



RURAL CHANGE MAKERS

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS FOR TODAY'S RURAL CHALLENGES



BRIDGING *Rural* **COMMUNITIES**

Through experiential activities that move from learning, to practice to action where emerging leaders, on a shared journey engage with communities, partners and each other.



OUR PURPOSE

The **Rural Change Makers (RCM)** program shapes emerging leaders in rural Ontario to lead community development solutions with their communities. Young leaders are critical to the future of Rural Ontario.



THE GOAL

- **PROVIDE** professional development for young adults.
- **BUILD** rural youth leadership capacity.
- **CATALYZE** impactful rural development outcomes for communities and regions.
- **BROADEN** public engagement in rural development initiatives.



FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS

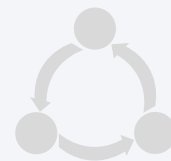
1. Regional Partnerships

- **Up to 3 regional partnerships** are established at the beginning of each program January - March
- **Program funds, curriculum partners and sponsor relations** are also developed during this time.



5. Tracking Outcomes

- **7 Key Leadership Competencies** are Developed
- **4 Key Outcomes** are Measured (Increased Rural Retention, Increased Skills, Increased Community Connectedness, & Making a Difference).
- **4 Critical Evaluation Checkpoints:** Pre-Post Program & Pre-Post Community Development Phase.



2. Youth Recruitment

- **Program Communications and Engagement** Apr.-June each year.
- **Recruitment** opens June and closes July each year.
- **Applicant Selection:** August



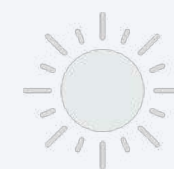
3. Program Delivery

- **12 Month Learning Journey:** Fall 2023 - Fall 2024
- **Learning Labs:** Sept. - Dec. 2023
- **Practicum - Ignite Action Weekend** Jan. 2024
- **Community Development:** Feb. - August 2024
- **Provincial Youth Summit:** Sept. 2024



4. Economic & Community Development

- **Community Development Planning** by Change Makers: Feb.-Apr. 2024 via Change Maker Led Discovery Sessions and Community Action Labs.
- **Community Development Activities** within Change Maker Communities: Apr.-Aug. 2024



RCM PROGRAM MODEL



KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural Change Maker Journey



Co-designing

CHANGE

REGIONAL
ALLIES

Up to 3 Regional Partners - setting the stage for local youth recruitment to the RCM program, leadership skills training, wrap around support and hyper-local community economic development projects.



Becoming

CHANGE

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Development Training for Emerging Leaders 18-30 years old.

- A series of training sessions spanning 14 weeks with transformative speakers, curriculum content and expert insights.



Changemaking

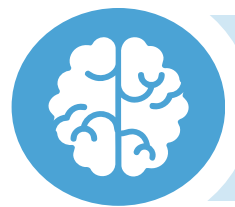
IN ACTION

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

RuralPOPs & Community Economic Development Projects

- regional hub for youth engagement activities & community projects promoting economic, business and community development stimulus.





8

Learning Labs

Sharing knowledge and building foundational leadership skills.



14

Foundational Leadership Skills

Pairing self-development and discovery with practical skills needed to lead effective change.



4

Reflective Evaluations

Checkpoints along the learning journey to assess competencies, readiness and program effectiveness.



1

Indigenous Governance Learning Session

Lighting the 8th Fire - Inter-tribal dialogue offering respect, understanding, and perspective sharing among changemakers.

**Out of the Anishinabe's Seven Fires comes the idea of the eighth - Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations as a continuous path, informed by the past, but whose course can be changed by working together in the present with hope for future generations.*



4

Experiential Activities

Putting learned skills into action through youth-led, community engagement activities across 31 rural Ontario communities.



2

Community - Youth Exchanges

Igniting project planning and passion in preparation for community projects at an IGNITE EVENT. Discovering regional economic community development projects through INTER-REGIONAL VISITS.

WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING

Co-designed hyper-local, regional approach to community economic development and leadership training.

Expanded age range to include youth at various life stages.

