



“Stopping Poverty Through Career Education”

**Annual Report
2006-2007**

Submitted By

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The 2006/2007-program year has been an eventful year for Career Trek to date. While our existing programs have enjoyed outstanding success, these accomplishments have been tempered by a shortage of funding which resulted in our organization drastically reducing our Phase 2 offerings.

Phase One

Program Upgrades and Expansions

In an effort to improve our tracking of, and contact with, program graduates, Career Trek has partnered with the Information Forge to develop an (secure) online database of graduate information.

Career Trek added a new department at the Red River College campus. Participants are now able to experience the career of Dental Assisting. Additionally, *a parent of a program graduate is now teaching Dental Assisting. This parent returned to school as a result of her experience through the program, and has now returned to teach the children in the program.*

As a result of a growing staff complement, the University of Manitoba has generously donated academic office space for our Executive Director. This has provided us with the opportunity to employ another staff person in our general office.

Convocation was moved this year to the Prairie Theatre Exchange. The location was wonderful and provided us with a most memorable graduation.

Program Outcomes

Owing to unfortunate weather and Remembrance Day, Career Trek had to cancel three of our program days. In comparison, only one day had been cancelled in the past ten years.

This year, Career Trek achieved a very respectable 91% graduation rate this past year. This means that 219 young people, and their families, were able to *experience* 80 careers in 17 different fields. As well, participants were able to familiarize themselves with the City's three largest post-secondary options.

Career Trek continues to strive meet the needs of Aboriginal People. This past year saw fully 37% of the program participants self-identify as being of Aboriginal ancestry. While the graduation rate of these participants was lower than mainstream participants, these young people and their families still finished with *a 77% graduation rate.*

Phase 2

As previously mentioned, a funding shortfall this year, precipitated by the cancellation of the Labour-Market Partnership Agreement, left Career Trek facing a potential deficit of \$70k deficit. In response to this crisis, Career Trek was forced to cancel Phase 2 of the program. In response to this situation, however, two of our community partners raised the funds necessary to run their respective projects.

The University of Manitoba engineering Society held their annual Pi-Throw, with the funds raised designated to the Phase 2 Engineering project. Our Sport Event Management project was able to operate when the coach of the U.ofM. Women's Basketball program individually raised the funds to keep this project going.

It is a tribute to these groups and individuals, as well as the value of these projects that they were able to operate.

Phase 3 (Junior Staff)

The Junior Staff Leadership program provides graduate of Phase 1 with the opportunity to return to Career Trek as assistant group leaders, instructors and campus coordinators. Here these alumni are able to learn actual staff positions (in preparation for their eventual employment when enrolled in post-secondary study), while serving as role models for the younger participants.

This year our Junior Staff (Leadership) program worked with 17 previous graduates. Of the young people, 16 completed the program, with only one dropping out as a result of a conflict with their paid, part-time employment. For the first time-ever, every campus was able to have a Junior Campus Coordinator on site.

Apinochek Pasaquok Project

Description of Activities

The Career Trek program is 6 weekend sessions for Skownan School students, grades 5 to 9, held in Winnipeg at the universities and college. The students arrive Friday night and stay at Camp Manitou and spend Saturdays in different career areas doing hands-on experiential activities. Youth, parents and extended family all participate in the career learning.

Starting in the program this year was a new intake of participants, consisting of eight grades five and six students. These students engaged in hands-on activities related to four different careers each Saturday at the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Red River College (Notre Dame and Princess campus) and Stevenson Aviation. As well, the older participants were introduced to Phase 2 of the program, a year-long intensive focus into a career area of their choice. These students had an option from five career areas: Business, Film, Rural Search and Rescue, Radiation Therapy, Theatre and Drama.

Programming areas

Aerospace Manufacturing Technician	Electronics Engineer
Actor	Entrepreneur
Aircraft Maintenance Engineer	Family Doctor
Aircraft Structural Repair Technician	Filmmaker
Botanist	Gas Turbine Engine Repair Technician
Campaign Manager	International Commodities Trader
Campaign Worker	Make-up Designer
Canvasser	Politician
Classroom Teacher	Probation Officer
Costume Designer	Radiation Therapist
Crime Scene Investigator	Reporter
Dental Assistant	Search and Rescue
Dietician	Special Education Teacher

Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation

A second recipient was selected for the \$1000 R.E.S.P. scholarship fund that was established for a project member who demonstrated extraordinary commitment to academic studies and Career Trek, and whose family had a demonstrated family financial need.

Running with the Bison

Career Trek endeavours to establish natural partnerships that will benefit both the community (Skownan) and its partners. To this end, a working partnership was established between the community and the Bison Women's Basketball program at the University of Manitoba. This partnership, entitled "Running with the Bison" (See attached poster and picture) has already resulted in a number of positive results:

- A summer youth basketball camp in the community with a second camp scheduled for this summer.
- Four young community members being invited to the Junior Bison Development Camp.
- A team retreat being held in the community, which included a community/team tournament, players helping in school classrooms, players participating in a traditional sweat.
- The establishment of a community-based coaching program, with the goal of running a girls team to participate in the indigenous games.
- The formalizing of the relationship with a gifting of a mounted bull bison head to the University of Manitoba.
- A reciprocal gifting by the President of the University of Manitoba at a ceremony in the community (later this year).

