

YOUTH PRIZE CATEGORY

IMPACT VISUALIZATION PROJECT



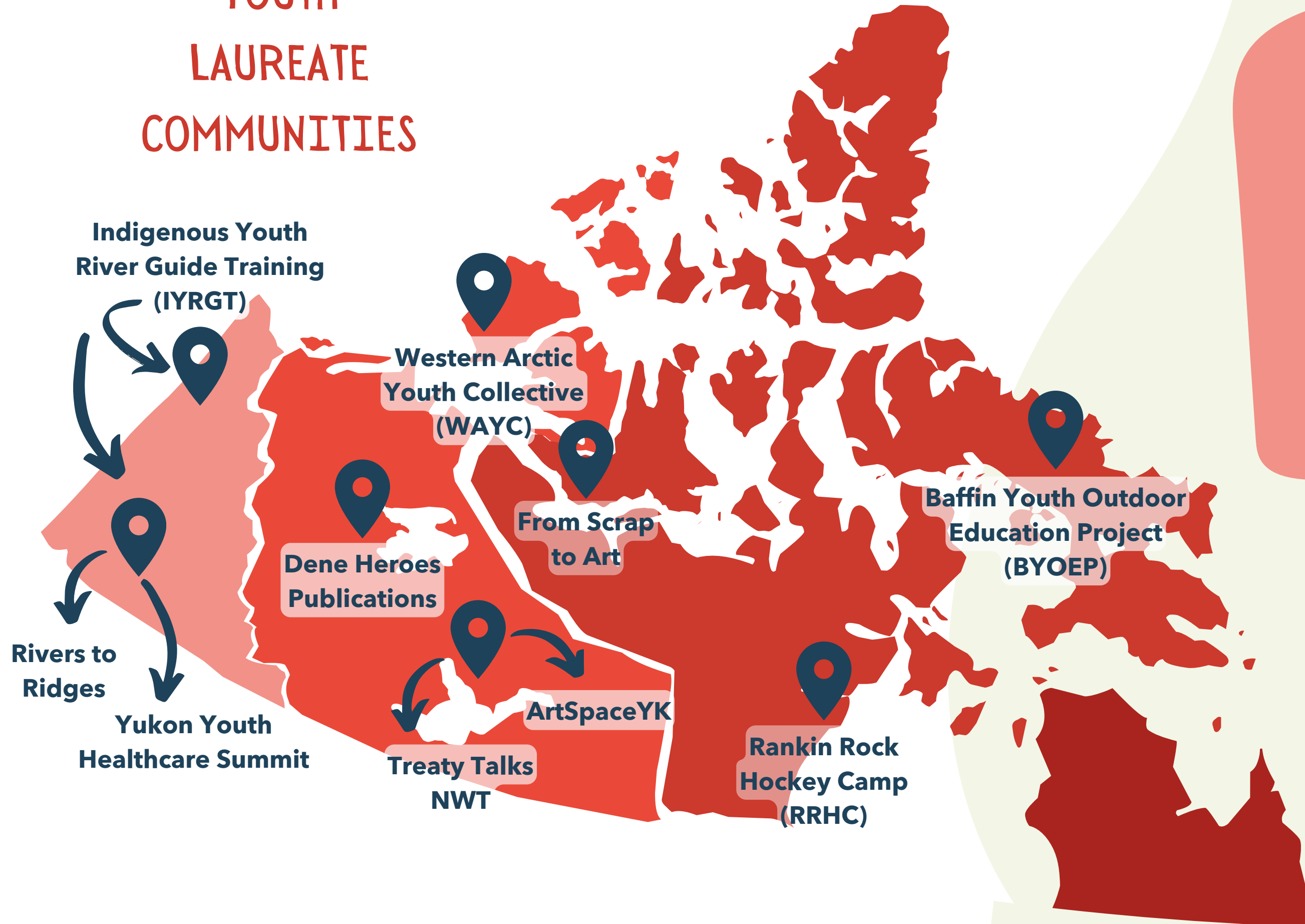
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) is the largest annual prize in Canada. It inspires, enables, and celebrates the achievements of the people of the North, recognizing diverse teams with innovative projects in the fields of education; health and wellbeing; culture, arts and language; science and traditional knowledge; climate change; food security; and the economy.

This report was compiled and created by Qatalyst Research Group, with the help of the Northern team, including: Peggy Jay (NWT), Lori Flynn and Adriana Kusugaq of Ilitaqsiniq (Nunavut, Nunavik), and Katie Johnson (Yukon). This project was successful due to the collaboration and ongoing engagement of participating Laureates and their teams.

