

# OUT OF SCHOOL TIME (OST) SUMMER PROGRAM



## FINAL REPORT 2018



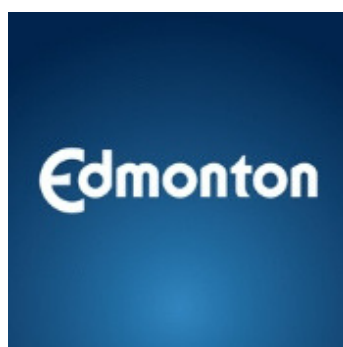
# 2018

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*Photos Provided by Michael Kuby*





# 1 THE OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COLLABORATIVE

The Out of School Time Collaborative (OST) is a partnership of community groups, community leaders, service delivery agencies, local institutions, and Edmonton citizens that have been working together since 2008. The OST Collaborative began in response to concerns raised by immigrant and refugee families and community groups regarding the increased need for specific supports and programs for their children and youth when they are not in school. The OST has evolved and expanded its focus to include out of school time programs and supports for immigrant and refugee children and youth as well as all children and youth experiencing social vulnerability.

The goal of the OST Collaborative is to improve the resiliency of children and youth through widely accessible and quality out-of-school time programs.

We believe that by being connected to OST programs, children, youth and their families will become more actively involved in their communities, experience greater academic success, develop an enhanced sense of belonging and identity, and be more engaged Edmontonians.



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Since 2015, REACH Edmonton has provided full time coordination and backbone support for the OST Collaborative. The Coordinator supports the OST partner organizations with their organizational and program development needs through training opportunities including the annual OST Conference in June.

The OST Secretariat acts as a steering committee to monitor and guide the overall OST strategy and secure funding sources.

Current members of the OST Secretariat:

- Council for the Advancement of African Canadians
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area (BCCBigs)
- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Catholic School District
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
- Edmonton Public School Board
- REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities
- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region



**Out of School Time  
Collaborative**



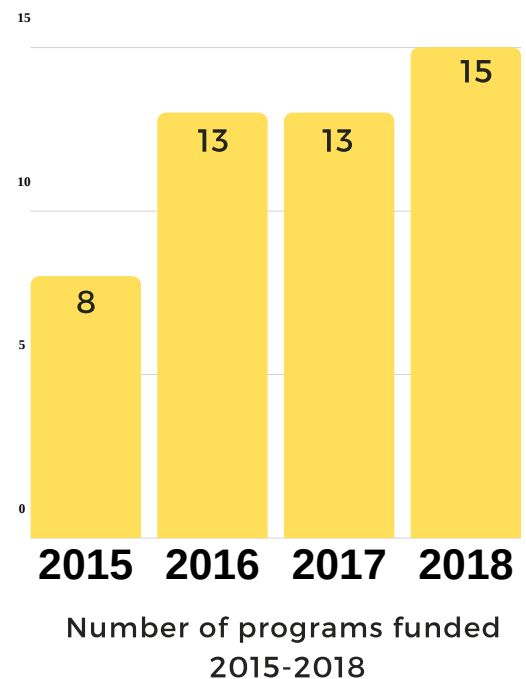


# 2 COLLABORATIVE FUNDING APPROACH

Since 2015, the Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region have used a collaborative funding approach and pooled both financial and human resources. This collaborative funding model allows applicants to apply for and report on one grant instead of needing multiple funding sources. The approach also creates efficiencies for the funders through a joint review and assessment process and awarding of grants. A final report is written that meets the needs of all the funders.

The four funders met throughout 2018 to revise the grant application, review and assess requests for funding, determine funding amounts, revise evaluation and feedback forms, and analyze final reporting. Collectively, \$130,000 was pooled to support summer programs (Butler Family Foundation \$25,000; City of Edmonton \$70,000; REACH Edmonton \$35,000).

