JAYS CARE PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENOUS COMUNITIES



Program Map =



Children and youth reached through programs and initiatives

This past summer has been unreal. What makes me proud is the youth, for them coming out of their shells, mingling with other youth from communities.

> - Stephanie Taylor, KCA Rookie League Coordinator



Program Sites :

ROOKIE LEAGUE PROGRAMS

KCA (ON)

- Animakee Wa Zhing 37 First Nation
- Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows)
 Naotkamegwanning First Nation (Whitefish Bay)
 Northwest Angle 33 First Nation

- Ochiichagwe'babigo'ining First Nation (Dalles)
- Shoal Lake 40 First Nation
- Wabasemoong Independent Nation (Whitedog)
 Washagamis Bay (Obashkaandagaang) First Nation (Wash Bay)
- Wauzhushk Onigum Nation (Rat Portage)
- FHQ (SK)
- Wood Mountain Lakota First Nation
- Piapot First Nation

- Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation
 Pasqua First Nation
 Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation

- Assiniboine Nations
- Okanese First Nation
 Star Blanket Cree Nation
- Peepeekisis Cree Nation
 Carry-The-Kettle Nakoda Nation

LLRIB (SK)

- Lac La Ronge
- Sucker River
- Hall Lake • Little Red River
- Stanley Mission
- Grandmother's Bay

GIRLS PROGRAMS

JBGAB (ON)

- Moose Cree First Nation
- Missinable Cree Nation

- Little Black Bear's Band of Cree & Taykwa Tagamou Nation
 - Fort Albany First Nation
 - Kashechewan First Nation
 Chapleau Cree First Nation
 Wahgoshig First Nation
 Peawanuck First Nation

 - Timmins

Girls At Bat

- Fort MacKay First Nation
 Batchewana First Nation
- Eel Ground First Nation
- Canadian Native Friendship Centre of Edmonton

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

- Right To Play (ON/BC/AB)
- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation
 Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation



- Baseball diamonds have been built or refurbished in Indigenous 12 communities
- Cat Lake First NationDriftpile Cree Nation (AB)
- Eabametoong First Nation
- Fishing Lake Métis Settlement (AB)
- Gitanmaax Band (BC)
- Gitanyow Human Services (BC)
- Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government (BC)
- Nibinamik First Nation
- Nusdeh Yoh (BC)
- Pic Mobert First Nation
- Sagitawa Friendship Society (AB)
- Steetchestri Indian Band (BC)
 Stswecemic Xgat'tem First Nation (BC)
- Tahltan Nation (BC)
- Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group
- Williams Lake Indian Band (BC)
- Animakee Wa Zhing 37 First Nation
- Wabauskang First Nation

Municipality of Rankin Inlet Hamlet of Sanikiluaq Municipality of Igloolik Hamlet of Arctic Bay

RPAN Get Happy Summer Day
Hamlet of Cambridge Bay
Hamlet of Kugluktuk
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Hamlet of Taloyoak
Hamlet of Kugaaruk
Municipality of Coral Harbour
Hamlet of Whale Cove

- Hamlet of Clyde River

Ehrlo Sport Venture • Regina (SK)

RPAN Get Happy Summer Day Camp

Softball Yukon Takhini Elementary

- Christ the King Elementary
- Whitehorse Elementary
- Holy Family Elementary
- St. Élias Elementary (Haines Junction)
- Jack Hulland Elementary School
 Elijah Smith Elementary School

- Ecole Émilie Tremblay
 Johnson Elementary School (Watson Lake)

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

Field Of Dreams

- Abegweit First Nation ,PEI
- Moose Cree First Nation, ON
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, QC
- Pond Inlet, NU

Jays Care Foundation works in partnership with many First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities and urban Indigenous organizations across the territory now referred to as Canada. In the process, Jays Care Foundation takes seriously its responsibility to support the redressing of the legacy of residential schools and the advancement of the process of Canadian reconciliation.

