



Helping build inclusive, caring and safe communities

LCCJ Community Animator Report - January 18, 2018

Submitted by Andrew Lynch, Community Animator

Schools & Youth Centres News

There was a gradual drop in activity at all schools as the Christmas break drew near. Activity in the elementary schools is resuming as is planning at the secondary schools as the end of the first semester approaches. Circles resumed at WAK (Smiths Falls on January 16th).

Numbers of Student Engagements– when all levels of student engagement are factored in to date, numbers total more than 9200. Of those, approximately 3600 represent high level, mostly weekly engagements.

Reflection and Learning – Be Strong Training / Learning Day January 16th. Participants included all of our volunteers and four board members.

Our major foci were on two areas:

1. *The Restorative Practices Learning Continuum* (attached) which has been developed to show a clear tiered progression from preparation of classes and staff for restorative practices through to full integration of circle practices. We are in the process of developing and collecting resources for a Be Strong Handbook that will provide volunteers with general information about restorative principles along with resources to help them in their work with groups at each level, most notably Levels 2&3. Level 1 support will be provided mainly by LCCJ staff and community partners with expertise in relevant areas.
We intend to have the handbook completed by the end of January. Though volunteers will be provided with a hard copy, we will encourage them to keep up with its evolution online because we will make regular updates to it.
2. Sarah's presentation on *Facilitation* reviewed best practices and principles of practice for volunteers. If I were to isolate a key overarching theme it would be this: Effective and relevant facilitation of circles enables participants to have ownership of the circle. The more participants feel ownership, the more engaged they are with the circle process.