

Building stronger supports for TAY in Simcoe-Muskoka

The initial work of the Simcoe Muskoka Service Collaboratives focused on the youth sector. Now, the Provincial System Support Program (PSSP) supported these communities to scale up TIP to new populations. This will create a more consistent approach to working with TAY with mental health and/or addictions issues across Ontario. In Simcoe Muskoka, the TIP Model is being scaled up to reach TAY in a post-secondary setting, and in Francophone and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis (FNIM) communities. PSSP is working with Simcoe-Muskoka community partners to support several TIP engagement and knowledge sharing sessions. At these events, partners from Francophone and First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities connected directly with members of the TAY SoS Partnership to learn how to make change happen in their organizations.

At **Georgian College**, over twenty staff members have been trained in the TIP Model. Elements of the TIP Model are being implemented within various programs within Student Services across multiple campuses to support students with mental health and/or addictions issues bridge the gap between post-secondary and community services. Georgian College has also become part of the TAY System of Supports (SoS) Partnership established by the Simcoe-Muskoka Service Collaborative. This cross-sector partnership is building a more integrated system for TAY in Simcoe-Muskoka.

Partners came together at **"Blending the TIP Model with Aboriginal Practices"** was held at the Sugar Ridge Retreat center in Wyebridge, Ontario near Midland/Penetanguishene in May 2016.

John Rice, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Healer at the Canadian Mental Health Association-Simcoe County branch, engaged participants by sharing the different ways he has blended the core practices and guidelines of the TIP model with traditional healing practices. Local TIP model site-based trainers attended to answer questions about TIP and provide information about upcoming training opportunities.

"John spoke of working with youth in crisis and, by using some TIP tools and strategies was able to offer the youth hope in the future," said Carolyn Walsh, TAY SoS partnership co-chair.



Ten participants attended the day and the feedback was positive. Participants that work with youth from FNIM communities felt they are now better able to consider how to use the TIP Model to meet the specific cultural needs of youth, understand which traditional teachings are reflected within the TIP Model; and better connect how their current practice and use of the TIP Model is linked with traditional teachings.

Working with youth transitioning into adulthood

In November 2016, a **small group of TIP-trained Francophone service providers from different sectors came together at two sharing events to support learning more about the TIP Model** and TAY SoS Partnership.

The events focused on:

- exploring current gaps in services for mental health and substance for Francophone youth in the communities of Simcoe Muskoka;
- reviewing the TIP Model guidelines;
- connecting service providers to the TAY SoS Partnership; and
- sharing resources to support implementation of the TIP Model.



Participants found that this event helped to improve their understanding of how the TIP Model guidelines can be applied and agreed that they were leaving the forum better equipped to apply the TIP Model to their work with Francophone youth.

Scaling up the TIP Model to new populations will support a more consistent approach to working with TAY with mental health and/or addictions issues. The TAY SoS Partnership will play a key role to ensure that partners from across sectors, including within the post-secondary setting and providers working with Francophone and First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities, are connected to each other to continue to build an integrated system of care for TAY in Simcoe Muskoka.