



VICCIY

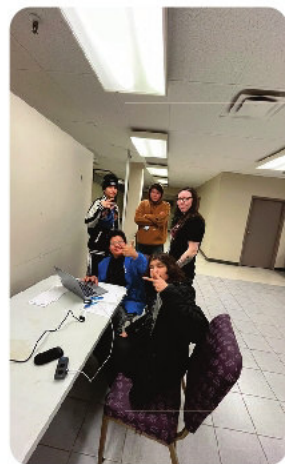
VIRTUAL INTERVENTION AND COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH



Our Legacy 2024 Youth Conference

Members of the VICCIY team accompanied by a member of the Saskatchewan Health Authority visited Prince Albert to take part in facilitating a workshop at the *Our Legacy 2024 Youth Conference* hosted by the PA Indian and Metis Friendship Center in April 2024. The conference welcomed 150 Indigenous youth from Prince Albert and surrounding northern communities.

Our team worked with a group of 25 youths and spent most of our time at Little Red River Park with two local Knowledge Keepers who offered cultural teachings about the land and traditional medicines. The youth learned how to use 360 cameras to capture footage of the learnings that resonated with them. Our team helped the youth edit the footage and turn it into virtual reality (VR) content. In the end, the youth worked together to make 6 short VR segments that they presented at a gala on the last night of the conference. The gala was a great opportunity for all youth at the conference to showcase their hard work from the week, including fashion design, dancing, leatherwork, and media production. We are so grateful to be part of such an impactful and positive event and to provide our team the ability to collaborate and connect with numerous other impactful teams across our province.





NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce our new community partnership with Good Spirit School Division and the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI), as we work together to incorporate the use of VR within curriculum to positively impact student achievement, wellness, and school safety. This project encourages students to utilize VR technology in a way that supports student engagement, culture, language revitalization, and land-based learning.

Up to 50 students within KCI will have the opportunity to create virtual content in outdoor settings and develop skills in utilizing the VR equipment as part of their credit requirements in courses such as Indigenous Studies, Special Projects and other courses that will be offered in the 2024-25 school year. From this project, students will acquire both cultural and technological insights as they collaborate with local Elders (anishinaabek) on the land, engaging deeply in cultural practices and language.

Students will team up with our VR specialists to jointly develop immersive virtual resources tailored to students' needs, preserving the wisdom and narratives shared by Elders in a timeless format. This approach not only revitalizes traditional teachings and language but also promotes student mental health and well-being. This initiative will also provide students an opportunity to earn a post-secondary micro-credential from Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The participating youths' sense of belonging will flourish with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a safe, collective environment that encourages relationship-building and self-determination, ultimately resulting in a strengthened sense of school community.



Kamsack Comprehensive Institute
(KCI)

Objectives and Outcomes



1. Student Engagement



2. Student Credit Attainment



3. Student Elder Relationship



4. School-Community Relationships



5. Student Mental Health & Wellness

Save The Date!

The 2nd annual VICCIY Youth Summit is set to take place May 14th-15th, 2025. Stay tuned for more details to follow.



Logo Update!

After a second call out to communities we were unfortunately unsuccessful in receiving any logo contest submissions. However, our team has connected with an amazing Indigenous Artist Chris Chipak of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation. Chris is known for his ability to incorporate his traditional art to create logos that best suit the recipient. He is recognized for creating the Saskatchewan Rough Riders logo as viewed in the link and/or QR beside. We want to thank Chris for his dedication, and creativity in designing the perfect VICCIY logo for our project. Stay tuned as our new logo announcement will be displayed in the new year's addition of our newsletter.



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

We are seeking participants to take part in our pilot study using interactive VR technology. This pilot project will provide students the opportunity to use a live time VR platform to participate in wellness workshops, connecting them to resources, activities, and provide them with new tools to promote their individual wellness. The pilot will run from January- April, 2025.

If you are interested in taking part in this pilot please email us at VICCIY@saskpolytech.ca to let us know. Each partnering community will require a volunteer Wellness Facilitator to support student participants and manage VR equipment. All required equipment will be provided.

How to get involved ?

Contact the VICCIY Team
Email: VICCIY@Saskpolytech.ca

