

FRONTIER
COLLEGE



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FRONTIER COLLEGE ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS



OVERVIEW

- Frontier College in Aboriginal Communities
- The Aboriginal Summer Camps Program
 - Overall Goals
 - A Typical Day at Camp
 - The Camp Structure
 - Achievements



“(The) literacy camps eliminate some of the borders between our communities and those in urban centers. Reservations confine people both physically and mentally, but reading allows children to imagine and dream. Books are a passport for children to travel to far away places, relieving them from an often hopeless and helpless reality. By engaging and promoting literacy, these camps allow children to formulate their futures, encouraging them to aim for success and achieve it.”

*Grand Chief Stan Beardy
Nishnawbe Aski Nation*

Frontier College in **ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

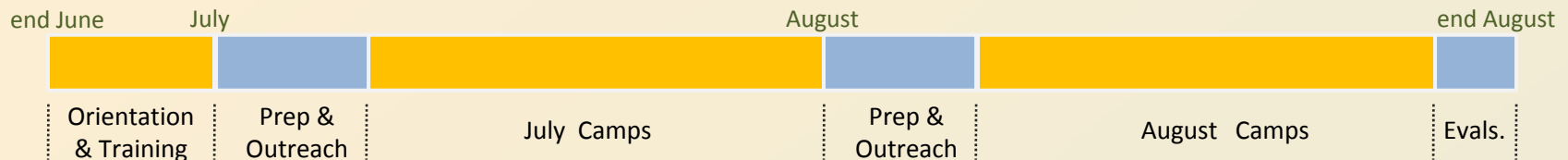
- A long history of partnerships and collaboration
- Frontier College programs with Aboriginal Communities across Canada
 - Labourer-Teacher programs in Northern Ontario
 - The A.R.I.E.S. project in Vancouver's East Side
 - Métis Nation of Ontario: "Families Learning Together"
 - The Community Literacy Catalyst (CLC) Project in Ontario
 - The Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camps in Ontario & Alberta



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- A large group of approximately 100 people, including students and adults, are posed in a gymnasium. They are arranged in many rows, with some sitting on the floor in front and others standing behind. The background shows a wooden floor and a wall with a basketball hoop. The group is diverse in age and appearance, representing the yearbook staff and their advisors.



CAMP STRUCTURE



- A one-week long Orientation & Training Session
- Two 3-week long camps: one in July + one in August
- A one-week outreach & preparation period prior to each camp
- Each camp is divided into two sessions: up to 6 hours of programming each day
 - AM session (Grades K to 5) : 3 hours
 - PM session (Grades 6 and up) : 2 to 3 hours
 - or concurrent sessions for both age groups
 - + 1 to 2 hours of planning, review and community outreach
- A two-day Debrief & Evaluation Session

Team Setup

- 4 to 5 camp counsellors per team; at least one from each participating community
- Non-hierarchical structure; remote supervision from Frontier College administrators

“...the organizers of the Summer Reading Camps did an awesome job with the delivery of their services for the children of Pikangikum First Nation. The program was a positive thing for the children from the community...the parents from the community were in full support of the program.”

Dean Peters, Education Director, Pikangikum Education Authority

A DAY AT CAMP

Welcome & Sharing Circle (+ *Snacks*)

Quiet Reading & Journaling

Physical Activity (*Nature walk, games, etc*)

Story-time (+ *Snacks*)

Art & Craft

Concept Development (*Songs, Cultural Activities, etc*)

Reflections & Closing Circle

Break

Drop-In session (*Older Youth*)

Plus:

- Framework Curriculum
- Planning Tools
- Special Learning Modules (E.g. Dig. Photography)
- Resource & Activity Binders



"By harmonizing literacy-based teaching methods with our Anishnaabe heritage, (the summer camps) offer our children the opportunity to learn to read while enriching their lives with knowledge of our culture"

Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, Anishinabek Nation

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Realistic Goals
- Quantitative & Qualitative (Anecdotal) Evidence
 - Quantitative: No. of books read, attendance, post-camp hours engagement, etc
 - Qualitative: Changes in attitudes and behaviours, parental and community feedback, etc

“To date, the camp has proved successful and well received by the community, providing a valuable learning summer experience for the children in our community. It is our hope that the literacy camp will continue for the summer of 2008. Frontier College has our complete support for continuing this program in Sandy Lake First Nation.”

Chief Pardamus Anishinabie, Sandy Lake First Nation

“Your program has tremendously made a great change in my own children’s reading skills, Shelby and Wyatt Cardinal, after they attended “The Summer Literacy Day Camp”. I have noticed the change in my daughter wanting to read and learn more from books, as she is in her first year of school. She is very excited that she can read! Great Job! I look forward to sending my children to your camp next year!

Murphy Cardinal, Parent

