

***Helping build inclusive, caring and safe communities***

**LCCJ Community Animator Report - November 23, 2017**

**Submitted by** Andrew Lynch, Community Animator

**Schools & Youth Centres News**

Lanark Highlands Youth Centre – Laurie Clarke is conducting circles.

Smiths Falls – The first weekly circle was held on Tuesday, November 21st.

Almonte District High School (Almonte) – Helen Rochon, Peggy Land and I have been conducting weekly circles on Thursdays with three classes – grades 8, 9 and 11. The teacher of the grade 8 class is working independently with her students at the moment. We continue to facilitate circles with the grade 9 class and support the grade 11 teacher and students in their use of learning circles.

The demonstration circle for staff scheduled for October 27th was postponed because of UCDSB PD day priorities.

Arklan Community Public School (Carleton Place) – Helen Rochon his conducting weekly proactive circles with three primary classes.

Maple Grove Public School (Lanark) – Laurie Clark and Helen Mogford are conducting circles with classes and small groups of students.

North Elmsley PS – Darlene Graham is conducting circles with a grade 5/6 class.

Perth & District Collegiate Institute - On November 8th, I made a presentation to staff and facilitated a demonstration circle with them. It was well-received, and we can expect to be involved with the school in various ways.

St. John Catholic High School – Peggy Land and I continue to lead circles with a grade 8 class.

**Volunteers**

Now that interest in *Be Strong* is ramping up, we are in need of more volunteers. We will be recruiting young adult and adult volunteers over the next couple of months. Attempts to recruit volunteers from Algonquin College through the ECE program are on hold as a result of the college teachers’ strike. If you know of someone who might be interested in working with youth in a school or youth centre setting, please inform them that they can contact Andrew Lynch by email andrew@commjustice.org or by telephone, 613-264-1558 for details.

**Reflection and Learning**

 All of us on the Be Strong team find that we are constantly learning from our circle experiences and our collaborations. I addition, our learning is enhanced through:

* **Be Strong** team meetings – the next of which is scheduled for Thursday, November 23rd
* **Training** and **Conferences** – Many of us at LCCJ including Brian Peters, Al Howard and I had the opportunity to participate and learn with colleagues from Canada and beyond in the **National Restorative Justice Symposium**. Our thanks to Sarah and the LCCJ board for your support.

**Numbers of Student Engagements**– when all levels of student engagement are factored in to date, numbers total more than 8600 with more to count this month. Of those, approximately 3100 represent high level, mostly weekly engagements.