



2019 Annual Report



This Year's Successes

- Largest number of participating communities in OLI's history – **13**
- Largest number of youth ever on stage - **114**
- Expansion into **2** new geographical areas - Nova Scotia and Nunavut
- Largest cohort of Future Leaders in OLI's history - **16**
- Introduction and hiring of **5** Junior Program Managers in **4** communities
- Hiring of **2** OLI alumni - Program Coordinator and Program Manager
- **14** youth contributed choreography to the closing number of the annual performance
- **2** amazing performances
- **6** high school graduates

2019 Program Data

Community	Years in OLI	Youth Participants	Future Leaders	Junior Program Managers
Lac La Croix First Nation	11	9	3	
Pikangikum First Nation	5	9	3	1
St. Theresa Point First Nation	5	20	4	1
Garden Hill First Nation	5	25	0	2
Wasagamack First Nation	2	14	1	
Grassy Narrows First Nation	2	0	0	
Penticton Indian Band	1	3	N/A	
Pinaymootang First Nation	1	7	N/A	
Webequie First Nation	1	2	N/A	
Iqaluit District Education Authority	1	9	N/A	
Membertou First Nation	1	4	N/A	
Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, Thunder Bay	1	6	N/A	
Southeast Collegiate, Winnipeg	Pilot	6	6	1

New Initiatives for 2020

- Focus on building capacity and attracting invested community members
- Piloting teaching choreography remotely using technology
- Expanding the Junior Program Manager role and training opportunities
- Inviting community members to plan and create mini-documentaries to showcase their community
- Providing opportunities for seasoned youth to choreograph
- Having an alumnus help host the annual show
- Expanding and strengthening our Alumni network



"I joined OLI thinking it was just a dance but it's more than that. You meet new people, you're more open about yourself, you're becoming a better person." – Harmony Wood, Wasagamack First Nation [Photo edited]



"I joined OLI to be a better me. I learned from the program that there's more to life than being on your phone." – Misty Nasikapow, Pinaymootang First Nation



"I learned that I could do a lot and push through where I want to get to. OLI has shaped me into a better person with a positive mindset." – Penelope Harper, Garden Hill First Nation [Photo edited]



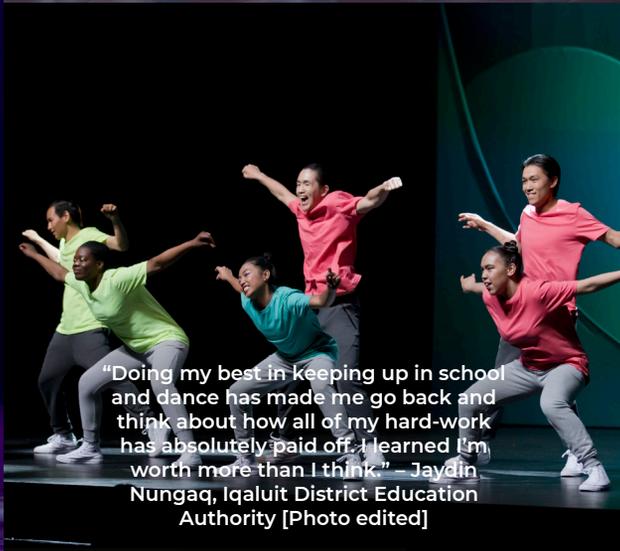
"I stopped getting sick all the time, I just got better in a lot of things. I've really become a better person." – Marena Wood, St. Theresa Point First Nation [Photo edited]