In November 2017, the City of Edmonton's Community Services Advisory Board supported a recommendation from the Director of Community Resources (grants) to double the support for OST from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in 2018 and 2019. A portion of that funding was used to hire a Capacity Building Coordinator to provide programming and organizational support to the increasing number of organizations joining the OST Collaborative.



3,000+ Children & Youth attended summer program since 2015 as a result of this collaborative.



Since 2012, OST funding has provided support for approximately 27 different organizations to deliver summer programs. Some groups also access provincial funding (STEP program) and/or federal funding (Canada Summer Jobs program) to hire students. In 2018, the OST Collaborative was able to provide financial support to fifteen different organizations, five of which were involved for the first time.

Year	Funding Amount	Funders	# of Programs Funded	New Groups	Returning Groups
2012	\$100,000	City of Edmonton	10	10	N/A
2013	\$65,000	City of Edmonton	8	0	8
2014	\$50,000	City of Edmonton	7	1	6
2015	\$82,326	Pilot year for collaboration: Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, United Way	8	2	6
2016	\$130,000 + (\$200,000)	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, United Way (Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada)	16	10	6
2017	\$168,690	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, United Way	13	3	10
2018	\$130,000	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, United Way	15	5	10



## 4

# 2018 SUMMER PROGRAM DETAILS

Organization	Program Name	Funding Received	Participants	Location	Area of Edmonton
Action for Healthy Communities	Healthy Active Community Kids	\$3,075	30	Borden Park	Central
Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de L'Alberta Society	Camp Enfant et Leadership en Action	\$10,000	36	Campus St. Jean	Central
BGCBig	Africa Centre Summer Camp	\$10,430	393	Africa Centre	Northeast
Canadian Native Friendship Centre	Mamawa Payiwak Iskweisak (They gather together in one place - girls)	\$3,500	36	95 street and 117 Ave & Rocky Mountain House Culture Camp	Central
Creating Hope Society	Youth Cultural Summer Camp	\$8,000	37	St. Alphonsus School	Central
Hope Mission	Youth Summer Drop In Program	\$12,000	60	Tegler Youth Centre	Northeast
Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women	Young Indigenous Summer Youth Retreat	\$4,000	7	Stone Hedge Eco Farm	Out of Town
Kids on Track	Kids Going Places & Shift Youth Summer Day Camp	\$12,000	234	Multiple Locations	Northwest
Multicultural Health Brokers	Right to Succeed Sports and Wellness Camp	\$11,495	96	Ben Calf Robe School	Northeast
Partners for Humanity	Learn and Play Summer Program	\$4,000	32	Our Lady of Mount Carmel School	Strathcona/ Central
Sinkunia Community Development Organization	Sinkunia Summer Program	\$10,000	60	St. Teresa of Calcutta School	Central
Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton	Reach Ahead	\$15,000	155	Calder School & Satoo School	Northeast/Southeast
Somali Canadian Women & Children Society	Horumar Summer Program	\$15,000	120	J.J. Bowlen School	Northeast
Sudanese Nuer Tiang Cultural Society	South Sudanese School Project	\$3,500	36	Hillview Community Centre	Southeast
Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council	Brander Gardens ROCKS	\$8,000	176	Brander Gardens School	Southwest



# 5 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## **ACTION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HEALTHY ACTIVE COMMUNITY KIDS**

Action for Healthy Communities and Prince Charles School partnered to provide a unique educational and cultural camp for 6 - 12 years olds. The camp included fiddle lessons in the morning and traditional Indigenous teachings and activities in the afternoon including smudging, a sharing circle, and the seven teachings that are the foundation for the morals and values of Indigenous beliefs. The camp also incorporated recreational activities and a week-long short film making project.

## **ALLIANCE JEUNESSE-FAMILLE DE L'ALBERTA SOCIETY CAMP ENFANT ET LEADERSHIP EN ACTION**

This program was new to the OST Collaborative in 2018. Camp Enfant et Leadership en Action helps children and youth in the francophone community develop a sense of competence, belonging, and empowerment through various cultural and recreational activities including art, crafts, dance and poetry as well as construction games and recreational activities.

