

KULLIK ILIHAQVIK



CPRA ACPL

REACHING EACH AND EVERY ONE

# Success Story

## Cambridge Bay Wrestling Club helps Nunavut Youth Gain Skills and Confidence

### **T**HIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD DOMINIQUE

Evetaleak lives in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut — a fly-in Inuit community with a population of about 1,800 people.

Here, there is no YMCA. There's no Boys and Girls Club. The town used to have a youth centre, until it recently burned down.

But one place where Evetaleak can go after school to get some exercise and stay busy is the Cambridge Bay Wrestling Club's Wolverine Sports Program.



CAMBRIDGE BAY WRESTLING CLUB, NUNAVUT

Canada

This project is funded by the Government of Canada



*“The community’s youth have limited access to sports, and the grant helped the club expand its Wolverine Sports programming to give young people and at-risk youth — more opportunities to participate.”*

Christopher Crooks, the club’s wrestling coach

“If I couldn’t come here after school, I’d probably be causing trouble or playing games at home,” says Evetaleak. “Wrestling gave me the opportunity to travel more, learn new skills, and meet new people.”

Now, the teenager — and others like him — have been given access to even more opportunities through the Wolverine Sports Program, thanks to funding from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association’s Reaching Each and Every One: A Community Sport Intervention program. This program, which was funded by Sport Canada’s Community Sport for All Initiative, seeks to remove barriers and increase sport participation rates for equity deserving groups across Canada.

Christopher Crooks, the club’s wrestling coach, says the community’s youth have limited access to sports, and the grant helped the club expand its Wolverine Sports programming to give young people — and at-risk youth - more opportunities to participate.

“Without this kind of funding, we wouldn’t have anything at all because the opportunities aren’t there,” says Crooks. “Funding is hugely important for the continuation of sports in northern Indigenous communities.”

As part of the funding, Crooks was able to take Evetaleak and several other youth to a wrestling training camp in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta for one week.

“The funding gave us the ability to take kids out of the community, which doesn’t usually happen because you can’t drive anywhere,” he explains, adding that this opportunity broke down major financial barriers for families and youth who can’t afford sports programs.

Crooks adds that the funding also helped the club purchase gear like new wrestling boots, which now come in a variety of sizes and can be used by all participants.

In addition to new gear, he says the funding also allowed the club to hire a coach to run the after-school program, which has helped give these youth a positive role model who they can look up to and feel comfortable with.

“We’ve been able to hire an Indigenous worker who does the coaching, as well as counseling. It’s been really helpful, and it’s been really nice for the participants to know they have someone they can always go to who is in the community at all times,” he says. “Having her employed with us has been very beneficial to the community, and the program.”

Evetaleak says he’s happy that the wrestling club received a funding boost for its after-school program, because it has exposed him to an activity he loves — while also encouraging him to try other sports in his community.

“I actually started playing basketball now,” he says. “It’s going great. I’m learning a lot of new things about all different kinds of sports. It makes me think about trying new sports as I get older.” 🍁