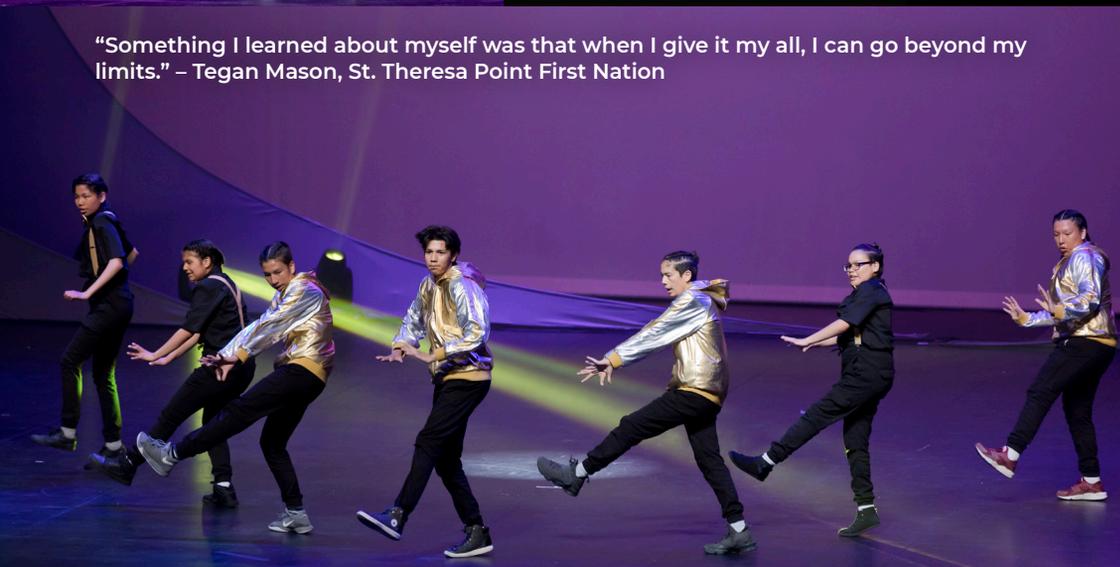
"This program has put my life on the right path and it's been really helpful." – Kyla Flett, St. Theresa Point First Nation [Photo edited]



"Doing my best in keeping up in school and dance has made me go back and think about how all of my hard-work has absolutely paid off. I learned I'm worth more than I think." – Jaydin Nungaq, Iqaluit District Education Authority [Photo edited]



"Something I learned about myself was that when I give it my all, I can go beyond my limits." – Tegan Mason, St. Theresa Point First Nation



"I was doing cuts and being a bad boy. I changed after OLI. I wasn't being bad anymore. OLI change me and I love OLI." – Jeremiah Knott, Wasagamack First Nation [Photo edited]



Outside Looking In

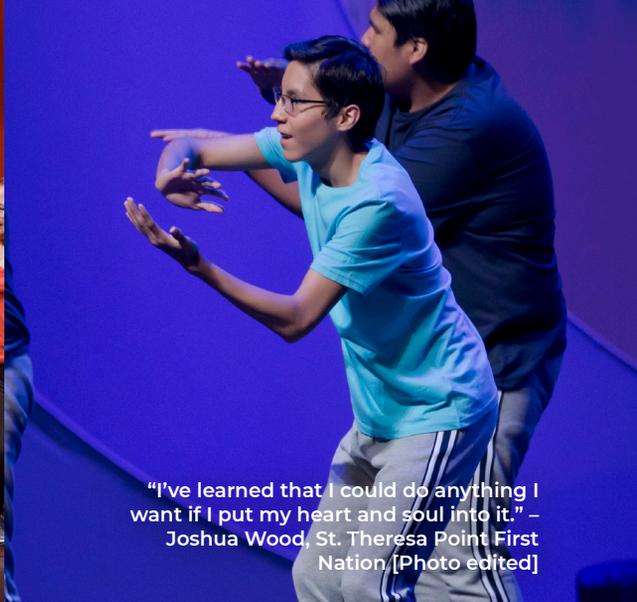
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended June 30	2019
Revenue	
Government grants	559,165
In-Kind contributions	305,000
Community fees	275,000
Sponsorship	251,142
Donations	93,509
Ticket sales	27,288
Merchandise	10,517
Other income	659
	1,522,280
Expenses	
Program expenses	1,195,130
Administration expenses	518,646
	1,713,776
Excess of Expenses over Revenue	(191,496)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	565,810
Net Assets, End of Year	374,314

