

Context:

In the fall of 2018 participants in the 2017-18 East Coast Shaking the Movers the report had a chance to present their final report in the Legislative Assembly. An earlier reporting date in the spring was cancelled due to flooding in the Legislative precinct and the fall reporting date made for a late start on our 2018-19 STM process. Fortunately, when the discrimination theme was announced the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate was in discussions with Kolopehtuwan-mip, the Turning Leaf Foundation, an indigenous John Howard Society affiliate in Saint-Mary's First Nations to assist with the organization of a local First nations Youth Summit.

After chequing with the Landon Pearson Centre it was agreed that this Youth Summit could act as a host partner for our 2018-19 Shaking the Movers Event. The summit was run over three days and started with a meal and words of welcome from St-Mary's newly elected chief and then a dance. In all about 60 youth, between the ages of ten to seventeen participated from St-Mary's and Kingsclear First Nations and a few youth from Mi'kmaq reserves visiting their cousins also took part. Many adult chaperones were on hand throughout. The formal program got under way Saturday with a Smudge and then breakfast followed by a testimonial from a residential school survivor and this was followed by a brief presentation by the Youth access to justice outreach clinic and a presentation on child rights by the Advocate's Office. Then the youth got into a circle for an activity on the theme of equality. In a circle they closed their eyes and each tore strips off a piece of paper in response to questions about discrimination. At the end of the exercise everyone opened their eyes to compare what was left of their sheet of paper. This was followed by a debrief discussion to explore themes of discrimination in community. the activity was led by participants from last year's Shaking the Movers process and older youth from Saint Mary's Reserve.

At the noon hour lunch break on Saturday the newly elected Premier, who happened to be in meetings in a nearby room of the hotel where the event was held, dropped in for an impromptu Q& A with the Youth and told them he was looking forward to their report. Following lunch, the youth were divided into animal spirit clans and engaged in a flag-making exercises. They then had two presentations from rappers from Navaho tribes in the US prior to dinner. Throughout the day Saturday, youth were also able to meet with staff from the advocate's Office and volunteers to record their thoughts about the day the themes of discrimination and Maliseet language, culture and history.

On the Sunday the youth engaged in workshops focused on the change they want to see in their community. The pages which follow summarize in four parts the workshops discussions held by older and younger Maliseet Youth at Kingsclear and St-Mary's First Nations, following that are excerpts from some of the individual interviews recorded on the Saturday. This draft material is being shared with consent for purposes of discussion at CRAN but will be revised, refined, augmented and reformatted by a subset of the participants and then validated with a larger group of their peers at a follow up STM day-camp this spring, so that a final report can be presented at the provincial legislature prior to June 21st, 2019.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REPORT

