

Northern Manitoba C.A.M.P. Project 2011

March 21-25





Northern Camp

Project Overview

The Circus And Magic Partnership (C.A.M.P) is an artistic intervention project initially undertaken by the Winnipeg International Children's Festival in 1996. The project's objective is to provide a positive and proactive arts and education opportunity for "youth-at-risk".

In 2001, The Winnipeg International Children's Festival launched a pilot project, a tour of remote Northern Manitoba communities by the Festival's award-winning C.A.M.P. program. The project was made possible with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Provincial Department of Northern and Aboriginal Affairs.

That first C.A.M.P. outreach program visited three Northern Manitoba communities: Cross Lake, Norway House and Wabowden. Beginning in 2002, the project was based out of one host community and youth from neighbouring communities were transported to take part in the program. Our organization, in consultation with our project partners felt that this centralized approach would enable us to serve more youth in need across a broader geographical spectrum. In 2011, the program producers, in partnership with The Province of Manitoba have deemed Moose Lake to be a viable community with a legitimate need for alternative, self-esteem boosting programming.

Plans are now proceeding for the 2011 project which will run from March 21-25 in Moose Lake, Manitoba and this year will offer skill training and performance development for 400-450 youth participants! In addition to youth participants from Moose Lake, youth from the following communities will be invited to take participate:

- Cormorant
- The Pas
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation

We will also provide training for recreation and education personnel in using the circus and magic materials and leave the materials with the trained personnel in the Northern region.

The success of this innovative program has not gone unnoticed. Recognition, awards and features in both the print and electronic media continue to roll in. The program was recently the subject of a national feature being produced by Young People's Press in Toronto. In 1999, the C.A.M.P. program became the first project to receive both the Mayor's and the Premier's Volunteer Service Awards in the same year! Those awards acknowledged the program's commitment to volunteer orientation, training and community integration.

Awards for the C.A.M.P. program include:

- City of Winnipeg Police Service – Crime Prevention Award
- Provincial Department of Justice – Crime Prevention Award
- Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Manitoba – Certificate of Recognition
- Mayor's Volunteer Service Award
- Premier's Volunteer Service Award

All photos: Adam Patterson





Circus And Magic Partnership (C.A.M.P.) Northern Project 2010

March 22–26, Pine Creek, MB.

Project Final Report

In this, the tenth year of producing the C.A.M.P. project for Northern Manitoba we were able deliver arts and education programming to more kids than ever before! An enhanced group of financial partners allowed us to expand the program—hire more artists to deliver the goods and provide a once in a lifetime experience for over 450 young northerners!

The adult training session was held on March 22 and involved teachers from the host community of Pine Creek. Everyone involved with the adult training component felt it was an extremely valuable part of the process. As the majority of the training materials (stilts, unicycles, tight wires, magic and juggling supplies) were left in the community, it was vital to have an adult skill transference element. Community coordinators were excited about the prospect of having continued access to the materials and plans were being developed with regional recreation personnel to establish a rotating system of community access to the gear. In the months that have followed the completion of this year's program, we have had several reports from Frontier School Division representatives indicating that the gear is getting used constantly—the kids are still excited to continue to train and develop their circus arts skills.

The professional performance component of the project was a huge success. The talent and diversity of the artists were enjoyed by all and for most, it was their first exposure to the broad spectrum of artistic talent presented by the organization. Using a single location for all the project's performances and training components provides access for geographically isolated youth from throughout the region. Exposure to this format of arts presentation should also contribute to increased audience development in this area.

The youth participants were wonderful audiences—both for the professional artists and for the performances by their peers. The youth enjoyed the training components immensely, especially the fact that they could try ALL of the offered activities before choosing to specialize on specific artistic skills for their performance. Their performances were inspired and moving, accompanied by rousing music and presented in front of audiences that included their parents, schoolmates as well as children from the town of Pine Creek.





Project Production

Based on the success of the single community host format enacted in 2002, the same approach was taken in 2010. Early on in the process, the Festival met with representatives from several Provincial Government Departments and with a representative from the Frontier School Division to discuss target communities. Criteria that were considered to be most important at this meeting were:

- The level of need of the host community based on factors including a significant number of youth-at-risk; negative socio-economic indicators; and the communities history of access to arts and education programming;
- Presence of suitable facilities to support the program;
- Presence of capable and enthusiastic recreation personnel both in the host community and throughout the surrounding region. This is annually an essential component to ensure that the materials left in the region are accessed and utilized following the program; and
- Cost effectiveness for all of the project partners.

For 2010, Pine Creek was found by the majority of parties in attendance to meet the established criteria. In addition to youth from the host community, youth were invited from the following communities:

- Duck Bay
- Pelican Rapids
- Rorketon
- Camperville
- Skownan
- Crane River
- Barrows
- Waterhen
- Valley River First Nation

Key elements of the project:

- Adult training sessions held on March 22. These sessions, attended by recreation personnel, school teachers and community mentors, provided training in the safe usage of the project materials (which were left in the community as planned) and in professional teaching and training techniques. All the participants in this process were eager to learn and looked forward to continuing training youth in their communities following the completion of the program.
- Program participants were divided in the following manner: For the first two-day session, March 23 and 24, youth from visiting schools and the younger grades from Pine Creek participated in the program. For the second session, March 25 and 26, the older grades from Pine Creek participated. A total of over 450 youth were involved throughout the week!
- Presentation of performances by professional artists in Pine Creek on March 23 and 25. Performances were open to the public.





- Performances by the youth participants were held on March 24 and March 26. These performances gave the youth an opportunity to showcase their skills in front of an audience of their parents, peers and other school children from the area. The audience for the first youth show on March 24 was made up of Pine Creek students who would be taking part in the second two-day session as well as Pine Creek elementary and kindergarden students. The second youth show on March 26 was a huge success with people of all ages coming from throughout the community and packing the gym for the kids' performance.
- Artist selection including their province of origin and artistic discipline was as follows:

Dean Bareham, Alberta, stilts
 Mike Battie, British Columbia, unicycle
 Columpa Bobb, Manitoba, clowning/theatre
 Anders Boulanger, Manitoba, magic
 Peter Boulanger, British Columbia, acrobatics
 Robin Chestnut, Manitoba, rola bola/juggling
 Stacey Clark, Quebec, flying trapeze
 Colin Franks, Ontario, diabalo
 Dammecia Hall, Manitoba, hip hop dance
 Phil LeConte, Ontario, spinning plates
 Rebecca Leonard, Ontario, aerial hoop
 Bob Palmer, Saskatchewan, tight wire
 Ninon Parent, British Columbia, aerial silk
 Adam Patterson, Ireland, Photographer
 Ana Shepherd, Ontario, acrobatics
 Lee Zimmerman, USA, marionnettes
 Neal Rempel, Manitoba, Touring & Outreach Director
 Ethan Osland, Manitoba, Production Assistant

Number of Youth Participants	459
Number of Audiences (360 + 410)	770
Number of Training Participants	14
Number of Artists	16
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	1,259