Jays Care Foundation recognizes that the territory now referred to as Canada is an unequal one, especially for children and youth identifying as Indigenous or living in Indigenous communities. Jays Care Foundation is focused on working towards the calls to action around sport and youth programs as laid out in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report 2012.

In order to answer these calls to action, Jays Care Foundation aims to amplify the voice of Indigenous children and youth, celebrate their success and achievements, and advocate for their right to equal opportunity.

The following report provides a snapshot of the different ways Jays Care works with Indigenous communities to create spaces and experiences that support young people to achieve their potential.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jays Care Foundation is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Jays Care also acknowledges this location is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



90% of kids made new friends and built stronger friendships since being in La Ronge Rookie League.





100% of KCA coaches have seen children and youth demonstrate an increased connection to their community.



92%

of children and youth in FHQ said being a part of Rookie League made them feel proud of themselves and their accomplishments.





Rookie League Programs

- 910 Children and youth participated in Indigenous Rookie League in 2019
 - **32** Coaches were trained to enhance their ability to create safe and engaging environments for children and youth
 - 25 Program sites hosted Indigenous Rookie League activities



Community members were engaged as spectators, participants at Indigenous Rookie League programs

Baseball games or practices were held during Indigenous Rookie League this year

What is Indigenous Rookie League? 💳

Indigenous Rookie League is a unique inter-generational baseball program that increases physical and mental health outcomes for children and youth, while also promoting healing through inter-generational connections and community collaboration.

How Did Indigenous Rookie League Start?

In 2015, Jays Care Foundation partnered with Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA), an alliance of eight independent First Nations in Northwestern Ontario, to support the creation of a baseball league aimed at addressing growing mental health concerns among youth in communities. The idea was to use baseball as a tool to engage children, youth and adults in regular inter-generational play and enhance connections between all community members. What evolved was Indigenous Rookie League, a league that enabled young and old to play together, enhanced community pride, and that created safe space for youth who often sat on the fringes.

What Makes the Program Unique? **—**



FAMILY LEAGUE

Indigenous Rookie League is unique in its design as it focuses on social connection, health and wellness not just for children and youth, but for the whole community. The goals of the program reflect this family and community centred approach:

- 1. Enhance the self confidence and self-esteem of children and youth
- 2. Enhance the overall physical, emotional, spiritual and mental health of children and youth
- 3. Connect communities though sport and provide opportunities for the sharing of culture
- 4. Create opportunities for inter-generational connection through sport and play
- 5. Promote strong community leadership and provide leadership opportunities to youth

6. Provide opportunities for success through sport that children and youth can apply to other areas of their lives



POINTS SYSTEM

Indigenous Rookie League is designed for groups of neighbouring Indigenous nations interested in creating inter-community and inter-generational baseball leagues. When a league is formed, participating communities are provided with a standardized point system that allows game play to focus less on the skill level of participants and more on getting the community engaged. Below is an example of how the point system can work toward the programs goals:

• Every player that attends	2 points	 Team practices 	10 points
 Every fan that attends 	2 points	 Meal provided for visiting team 	10 points
 Announcer with speaker 	5 points	 Leadership/Councillor in 	15 points
set-up to call game		Attendance	
 Winning team 	5 points	 Chief in Attendance (welcomes 	20 points
 Elder opening game from 	10 points	or thanks visiting team)	
Home Team		 Chief playing in the Adult innings 	20 points

Rookie League Feature: Kenora Chiefs Advisory

GROWING THE GAME IN TREATY 3

When Stephanie Taylor took up the role of League Coordinator in April 2019, Rookie League was already well-known among KCA's member nations. However, Stephanie saw opportunities to deepen the impact and build on the existing successful foundation already laid out.



LEADERSHIP – Stephanie's vision started with greater community involvement, and to achieve this she was going to need the support of community leadership. She adjusted the point system to celebrate engagement of the leadership. Teams can score 15 points if Chief or Council Members come to a game, or a substantial 20 points for each Elder in attendance. The ultimate points tally (25) is reserved for any Chief, council member or Elder who picks up a bat, ball or glove and plays in the final inning of a game.



