

THE POWER OF DANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20





Our purpose is to empower our Indigenous communities and youth through the transformative art of dance. We cherish and take pride in building future leaders and a strong community of nurturing individuals.



Table of Contents

5	Founder's Message
6	Board Members
7	Team OLI & Volunteers
8	Mission Statement
10	Covid Interruption
11	Statement of Operations
12	Live Performance
16	Overview
17	Program Data
18	Star Showcase
19	Statistics
20	Dance Program
21	Dancer Showcase
22	RBC Future Leaders
23	RBC Future Leaders Showcase
24	Junior Program Managers
25	Junior Program Managers Showcase
26	Change Makers in Action
27	Sponsors

Founder's Message

This past year, I returned as CEO of OLI after stepping away for a year to get a bit of rest with having two little ones. It was great to step away, as I returned revitalized and fresh with new ideas. Obviously, we would never anticipate the year ending the way it did with having to cancel our final performance. It was heartbreaking for all of us at OLI, but I'm very proud of all of our youth, volunteers, staff and thank our Board members, for riding the emotional wave and journey we have been on since then.

This past year was truly remarkable, we had the most communities participating and were set to have 200 youth on stage with us at Meridian Hall. The show was definitely going to be the best yet, as people who know me, is something I say every year - as we strive to always do better. It definitely took me a couple of weeks to live with the new reality of not doing a show, as I've been in, or a part of, some sort of theatrical performance every year since the age of four.

With news of the new vaccine, we are planning to be back in the theatre for May 2022, as we will have to do another virtual show this upcoming May 2021. OLI pivoted quickly this past year, and were applauded for doing so, as we launched our live show this past May to over 6,000 viewers across the world. We are taking this success we had this year, to see if we can replicate it when we go back into the theatre, to also air the show live online. Nothing can ever replace the feeling you get when you are in a theatre and watching the transformation of the youth before your eyes, but we know not everyone can make it to Toronto.

We know a lot of our youth have been sidelined in their educational pursuits with the pandemic,

and are missing the fun and structure that OLI gives in their communities. We are itching to get back to be with them in person when the communities are ready to invite us back. Again, online learning works for some topics, but dance in the OLI program is very much a community activity, and the youth get excited to be with their friends, have fun, and work towards the exciting goal of the big stage.

We want to thank all of you for supporting us to help provide this stage for our youth to shine. We had humble beginnings of five youth from one community in 2008, to what was going to be 200 youth from 13 communities this past year. We can't wait to get back into full swing, and believe me, we are ready for it!



Tracee Smith
Founder and CEO, Outside Looking In



Scan the QR code to hear a message from Tracee Smith!

Board of Directors



Kimberley Baird

Kim is the owner of Kim Baird Strategic Consulting and offers First Nation related and strategic advice to industry, government and First Nations. She is also currently serving as the Chancellor of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.



Daniel J. Brant

Daniel is a member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte where he grew up and went to school on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in southern Ontario. Dan's formal education spans from Architectural Science to Engineering, Public Administration, and First Nations Governance. Dan is the current Chair of the OLI Board of Directors.



Bernd Christmas

Bernd is a proud member of the Mi'kmaq community of Membertou and was the first Mi'kmaq to become a lawyer in Canada. Bernd currently serves as CEO of Gitpo Storms and previously was a partner in the Aboriginal Law Practice at Cassels Brock LLP.



Darlene McCulloch

Darlene is a Mi'kmaq consultant who has worked extensively within Indigenous communities and organizations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario regions. Darlene McCulloch has over 25 years' experience working with Indigenous communities and organizations in addition to working within the private and corporate sectors.



William Pashby

Bill graduated from the University of Toronto in Commerce and Finance and later Law. He was a partner in the Borden Ladner Gervais Law Firm's Toronto office before retiring. In addition to OLI, Bill serves on the board of several other charities as well.



Vanessa Smith

Vanessa has a BA in Psychology and a Bachelor of Education from Brock University. As an elementary school teacher on the Six Nations, her philosophy is that we all have the capacity to be successful in our educational pursuits. Recognizing that students possess different kinds of minds and therefore learn, remember, perform, and understand in different ways.

