



RURAL CHANGE MAKERS

BUILDING **TOMORROW'S LEADERS** FOR TODAY'S RURAL CHALLENGES





OUR PURPOSE

The **Rural Change Makers (RCM)** program shapes emerging leaders in rural Ontario to lead community development solutions with their communities. Young leaders are critical to the future of Rural Ontario.



THE GOAL

- **PROVIDE** professional development for young adults.
- **BUILD** rural youth leadership capacity.
- **CATALYZE** impactful rural development outcomes for communities and regions.
- **BROADEN** public engagement in rural development initiatives.



RCM PROGRAM MODEL

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



- Experiential Activities**
- Ignite
 - Community based discovery & planning sessions
 - Regional RuralPops & Community - Youth exchanges
 - Summit





WHAT'S **NEW** AND **EXCITING** IS HOW WE ARE DELIVERING THE PROGRAM IN THE 2023.

- The co-design of the 2023 RCM program is the result of extensive consultation in 2022 with rural communities through the Young Rural Resilient project.
- Rural youth are engaged, ready and keen to contribute.
- Rural youth are passionate to give back to their communities and care deeply about relations with our Indigenous neighbours.



RENEWED CURRICULUM



8

Learning Labs

Sharing knowledge and building foundational leadership skills.



14

Foundational Leadership Skills

Pairing self-development and discovery with practical skills needed to lead effective change.



4

Reflective Evaluations

Checkpoints along the learning journey to assess competencies, readiness and program effectiveness.



1

Indigenous Governance Learning Session

Lighting the 8th Fire - Inter-tribal dialogue offering respect, understanding, and perspective sharing among changemakers.

**Out of the Anishinabe's Seven Fires comes the idea of the eighth - Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations as a continuous path, informed by the past, but whose course can be changed by working together in the present with hope for future generations.*



4

Experiential Activities

Putting learned skills into action through youth-led, community engagement activities across 31 rural Ontario communities.



2

Community - Youth Exchanges

Igniting project planning and passion in preparation for community projects at an IGNITE EVENT. Discovering regional economic community development projects through INTER-REGIONAL VISITS.



WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING

Co-designed hyper-local, regional approach

to community economic development and leadership training.

Expanded age range

to include 18-35 year olds at various life stages.

Regional Partnerships

with a collective of 24 Northern Ontario Indigenous Communities via Opiikapawiin Services LP, Timmins Youth Wellness Hub and southwestern Ontario.

Scaled up

programming to serve more youth and rural communities - up to 36 rural youth.

Transformed Leadership Training

including 14 foundational and transferable skills.

SOFT SKILLS BUILDING



Foundational resources for change thinking

Bridges Model.



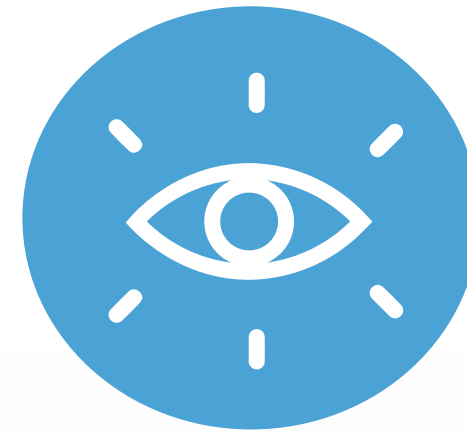
High Impact Communication Skills

For authentic relationship building.



Cross cultural understanding

Indigenous Governance Systems – gaining other world views & perspectives.



Future visioning

How to see the change you want. 11 essential resources.



Co-active Leadership

How to lead change together.



Action Labs

Community engagement practices (theory of change, dotmocracy, community needs assessment).

CORE SKILLS BUILDING



Fundraising Fundamentals

Grant writing & resource acquisition for sustainable projects.



Financial Literacy

Budgets, taxes and management of financial resources.



Community Development

Principles & practices for identifying need, Relationship development, project planning, accountability, transparency, & management.



Project Evaluation

Tracking and measuring successes and opportunities.



Leadership Development and Styles

Elastic, CoActive, Collaborative.



Civic Engagement

Ways to engage.

4 EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES

Putting learned skills into action generating community, business & economic development stimulus with sustainable outcomes for regions and communities while expanding the networks and tools of emerging leaders.



INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE LEARNING SESSION

A shared rural youth priority to light the 8th fire among emerging leaders.



RuralPOPs & Community Youth Exchange

setting the stage for local community development activities in inter-regional networks.



IGNITE ACTION LAB

Practical application of learned skills , building confidence in preparation for community engagement.



YOUTH SUMMIT

shared learnings and outcomes that engage a larger rural audience.



Thank you
SPONSORS
& PARTNERS



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

info@ruralontarioinstitute.ca

519-826-4204

www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca

www.roiconnect.ca

