-9677
<http://lacseul.firstnation.ca/>

Long Lake #58 First Nation
Contact: Joseph Legarde
(807) 876 2292

Kabapikotawangag Anishinaabeg
Youth Council 807-
<http://www.akrc.on.ca/programs/youth.php>

Mohawks of Akwesasne
Contact: Abraham Benedicts
(613) 575 2348

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Contact: Beverly Maracle (613) 967
3603 bevm@mbq-tmt.org

Mississauga #8 First Nation
Contact: Christine Owl
(705)356 1621 ext.2242

Mississaugas of Scugog Island
Contact: Christine McKay
(905) 985 7958

Namaygoosisagagun Anishnabe First
Nation Contact: Roman Namaypoke
(807) 226 2821

Nickousemenecaning First Nation
Contact: Tanya Jones
(807) 481 2500

Northwest Angle #37 First Nation
Contact: Eileen Oshi (807) 226 5353
nwa37@gmail.com

Ochiichagwe'Babigo'ining
Nation's Youth Council
Contact: Ernest Jameson
kewj_12@yahoo.ca

Ojibways of Batchewana
Contact: Laura Robinson
(705) 759 0914

Ojibways of Garden River
Contact: (705) 946 3933

Ojibways of Onegaming Community
and School Youth Councils
Contact: Harry Kelly (807) 484 2162
wowee_k2004@yahoo.ca

Ojibways of Pic River
Contact: Nicole Desmoulin (807) 229
3698 nicky_p_u@hotmail.com

Oneida Nation of the Thames
Contact: Erica Elijah (519) 652 8706
erica.youth@oneida.on.ca



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Pic Mobert First Nation
Contact: Roslyn Andrews
(807) 822 2134

Pic River Youth Council
Contact: Nicole Desmoulin
nicky_p_u@hotmail.com

Rainy River First Nations Junior and
Senior Youth Councils
Contact: Genny Sadewasser
807) 482-2479 ext.247

Red Rock Band
Contact: Alana Odawa (807) 887 2510

Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation
Youth Council
Contact: Maddy Assinawai
(705) 865-1124

Serpent River First Nation
Contact: Rob Essex (705) 844 2298

Shawanaga First Nation
Contact: Lisa Pawis (705) 366 2526

Sheguiandah First Nation
Contact: Valerie Assinewai
(705) 368 2781 sfnecdev@ontera.net

Sheshegwaning First Nation Youth
Council www.sheshegwaning.org/

Shoal Lake #40 David Kejick School
Junior Chief & Council
Contact: Colleen-anya@yahoo.ca

Spirit of the Youth – Six Nations of the
Grand River Territory
www.spiritoftheyouth.com

Stanjikoming First Nations Youth
Council Contact: Raymond Johnson
(807) 274-4706

Wasauksing First Nations Youth
Council
Contact: Deborah King/Youth Worker
(705) 746-2531

Wabaseemoong First Nation
Contact: Waylon Scott
waylonsc@rocketmail.com

Wabauskang First Nation
Contact: Terry Bunting (807) 529 3174

Wabigoon First Nation
Contact: Louie Einsainslie
(807) 938 9978

Washagamis Bay First Nation
Contact: Marie Morrison
(807) 543 2532

Wapekeka First Nation
Contact: Zack Tait (807) 537 2650
ztait20032003@yahoo.ca

Wauzhausk Onigum First Nation
Contact: Mingo (807) 548 6340
mingo26@kmts.ca

Whitefish Lake First Nations Youth
Council Contact: Jennifer Nootchtai
Youth Worker (705) 692 0927

Whitesand First Nation Contact:
Angela Nodin (807) 583 2177
ang_nodin2002@yahoo.com

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
Contact: Sharlene Panamick
(705) 283 3963

Other First Nation Youth Councils

Manitoba First Nations Young Peoples Council
<http://www.manitobachiefs.com/youth/respon.html>

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations *Youth Council for Just Relations*
<http://www.fsin.com/justice/youthcouncil.html>

B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres- Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council
<http://www.bc-payc.com/index.html>

British Columbia United Metis Youth Circle
<http://www.bcmetisyouth.ca/Home.aspx>

Cree Nation Youth Council-Quebec
www.creenationyouthcouncil.com

Youth Networks

Aboriginal Youth Network
www.ayn.ca

The Aboriginal Youth Network is a network that runs across Canada (and beyond) connecting all Aboriginal youth. By clicking on this site, you are now a part of our network. We are operated totally for and by Aboriginal youth.

Indigenous Youth Environment Network
www.ienearth.org

IYCN was established in 1990 within the United States by grassroots Indigenous peoples and individuals to address environmental and economic justice issues (EJ).

Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance
<http://www.deneyouthalliance.ca/index.html>



YOUTH RESOURCE INFORMATION

Youth at the United Nations

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/internships>.

Aboriginal Sports Circle

www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca

The Aboriginal Sport Circle is Canada's national voice for Aboriginal sport, which brings together the interests of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.

TAKINGITGlobal

www.takingitglobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities. It's the world's most popular online community for young people interested in making a difference.

Good Minds

www.goodminds.com

Educational Resources for Native American Studies, First Nations Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Aboriginal Studies. View our online catalogue of Aboriginal and Native American Educational Resources for schools, libraries, and the general public, for grades K to Post Secondary.