Team OLI



Sarah Ali
Program Coordinator,
RBC Future Leaders



Keesic Douglas
Media Productions Manager



Maureen Hatherley
Director of Programming



Zohair Khan
Director of Operations



Laura MacKinnon
Program Manager,
RBC Future Leaders



Tracee Smith
CEO



Mackenzie Worthy
Marketing Associate,
(RBC IPDP Program)



Rhea Yea
Production Assistant

Volunteers

Bernard, Sharon
Bottle, Tanya
Bowers, Kimberly
Bowker, Jordan
Cabral, Stephen
Chen, Elvis
Chopra, Tanya
Chotalia, Shivani
di Staulo, Nick
Dietrich, Lindsay
Finnigan, Sydney
Francis, Moyra
Gardiner, Mary
Garlow, Chad
Gayle, Teneil
Googoo, Kim
Gray McKay, Connie
Hammond, Alisha
Harper, Marilyn
Harper, Sylvia

Hohn, Aaron
Ip, Vanessa
Kikuchi, Lora
Kinoshameg, Lindy
Kronick, Lael
Kundu, Trisha
Langdon, Bobbie-Jane
Le, Valerie
Leach, Misha
Lee, Phoebe
Lin, Tiffany
Lindner, Kevin
Marshall, Sherry
McDonough, Ryan
Mitchell, Rob
Ottetail, Michael
Pennock, Tyler
Porter, Allan
Psutka, Jadelyn
Quill, Alex

Randhawa, Gaurav
Rigby, Susan
Rose-Commu, Betty
Ruiz, Mariadela
Shute, Jessica
Syms, Darrell
Thomson, Maria
Tremblay, Patrick
Umar, Faria
Waddell, Carrie
Winch, Jennifer
Wisen, Danielle
Wood, Dionne
Yacoub, Ashraf
Yan, William

Mission

Through the transformative art of dance, Indigenous youth are inspired to pursue education, engage in self-expression, and celebrate empowerment!

Vision

To provide a full life-cycle of programs to support Indigenous youth from high school through to graduation, post-secondary education, and career readiness.

Values

- To give Indigenous youth more reasons to go to school and complete their education.
- Through Experiential learning, inspire Indigenous youth with the teachings of long-term commitment, accountability, responsibility and perseverance.
- To celebrate their accomplishments with a national platform and the largest stage to showcase their achievements.
- To provide tangible learning and networking opportunities that leave a long-term impact on their lives.
- Increase access to the power of arts education.
- To have something to “call our own”, to do it our way, and to celebrate who we are, while giving Canadians a safe place to learn more about Indigenous Peoples.



The ability to recognize an opportunity and seize it is a great skill to develop. OLI is both providing the opportunity and helping youth achieve vital life skills that will contribute to a very positive future.

- Tracee Smith, Founder and CEO

Covid Interruption

At Outside Looking In, our purpose is to empower our communities and youth through the transformative art of dance. We cherish and take pride in building RBC Future Leaders and a strong community of nurturing individuals. That has never been truer than right now. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, our highest priority has always been the health, safety, and well-being of our students, families, donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff.

As we continue to operate and actively serve our communities through this challenging time, our communities' and team members' health and safety remain our top priority. Outside Looking In has provided a pivotal service to Indigenous youth for the last 14 years. We want to assure you that we will continue to be here for the youth and the communities that we serve during this uncertain time.

Through the support of staff, volunteers, and key stakeholders, we quickly adapted and pivoted to the changing world around us.

- We decided to convert our 2020 Annual Show to a virtual event.
- The 2020 RBC Future Leaders Program also transitioned to virtual learning whole using our existing online learning management system.
- We decided to close our Toronto office with access provided only on a needs basis. All employees have successfully transitioned to working from home / remotely.
- OLI Choreographers, educators, and program coordinators could no longer travel into communities. We transitioned to Zoom and virtual classes to continue to engage with our communities.

