



Elephant Thoughts

Educational Outreach

Bring the expertise of hundreds of science education specialists into every lesson with this multiple award winning program.

*Educating Children.
Enhancing Communities.
Embracing the Planet.*

Long Lake #58 First Nation Land Stewards Internship Program



Mid-Term Report

September 2017

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Interns learn how to test water quality at seven different sites. This site is located under the Trans-Canada Highway in the town of Longlac, ON.



On the cover: Interns jump for joy at Pamela Lake near Long Lake #58 First Nation.



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Program Synopsis

In total, five different Elephant Thoughts instructors each with unique skill sets, visited Long Lake #58 First Nation to deliver a 4-week, Land Stewards Internship Program.

Who

The Land Stewards Internship program was offered to a total of 10 youth from Long Lake #58 First Nation, ranging in age from 15 to 26.

What

During the 4-week internship, participants were involved in a number of different activities aimed at developing job readiness skills in varying fields: environmental science workshops, online mapping project, interviewing Elders on traditional land use and changes in their local environment, and running an energy themed science day camp for children.

When

The program ran Monday – Friday, from 9:00am 4:30pm from August 7th to September 1st, 2017.

Where

The program took place at the Adult Education classroom in Long Lake #58. Daily trips were taken to nearby areas to participate in outdoor education and environmental science activities.

Why Elephant Thoughts.....

- Only teacher run Canadian education organization with all programming created by teachers
- We deliver more programs to more communities than any other organization
- We are not for profit; a registered Canadian education charity and we deliver the most innovative, large equipment and completely unique programming in the country

Intern learns fire-starting techniques using flint and steel, and the bow drill.





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Activities Performed This Year

The following is a breakdown of the activities performed and the skills acquired during this program.

1) Environmental Science Workshops

Throughout the first three weeks, interns participated in a number of environmental science workshops, aimed at developing job readiness skills applicable to employment opportunities in their area, most of which are resource and environmental based. Here are some of those workshops:

Water Testing

Once students received a background lesson on water quality and testing, interns selected seven locations in their local area to test pH, total alkalinity, phosphate, and nitrate/nitrite levels.

“My favourite aspect of the program would have to be the sampling for water quality. We learned how to measure different pH levels, phosphate levels, and other things.”

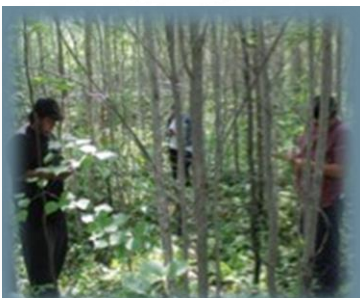
– Madi Towegishig, 16

Biodiversity Plots

Using hand-made quadrats, interns participated in biodiversity studies in three local areas: highly disturbed area, semi-disturbed area, and natural area. Using plant and animal guide books, students would count and record the number of different species found inside their plots.

Cordage Making

Using wood fibers harvested from local trees, interns learn how to make their own rope, a technique used by their ancestors.



Interns recording species found in their plots during a biodiversity study.



Intern participating in traditional cordage making.



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Intern using binoculars to identify local bird species.

"I loved learning more about the environment and biodiversity. Next summer I would like to document traditional environmental knowledge of our Indigenous people."

- Roderick Desmoulin,
25

Right: Interns participate in a stream study.

Activities Performed This Year

Bird & Plant Identification

Using binoculars and guide books, interns take part in a nature hike where they learn to identify different birds, trees and plants found in their local environment.

Stream Study

Interns selected a stream behind a mill to complete a stream study. They measured abiotic and biotic factors in order to determine the health of the stream. Using equipment such as dip nets, magnifying glasses and classification charts students learned how to gather and analyze data.

Orienteering and Geocaching

Using a map, compass and GPS units, interns learned how to navigate in their surroundings. The interns created both of the orienteering courses for children who participated in the summer camp during the final week of the program.





