

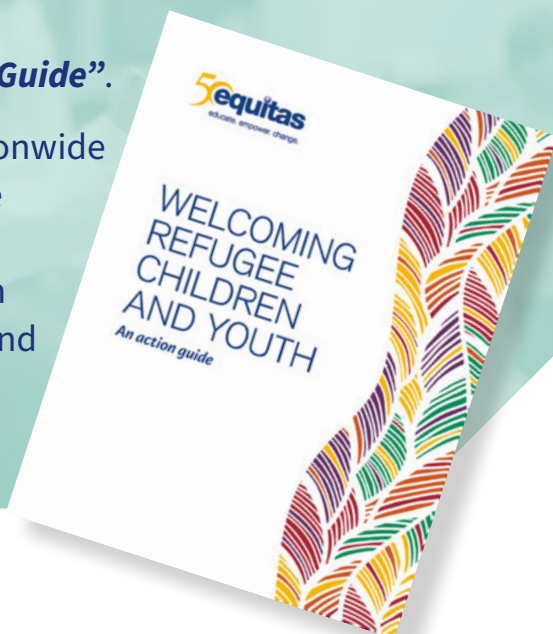
Community of Practice 2019 PROJECT DETAILS

Equitas—International Centre for Human Rights Education works with child-serving organizations across Canada to increase understanding of children’s rights and human rights values, such as inclusion, respect for diversity and cooperation, among staff of partner organizations and their participants.

From March to May of 2019 the Recreation Services Division piloted a new educational toolkit focusing on the inclusion of newcomer and refugee children and youth in Canadian communities:

“*Welcoming Refugee Children and Youth: An Action Guide*”.

Piloting the Refugee Action Guide was a part of a nationwide project and the objectives were to collect and provide feedback from participants and front line employees on the relevance and usefulness of the Refugee Action Guide, while learning how to build more welcoming and inclusive program spaces within our organization.



PROJECT STAGES

Twelve front line employees from the Recreation Services Division were trained on how to implement the Refugee Action Guide within their programs. The pilot project was then split into three parts:

1. Facilitating activities from the Refugee Action Guide

The activities in the Refugee Action Guide are organized around various themes for building welcoming and inclusive spaces, and presented many activities geared towards starting conversations with children about inclusion and acceptance!

A total of three Free Play sites and two Youth Action Centres participated in the project, and were required to facilitate a minimum of nine activities over a six week period between March–May 2019.

2. Collecting feedback from children involved in the activities

Frontline employees were asked to collect quotes from children after each activity. A template for collecting children’s voices was provided to all program sites in order to document the outcomes of each activity they implemented.

All program sites followed the same format for collecting the quotes: children were asked how they felt, what they thought, and how they would like to “take action” to bring awareness to the human right value emphasized in each activity.

3. Collecting feedback from front line employees involved in implementing the activities

Frontline employees were asked to record initial thoughts about each activity, and document whether they felt the activities were useful in helping children develop a greater understanding of their rights, and the rights of newcomers and refugees.

Employees were also sent a short on-line questionnaire developed by Equitas, in order to record their views on the utility of the guide as a whole, and share if they felt the guide changed the way children managed conflict, or how they participate together.

All feedback collected, was shared with the Pilot Coordinator from Equitas.

“We all have differences, but we are all the same”

Saturn and Jupiter—East End CC participant

“We can take action so everyone can play”

Up in the air—Norquay CC participant

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

The Refugee Action Guide includes a section called Taking Action! This section provides information on how children can demonstrate leadership on issues related to the inclusion of newcomers and respect for diversity within the broader community!

We asked each program site involved in the project to support the pilot in undertaking a Community Action Project. The Community Action Project involved a visit to the **Canadian Human Rights Museum**, then participants used this opportunity to express what they learned with their peers, families, and the larger community.

A total of 24 children and youth from four program sites participated in the Community Action Project and, upon their visit to the **Canadian Human Rights Museum**, reported learning about the Holocaust, Residential Schools, and Gandhi.

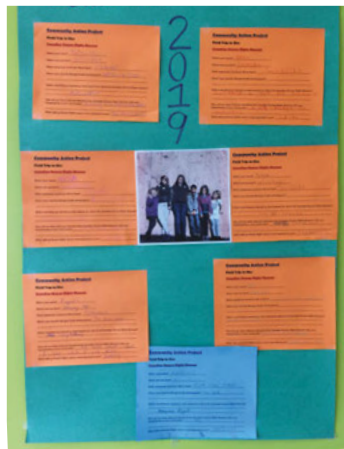
“I learned about Metis rights and can take action by asking people what they know”

Westdale CC participant



“The children had fun playing the games and seemed interested in learning new languages”

Barr-baheer—Norquay CC leader



WALL OF FAME

Of the four program sites who visited the **Canadian Human Rights Museum**, three sites participated in the “Wall of Fame” activity. This activity provided children and youth with the opportunity to share what they learned and was used as a strategy to help continue the conversation about Human Rights at their programs. The goal was to incorporate this activity and use this as a talking point for parents/guardians and the community to engage in!

“We can take action by welcoming all kids in the area”

Welcome Tree—East End CC participant

SUMMARY—PROJECT OUTCOMES

The Recreation Services Division participated in a feedback process for Equitas and of all the participating provinces and service providers, the majority of responses submitted were from Winnipeg.

Many of our employees were new to the overall educational approach of Equitas’ resources, but felt that

the Guide met its intended goals of increasing children’s awareness of building welcoming spaces.

Most of our children and youth reported enjoying participating in the activities!

Training on this Guide was provided to an additional 160 front line employees in 2019.

Program Locations (5 sites/staff)	Total number of Participants involved in Pilot	Canadian HR Museum Visit (Community Action Project)
Total Participants	50	24
Archwood CC (2)	9	8
Norquay CC (2)	12	6
Westdale CC/Pool (3)	16	3
East End Cultural & Leisure Centre (2)	11	7
St. Norbert School (1)	2	0



“I got to feel like I was wanted by others to play the game”

*Cooperative Musical Chairs
Westdale CC participant*

“This activity was beneficial for our site as we were getting new kids each week”

Welcome Tree—East End CC leader

“We can take action by introducing ourselves”

Four Corners—Archwood CC participant

“I learned that some other people like the same things as me”

Four Corners—Westdale CC participant