



TRACKS YOUTH PROGRAM

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM YOUR TRACKS COORDINATORS

2018 has been a huge year of exciting development and change for TRACKS. Not least of these changes has been the hiring of three new Coordinators to run two distinct programs serving the greater Peterborough community; the Outreach & Education program and the Oshkwasin Indigenous Youth Leadership program. As the new TRACKS Coordinators, we are so excited to share the successes of both programs in the following pages.

As we have transitioned into our roles, and TRACKS has returned to full-time active programming after a short program pause, over the last eight-months we have seen an encouraging amount of community partners and educators enthusiastically inviting TRACKS back into their spaces and programs. We are so lucky to have been joined by passionate TRACKS instructors new and old to deliver classic TRACKS programs while also developing exciting new ones, too.

The continued success of TRACKS is due to the enduring support of the Kawartha World Issues Centre and the Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences program at Trent University as well as the guidance of our Advisory Committee, previous staff and directors. Finally, as this year marked the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Williams Treaties, we would like to extend the sincerest thank you to the seven nations - the Mississaugas of Curve Lake, Scugog Island, Hiawatha and Alderville and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama - for their ongoing commitment to the future of the territory, through their care of the land and support for youth education.

In 2019, TRACKS will direct focus to building the long-term sustainability, continuity and capacity of our program. We want to focus on strengthening partnerships from years' past while also extending these partnerships and building new ones for the future. If you'd like to get involved or have ideas for partnerships, we would love to hear from you!

MIIGWETCH / NIA:WEN / THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

Kristin Muskratt
Oshkwasin Coordinator

Madison Laurin
Operations Coordinator

Kelly King
Outreach & Education
Coordinator

TRACKS OVERVIEW

TRACKS (TRent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Science) is an educational program which provides hands-on experiences for youth interested in the intersections of Indigenous and western sciences.

TRACKS is based out of the Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program (IESS) of Trent University, under the umbrella of the Kawartha World Issues Centre and supported by First People's House of Learning. TRACKS consists of two distinct but connected programs: Outreach & Education and Oshkwasin Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.

MISSION STATEMENT & VISION

TRACKS is dedicated to educating young people to be able to address increasingly complex environmental issues by creating and delivering culturally relevant programming which combines Indigenous and western sciences. Through this programming, we aim to build stronger community through partnership with First Nations, school boards and other non-profits in the greater Peterborough area.



To give youth the ability to relate Indigenous teachings and knowledge with western scientific concepts through a "two-eyed" way of exploring, seeing and educating

To contribute to a continuous education stream which combines Indigenous and western science from the elementary to post-secondary level



To facilitate spaces where intergenerational knowledge and teachings can be shared

To empower all youth to be leaders in their schools, groups and communities regardless of their age, gender and background



To provide opportunities for youth to engage with the outdoor environment in a hands-on and interactive way



TRACKS: OUTREACH & EDUCATION



TRACKS Outreach & Education runs a wide variety of educational programs throughout the year for youth ages 6-12 including outreach activities, in-school workshops and PA-day camps. All of our programming combines Indigenous and Western scientific principles.

The Outreach and Education program provides hands-on experiences for youth interested in the intersections of Indigenous and western sciences. This program provides opportunities for youth to learn math, science and cultural teachings in relation to the environment in meaningful and educationally stimulating ways. Outreach and Education offers a wide variety of programming in which both traditional ecological knowledge and western scientific perspectives are given voice.

Our geographical area includes five school boards and four First Nation communities within a 100km range of Peterborough, Ontario. Outreach and Education caters to youth between ages 6 to 12 and provides spaces where these Indigenous knowledges and Western science intersect and collaborate in meaningful and understandable ways. In order to attain these goals, TRACKS Outreach and Education runs a wide variety of programs throughout the year such as in-school workshops, PA-day camps, week long summer camps and other outreach activities.