SOCIAL MEDIA – To grow the game across such a large geographical area, KCA uses social media to raise awareness and build excitement. This year's success had a lot to do with the utilization of social media platforms. Teams are awarded 3 points for live streaming their games on Facebook which allows folks from all across Treaty 3 to engage to engage in the program even if they can't make it out to the ball park.



EVENTS – KCA also uses community events to raise the profile of the program to new kids and families. This all began with a cross-community tour in the spring that reached over 150 kids across eight communities that included baseball games and activities. This was accompanied by three youth tournaments; Kenora Youth Tournament, Just for Fun Youth Tournament and Beyond the Ball Park. These events also provide an opportunity for new talent to emerge, as happened when scouts from Native American Indigenous Games came to Kenora to scout for Team Ontario prospects. After the tournament five kids from KCA were invited to play on competitive fastball teams in Southern Ontario.

Three things in baseball have to do with respect... respect for the game, rules & playing safe. It's a great game. - Doug Schneider, Volunteer Umpire





ONTARIO

Rookie League Feature: File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council 〓

DEEPER IMPACT IN FHQ.T IN FHQ

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQ) wrapped up their inaugural Rookie League season in 2018 with resounding success and plenty of positive community feedback. Because of this success, 2019 carried with it a new level of expectation for League Coordinator Tara Griffith. Tara's goals were to grow the program and deepen the impact.



WEBPAGE - How do you make your Rookie League truly feel like the big leagues? You build it its own website, that's how! The FHQ Rookie League website was new for 2019 and it features detailed information on the league schedule, game information and a frequently updated point totals. combined with FHQ's impressive social media coverage caught the attention of local media with both Global and CBC News running stories on the FHQ program.



PARTNERSHIPS – This year, partnerships were developed with numerous local organizations to add value to the program, reduce costs and grow its reach. This included a partnership with the local grocery store to provide food for the closing tournament, and a partnership with the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Parks & Recreation that secured facilities for games, practices and events. In addition, representatives from the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations were invited to attend program activities with the aim of raising awareness of the program within the 74 First Nations they oversee.



NEW PARTICIPANTS – As awareness of the program grew so did the number of new participants. None stood out as much as 10 year old Taron Kaiswatum from Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation. This being Taron's first full year participating in FHQ Rookie League he was relatively unknown across the 11 participating communities, however by the end he was a household name. FHQ Rookie League provided Taron with a space to develop his confidence and a supportive community for him to make new friends.

The best part of the program was watching the whole community come together to support our children and to watch ball.

- Christian McKay, Peepeekisis Sports & Recreation Coordinator





SASKATCHEWAN

Rookie League Feature: Lac La Ronge Indian Band

REVIVING BASEBALL IN LAC LA RONGE

Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) applied to be part of the Rookie League program in late 2018. Their main objective was to use the power of baseball not only to revive the community's love for the game, but to also use it as a vehicle to connect people and provide opportunities for the sharing of culture. Communities within LLRIB are spread out, and often don't get the chance to come together. So in 2019, community leadership aimed to change that and in partnership with Jays Care, the LLRIB Rookie League was born.



COMMUNITY TOUR – In order to build awareness and understanding of the program across the 6 participating communities, League Coordinators Alannah Ratt and Aron Mckay planned a series of events in local schools where kids could get a taste of the program to come. Joined by

staff from Jays Care, Alannah and Aron spoke to kids about the league structure, how to sign up and played fun baseball-themed games to build excitement. This approach proved successful with most team rosters filling up before the programs start date in June.



