

Katimavik's National Experience FAQ!

What is Katimavik?: Katimavik is a charity that has been offering life changing learning experiences to young people in Canada since 1977. We aim to help young folks become engaged and caring citizens, meaningful contributor in their communities, and leaders for a better Canada. Our programs helped pioneer experiential learning and we continue to help young people develop themselves and the communities they inhabit.

Katimavik's National Experience: Known previously as just "Katimavik", the National Experience is an amazing opportunity for eligible young people in Canada who are looking for 5.5 months of creative learning, community engagement, Truth and Reconciliation, and self-discovery!

Participants will live in a group with up to 10 of their peers in two separate communities throughout the course of the program. During the program they engage in 32 hours of volunteer work a week, learn how to manage a house, make lifelong friends, and gain confidence that they themselves can make an impactful difference in our country. All they will need to bring is their dedication, empathy, and commitment to making a better world!

What are the eligibility criteria? Applicants must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have landed refugee status in Canada and be between the ages 17 – 25 at the start of the program.

What are our current locations?

Nanaimo, BC
Calgary, AB
Wetaskiwin, AB
Winnipeg, MB
Brandon, MB
Sudbury, ON
Saguenay, QC
Quebec City, QC
Halifax, NS

And counting...!

Participants will spend roughly 2.5 months in one location before rotating to a second location for their time in the program. Communities are paired so that participants experience the geographic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of Canada.

What are upcoming Program dates?

The National Experience has a start date every January and July of each year.

(Applications close about 1 month before the start of any given cohort)

How to apply?

Candidates can fill out our online application form through the Katimavik website:
<https://katimavik.org/en/we-offer/national-experience/>

The online application should take about 20minutes to fill out. Every applicant will be contacted 3 to 4 months prior to the start of the cohort they have applied to by our Participant Recruitment team to set up a phone call and discuss their application further.

What is the cost to participate?

The National Experience is a fully funded opportunity where all costs associated with the program are covered (travel, housing, food, basic household needs). A 25\$ stipend is given to each Participant once a week during the program.

Project Houses are furnished with most of a participant's daily needs, including but not limited to cleaning supplies, hygiene products, blankets and linens, and menstrual products.

What are some topics and skills Participants will learn about?


- The history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the importance of Truth and Reconciliation;
- The benefits and impact of civic engagement;
- Professional work skills in a variety of sectors, depending on volunteer placements;
- Cooking skills, house maintenance, and practical life skills;
- Conflict resolution, communication, and how to thrive within a team environment;
- Environmental protection and sustainable development;
- English or French as an additional language;
- Leadership, advocacy, and project management skills;
- Canada's cultural, geographic, and linguistic diversity.

What is the Truth & Reconciliation Learning Platform?

The T&R learning platform used during the National Experience was created for Katimavik by Indigenous studies academics, T&R leaders, and Indigenous identifying PhD and Masters students through the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation and Trent University.

Over the course of 22 weeks, Participants work through crucial subjects and take part in two projects in order to better understand their community pre-colonization as well as take part in ethical community engagement.

So what does a typical week at Katimavik look like? Well...

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Katimavik 	MORNING	Volunteer Placements	Volunteer Placements	Volunteer Placements	Volunteer Placements	Truth & Reconciliation Learning	Free/self-care time	Group employability skills (e.g. resume building workshop)
	AFTERNOON	Volunteer Placements	Volunteer Placements	Volunteer Placements	Volunteer Placements	Truth & Reconciliation Learning	Competency development activity (e.g. touring a waste management facility)	Free/self-care time
	EVENING	Group physical activity (e.g. ice skating)	Free/self-care time	Free/self-care time	Group language learning activity	Group volunteering (e.g. helping at a local sports event)	Group personal asset building activity (e.g. conflict resolution)	House Meeting

What are Volunteer Placements like?

Volunteer placements are hosted by organizations that Katimavik has ongoing partnerships with. Some examples include sorting clothing or working at the cash register of a donation centre, working in a women's shelter, or working in a community garden. The Volunteer Placements differ from community to community and can be dependent on the season.

Once arriving in their host communities, Participants will be taken to visit each placement after which they will select their top three options. They will then go through a short interview process and be paired with one of the Volunteer placements for their time in that community.