

Evaluation of Education Program, Katimavik

January 2008 – ongoing

Katimavik is a national non-profit organization that offers a volunteer-service program to young Canadians aged 17-21. During the last 30 years, over 28,000 young people have lived the Katimavik experience, a nine-month journey combining group living, volunteer work and core learning programs. HCA was contracted to evaluate the results of the 2007-08 program, test the reliability and validity of Katimavik's pre and post program questionnaires and to provide ongoing advice as the organization moved to a more evidence based measures of learning. Following evaluation work HCA completed for Katimavik in 2008, HCA was awarded a contract to assist Katimavik with their evaluation needs for 2009-2010. Katimavik's classic program has a term of nine months. In September 2009 they introduced a new 6 month program. HCA will be developing pilot program evaluation strategies for the new programme. Both programs will be reviewed, compared and contrasted through the implementation of newly developed evidenced based pre and post programme questionnaires and focus groups. A comparison group of young people who have not participated in Katimavik will be compared and contrasted to both of Katimavik's programs. At the center of the evaluation methodology is a pre and post survey design, and reliability and validity testing of the questionnaires being developed.

Evaluation of the Community-based Home Management of Malaria Project (HMM) in Kenya, Canadian Red Cross

2010 – Current

HCA is assessing whether the HMM will increase access to effective malaria treatment and improve other essential malaria related knowledge and behaviour in hard to reach communities in Malindi and Lamu districts. The target population for the project has been children (3-59 months of age) with uncomplicated febrile illness.

Summative Evaluation Report for the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

July 2009- February 2010

CAPC is a federal initiative of Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) that provides funding to community-based groups and coalitions to develop and deliver comprehensive, culturally-appropriate prevention programs to promote the health and social development of young children (0-6 years) and their families facing conditions of risk. The focus of this project was to develop and complete the summative evaluation report on CAPC which addressed the accountability requirements through the program's Results Management Accountability Framework. A work plan, review of all CAPC evaluation reports, on-line survey, and evaluation report were completed.

Evaluation of the Toronto Enterprise Fund (TEF), United Way of Greater Ontario

June 2008 – April 2009

The goal of TEF is to improve community involvement, economic participation and quality of life of people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness in Toronto. HCA was contracted to create an evaluation framework, implement the evaluation and create an evaluation plan for 2009-2011. A final evaluation report was also created.

Ontario Regional Evaluation of The Community Action Program For Children (CAPC), Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

May 2008 – February 2009

This outcome evaluation served as part of the CAPC ongoing performance measurement and evaluation, which assessed the success of CAPC in achieving its intended outcomes in the identified core outcome areas of: knowledge of and access to services; parenting skills/satisfaction/sense of competence; social support; and attachment (for infants) and child development (for two-to six-year-olds). HCA was contracted to analyze the quantitative outcome evaluation assessment tool data and prepare a report presenting and interpreting the results. The purpose of the report was to provide objective information to guide decision-making.

Evaluation of World Vision Canada’s “Partners to End Child Poverty Program”

September – December 2008

HCA undertook a comprehensive formative evaluation of a program that aims to build the capacity of community-based organizations to address the needs of families in poverty in Canada’s largest urban centres. The program evaluation results and recommendations will help to enhance the methods used by WVC to develop the project planning, monitoring and evaluation capacity of organizations, and to strengthen partnerships among them.

Evaluation Planning and Implementation, Give Yourself Credit

2007 – 2010

HCA assisted the Give Yourself Credit alternative education program in Guelph, Ontario to develop an evaluation plan using a participatory process. The program helps improve the lives of youth 16-18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and experience barriers to education by providing access to educational opportunities through structured programming in a flexible environment. HCA evaluated student outcomes of the program using a pre and post program survey, document review and key informant interviews.

Focus Groups, Youth Advocacy Training Institute (YATI)

Spring 2008

HCA facilitated two workshops on behalf of Ken Allison in Ottawa and Sudbury for the evaluation for the Youth Advocacy Institute. YATI offers training and technical assistance to support the development and implementation of youth tobacco use prevention programs across Ontario. The focus groups explored the Youth Facilitators’ thoughts and opinions on the training, resources and support they and the Peer Leaders received and needed.