TURNING LEAF FOUNDATION

KOLOPEHTUWAN-MIP

YOUTH SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 2ND, 2018

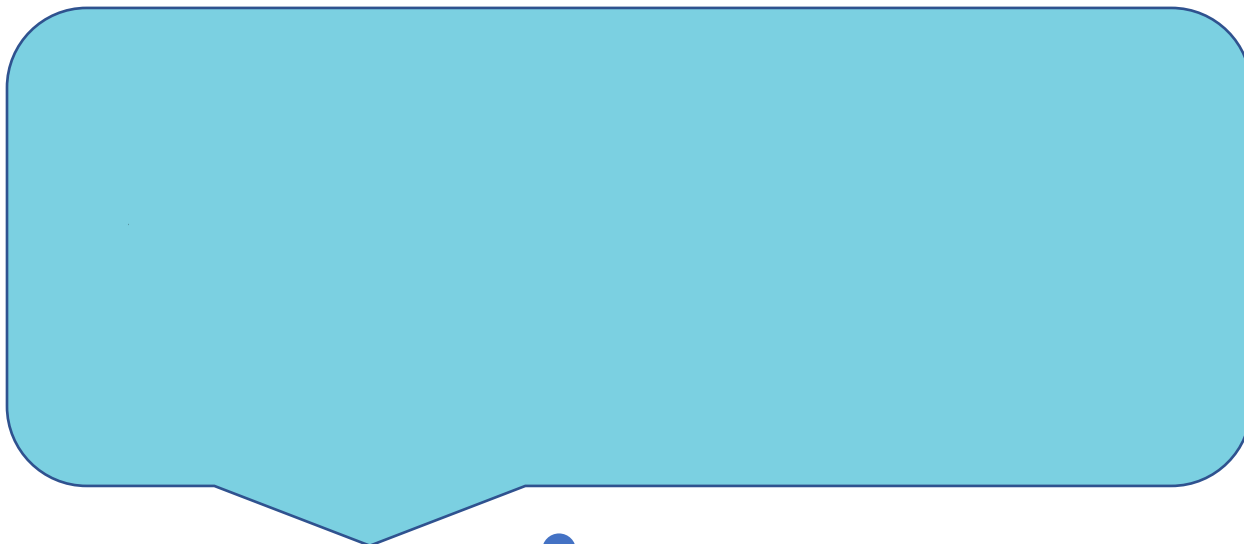
Kolopehtuwan-mip Turning Leaf Foundation hosted an Indigenous Youth Summit on November 30th-December 2nd, 2018. The purpose of the summit was to engage and empower the youth in a safe space to express their experiences and concerns.

The engagement vision board activity allowed the youth to discuss the problems within their communities and come up with solutions to these problems.

This was the highlight of the summit because youth voice is important, and it matters.

Their voices matter. This report states what the youth discussed during the engagement vision board activity.





KINGSCLEAR FIRST NATION &
ELSIPOGTOG FIRST NATION



YOUNGER YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Problems

Definition: What problem do you want to tackle? Tell us about the problem/need that you want to address. Make sure that you clearly describe the problem and its scope, and that you identify the community/group(s) affected by this problem and/or their needs (s). Why is that a problem? Tell us why it is an important, pressing issue to be addressed.

We talked about the problem of drugs and alcohol within the community. We talked about how kids from the ages of twelve and up are drinking on the streets.

Some of the reasons we drink and do drugs is because: peer pressure from friends; depression and sadness; home life; anxiety; youth wanting to be cool and to show off; seeing their parents drinking.



Solutions

Definition: What solution do you propose to address this problem and how? Tell us about your idea to solve this problem. Your proposed solution should be relevant, specific and targeted to solve the problem that you described above. Why is your solution innovative? Tell us why your idea is original and how it differs from existing solutions. For instance, let us know whether your solution tackles a problem that has not been solved yet, or whether it addresses an existing problem, but in different and/or better way.

We believe it is important for us to make the decision and decide to stop drinking and using drugs and to seek help. We talked about who we could go to seek help:

- Parents, brothers and sisters
- Friends
- Teachers, elders
- Priest
- Police, health centre
- Rehab

We know that this affects brain development and that drinking can have a negative impact on this. We believe that drinking can be fixed by doing some of this:

- Smudging and prayer
- Sweat lodge
- Church
- AA and NA meetings
- Staying in school

- Hobbies: music/movies/sports/writing/art
- Traditional teachings
- Proper councillors on council

