



Are you thinking about applying to the **Youth Leadership Academy Program (YLAP)** this summer???

- ✓ A brand-new program for youth ages 18–29
- ✓ Full-time (Monday–Friday), May 25th–August 14th
- ✓ Based in Dakwākāda (Haines Junction)
- ✓ Training allowance: \$28/hour
- ✓ Learn about yourself, your culture and your government
- ✓ Learn from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, instructors, and guest speakers
- ✓ Get a new Dell laptop and accessories
- ✓ Graduate with a \$500 bonus and join the YLAP Alumni

Here's a snapshot of the program areas & some of the activities offered this summer:

Unit 1 - Walking Our Path: Strengthening Mind, Body & Spirit

This unit helps you focus on who you are and what you want your future to look like. You'll also learn about supports that can help you get there. Expect to learn a lot about yourself and try different self-care practices.

- Take time to look at your mind, body and spirit – how are you really doing and what support do you need to be your best self?
- Explore your values, strengths, and goals for the future
- Learn about your personality style and how you work with others
- Learn how to manage your mental health (stress, burnout, and finding balance)
- Practice grounding and bring ceremony into your life
- Learn about traditional healing, as well as holistic practices for self-care (meditation, drumming, energy work, sound therapy, tapping, etc.)
- Lead a self-care activity for your peers
- Build a personal wellness plan for the future

Unit 2 - Growing Leaders: Building Confidence & Finding Your Voice

Get ready to explore what kind of leader you want to be—and who's supported you along the way. You'll build communication skills and get tools for tough conversations and challenging work situations. This unit is about noticing your strengths, practicing gratitude, and creating space for you to shine.

- Learn about different leadership styles and look at leaders in your community who inspire you
- Create your own leadership origin story and personal leadership philosophy
- Level up your communication skills: practice public speaking, active listening and navigating tough conversations
- Talk openly about imposter syndrome (the feeling that you're not as capable as others think you are) and explore ways to build your confidence
- Learn about lateral violence (harmful conflict within a community) and how to create a safe, respectful workplace
- Participate in a Lateral Kindness Workshop

Unit 3 - Honoring Our Ancestors' Gifts: Culture, Land & Identity

In this unit, you'll explore how culture and connection to the land shape the way you see the world. You'll get teachings about history, language, and traditional ways—and also look at modern ways CAFN's language and culture can be protected for future generations. You'll hear from Elders about traditional practices and how they fit within today's laws and regulations. This unit wraps up by getting out on the land and learning orienteering on CAFN's Traditional Territory.

- Learn about Our Dän K'è Ways
- Complete a 2-day CAFN 101 session
- Learn about CAFN's Clans System workshop
- Build your confidence speaking Southern Tutchone
- Explore the relationship between culture, identity and worldview
- Complete a personal genealogy project (check out the archives, interview your family and learn from your Elders)
- Create and video a personal introduction (in Southern Tutchone if you want)
- Learn about cool ways modern technology is being used to preserve culture (3-D printing of artifacts, virtual reality experiences, holograms for storytelling/traditional demonstrations, AI tools, language apps, etc.)

- Learn about OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession): know your rights to protect your data, information, and knowledge systems
- Create a cultural preservation plan for one area of your language or culture that's important to you and present your idea to Leadership
- Learn about traditional hunting, fishing and trapping practices as well as current regulations and co-management models
- Get out on the land for an Orienteering training workshop

Unit 4 - Leading with Knowledge: How Our Government Works

In this unit, you'll learn about the history of self-government and how we got to where we are today. You'll explore key documents, policies, and laws that affect CAFN's ability to carry out its modern treaty agreements. You'll also learn how CAFN is run—and what it can look like to step into a Leadership role in your nation.

- Learn about the history of Yukon Land Claims, modern treaties, self-government, and intergovernmental relationships
- Explore the power and influence of the TRC Calls to Action (Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow
- Attend a 3-day Treaty Simulation Workshop facilitated by the Gordon Foundation - participate in mock meetings, debates, and role-playing
- Learn how CAFN's government and administration are run (governance model, departments, understanding the financial picture, human resource management, labour laws, etc.)
- Learn from past and present leaders about what it takes to step forward to lead in your community - create your own mock political campaign to run for Leadership

Unit 5 - Building Our Future: Community Prosperity & Caring for the Land

Unit 5 helps you get more money-savvy—both for your own life and as a Citizen thinking about community prosperity. You'll explore economic development, how resources are managed, and how to balance these responsibilities with land stewardship and community wellbeing.

- Learn about personal budgeting, investing and financial planning
- Find out what it takes to start your own business from the ground up
- Learn how procurement (the process used to purchase goods and hire businesses for services) can support your business—join a panel on the

Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy (YFNPP) with representatives (CAFN business owners, YG, regulators) and explore whether the policy is working for CAFN businesses

- Learn about the project management cycle
- Learn about the connection between building a 'social enterprise,' that gives back to the community
- Come up with a great community project and pitch your idea!
- Learn about current resource management challenges that CAFN is facing
- See how resource management and economic development connect—and why land stewardship and community wellbeing matter
- Learn about the history and the evolution of the Asheyi (Aishihik) Hydro facility – tour the facility, visit the hydro dam and learn from your Elders about the old village and surrounding area

Unit 6 - Community Wisdom: Let Our People Guide the Way

In this unit, you'll learn why governments need to be led by community priorities—and what makes it hard to make sure all Citizens' voices are heard. You'll practice using social media in a good way to connect with Citizens of all ages, and you'll build skills for planning and running an event. You'll also learn what it's like when other governments and organizations consult with CAFN, and what meaningful consultation can look like for reconciliation.

- Learn about the different roles and responsibilities of being a board or committee member and explore ways to use social media and communication tools to ensure that all Citizens' voices are heard
- Explore how to bring First Nations ways of knowing and being into board and committee practices and procedures (within CAFN and other organizations)
- Look at the importance of respecting confidentiality and acknowledging conflicts of interest
- Practice connecting with the community by planning and hosting a 'Youth and Elder's Cards and Coffee' event

To wrap up the program, students will take a 3-day Flatwater Canoe Safety Course at Pine Lake and practice their bushcraft skills. Then, the class heads to Mush Lake for a 5-day camping trip on the land. The camp will be supported by Parks Canada (including a fish camp), CAFN's Land Guardians, and invited Elders. Get ready to hike, paddle, explore, and listen to stories around the campfire!

Seats in the Youth Leadership Academy are limited, so sign-up today!