Assessment of Future Training Demands, Huron and Perth Community Mapping Report, Avon Maitland District School Board, Fanshawe College, the Bruce Grey Huron Perth Georgian Triangle Training Board and Office of Learning Technologies, the Community Learning

2005 – 2006

The study area was in the counties of Huron and Perth, containing a mostly non-urban population of less than 150,000. The main goal of the project was to assess the labour market, map the community assets related to training and to assess the demand for distance education courses as a tool for labour market development. Two objectives were to assess the viability of an on-line learning network for employment training and to develop an outline of the overall employment skills present and needed in the area. The study unfolded in two phases. In the initial phase, a survey was administered in all grade 12 English classes in Huron and Perth. The survey assessed the work and computer skills of students. In addition a telephone survey was conducted of training organizations in order to gather information on all forms of training available. In the second phase of the project, a telephone survey was utilized to determine the skills of employees. Four focus groups were held with employers in which they were asked to indicate the types of skills they desired for their employees.

Implementation Review, Ontario Early Years Centres Program, Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Summer 2004

The Ontario Early Years Centres Program enabled the creation of, and provides for the operation of, a network of 103 Ontario Early Years Centres in communities across the province. Each Centre is to provide parents, caregivers and children access to early learning and parenting programs and services and supports. HCA was engaged to undertake an implementation review of the program. The review entailed a review of relevant background documents, the development of a program logic model and evaluation matrix, a combination of key informant interviews and focus groups, the completion of a Centre profile and 18 two-day site visits to selected Centres. Particular attention was given to the program's effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

Analysis of National Sport Policy, The Federal-Provincial and Territorial Sport Committee

2004 – 2005

HCA analysed national sport policy that involved all federal, provincial and territorial governments. The policy was created with a joint federal-provincial sport secretariat and thus the analysis involved input from government and community stakeholders across Canada.

The Bruce-Grey Skills Inventory - Past and Future, Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle and Human Resources Skills Development, Bruce Grey Huron Perth Training Board

2004 – 2005

Harry Cummings as Principal Investigator of this project, administered through the University of Guelph, led his team of graduate students in gathering information that

contributed to an understanding of the present and future state of the labour market in Bruce and Grey Counties. With this information, an appreciation of the potential gaps between the needs of employers and the skill base of the labour pool in the region was identified and addressed. In order to gather this information, three surveys were conducted. One involved the population of Bruce and Grey Counties at large with the purpose being to identify the skills of the existing labour pool. The second called upon employers in the region to identify training and skills that would be necessary to capitalize on employment opportunities in the future. The final survey was administered to high school students in Bruce and Grey with the objective being to investigate the skills and aspirations of the region's potential labour pool.

Evaluation of Child Workers' Opportunities Project - Save the Children Canada
2003 – 2004

Save the Children Canada initiated the Child Worker's Opportunities Project (CWOP) in response to the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. The CWOP goal was to reduce the number of child workers in exploitative or hazardous conditions and to create opportunities for education and training. HCA was contracted to review project documents, prepare an evaluation plan and carry out the end of program evaluation. The findings of this evaluation were presented at an international conference.

Evaluation of Shared Services Bureau's (SSB) Special Employment Programs for Shared Services Bureau (MBS)

2003

After successfully completing the evaluation plan of SSB's Special Employment Programs, HCA was retained to carry out the evaluation. Using a multi-stakeholder approach, including focus groups, key informant interviews and surveys, information was generated on the process, relevance, efficiencies and sustainability of the programs.

Evaluation Plan of the Special Employment Programs for Shared Services Bureau (SSB), Management Board Secretariat (MBS)

2003

HCA prepared an evaluation framework and design for the four Special Employment Programs (Ontario Student Exchange Program, Quebec Student Exchange Program, Employment Accommodation Fund, and Employment Transition Services Fund) for SSB (MBS). The evaluation design provided one overall project plan, a communication plan and an evaluation framework. The design also provided four sub-project plans, sub-communications plans, sub-evaluation plans and four program logic models for each of the Special Employment Programs to be evaluated.

Evaluation of the Implementation of HIGH FIVE at Colleges in Ontario - Parks and Recreation Ontario

2002

HCA evaluated the implementation of the HIGH FIVE program in eight colleges in Ontario. HIGH FIVE is a quality assurance program in recreation that ensures programming is conducted using healthy child development principles. Through several

interviews and a focus group, HCA gained insight into the critical issues, provided recommendations and developed a critical path for the future implementation of HIGH FIVE in Ontario Colleges.

Evaluation of the 2nd Chance Program, York Region – Justice Canada, Ontario Social Development Council

2001

This report was prepared in response to Justice Canada's request for an evaluation of the "Second Chance" alternative school program operating in York Region. This evaluation included elements of the whole program but focused on questions raised by Justice Canada in relation to: cost and sustainability; staff and volunteer training; selection process of participants; partnerships; objectives and reintegration support; and supervision.