COMMUNITY PRIDE – The program kicked off in late June with communities travelling up to 3 hours just to play against neighbouring teams. To show respect for the long journeys being made, many teams went out of their way to provide meals and refreshments to visiting teams. Education Director Simon Bird described the value of this cross-community connection:

The program included children from all cultures. It brought (all nations) children and youth together to learn team building, getting along with others and how to be a great ball player. It gave the children/youth a chance to visit other communities which is not common many made new friends and met family members from other communities.





SASKATCHEWAN

Lác La Ronge

Indian Band









of JBGAB Youth Champions reported that the program has helped them develop skills to better care for themselves and others.









of Girls At Bat coaches reported learning new strategies to enhance positive connections between their athletes through the training.

Girls Programs :

- 150
- Children and youth participated in Girls Programming in 2019
 - 9 Participating communities across the country

132 Mentors and coaches trained 15

Community clinics facilitated by Jays Care Staff

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

What is James Bay Girls At Bat?

Since September 2016, Jays Care Foundation and partners have been working together on the James Bay Girls at Bat program (JBGAB). The program works with Indigenous females in communities that have been struggling with increasing rates of suicidal ideations and completions among their youth populations. The program has been noted by Indigenous Leaders, mental health workers and front-line staff as a program that reaches unreachable youth and provides the supports required not only to prevent tragedy, but also to promote healing, hope and positive future orientation.





TRAUMA INFORMED DESIGN - The program has been designed since inception as a life promotion program and all facets of the program are trauma-informed. Life promotion sets the goal of helping young people find that place where they are able to flourish despite the challenges they face. Life promotion doesn't focus on reducing suicidality as much as it focuses on cultivating the strongest possible safeguards against it.



POSITIVE SUPPORT SYSTEMS - James Bay Girls at Bat is designed based on the understanding that children and youth who have significant and consistent positive adult mentors, positive peer groups and a wealth of opportunities to learn, grow and develop, have improved outcomes. When girls are referred to the program they are partnered with adults in their community who could champion the program and provide support.



YOUTH LED ACTIVITIES - Girls attend a series of 4-6 day retreats and take place at rustic overnight camps. Each retreat includes a variety of activities centered around leadership, culture, self-reflection and goal setting, and supportive peer group development. While attending girls are introduced to the Girls at Bat Challenge Booklet. Girls then return to their communities and complete a series of challenges found in their Challenge Booklet with the support of their mentors. These challenges include a wide range of activities that require youth to consider their personal strengths and life goals, and to be creative. By completing challenges in this booklet, girls collect points that earn them spots at future retreats.





What is Girls At Bat? :

Girls At Bat is a girls-only softball/baseball program that uses baseball as a tool to enhance social and emotional skills of athletes, focusing on the four primary goals of increased connection, courage, leadership and love of sport. The program is designed using significant research focused on motivation and girls in sport and has proven to have tremendous results when it comes to increasing female participation rates and reversing the growing issue of low retention in girls-only sport programs. In 2019, GAB worked was implemented by the following Indigenous organization/communities:

- Canadian Native Friendship Centre in Edmonton
- Fort MacKay First Nation Girls Inc. of Northern Alberta
- Batchewana First Nation, Ontario
- Eel Ground First Nation, New Brunswick (school)

2019 HIGHLIGHTS LIGHTS

GIRL EMPOWERMENT AT CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IN EDMONTON, AB



Kelsey Poitras and Shanice Perrot worked tirelessly to build a robust Girls At Bat program at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre in Edmonton. They went above and beyond to involve girls in their local Indigenous community that might not otherwise participate in sport. When their program filled up within two days, they offered another two days of programming, unwilling to turn anyone away. They recognized the importance of parent and family participation and found creative ways to involve families such as hosting a fun water day and encouraging parent and family participation in games. This successful family integration was evident at the wrap up celebration when whole families – grandmas, cousins, uncles, and aunts showed up to support the Girls At Bat athletes and take part in the fun. Now, there is excitement from other local Indigenous organizations to join next year and continue growing Girls At Bat within Edmonton.