"It takes away my bad thoughts and I just dance my heart out. I learned that it is hard to get in. You have to be committed to it." – Quaylin Manoakesick, St. Theresa Point First Nation



"I've learned that I could do anything I want if I put my heart and soul into it." – Joshua Wood, St. Theresa Point First Nation [Photo edited]



"I really feel that it has helped me be more open with myself and with others. It helped me keep up with my self-worth." – Gwen Monias, Garden Hill First Nation [Photo edited]



"This program made me get a good education and become more open." – Kiiya Mason, St. Theresa Point First Nation



"I've learned that I could do better than what was stopping me." – Kayden Harper, St. Theresa Point First Nation



"I learned to always drink water! And to eat healthier." – Mila Joamie, Iqaluit District Education Authority [Photo edited]



"I learned to be stronger and nicer and a lot more confident." – Cassie Flett, Garden Hill First Nation [Photo edited]



"I feel like I've finished what I wanted to accomplish." – Garrison Quill, Pikangikum First Nation [Photo edited]



Future Leaders Program

Official Sponsor of the Future Leaders Program



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Program Overview

The Future Leaders program is a **career education, leadership development and mentorship** high school credit program for Indigenous youth in grades 10 and up who have previously earned an OLI dance credit.

The program **helps prepare youth for “next steps” up to graduation and beyond** by building personal management and employment skills, defining opportunities and pathways and growing a supportive network.

In September, **youth applied to the program** and were paired with a mentor and began a year-long exchange of letters on topics ranging from their personal stories, to finding motivation, resolving conflicts and planning for the future. From January to April, the youth worked on activities to **identity their strengths and learning styles, explore a potential career, set SMART goals practice employment skills such as writing a resume and excelling in an interview.**

Students also travelled for experiential learning opportunities! In February, they met their mentors in person for the first time and engaged in **workplace communication and employment skill-building workshops.** In April, they spent a week in Winnipeg learning their Future Leaders dance, **opening bank accounts, visiting colleges and universities and working on their leadership skills.** The program culminated with Mentor Day, where the youth and their mentors took a cooking class and made a meal together to celebrate their success. After their triumphant performance onstage at the Sony Centre, all the youth earned a high school credit!

2018/2019 Program Highlights

Youth showed significant growth in the areas of: communication skills, persistence, digital literacy, interpersonal skills and financial literacy.

16

youth earned a credit
(the highest number in
program history)

94%

reported they are more
prepared for the workforce
after program participation

170

hours of experiential learning
completed by each Future
Leader over 8 months with
support of a mentor

Our Education Partners



Future Leaders Program

Future Leaders Alumni

Official Sponsor of the Future Leaders Program



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54

youth have completed the program since it's induction in the 2011/2012 school year

92%

high school graduation rate

*of those eligible

65%

of those graduates are currently employed and/or enrolled in postsecondary education

Testimonials

"We have all heard the line "You get more than you give". This statement could not be truer than with my participation in the Future Leaders program. We all have life experiences that shape and develop us and I have a passion for engaging in relationships that allow me to share my experiences as well as benefit from the experiences of others. This program has opened my eyes to the incredible talent our indigenous youth have in both arts, leadership and more."

Darcy Krahn, Future Leaders Mentor,
RBC

"The Future Leaders program has helped me build stronger leadership skills, long-lasting friendships, as well as boosting my confidence. The program really helps a lot with career-building, and I think it's really helpful because it has given me an idea on what I want to do with my future. "

Tegan Mason, Future Leader,
St. Theresa Point First Nation



"I joined OLI to be a better person and make my community proud. I think OLI is better with me in it."
- Quaid McDougall, Wasagamack First Nation



"I learned how to be a good kid and behave." - Bret Harper, Garden Hill First Nation [Photo edited]



"Because it is OLI. I learned from the program to never give up or back down. I learned a lot." - Estelle Quill, Pikangikum First Nation



