



Concello da Coruña

# SAIL TRAINING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

## Broadening Trainee Profiles for the Tall Ships Races and Sail Training



@tallshipsraces

@sailtrainingyouth



@thetallshipsraces



Sail Training International

**Jack Dignan** Chairperson, STI Youth Council

**Abbey Stroud** Canadian Representative, STI Youth Council

**Francesca Violich Kennedy** USA Representative, STI Youth Council

# New Promotional Toolkit:

## Sail Training International

An international charitable organisation who provide experiential learning through sail training.

We offer life changing experiences for young people aged 15-25 around the world, helping them to grow in confidence, discover who they are, unlock hidden strengths, rise to challenges, overcome fears and enjoy the adventure of a lifetime.



## SAIL TRAINING IS A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE



"For me, the most valuable lesson I learnt was teamwork and the ability to form a close-knit and effective team from a group of people who were previously strangers".  
Charlotte, 15



"I will cherish the experience and new friends for the rest of my life".  
Ethel Rosenfeldt

"It's a once in a lifetime experience. I think everyone should participate because it gave me a different perspective on life. Life on board is so different, but amazing!!".  
Jeremy, 23



"It's like nothing I have ever experienced. You learn a lot about yourself and the world".  
Helen Crissen, 25

## WANT TO SAIL WITH US?

Here's what you need to consider.....

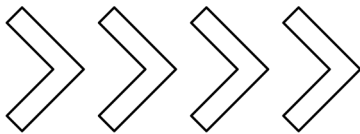
- **WHEN and WHERE** – When would you like to go and where would you like to sail? A full list of voyages and dates can be found on the Sail Training International website.
- **WHICH VESSEL** – There are different experiences and benefits to be had when sailing on different size vessels
- **DURATION** – Voyages vary and typically last anywhere between 3-10 days.
- **FUNDING OPTIONS**  
**Bursaries** - For those of you who are unable to fund a voyage yourselves, there are various bursary schemes available to provide financial support.  
**Self-funded** - Alternatively, there are many ways in which you can raise the funds you need to take part in the Tall Ships Races and Regattas. We can help guide you through the fundraising process and of course help with ideas.

# A template to pitch sail training & the TSR



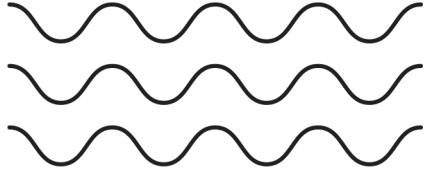
Sail Training International

# SEAFAIR IN CANADA



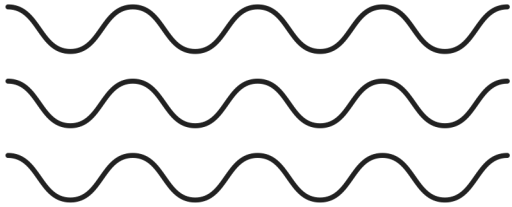
# WHY IS SAIL TRAINING SEEN AS 'OUT OF REACH' TO UNDER-REPRESENTED YOUTH?





- Sailing for pleasure was introduced by Northern European Aristocrats
- A Eurocentric industry
- Sailing demands a 'high skill threshold'
- Sail training becomes expensive

## SOCIO- HISTORICAL BARRIERS OF SAILING AND SAIL TRAINING



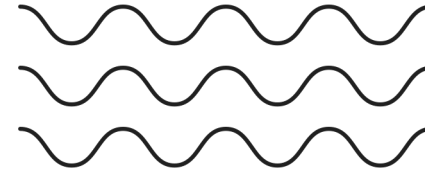
## REACHING UNDER- REPRESENTED YOUTH IN CANADA

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Sail Training in Canada in terms of inclusivity becomes complex when considering the harmful connotations of colonialism and the conquest.

- The doctrine of discovery
  - Tall ships and harm to Indigenous communities
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# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT TURTLE ISLAND HAVE A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE SEA

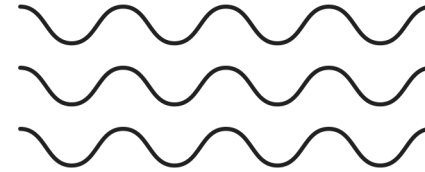


- Culture
- Food Security
- Economic self- sufficiency



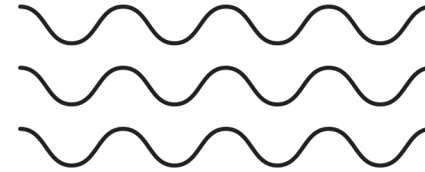


# BENEFITS OF SAIL TRAINING TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



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- Hands on learning experiences
  - Confidence building
  - Knowledge sharing

# UNIQUE CHALLENGES



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- Isolation from community
  - Language barriers
  - Generational trauma

# Strategy:

We set out to plan and create a day-long introduction to sailing that catered to the unique challenges that Indigenous youth face in entering the sail- training structure.