Regional Partnerships
Opiikapawiin Services representing 24 NW On First Nations, Timmins Youth Wellness Hub & Community Futures Huron

Scaled up programming to serve more youth and rural communities - up to 36 rural youth.

Transformed Leadership Training including 14 foundational & transferable skills.



RURAL CHANGE MAKERS



HOW WE ARE DELIVERING THE PROGRAM

The co-design of the RCM program is the result of extensive consultation with rural, remote and Indigenous communities through the Young Rural Resilient project.

To learn more or apply to RCM visit <https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/changemakers>



RENEWED CURRICULUM

Leadership development that is foundational, inclusive and diverse. A TRANSFORMATIVE balance of self discovery, creative exchange and core skill building.



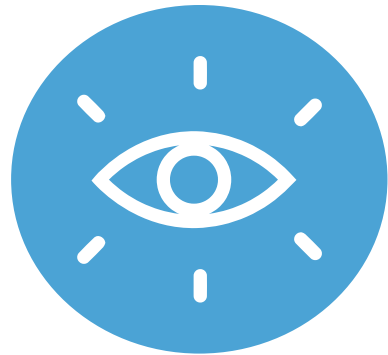
The Rural Change Makers program has undergone a transformation informed by evaluative work undertaken in 2022 through the Young Rural Resilient Project. Many new and exciting program elements have emerged from this project informed by the perspectives and feedback from rural, remote and Indigenous emerging leaders and communities.



SOFT & CORE SKILL BUILDING



September



Foundational resources for change thinking

Bridges Model.
11 Essential Resources



Co-active Coaching & Future Visioning

How to see the change you want and lead change together.

October



Cross cultural understanding

Lighting the 8th Fire
Indigenous Governance Systems – gaining other world views & perspectives.



High Impact Communication Leadership Styles

For authentic relationship building.
Elastic, CoActive, Collaborative.

November



Fundraising Fundamentals & Financial Literacy

Grant writing, resource acquisition & management.
Budgets, taxes and tracking.



Project Management & Evaluation

Tracking and measuring successes and opportunities.



Community Development

Principles & practices for identifying need, Relationship development, project planning, accountability, transparency, & management.

December 14



Civic Engagement Action Labs

Community engagement practices (Open Space Technology, theory of change, dotmocracy, community needs assessment).

Cultural Dialogue Walk

Lighting the 8th Fire - Inter-tribal dialogue offering respect, understanding, and perspective sharing among changemakers.

**Out of the Anishinabe's Seven Fires comes the idea of the eighth - Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations as a continuous path, informed by the past, but whose course can be changed by working together in the present with hope for future generations.*

#LEADYOURFUTURE

CHANGE MAKER LEARNING JOURNEY WITH ENRICHING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



IGNITE ACTION LAB

An inter-regional gathering putting learned skills to action where changemakers begin to envision the necessary steps to lead community & economic development projects.



COMMITTEES

Rural Change Makers will form regional advisory committees where regional partners, ROI staff, mentors, planners, local organizations, BIAs and business owners come together to support the planning and development of regional RuralPOPs.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Using skills learned changemakers will engage with their communities to address a specific rural priority or challenge. Mentors, partners and peers guide and support one of the following projects:

- Rural Youth Summit
- RuralPOP (Teaching Lodge)
- Independent/peer group community activity
- Partner aligned activity

#LEADYOURFUTURE



Changemaking IN ACTION

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Change makers will use their skills of engagement, fundraising, resource management, communication, community development and evaluation to lead change with their communities. Critical points of assessment and evaluation will occur throughout the Rural Change Maker Program, evaluating skill development, competencies, and program/project impact. Access to digital engagement tools will also be provided through ROI Connect to accommodate community engagement and feedback for ongoing project needs of changemakers.

“

This has been a confidence building experience for me as I was able to plan and implement a community initiative from start to finish.

”

REGIONAL RuralPOPs



RURAL DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Regional RuralPOPs are an investment by ROI and partner organizations in local youth capacity and rural communities. They provide a means for changemakers to build relationships with local community members and groups to address priority needs while creating economic stimulus for local business and BIAs through the creation of events and activities surrounding the RuralPOP. They also provide economic opportunities for partner organizations wishing to utilize employment programs for youth to take part in RuralPOP management and maintenance.



