



2019 FINAL REPORT

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COLLABORATIVE

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THE OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COLLABORATIVE

The Out of School Time (OST) Collaborative is a partnership of community groups, community leaders, service delivery agencies, and local institutions 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.

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

The OST Steering Committee guides and monitors the overall OST strategy and helps to secure funding sources.

Current members of the OST Steering Committee:

- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area (BGCBigS)
- City of Edmonton
- Council for the Advancement of African Canadians
- 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

COLLABORATIVE FUNDING APPROACH

1200+ children and youth
received programming in
summer 2019 as a result
of this collaborative

Since 2015, the Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region have used a collaborative funding approach and pooled both financial and human resources to administer funding. 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.

With the support of the OST Project Manager, the three funders met throughout 2019 to review the grant application, review and assess requests for funding, determine funding amounts, revise evaluation and feedback forms, and analyze final reporting. Collectively, \$125,000 was pooled to support summer programs (Butler Family Foundation \$25,000; City of Edmonton \$70,000; United Way \$30,000).

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. The Capacity Building Coordinator was able to organize two trainings for members of the OST in the Fall of 2018: a workshop on Board Development and a workshop on Proposal Writing and Program Planning. The Coordinator was able to offer more focused support for groups, and was also able to assist with applications.

Number of Programs funded 2015-2019





FUNDING HISTORY

Since 2012, OST funding has provided support for approximately 29 different organizations to deliver summer programs. Some groups also access provincial and/or federal funding to hire students. In 2019, the OST Collaborative was able to provide financial support to 14 different organizations.

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, United Way	8	2	6
2016	\$130,000 (+ \$200,00)	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, United Way (Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada)	16	10	6
2017	\$168,690	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, United Way	13	3	10
2018	\$130,000	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, United Way	15	5	10
2019	\$125,000	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, United Way	14	1	13

2019 SUMMER PROGRAM DETAILS

Organization	Program Name	Grant Funding Used	Participants	Location	Area of Edmonton
Action for Healthy Communities	Healthy Active Community Kids Summer Program	\$3,500	65	Brightview School	Northwest
Alliance Jeunesse - Famille de L'Alberta Society	Camp Enfant et Leadership en Action	\$10,000	58	Ecole St Jeanne d'Arc	Central
BGCBiggs & Council for the Advancement of African Canadians	Africa Centre Summer Program	\$18,430	180	St Dominic School	Northeast
Canadian Native Friendship Centre	Culture Camp	\$2,500	16	Canadian Native Friendship Centre Building & Saddle Lake	Central
Creating Hope Society	Youth Cultural Summer Camp	\$7,000	29	St Alphonsus School	Central
Hope Mission	Kids In Action Summer Day Camp	\$7,000	108	Tegler Youth Centre	Northeast
Kids on Track	Kids Going Places	\$6,000	194	Multiple Locations	Northwest
Multicultural Health Brokers	Right 2 Succeed Summer Wellness Camp	\$5,400	37	Clareview Recreation Centre	Northeast
Rock and Roll Society of Edmonton	Centre for Arts and Music Summer Camp	\$5,000	23	St Cecilia School & St Francis Xavier School	Northeast/ Northwest
Sinkunia Community Development Organization	Sinkunia Summer Camp	\$10,000	84	St Teresa of Calcutta School	Central
Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton	Reach Ahead Summer Program	\$16,000	173	Calder School & Mary Hanley School	Northeast/ Southeast
Somali Canadian Women and Children Association	Horumar Summer Day Camp	\$16,000	180	Glengarry School & Cardinal Leger School	Northeast
Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council	Brander Gardens Rocks	\$7,500	87	Brander Gardens School	Southwest

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS



Action for Healthy Communities

Healthy Active Community Kids

In partnership with participating Edmonton Public Schools, the Healthy Active Community Kids (HACK) program provides a weekly after school program for children in grades one to six. The program offers free child skill development and fun-filled activities to improve children's physical, social, and emotional health through teachings of culinary skills, crafts, music, physical games, social games, literacy, science, culture, math, engineering, and technology. HACK focuses the programs educational component around monthly learning themes which target and educate children on leadership, community development, anti-bullying, self-awareness, healthy lifestyle, mental health, caring, safety, respect, relationships, multiculturalism, and conflict resolution. The program also includes a free healthy snack and outreach/support to parents and the communities in which they live.

