



## *Invite, Connect, Equip*

SCA Eagle Bay Ministry Centre & Camp (SCA Eagle Bay) is part of SCA International (formerly known as Shantymen Christian Association) which has four ministry centres across Canada, as well as independent missionaries primarily working with the Aboriginal people of Canada. SCA is committed to inviting Aboriginals to life in Christ, connecting them in Christian Community, and equipping them to lead others to recognize and reach their full potential. We help children, youth, adults, and families with life, social, and physical skills. In a word we want them to know Christ, grow in Him and lead with Him.

SCA Eagle Bay is located in the town of Hilbre in central Manitoba. We are open year-round as a ministry centre, accommodate rental groups, and hold retreats for various church and family groups. The main focus of this centre is children's summer camps and winter weekend snow camps. At our camps we present the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ as clearly as we can and gently challenge the children to apply it to their lives. Our winter camps help break up the monotony of the winter and give us a chance to continue the summer message, stay connected with the kids, and have a lot of fun. On average about 89% of our campers during the summer are Aboriginal. To be full to capacity, we can have 84 campers per week but to do this, we need a lot of staff. In the past we have had to turn kids away because we did not have enough help. We do not want to keep turning kids away; for many, this is the only time they will here the Gospel message.

SCA Eagle Bay does not fit into the typical image most people have when they hear the words "Christian kids' camp." Most of our campers do not come from Christian homes and do not have any knowledge of the Bible. Also many of the reserves do not have proper school buildings, some do not have gyms or ice rinks and in some situations the kids have no art classes, shop classes, music classes, and/or no place to have physical education classes in the winter. Many of these classes and activities help a child discover who they are and encourage confidence, imagination and growth. In addition to the lack of these important elements in a child's life, the unemployment rate on some of the reserves is up to 80%. A large percentage of our campers are in foster homes or under non-parental care. Many of the children are affected by special conditions such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

It is easy to see what effect all of these negatives have on the young people. Many of our campers are fascinated with the devil and demons; we have 13-year-olds who are illiterate; some of our campers don't know how to play organized games with rules because they have never done it before. It is often a huge struggle to get the children to bed because they are accustomed to staying up into the wee hours of the night watching whatever is on television. We have had children tell us that their life goal is to end up in prison because that is where their families are. Others say they do not want to go to heaven because they know their parents are going to hell and they want to be with them. At first, it is easy to consider these racial issues but these issues are present because of poverty and isolation, not skin colour. This is an ongoing cycle that these children are born into and there is only one thing that is able to **break** this cycle and give them the opportunity to live up to their incredible potential. **That is the power and Blood of Jesus Christ.** At camp, we present the Word of God to the children very clearly so that we can shift their focus onto the all-powerful God who is stronger than evil and who has a plan and a purpose for their lives.

For the last couple of years we have added a week to our summer program for Counselor Training. This provides an opportunity for the counselors to gain ministry experience, to grow together as a team, to strengthen their relationships with God and for us to have an opportunity to build a team that will be able to effectively minister to the needs of the children. We are hoping that many of the counselors will come for the training week and then stay for the entire summer program so that we can have an incredible time of ministry.

It is very encouraging watching counselors become part of this ministry as they give of themselves and openly serve and love the kids. It is a joy to watch them grow as their faith is challenged by sharing with kids who have never heard of the love of Jesus and by loving kids who have never received appropriate love before. It is an incredible opportunity to be on the front lines of ministry and many of our staff have come back year after year. If you are interested in having your faith challenged by hands on ministry and being stretched as you rely on God when your personal resources have been exhausted, then come to Eagle Bay Camp. Help us give every child who wants to come to camp the opportunity to, we do not want to turn kids away again.

If you have any questions or would like more information please feel free to contact me using the contact information below.

Thank you!

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