CHANGE MAKERS WILL CHOOSE THEIR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY. A RuralPOP OR TEACHING LODGE IS ONE AVAILABLE PATHWAY.

Delivery of a RuralPOP experience as part of the Change Maker program is a mutually beneficial prospect for regional partners, rural communities, emerging leaders, businesses and organizations. They add vibrant social infrastructure that attracts and delights visitors while advancing local community economic development goals. An advisory committee of Rural Change Makers, regional partners, ROI staff, mentors, planners, local organizations, BIAs and business owners come together to support the planning and development of the RuralPOP. Events, activities and themes will be discovered through this advisory committee. Change Makers themselves will create many of the partnerships related to the RuralPOP and their community projects, but partners play an important role in supporting connections, offering guidance, and establishing networks. ROI in collaboration with regional partners will provide general oversight of RuralPOPs.



Introducing the 2023 FACES OF CHANGE



Storm McKay



Jobby Strang



Lawna Atkins



Mary Gailynne Fiddler



Raven Chikane



Moriano Owen



Ezra Kamenawatamin

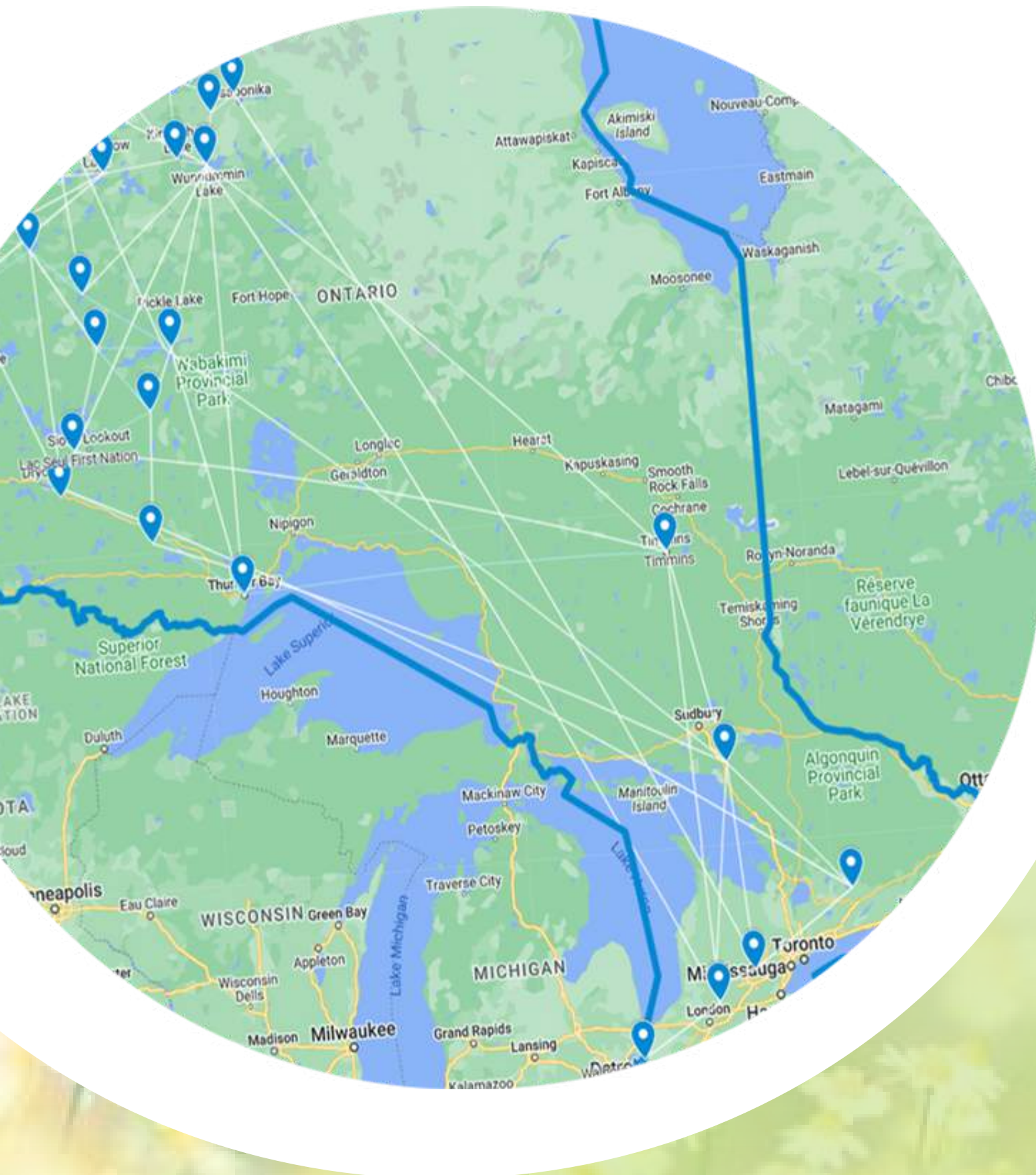


Martha Kataquapit



Daisy McKay





Change Maker Community Impact

32 EMERGING LEADERS - from over 31 rural communities including a collective of 24 First Nations in NW Ontario, Timmins, Southwestern, Eastern and Central Ontario Communities

*A **robust social ecosystem** and cross pollination of inter-regional, cross-sector networks creating over 2500 connections.*

***Building meaningful local rural development outcomes** that reflects the values, priorities and diversity of people, places and industry of Rural Ontario Communities.*

#LEADINGtheFUTURE

2023 DRURAL CHANGE MAKER PRIORITIES



WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Benchmarks have been established as indicators of program and community impact with increased rural retention of youth, increased leadership skill competencies, increased sense of self awareness, a greater sense of belonging and belief by changemakers that they have made a difference with meaningful contributions to their communities.