Our goal is to resume normal OLI program activities for all of our communities when deemed possible by the Government of Ontario, Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thank you again for your support and enduring patience as we get through this together. We're so proud to serve you.

Statement of Operations

For the year ended June 30

2020

Revenue

Community fees	535,500
Sponsorship	304,962
Donations	288,367
In-Kind contributions	78,808
Government grants	30,263
Ticket sales	3,925
Merchandise	169
Other income	70,221

1,312,215

Expenses

Program expenses	589,371
Administration expenses	409,121

998,492

Excess of Expenses over Revenue

313,723

Net Assets, Beginning of Year

374,314

Net Assets, End of Year

688,037



Pictured: Tamara Podemski, Leona Monias, Michael Ottertail, Aaron Hohn

Live Performance

In the spring of 2020, in a display of celebration of our students and the community, Outside Looking In live-streamed a one-of-a-kind performance right into the homes and hearts of our supporters, alumni, participants, friends, and families from around the world.

With the support of the acclaimed actress Tamara Podemski as host and live performances from Oscar-Award winning artist Buffy Sainte-Marie, and Indigenous Music Awards winner, Logan Staats with his sister, Layla Black - the night gave us a chance to showcase the hard work of all of our students throughout the year and the ability to thank all of the program's supporters.

We were able to give some of our current students the platform to speak about how they heard about OLI, what the programming means to them, and how it is impacting their lives.

Each of our students has their own stories and experiences of how OLI has touched them. Whether it's the time spent dancing with classmates in our dance program, meeting new students in our nationwide network of Indigenous youth, or learning from a Future Leader mentor.



39,710

Minutes viewed



471

Facebook comments



2.7K

Reactions/shares/comments



6.4K

Reach with live event



There were so many memorable moments throughout the show. One of the standouts had to be hearing from current OLI Dance participant and Future Leader mentee, Jaydin Nungaq, from Iqaluit, who shared a remarkable story about his experience with OLI. Jaydin spoke with some fellow students that he met through the dance program, and they got talking about their dreams and what they wanted to achieve in their lives. Hearing from students who live on the other side of the country share their motivations, passions, and aspirations were quite relatable. Speaking on occasion, Jayden said, "all students are trying to carve out their path in life, and being able to bounce ideas off of each other and share goals, it is motivating, to say the least." From this passionate story, our host, Tamara, summarised that "Dreaming is contagious."

This is why bringing together like-minded youth during the formative years of their lives is so essential - OLI wants to give them exposure to others that can help push and inspire them to reach goals that they would not be able to on their own.

Pictured: Logan Staats



“

I was thrilled to be in the audience last year at the Sony Centre (now Meridian Hall) to watch young Indigenous junior high and high school kids expressing themselves through dance – many for the first time. They looked so proud and fulfilled. This year I’m happy to be invited with my band to perform a few songs with and for the kids at their show.

We also spoke with current Future Leader mentor, Aaron Hohn, who has been volunteering with our organization for over 10-years. Aaron told us how important it is for the youth to spend time with mentors, talk about challenges and aspirations, and get feedback from someone with a different perspective. Notably, Aaron was adamant that “both mentor and mentee get a lot out of the Future Leader experience” that pairs youth with a mentor for weekly meetings throughout the school year. As crucial as the mentors are to mentees, the reverse is also true, and it was gripping to hear this first-hand from one of our longtime supporters.

The height of the show was a breathtaking performance by Buffy Sainte-Marie, who sang her hits ‘America the Beautiful,’ and ‘Hey Little Rockabye.’ Buffy is an inspiration to us all, and we were elated to have her join us for this special occasion. Graciously, the excitement was mutual, and Buffy shared this sentiment with us:

I was thrilled to be in the audience last year at the Sony Centre (now Meridian Hall) to watch young indigenous junior high and high school kids expressing themselves through dance - many for the first time. They looked so proud and fulfilled. This year I’m happy to be invited with my band to perform a few songs with and for the kids at their show.

We wrapped up the show with a dance party hosted by D’Ojibwe1 that allowed everyone watching to participate from the safety of their own homes and feel the transformative power of dance by physically embodying what is at the core of everything we do at OLI - DANCE!

