



CPRA ACPL

GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Success Story

Noelle and others running Sports Camp in the new Fieldhouse.

## Town of Niverville Summer Camps Give Youth, Children Outdoor Learning Experiences

**IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE NOELLE MERKEL** worked directly with children and youth.

In her early 20s, she wanted to become a physical education teacher and worked directly with children in summer camps. But over the years, her career goals shifted towards work in games development and sports administration.

When her hours started to get reduced in the summer while working for the Manitoba Winter Games, she found herself looking for her next opportunity – and found it as a program leader for the Town of Niverville's summer camps.



NIVERVILLE,  
MANITOBA



Noelle and campers at the Amazing Race Camp



Olympics Camp at Hespeler Park

*“...funding gave youth in the community more job opportunities, and helped train and give meaningful work experience to youth - as well inspire them to pursue a career in the green sector.”*

Warren Britton, recreation facility manager for the Town of Niverville

“It was almost like a tribute to where I had come from,” says Noelle, whose position was made possible thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program. “It was nice to go back into a role where I got to work with young people in the youth recreation field again.”

In her role, she organized outdoor, climate-friendly activities for summer camps being held in the Manitoba town’s Hespeler Park. These activities gave children the opportunity to explore and learn more about the outdoors, and gain an overall appreciation towards green spaces and nature.

As an experienced group leader, Noelle shared her passion of the great outdoors, and appreciation of green spaces with her fellow instructors and campers.

“It was great getting a chance to just be there as a mentor, and help them. I know for a lot of my co-workers, that was their first job and it felt good to be a part of helping them develop their skills in plan organization and leadership,” she says. “It was cool to go back into the field and be there with them, teaching them skills that I’ve learned.”

She also had the chance to work directly with children and introduce them to new games and activities.

“It reaffirmed my leadership skills helped me practice my communication. And honestly, it was just a nice little break from being in front of a laptop all the time,” she says.

Noelle adds that these leadership and communications skills have helped her in her current role with Sport Manitoba, where she now works full-time.

Warren Britton, the recreation facility manager for the Town of Niverville, was Noelle’s manager and says the extra funding allowed the town to hire more staff for summer programs.

“The more people we have on staff, the more we’re able to get done,” he says.

Warren adds that this funding gave youth in the community more job opportunities, and helped train and give meaningful work experience to youth - as well inspire them to pursue a career in the green sector.

He adds that the funding also gave youth in the community more job opportunities, and helped children at the camp who have been living with COVID-19 restrictions.

“It gives youth the opportunity to work and get work experience . . . and give kids something to be excited about over the summer during a difficult time for them. (These camps) allow them to make new friend and have new experiences. This funding has been really, really great for us,” Warren says. 🍁