Resources



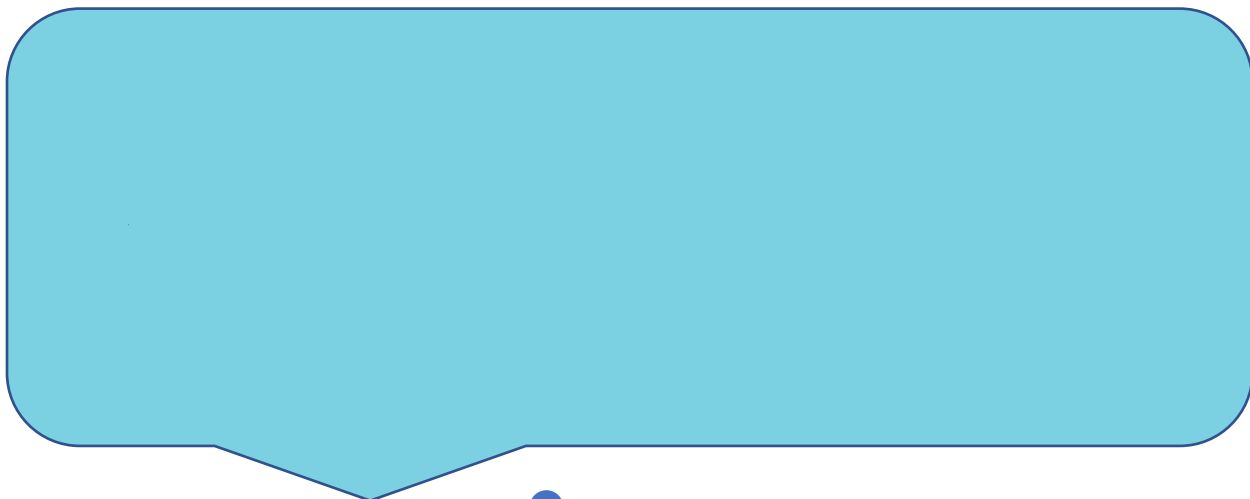
We think that having a youth centre and playground that will help us stay away from drinking and using drugs. We want to have activities like drumming, crafts, drum making, sewing regalias, beading, reiki, visiting elders, and to have talking and healing circles. We suggested arcade games, pool, café as other ways for us to stay away from drinking and using drugs.

Outcome

“Making your life worthwhile”

We believe that resolving the problem of drinking and using drugs would lead to:

- Less kids drinking
- Better health spiritually, mentally, physically and socially
- Helping other people
- Less crime
- Keep youth centre going
- Happy community
- Good life in community, at home, at work, at school\
- We can explore the world
- Having a bucket list
- Happy families
- Everything we do is a learning experience



KINGSCLEAR FIRST NATION



OLDER YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Problems

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We believe that the use of drugs and alcohol, along with abuse and bullying to be problems within our community. We talked about the role models in the community and how they are not setting a good example, and their bad behaviours are influencing both adults and youth to behave similar. We talked about how some of the problems lead to death in the community as well.

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We believe that there needs to be more programs for people with addictions. We discussed the importance of support groups and forming committees. We want to do this, so we can present concerns to the community and Chief and Council. We think there should be a foster home within the community so that our people do not have to leave the community.



We suggested hosting various events such as: walks, picnics, swimming, movie nights and skiing. These activities would serve as one method to keep us and other members of the community busy and engaged with one another. We want to create presentations for the community and Chief and Council to use our voices and start making changes. Cultural teachings, talking circles, and access to elders are other ways we think it could help our problems. We think it is important to teach respect as well. We believe that presentations about the risks of drugs and alcohol, the

importance of healthy relationships will help. We want to make questionnaires for youth and the community as well.

Here are some of the ways we want to start making changes now:

- Form a youth group that will consist of youth, Chief and Council, elders, parents
- Brainstorm with other youth to voice more concerns within the community
- Create presentation to present to Chief and Council and talk to youth council
- Plan activities to bring more youth together
- Fundraising activities: raffles, BBQ, bottle drives, make calls to local businesses for donations
- Make a presentation to the government

Obstacles

We are worried that we will not have any support and will face discrimination while trying to make changes in our community. But we also believe that this will help create a positive voice to inform and encourage other people in the community. We talked about the 'bigger picture' and how we need to think about that.



