An Exploration of Benefits for Youth Mentors in an Indigenous High School Peer Mentoring Program

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Agenda

• Context
• Research Focus
• Methodology
• Findings
• Discussion
• Recommendations

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Engaging Indigenous Youth with Education, through Education

Benefits for Youth Mentors
Context

- Historical Context of Colonization
- Preserving Indigenous Culture
  - Culturally relevant programming
  - School-based peer mentoring programs
- Gap in literature: benefits for youth mentors
- Fourth R: Uniting Our Nations Program
Research Focus

Research Goals:

• Highlight the youth mentor voice
• Understand the benefits of mentoring younger peers
• Inform future programming

Research Question:

What are the perceived benefits of peer mentoring for youth mentors?
Methodology

- 11 interview participants, 10 statement sorting/rating participants
- All participants 16-18 years old, from two TVDSB secondary schools
- All participants served as peer mentors
- Interviews → Concept mapping
  Thematic analysis
- Ethical considerations
Findings
Concept Mapping

Concept map for the 3-cluster solution showing spatial relationship between 56 generated statements.
Findings
Thematic Analysis

1. Contributions
   • Personal, School, Community, Family

2. Relationships
   • Peer, Family, Fourth R Staff, Other Adults

3. Culture
   • Practices/Teachings, Identity, Togetherness

4. Aspirations
   • Personal, Professional, Academic
Discussion

• Benefits of complementary methods
• Parallels to previous research with mentees
• Meeting program goals
  • Leadership opportunities
  • Connection to culture
  • Participation in education
  • Positive relationships
• Non-Indigenous Mentors
Recommendations

1. Need for cultural relevance
   - School environment
   - Non-Indigenous allies

2. Follow youth mentors more frequently
   - Two-years of participation key?
   - Alternative forms of data collection