

# *First Response: “Best Camp Ever!”*

## **Junior and Youth First Responders Boot Camp**

*Saskatchewan Emergency Services and Saskatchewan Mining Industry  
Create First Responders Boot Camp for Youth*

Workplace safety is paramount to Saskatchewan mining companies, but young people do not know about the many career and business opportunities in mining health and safety. In addition, female-identifying, Indigenous and immigrant populations are underrepresented in the mining industry.

To help address these issues, the Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA), in collaboration with community and industry partners and with support from the International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII), developed a week-long camp for Indigenous youth from both rural and urban communities. The one-week program was held in both 2018 and 2019.

Youth ages 13-16 in mock emergency responses (pictured) and fire cadet training, learning directly from firefighters and paramedics. They toured first responder facilities such as Saskatoon Fire Hall No. 1 and the STARS Air Ambulance Facility. In the evenings, the participants took part in cultural programming such as Wanuskewin tours, as well as networking events with industry professionals, including women in emergency response careers and other non-traditional roles.

The response to this program from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. From thriving in a team environment, the participants also obtained an increased awareness of safety in their own personal lives. In addition, they left the boot camp with industry-recognized certifications in First Aid/CPR, WHMIS and Youth Worker Readiness, giving them qualifications and confidence to pursue related careers.



The program was also a success from an industry perspective. The camp showcased non-standard mining careers to Indigenous youth and in both years, there were more female participants than male. Although it is too early to know how many of the boot camp participants will choose a career in mine safety, it will undoubtedly be more of them than would have done so without this program.

# Junior and Youth First Responders Boot Camp

## Q U I C K F A C T S

The Junior and Youth First Responders Boot Camp was a two-year pilot project to promote mining safety related careers to under-represented groups (Indigenous peoples, women, immigrants) in the mining industry.

This project focused on Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan.

**Camps: July 15-20, 2018 and August 6-9, 2019**

### Activities Included:

- General Safety Awareness and Hazard Recognition
- Critical Stress - Indigenous Health and Spirituality
- Search and Rescue
- Ergonomics & PPE
- Emergency First Aid & CPR
- WHMIS Training
- Medavie Ambulance Dispatch Tour
- STARS Air Ambulance Tour
- Talk: Kurt Delorme, Saskatoon Fire Department
- Young Worker Readiness Training
- Accident Investigation
- Fire Fighting Training
- Final Competition/Rodeo

### Outcomes:

- Created and increased awareness of safety and mine safety careers in Indigenous youth – 100% of participants were Indigenous
- 2018: 20 participants (12 female (60%))
- 2019: 15 participants (11 female (73%))
  - ❖ High female participation good indicator for targeted outreach
- Majority of participants completed CPR/First Aid/WHMIS/Youth Worker Readiness certifications
- Energizing and fun week for the cadets and event staff

### PROJECT INFORMATION:

**Project Duration:** January 2018 – December 2019

**Project Cost:** \$186,000

IMII Contribution: \$ 91,000

In-Kind Services: \$ 95,000

### Project Collaborators and In-Kind Services (2018 and 2019 unless noted):

Saskatchewan Mining Association & Member Companies  
Saskatoon Fire Department ♦ STARS Air Ambulance  
Medavie West Health Services  
WERT (Warman Emergency Response Team)  
Saskatoon Tribal Council  
Saskatoon Public Schools/SIEC (Royal West School) (2019)  
SGI ♦ Whitecap Dakota First Nation (2018)

**Project Organized by Saskatchewan Mining Association**