

Case Study

Project: Nunavut Youth Consulting (NYC) – Arctic Bay

Background:

In all communities of Nunavut, the population of the youth outweighs that of any other group. 44% of the population of Nunavut is youth 19 years of age and younger. This is the highest rate in all of the provinces and territories of Canada. The next highest rate of youth population is that of the NWT at 32.4%. The Canadian average is 24 per cent. With current trends in demographics, this situation will not change and the youth population will continue to dominate. This unique situation provides Nunavut with a tremendous opportunity if the energy and enthusiasm of the youth can be harnessed.

Economic development is the planned evolution of every aspects of the community. The youth must play an integral part in this. Since they make up the majority of the population the development of the community must be positioned so that it meets their needs. Economic development in its purest form and definition cannot occur and be sustained if this demographic groups is overlooked. Youth issues, therefore, must be a top priority in the community development process.

In completing this case study, use your personal knowledge of the Hamlet you reside in. Think about what you have in place now to assist youth and people working with youth. Is what you have effective and is it addressing the needs of the youth of your community?

Nunavut Youth Consulting (NYC):

NYC started as the High School Café. The High School Café began in January 1998 at Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay, Nunavut. It was started as part of the Math 16/26/36 class. The object was to give the students on Individual Education Programs basic math skills and work experience. This program later grew into providing leadership skills, volunteerism and community service. In 2000, NYC was incorporated with the Government of Nunavut as a non-profit youth organization. All of the activities of this organization are youth driven. The youth, through their goal setting techniques, decide on the activities which they will participate.

NYC Mission Statement

In the School

The mission of NYC, in secondary school, post secondary school and university is to try our best to learn at our level and to continue to emphasize the importance of life long learning. Through our fund raising, we will compliment other fund raising committees, not compete with them.

In the Community

The mission of NYC, in the community, is to help our community by volunteering our time to other organizations, to continue to be positive role models and to encourage others.

For Ourselves

The mission of NYC is to learn about ourselves, to build confidence in our abilities, to learn business and job skills and to continue to learn through experience and travel.

Key Words

The four key words of NYC are: Success, Together, Respect and Pride.

Partners and Stakeholders

Hamlet of Arctic Bay
Nunavut Community Access Program Association
Friends of the College Community Internet Access Site
Nunavut Arctic College- Arctic Bay Community Learning Centre
Government of Nunavut Department of Education
Government of Nunavut Department Culture, Language, Elders and Youth
Government of Nunavut Department Health and Social Services
Kakivak Association, QIA, NTI, ITK
Canadian Heritage

Programs and Services Offered

Friends of the College Community Access Program
Traditional Name Placing Project- Literacy Program
Participation in the 5 year economic development plan
Workshops and Training Opportunities for youth
Youth Employment and Mentoring
Anger Management Workshops
Suicide Prevention
HIV/AIDS Prevention
Referrals to other agencies

Assignment:

Your Hamlet would like to expand the present level of support it offers to the youth. It clearly understands that the youth are the key to sustaining future growth in the community. Success will be dependant on the ability to engage, develop, train and retain the youth through effective programming. What program will your community participate in?

Some of the responsibilities would be:

- Identify what youth programs are already available in your community.
- Identify what partnerships have been created and what networks are set up to support these youth programs.
- Assess the value of these programs to the youth and their development. Are they programs which provide meaningful and healthy choices for youth development?
- Identify the community's requirements at this time. Where should you invest most of the effort? Which programs? Why?
- In an honest assessment of the community, can this program or idea maintain support? If it cannot – why? What could you do to encourage this support?
- Do you have the qualified staff to administer and deliver the program? If not, what needs to be completed prior to this step?

Issues to be considered:

- The on going support of the Hamlet and residents of the community – How do you ensure this will last longer than the council you presently have?
- Does the community feel that there are youth problems within the community?
- Staffing the administrative positions and operational positions – are they qualified and committed?

Resources

Hamlet Council
Recreation Committee and staff
Youth Sport Teams and Coaches
High School
Youth Centre/Friendship Centre
Local Youth Committees
Royal Canadian Army Cadet and Junior Ranger Programs
Church Youth Groups
Health and Social Services
Personal knowledge