

Thunder Bay

Many First Nation youth transitioning from remote reserves to Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) high school in an urban environment experience complex mental health and addictions issues. The goal of the Thunder Bay Service Collaborative is to ensure students in crisis have access to mental health and addictions supports. The Service Collaborative is doing this by:

- Supporting transitions
 - Developing an orientation video
 - Hosting The Amazing Race
 - Preparing students for entry into college.
- Providing crisis assistance and prevention supports through training on:
 - Suicide prevention
 - Crisis intervention.

The Service Collaborative's planning group is working on a crisis protocol that will address the complex needs of students. The group is focused on specialized crisis response teams and specific training for team members.

This past September, the Service Collaborative supported the high school's The Amazing Race. The event challenged students to complete activities at local health, mental health, and recreational locations. The goal of the event was to familiarize students with health services available, but with a fun twist!



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In the news:

[Students compete in The Amazing Race Wawatay News](#)

[The Amazing Race Northwest Newsweek](#)

VIDEO: DFC TRANSITIONS



The Service Collaborative supported the development of a transitions video that chronicles events that new students can expect in their first year at DFC. Filming was completed during the school year by Confederation College Broadcasting students. Watch the video [here](#).

In the last year, the Service Collaborative and DFC high school have marked important milestones, including:

- A new student code of conduct was updated and printed
- Two DFC staff members travelled to Toronto to attend the Non-Violent Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training, and are now able to train DFC staff
- Staff have been trained in:
 - Safetalk, which helps individuals recognize suicidal thoughts in others and safely talk about feelings
 - Applied Suicidal Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
 - Mental Health First Aid.

In the coming fiscal year, the Service Collaborative and DFC high school will complete the crisis protocol that will outline how staff respond to a student who is in distress, and form crisis teams within the school. School staff will continue professional development training to help them understand and address the needs of the students.