If you did not get a chance to watch the show live, you can still watch the virtual performance by clicking on this link: performance2020.olishow.com or you can visit our YouTube Channel and check out our fantastic dance videos and know more about OLI.

Pictured Left: Buffy Sainte-Marie
Pictured Below: OLI Live Performance



2020 Overview



Last academic year, OLI engaged youth in 12 communities, using dance to motivate and inspire. Over 200 were still working hard to learn and refine their performances in preparation for the culminating year end show. When the pandemic took hold in the new year, we had to suspend all travel into communities and cancel the final on-stage event and performance that was to take place in Toronto in May.

Over the summer, our program staff researched finding ways to accommodate the evolving needs of the time. We ensured we took input from community members and youth to rethink how to produce a dance program, should the pandemic continue into the new school year, and if/when travel to communities to work directly with youth is not an option.

Pictured: OLI Dance participants in Mishkeegogomang, ON

2020 Program Data

Community	Years in OLI	Youth Participants	Future Leaders	Junior Program Managers
Garden Hill First Nation	6	30	11	1
St. Theresa Point First Nation	6	30	8	2
Wasagamack First Nation	3	30	4	-
Southeast Collegiate	2	22	1	2
Pikangikum First Nation	6	17	5	1
Pinaymootang First Nation	2	15	-	-
Iqaluit District Education Authority	2	13	3	-
Lac La Croix First Nation	12	8	2	1
Membertou First Nation	2	6	-	-
Webequie First Nation	2	5	-	1
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	Pilot	4	-	-
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Pilot	4	-	-



Pictured: Brigitte Neganigwane, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Ontario.



Scan the QR code to see a video with Brigitte!

