

School Staff Lead role

What is the Youth Wellness Champions Program?

The Youth Wellness Champions (YWC) Program is a partnership between the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) and public health units across the province of Ontario. The program supports students to become mental health champions in their schools.

The main goals of the YWC Program: To improve the health and well-being of youth by promoting mental wellness initiatives, helping to reduce stigma about mental illness and prevent substance use. Health units partner with school boards to identify and implement YWC into interested schools.

How does the program work?

Youth will be trained and supported to take on the role of "Youth Champion" at their school and will form the Network of Champions.

The School Staff Leads will work closely with the Mental Health Lead(s) (for example, child and youth workers, teachers), Public Health Lead, school principal/vice-principal or designate and Youth Champions to plan and carry out initiatives promoting mental health throughout the school year.

What is the role of a School Staff Lead?

School Staff Lead(s) who will support the initiative at the school level will:

1. Assist the Public Health Leads in recruiting Youth Champions from the school.
2. Assist with operational support for the program integration within their community and schools.
3. Use youth engagement principles and practices, and promote mental health and substance use best practices.
4. Attend local training session/workshop for Adult Allies regarding the YWC program within your school/region (date & location TBD).
5. Attend and assist with the promotion of a local training session/workshop with Youth Champions within your school/region (date & location TBD).
6. Attend and assist the Network of Champions meetings. Meetings will be held once a week during lunch hour (dates and location TBD).
7. Collaborate with the Public Health Lead(s) to develop and mentor Youth Champions.

8. Assist with the planning, facilitating, promotion and delivery of the YWC Program and events.
9. Be the communication liaison with Youth Champions.
10. Act as a resource to the school for knowledge transfer by keeping school staff updated.
11. Participate in evaluation activities such as surveys and focus groups.

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