Our daughter has grown up surrounded by baseball but often felt left out of her teams because they were dominated by boys. This has been an amazing and supportive experience for her!



- Girls At Bat Parent





100%

of youth coaches from Softball Yukon agree they've learnt new ways to increase physical activity participation for kids.











of Right To Play coaches feel they are a positive and inspiring role model to kids in their community.

96%

of RPAN Get Happy coaches have learned strategies to use to make sure campers leave camp feeling good about themselves.



Summer Camp Programs =

3,065

Children and youth participated in Summer Camp Programming in 2019

35 Participating communities across the country

136	Coaches and youth staff trained
12	Community events, clinics, and tourname

ents hosted

What is the RPAN Get Happy Summer Day Camp?

Jays Care partners with the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN) to implement the Get Happy Summer Day Camp that reaches over 2000 children and youth across the territory. The camp is hosted at 15 different locations and is run purely by youth staff from Nunavut who are trained by Jays Care over the course of a week in Yellowknife, NWT. This dynamic camp training has been central to the program's success with RPAN reporting the program the most successful youth leadership and job preparedness program in the territory.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS LIGHTS



PROGRAM GROWTH - The success of the Get Happy Summer Day Camp has become common knowledge through the amazing network of Parks and Recreation Associations across the country. In fact, the program has proven so successful that northern Manitoba has requested to launch a similar program modeled after it with the support of both RPAN and Jays Care. In addition, because of the program's success, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Association awarded Jays Care the Partnership Award for 2019.

Without question...our strongest summer program to date! The staff need to be applauded for their commitment, attitudes, sense of responsibility!

- Dawn Currie, Recreation & Parks Association of Nunavut





What is Right To Play Summer Programs? :

Jays Care partners with Right To Play to deliver summer baseball programs to communities participating in the PLAY (Promoting Life-Skills In Aboriginal Youth) program. The program focuses on removing the barriers to participation for children and youth and training local youth staff to deliver consistent baseball programming in their communities over the summer months. Programs include practices, games and community events over an 8-week summer period across Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS LIGHTS



INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS – This year, communities in Ontario and British Columbia set up inter-community leagues and events in order support each other in their regular weekly programs. The league format allowed there to be additional support for youth workers and for youth to build inter-community relationships through games and community events.



What is the Ehrlo Sport Venture Summer Program? :

Ehrlo Sport Venture works to provide youth and families with access to a variety of recreational programs in Regina and the surrounding area. Jays Care partners with the Ehrlo Sport Venture to create a summer drop-in baseball program that runs for 7 weeks and is led by local volunteers. The program is free to children and youth from the surrounding area, which includes a large Indigenous population and various newcomer communities that often lack access to quality and consistent summer programs.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS



EXPANDED REACH – The goal in 2019 was to strengthen the structure of the program. To do this, volunteers were give specific roles such as Activity Leader or Field Ambassador and attended a 1 day training led by Jays Care which included roles and responsibilities and in-depth practice on how to lead engaging baseball activities. At the beginning of each day, Field Ambassadors welcomed participants and grouped them depending on age and experience level. These adaptions led to a much more structured program which allowed the volunteers to register lots more participants. In 2019 the number of participants grew to 158 from 89 in the previous year.

School-Based Programs :



Children and youth participated in School-Based Programming in 2019

9 Participating Yukon schools



Youth staff trained

Community members engaged through programming

What is the Softball Yukon School Program?

In 2018, Jays Care worked with Yukon Child Advocate Office on a vision to promote reconciliation across the territory by providing sport and recreation opportunities for Indigenous youth to connect. A program was developed in schools that focused on promoting youth leadership through sport.

