



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

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Unclassified

Clyde River Detachment
Clyde River, Nunavut

Your File Votre référence

Mr. Jakob Gearhead
Ilisaqsivik Center

Our File Notre référence

22nd March, 2007

Hip Hop

I would like to acknowledge at this time the outstanding work that is being done by the Hip Hop society in the community of Clyde River, Nunavut. The work that is being accomplished is not gone unnoticed. It is simply outstanding.

On the 22nd of February, 2007, I had the opportunity to listen as to what Judge Brown of the Nunavut Court of Justice had to say regarding the community and how well it seems to be functioning when it comes to the Youth of Clyde River. In her remarks during court, while at the Community Center, she went on to say that something very positive is happening. Judge Brown stated that, in the other communities where she presides over, the court docket consists of both Adult and Youth charges and normally there is more Youth charges than Adult. She says it is outstanding to come to Clyde River and see that there was only one youth charged and it is a direct result of certain people in the community doing some very outstanding work. Judge Brown commented that the youth are to be complemented for this outstanding behaviour.

As a police officer in the community I would personally like to thank many people who have contributed to the success of the youth and especially to the Hip Hop society for turning out such positive citizens.

It is with this success, along with the positive attitude of the youth, that many things can be accomplished. It is with this strong desire by the youth and the workers that have made Hip Hop a success to date. The crime rate has dropped dramatically along with the dependency on solvents and the suicide rate.

It was a pleasure to see the youth perform at the community center with the instructors from here and Ottawa and I would encourage everyone to keep up the excellent work. You are all to be commended.

Al Jagoe, Cst.
Clyde River Detachment

Canada



Department of Health & Social Services: Baffin

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Health Clinic

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Social Service

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19 March 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the programs that are coordinated by Ilisqsvik Wellness Centre.

The youth drop in centre has been very successful in providing a place where youth can go, enjoy each other's company and support each other in difficult times. Without this centre it is my belief that some youth would be looking for other avenues to relieve the boredom that takes place, often these are crime related or solvent related.

Hip Hop has brought a change to the Clyde River community. This has been seen not only by me but other members of the community and outside the community of Clyde River. My job description is social worker/Probation officer for Clyde River. Part of my job is to attend court on the three month court circuit. In February Judge Beverly Brown made a comment in court stating she was impressed with the lack of youth on the youth court list. She acknowledged the positive effect Hip Hop was having in the community. I personally deal with a lot of Clyde River's youth in my role as social work, mental health and probation worker. I have had youth come up to me in town and express how they feel happy and no longer want to harm themselves and are not taking any drugs, they believe it is because of Hip Hop. They have stated Hip Hop has given them something to enjoy and someone to talk with. I recently attended the practice for the Hip Hop concert that was put on by the Hip Hop team and very well supported by the general community. I was impressed by the amount of youth attending and the enjoyment they were experiencing. The coordinator is not only providing an avenue to express Hip Hop but she is also an adult that the youth can go and talk over issues of concerns. Although this may not be a trained counselor, she is able to provide a sounding board with someone that the youth respect and trust. When needed youth are referred to alternative resources that are available in town, myself included.

Clyde River is an Inuit community affected by the high suicide rate in Nunavut. Often the average suicide age range is in the 15-25 age bracket. It is my experience, if programs are provided the youth often take part. I have noticed a drop in people coming into my office with suicidal ideation. These programs have helped provide youth with a secure safe place for them to express their needs and emotions.

It is my belief the Ilisqsvik coordinated programs have been a huge benefit to the community of Clyde River. Not only have they benefited the youth but the programs have also helped provide the adults with feelings of pride. They see their youth working in positive areas when they have previously been involved in crime, drugs or had constant suicidal ideation. It appears the Clyde River community is in support of the programs that are run by Ilisqsvik.

Anna-marie Doyle
Social Worker
Clyde River

Jaqueline Sheffield RPN
Community Mental Health Nurse

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Monday, March 12, 2007.

I am writing this letter in support of the *Hip Hop Program for Youth* run by the *Ilisaqsivik Society* in Clyde River, Nunavut. This program has had positive, lasting effects on our youth in terms of their wellness, making healthy choices, and reducing the rates of both suicide and crime. I have been teaching in this community for several years now, and have daily contact with many of our youth. This year I have witnessed, first hand, the positive impacts of the hip hop program on students' attitudes, and on their physical, socio-emotional, and academic well being.

It is important for you to understand about the community itself. These students have grown up in a remote, fly-in only community on the northeast coast of Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. The population is approximately 850, sixty percent of whom are under nineteen years of age. We have our fair share of social problems. Drug and alcohol abuse is very prevalent in our community, particularly with our youth. The suicide and youth crime rates here are high as well.