## **BCCBIGS + COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS AFRICA CENTRE SUMMER PROGRAM**

This partnership delivered a summer camp for children and youth focused on academics, sports/recreation, arts and culture, and leadership development. This program played an essential role in introducing participants, and their families, to aspects of Canadian life, structured programming, and valuable life skills. Field trips allowed many children and youth to experience many places in Edmonton for the first time.



## **CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE** **MAMAWA PAYIWAK ISKWESISAK**

Mamawa Payiwak Iskwesisak means they gather together in one place - girls. Two summer camps provided opportunities for youth to learn more about Edmonton's history, Indigenous culture and traditions including the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, and the Women's Water Ceremony, and experience camping at Long Lake Provincial Park.

## **CREATING HOPE SOCIETY** **YOUTH CULTURAL SUMMER CAMP**

Two, two-week camps were hosted in 2018 for children ages 8 - 12. This program incorporated aspects of Indigenous culture into all the activities. The camps seeks to create a sense of belonging, independence, and generosity through a variety of activities including arts and crafts, field trips, cooking, and recreation.

## **HOPE MISSION** **OUR KIDS IN ACTION SUMMER CAMPS**

Our Kids in Action summer camps provided opportunities to learn new hobbies or develop their current skills in activities they already love. Camps had themes from art to superheroes to soccer and a weekly field trip to match the theme. These camps included active games, and the opportunity to meet new friends as well as supportive, caring staff and volunteers.

## **INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF** **ABORIGINAL WOMEN** **YOUNG INDIGENOUS SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT**

This summer camp retreat was for young Indigenous women ages 13 - 24. The camp focused on creating connection to cultural identity, learning about a variety of topics including the environment, financial literacy, intuition building, and developing healthy boundaries. Cultural learning included women's traditional roles, traditional womb teachings, and ceremonial fire releasing.





## **KIDS ON TRACK**

### **KIDS GOING PLACES & SHIFT YOUTH SUMMER DAY CAMP**

Kids Going Places is a four day camp program offered in six different West Edmonton neighbourhoods. Mornings included interactive and hands-on learning activities such as song, drama, puppets, crafts, and active games. Physical literacy is emphasized in every activity, getting children and youth to connect their learning with movement. Each afternoon there was a field trip to a City of Edmonton facility, the Telus World of Science, biking in the Edmonton river valley, swimming and local splash pads, botanical gardens, roller blading, the Edmonton Zoo, and more.

Shift Youth Day Camp is a day camp program for youth in the West Edmonton communities. Each day camp consisted of a field trip or fun activity, mentoring, and relationship building, recreation such as swimming, skating, "dodgeball archery," high ropes aerial park, canoeing, and a field trip to the Edmonton Corn Maze.

## **MULTICULTURAL HEALTH BROKERS**

### **RIGHT TO SUCCEED SPORTS AND WELLNESS CAMP**

2018 was the third year of the Right to Succeed Sports and Wellness Summer Camp and the first year involved with the OST Collaborative. The program ran the month of July at Ben Calf Robe School with children and youth predominantly from West and Central Africa. The camp focused on developing soccer skills and strong relationships between the participants and the instructors/mentors. Health and wellness components included learning to cook and plan healthy balanced meals as well as general physical fitness.

## **PARTNERS FOR HUMANITY**

### **LEARN AND PLAY**

The Learn and Play Summer Camp provided a safe, nurturing environment for children and youth primarily from immigrant and refugee communities. Activities and experiences were aimed at helping each child reach their potential through many social, cultural, recreational, academic, and leadership activities.



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## **SINKUNIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

### **SINKUNIA SUMMER PROGRAM**

This summer program provided recreational, social, and cultural activities to children of African heritage. Activities included swimming, soccer, poetry, storytelling, and dry clay pottery. Field trips included going to the African festival and to Elk Island Park for a picnic. The end of the program was celebrated with a picnic at Wabamun Lake.

