

Breaking waves

Outdoor leadership program spreads across Arctic

by Philippe Melis
Northern News Services
Beautiful Delta

A group of 11 Inuvialuit teenagers from Padanuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok, Sachs Harbour and Akkivik will soon be travelling the Horton River on a two-week journey.

The 320-kilometre trip happens July 11 to 26, as part of a leadership program offered by the Inuvialuit Development Corp.

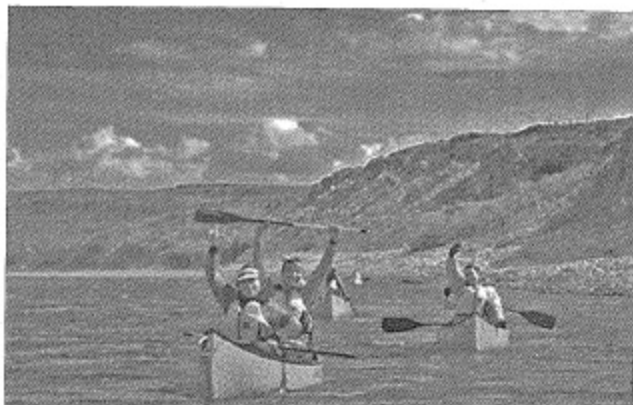
Peter Trainor, the program's summer coordinator,

Travellers of the 2006 Arctic Leadership Expedition Program wave to the camera on the Horton River.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INUVIALUIT DEVELOPMENT CORP.

said teachers recommended all the youth.

"They are nominated by their high-schools," he said



adding that the trips teach teamwork, problem solving and outdoor skills.

The Horton River is a good location for the trip because it offers beautiful scenery, and isn't too fast, he said.

"Definitely, you don't need to have any serious paddling experience, though obviously our instructors have all their certifications," he said.

Program expands

The program has been running for three years in the Northwest, it is now expanding to

other territories.

Trainor said the Nutsui Corp. from Nunavut and the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. from Alaska are also scheduled to send youth this year, bringing the total amount of travellers to 36.

The groups will be travelling at different times but sharing planes, he added, and all trips will fall under the banner of "Arctic Youth Leadership Expedition."

This year's Headfirst Delta participants are Caifan Klenzberg, Jodie Moring and

Kyle Ituaqa from Inuvik; Melanie Wells and Tanya Mae Ruben from Padanuk; Vanessa Antikis from Sachs Harbour; Gloria Orvingmak from Ulukhaktok; Ryan Walker, Ryland Anderson and Theresa Lee Elias from

Tuktoyaktuk and Autumn Scripps from Akkivik.

The group will be escorted by two experienced guides from the Outward Bound adventure tour company, and will earn high-school credit for the excursion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INUVIALUIT DEVELOPMENT CORP.

One of this year's innovations is the inclusion of kids from Nunavut and the Yukon. The groups will travel separately but share planes to cut costs.

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