"OLI has taught me to love one another." - Garnet Monias, Garden Hill First Nation



"The reason why I joined OLI is because it helps me with my stress, anxiety and it helped me to make more friends." - Kaydence Woodhouse, Pinaymootang First Nation [Photo edited]



"OLI is a motivational program to stay in school and have better attendance. It will affect my mindset to become something better." - Jaden Harper, Garden Hill First Nation



"I've learned that I could do better than what was stopping me." - Kayden Harper, St. Theresa Point First Nation [Photo edited]





12th Annual OLI Camp Experience

On May 11th, 2019, 114 OLI youth flew from across the country to southern Ontario for the Outside Looking In camp experience at Tim Horton Onondaga Farms. Here are some of the highlights:

May 12th

- Youth went on a camp tour and met the camp staff they would be working with
- Youth were introduced to the OLI rules and routines
- In the evening, the youth performed their community's dance piece for one another!

May 13th to 17th

- Youth took turns rehearsing their dance, working on their homework or doing a camp activity
- In the evenings, all the youth learned and practised the closing number for the show

May 18th

- The youth got a break from dancing and headed to Canada's Wonderland for a fun day of socializing and enjoying the rides

May 19th to 21st

- The Future Leaders Youth got an extra special day with their mentors, participating in team building activities, reflecting on their goals and celebrating the end of the program
- At camp, youth got back into a regular routine of rehearsal, homework and camp activities

May 22nd

- The youth left camp and headed into downtown Toronto to rehearse for the performance at Meridian Hall (formerly Sony Centre)
- They got a tour of the building and learned the rules and protocols of performing in a large theatre
- Youth got into full costumes, as well as hair and make up
- They rehearse their pieces on stage stage for the tech crew who adjusted the lighting and set pieces to make the routines look even more amazing

The Annual Performance

May 23rd, 2019

Our annual performance was another resounding success! Meridian Hall (formerly Sony Centre) was packed with thousands of spectators cheering on the youth as they danced on stage!

This year we brought back the alumni panel which starred some of our past and current dancers: Markus Flett, Estelle Quill, Trenton Linklater, and Bradley Monias. Alumnus Matthew Morriseau hosted the panel discussion.

We celebrated our 6 high school graduates, bringing them out on stage for a huge round of applause in honour of their academic success. The 2019 graduates were: Rayna Fontaine, Mark Keno Jr., Konrad Loon, Garnet Monias, Simon Windsor and Dwight Shewaybick.

Matinee Show:

- At our matinee, we welcomed school groups from the Greater Toronto Area and groups visiting from across the country
- Mark Strong, the arena host for the Toronto Raptors, got the audience hyped and energized for the show

Evening Performance:

- Our evening performance was full of parents, community members, mentors and other longtime supporters of OLI and the youth dancers
- Indigenous comedian Candy Palmater from Nova Scotia hosted the show, sharing her humour and passion with the audience
- We were also excited to have renowned Indigenous musician, activist and scholar Buffy Sainte-Marie in the audience!





Laura (far left) with her student crew

Volunteer Spotlight

Laura Hitchcock, Backstage Director and Student Services Advisor at Bayview Glen School

Laura and her student stage crew from Bayview Glenn have been an integral part of the OLI Annual Performance for the last 4 years. They help with everything from making sure the OLI youth get onstage on time and in the correct costume, to helping patrons find their seats! Her students gladly jump into any job.

What motivated you to volunteer with OLI? It is a chance for my stage crew to practice their skills on a professional stage and also have a positive experience working with Indigenous youth.

What has been the most meaningful experience you've had as an OLI volunteer? Participating in a professional show and working on the big stage has given my students a new confidence which they bring back to school to our own productions. My students have made connections with the dancers and are excited to see them each year. My students have gained a first-hand, positive and accurate view of the dancers' lives, giving them a better understanding of the challenges they face.