There are very few options available for these youth, both recreationally and career wise. We have a school gym, and an arena. There are few organized recreational activities available. For much of the year the harsh environmental conditions make outdoor activities challenging. The \$3000.00 price tag for a plane ticket to get to the nearest major center makes participation in many activities offered elsewhere in Canada impossible. Prior to Ilisaqsivik's involvement in promoting the hip hop movement in Clyde, many of our youth felt isolated, and lacked specific direction in their lives.

The staff involved in this program from Ilisaqsivik Society are very dedicated, and this dedication to and belief in the youth of Clyde River is demonstrated daily through holding hip hop practices three days a week, and ensuring that youth are sober during practices. The staff members associated with this program make themselves available for youth to talk to 24 hours a day. They have managed to motivate these youth to faithfully show up at practices, and to have a passion for something that is constructive, healthy, and allows them to express themselves in creative and healthy ways. I would like to speak to the direct affects I have seen at the school.

Several of the teachers here, myself included, have used the students' obvious passion for hip hop to form a bridge to reach some of our most challenging students. We have used different aspects of hip hop culture to increase students' motivation to attend school. These students are learning to creatively express themselves through art (graffiti), dance (break-dancing), and through music (rap). They are writing their own songs, creating their own graffiti designs, and staying in shape through break-dancing.

These students are developing a sense of themselves. They are becoming more independent and self-reliant. Their self-esteem has improved, and they are more able to express emotions in a positive, constructive way. With this newfound passion, and with this program's positive influence, our youth are becoming more able to make healthy choices in their lives. Through being able to form a common bond with my students through hip hop, many have confided in me that they have stopped taking drugs completely, or have really cut down their use of drugs and alcohol as a direct result of the message the program sends, and the dedication and care towards our youth staff members show.

I would like to close by saying that our youth are between cultures, the traditional and the contemporary. This program has given them an outlet to express themselves and has given them the courage to begin to create a unique identity for their own generation of Inuit. There are very few individuals in whom the youth in Clyde River are able to trust and look up to. The staff members involved in this program are on the top of that very short list. I urge you to please to help us to continue the excellent work in helping our youth to have a focus in their lives, and to avoid going down or returning to a life of drug addiction and crime. This program to date has had a very positive impact on helping our youth to make healthy choices in their lives. I hope you will provide the funding necessary to continue this beneficial program for our youth.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below if you have any questions concerning my letter of support.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanie Morris
ESL/Literacy Specialist, Quluaq School
Clyde River, NU
X0A 0E0 Tel: (867) 924-6850

March 16, 2007

To Whom it May Concern,

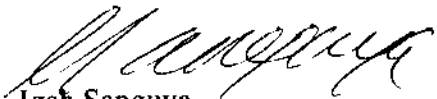
I am writing this letter in support of Ilisaqsivik's Sapilitailigit Hip Hop Program in Clyde River.

Hip Hop music and dance is very popular among youth in Clyde River. Ilisaqsivik has very successfully begun to use Hip Hop as a way to reach young people with positive messages about mental and physical health, including issues related to solvent abuse and other addictions, suicide prevention, respect and responsibility, traditional Inuit Societal Values, nutrition, cultural skills including drum dancing, throat singing, and Aya-ya songs, building healthy relationships, and creating healthy personal boundaries.

This program began in Clyde River in December 2005 and has been extremely successful. Youth in Clyde River have responded with enthusiasm to the Sapiliqtailigit Hip Hop Program. A Youth Advocate Worker from Ilisaqsivik Society supervises practice and also gives talks about Wellness and Cultural related topics, and provides information and referrals when necessary. Over 70 youth regularly participate in weekly hip hop practices. In my position as the Community Health Representative, I have personally witnessed evidence of a decrease in the amount of substance abuse (including solvent abuse) among youth who participate in Hip Hop. I have also witnessed significant improvements in the mental health, confidence and self-esteem of participants in the hip hop program. Finally, there have been less incidents of petty crime, including break-ins, vandalism, and robbery since this hip hop program began.

The Sapiliqtailigit Hip Hop Program in Clyde River has been able to successfully connect with the youth of Clyde River, and has influenced very positive change in their physical and mental wellbeing. Significant positive momentum has been generated and the entire community is benefiting. For these reasons, I am happy to write this letter in support of funding for the Sapiliqtailigit Hip Hop Program in Clyde River.

Sincerely,



Igah Sanguya
Community Health Representative
Health Centre
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Clyde River, NU X0A0E0