Half of our summer camps are exclusively for Indigenous youth from First Nation communities in the surrounding Peterborough region and are fully subsidized to ensure accessibility and high enrollment. The rest of our summer camps are open to Indigenous, non-Indigenous and newcomer youth living in and around Peterborough and are run through a pay-what-you-can system. The primary goal of our summer camp programming is to provide youth with hands-on educational experiences outside of the classroom that recognize the importance of integrating and highlighting multiple knowledge systems within outdoor education. Our programming provides spaces and support systems to help youth develop science skills, critical thinking abilities, and an understanding of science that affirms, and contributes to, their cultural and personal experiences. During our week-long camps, students are able to fully immerse themselves in the TRACKS mandate, giving them more time to seek mentorship from instructors and become inspired to pursue further education and careers in E-STEM fields.



TRACKS: OSHKWAZIN

TRACKS Oshkwazin is a leadership program for Indigenous high school aged youth. TRACKS Oshkwazin aims to empower Indigenous youth to utilize their traditional ecological knowledge to pursue careers in E-STEM fields.



TRACKS Oshkwazin is a leadership program for Indigenous high school aged youth. Inspired by the mandate of IESS program, TRACKS Oshkwazin aims to empower Indigenous youth to utilize their traditional ecological knowledge to pursue further education and careers in E-STEM fields. "Oshkwazin" is an Anishinaabemowin word that means "to light your internal fire".

In 2016, TRACKS applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) - Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF). The successful application allowed for the TRACKS Oshkwazin project to be created with a budget of \$398,976.00 over four years. The TRACKS program pause took place shortly after the launch of Oshkwazin and meant that the first year of funding was not completely spent. The remaining funds were approved by YOF to be carried over into the second and third year of the grant.

After the pause, Oshkwazin worked over the summer with staff to build new curriculum, and partnerships in Peterborough and surrounding communities. Oshkwazin now runs a series of youth groups with community partner collaborations throughout the school year. Youth group programming takes place during lunch hours, after-school and on PA Days. Oshkwazin continues with outreach during the year to promote youth leadership by attending events in both communities and urban spaces.

Through our Oshkwazin programming, TRACKS aims to:

- Develop confidence and skills for Indigenous leadership
- Encourage youth to connect with their communities
- Create a space that youth can receive traditional teachings and learn about Indigenous issues
- Connect youth to community-based role models
- Create a safe space for youth to meet and discuss issues that matter to them
- Gain volunteer and work experience



YEAR IN REVIEW



1050 Total # of youth engaged
473 # of youth in camps & workshops
112 # of youth in coding & technology programs



LIKES: 375



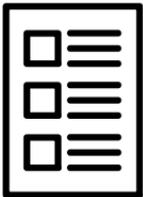
FOLLOWERS: 139



FOLLOWERS: 249

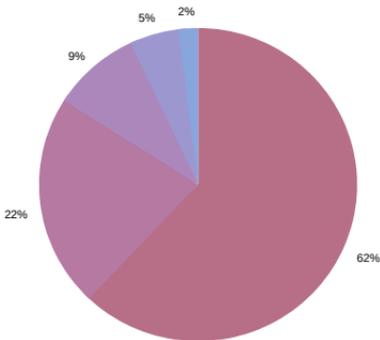


LIKES ON POSTS: 670



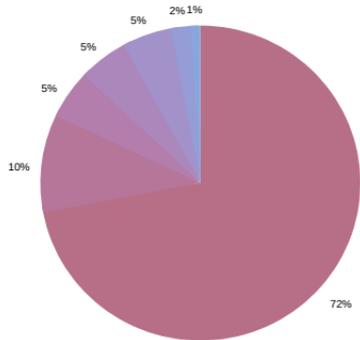
94% of teachers said their students enjoyed and benefited from the workshop
96% of parents had a positive overall experience with TRACKS
98% of teachers said TRACKS instructors were well prepared and able to answer student's questions

REVENUE



Provincial Grants 62%
 Federal Grants 22%
 Other Grants & Miscellaneous Income 9%
 Camp & Workshop Fees 5%
 Trent University Support 2%

EXPENSES



Staff 72%
 Financial Administration 10%
 Materials & Activities 5%
 Training & Capacity Building 5%
 Promotion & Outreach 5%
 Honorarium 2%
 Travel 1%



TESTIMONIALS AND FEEDBACK



"The staff made sure that our students were engaged in the programming from start to finish. They made sure that if the kids were starting to get restless or losing attention to change what they were doing or make it more interactive for the kids. It was great programming all around."

