

# Aboriginal Youth and Planning: Celebrating Diversity



## Taking the Pulse of Professional Planning Practice

By Leah Ross in collaboration with Linda Ring

### Abstract

The City of Winnipeg recently hosted an Aboriginal Youth Career Awareness Camp (AYCAC) in conjunction with the Seven Oaks School Division. The purpose of the camp was to expose Aboriginal youth to potential planning careers within the City, and encourage them to stay in school and pursue higher education. The camp activities included a variety of planning activities and Aboriginal cultural events.

Due to the infancy of the case in question, it will be framed as a cutting-edge, innovative practice. In collaboration with Linda Ring, a Neighbourhood Planner with the City of Winnipeg, a general overview of the camp will be provided, as well as lessons learned from this first attempt. Particular attention will be paid to camp highlights and lessons learned from this inaugural camp experience.

The purpose of this Case In Point is to expose planners and politicians to a successful example of Aboriginal youth engagement in planning and civic processes with the hope that they will realize the benefit of their input. For both planners and policy makers, youth participation allows them to fully understand the range of needs and issues they are addressing, which translates into more informed planning decisions. It is hoped that the experiences described within this report will inspire other municipalities across Canada to increase Aboriginal youth participation in civic and planning processes.



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