AJFAS

Camp Enfant et Leadership en Action

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.

BGCBigs & Council for the Advancement of African Canadians Africa Centre Summer Program

The summer program offered to families attending the Africa Centre is a partnership between BGCBigs and the Africa Centre. The Vision for this program is to provide valuable academic, cultural, and recreational activities that will provide support for youth in their studies, help them develop their cultural identities, and help them build self-confidence. By connecting various ages of youth with mentors, partners, and their peers it will build relationships that will support positive changes in the lives of youth and families.





CNFC

Cultural Camp

Mamawa Payiwak Iskwesisak means they gather together in one place - girls. A Cultural Summer Camp provided the opportunity for youth to learn more about Edmonton's history, Indigenous culture and traditions including the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, Sweat, Berry picking, and experiencing a hands-on learning approach while camping at Saddle Lake Cree First Nations.

Creating Hope

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 camp 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

Kids in Action Summer Day Camp

The Kids in Action summer camps provided opportunities for at-risk kids to try new things, make positive relationships with leaders and other kids, and grow as individuals. The week-long camps featured themes from art to superheroes to soccer and a weekly field trip to match the theme. These camps always included active games, learning opportunities, as well as healthy food.



Kids on Track

Kids Going Places

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.



Multicultural Health Brokers

Right 2 Succeed Wellness Camp

2019 was the fourth year of the Right to Succeed Sports and Wellness Summer Camp and the second year involved with the OST Collaborative. The program ran during the month of July at the Clareview Recreation Centre 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.

Rock and Roll Society of Edmonton

Centre for Arts and Music Summer Camp

The Centre for Arts and Music Program, operated by the Rock and Roll Society of Edmonton, is a registered charity. Mentors and musicians were hired to teach Edmonton youth, from age 11 to 17, how to play instruments, write songs, form bands and give performances, all at no cost to them. Programs were held in the after-school hours in a bid to provide alternatives to the negative influences that often appear during those times. The program enabled youth to have increases in confidence and self esteem, and allowed them to experience the rewards accompanying learning how to play music.

Sinkunia Community Development Organization

Sinkunia Summer Program

This summer program provided recreational, social, and cultural activities to children of African heritage. Activities included journaling, African traditional games, mask making, storytelling by an elder from Nigeria, a picnic at Wabamun lake, and a dance and drumming activity with a performance by WAJJU Drumming. Camp participants also got to learn about healthy snacks, conflict management, reading, positive words and affirmations, and fun indoor and outdoor recreational games.





Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton Reach Ahead Summer Camp

This four week program offered academic, recreational, social, and cultural learning including math, english, arts and crafts, recreation, and Somali language. In addition, students participated in leadership workshops and attended field trips to many recreational sites in Edmonton.

Somali Canadian Women and 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, academic support, and cultural awareness. Campers were 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.

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 were two field trips per week.



COLLABORATIVE EVALUATION APPROACH



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 final report, supplemented by additional data collection described below.

Program Visits and One-on-One Meetings

In addition to the final reports, the OST Project Manager 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 Project Manager. 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 and summarizing the feedback.

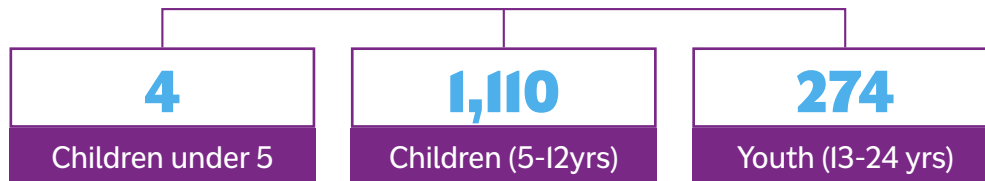
"We have one family that is brand new to Canada whose kids started attending our Kids in Action program. At first, the kids were really quiet and withdrawn and were clearly struggling with being in a new culture and not knowing the language well. However, as we started to play games with them and get them involved, we started to see the kids open up more and more. By the end of the summer, it was like these kids had been going to our programs forever. They had made friends, regularly contributed to the program, and were having an absolute blast! It was really cool to see how our program could play a role in helping them get used to their new country and help them open up to make new friends."

