



MY VOYAGEUR.CA
A RESOURCE TOOL FOR TRANSITIONING METIS YOUTH

2017 AGM Presentation
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The story behind the project...

Research conducted by the Canadian Government shows quite clearly that Métis people live with inequities in health, employment, education, income, and have higher rates of problematic substance use resulting in premature death (Isaac, 2016).

Métis youth, as a subset of this population, can face barriers to education, employment, housing, health care, and food security. If they and their families do not have access to safe, reliable information about and connection with community supports, vulnerable individuals and families can face unnecessary risks and uncertainty during important transitions (McCreary Centre Society, 2012).



Funding

Funding for MyVoyageur.ca originally titled the Métis Youth in Transition to Urban Life (MYTUL) Project, was generously provided by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the Urban Partnerships Program.



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
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Project Team

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Results

Through the MyVoyageur.ca project, we (The BC Metis Federation, the Government of Canada) have engaged youth and community resources to produce a tool that supports the well being of Metis youth, families and communities, and addresses some of the many barriers they may face on their way to success; expandable.

We have created culturally relevant, engaging and informative website and social media presence targeted to Metis Youth; expandable.

We have created one-of-a-kind information system that incorporates valuable information about resources in five major centres in BC; expandable.

We have increased systemic capacity.



Mission

The mission of MyVoyageur.ca is to reduce the barriers that Métis youth face through an easy-to-access tool that provides them with tangible and reliable information about the communities in which they live, or into which they transition.



Targeting

“Participants stated they chose this option because it is colourful, clean, professional, and conveys a sense of belonging rather than separateness, in the city. Participants felt that the option selected was the most appealing, professional, and incorporated elements of Métis Nationhood within a broader community appropriately. The Métis flag, the canoe, the cityscape, the water, the tapestry of colours, and the tipi all lend symbolic strength and significance to the aesthetic of the tool. The chosen name MyVoyageur.ca speaks not only to Métis history and the Voyageurs of the North West Company, but also the historic role of the Métis as middlemen entrepreneurs, and the current and ongoing journey toward a happy, healthy, empowered Métis people” (Davison et al., 2017: p. 19)



Demonstration

www.myvoyageur.ca

www.tool.myvoyageur.ca



Feedback

“We need this resource in the North and I'm amazed Fort St. John or Dawson [Creek] was not considered a Urban centre which our Métis youth are getting in trouble in with drugs and crime rather than having proper supports. Fentanyl is the scariest we lost more last week.”

“...we have taught many Métis youth to stay out of Prince George as it was labelled crime capital of Canada at one time. If our uneducated youth ended up there usually they were affiliated with the renegades gang as that's their headquarters.”

“We desperately need our Northern education system changed to keep our Métis kids in school, it's a fight to keep them on the straight and narrow if they don't have the proper start and resources.”



Vision

The vision of the BC Métis Federation and the developers of MyVoyageur.ca is that the knowledge gained through the development and use of MyVoyageur.ca can be applied to all provinces in Canada for the benefit of Métis youth, who are capable, successful and empowered.



Plans

In June, the BC Métis Federation submitted a proposal to broaden our efforts and demonstrate our continued commitment to the well being of our members, and of Metis people.

Phase II for MyVoyageur.ca includes expansion of the tool:

- Database to include community resources in smaller centres AND the Yukon
- Continued connection to Métis youth and youth services
- Expanded connection to Métis women
- Associated reporting



Questions?



Thank you.



References

Davison, K., Collister, S. and Danda, M. (2017). MyVoyageur.ca Project Final Report. Consultant's Report. Vancouver, BC.

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Tsuruda, S., Smith, A., Poon, C., Hoogeveen, C., Saewyc, E., & McCreary Centre Society (2012). Métis youth health in BC. Vancouver, BC: McCreary Centre Society.