

WE MATTER

Ontario Support Network

The Ontario Support Network (OSN) is a regional network supporting Indigenous youth and their communities through hope, culture and strength!

The OSN will be a network of 6 Community Teams across Northern Ontario who, supported by We Matter, will plan and put into action youth-led mental health and life promotion projects in their communities. As a Community Team, you will commit to at least one year of relationship-building with We Matter and other Northern Ontario Community Teams, attendance at the Regional On-the Land #HopeForum, and supporting your community with AMAZING initiatives designed by YOU!

Are you interested in taking initiative to support youth and bringing hope, culture and strength to your community? Then we want **YOU** to apply!

Don't have a full team?
Reach out to chelsea@wemattercampaign.org for support

Details of the Ontario Support Network

Over the course of one year - October 2018 to June 2019 (and hopefully longer) - OSN Community Teams (Youth Ambassadors and Community Guides) will engage in regular relationship-building and project planning with each other as well as the We Matter Team, in order to create and implement youth-led and focused mental health and life promotion projects in their own school or community. This will happen through monthly video calls, weekly online sharing, a 4-day long #HopeForum gathering, the use of We Matter Toolkits, and community visits. Each Community Team will have access to \$2000 to put towards their project or initiative.

Eligibility

- Each Community Team must consist of 2 Youth Ambassadors (approx. 13-22 years of age) and 1 Community Guide (Elder, Teacher, Support Person, etc).
- Teams must have support from the School and Chief and Council where appropriate (we can help you with this!).
- Teams must be led by Indigenous youth
- Teams must be ready to commit to a full year, including weekly and monthly check-ins and sharing, the #HopeForum, and the project they choose to develop.
- Community Guides and Youth Ambassadors must be able to attend an all-paid On-the-Land #HopeForum from November 20th-25th.
- Community Guides must be available (with the support of We Matter) to support and mentor Youth Ambassadors throughout the year/project and help manage team dollars.
- Teams must be willing to work as a team and have open communication. *If your community doesn't have strong internet connection or cell service, or you're a youth who doesn't have a phone or laptop, don't worry, we will find a way for you to be involved.*
- Teams will be expected to have an introduction call with the We Matter Team once we receive your application.
- Teams must fill out an application together. Applications must be submitted by October 3rd, 2018. You can apply by filling out this form in writing OR you can choose to apply with an oral or video submission.

Answer these application questions from the heart, thinking of ways you can make a difference in your community!

Submit applications to chelsea@wemattercampaign.org by **October 3rd, 2018**.

- If you would like to submit an oral or video application, just let us know!
- If you need to fax your application, reach out to us.
- If you have any questions about the Ontario Support Network or your application, feel free to email or call 1-226-979-6509.

We will be selecting communities based on: youth involvement and vision in the application, clear initiative from Community Guides and Youth Ambassadors, and the expressed needs for community mental health and life promotion programming.

(If selected, youth under age 18 will need a release and travel form signed from a parent/guardian in order to participate)

Application to Participate

Community:

Youth Ambassador #1:

Name:

Nation or how you identify:

Date of Birth:

Youth Ambassador #2:

Name:

Nation or how you identify:

Date of Birth:

Community Guide:

Name:

Nation or how you identify:

Your role in the community:

What is the context of your community?

Things you can share include:

-Location

- Size

-History of your community

- What kinds of support services are, or are not, available for youth

**Do you see different challenges, pain, or “hopelessness” in your community? Or with youth around you?
What negative effects does this cause?**

What are some strengths of your community? What have you seen that brings HOPE and positivity to your community and youth in meaningful ways?

What MORE can be done in your community to bring HOPE or help people who are having trouble?

What kinds of things would you like to see more of in your community (mental health supports, resources, activities, events, programs, etc.)?

What have you done personally to help bring hope and positivity to your community? *(please share about each of your team member's efforts to do this)*

Why do you want to be a part of the We Matter Ontario Support Network? What does hope, culture, and strength mean to you?

How is your Community Team going to guarantee that the Youth Ambassadors will lead this project?

Do you have anything else to share with us (about yourselves, your experiences, or your team)?