

Indigenous Programs Update

Spring/Summer 2023



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT:

Right To Play is grateful to partner with 75 Indigenous communities and urban organizations across Canada to promote life skills through play-based health and well-being practices. Working in collaboration with Indigenous communities, key stakeholders, and experts, the Indigenous Programs team strives to ensure programs and services are culturally responsive and community-led. Right To Play Indigenous Programs engage children and youth through our four strategic priority areas: PLAY, Youth Leadership, Quality Education, and Responding to Crisis.

The following represents a snapshot of the impact of the PLAY Program in the Spring/Summer of 2023.

3599

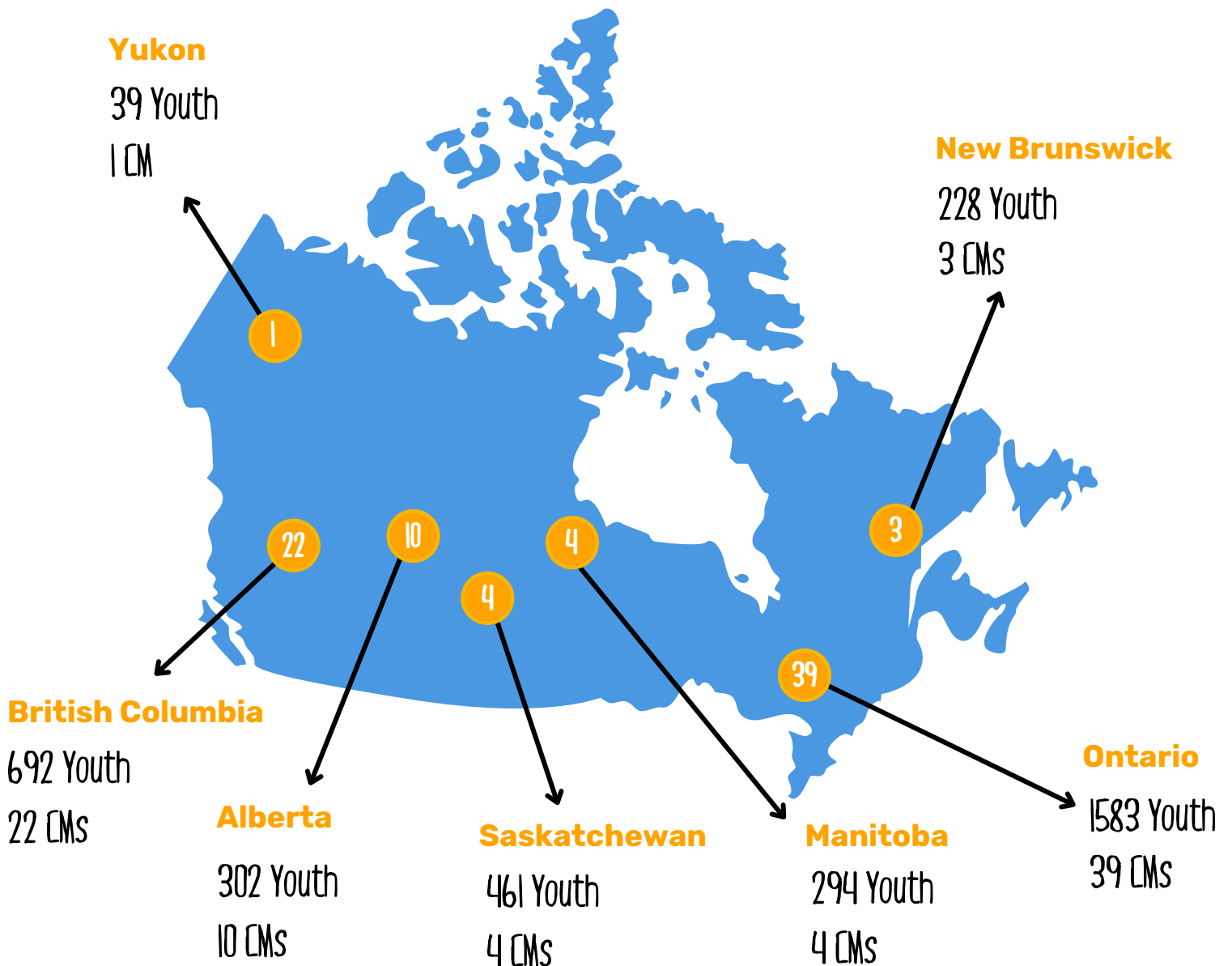
children and youth reached through in-person and virtual programming.

83

Community Mentors trained.

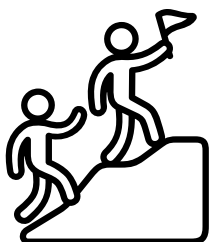
60%

of Community Mentors are female or non-binary.



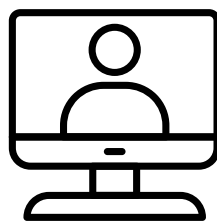
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT CONTINUED:

5



Community Mentor trainings offered by Right To Play, which included one training specifically for Jr. Community Mentors.

37



virtual program sessions offered by partner Community Mentors.

3135



in-person program sessions offered by partner Community Mentors.

Community engagement looks different for each partner. One way that Right To Play encourages community engagement is by supporting CMs to organize youth-led initiatives and intergenerational events. Youth-led initiatives are created, planned, and organized by PLAY program participants, amplifying youth voice and supporting youth agency. Intergenerational events bring together members of all ages from the community to enjoy Right To Play programming and foster a sense of play.

YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES:



12

Youth-Led Initiatives were hosted



2120

number of children and youth in attendance

4119

number of adults in attendance

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS:



82

Intergenerational events were hosted



3764

number of children and youth in attendance



1979

number of adults in attendance



Right To Play is fortunate to have incredible Ambassadors and supporters of our mission. Pictured are Toronto Raptors, **Pascal Siakam**, Canada Women's Basketball member, **Kayla Alexander** and, Rogers President & CEO, **Tony Staffieri**, meeting Indigenous Programs participants and Right To Play staff.

COMMUNITY MENTOR SPOTLIGHT: CHUCK HILL

My name is “Chuck” Hill and I am from Six Nations Reserve. We are the largest First Nation Community in Canada. Our community has been partners with Right To Play (RTP) for seven years. I have been the Community Mentor for six of those seven years. During that time, I have worked with hundreds of youth who have grown up in my RTP program. I have witnessed so much personal growth in them, and even some professional growth, as a few are now my colleagues in the workforce.

One particular youth comes to mind when thinking of a program success story. I have known this youth since he was little – he always attended community programs.

He started in my youth group when he was in Grade 8. He was an extremely shy and timid kid who couldn’t even tell me his name when asked. He continued to participate in youth group for the next four years, attending every group meeting and event we had. When he entered high school, I worried about his transition to off-reserve schooling, hoping he wouldn’t slip through the cracks.

Over the years during youth group, I could see his progression as he shared more in the group and opened up emotionally. He truly surprised me during his last year in youth group when he did a quick presentation about his own success and growth during his time spent in the Right To Play program. He did this presentation in front of 30 or more adults, which would be intimidating for anyone, let alone for someone who was so timid that he wouldn’t even tell me his name four years prior!

Although this was his own growth and success – and he put in all the hard work to get there – I can’t help but think that the RTP program played a role. I am grateful for the community’s partnership with Right To Play, as it has given me the opportunity to have a job that I love doing, supporting as many youth as I can in my own community.