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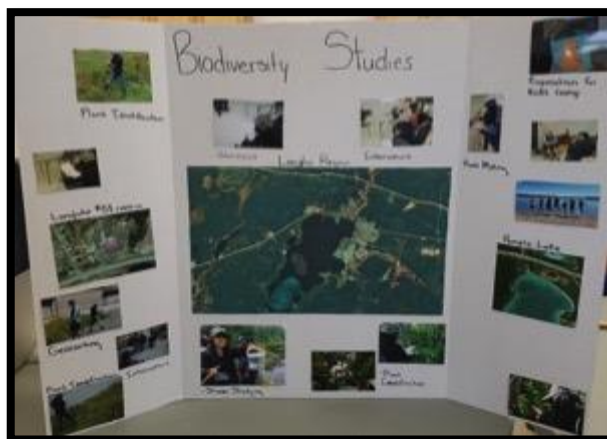
Activities Performed This Year

2) Mapping Project

Using online mapping software, created a map to showcase all of the environmental skills they had acquired throughout the program. This activity taught them computer skills, information organization and presentation skills, as well as time management skills. The pictures below display some of their completed projects.

"My favourite aspects of the program were meeting new people, learning about new things, and doing experiments in my local environment. I would like to start a community garden and build an ad campaign around it, release online videos to show we start it."

- Alphonse Waboose,
26



Right: Interns show off
their mapping projects



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Activities Performed This Year

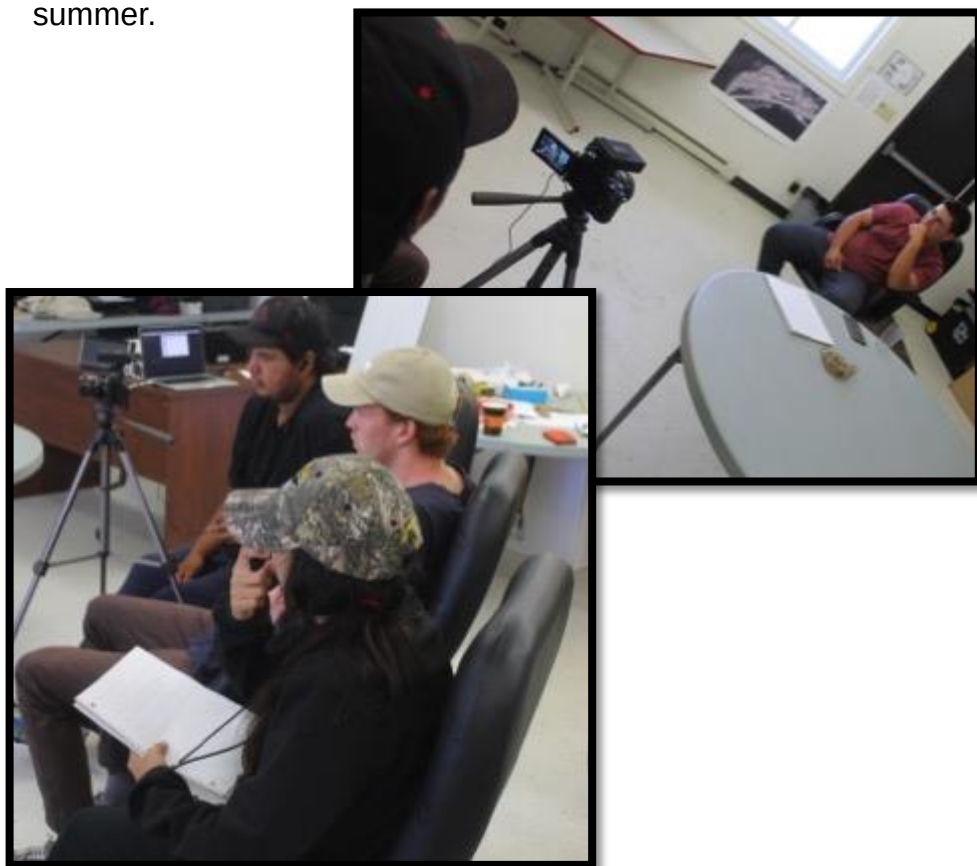
3) Traditional Knowledge Video

Interns created a work plan for the traditional knowledge video project and used it to complete all steps necessary to create a video. The group learned team work skills, how to manage scheduling and logistics, interpersonal skills, technical camera skills, and how to be adaptable in changing situations. In total, the team interviewed 4 different community members and Elders about traditional environmental knowledge. They used this information to determine which environmental projects they embark on next summer.

