

A new mental health partnership is established by the CSPNE

Northeastern Ontario, May 2nd 2013 – The *Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario* (CSPNE) is pleased to announce the creation of a community partnership focusing on mental health and addiction in its student population. With this collaborative effort, the Community Care Access Centre is offering our Board the services of a nurse who specializes in mental health.

The CSPNE welcomes Natalie Roper to its team based out of the regional office in Timmins. Mr. Gerry Lajoie, Coordinator of Social services, explained that the benefits of this initiative are directly linked to the success and well-being of our students. “Ms. Roper joins our team as part of the mental health initiative, also known as ASSIST, to support our youth’s mental health and well-being. Key elements of the partnership are the use of available community resources and consultative services so that we can better understand and manage our students’ needs in the area of mental health and addictions.”

Through the services of the designated nurse, the Community Care Access Centre plans to offer consultations to the Board’s multidisciplinary teams in the schools, support for the transition of students from hospital services and their return to school, advice in the management of medication in the context of mental health and addiction. Ms. Roper will also deliver youth mental health awareness sessions to school staff and administrators, as part of the CSPNE’s staff improvement program.

The Director of Education for the CSPNE, Mr. Roch Gallien, stressed the importance of taking part in a project with a direct impact on the students’ personal growth. “This initiative complements the Board’s School Improvement Plan in that our students can take advantage of another support model which has become essential in our present society exposed to every possible stimulus. At the CSPNE, we are concerned not just by the educational development of our students, but also by their overall well-being, including mental health. To succeed, students need to feel good about themselves.”

Mr. Denis Labelle, CSPNE chairperson, declared that he is very proud of this new partnership. “The provincial mental health initiative aims at creating 144 jobs in Ontario. The CSPNE is an active participant in the implementation of the project, as it seems obvious that there is a direct link between the objectives targeted by this community partnership and the CSPNE’s strategic plan. By agreeing to take part in the initiative, the *Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario* demonstrates once more that the child is always at the heart of all its decisions.”

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Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario
L'enfant au coeur de nos décisions !

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