

# Northern Youth Abroad

NUNAVUT ♦ NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Request for Proposal:  
Program Evaluation Services

Proposals Due: Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Proposals may be submitted to:

Rebecca Bisson  
Executive Director  
[rebecca@nya.ca](mailto:rebecca@nya.ca)

## About Us

Northern Youth Abroad (NYA) is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization that cultivates youth leadership, individual career goals, cross-cultural awareness, and global citizenship amongst youth from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories aged 15-22. The program strengthens the self-identity and cultural understanding of its Participants and enhances their participation and success in the school system by providing a life-changing and life-directing experience relevant to their needs and aspirations. Originally piloted in 1998 as the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program (NYAP), our organization has grown steadily over the years. In January 2005, the organization expanded its programming into the NWT. In 2006, it underwent an official name change to Northern Youth Abroad.

The NYA model of education through work and travel operates as separate, but related and sequential programs; the Canadian Program, the International Program, and NYA NEXT. Participants in all programs complete a rigorous set of assignments designed to build their cross-cultural awareness, leadership skills, and self-confidence. Our programming provides youth with the opportunity to travel, train, and gain new skills through volunteer work, with the aim of bringing an expanded capacity back to their home communities.

### NYA:

- Considers the culture, language, school structure, family structure, and kinds of travel northern youth have already experienced when designing and implementing the programming.
- Ensures that each Participant creates a support network to help him/her complete the program requirements while they prepare to travel to either southern Canada or Internationally.
- Provides week-long orientation and re-orientation sessions specifically designed to address issues of culture shock, cross-cultural communication, cultural differences and homesickness.

Since the initial pilot program in 1998, we have successfully supported more than 450 northern youth in defining and achieving their education and career goals. Our alumni boast significantly higher than average high school graduation rates and many have continued their education at post-secondary institutions across Canada. NYA has four full-time staff members, a northern-based Board of Directors, and many dedicated volunteers throughout the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and southern Canada. Much more information is available at [www.nya.ca](http://www.nya.ca)

## Background to this RFP

NYA has worked in strong partnership and with the considerable support of the Government of the Northwest Territories since the organization expanded to include youth from the territory in 2005 (and in its origins in 1998, prior to the division of Nunavut). Now concluding its thirteenth year of programming in support of NWT youth we are initializing an external evaluation aimed at assessing our impact and outcomes in the territory to date.

### Request for Proposal Overview

NYA is seeking services to perform an evaluation on NYA's core programs and its impact, success in meeting objectives, and outcomes.

The primary objectives of the evaluation are to;

1. To determine, assess and demonstrate the programs impact on participants and the achievement of positive outcomes identified by NYA.
2. To identify best practices as well as areas for potential development or modification.

### Roles & Responsibilities

We are seeking a consultant to;

- Complete research as necessary to become familiar with NYA's programs, values, and objectives
- Develop an evaluation plan, in collaboration with NYA staff
- Collect and analyze data (including phone interviews, web survey, NYA data review, etc)
- Prepare and present results and final report

NYA will work in collaboration with the consultant and make available all relevant data and materials, as well as assist with arranging interviews with stakeholders etc.

### Timeline and Schedule

Deadline to submit a proposal: Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Awarding of contract: by Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Ideally work would commence at the beginning of October, with a draft report completed in December, and a final report submitted no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

### Qualifications

- Experience in program evaluation including collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data
- Experience in working with youth serving and/or Indigenous organizations
- Experience working in the Canadian North preferred
- Demonstrated experience in developing, selecting and applying principals of program and impact evaluation while maintaining respect for program participant experience.

### Proposal Submission

- A description of the proposed scope of work, methodology and approach;
- A statement of the organizations or individual's qualifications
- Summary of deliverables and proposed timeline
- Detailed cost proposal

Please submit proposals to Rebecca Bisson [rebecca@nya.ca](mailto:rebecca@nya.ca) by August 31, 2017