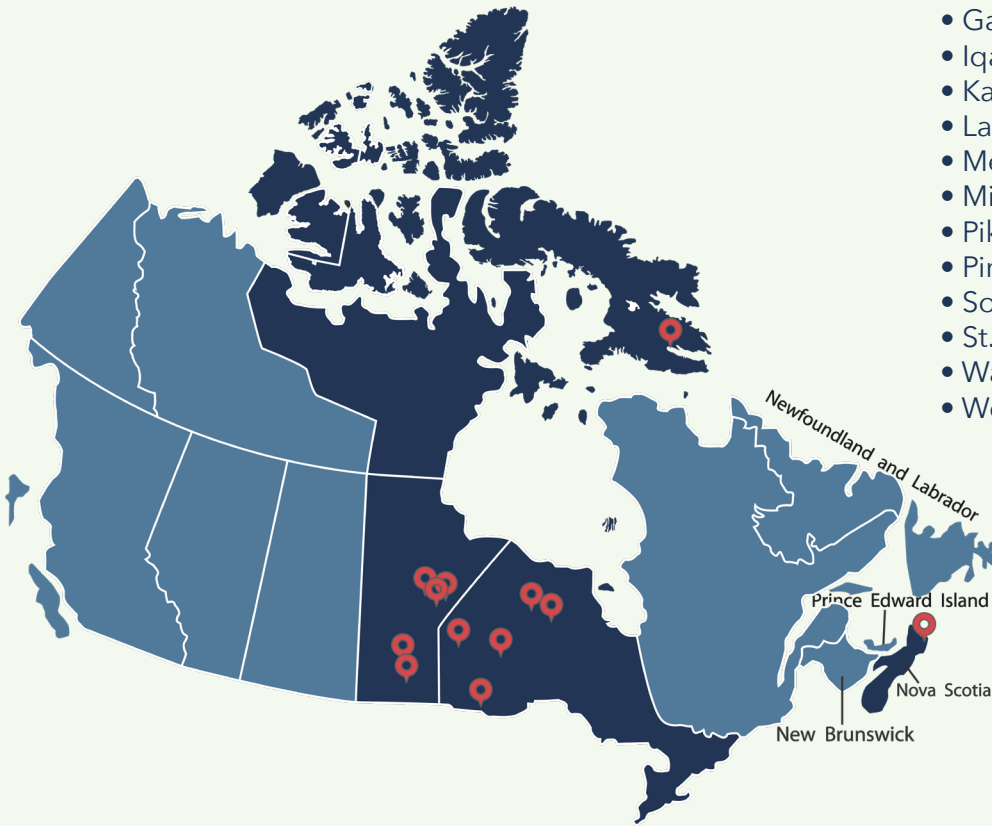
Star Showcase –Brigitte Neganigwane

OLI helped me become a better leader and gave me the courage to pursue my goals, whereas before I would have been way too shy or wouldn't have had the confidence within myself. Having that courage and self-confidence from OLI, it really helped me with my past job. I was the Language Strategy Assistant at Seven Generations Education Institute in Fort Francis Ontario. I was there for almost 3 years and I accomplished a lot. I had the confidence to take the lead on some projects and that really made me a strong worker. And today I am working at an (Ojibway Language) immersion school and that is so crazy!

If you were to tell me several years ago what I would be doing now, I would have laughed because I never would have thought that I ever would have enough confidence to be doing what I am now and to have accomplished what I have today. Sometimes it feels like you can't push past the challenges that you are facing. But trust me, if you hold on and you keep pushing you will surprise yourself and you will be successful. Right now I am a Teacher Trainee in Wisconsin (USA) and I help teach grade 1 in full Ojibway immersion. I plan to continue working on getting my teaching degree so that I can continue teaching Anishnabemowin (Ojibway Language) for the next generation.

My favourite memory (of OLI) is the end of year performance. That's what always kept me going back into the program year after year. All the hard work and dedication leading up to that point made everything worthwhile. Seeing the reactions on the other kid's faces, how proud they were of themselves, was really a powerful moment. It's something that I will always remember the feeling of.

2020 STATISTICS



- Garden Hill First Nation
- Iqaluit District Education Authority
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation
- Lac La Croix First Nation
- Membertou First Nation
- Mishkeegogamang First Nation
- Pikangikum First Nation
- Pinaymootang First Nation
- Southeast Collegiate
- St. Theresa Point First Nation
- Wasagamack First Nation
- Webequie First Nation





**THE
READY
COMMITMENT**

Pictured: OLI participants from Southeast Collegiate, Winnipeg

The OLI Dance program is our flagship offering that empowers youth to achieve their best in school, dance and life.

Guided by weekly training sessions by professional choreographers and supported by educators, Indigenous youth from Grades 7-12 learn choreography with multiple opportunities to perform virtually and/or within their communities. They learn choreography and have opportunities to showcase their learnings through virtual and live performances.

Empowered youth are inspired to use their strength to reach new heights of academic success and personal growth. Throughout the year, youth experience first-hand how it feels to energize and express themselves and launch them to future success. The program is run as a credit course so youth can contribute the course credit towards their Secondary School diploma. We work closely with the Ministry of Education to ensure that the course meets curriculum requirements.

The OLI Dance Program can be tailored to become part of the school day or be run as an after school activity - depending on the needs and planning strategies of the community, organization, friendship centre, or school.

For the 2019-2020 school year, we had 12 communities registered in the Dance program across the country, with over 200 student participants across all schools.

Dancer Showcase –Solomon Harper



Solomon Harper,
Junior Choreographer, St. Theresa Point First Nation, Manitoba

Pictured: Solomon Harper,
Southeast Collegiate, Winnipeg

Last year, I was caught off-guard as I was offered this position. I was kind of scared, but I just went for it. This year OLI thought that it would be a good idea to do it again. They had some problems getting a choreographer. They had no one else, so I stepped in. Last year was my first time doing it. At first, I was super nervous - I was terrified. Throughout the years, it was getting harder and harder, all the stress and pressure. Until it got to the end of it, all this relief just kind of let go. I've been on the honour roll every month since September. Throughout the year, I've been stressed and under pressure. But in the end, it was really great and worth all the efforts. I knew that I did something, and I was truly proud of it.



Scan the QR code to see
a video with Solomon!

