

Thunderbird Partnership Foundation



Buffalo Riders

Early Intervention Training Program

Creating a Safe Ground



Buffalo Riders Early Intervention

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Early intervention is key to giving young people the support, or 'safe ground' they need to reduce their risk of using drugs. The Buffalo Riders program enhances and strengthens the capacity of First Nation and Inuit communities to provide youth with Early and Brief Interventions and support services to help reduce harmful substance-using behaviour.

Now accepting applications!

This five-day facilitator's training program includes the latest research and cultural content using an Emotional Intelligence model that develops self-awareness, self-management and self-direction: critical elements for young people's successful growth and development.

Who should take the training?

Two facilitators from each community, for example:

- One from NNADAP - National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program
- One from the school

Course fees include all manuals, books, all supplies needed to implement the program and ongoing access to student assessments with facilitator support, debriefing and coaching by Thunderbird's expert trainer. Training is organized in a group format, with a minimum of 12 participants and a maximum of 20.

Applicants must provide their own travel and accommodation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the program implemented?

Once community facilitators are trained, they can deliver the Buffalo Riders program to youth in grades 7/8. School health curriculum can be replaced with Buffalo Riders for 10 classes and a variety of other settings, including: afterschool and summer programs, as well as cultural programs utilizing Elders and others in the community. Pre and post assessments monitor program impact after one session or across grade levels.

How long are the Buffalo Riders sessions for youth?

There can be 10 to 26 sessions, delivered in one hour timeframes. After school sessions can be longer, if food and other activities are included. Schools can offer 10 sessions to grade 7 students and another series of 10 sessions to those same students in grade 8.

Who is this training for?

Buffalo Riders is for people who will deliver the program in schools. Communities have used the on-line training program to give an orientation to other community workers.

Results

“There was a feeling of hope and a new beginning with a thrill of trying something new for their community. The participants received training to become facilitators and implemented the Buffalo Riders Early Intervention Program in their communities. The facilitators are able to develop all the necessary modules to make a difference in the lives of our youth. This training will have a rippling effect on the future of their communities and our Nations.”

How to Register

If you are interested in the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation’s *Buffalo Riders Early Intervention Training Program*, please contact:

Thunderbird Administrative Services:

1-519-692-9922 ext. 308

1-866-763-4714

email: vpeters@thunderbirdpf.org

website: www.thunderbirdpf.org



Youth Audience

The Thunderbird Partnership Foundation’s *Buffalo Riders Early Intervention Training Program* was first funded by the Manitoba First Nation School Based Early Intervention Project. This funding enabled Thunderbird to reach a new and much broader youth audience. Through collaboration with our partners and local National Native Drug and Alcohol Program (NNADAP) workers, the participants have gained additional knowledge and strategies in working with school based prevention initiatives.

Building Capacity

“I developed skills from this program that I can use in my job. The program gave me confidence to speak in public. The continued support I received from Nora during the course of the program was great.”

Buffalo Rider trainee

“This training was the best training I’ve ever been to. I’ve received so much valuable resources.”

Buffalo Rider trainee

Buffalo Riders Early Intervention Program meets provincial school health curriculum outcomes

We believe First Nations youth are born leaders, with many skills and gifts to offer given the right support. A culturally-based curriculum for First Nations and Inuit youth is the direction needed to make a difference in their wellbeing. The Buffalo Riders Early Intervention program taps into youth and community strengths, providing guidance and support to their schools and communities, so that together, we can make a difference in their wellness today and for generations to come.



Thunderbird Partnership Foundation

The Thunderbird Partnership Foundation is the leading authority on First Nations and Inuit addictions research in Canada. It is the result of a merger between the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation and the Native Mental Health Association of Canada. Together, they are cultural and professional voice advocating for culturally-based addictions and mental wellness services through the implementation of the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum (FNMWC) and the Honouring our Strengths Renewal Framework (HOS).

The Thunderbird Partnership Foundation is committed to raising awareness among mainstream providers about the nature and extent of substance abuse and wellness issues. It also provides objective, culturally-based and relevant information and advice aimed at supporting the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) and the National Youth Solvent Addiction Program (YSAP). These national addiction programs include 55 residential treatment centers and more than 500 community-based addictions prevention programs.



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