[Check out our program evaluation report.](#)

#LEADYOURFUTURE



RURAL CHANGE MAKERS PROGRAM IMPACT

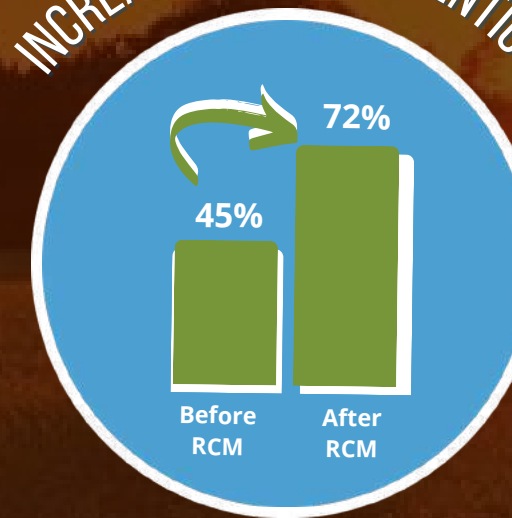
SKILL DEVELOPMENT



93 %

reported that they were **leaving the program with the knowledge and practical skills needed to lead effective community change.**

INCREASED RURAL RETENTION



72 %

said they are **likely to stay in their local community** to work and live (up from 45% at the start of the program).

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



78 %

believed that they made a meaningful contribution to their community by taking part in the program.

INCREASED COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS



91 %

believe they can **make a difference and have a sense of belonging** within their community.

RCM PROGRAM PARTNERS



Share Gifts of Knowledge & Expertise

Many partners support curriculum learning labs providing speakers, experts and content.



Provide Financial Support for Program Delivery and Resources

Partners and sponsors support delivery of the program and the purchase of curriculum resources.



Share Gifts of Time and Encouragement

Many partners and elders provide coaching and mentorship one on one to change makers.



Support Promotion & Recruitment of Local Youth

Regional partnerships support program promotion and local recruitment of emerging leaders.



Build Wrap around Supports for Equity Deserving Youth

Partners support program inclusion by minimizing barriers & connecting youth to resources & community supports.



Align Values, Priorities and Shared Objectives with Resources.

All program partners work toward our shared strengths, values and priorities, giving our collective resources to care for the future.

#LEADTHEFUTURE

RURAL
CHANGE
MAKERS

Thank you

RURAL CHANGE MAKER PARTNERS



Foundation



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

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