



Youth for Safety

YOUTH ORIENTATION SUMMARY REPORT

Year 2 | Watson Lake | October 25th, 2016

Introduction

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS), in partnership with Watson Lake Secondary School (WLSS) and other community agencies, has embarked on a 3-year, Youth-led project called "Youth for Safety" (YFS). Key learning topics in the YFS program include: safety, dignity, justice and violence against girls and women. YFS explores how men keep women safe and how women stay safe.

This session, which took place on Tuesday, October 25th 2016 at WLSS, was meant to be an orientation for WLSS students to the YFS Year 2 program. The aim of this session was to present YFS to students, give them a taste for how it is run, and to give interested students an opportunity to sign up and participate in Year 2 of YFS.



Morning Program

AGENDA

- Agenda Items:**
1. Opening prayer
 2. Introductions, check-in (what ice cream flavour describes your mood today)
 3. Overview of the program (slideshow and video)
 4. *Game* (Ringleader)
 5. Plan for next year
 6. How to sign up
 7. *Game* (Signs led by Youth)



ATTENDANCE

In Attendance	
Adults (8)	Youth (31)
Anne Maje Raider (LAWS) Crystal Stewart (LAWS) Crystal Vance (LAWS) Fanny Vance (LAWS) Leida Raider (Elder) Linda McDonald (Teacher) Renee Claude Carrier (Facilitator) Sarah Gillett (Beringia)	Rough breakdown of participation by Grade: Grade 8: 11 students Grade 9: 11 students Grade 10: 6 students Grade 11: 2 students Grade 12: 1 student

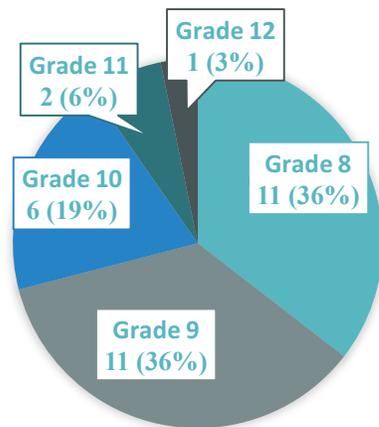


Figure 1: Student Attendance by Grade

EVENTS

Eight adults and approximately 31 Youth¹ gathered in the gymnasium to learn more about the YFS program and what happened during Year 1 of YFS.

- **Presentation** – open to all Youth at school. Approximately 31 youth attended the presentation
- **PowerPoint presentation** – Facilitators shared information about the how the program is structured, last year's campaigns, feedback from community members and last year's Youth
- Watched the **video** from last year
- Some of **last year's Youth** described their work and campaigns last year
- Played **2 games** (one led by one of last year's youth)



Afternoon Program

AGENDA

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions/check in (what weather system do you feel like?)
2. Overview of Year 2 (events, dates)
3. *Discussion:* What do you want to work on this year?
4. *Game* (Move your Butt - led by Youth)
5. *Discussion:* Why do we have International Women's Day?
6. *Activity:* What rules, norms, values should guide our work together?



¹ Approximately, the number of Youth fluctuated regularly due to school photos happening at the same time

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance		
Adults (9)	Youth (19)	
Crystal Stewart (LAWS)	1. Jenny	11. Daniel
Crystal Vance (LAWS)	2. Piper	12. Gabriel
Fanny Vance (LAWS)	3. Zoe	13. Ian
Leida Raider (Elder)	4. Kian	14. Kolby
Mieda (Elder)	5. Kiera	15. Julien
Linda McDonald (Teacher)	6. Hope	16. Nathaniel
Martina (PhD Student)	7. Max	17. Austin
Renee Claude Carrier (Facilitator)	8. Kalum	18. Trinity
Sarah Gillett (Beringia)	9. Breanne	19. Jamie
	10. Sabrina	

EVENTS

After lunch, those interested in participating in YFS were invited to join facilitators in Linda McDonald's (WLSS teacher) classroom. 19 Youth were present, 10 who were involved last year, and 9 who are new to program this year.

The following describes topics that were discussed and responses from Youth.

- **Commitment to YFS** - emphasis that if you choose to participate in YFS, it is important to commit to the program. There should be no 'bouncing back and forth' between class and the program and no wandering halls.
- **Description of YFS** - Facilitator Renee Claude Carrier described the basics of the YFS program and **two important dates** to plan campaigns around:
 1. **December 6th** (commemoration of victims of Polytechnique killings)
 2. **March 8th** (International Women's Day)



Discussion Question: What do you want to work on this year?

Students were asked what campaigns interest them and what they want to work on during YFS Year 2. The following is a summary of their responses:

- More art, but bigger
- Put the “Stop Rape” sign up in the sign post forest
- Continue stop motion animation film
- Continue to circulate petition, more action on this (letters?)



Discussion Question: Why do you think we have an International Women’s Day?

Students were asked to share their thoughts on why there is an International Women’s Day. Their responses were as follows:

- To stop abuse against women
- To appreciate what women have done
- More women are abused than men
- It’s about equality and inclusion (women paid less than men)
- Women are disproportionately victims of violence, and the proportion is even higher if you are a minority (Aboriginal, disabled, etc.)



What rules/norms/values/principles will be important in working together?

Students were asked to brainstorm a set of Group Norms that will guide YFS during the second year of programming. The following table summarizes rules/norms/values/principles Youth wanted to promote (+) and avoid (-):

+	listening	Not interrupting
	Be nice/kind	No profanity/swearing
	Team work	No coming and going/Don't leave unless you have excuse
	All ideas are good ideas	No phones
	RESPECT	No name calling x 2
	Respect opinions	No racism
	Self-respect	No sexism
	Respectful debate	No fighting/violence
	Be on time	No bragging
	Confidentiality/What happens here stays here	
	Be responsible/Be responsible for your own behaviour	
	Sharing	
	Be honest	
	Treat everyone with DIGNITY	
	Pride	



Summary and Next Steps

The first official session of year 2 Youth for Safety will be held November 21-22nd. Youth will revisit their group agreement started during orientation and sign off on it, and begin working on their campaign for the December 6th commemoration of the École Polytechnique shooting. Other possibilities for content in this opening session include:

- Discussing participants current understanding of key terms such as: safety and dignity
- Continuing to brainstorm actions for campaigns for year 2