## **SOMALI CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON**

### **REACH AHEAD**

This four-week program offered academic, recreational, social and cultural learning including Math, English, Arts & Crafts, Gym, and Somali Language. In addition, students participated in leadership workshops and field trips to many recreational sites in Edmonton.

## **SOMALI CANADIAN WOMEN & CHILDREN ASSOCIATION**

### **HORUMAR SUMMER PROGRAM**

The word Horumar means 'to move forward' in Somali. This four week program offered activities on leadership, art, physical education, educational support, and dhaqan (cultural awareness) as well as a five day trip to Camp Wohelo located on Pigeon Lake. Campers are exposed to a variety of activities including camp-wide games, camp-outs, campfires, swimming, canoeing, and arts and crafts at both introductory and advanced skill levels.





## **SUDANESE NUER TIANG CULTURAL SOCIETY CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAM**

Sudanese Nuer Tiang Cultural Society has been running programs for their children and youth since 2008. 2018 was the third year of involvement with the OST Collaborative. Children and youth increased their leadership, academic and physical skills, as well as strengthened their self-esteem and cultural pride by learning the Nuer language.

## **TERWILLEGAR RIVERBEND ADVISORY COUNCIL BRANDER GARDENS ROCKS**

Brander Gardens ROCKS is focused on building the capacity of and supporting the diversity in the Brander Gardens community in Southwest Edmonton. Programming focuses on academic school readiness, fitness and recreation, music and art, leadership, and the celebration of diversity. Programs were delivered in Brander Gardens Elementary School and in the Capital Region Housing green space. In August, tents were set up in the green space for games and reading and there was one field trip per week. A week long camping trip was also hosted.

## **PARTNERSHIPS... A NEW TREND?**

Once again in 2018, organizations worked together to combine resources and efforts and jointly delivered summer programs.

Action for Healthy Communities and Prince Charles School delivered the Healthy Active Community Kids Camp in central Edmonton.

The Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton, Zimbabwe Cultural Society of Alberta, Ethiopian-Canadian Community Association and the Ghana Friendship Association of Edmonton delivered a program in Millwoods.

The BCCBigs and the Council for the Advancement of African Canadians (Africa Centre) delivered a program together in North East Edmonton.





## **FINAL REPORTS**

As part of the funding requirement, each organization submits a final report that details the participation, activities, successes, challenges, and learnings of their program. At present, these reports serve as the primary data source for this progress report, supplemented by additional data collection described below.

## **PROGRAM VISITS AND ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS**

In addition to the final reports, the Capacity Building Coordinator visited summer programs and met with groups to explore program and organizational strengths and challenges, and offer suggestions and referrals to resources as needed.

## **CHILD, YOUTH, AND PARENT SURVEYS**

Surveys were developed by the OST Collaborative Funding Committee and were distributed to the summer program staff by the OST Coordinator. Survey questions were adapted from the American Camp Association (ACA) battery of validated survey tools. The survey included a combination of open and closed-ended questions selected to align with the following United Way and City of Edmonton common outcomes:

- Participants have healthy relationships
- Participants increase their network of social support
- Children have developmentally appropriate skills
- Participants are involved positively in the community

Each agency was responsible for giving surveys to participants and parents, and collecting the feedback.

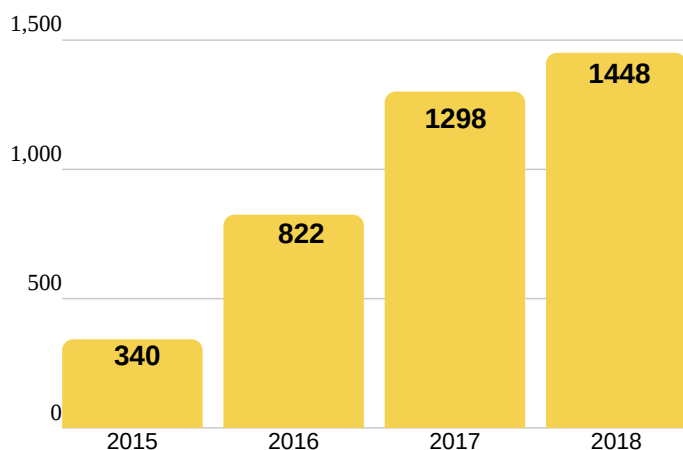
# 7 2018 DATA SUMMARY SNAPSHOT

In 2018...