We would like to acknowledge the guidance and support we received from the AIP Advisory/Decision-Making Committee: Ellasie Annanack, Tommy Palliser, Wren Nicolardi, Adriana Kusugak, David Clark, Mary Anne Neal, Jose Gerin-Lajoie, Jedidah Merkosak, Jovan Simic, McGarry Selbee, Adrienne Hill, Jacey Firth-Hagen, Jimmy Oleekatalik, Naiome Egeesiak, Connie Kwon, Peggy Day, Bobbi Rose Koe, Lois Philipp.

YOUTH LAUREATE COMMUNITIES



- 10 AIP-funded youth projects.
- 50 youth across the North engaged in leading or organizing events and activities.
- Hundreds of youth participating in AIP-funded projects.



ENGAGING YOUTH ACROSS THE NORTH

Youth laureates were involved in organizing events, mentoring and education, land-based learning and knowledge-sharing, community building, and creating art. The events, workshops, adventures, and activities resulted in hundreds of other youth, Elders, and community member engaging in a wide range of activities.



Youth work on paintings as part of the **ArtSpace** at MakerSpace YK.



Hide tanning demonstrations with **Treaty Talks**.



Children spend time learning on the land with an instructor from **Rivers to Ridges**.



BUILDING NETWORKS AND COMMUNITIES

Participating in AIP projects helped youth connect to each other, support one another, and build lifelong relationships and friendships. For example:

- AIP youth laureates continue to support each other and work together (WAYC, IYRGT, Treaty Talks)
- They expressed the importance of being part of the AIP community (YYHS)
- Life-long friendships have been made (IYRGT, WAYC)
- Create space for community to come together and build a community of volunteers (ArtSpace)
- Connect people through storytelling (Dene Heroes Publications)
- Develop connections with their community by creating art and playing together (ArtSpace, Rankin Rock Hockey Camp)

Individuals involved with **WAYC** have deep connections across the north and the organization has developed partnerships with other Laureates such as **Treaty Talks NWT** and **Indigenous Youth River Guide Training**.



Dene Heroes Publications set out to share the stories of *Dene Heroes of the Sahtu* and brought together hundreds of people to share their stories across the north, Canada, and beyond.



Youth attending **Rivers to Ridges** camps develop close friendships during their time together.

SUPPORTING YOUTH LEADERS

The AIP contributed to the personal development of young people by providing them with the opportunities and experiences that equip them for becoming effective leaders.

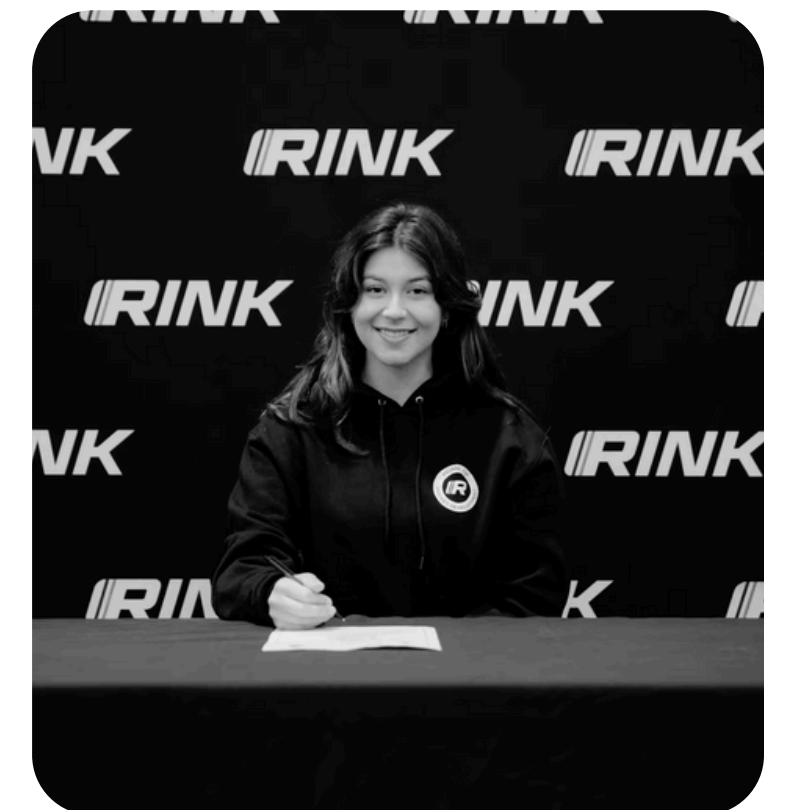
"We feel so lucky to have had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to act on those ideas. Being AIP laureates has helped us develop as leaders and learners and we are so grateful for that!"
Youth Coordinators



Team leaders Geri-Lee Buyck and Anna Billowits created the **Yukon Youth Healthcare Summit** to help youth learn about healthcare and inspire others to pursue a career in healthcare .