Why do you continue to stay involved with OLI? My students and I love the experience. In September one of the first questions is, "are we doing OLI again this year?". The students are very animated when explaining to new [crew members] what an amazing experience it is. I cannot imagine how disappointed they would be if we stopped attending.

Thank you, Laura!



Jessica (left) with her mentee, Reo Walton

Volunteer Spotlight

Jessica Shute, RBC Royal Bank, Mortgage Specialist & Future Leaders Mentor

Jessica has been a volunteer with OLI for 3 years! For her first two years, she volunteered at our annual performance and last year she joined us as a Future Leaders Mentor. She continues to stay involved because she sees first-hand how this program changes lives of Indigenous youth for the better.

What motivated you to volunteer with OLI? I was motivated to get involved with OLI as I wanted to find a way to give back to my community. I am Indigenous and am from a reserve in Northwestern Ontario and believe it is incredibly important to empower Indigenous youth.

What has been the most meaningful experience you've had as an OLI volunteer? The most meaningful experience I've had as an OLI volunteer was the series of letters written between my mentee and I. The process of reading and writing letters with my mentee was a very reflective and mindful experience that made the program very impactful.

What is the most memorable accomplishment of your volunteer experience? The most memorable accomplishment for me was Future Leader's performance at the Sony Centre. The performance was the most powerful example of how hard work and dedication pay off. It was incredibly powerful to see the impact that the Future Leaders program has on the students/mentees. It is almost surreal to see how the students develop and thrive.

Thank you, Jessica!



Volunteer Spotlight

Vanessa Ip, High School Art Teacher, Pikangikum First Nation

Vanessa lives and works in one of our partner communities and has been involved with OLI since 2017. She supports all of the OLI dancers in Pikangikum and helps run community rehearsals at the school. She also accompanies her students as a chaperone to the OLI camp in May and on the Future Leaders trip to Winnipeg.

What motivated you to volunteer with OLI? I had heard about the previous successes OLI had in the community, so when I heard they were starting the program up again, I decided to volunteer.

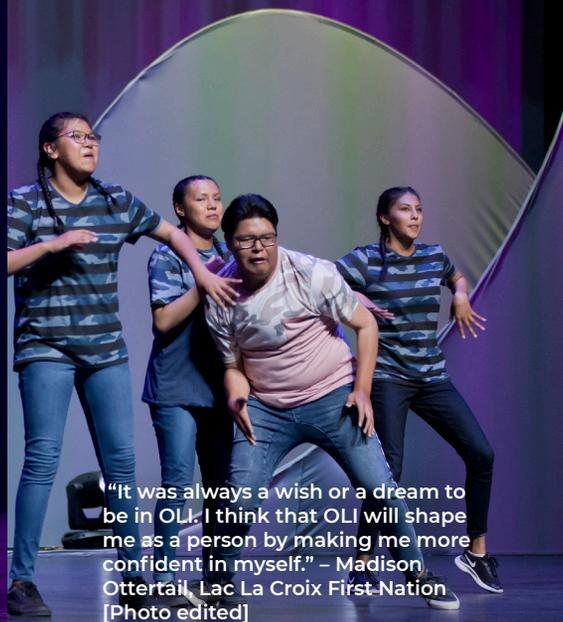
What is the most memorable moment of your volunteer experience? The most memorable moment of my volunteer experience was seeing a student who has always been shy around others volunteer to speak on stage about their community. Honestly those of us who knew them weren't sure if they were up to the challenge, but they blew us away with their confidence when they spoke during the show.

Why do you continue to stay involved with OLI? I continue to stay involved with OLI because I can see the positive impact it has on the youth. Their energy and resilience is also a source of inspiration to me.

Thank you, Vanessa!