RBC Future Leaders

OLI RBC Future Leaders was developed to support youth as they begin to consider their next steps upon graduation. RBC Future Leaders offers a unique approach to career education, leadership development and mentorship. Additionally, it allows Indigenous youth to earn a high school credit through their participation. RBC Future Leaders matches Indigenous youth who have already graduated or are approaching graduation with a mentor.

Together, the mentor and youth develop a supportive and motivational relationship to encourage youth to see beyond their borders and explore opportunities available to them. RBC Future Leaders helps prepare youth for “next steps” beyond graduation by building personal management and employability skills, defining opportunities and pathways, and growing a supportive network.

RBC Future Leaders is an enrichment program for youth wanting to pursue challenges and go above and beyond and is open to Indigenous youth across Canada.

The 2019-2020 cohort included 34 participants from communities across Canada. COVID interrupted our plans to host the Winnipeg Experience as well as Meet the Mentor weekend. Fortunately, we were able to transition to using Zoom seamlessly for mentor-mentee communications. Our existing learning management system allowed us to complete the program and award credits to the graduating students.



Pictured: RBC Future Leaders mentor and mentee at meet up event in Toronto.



Foundation

RBC Future Leaders Showcase –Jaydin Nungaq

“I believe that OLI has affected me positively because I started going to school more.”

I joined OLI because I love to dance. I dance daily. I do it 3 - 5 hours a day to my own choreography. Trying to learn stuff off of YouTube or off of the internet. Every time I listen to music, I could really just dance anywhere. I've danced on the streets with myself because I have headphones in my ears, and the world is just silent. I just like bringing that energy. Dancing is my passion. It's one of those things that really touches my heart. I dance to show the world that I have talent.

I think that OLI should reach out to some of these other communities in Nunavut because some of the graduation rates are really low. I believe that OLI has affected me positively because I started going to school more. I feel like I've been getting more knowledge. I feel like I have been getting the success that I've wanted for such a long time. I personally believe that OLI is the next big thing for Indigenous youth to go and find their future. To help their community. To help themselves. I just think that it helped me to find who I am. It's helped me physically and mentally. It's helped me focus more on school. It can help so many Indigenous youth up north in Nunavut. It could help the graduation rates. I just think that this program will reach to another level of supporting Indigenous students.



Pictured: Jaydin Nungaq, Iqaluit, Nunavut.



Scan the QR code to see a video with Jaydin!



Junior Program Managers

Pictured: OLI Community Members in Winnipeg



This year, with our dance program active in 12 different communities, bringing on multiple Junior Program Managers to work alongside OLI Program Managers provided us with many benefits. Working closely with their assigned communities, our Junior Program Managers added a level of comfort and service to our students. Also, they provided our organization with more direct access to participants and the communities they work with as a whole while ensuring that responsibilities are being met on all sides.

Our goal with our Junior Program Manager's is to integrate previous OLI participants into leadership roles allowing them to provide support to students from someone who has been through the program before. With their previous program experience, they can answer questions, provide direction, and motivate them in a way that is often better received by students.