**\$130,000** invested in  
**15** programs with  
**111** volunteers supported...

**49** children (under 5)  
**1020** children (5-12 years old)  
**379** youth (13-24 years old)

Program Participants 2015-2018







### Children have developmentally appropriate skills

**96%** of children & youth reported that they learned something new

**97%** of parents agreed their child had learned something new during the summer program



### Participants increase their network of social support

**94%** of children and youth reported that they met a new friend at the program (of which, 60% met a lot of new friends)

**97%** of parents agreed that their child made new friends as a result of the summer programs.

**59%** of parents reported they were connected to other parents through the programming.



### Participants are involved positively in the community

**97%** of children & youth reported they explored a new place

**62%** of children & youth reported that they learned more about their own culture

**64%** of children & youth reported that they learned more about other cultures

**77%** of children & youth reported that they learned more about life in Canada

**98%** of children & youth reported that they had fun during their summer programming





# 8 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## OVERVIEW

Research shows that children and youth learn best through a variety of activities and experiences. OST funded organizations are encouraged to include recreational and academic activities as well as cultural and intercultural experiences when planning their summer program. Organizations build their capacity to include a variety of learning activities and opportunities through their participation in the OST network of organizations and partnerships and through the training opportunities and support of the Capacity Building Coordinator.





## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Physical and recreational activity improves the participation, engagement, and development of children and youth academically, socially, physically, and mentally. Learning through recreation provides children and youth with transferable skills they can use in other contexts including home and school. Organizations that receive OST Funding are encouraged to include a variety of physical and recreational activities in their summer program.

In 2018, these activities included:

- Swimming/Spray Parks
- Field trips to local Edmonton sites and attractions (including Telus World of Science, Botanical Gardens, Reuse Centre, Valley Zoo, Fire Hall, and Fort Edmonton Park)
- Sports (Basketball, Soccer)
- Camping
- Dance and Fitness/Yoga
- Other recreational games and activities (wall climbing, biking, capture the flag, inline skating, launchpad, outdoor parks, skateboarding, physical literacy games)

Recreational activities had the following impacts reported by children and youth:

- Learned new skills
- Was active outdoors
- Increased my level of fitness
- Learned team building and team work
- Enjoyed being in nature
- Experienced a new place
- Increased my knowledge about Edmonton and its history



**"We had a boy that was injured, he could not participate in the [soccer] activities. This boy was at camp the entire week helping the staff with equipment and getting water for his peers. This boy could have stayed home and played video games, but he decided to come and help out. [...] He took the bus by himself from the Westside all the way to the Northside consistently. When this boy was sick, he showed up and helped out with whatever the staff needed. Leadership."**

**- Right to Succeed Summer Program**  
Multicultural Health Brokers

## EDUCATIONAL/ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Bridging the learning gap over the summer is critical to ensure that children and youth will start school in September ready to learn.

Programs are encouraged to include academic activities to strengthen skills in math, science, and literacy over the summer. Programs are designed to provide fun, engaging, interactive, and safe learning environments.



**"We had a few youth participate in our Day Camp who had cognitive disabilities. Those youth were able to participate fully and grow within the program. They expressed that they loved making new friends and that they were not treated differently by the other youth and staff."**

-Canadian Native Friendship Centre



Some of the most common activities offered in 2018:

- Exploring creativity through arts and crafts
- Strengthening numeracy and language skills while learning to cook and prepare healthy meals
- Participating in games, experiments or activities focussed on math, science, language/writing, reading
- Learning to use technology to make movies/films/videos

The impact of these activities resulted in children and youth:

- Strengthened a variety of skills that they can use at home and school (math, reading, writing, science related, etc.)
- Developed skills needed for teamwork
- Promoted the concept that learning is fun
- Developed trust in peers and adults
- Developed relationship building skills
- Gained knowledge on a variety of topics
- Introduced to activities that could become hobbies or ongoing interests



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Summer OST programs are encouraged to provide opportunities for children and youth to strengthen cultural identity and pride by sharing their culture with their own program participants and with others. This dynamic of intercultural sharing and learning helps promote understanding and respect as well as a sense of inclusion and acceptance.