# Why one day?

- Soft start
- Easy to access
- Minimal commitment
- Opportunities for continuation



# OUR PARTNERS



# THE STRUCTURE OF THE DAY:

## Meet at the dock

Participants were met at the dock by the Canadian representative and the Bleunose II crew who facilitated introductions and the safety briefing

## Set Sail

During this time, youth learned to:

- Raise sail
- Take the helm
- Read a chart
- Navigate traditionally
- Tie knots

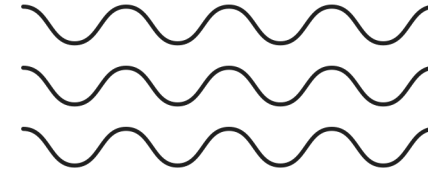
## Drop Anchor

The youth learned how to drop anchor, and take anchor bearings. They ate lunch on deck and said goodbye to the crew. A smudging ritual was performed by a youth leader.

## Sharing Circle Debrief

The Lunenburg Yacht club picked up the youth on their skiff and hosted a sharing circle debrief in their facility.

# DEBRIEF TOPICS



01

Why are scholarship initiatives and other forms of outreach sometimes rendered ineffective?

02

What makes sail training intimidating?

03

How can we change the way that sail training is interpreted by Indigenous communities?

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# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

MAKING SAIL TRAINING RELEVANT TO THE  
LIVED EXPERIENCES OF INDOGENOUS  
YOUTH

- Miaw Pukek Maritime Services
- Workforce Warriors





## 2024 Indigenous Led Expedition

In June 2024, over 50 Indigenous youth and 100 total expedition participants joined the Polar Prince during the following mission legs:

- Stephenville to Conne River while exploring the South Coast Fjords
- Conne River to St. John's while completing research in Bay D'Espoir
- St. John's to St. John's while completing a science mission to Funk Island Ecological Reserve

Youth participants came from four cohorts:

- Qalipu First Nation
- Miawpukek First Nation
- Canadian Junior Rangers
- First Light St. John's Friendship Centre

### Project outcomes:

- Immediate exposure of 50 youth to ocean sector opportunities
- Improved youth engagement and participation in pathways to Blue Economy careers
- Integration of Indigenous arts and culture with traditional ocean sector activities
- Capacity building of Indigenous Knowledge System integrating with the ocean sector
- Relationship and network building for Indigenous youth in Blue Economy

The youth reported exceptional experience and were able to participate in intriguing and safe opportunities, exposing them to a variety of potential opportunities connect to the Ocean sector.



Miawpukek Horizon Officer Olivia Ferguson and Seaman Bryson Syllboy sharing their story of how they became professional seafarers with youth from First Light Friendship Centre onboard the Polar Prince

### Expedition activities onboard

- Integration with research and science activities with researchers
- Marine and seafaring introductions from Polar Prince crew
- Cultural activities lead by Youth Expedition Leader and Indigenous Science program Leads

