

Individual Learning Centre

Jurisdiction: Yukon

Contact: Lee Kubica

Level: K - 12

Theme: Community Based Practices, Transitions and Linkages

Description of Practice:

The Individual Learning Centre (ILC) opened in February 2005 in downtown Whitehorse. It is designed for school-aged youth who have dropped out of school to help them re-engage in learning. It is a welcoming, flexible environment that encourages academically capable students to complete high school.

Background:

A large number of students had become disengaged with the traditional school system and were not finding employment. The Individual Learning Centre was created in an attempt to offer an alternative schooling option to Yukon youth, who were not experiencing success in the mainstream system. Programming is offered on an individual basis for all students. Physical, cultural (First Nations) and career opportunities are all components of the program.

How is the practice integrated with ongoing non-aboriginal programming?

This program is offered to all students.

Development:

Once funding was secured, procedures for student selection, attendance requirements and curriculum was put into place. Policies, the operational framework and procedures were developed. As part of the process, a steering committee was formed and meets on a monthly basis. Two teachers and two tutors were hired. School hours were set at 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Members of school councils, principals, youth interest groups, community based groups and First Nations were consulted in the program's development. A downtown off campus site was chosen as the desired location.

Evidence:

Currently, 87 students are enrolled in the Centre. During the last school year, 9 students received a high school graduation certificate. The ILC has added another teacher to its staff and has expanded programming. A Hair Care component, First Nation carving and other career preparation programs are now offered at the Centre.

Adaptability:

Suggestions for adapting the practice in other jurisdictions: The program is not intended for younger students (under 15). The individualized nature of the program requires an element of maturity and enables the student to come and go on a flexible timetable.

Individualized curriculum allows students to progress at their own rate and under different circumstances.

Key lessons learned: Flexibility, location, food on site, relevant individualized curriculum, accessibility to local resource staff, low staff student ratio and a welcoming teaching staff are key elements for success.

Cautions for interested jurisdictions: It is important for the students to be off campus, away from the school where their success was limited.

Further information:

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