



## **THE WARRIOR PROGRAM MODEL**

### **THE ORIGIN OF THE WARRIOR PROGRAM**

The roots of the Warrior program model are found in an approach used to develop junior officers in the infantry. The framework of the model is enhanced by weaving outdoor survival skills and local traditional knowledge and practices into the program so it is specific to the teachings of your community. The first Warrior program grew from the guidance of Yuułuꞑitꞑath Elders, adults and young men about the traditional ways that capacity and confidence were built in their young men. Over the last four years we have seen the program grow steadily in popularity and we continue to meet one night per week and one weekend per month. On weeknights Warriors learn a range of skills and provide support to Elders and community members with yard work around their homes. On weekend trips Warriors apply their traditional and survival skills while learning teamwork and team leadership. Since its launch in 2015 we have seen a direct transfer of the confidence these men develop on the land to the confidence they show at school, at work and in the community.

### **THE DESIGN OF YOUR WARRIOR PROGRAM**

We seek your approval to begin the design of a Warrior program for your Nation. The young men would meet one afternoon/evening a week and spend one weekend a month on the land in your traditional territory. Although the specific age range will be determined by your community needs, we anticipate that it will be designed for young men aged 9 to 17. To be an effective leader, it is important to learn how to be a good follower so the youth (aged 9 to 13) are the 'people' that the teenagers (aged 14 to 17) look after to practice their leadership. We are currently working with SD70 to develop three 4-credit leadership courses for grades 10, 11 and 12. It will be important to learn from Elders, Chief and Council and community members to ensure that the leadership teachings used in the program align to the traditional ways that your leaders were groomed. We will also connect with parents, guardians and the youth through group meetings, one-on-one interviews and phone calls to ensure the program meets the needs of your young people.

### **WHAT WILL YOUR WARRIOR LEARN?**

We nurture respect, responsibility and discipline in all of our Warriors – these are the three pillars of the Warrior program. While on the land, Warriors learn about traditional medicine and the resources that the forest and ocean can provide. Warriors learn to hunt and use a weapon safely, to gather, and to track animals. They learn to respect what they hunt and gather – to shoot only what they will eat and give thanks for the food that is given to them. Most importantly, Warriors learn that culture is medicine. They learn how to work as a team and when ready, to lead that team. They come to appreciate the value of hard work and showing initiative while building resilience and caring for one another.

The Warrior program has created a safe space for Elders and community members to rebuild pride through sharing their skills and stories. They have also found purpose in grooming the young men of their community to be the leaders that the Nation will need in the future. Please see this link to our Warrior video to hear the impact of this program from the words of its current participants: <https://vimeo.com/241435955> and <https://vimeo.com/285752620>. We look forward to supporting you to design and launch your own version of the Warrior program.