



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

**LCCJ Community Animator Report – June 21, 2018**

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**Schools & Youth Centres News**

**Almonte District High School** I met with the principal, Nancy Holman to review the successes we experienced and lessons learned this school year. In particular, we discussed the importance of prioritizing the engagement of staff in order to embed and sustain restorative practices. Students and staff are going to complete a survey (designed by school administration) which should help to identify values and priorities. Follow-up discussions – possibly using circles- will establish common core values and expectations among students and staff, and how best to communicate them.

**Lombardy Public School** Some teachers have begun incorporating circles into their practice. I will be meeting with the current VP, outgoing principal and incoming principal in the near future to determine next steps.

**Other schools** – There is considerable shuffling of school administrators about to take place. Between now and the beginning of the school year, I will continue to establish new connections.

**Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute** We concluded a series of circle sessions with students from a grade 9 art class and their teacher Rebecca Soudant. Throughout the series, we used combinations of break out activities and reflection circles to explore the students' creative processes and choices of media and design elements.

**Youth Centres:** We are suspending scheduled circles with the Smiths Falls Youth Program for the summer and will resume them in September. We may be continuing monthly circles at the Lanark Highland Youth Centre during the summer.

**Smiths Falls Shared Youth Services / Youth Campus** – For the time –being, I will continue as the chair person of the steering committee, pending the hiring of a new Executive Director for Big Brothers, Big Sisters. (Jennifer Miller has assumed the position of Manager for Economic Development and Tourism for the Town of Smiths Falls). We have met in May to refine our action plan and on June 21<sup>st</sup> to identify immediate priorities which include engaging youth in decision-making for the program and making applications for funding.

**Youth Job Connections – Community Employment Services (Algonquin College)** Youth Job Connections operates from September through June. Cohorts of youth ages 15 to 29 participate in a two week program geared to providing personalized support in gaining employment. This month we held the first of what promises to be a regular part of the program – an introduction to restorative justice as an alternative to the court system and to principles of restorative practice that apply in personal and work relationships.

**Numbers of Student / Youth Engagements** Our total is over 11,000 with approximately 5200 of those being high level, weekly engagements.

**Volunteers** We have a small, but dedicated group of volunteers. We need more and invite members of the board of directors to help get the word out.