



FEATURE STORY

Making Connections: Collectively Supporting Marginalized and Racialized Peel Youth to Succeed

On October 16th, 2013, the Region of Peel, United Way of Peel and Peel Children's Aid hosted the "Making Connections" Forum where organizations from across Peel, Toronto, as well as Provincial ministry representatives came together to start the dialogue on how to support marginalized and racialized youth. The forum engaged community partners in thought-provoking roundtable discussions and presentations from local service providers to gain insight into this issue. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services also contributed to the discussion by highlighting their new "Stepping Up" strategic framework (<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/youthopportunities/steppingup/contents.aspx>) which outlines priority outcomes and indicators which have been identified to help youth succeed.

The forum raised many key questions and viewpoints on how the Peel community can address the needs and challenges faced by our youth. As stated by one participant, "A cultural competence approach is helpful to a point but systems and organizations need to think about identifying and addressing systemic racism." For some participants it was the first time these issues had been raised with such a large number of community partners at the table.

By the end of the day it was evident that the forum had sparked a need to delve deeper into the issues. Presenters and participant feedback highlighted that the Forum was a good first step; however, follow-up discussion and action needs to take place. Throughout the day participants shared what the 'Next Steps' could involve:

"...increase opportunities for marginalized & racialized youth."

"We need to work together to "unpack" the issues."

"Our common agenda approach could be using an equity framework."

"Have more community discussions, action planning, workshops on more meaningful work in serving racialized & marginalized youth..."

These are only a few examples but they speak to the importance of moving forward through action-oriented solutions and further engagement of community stakeholders. To-date there has been a great response from community partners interested



in getting involved in the 'Next Steps'. We recognize the importance of continuing to work together to achieve success and look forward to this journey.

To view a summary of all the participant feedback and select presentations or to get involved visit: <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/youth/Past-events.htm>

Here are some resources on health equity and inclusion as it was a key theme that emerged throughout the day:

The City of Ottawa's [Equity and Inclusion Lens](#) -

This tool (developed in 2009) is a resource for organizations that service diverse communities and is grounded in a framework of 4 Steps:

1. Consider Your Diversity
2. Apply to Areas of Work
3. Learn More About Diversity
4. Build Your Action Plan

[Health Equity Impact Assessment \(HEIA\) Online Course](#) -

This is a free self-directed interactive e-learning course on HEIA developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health's Health Equity Office and Education Services.

This practical tool helps identify and address health impacts that a plan, policy or program might have on vulnerable or marginalized groups.

FEATURE RESOURCE

Accelerate Your Critical Appraisal of Research Skills

The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT) provides education and training to help service providers know how to search for the best available evidence on a topic and appraise the evidence to ensure that it is of good quality for decision-making purposes. While the NCCMT is primarily focused on the public health sector, the skills being taught are transferable to many different sectors including education, recreation, social/human services, and justice.

Whether you are looking for introductory or advanced learning opportunities for critical appraisal skills, or just to refresh certain concepts, the NCCMT has a wide variety of free online multimedia learning tools that can be a resource to you and your organization.

The **Learning Centre** has a series of modules that you can complete either individually or in a small group format with colleagues

including:

- Introduction to Evidence-Informed Decision-Making
- Searching for Research Evidence
- Online Tools: Search Pyramids
- Critical Appraisal of Systematic Reviews
- Critical Appraisal of Intervention Studies
- Quantitative Research Designs 101

There are also short videos that describe more specific concepts for **Understanding Research Evidence**:

- How to Calculate and Odds Ratio
- Understanding A Confidence Interval
- Forest Plots: How to Understand a Meta-Analysis in 5-Minutes or Less
- The Importance of Clinical Significance

All of these resources can be accessed at <http://www.nccmt.ca/index-eng.html>

LOCAL HIGHLIGHT

Draw the Line on Sexual Violence

The Newcomer Centre of Peel is currently running the Draw the Line campaign to help prevent sexual violence in our region. The campaign uses social marketing techniques to specifically target bystanders that can intervene in helpful and prosocial ways. Targeting bystanders fits with recent calls for prevention efforts that move beyond changing the individual to changing attitudes, behaviours and social norms at the peer and community levels.

The campaign drives people to www.Draw-the-line.ca where they can place themselves in six different scenarios of sexual violence and choose how to respond.

Take, for example, the scenario where a friend sends you a naked picture of a girl he knows. Posing questions such as, "Is it a big deal to share it with others?" the campaign aims to help people understand why it is important to draw the line on sexual violence, when to do so, and how to intervene safely and effectively.

Campaign materials (e.g., posters, post cards, and user guide) are available FREE of charge in English and French. They can be requested by contacting info@draw-the-line.ca.

The Newcomer Centre of Peel is offering outreach to adult and youth newcomers, translating the campaign posters and post-cards into multiple languages, and creating new resources to address the various sexual violence issues that exist in different communities.

Thank you to Sonya Strohm, Project Facilitator for the Draw the Line campaign with the Newcomer Centre of Peel, for sharing this information in our newsletter. She can be reached at ssrohm@ncpeel.ca or 905.306.0577 ext. 379.

FEATURE WEBSITE

Check this out!

Do you work with at-risk children and youth? Do you work in the area of mental health for children and youth? Are you looking to connect with other professionals across the country? Check out the Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts Network (<http://www.cyccnetwork.org/en>)

CYCC is a knowledge mobilization network created to improve mental health and well-being for vulnerable and at-risk children and youth in Canada. It promotes the use of research, best and promising practices, and local knowledge in mental health programming for vulnerable and at-risk young people. Get involved, learn from and contribute to this new Canadian network!



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