S.E.V.E.C. Youth Exchange

Disadvantaged youth seldom have the opportunity to travel and expand their horizons. With regard to reserve youth, it is incredibly important that they have the opportunity to experience the bigger world and interact with other peoples as equals. To this end, Career Trek organized our project participants to be part of a national youth exchange. A select group of participants (14), selected on the basis of performance, were chosen to exchange with a group of youth from Cambridge, Ontario. During the course of the two weeks, participants from both groups had the opportunity to forge relationships, experience a different Canadian culture and learn about each other's way of life. Most Skownan participants had the added experience of first-time air travel.

Elders Gathering

A community/project elder attended the Elders Gathering at the University of Manitoba.

Women in Media Foundation

One project participant traveled to Winnipeg to receive media training through the Women in Media Summer Camp held at the Princess campus of Red River College.

Governance Training

Aboriginal communities are in desperate need of gaining the skills required for proper self-governance. To this end, Career Trek is working to ensure that all program participants receive training, both in terms of good democratic governance skills as well as traditional governance skills. Part of this project has involved a partnership with **Youth Parliament of Manitoba**, who developed transitional training for one of our youth members. This individual participated fully in youth parliament (the youngest member ever) in both the Winter Session in Winnipeg and Spring Session in Brandon and is now actively preparing for next year. As well, a younger community member served as a page for Youth Parliament's Winter Session.

List of Employers/Organizations Who Participated

Skownan School
 Red River College
 University of Manitoba
 University of Winnipeg
 Frontier School Division
 Numerous post-secondary departments/programs/faculties
 Stevenson Aviation
 Dong Thai Ltd.
 Winnipeg Film Group
 CancerCare Manitoba
 Manitoba Rural Search and Rescue

Chile

As part of an international project in Chile with Red River College, indigenous people from Chile spent a day in Skownan, First Nation examining issues in Canada. Arrangements are now being made for someone from Skownan to travel to Chile.

Brandon

As a result of generous funding from the Rural Secretariat's office, Career Trek was able to undertake a one day pilot project in Brandon, Manitoba. The intent of the project was to introduce participants to the Career Trek concept, while using the day to assess potential support for our programming. The day was extremely successful, with both Brandon University and Assiniboine College indicating their willingness to participate.

Winnipeg School Division

Career Trek once again contracted with WSD to allow grade 5 students from inner-city school to attend a day of Career Trek. This special day, held in conjunction with the University of Winnipeg, allowed 60 students (and their educators) to experience four careers and learn about the connection between school and future opportunities.

Sustainability

A former employee has contacted Career Trek wishing to set up a memorial scholarship fund in her Uncle's name. The fund, still in its developmental stages, will establish an R.E.S.P. account for a fortunate recipient.

A **\$10k** grant was received from the Thomas Sill Foundation towards the Apinochek Pasaquok Project. Consideration is now being given by the Foundation on becoming an ongoing funder.

An **\$87k** PromoScience grant (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) in support of the establishment of the Phase 2 program.

A grant of **\$3k** was provided to us through the Federal Government's Rural Secretariat to fund a feasibility event for the establishment of Career Trek in Brandon, MB

A **\$500** grant was received from representatives from South Beach Casino to assist in the pilot project that's sent two Skownan youth to participate in Youth Parliament Manitoba.

A **\$600** grant from the Field of Dreams Foundation to support the training of a program participant in the Dartfish program, a unique computer video program used to train athletes. Under this proposal, a Career Trek graduate would use these skills to assist the Bison Women's basketball program.

A **\$30k** grant from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in support of the Apinochek Pasaquok Project.

A grant of **\$2.3k** from SEVEC to assist in expenses related to the Apinochek Pasaquok exchange project.

A grant of **\$24k** from Aboriginal and Northern Affairs towards the program costs of the Apinochek Pasaquok Project.

An ongoing commitment of **\$7.5k** from Frontier School Division toward the Apinochek Pasaquok Project.

In partnership with a graduate student in Disability Studies, dissertation research that examined the impact of the program on participants with disabilities.

A **\$2k** General Motors coaching award to develop the Bison basketball program in Skownan.

The successful renewal of the provincial government's current commitment of **\$175,000** was secured.

Recognition

This past year was a special for Career Trek, with its work being recognized locally and nationally.

The Executive Director of Career trek is now a member of the MB Career Development Advisory Committee.

Early in the program year, Career Trek was honoured to have been selected as an inaugural recipient of a People Forward award for "Developing Tomorrow's Workforce". Hosted by People First HR, the award produced some significant impacts locally, not the least of which was the addition of recent Board member, Linda Beaudry.

Career Trek was also incredibly honoured to have been selected by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada as the 2006 recipient of the Michael Smith award. This award is given annually to one organization that has made a significant contribution to the promotion of science and technology. IN addition to the press event, held at the University of Manitoba's Engineering building, Career Trek received a medal, a framed certificate and a monetary award of \$10,000.

Career Trek was fortunate to have hosted the Honourable Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy, to our program. The Minister was able to spend part of the morning in Geological Science with the program participants.