The intercultural activities reported this year include:

- “Celebrate Me” activities (children and youth share and celebrate their uniqueness)
- Cultural exchanges (sharing histories, meals, show and tell)
- Learning a ‘word of the day’ in different languages
- Having staff and participants share stories from their culture and/or lives
- Indigenous cultural teachings
- Exposure to different cultural/social values and norms
- Participation in cultural rituals or ceremonies

The activities resulted in children and youth:

- Feeling more connected to and proud of their cultural identity
- Increasing their respect for diversity
- Learning about other world views/perspectives
- Learning the importance of valuing differences
- Having a deeper understanding of the connection between culture and creativity/art (through dance, clothing, artwork, etc.)
- Feeling safe, welcome, and accepted

**“There was a common understanding amongst the children in regards to being proud of their roots while at the same time being respectful of others.”**

– Boys & Girls Club Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton



**“The students really loved the cultural classes as they learned more about the Somali culture and language. They went home and asked their parents to teach them more about the somali culture and the parents were really happy about this.”**

– Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton

# 9 SUCCESS STORIES



## **ALLIANCE JEUNESSE - FAMILLE DE L'ALBERTA SOCIETY**

*"The children had the opportunity to share with their parents, at the closing ceremony, what they learned.... One special talent discovered at the camp was a young slam poet, who wrote and presented her spoken word, describing every single aspect of the camp seasoned with her sense of humour. Other participants presented inspiring pieces on the importance of respect and volunteerism."*

## **MULTICULTURAL HEALTH BROKERS**

*"The number one success of the program was that the participants had lots of FUN, they were excited to come back every week with lots of energy. The participants had somewhere positive to be during the summer. Another success was what the participants learned. A lot of what we did had to do with soccer as majority of the participants are immigrants and they love the sport. We felt we taught the participants a lot of skill development to improve in their level in the sport. We had fitness session everyday, the participants did not like that portion but they improved their health and overall fitness. I coach some of these youth at club level, I see them eating apples, bananas and drinking lots of water. These are all excellent habits we taught during the 4 weeks of camp. Many of the foundations of the soccer sport and the living healthy themes that we discussed will go beyond the turf and have built and prepared these youth for success on and off the field."*



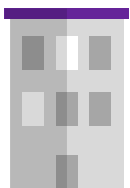


# CASTING A WIDE RESOURCE NET

Summer OST programs are encouraged to connect with other non-profit organizations, businesses, community agencies, and schools in order to improve their programs.

By partnering with different organizations, summer programs reported they were better able to:

- Learn from one another by sharing experience, resources
- Enhance their program and improve outcomes for the children, youth, and families (i.e. involvement with Edmonton Public Library,)
- Access appropriate space for all program activities (i.e. Joint Use, Schools)
- Get support throughout the summer (OST Capacity Building Coordinator)
- Provide food/snacks during the program (i.e. Food Bank, E4C)
- Have guest speakers provide learning opportunities for the children/youth (i.e. Edmonton Public Library, Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton Fire Service, etc.)
- Find new and interesting field trip locations
- Free access to City of Edmonton attractions through the Leisure Access Program



**22**  
Organizations



**7**  
Churches



**17**  
Schools



**4**  
Businesses



**15**  
Government  
Programs or Services



**3**  
Community  
Leagues

# 11

## SPACE FOR OST PROGRAMS



### THE JOINT USE PARTNERSHIP

The Joint Use partnership is a collaboration between the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School District, and Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord with the goal of making city facilities and schools more accessible.