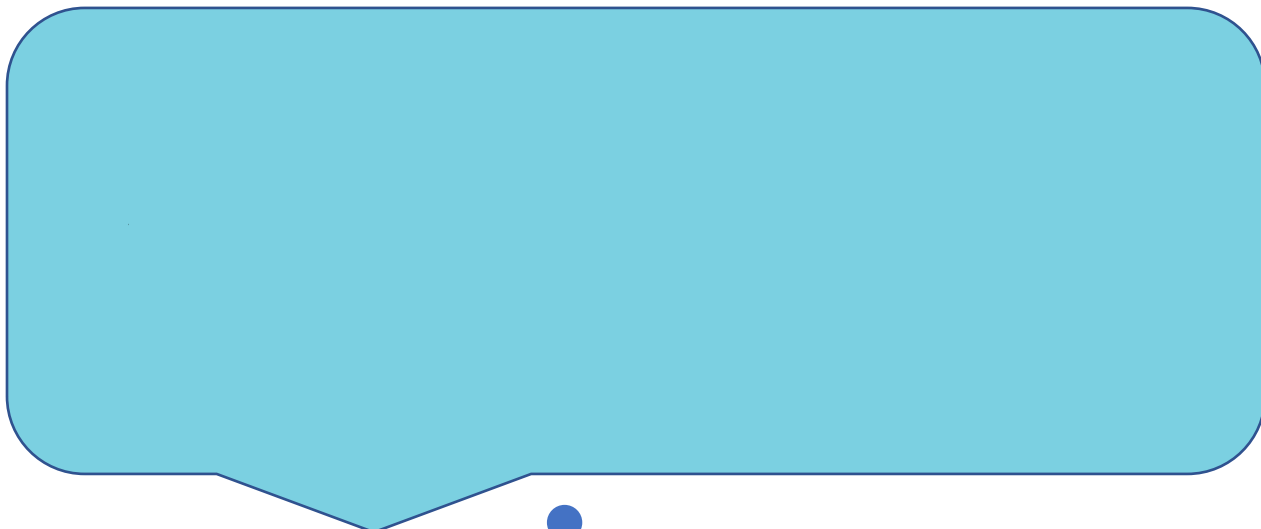
Impact

"Be the person you needed as a child"

We think if the problems were to be resolved these things would happen in our community:

- Less violence
- Better mental health
- Lower drug use
- Healthy activities
- Keep people happy and alive
- Show positive role models
- Keep youth busy
- Less exposure to drugs, alcohol and violence
- Showing youth that they do have a voice and people will listen
- Better physical health





ST. MARY'S FIRST NATION



YOUNGER YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Problems

Definition: What problem do you want to tackle? Tell us about the problem/need that you want to address. Make sure that you clearly describe the problem and its scope, and that you identify the community/group(s) affected by this problem and/or their needs (s). Why is that a problem? Tell us why it is an important, pressing issue to be addressed.

“I’ve lost a family member to drugs, I can’t talk about it.” “I stopped trying to talk to my mom, I don’t try anymore.”

We talked about the drug and addiction problem and these are some of the causes:

- discussed peer pressure
- resorting to self-care
- intergenerational trauma
- trying to fit in
- people are the problem
- popularized by social media
- weak-minded
- brain cell damage
- no support
- parents allowing their kids to experiment but do not help when they get addicted



We wanted to know why marijuana was legalized.

We believe that another problem is rez pets. We talked about neglect and endangerment of animals. Some of the issues that we talked about include:

- always around
- attack people and cats
- mess our places/yards
- spread of diseases
- lawn mower spray all over

Solutions

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Here is some of the solutions we thought of:

- Make move off reserve
- Ban all drugs
- 1-800 number
- Eat celery
- Visit to help people quit
- Better monitoring
- Support us so we feel supported
- Chief and Council
- Talk to teens about support groups
- Work together
- More awareness of what services are available
- Foster care should be in the family, do not take kids away

We believe that there must be more strict rules in our community regarding pets and animal welfare. We think there should be fenced-in areas for pets, use of shock collars, and to have a reserve paw-patrol.





ST. MARY'S FIRST NATION



OLDER YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

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We talked about a lot of different problems within our community. We talked about mental health and suicide, stereotypes and gossip within our community and workplace that can lead to harassment as well. We talked about how having no recreation is a problem for our community as well. Another problem that we talked about was with youth and hate and what that means, as well as the problem with non-Indigenous people trying to speak from an Indigenous perspective.

We also focused on lateral violence within our community as being a problem. We feel that people should be able to share how they feel in a safe manner. We believe that everyone has a right to be respected. We talked about how we are always told to “get over it”, “what did you do to deserve it”, and “why can’t you handle it” by fellow community members. We believe that our own people are disrespecting one another, including elders through lateral violence, even through community posts on social media.