In 2019, Softball Yukon came on board as the main implementing partner and the program grew to include communities outside of the Whitehorse area including Beaver Creek, Elijah Smith Elementary School (boys group), Elijah Smith Elementary (girls group), Haines Junction, Jack Hulland Elementary School, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Old Crow, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Yukon Boys and Girls Club. In all these



communities, youth coaches were trained by Jays Care to run weekly baseball/softball practices for younger students at their school. The program culminates in June with a final tournament held in Whitehorse.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS LIGHTS



YOUTH COACHES - For the second year in a row, youth from across the territory stepped up to become coaches and led their peers in weekly practices. Over the course of the spring and early summer, weekly practices and scrimmages were held by youth coaches with the support of Softball Yukon staff. In some instances, schools held over 20 practices which is a testament to the excellent leadership of the youth coaches. Many of the participants were reported not being registered to any team sports either in school time or extra-curricular. For many, this experience was their first in a team sport setting and the positive experience can be attributed to the safe and fun space created by the youth coaches.

I'm excited to see my Grade 7 youth coaches lead the way, mentor students, and show what positive role models they can be.

- Teacher, Whitehouse Elementary







Organized sport will help improve the physical and mental health of youth and the community.

- Abegweit First Nation







It taught me about winning, losing, about getting back out, cleaning the dust off, getting back up and keep going.

- Chief Junior Gould, Abegweit First Nation



We had an increase in registration for baseball and we had to accommodate the demand that's in our community.

- Chief Carl Horn, Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

Infrastructure Programs

Projects in Indigenous Communities since 2016

\$289,865 Invested in infrastructure in 2019

What is the Field Of Dreams Program?

Field Of Dreams is Jays Care's granting program for infrastructure dedicated to youth life-skill development and physical activity. The Field Of Dreams program provides funding to design, refurbish and build safe spaces for children and youth to play baseball, develop life skills and learn from positive role models. In the last five years, Jays Care has committed over \$8 million to 66 infrastructure projects across Canada. In 2019, four major investments were made to improve facilities within Indigenous communities across the country.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS LIGHTS

ABEGWEIT FIRST NATION - \$70,885 INVESTMENT

Jays Care invested \$70,885 to refurbish a diamond in Abegweit (Mi'kmaw) First Nation, outside of Scotchfort, PEI. Funding was used to level the infield, reseed grass, replace fencing, construct a dugout and purchase bleachers. Due to drainage issues and safety concerns, the diamond has not been in use for many years, and there was no organized sport programing of any kind in the community. As a result of Jays Care's investment, the community will launch youth baseball and softball for a variety of ages and has formed partnerships with Baseball PEI, Softball PEI and PEI School Athletic Association, who have agreed to incorporate the field in tournament scheduling.







MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION - \$51,580 INVESTMENT

Moose Cree First Nation uses their community field for all manner of sport programing; however, drainage issues perpetually render the space unsafe and unplayable, particularly during the wet spring months in northern Ontario. With funding from Jays Care, the community replaced the infield dirt, invested in a drainage system and replaced the top soil and sod. Where days of playing time used to be lost to pooling, the field now drains quickly enabling the community to use it more regularly for baseball, soccer and other recreation programs which serve over local 70 children and youth.

POND INLET - \$87,400 INVESTMENT

Located in the arctic circle, the Hamlet of Pond Inlet used funding from Jays Care to underwrite the purchase and installation of artificial turf on the community' existing sand diamond. The new turf field is a hub for all outdoor recreation during the brief but active summer months and is used by the local elementary and high school as well as the summer baseball league. Once complete, it will also act as a venue for traditional drum dancing practises and performances.





MOOSE CREE FIRST NATIONS



MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWAKE - \$80,000 INVESTMENT

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake has a robust little league program serving more than 45 kids. However, no facility in the community was large enough to accommodate the growing number of older players, ages 13-18. Funding from Jays Care was used to expand an existing softball diamond to regulation bantam diamond to accommodate the community's bantam and pewee teams and ensure that youth would not need to leave the community to continue playing baseball. The field also serves some 230 kids enrolled in the Kahnawake Survival School who use it for gym class.





OVER \$1,000,000 HAS BEEN INVESTED IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THROUGH FIELD OF DREAMS SINCE 2015











