

HOCKEY FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The PLAY (Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth) program **partners** with **88** First Nations communities and urban Aboriginal organizations across Canada to deliver **community-driven, culturally-relevant play-based programming** designed to **enhance leadership, self-confidence, and self-efficacy** among children and youth. Guided by an Indigenous community development model, PLAY and its partners create safe and inclusive spaces where children and youth can share their ideas, their hopes and their fears, and learn the skills to become **positive agents of change**

What is the Hockey For Development Program?

The Hockey For Development Program integrates professional hockey players and clinicians into the school and arena setting. Clinics range from 3-6 days with the goal to (re)inspire local coaches, children, and youth to make hockey a part of their daily lives.

Children and youth who participate in this program will participate in safe and inclusive hockey-based activities that are designed to build a sense of confidence, leadership and teamwork as opposed to emphasizing skill development or competition. By using sport experiences as learning opportunities, this program engages children and youth who may not otherwise participate in extra-curricular programming.

While the Hockey For Development program looks different in every community, these **5 main components** are designed to create an inclusive programming space that will engage all members of the community.



Motivational
School Visits

Equipment
Distribution

NCCP
Coaching
Certification

On-ice Skill
Development

Off-ice
Life-skill
Development

What are the big goals and objectives of each component?

Equipment distribution:

Through a unique partnership with the Ballard foundation, equipment is provided to each host community. Upon completion of the clinic, children and youth are eligible to access this equipment through the PLAY program.

Coach Certification:

This clinic aims to support current and aspiring Coaches to gain a general understanding of how PLAY activities can be integrated into hockey sessions & future practices in their community, as well as an extended 12 week program plan beyond the clinic.

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- Off-Ice life skills:** Play-based learning activities facilitated by Right To Play staff or PLAY program youth. In between on-ice sessions, children and youth participate in specially designed activities with a strong focus on health, nutrition, leadership and teambuilding.
- Motivational school visits:** Community school visits that provide children and youth with opportunities to learn from and be inspired by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal role models. Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors, coaches, trainers and staff visit the schools and speak about goal-setting and leadership development.
- On-Ice hockey clinic:** On-ice hockey activities are designed to: strengthen basic hockey skills; support children and youth in developing new friendships and relationships with peers; and encourage the development of positive and healthy relationships between neighboring communities in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

Since 2011, the Hockey For Development program has achieved the following results:

1,992

Children and youth have engaged (41% female) in the Hockey For Development program since 2011

26

First Nation communities and urban Aboriginal organizations have hosted and/or participated in the Hockey For Development program since 2011

156

Community Coaches have been trained and certified as a result of the Hockey For Development program

94%

*Of participating children and youth have reported that **they have had fun** at the Hockey For Development program*

80%

*Of participants at the Hockey For Development program have reported that **they would like to continue playing hockey** as a result of the program*



“A lot of kids who are out on the ice, the ones who have been here all day helping out, learning skills, playing in the gym – they’re the kids that other people have given up on. They’re the kids with tough lives, but Right To Play offers this program and they show up. They show up and they want to learn and help out. It’s amazing.”

- Community Parent, Sandy Lake First Nation

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