Another big focus that we talked about was on drug use within our community:

- Too many drugs and drug dealers
- Too easy to access- should not be able to access
- Crack shacks- there are sheds full of cocaine and other drugs
- Drug dealers live right beside the school
- Everyone is affected
- We are affected
- It is not safe, drugs are bad
- Problem with peer pressure and ways to cope
- Addiction
- Becoming a social norm
- Drugs mess with your brain
- Causes problems to relationships
- Causes hepatitis B and weight loss
- Loss of family members

Solutions

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“We feel unsafe in our community, you never know what one person is capable of.”

We believe that this needs to be addressed because our young people are on drugs or beginning to use. We think that our parents are influencing us to do this. We think that this problem feeds into First Nation stereotypes. We think that money should be spent on other things and that there needs to be more money spent on us. We believe there needs to be more advocates. We know that drugs are unsafe which is why this problem needs to be resolved. Kids should not know what drugs are, and we must keep them safe. We believe that healthier families will impact the us and families can spend more time with their kids. We think our community needs more security to keep everyone safe.

At first, we thought the idea of a gated community would be helpful, but then we decided this would not be a good idea. We think there needs to be more prevention and we need to form a youth council. We want to learn about our treaties, and we believe that non-Indigenous people should learn Indigenous studies and it should be mandatory.

We think that supervisors need to do what is done regarding lateral violence, and that people need to share how they feel.

Other solutions we had thought about include:

- Host a summit with adults who support the youth, and the second step to include higher positioned adults to attend the summit to hear what the youth have to say
- Supervisors need more accountability
- Spread more kindness
- Different ways to express their feelings
- Need to gather more youth for summit who want to participate
- Youth council

- Adults to share with the youth
- Need people to commit to change
- Chief and Council should listen to the youth, and not undermine them
- Need qualifications to be a councillor
- More support at school

Some of the people we feel that we can go to are:

- Mason, Angee, Bonita, Sylvia, Chris, and Claudia



Youth quotes from individual interviews

In parallel of the Youth Summit, some of the participants were interviewed by the Child and Youth Advocate's Office to express themselves on issues that were brought up during this week-end.

Why they came

"There is a lack of culture participation in schools"

"We are making the flags because, I think we are going to take them home.

- No, we are taking them to our schools to represent our communities, because residential schools didn't accept First Nations, they treated them wrong, so they are going to the schools as a representation of our acceptance.
- We are in the same group so we are making this turtle in the middle with 'People of the River' and we are just decorating stuff."

-Maliseet

"There are only a few people left who can speak fluent Maliseet [...] I don't speak the language as fluently as I want to".

“it is very important. If you don’t keep practicing it and teaching it to others, it’s going to die”

“Not many people can go to the Maliseet class because you have to be First Nations to go, so maybe if she could make it for everybody [...] I think it could bring it back because more people would come in the club and it would become worldwide”

“People who can speak fluently are usually 65 and older and there is a big gap of language and culture and education and teaching throughout Canada”

“The bad thing is that, on our reserve, there is only a few people left who can speak fluent Maliseet, and they are a bunch of elders... I guess we just need to ask our elders to learn it... Like as, someone in there said: ‘We are the seed of the nation.’ When we learn that we can keep it going for generations and generations, but as it slowly continues and nobody is learning it, it’s dying.”

I, myself am a student in the French Immersion program because it will make it easier for me to get a job, but when you are in the French Immersion program you are not able to choose any Maliseet language courses. And the language also stops when you are in grade 10 and the curriculum for the Maliseet is, you learn the same 15 words from when you are in grade 2 to when you are in grade 10, so you just say the same 15 words over and over again. So I think they have to change the curriculum and let... Indigenous French Immersion students choose whether or not they want to choose their language as a choice.