Bobbi Rose Koe (**IYRGT**) is always learning and loves to teach with anyone who wants to learn. She believes that it is important to continue to share what we have, when we can, where we can.



Charlotte Siksik , a former **RRHC** attendee turned youth leader and coach, is now playing hockey for the Arcadia Knights at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania. She is the first Inuk female hockey player to play college hockey in America.

CONNECTING WITH CULTURE AND NATURE

The **Baffin Youth Outdoor Education Program** team has held various cultural and traditional workshops and activities in Iqaluit, which included qamutiik building, whip making, parka making, and seal skin mitt sewing. On the land, youth participants have spent time igloo building, and completing a 150km dog-sledding trip from Iqaluit to Kimmirut, which included ice fishing and seal hunting.



"I love nature, I love being outdoors, I love connecting with the land, and I feel like it's very healing for me so I decided that I would take this leap of faith."

Chase Yakeleya, IYRGT



Rivers to Ridges' camps bring children and youth on the land to learn, and also welcome Elders to share cultural and traditional teachings.



DEVELOPING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Public Speaking

Youth from Dene Heroes Publications learned public speaking skills when promoting their book in their respective communities. Individuals who participated in WAYC activities had the opportunity to share their stories with groups of their peers in a safe and respectful environment.

Self-Governance

Treaty Talks taught not only the facilitators, but also participants, about self-governance and treaty rights/obligations. Rivers to Ridges is teaching children and youth that schooling that is focused on a more traditional model is just as valid as any other.

Employability

Youth across all projects learned skills that will help them in the future, and some youth (such as those with Indigenous Youth River Guide Training and Dene Heroes Publications) have already found employment using their new skills.

Traditional & Cultural

Many projects had elements of cultural or traditional skills that participants and facilitators took part in, such as gamutiik building, whip making, seal skin mitten sewing, igloo building, dog sledding, and hide tanning, among others.



DEVELOPING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE



Arts and Crafting

Scrap to Art youth spend their time in the welding shop creating beautiful pieces of art from scrap metal that they locate within their community, and ArtSpace provides artists with a safe space to get creative in a multitude of ways. Many other projects have arts-based or crafting elements in their programming, such as beading or painting.



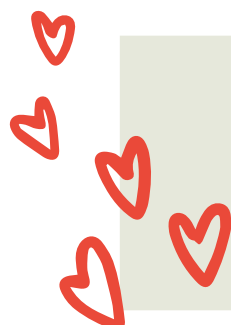
Mentorship

Projects such as Scrap to Art, Dene Heroes Publications, the Yukon Youth Healthcare Summit, Rivers to Ridges, WAYC, and Rankin Rock Hockey Camp created mentorship opportunities for youth looking to get more involved in each respective project, or future projects, and were provided guidance to become youth leaders in their own right.



Literacy Skills

Youth across all projects learned skills such as literacy, numeracy, communication, and specific skills such as with Indigenous Youth River Guide Training (navigating, guiding) and Scrap to Art (welding).



Participants across all projects were empowered by their ability to develop and improve a variety of skills that will carry them into the future.



IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Through art, play, connections to the land and each other, youth participating in AIP projects expressed themselves more freely which helped them improve interpersonal relationships and mental health and wellbeing.



ArtSpace gives individuals a place where they can express themselves in a healthy way.



"There's hope. There's always hope. Everything will change, things will change in your life even though it doesn't seem that way right now. But you have to take that step if you want to make that change. But yes, there is hope for the future... There is always hope." **Arsaniq Deer (WAYC)**



Indigenous Youth River Guide Training participants spent time learning and developing strong connections to the land.



Not just a game! **Rankin Rock Hockey Camp** promotes healthy and active lifestyles, building resilience and teamwork among young players.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Treaty Talks NWT blended traditional teachings such as Dene Law with modern technology to engage youth in conversation and build their confidence in understanding treaties and self-determination.