The Summer Access Program is a partnership between Joint Use and REACH so organizations providing OST summer programs can use schools at no cost.

*"The second most successful aspect of the program was the location of the program. To start of with the school, it was an effective place we were given and we would love to host our next summer camp at J.J Bowen the following years to come. Because the school was centered in the neighbouring families we cater to, It was much easier the majority of our participants to participate in the program. The amount of space given to us was more than sufficient which contributed to our success even more. We received all the classrooms we asked for as well as a space for recreational activities."*

**- SOMALI CANADIAN WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN ASSOCIATION**





# PROGRAM GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Year over year, it is consistently reported that running a program takes a significant amount of work and planning. The staff and volunteers contribute so much to the overall programming and many reports reflected an appreciation in having passionate and diverse staff and volunteer teams.

Many groups reported the need to train staff and volunteers and to plan in advance and establish clear policies and procedures especially when working with partners to deliver programs.

Many volunteers and staff participated in professional development or training provided by the OST Collaborative throughout the year and/or at the OST Conference in June. Topics included:

- Working with Edmonton Public Library
- Handling Disclosures
- JUMP Math - Numeracy Activities
- Enhancing Wellbeing through Daily Activity
- Behavior Management
- Sharing Circles
- Physical Activity on a Shoestring budget
- Back pocket games
- Program Planning (budgets, space/facilities, activity planning, rapport building)

In addition to reported benefits for children and youth, program staff and volunteers reported that they had also learned new things and developed new skills. These changes were attributed to the combination of training opportunities (classroom learning) and the process of delivering the programs (experiential learning).

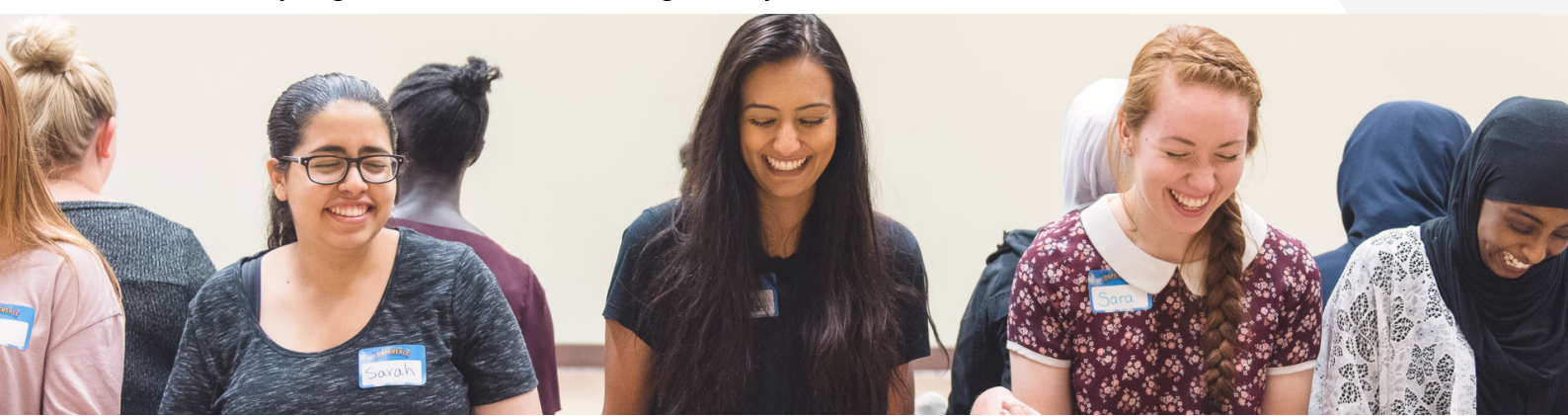
Learning reported by staff and volunteers included:

- How to work as a team & effective communication
- How to build a network
- How to be a mentor and how to teach children and youth
- Building on current skills and learning new ones
- Being given challenges that help them to grow, while also being able to showcase their strengths