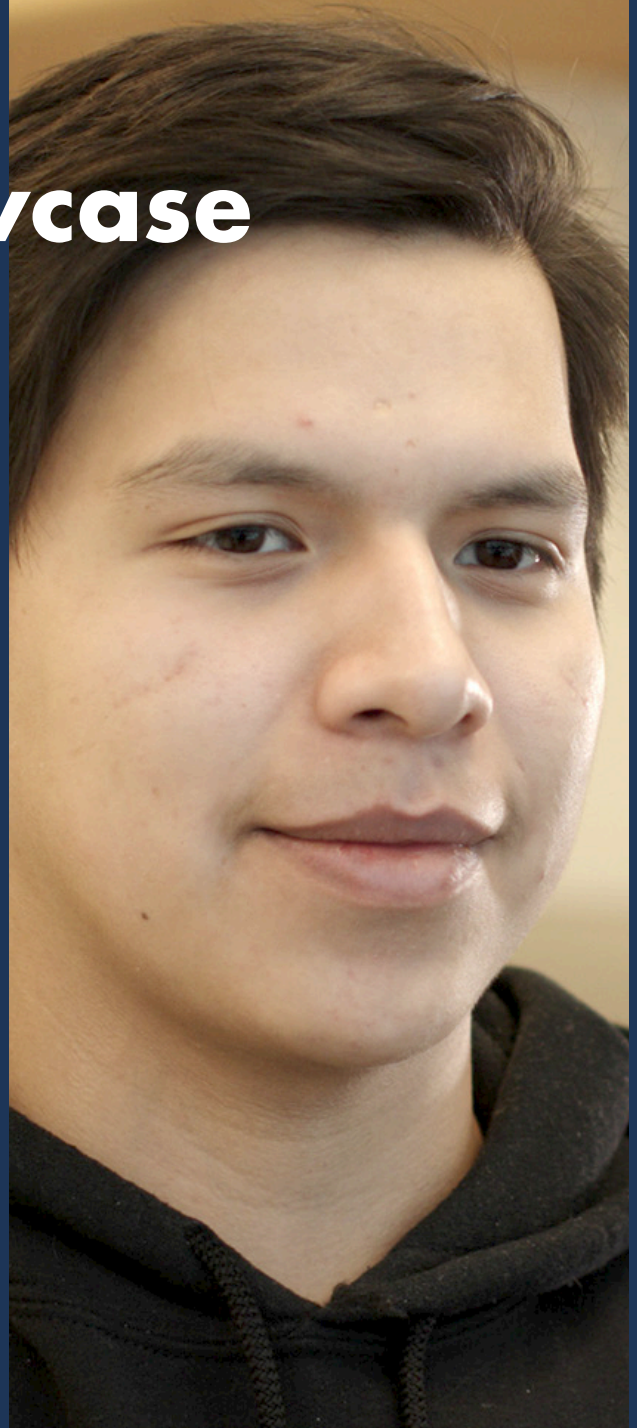
Junior Program Managers Showcase –Bradley Monias

**“I’m guiding them through
the program through my
experiences.”**

OLI has been part of my life for almost six years. About a year back, there was a job opening for the Junior Program Manager position. As a past participant and a Future Leader, I pretty much know the experience of OLI. I know what the choreographer needs to do. I get the gist of what Program Managers are supposed to do and their roles within the community. I’m just applying that to what I’m doing now.

I’m guiding them through the program through my experiences, giving them the sense of being in the program. Sometimes the obstacle that I face is connecting with the youth. Most times, I don’t really know the person, and it’s finding a connection with the youth, build that bond. So we can maximize their output within the rehearsals.

This position, Junior Program Manager, has taught me how to be a University student, which coincides with life skills - time management, deadlines, being punctual and being professional. It shows me that I am more capable and that I have potential to do anything.



Scan the QR code to see a
video with Bradley!



CHANGE MAKERS IN ACTION

Kim Calma,
OLI Choreographer

We all have our own obstacles to deal with and I feel that dance and teaching other people to dance helped to inspire me and to inspire other people to look beyond what you are going through, and to inspire you and motivate you to do better in whatever you are passionate about.

When I started teaching I realized that I just wanted to provide what was given to me to the community and whoever else is out there and is willing to learn or willing to get inspired.

Susan Wood,
Vice Principal, Garden Hill First Nation

I just want to thank OLI for giving our children the privilege of being in this program.

Rob Mitchell,
Teacher, Lac La Croix First Nation

OLI - It's just really about cultivating that responsibility of growing up, becoming an adult, and a contributing citizen.

Pictured:
Left: Kim Calma
Top: Susan Wood
Bottom: Rob Mitchell

Scan the QR code to
see a video with our
Change Makers!



OUR SPONSORS

We are truly grateful for the support provided by our generous sponsors.

OLI DANCE

RBC FUTURE LEADERS

JUNIOR PROGRAM MANAGERS



**THE
READY
COMMITMENT**



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**CBC
TORONTO**

Help us to continue to make a difference in
the lives of our youth and communities.

For more information, please contact info@olishow.com
call **647.350.5450** or visit www.olishow.com



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