

# Youth metal art workshop in Happy Valley-Goose Bay focuses on importance of culture

Danette Dooley ([danette@nl.rogers.com](mailto:danette@nl.rogers.com))

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## Reflecting culture through art

HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY, N.L. —

Youth in Happy Valley-Goose Bay are connecting with culture through a new art project.

The Labrador Friendship Centre's SHIELD project held the first of three weekend metal art fabrication courses recently. Instructor Peyton Barrett said the weekend was an exciting one and the youth came up with great ideas on which to base their artwork.

"There were only five young people attending the workshop but all five were very engaged... I was pleased," Barrett said.

SHIELD is an acronym for Sexual Health Information Exchange Labrador District. The project encourages positive sexual health, personal wellness and healthy relationships

through art, culture, and technology (ACT) empowerment opportunities and life experiences.

Barrett is teaching all three courses, which take place at the College of the North Atlantic in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The first course taught the teens how to work with metal clay (copper and bronze) to design pieces of jewelry.

After an initial copper clay project, which was meant to initiate the youth to the art, Barrett said, the pieces were created based on their culture and history.

During the second course scheduled for March 2-3, participants will explore metallurgy (copper and brass) and will create pieces of art including a pendant, ring and a cultural copper wire design.

The final course, which takes place March 9-10, will focus on metal tooling and pop can art. Youth will complete two designs, one on metal to be framed with matte board and copper leaves with soldered wire stems.

The courses run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

SHIELD project coordinator Denise Cole said the courses were held in partnership with Community Youth Network NL.

The artwork the youth created this past weekend reflects and celebrates their culture, Cole said.

"It was intentional to bring up those conversations to talk about the importance of their culture and how that connects and reflects back to the art that they create," Cole added.

For more information on the courses, contact Cole at 709-896-8302, ext. 224.

danette@nl.rogers.com

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