The **Rivers to Ridges** team persevered through the Covid-19 pandemic and other issues while developing their Nest School and forest camps.



Youth working at Red Fish Arts Studio for the **Scrap to Art Project** were able to build confidence in themselves by learning welding skills and creating beautiful pieces of artwork that have been installed within their community and have also made their way across the country.

Dene Heroes Publications helped foster confidence in storytelling and the beauty of Dene life with their Dene Heroes of the Sahtu books.



CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

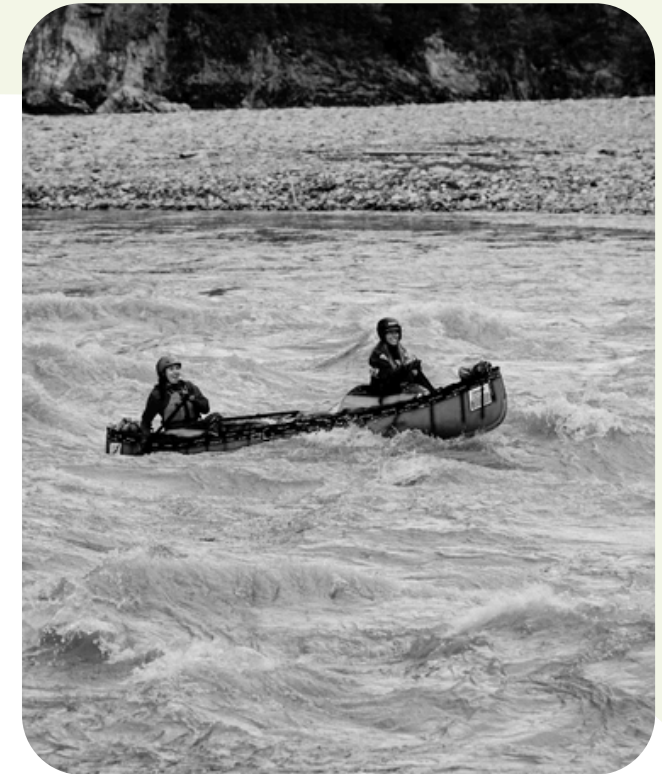
The AIP projects created economic opportunities for youth laureates and others who became part of the organizations and groups that continue to create future opportunities.



Leetia Egeesiak (**BYOEP**) has been with Kool Runnings since its inception and became the first youth ambassador when she was 12 years old. She is now an apprentice guide.



6 youth were hired to aid in all aspects of the **Dene Heroes Publication** project, providing them with skills and setting them up for future opportunities. One youth now has a career with North Wright Air as a direct result of their experience working with Dene Heroes. Another is serving their second term on the band council of Behdzi Ah'da First Nation.



First Cohort participants Chase Yakelaya and Olivia Dragon, of **IYRGT**, (pictured are Olivia and friend) are now apprenticing as Guides with Nahanni River Adventures.

EMPOWERING A GENERATION OF FUTURE LEADERS

Youth laureates are empowered to continue the work they started and ideas supported by the AIP. Youth from WAYC, Rivers to Ridges, Treaty Talks, and the Rankin Rock Hockey Camp continue to be involved and reported a sense of responsibility to help young people become future leaders. This shows the cross-generational impact of AIP projects.

Providing a safe space to discuss health, **The Yukon Youth Healthcare Summit** afforded youth the opportunity to vocalize their needs and think about directing the future of healthcare in their area.



Patty Wallingham (YRGT)

"I just feel like a sense of belonging, like I feel like this truly fills my cup and I think this is exactly what I'm doing here, it's just that I'm finding out what I want to be part of my life for the longer-term."

Young hockey players are mentored and encouraged during their time at the **Rankin Rock Hockey Camp** and learn skills that allow them to flourish and grow.



Learning on the land at **Rivers to Ridges** shows children the unique perspective of broadening their understanding of how education can work, and teaches them different ways of thinking.

STORIES TO SHARE WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS OF CHANGE-MAKERS

Click the links below to watch videos about each of the youth projects.

[Rankin Rock Hockey Camp](#)

[From Scrap to Art](#)

[Artspace](#)

[Western Arctic Youth Collective](#)

[Dene Heroes Publications](#)

[Rivers to Ridges](#)

[Yukon Youth Healthcare Summit](#)

[Treaty Talks NWT](#)

[Indigenous Youth River Guide Training](#)

[Baffin Youth Outdoor Education Project](#)



