

Appendix L

Mission And Core Values Of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Mission Statement

Boys and Girls Clubs, with families and other adults, offer children and youth opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and values they seek to become fulfilled individuals.

Core Values

We Care About Children and Youth

- *Boys and Girls Clubs' services are available to all young people. Young people naturally seek excitement, friendship, and support. Happily, the chance to offer encouragement, direction, and counseling comes as a result of gaining their trust.*

We Acknowledge a Sense of Self-Worth is Fundamental to Individual Dignity

- *We hold that an individual's sense of self-worth is fundamental and Boys and Girls Clubs support this basic value.*

We Understand Children and Youth Need to be Heard

- *We believe that every young person has the right to be listened to ... to be heard and responded to, as someone who really matters and as someone whose ideas could make a difference.*

We Believe a Sense of Belonging is Essential to Healthy Growth

- *We acknowledge the need of all young people to be accepted and liked, and to become competent, both among their peers and in the eyes of adults. We are sensitive to the isolation of the individual who is different in any way, and we endeavour to create in our services an atmosphere which fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance.*

We Foster Cultural Understanding and Acceptance

- *Boys and Girls Clubs encourage and foster cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. Our programs are accessible to all youth and reflect the ever-changing needs of youth and families in our communities.*

We Assist Youth to Attain Their Potential

- *We believe that all children and youth have the right to maximize their potential by experiencing challenges and responsibilities typical of healthy family and community life. We know young people attain their highest levels of personal growth and development when they are empowered to achieve a balance between "giving to" and "receiving from" their community. Boys and Girls Clubs encourage community service, self-help and self-sufficiency by presenting challenges and fostering responsibility and authority in children and youth.*

We Value Learning as a Lifelong Goal

- *We recognize that learning plays a significant role in the development of children and youth. We support, foster and encourage lifelong learning.*

We Understand and Respond to Youth's Sense of Adventure

- *We understand the natural desire young people have to be challenged by risk and adventure, to seek recognition and blaze new trails; to climb rugged mountain slopes just to stand a few moments on the highest peak; to perform in a play; or to rocket to the moon.*

We Acknowledge the Importance of the Family

- *We recognize that family, a young person’s social network, holds potential to be the most influential context in which children and youth learn. Our encouragement and support of the caring role in this process is imperative.*

We Acknowledge the Importance of Appropriate Role Models

- *Role models play an important part in young people’s lives. Boys and Girls Clubs search out and support those who model honesty, enthusiasm, fair play, respect, tolerance and forgiveness.*

We are Committed to Voluntarism

- *Boys and Girls Clubs value volunteers. Our management and service structures reflect this commitment. The involvement and support of volunteers is essential to the maintenance of socially and economically responsible programs.*

We Value and Practice Cooperative Approaches

- *Boys and Girls Clubs will co-operate with families, other service organizations and governments to most effectively address the needs of children and youth.*

We Seek Neighbourhood and Community Solutions

- *Boys and Girls Clubs believe that neighbourhood and community-based approaches that reach out to children and youth and families hold the greatest potential for fulfilling our agency mission.*

We Acknowledge our Role as Advocates for Children and Families

- *Boys and Girls Clubs advocate positions and actions which further the common good of children, families and community.*