- Tegler Youth Centre

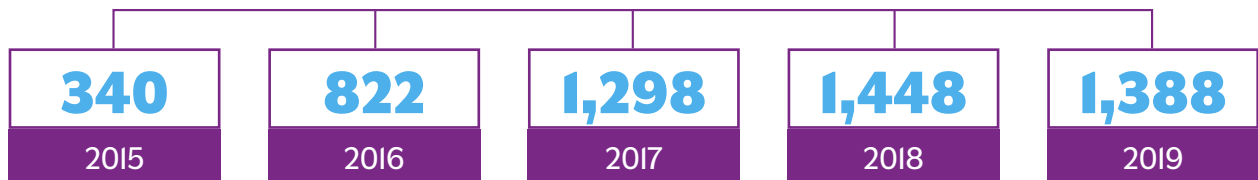
2019 DATA SUMMARY SNAPSHOT



2019 Program participants included



Program participants 2015-2019



95% of children & youth reported that they learned something new



98% of parents agreed their child(ren) had learned something new during the summer program



96% of children and youth reported that they met a new friend at the program



97% of parents agreed that their child(ren) made new friends as a result of the summer program



63% of parents reported that they were connected to other parents through the programming



96% of children & youth reported they explored a new place



60% of children & youth reported that they learned more about their own culture



68% of children & youth reported that they learned more about other cultures



75% of children & youth reported that they learned more about life in Canada



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

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Overview

Research shows that children and youth learn best through a variety of activities and experiences. OST funded organizations are required 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 OST Project Manager.

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 summer 2019, these activities included:

- Swimming/spray parks
- Sports (basketball, soccer)
- Camping
- Hiking
- Indoor rock climbing
- Dancing
- Inline skating
- Biking
- Yoga
- Field trips to local Edmonton sites and attractions including the Telus World of Science, the University of Alberta Botanical Gardens, the Edmonton Valley Zoo, etc.

These activities resulted in children and youth:

- Experiencing new places
- Learning a new game/skill
- Increasing their fitness level
- Learning to be part of a team
- Enjoying being outdoors
- Making new friends

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Educational/Academic Activities

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

Some of the activities offered in 2019:

- Math riddles
- Reading and writing activities
- Spelling bees
- Games and experiments that focused on science and math
- Coding and website creation workshops
- Music theory and technical skill workshops
- Oral presentation projects
- Journaling
- Art classes

These activities resulted in children and youth:

- Gaining knowledge on many different topics
- Developing new skills
- Participating in new activities that created a new interest/hobby
- Strengthening skills that can be used at school and at home
- Developing strong relationships and relationship building skills
- Learning to work as part of a team

"Camp ELA was a great success. The children had the opportunity to share with their parents, at the closing ceremony, what they learned. And since then, we have received many words of encouragement and "thank yous" from parents. We were humbled by how comfortable parents felt to share with us that they did not know their kids had hidden talents and that thanks to the camp they had the opportunity to discover for example that their children were very good at drawing and/or dance and/or speaking in public."

- Alliance Jeunesse Famille de l'Alberta Society

SUCCESS STORIES



"I was new to Canada two months from my country of birth, Kenya, when I was told about Sinkunia camp. I had no friends Sinkunia gave me friends, took away my loneliness. I met other children from different African countries who we did activities together. The first week we made a face mask which was so exciting. There were other activities like singing, dancing and recreation. The staff were good they made sure that we were safe, busy, and gave us a lot of snacks. There was no dull day everyday was exciting. During the last week we went on a tour to the lake. It was enjoyable seeing the lake so close for the first time. We were accompanied by our parents where we took pictures, ate food together, and played on the beach. No one was left out from the young to the old. Sinkunia camp was about friendship, connections and engagement. Am grateful to the people who made it a success. I am looking forward to the next summer camp."

- Sinkunia Summer Camp Participant

"We have one participant who joined when he was in sixth grade, is now in ninth grade, has attended every summer program, has been active in a number of groups, who has learned how to play drums, keyboard, and guitar, and spent time mentoring younger participants in this year's camp. This is precisely the type of success story that provides great inspiration to our mentors and supporters"

- Rock and Roll Society of Edmonton

"During our overnight portion of our camp the youth were given the opportunity to participate in a Sweat Lodge. For a large majority of our group this was their first time participating in a Sweat. During the Sweat there are four rounds, we had one youth who had stayed in for all four rounds and even had participated in an additional round called the "cowboy round".