"I've become more open towards other people. It really made me come out of my shell and just boosted my confidence." - Tamara Flett, St. Theresa Point First Nation



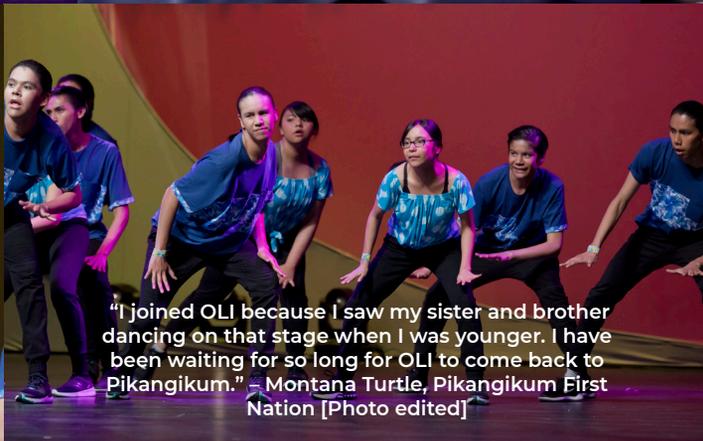
"It was always a wish or a dream to be in OLI. I think that OLI will shape me as a person by making me more confident in myself." - Madison Ottetail, Lac La Croix First Nation [Photo edited]



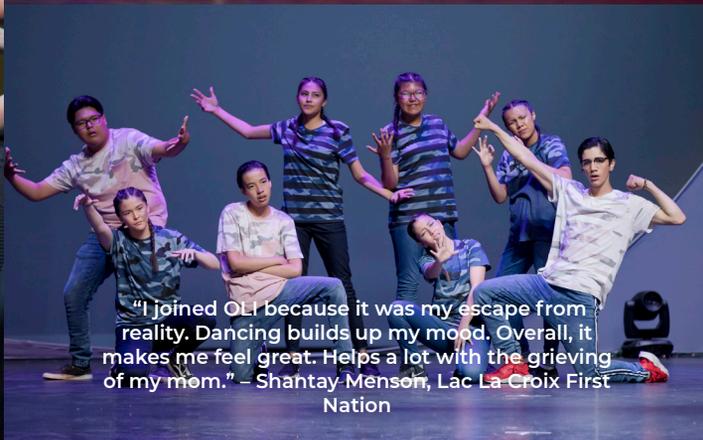
"It really makes us part of a huge family. It taught me to push myself and to be a leader." - Daniela Calamayan, Iqaluit District Education Authority



"I learned that doing Oli, even if you are discouraged, means that nothing is impossible. Don't ever give up on yourself." - Denzel Quill, Pikangikum First Nation [Photo edited]



"I joined OLI because I saw my sister and brother dancing on that stage when I was younger. I have been waiting for so long for OLI to come back to Pikangikum." - Montana Turtle, Pikangikum First Nation [Photo edited]



"I joined OLI because it was my escape from reality. Dancing builds up my mood. Overall, it makes me feel great. Helps a lot with the grieving of my mom." - Shantay-Menson, Lac La Croix First Nation



"I learned how to value people more, and I know that if I work hard towards what I want, I will achieve it." - Logan Mason, OLI Winnipeg [Photo edited]



"Look at me now, in my second year of OLI. OLI has made a big impact on my life and I'm glad I did it. I'm proud of myself." - Trey Monias, Garden Hill First Nation [Photo edited]



"OLI has helped me improve my social skills and inspired me to keep dancing." - Sheldon Harper, Wasagamack First Nation

Thank You

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for supporting Outside Looking In



Indigenous Services
Canada

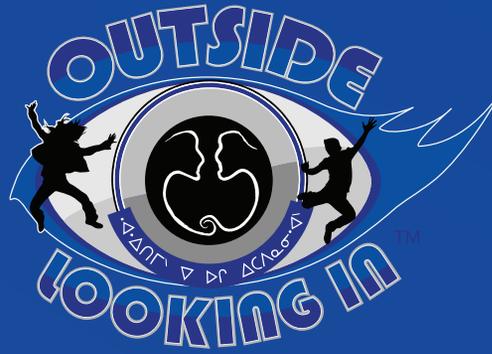


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