## S U C C E S S E S

We asked summer program staff and volunteers to reflect on what their program achieved this year. Here's what they said:

- Children and youth developed new friendships and had positive role models in the staff/volunteers
- Children and youth gained new knowledge or skills through the activities
- The volunteers/staff were qualified and passionate
- Children and youth had a positive place to be during the summer
- Great field trips and cultural programming
- Strengthened the children and youth's confidence, self-esteem, and identity
- Provided children and youth with many opportunities they may not have had without the program, including making new friends, learning new skills, developing hobbies, and seeing new places



## C H A L L E N G E S

Though there is much to celebrate about the 2018 summer OST programs, the development of new programs or expansion of existing ones often posed some challenges. Challenges reported include:

- Need reliable volunteers
- School space did not always meet their program needs. Areas of concern included appropriate bathrooms, access to good kitchens, working around the cleaning and maintenance needs of the spaces
- Scheduling conflicts when sharing common spaces with other programs
- Need for more resources for the program (including funding, supplies etc.)
- Parents carpool children to the program but this sometimes causes scheduling challenges when they come late
- Need more staff to support the growing number of children wanting to attend the programs
- Need more training for staff and volunteers so they can support participants, particularly in the area of behaviour management
- Programs need to build in more flexibility and adaptability to respond to unexpected situations



# 13

## PLANNING AHEAD: PREPARING FOR 2019

A significant aspect of the OST Collaborative is to support community capacity building and strengthen the ability of organizations to deliver quality programs for children and youth. Program staff were asked what changes they might make to their programs in 2019 based on the feedback from children, youth and parents, and their own experiences and learnings. Here is what they said:



### Staff & Volunteers

- Provide more training to staff and volunteers, especially early in the summer; include a strong volunteer & staff orientation with the opportunity for them to get to know each other
- Get to know the volunteer's skills and interests in order to better use them in the program



### Program Activities

- Plan activities that meet a variety of interests and different age groups
- Plan more intercultural programming
- Plan more outdoor activities
- Strengthen programming to be more engaging for youth
- Do more peer-to-peer mentorship



### Program Planning

- Strengthen scheduling of the program, staff and volunteers, to better meet the needs of participants and meet the overall goals of the program
- Work with the school staff and others who are sharing the space to better coordinate the schedules
- Prepare for the final report including the evaluation and data collection before the program begins



## How can the OST Collaborative continue to support these programs?

The organizations involved in delivering the 2018 summer programs are grateful for the financial, training, and program support coordinated through the OST Collaborative. There is a collective effort to support continuous program improvement as organizations learn, grow, and evolve over time.

The final reports provide a deeper understanding of strengths, issues, and gaps of each organization. This drives the OST Collaborative to find new funding sources, links to additional resources, and to provide ongoing, relevant, and accessible training for organizations to plan their programs and achieve their outcomes.

It was clear from the feedback in 2018 that training opportunities are very much appreciated. In particular, there was a strong expression for more training in behaviour management. It was also recognized by the staff that specific training and orientation of volunteers is needed for them to be well prepared for their role in the program.

Additional suggestions for staff and volunteer training include:

- How to support kids with special needs
- Disclosure training/Incident reporting
- Conflict resolution
- Mental Health First Aid
- Program reflection/evaluation tools
- Critical thinking
- Mentorship training
- Programming for specific age groups (particularly youth ages 13 and older)
- Communication Building within Organizations





## Reporting/Evaluation Support

Over the past two years, efforts have been made to strengthen the evaluation and reporting aspects of summer programs. We asked program staff how the OST Collaborative can continue to provide support in this area. This is what they told us:

- Provide information and training early
- Explore different ways to collect data (beyond surveys)
- Continue to compile and share the results back
- Provide ongoing evaluation training and support including tools/templates, etc

*"[This evaluation] helps us to look at our program from a different perspective and learn new things."*

*- Staff from an OST Summer Program*