- Canadian Native Friendship Centre

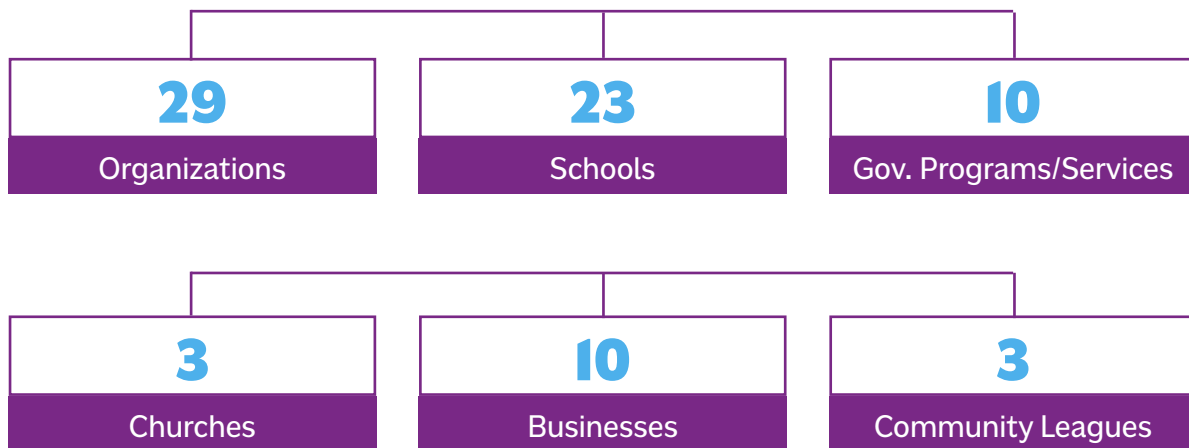
CASTING A WIDE RESOURCE NET

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:

- Enhance their program and improve outcomes for the children, youth, and families
- Access appropriate space for all program activities
- Learn from one another by sharing experiences and resources
- Provide food/snacks during their program
- Have guest speakers provide learning opportunities for the children/youth
- Find new and interesting field trip locations
- Use the Group Leisure Access Pass to have free access to various City of Edmonton attractions

Summer 2019 Resources Used



SPACE FOR OST PROGRAMS

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. It was created so that organizations providing OST summer programs can use schools at no cost.

OST + JOINT USE

Prior to the involvement of Joint Use, the cost of accessing school space had been a barrier to community groups running summer programs in schools. With no fees for groups to access space, their programs grew significantly. Over the past several years of the Joint Use Summer Access program, groups were able to hire more staff, meaning they could accommodate larger numbers of participants, take their participants on field trips, and offer a snack or meal (sometimes both) to their program participants.



*“Thank you for
the opportunity
to give our youth
a safe and full
summer.”*

- Joint Use Summer Access Recipient



JOINT USE BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Groups	Schools	Participants	Hrs.Booked
2012	7	7	500	430
2013	8	7	480	550
2014	11	13	862	736
2015	9	10	1077	625.5
2016	18	20	1274	1491.5
2017	24	29	2632	2631.25
2018	21	36	3324	2465
2019	17	35	2597	2874

The number of groups receiving school space decreased from 2018. Reasons for this include that some groups did not receive funding, and therefore were not able to run a camp at all. Also, other groups withdrew their Summer Access applications, due to the limited hours being offered by the school or not being able to use the school space in August. Still, other groups were not able to acquire the school they requested due to renovations and construction, and the alternative schools were too far and not accessible to their program participants.

BENEFITS OF OST



To offset the loss of learning that typically occurs over the summer holiday, academic elements in summer programming are vital. This was a requirement for any groups applying for Summer Access and the OST grant. All groups that either used a school space this summer, or received OST grant funding, had an academic element to their programming, which assisted the students with knowledge retention and the development of academic skills.

Youth who were employed by these programs as staff members were able to find gainful employment for the summer while increasing their leadership, organizational, and time management skills. Many of these summer staff are post-secondary students in education programs, and this work provided them invaluable experience that will be relevant to them and their careers.