- Teacher, Durham District School Board

"TRACKS brings the university into the community, creating connections between academic learning and the environment, formal education and the education that occurs in the community. Children may see science in a new light and gain a great appreciation for the natural world."

- Previous TRACKS Staff Member, Summer 2018



"These unique and high quality experiences through TRACKS that combine hands-on scientific/nature-based activities to teach indigenous culture and practices for our children is an essential step to create future advocates that will support and promote common understandings and reconciliation."

- Parent, TRACKS September PA Day

I felt really positive waking up every day to come into this job. This work was a passion for me...I could not dream of a better job. Getting to use my skills as an educator, storyteller and youth worker to further aspects of reconciliation while building on my resume as an educator has been incredibly rewarding. I feel truly blessed to have worked for this organization, thank you!"

- Previous TRACKS Staff Member, Summer 2018

SOME OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS



ACTUA CANADA

TRACKS is a proud member of Actua. Actua provides training, resources and support to its national network of members located at universities and colleges across Canada in the delivery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education outreach programming. Each year, these members engage over 225,000 youth in 500 communities nationwide. Please visit Actua to learn more.



ONTARIO TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE

ONTARIO TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE (OTCC)

TRACKS is proud to work with OTCC toward the goal of educating youth about the challenges facing Ontario's turtles. The OTCC's mission is to protect and conserve Ontario's native turtles and their habitats through operating a turtle hospital, performing research on conservation and running a comprehensive education and outreach program.



NOGOJIWANONG FRIENDSHIP CENTER

The Nogojwanong Friendship Centre provides a place of acceptance and well-being for urban Aboriginal people through a wide-range of community based programs & services. The Nogojwanong Friendship Centre and TRACKS have partnered to provide culturally relevant teachings to Indigenous high school youth in Peterborough.



NIJKIWENDIDAA ANISHNAABEKWEWAG SERVICES CIRCLE (NASC)

NASC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development and delivery of healing services for Anishinaabekwewag and their families. TRACKS works with NASC to provide Indigenous youth with drop-in spaces and cultural teachings.

SOME OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS



CAMP KAWARTHA

TRACKS is proud to partner with Camp Kawartha for programming at their Environment Center location. Camp Kawartha is an accredited, award-winning, not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting outdoor environmental awareness, outdoor and environmental education and stewardship through year-round camps and education programs.



TEACH OUTSIDE THE BOX

TEACH Outside the Box is a unique opportunity for teacher candidates and community educators to participate in a series of interactive workshops and an optional community placement. For many years, TRACKS has been a community placement option for teacher candidates and has provided a workshop on culturally relevant Indigenous Education in Ontario classrooms



SACRED WATER CIRCLE (SWC)

The Sacred Water Circle (SWC) is a volunteer run, not for profit initiative that has brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to work together for the benefit of water. As a member of the circle, TRACKS is proud to participate in meetings and events, and to work with other members of the circle to develop educational programming on the sacredness of water.



FOCUS ON YOUTH (FOY)

The FOY Summer program offers young people summer job experience and summer activities for children. By extending learning beyond the classroom, FOY engages students in year-round safe and supportive environments. TRACKS is proud to be provide summer job opportunities for FOY students in Peterborough through our partnerships with various different school boards such as Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (logo pictured here).

2018 TRACKS ADVISORY STRUCTURE

TRACKS Youth Program is guided and supported by an Indigenous-led Advisory Committee. This year, the Advisory Committee consisted of representatives from the following groups at Trent University:

Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences program
Kawartha World Issues Centre
First Peoples House of Learning

2018 TRACKS FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Trent University
NSERC PromoScience
Ontario Trillium Fund
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
United Way of Peterborough & District
Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough



Ontario Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

2018 ACTUA NATIONAL FUNDERS

With funding from



MIIGWETCH / NIA:WEN / THANK YOU TO OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ALL OF OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS!



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