"The job ready skills I have learned throughout this program were how to be more prepared for the unexpected and be more open to what's out there. My favourite aspects of the program were the friendly people to meet every morning, the team building and problem solving games we played, learning about the environment, and doing it all in a fun way"

- Jorden Smith, 15

Right: Interns practice their camera and formal interviewing skills.





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Activities Performed This Year

4) Summer Science Camps

During the third week of the program, interns learned how to deliver a summer camp for children. Beyond learning the activities and workshops, they were taught group and behaviour management skills. Each intern was responsible for delivering one activity per day. Here are some of the activities;

Outdoor activities: Participants spend time outdoors participating in nature walks, group games, orienteering and geocaching courses, and rocket launches.

Snap Circuits: Participants develop their understanding of electricity and circuitry by building their own electrical circuits using snap circuit kits.

Hand Crank & Bike Generator: Students learn about energy efficiency of different light bulbs through powering them with their own body.

Tesla Coil: Students learn about conductors and insulators while observing demonstrations with the Tesla coil. Tesla coil is a fun, safe way to get your hands on dynamic electricity.

Shrinky Dinks: Students have the opportunity to design their own electrical circuit and then shrinking it using a special polymer plastic.

Robotics: Through a variety of different robots, participants learn about programming, coding, and building robots. Specific robot activities included: Ozobots, Talkbots and Dash & Dot.





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Program Feedback

The following document is a feedback form completed by Elroy Pecarski, the community liaison for the program. His support was invaluable in the success of this program.

Student / Teacher / Parent / Community Member (please circle one)

Name: ELROY PECARSKI

Date: SEPT 1 / 17

Tell us about your experience with the Elephant Thoughts program in your community (activities, instruction and overall impression)

I was the go between the community and the instructors for the program. I found the communication aspect with the instructors very easy to follow. Impressed with how they were structured. They had a visual step by step outline for our students each day and a vision for the week and length of program. Plus back-up plans when needed.

What were your favourite parts of the Elephant Thoughts programming in your community?

The first part was how I seen my students get involved into the program. How they got comfortable and they went out of their comfort zones. How when I came into parts of the program they were so into it they would continue to work. Now they learned to plan and execute. This last week when they did science camp and how they inter acted with the little ones was awesome.

Would you recommend the Elephant Thoughts program to other communities that are looking for a similar kind of program? Why?

I would recommend this to every community. When they started they were young adults. As they progressed they became responsible young adults. They learned skills which will serve them in the community. They started and proceeded to realize they have a voice and they can contribute to their communities.

I give permission to Elephant Thoughts to use my comments as a reference, or for program promotion (initials) EP

I am very happy to be connected to the program. And already anxious for this program to continue. I also enjoyed working with the project leaders they are really down to earth and care for the program

"I would recommend this program to every community. When the interns started they realized they have a voice and they can contribute to their communities."

Elroy Pecarski,
Teacher – Long
Lake #58 FN



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Future Programming

At the end of this year's program, interns selected a environment project to be completed next summer. We will provide all materials necessary, as well as guidance and support as interns complete this independent or small-group project. The goals of the project are to implement environmental remediation techniques or educate the community on ways they can be more environmentally conscious.

We already have 10 interns confirmed for next summer, with an additional 10 on a waiting list in case some of the confirmed interns are unable to complete the program.

We look forward to continuing this program in Long Lake #58 First Nation and seeing the impact these interns will make in their community in years to come.



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Acknowledgments

Thank you to all of the funders who have supported our internship programs to date. Without you, these incredible programs would not be possible.



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