By giving opportunity and space to children and youth, whether through participation in the programs or employment, these programs greatly benefit the communities they take place in. The children and program participants get an opportunity to learn, share, build relationships, and experience new opportunities; while the staff and volunteers get an opportunity to have good quality, gainful employment for the summer, and a chance for skill development.

When members of a community feel as though they are contributing to that community, their sense of identity and belonging is increased. When children and youth are given opportunities to thrive, they have a higher chance of success and a brighter future. These summer programs greatly benefit children and youth, and their families, but their contributions to creating vibrant and safer communities cannot be overstated.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Over the years, the groups have expressed a desire for further capacity building support from the OST Collaborative. The support requested would include more training opportunities, further support for organizational and board governance, and support for staff and volunteers so that they are well prepared for their roles during the summer programs. The OST Collaborative has also identified a need for capacity building support for the groups, and would like to address the strengths, issues, goals, and gaps in each organization and program, to improve the quality of their programs, applications, and overall organizational capacity. The continued monitoring and support of community groups throughout the year (and summer specifically) is essential to verify that they have the resources they need to run successful programs, and to ensure that the program is working for all parties, including schools.

MEETING NEEDS



Currently, summer programs run throughout the month of July from 8:30 am to roughly 3:30 pm. Groups have expressed that this does not meet the needs and requirements of the youth and their families. Many parents and guardians are unable to collect their children by 3:30 pm and this barrier can cause some families to decide not to send their children to the summer program. Other parents and guardians may sometimes still send their children to the summer program, but are late in picking them up, causing the staff to stay with the child often outside of the safety of the school building, and outside of their work hours. Groups have suggested that an extension of time to 5:30 or 6:00 pm would meet their needs and ensure that their child is safe during this time.

Several programs would like to offer camps into mid-August, especially those camps that are seeking to expand programming to high school students. High school students are often unfortunately left out of programs that use Summer Access because they attend summer school in July and work during the day. Groups are not able to access the school space after hours, and are not able to offer programming during the day in August, so high school students miss out on the opportunity to participate in summer programming.

Space is also needed in August so that participants are able to complete the hours funded for their LINC program. Often times, families are forced to choose between staying home with their children during the month of August, or attending their language classes. Due to childcare costs being so high, parents often choose to stay home, and end up missing their language classes.

Groups are also always in need of more funding as their programs grow and costs increase. The OST Collaborative has been asked to provide resources for other funding opportunities that are available to OST groups.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In 2019, a list of available grants was sent out to the OST groups, with several organizations meeting with the OST Project Manager to get support with their applications. Funding opportunities will continue to be shared with the OST groups.

Other possible solutions to look into include having some schools available in July while others are available in August, or staggering custodial staff schedules so that groups can run their programming for longer.

The OST Steering Committee is also looking into other strategic partnerships that can bring more resources to the OST groups in the form of additional space and funding options.

PROGRAM GROWTH AND 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.

Conference session topics included:

- Behaviour management
- Handling Disclosures
- Sharing Circles
- Resources from Edmonton Public Library
- Running homework clubs for newcomers
- Bullying and anger management
- Conflict resolution and peer mediation
- Engaging English Language Learner youth in literacy activities
- Strategies for adapting physical activities for all ability levels
- Games and activities for self-regulation

The OST Conference also hosted Dr. Gale Gorke as the keynote speaker. Her keynote, entitled 'Who You Are Matters' received incredibly positive feedback and many conference attendees highlighted her keynote speech and sessions as their favourite part of the conference.

Three trainings were also held throughout the year, on the topics of board development, program planning, and First Aid.

PROGRAM GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



Successes

Summer program staff and volunteers were asked to reflect on what their program achieved this year. Here is what they said:

