

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

An Overview from the CIF Impact Report

COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES (CBYF)

Tamarack Institute's Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) is a five-year initiative funded by the Government of Canada's Supports for Student Learning Program* that operates in 20 rural, remote, and/or Indigenous communities across the country. The goal of CBYF is to develop community-wide strategies to support youth (aged 15 – 30) to graduate high school and successfully transition to post-secondary, training or employment. Each CBYF community receives core funding and capacity building support from Tamarack to develop and implement their local action plan.

COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND (CIF)

CBYF communities are eligible to apply annually for one-year Community Innovation Fund (CIF) grants. These grants enable local CBYF initiatives to achieve “quick wins” on pressing issues while balancing the deep work of addressing the priorities of their community's youth. After the first year of implementing CBYF in communities, six domains emerged to address barriers to academic and employment success faced by youth. The six themes have been structured into six overviews, focusing specifically on the impacts of 40 CIF grants distributed between 2020 and 2023. All overviews will be updated to include data from the final year as it becomes available.

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Youth in rural communities often lack clear pathways from high school to post-secondary education, training programs, or employment. This can be compounded by other barriers including poverty, racism, lack of adult support, and poor mental or physical health. CBYF communities designed initiatives that engaged a diverse range of community members to offer a more holistic array of education options and supports.

COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

- Immediate need for more technology to access online school during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Gaps or barriers in accessible and culturally appropriate learning opportunities.
- Gaps or barriers in specialized education plans and one-on-one support from teachers and adult allies.
- Gaps or barriers in pathways from classroom to career such as internships, training programs, and job shadowing opportunities.

While 40 initiatives addressed youth education success, the projects on the following page focused more specifically on success in the secondary school system.

INITIATIVES ADDRESSING ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

After the Bell Tutoring

Corner Brook, NL

Youth tutors worked with the school system to provide the community's only free tutoring initiative for students who needed support.

Roving Campus

Portage La Prairie, MB

The Roving Campus initiative redesigned the traditional classroom to accommodate students facing barriers to education success.

Jeunes branchés

Laval, QC

Youth-led technological support for students taking online classes because of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

YK Prep Connect

Yellowknife, NT

Youth tutors and mentors were placed with other youth seeking tutoring and mentorship support. Youth were given a chance to try out their education or employment interests and have access to a range of services through a local service provider.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF THE CIF PROJECTS

- 1 Students in the Roving Campus classroom had all been identified by their school board as unlikely to graduate. At the end of the year, **100% of students** had graduated from high school and 30% chose to go on to further education.
- 2 The Roving Campus pilot project was so successful, the Digby CBYF community chose to replicate the project in 2023.
- 3 Several youth reported that their involvement in the YK Prep Connect tutoring program encouraged them to apply for further education and helped them choose a career path.
- 4 Many students and their parents stated that the After the Bell tutoring support was the reason students were able to pass their classes.
- 5 In an online feedback form created by YK Prep Connect, **100% of respondents** said that the program provided "immediate support for their schoolwork" and that they felt "more prepared to apply for a job".
- 6 The After the Bell tutoring program represented the only free tutoring program in the community. It was so successful in its first year, the number of youth engaged in the program **increased by almost 500%** in the second year.
- 7 For the majority of youth leaders in the Jeunes branchés tutoring project, this was their first job. However, they became so confident during the year, three youth tutors chose to take over the project after the completion of the CIF initiative.