



School Staff Lead (SSL) Role

What is the YMHAC Initiative?

The **Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champion (YMHAC) Initiative** is a partnership between the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and public health units across the province of Ontario. The program supports students to become mental health champions in their schools.

The main goals of the YMHAC Initiative is to improve the health and well-being of youth by promoting mental wellness initiatives, helping to reduce the stigma about mental illness, and discouraging the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

[Health Unit/Agency] has partnered with [school board] to identify and implement the YMHAC Initiative into interested schools.

How does the Initiative Work?

Youth will be trained and supported to take on the role of “**Youth Lead**” and “**Youth Champion**” at their school and will form the ***Network of Champions***.

The **Public Health Leads** will work closely with the **School Staff Lead(s)** (i.e., Child and Youth Worker, teacher), **Mental Health Lead**, **school principal/vice-principal or designate**, **Youth Leads** and **Youth Champions** to plan and carry out initiatives promoting mental health throughout the school year.

What is the role of a School Staff Lead?

School Staff Lead(s) who will support the initiative at the school level will:

1. Assist the **Public Health Leads** in the recruitment of **Youth Champions** and **Youth Leads** from the school (Date TBD).
2. Assist with operational support for the program integration within their community and schools.
3. Use the Youth Engagement principles and practices, as well as demonstrate interest in promoting mental health and addiction best practices throughout the YMHAC Initiative.





4. Attend and assist with the promotion of a local training session/workshop with **Youth Champions** and **Youth Leads** within your school/region (date & location TBD).
5. Attend and assist the **Network of Champions** meetings. Meetings will be held once a week during lunch hour (dates and location TBD).
6. Collaborate with the **Public Health Lead(s)**, to develop and mentor **Youth Champions** and **Youth Leads** throughout the YMHAC initiative.
7. Assist with the planning, facilitating, promotion and delivering of YMHAC initiatives/events.
8. Be the communication liaison with **Youth Champions** and **Youth Leads**.
9. Be a resource to the school for knowledge transfer (i.e., updating school staff).
10. Participate in evaluation activities (i.e., surveys, focus groups).