National Aboriginal Health Organization

www.naho.ca

The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) is an Aboriginal-designed and -controlled body committed to influencing and advancing the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples by carrying out knowledge-based strategies.

Statistics Canada

<http://www.statcan.ca/>

Aboriginal Resource Guide

<http://www.aboriginalresourcenet.com/>

Centre for Indigenous Sovereignty

<http://www.cfis.ca/>

Indigenous Cooperative on the Environment

www.ice-network.ca



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First Nation Links

Bill's "Aboriginal Links"

<http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aborl.htm>

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ys/index_e.html

Aboriginal Canada Portal

<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca>

Funding Sources

The Trillium Foundation

www.trilliumfoundation.or



The Ontario Trillium Foundation, (OTF), one of Canada's leading grant making foundations, is an agency of the Ministry of Culture. OFF is a catalyst that enables Ontarians to work together to enhance the quality of life in their communities.

Dreamcatcher Fund

<http://www.dreamcatcherfund.com/>

The Dreamcatcher Fund is created by Grand River Enterprises in partnership with retailers. The Fund will contribute to eligible applicants in the area of sports, recreation, educational support, health support, arts and culture.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada-Youth Section

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/sm/a-z/u-z-eng.asp#y>

Four programs administered by INAC to fund youth initiatives: First Nations Youth Experience, Science and Technology, Summer Student Employment, Career Promotion and Awareness.

Aboriginal Business Canada Youth Entrepreneurs

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/abc-eac.nsf/en/home>

Support for Aboriginal youth entrepreneurs ages 18 -35 to achieve their business goals.

Various Funding Programs for youth Initiatives- Environment Canada

http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/funding_e.html#3

Listed are various funding programs for various youth initiatives. The link will provide an overview of the program and another link that will guide you to the proper website.



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Technology

Website Development

<http://tutorials.knet.ca/>

K-Net Multimedia Tutorials

The K-net offers free website development training for interested youth groups.

Webcasts

Aboriginal Students

Connecting Youth in Canada Webcast Series

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/sm/a-z/index-eng.asp>

Connect with other youth across Canada and get in on the discussions.



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ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLES COUNCIL



Resource Information Binder

A resource information binder is part of the Toolkit. The documents put forward are intended to support to each step of the youth council development process. Resources materials provided in the resource information binder are also available in disk format.



RESOURCE INFORMATION BINDER

INDEX

ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLES COUNCIL

Youth Working Group-Development of the Ontario Young Peoples Council
Information Booklet July 2007
Sustainability Report November 2006
Summary Report 4th Annual Youth Symposium
A Framework for Ontario Aboriginal Youth Strategy
OFNYPC Annual Work Plan
Chiefs of Ontario Support Resolutions

STARTING A YOUTH COUNCIL

Introduction to Youth Councils
Getting Organized: Steps to starting a youth council
Manitoba First Nations Youth Council: Starting our own community youth council
So You Want to Start a Youth Council? A Guide from the Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council of the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

YOUTH COUNCILS TERMS OF REFERENCE

Sheshegwaning First Nation Youth Council
Anishinaabek Youth Council of Kettle/Stony Point
Anishinaabek Nation Advisory Council
Kabapikotawangag Anishinaabeg Youth Council
Manitoba First Nation Youth Council Initiative

YOUTH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT TOOLKITS

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Youth Decade Youth Councils Toolkit
Mushkegowuk Council Youth Council Implementation Guide
Putting Youth Engagement Into Practice



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MATERIALS

Conflict of Interest

Kabapikotawangag Anishinaabeg Youth Council Conflict of Interest and Redress Model 2004

Traditional Knowledge

Sacred Ways of Life Traditional Knowledge Toolkit
First Nations Centre National Aboriginal Health Organization 2005

Suicide Prevention

Assessment and Planning Toolkit for Suicide Prevention in First Nation Communities 2005

Employment and Training

Job Search Toolkit for Aboriginal Youth
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Research

Research Toolkit-Understanding Research
National Aboriginal Health Organization First Nation Centre

Federal Policy

Overview of Federal Indian Policy 1969-2005
Canada's Legacy: Betrayal and Deceit Russell Diabo

Making Policy-A Guide to the Federal Government's Policy Process
Glen Milne 2005

Anishnawbe Clan System

CONTACT LISTS

Chiefs Contact List
Ontario Youth Contact List
Elders Contact List
Provincial Territorial Organizations List



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OFNYPC CONTACT LIST

Nick Mainville

*Grand Council Treaty # 3
Couchiching First Nation*

nickmainvillejr@hotmail.com

Carolyn Kokokopenace

*Grand Council Treaty # 3
Grassy Narrows First Nation*

mac_a_licious31@hotmail.com

Serene Spence

*Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Constance Lake First Nation*

diva_spence02@hotmail.com

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*Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Bearskin Lake First Nation*

shiiwish26@hotmail.com

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*Union of Ontario Indians
Garden River First Nation*

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smaracle@rogers.com

Waylon Scott

*Independent First Nations
Wabseemoong First Nation*

waylonsc@rocketmail.com

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*Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
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4als2@qlink.queensu.ca

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*Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
Moravian of the Thames*

aiayouthrep@hotmail.com