

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to report on the news and events of Career Trek's 2007-2008 program year. Like many years, it had its highs and lows, but as always, the highs were the majority. Our focus this year was on stabilization and while this meant that efforts were placed on securing our programming and financial future, we still found time and resources to grow.

As always, I remain indebted to the staff, The Board of Directors and its committees, for their tireless efforts and unwavering conviction in helping provide a better future for our young people and our province. As well, special thanks to our program partners, who have often had to work to overcome great ignorance and misunderstanding in helping us to create a better world for our program participants. To our funders and supporters, I would like to express my gratitude for your generosity and commitment. Your support is appreciated each and every day. Finally, to my family, who quietly (usually) endure my periods of extended absence while I am away "Career Trekking".

PROGRAMMING

Much of this year was dedicated to improving the quality of our existing programming. We believe that this has resulted in much improved lessons in all of our programs. However, we still found time to roll out some special program initiatives.

APINOCHEK PASAQUOK

During our four years in Skownan First Nation, it has become clear that the residual effects of residential school and cultural deterioration continue to impact negatively on our programming. In response to this situation, Career Trek organized, in conjunction with the Vision Seekers, a healing ceremony designed to help deal with the rift between our two peoples. The ceremony was well received and community members spoke how our ceremony helped better prepare them for the apology from the Government of Canada.

Total Program Participants:

- 20 (Phase 1 = 8, Phase 2 = 12)

Male/Female Ratio - 6:14

Sub-project updates:

Running with the Bison - Summer Camp, team retreat, Basketball Coaching Program. Coaching program - recruited a community coach from Skownan and an assistant coach from Rockridge (plans are underway this year for both coaches to obtain level 1 coaching certification), basketball team consists of 16 students ages 10-13 with an equal gender split.

Clean Water Program - water and water coolers, provided by Corpell's Water, supplied to each classroom for the school year. Funding support provided by Investors Group and Corpell's Water.

Guiding Circles - provided training to 20 people (parents, teachers and local professionals) from Skownan.

Mentorship - piloted "buddy" program with 15 University of Manitoba students through Housing and Student Life.

Youth Parliament - Meagan participated in her second year of YPM, attending both the Winter and Spring Session.

Buffalo Teachings - two sessions held: one for the Bisons Women's Basketball Team in Skownan during their annual team retreat, the other in Winnipeg for Career Trek staff and board members.

Softball Camp - two participants sent to the Winnipeg Goldeyes/Princess Auto Holiday Camp in Winnipeg.

CRYSTAL - funding provided to highlight careers in science and engineering. Phase 1 participants also had the opportunity to document this year through pictures and produce a photo-journal.

RESP Scholarship - this year's recipient: Alyssa Catcheway

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

While the Career Trek program has been significant in impacting on young people and their families, there has been an ongoing concern on our part about the loss of this impact over time and the fact that many young people are still not able to avail themselves of our services. In response to this, the provincial government and Career Trek have entered onto a partnership that has seen us start work on "career development in the middle years". The first step of this program has been to develop career curriculum that can be infused onto existing subject curriculum. The project is being implemented in partnership with Seine River School Division and Arbogate School.

PHASE 1

The 2007-2008 program year saw the addition of a new department in Phase 1 of our program, the Chemistry department at the University of Manitoba. This addition was well received, with many participants ranking it very highly.

Another addition this year was "Take Your Board Member to Work" Day. When the staff realized that a number of Board members had never actually been to the Phase 1 program, efforts were undertaken to rectify the situation. The staff was delighted to have members of the Board present and the management team takes the time to come out.

Another wonderful addition this year was collaboration between our post-secondary partners to run advertisements in the Winnipeg Free Press acknowledging the accomplishments of our graduates. My thanks to our partners for their thoughtful and inspiring contribution to our participants.

Grad rate 2007-2008: 83%

Aboriginal Participation: 42% (78% graduated)

PHASE 2

As a result of lack of funding, the number of our Phase 2 projects was reduced to four. The four projects we had (Sport Event Management, Aerospace, Engineering and

Radiation Therapy), however, were well done, with both families and participants heaping praise on the Career Trek and the projects.

Project Graduation Rates:

Radiation Therapy - 100% (6 Of 6)

Sport Event Management - 100% (2 Of 2)

Engineering - 80% (4 Of 5)

Aviation - 100% (6 of 6)

Total Program Participants:

18; max capacity = 24

75% capacity rate

Incomplete:

1 (due to attendance policy violations)

Overall Graduation Rate:

95% (18 Of 19)

Male/Female Ratio (of completed participants)

9:9

Visible Minorities: 6, Aboriginal: 1

SUSTAINABILITY

As part of its efforts to ensure the long-term viability of our organization, a number of important sustainability initiatives were launched and/or successfully culminated.

Funding agreements were completed this year with Red River Co-Operative, The Tallman and Lount Foundations, The Winnipeg Foundation and the Youth in Philanthropy initiative.

Career Trek is also in the process of working with the University of Manitoba to enhance our mutual relationship. If successful, Career Trek would gain “affiliate” status and have access to such assets as improved benefits, space and other resources.

Career Trek is now working on an improved relationship with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Out thanks go out to Dave Angus, President of the Chamber, for his public commitment “to bring partners and funding to Career Trek”.

Career Trek would also like to express its gratitude to Mr. Moray McVey and Mr. Dwight Botting for generously directing their retirement gifts towards Career Trek Retirement donations

PRESENTATIONS AND PROMOTION

Career Trek work continues to get notice, both at home and abroad. This year, the Canadian Career Development Foundation cited Career Trek as “one of the most innovative programs in Canada”. High praise from Canada’s Career Development leader

Career Trek was also asked to present at a UNESCO-sponsored, international symposium presented at an international symposium on “Building the Scientific Mind”. As the only programmers present among the scientists, academics and intellectuals present, our presentation on “Building the Pragmatic Mind” did much to help move the gathering to a broader, more accountable place.