-Racism and Discrimination

“I think it really would start with, I think the main thing that would fix that is education of our culture because a lot of people... sometimes people whether they don’t know it’s happening or they do know it is happening, they don’t know about the subject and they hear people they are like ‘Oh I didn’t realize it was that bad’ and so then there are a lot of people who are non-Indigenous who happen to show up to these indigenous events, they learn and then they become advocates for a lot of Indigenous issues.”

“bring in a better education system, bring in a better way for people to learn about indigenous culture, and to bring a better way everyone to basically learn. And even if there was something for indigenous people at school where they feel more safe and more accepted because there is a lot of authority using power too. ..., so making a lot more Indigenous culture things more mandatory would be my message.”

“When I get discriminated, I feel worthless and I feel like I don’t belong”

“People define how it is ok to call themselves Native, when they don’t really know and how they dress up as if they are Native and make fun of what we do”.

“I find it is good, because everyone knows how to be respectful to others and not discriminate at school.”

“At my school, it is good as well but there is a little bit of discrimination. I have heard people in my school say, “oh my god, First Nations are savages and they don’t deserve to be here”. We deserve to be here just as much as you can”.

-What they want

“I would really like to see a library on the reserve..... I know I would go there everyday, all the time...My favourite book is... it is about a girl who was a really fast runner and she had a little sister who was really jealous of her, and one day she ran into the woods there was a baby fox being born, and it was based around that. It went from the girl to the baby fox and it was showing the different perspectives and I really liked that book.”

“We are trying to learn our culture to continue it”

“I think that everybody underestimates what the youth is capable of, and that some day they will be shocked or pleasantly surprised of what we are able to do”

“We are doing a summit where all communities in Oromocto, Kingsclear, and St. Mary’s come together and talk about things that are going on in our communities and what we can do to help... We were making a flag to represent what we are doing and what we can do in the future... [On our flags] there was a whole bunch of medicine wheels, there was a whole bunch of turtles, and a lot of other art like respect, equality, courage.”

“I want him to make sure that the highways are always cleared up and safe, because we don’t need another accident happening. ... An underground tunnel. People do know that there is a community there, so they should realize that they should slow down, but people are still ignoring that. Like last night, these cars drove into our reserve, and there was a police chase.”

“There are a lot of kinds that are walking that are really far away from the store and they go to the store and there is a long walk and there are cars that don’t stop for us and we have to wait for a long time.”

-History

(Residential schools)

“I think that it still important to talk about because there are some people who could still not like First Nations. [...] we want people to accept First Nations”.

“If we didn’t talk about residential schools and we didn’t fight back, residential schools could still be here”.

“It is just difficult to learn your language, especially like in history and the curriculum in high school, indigenous history is optional, residential schools is optional, a lot it is optional. A lot of

people at our school don't know what residential school is, a lot of people don't know who Indigenous people are. A lot of people have very little to no information on that due to the lack of not being a requirement in the curriculum and the racism that we have in Leo Hayes which is a lot too, from this misinformation from a lot of biased history teachers."

"They do have Native Studies ..what I meant was... in history, when you take modern history or when you take Canadian history, or when you take grade 9 Social Studies, those are all required things, but in those sections of Canadian history/modern history there is very little to no Indigenous culture is mentioned in that because it is not required. It is just optional. But, they did do a health care thing recently in New Brunswick where nurses at UNB have to learn about Indigenous health history, something along the lines of that, so I thought that was a nice step in the right direction."

"So, a spirit animal is like, you can ask an elder about that and if they know you well enough, you can ask them what your spirit animal is, and they can give you a good answer what your spirit animal is based on your personality... you learn it when you are around her age [middle school]... When you have learned your first two, your left is your women side and your right is your male side, spiritually."

It is very important. If you don't keep practicing it and teaching it to others, it's going to die.... And I don't want it to die cause it is such a beautiful language. I only know a few words to like tell somebody to maybe open a door, maybe close a window, open a window and stuff like that and I can start a little of a conversation but I can't finish it cause I don't know it that well. I know some of the animals and stuff, actually all of the animals, ...no not all of them. But in essence, it is such a beautiful language and it is punishing ourselves to let it die and not do anything about it."