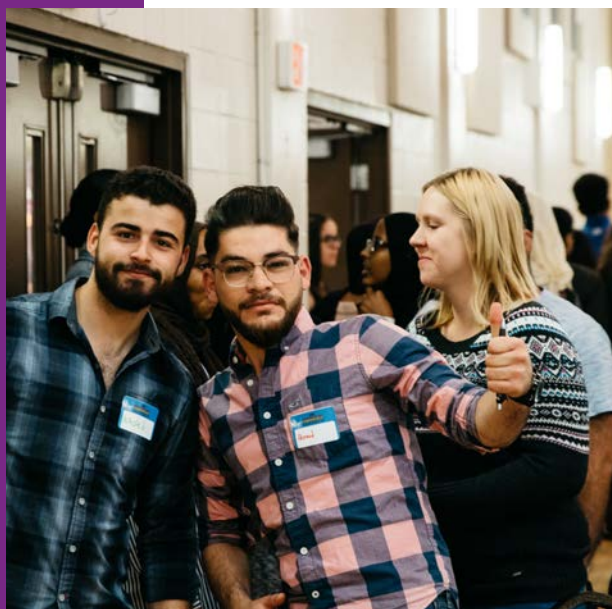
- Children and youth had a positive place to be during the summer
- Staff/volunteers were able to be positive role models and mentors
- Children and youth developed new friendships
- Staff/volunteers were qualified and passionate
- Parents were very grateful and happy that their children had a safe place to go
- Programs kept children and youth physically active and they got to learn about nutrition
- Children and youth gained new knowledge, skills, and experiences through the activities and field trips
- Cultural programming helped to build relationships, connection, knowledge, and self-esteem
- The programs provided youth with many opportunities they may not have otherwise had, including making new friends, learning new skills, developing new hobbies, and seeing new places

Challenges

Throughout the 2019 summer OST programs were an incredible success, there were some challenges. These included:

- School space did not always meet the needs of the program. Areas of concern included access to kitchens and appropriate bathrooms, working around the cleaning and maintenance schedules of the custodians, and needing access to the space for longer hours than the school allowed
- Programs needed more funding and human resources to support growing programs
- Transportation was a barrier for some families. Though the staff would sometimes collect and travel with kids on transit, or families would carpool, issues arose when participants arrived late due to transportation issues
- More training for staff/volunteers is needed so they are better able to support program participants, particularly in the areas of behaviour management, disclosures, and working with children with special needs
- Bad weather caused issues for field trip days, transportation, and times when the groups did not have access to recreational space in the school/building they were in
- Programs aim to provide meals and snacks for their participants, but cannot always do so due to budgetary constraints

PREPARING FOR 2020



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, additional program 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 2019 that the training opportunities are appreciated. In particular, groups expressed a desire for more training in the areas of Mental Health First Aid, behaviour management, cultural competency, and working with children with disabilities. They also expressed a need for varied training times, such as holding training in the evenings and on weekends.

Many groups expressed their gratitude for the knowledge and skills offered by the OST Conference, and have stated they will attend/send their staff again next year.

The main goal 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 stated that they plan to use the feedback from children, youth, and parents to improve their programming.



A parent shared with us that their grade four child would come home every week and try to teach his older siblings new Somali words he learned at the camp. The youth was born and raised in Canada, and made friends with two youth who immigrated to Canada last year. After the first week they became best friends and started teaching each other about Somali culture and Canadian culture.

- Somali Canadian Culture Society of Edmonton

PREPARING FOR 2020



Some feedback suggested:

- Provide more training for staff and volunteers earlier in the summer
- Have activities and field trips that cater to a variety of age groups
- Include more intercultural programming and outdoor activities
- Include more academic programming
- Have more leadership training for staff and volunteers
- Begin program planning earlier in the year
- Build stronger relationships with the school administration and custodians
- Be conscientious of data collection and evaluation, and prepare materials before the programs begin
- Schedule staggered lunch breaks for larger groups
- Start registration processes sooner
- Have alternatives to outdoor programming in case of inclement weather
- Find a way to have a longer camp

Reporting/Evaluation Support

Over the past three years, efforts have been made to strengthen the evaluation and reporting aspects of summer programs.

Program staff have offered the following feedback:

- Continue to provide information and training as early as possible
- Continue to share results with the larger OST Collaborative
- Provide ongoing evaluation, training, and support including tools/templates, etc.
- Explore different ways to evaluate and collect data



"My favourite part of BG Rocks was the kids' exuberance. I'd get to work and one of the kids would look up and scream [my name], then all the kids would look up and suddenly I had a mob of kids stampeding towards me. They'd throw themselves at me and give me big hugs. The fact that the kids were so excited just to see me made me feel so good, like I was making an impact in their lives, in their childhood. It is a feeling I'll always cherish".

- Brander Garden Rocks

