

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

There is a great need to accelerate action, share complementary strategies, gather information and establish the good will to collectively champion the work that needs to happen to honour our responsibility to the mental health of children and youth in our community.

Catherine Fife, Past President, OPSBA

Working together for children and youth we can begin a movement to bring in programs into schools that allow us to be preventative, that promote mental health and resilience.

Bruce Ferguson, Hospital for Sick Children

The wait lists are incredibly long and we are often in crisis; the most stressful thing for principals in today's environment is to find ways to help students and families to access services.

Vicki Shannon, Ontario Principals' Council

In the world of children and youth mental health there is urgency to show some immediate action on the ground. This urgency is widespread.

Ken Thurston, York Region District School Board

Children and youth are in crisis and the issue of mental health needs to move to the top of the agenda.

Sarah Cannon, Parents for Children's Mental Health

Make students part of the solution in developing policy and programs.

Steven Slowka, Ontario Student Trustees' Association

The equity we seek in services includes equity of access in one's own language.

Carole Drouin, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques

This work involves a broad social movement to deal with the last frontier of discrimination and marginalization; we have to normalize the conversations around mental health.

Rian McLaughlin, Ontario Teachers' Federation

How will the situation for children and youth look different? How will adults look different? We have to do business differently and provoke the necessary outcomes.

Ian Manion, Ontario Centre of Excellence for Children and Youth Mental Health



Coalition for Children
AND Youth Mental Health
Let's put our heads together.

Coalition pour la santé mentale
des enfants ET des adolescents
Réfléchissons ensemble.

Who we are



LET'S PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER.

For more information, contact:

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The Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health believes that fostering social and emotional health as a part of healthy child development must be a priority in Ontario schools and a priority for integrated public policy in the province. Nurturing the whole child promotes children's rights. It involves engaging with the entire community of caring adults to provide a full continuum of services that includes mental health literacy, promotion of positive social-emotional development, prevention of mental health problems, intervention services and clear pathways to care.

The Coalition advocates for the conditions that promote success in school and in life for children and youth and recognizes that this is strongly linked with mental health and well-being. It is vital to recognize that investing in mental health and well-being of children and youth is an investment in Ontario's future sustainability and prosperity.

The Coalition's work in this area will focus on:

- ***Mental Health Literacy and Wellness***
Advocating for funding and support for an effective and ongoing mental health literacy program for all staff working directly with children, youth and their families in communities and schools, as well as promoting mental health literacy and wellness in children and youth themselves.
- ***Integration, not Fragmentation***
Promoting inter-ministerial collaboration and a multi-sectoral approach to ensure facilitated access to timely, integrated, responsive and equitable mental health services for children and youth across Ontario.
- ***Integrated Public Policy***
Contributing to the development and implementation of strategic and integrated public policy that will positively transform mental health for children, youth and their families through action that takes into account the social determinants of health and is mindful of the importance of effective ways to sustain this focus in times of economic restraint.
- ***Partnerships***
Building a network of provincial partners dedicated to mental health for children, youth and their families to ensure an alignment of priorities, a vibrant approach to knowledge exchange, and consolidation of effort for sustained change to mental health services, supports and promotion.
- ***Voice of Children, Youth and Families***
Ensuring that the wisdom and lived experiences of children, youth and families provide a vital voice in the work of the Coalition.

COALITION MEMBERS

Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Association of Chief Psychologists with Ontario School Boards
Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*
Children's Mental Health Ontario*
Council of Ontario Directors of Education
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario
Hincks Dellcrest Centre
Hospital for Sick Children
Kids Help Phone*
Kinark Child and Family Services
Mental Health Commission of Canada*
Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth*
Offord Centre for Child Studies
Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
Ontario Association of School Board Chief Social Workers
Ontario Association of Social Workers*
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health*
Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Ontario Native Education Counselling Association
Ontario Principals' Council
Ontario Psychological Association
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Ontario Student Trustees' Association*
Ontario Teachers' Federation
Parents for Children's Mental Health
Pediatricians Alliance of Ontario
Peel Children's Centre*
Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario*
School Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Consortium
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

*Organizations that provide services/information in English and French