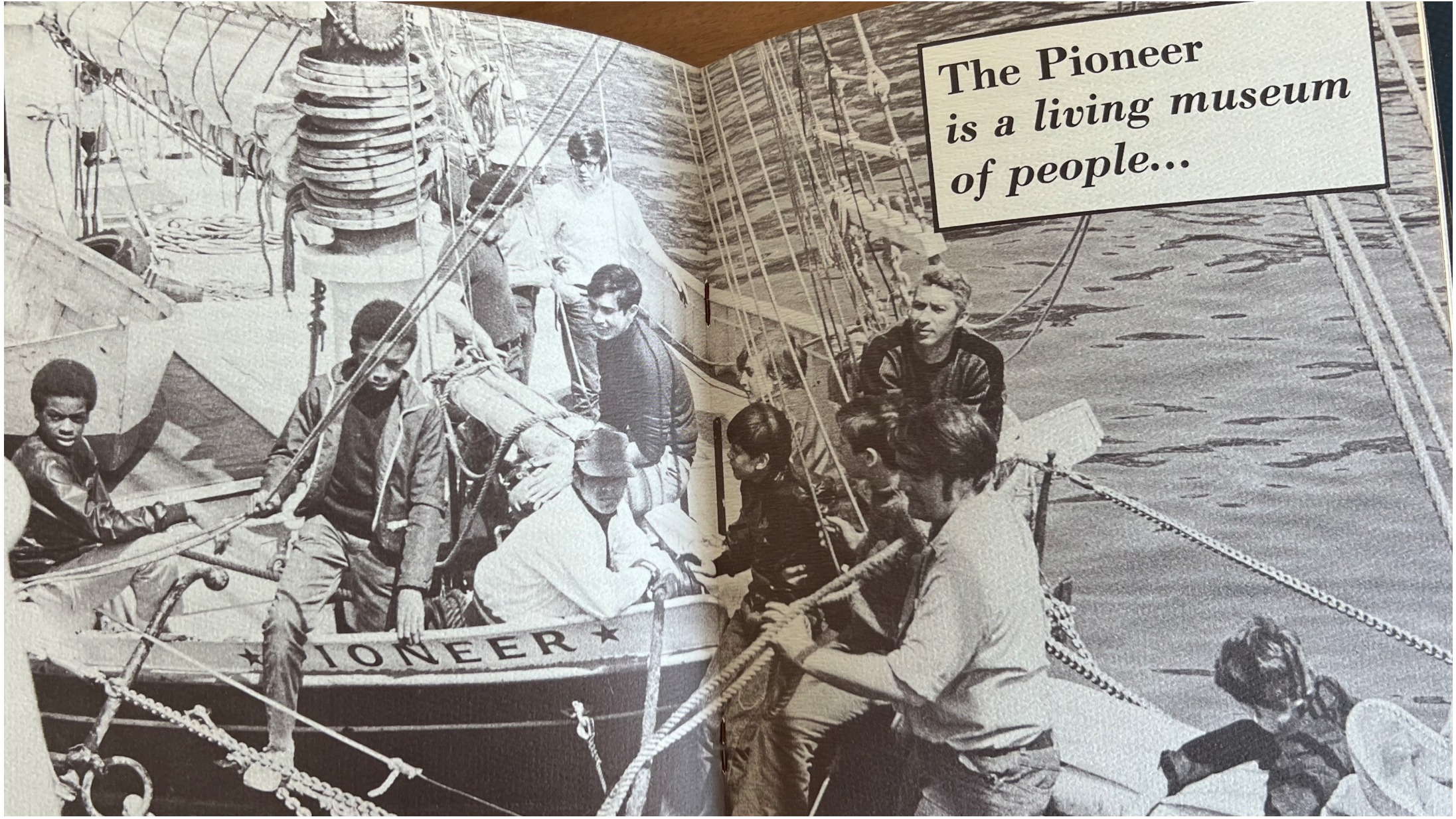


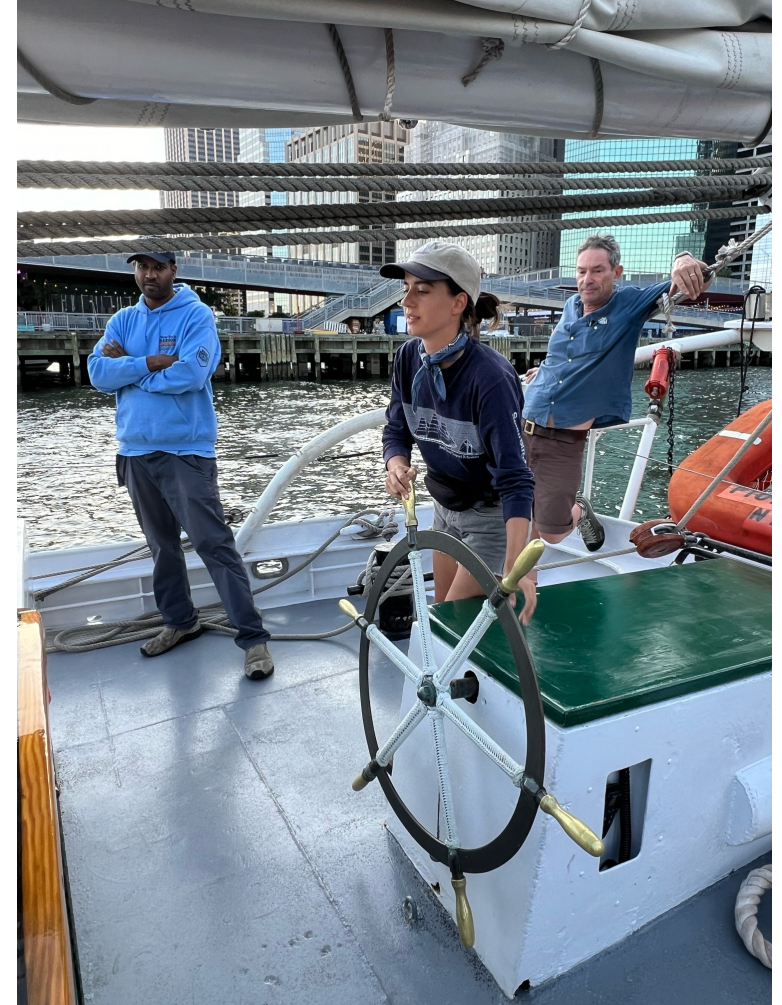
THANK YOU

# Broadening Trainee Profiles

SSSM & Beyond

*The Pioneer  
is a living museum  
of people...*





# **Empathy, Humility, and Continual Problem-Solving**

# Mentorship

## Retaining New Volunteers

### Mentorship Approach:

- Matching trainees with relatable role models in the maritime industry.
- Focused on building confidence and belonging.



**Where are current volunteers  
coming from?**



**Beyond tokenism and towards  
transparency**

# Discussion

What groups  
of young  
people form  
your trainee  
profile now?

What groups  
of young  
people do not  
form your  
trainee profile  
now?

Select 2-3 of your groups of young people you currently struggle to reach, and develop some strategies that you could implement within your organisation to better reach these young people.

Choose a spokesperson to share your ideas with the rest of the group.

**Thank you for joining us.  
Scan the QR code to give us your thoughts.**



**@tallshipsraces**  
**@sailtrainingyouth**



**@thetallshipsraces**



**Sail Training International**