

# The Ontario Support Network (OSN)

*is a regional network supporting Indigenous youth and their communities through hope, culture and strength!*

The OSN is a network of Community Teams across Northern Ontario who, supported by We Matter, plan and put into action Indigenous youth-led mental health and life promotion projects in their communities. As a Community Team, you will commit to mentoring with We Matter so you can support your community with AMAZING projects 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 or need help completing your application?  
Reach out to [chelsea@wemattercampaign.org](mailto:chelsea@wemattercampaign.org) for support.

## **Details of the Ontario Support Network:**

The Ontario Support Network is a mentorship opportunity for Indigenous youth who want to create dialogue about mental health and life promotion; promote hope, culture, and strength; and highlight youth and community strengths. This will happen through regular video/phone check-ins; access to a Facebook group to share your challenges and successes; the use of We Matter Toolkits; access to community visits and the opportunity to have a We Matter Hope, Culture, Strength Session in your community; and YOU running your own event in your community funded by We Matter! Each Community Team will have access of up to \$500 - \$2000 to put towards their project.

## **Eligibility:**

- Each Community Team must consist of at least 2 Youth Ambassadors (approx. 15-26 years of age) and 1 Community Guide (an adult support person like an Elder, Teacher, Youth Worker, 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 2 relationship building calls with We Matter once selection happens; a minimum 1 month timeline commitment to allow for project planning and preparation to happen; at least 1 debrief call following their project/event; communicating with other teams about successes and challenges on the Facebook Group; and a follow-up chat with We Matter approx. 1 month after the project wraps up.
- Community Guides must be available (with the support of We Matter) to support and mentor Youth Ambassadors throughout the project and help manage team dollars.
- Teams must identify a Community Partner who will support them in running the project, such as a school, friendship centre, youth centre, etc.
- Teams must be prepared to commit to financial reporting as outlined by We Matter.

## Eligibility:

- 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.
- Projects can fall into one of the four project areas: Community Art Event, Awareness Event, Cultural Event, or On-the-Land Event.
- Projects can be a single event or a collection of multiple events/sessions.
- Teams will have the opportunity to have a We Matter Hope, Culture, Strength Session alongside their project with a visit from We Matter.
- Following selection, teams will be required to sign a participation agreement outlining commitment and financial expectations in order to participate.
- Teams will be required to have an introduction call with the We Matter Team once we receive your application.
- Applications must be accompanied with a plan, timeline, and budget for your proposed project. Chelsea from We Matter can support you in creating your budget if you need support with this!
- The application process is open from **August 31st, 2019** and closes on **March 1st, 2020**. Applications can be found at [wemattercampaign.org/supportnetwork](http://wemattercampaign.org/supportnetwork) starting on **August 1st, 2019**.
- Teams must fill out an application together. You can apply by filling out this form in writing OR you can choose to apply with an oral or video submission AND provide a proposed budget and timeline/plan. Answer these application questions from the heart, thinking of ways you can make a difference in your community!

## Submit any questions and applications to [chelsea@wemattercampaign.org](mailto:chelsea@wemattercampaign.org).

- 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 [chelsea@wemattercampaign.org](mailto:chelsea@wemattercampaign.org) or call 1-226-979-6509.
- Applications are due by the last day of each month and will remain open from **August 31st, 2019** through until **March 1st, 2020**.

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

*(Participants will need a media release signed in order to participate;  
if under 18 from a parent/guardian in order to participate)*

# Application to Participate

## Community:

---

### Youth Ambassador #1

**Name:**

**Nation or how you identify:**

**Date of Birth:**  **Email:**

**Phone Number:**  **Preferred method of contact:**  Call  Email  Text  Facebook

---

### Youth Ambassador #2

**Name:**

**Nation or how you identify:**

**Date of Birth:**  **Email:**

**Phone Number:**  **Preferred method of contact:**  Call  Email  Text  Facebook

---

### Community Guide

**Name:**

**Nation or how you identify:**

**Your role in the community:**

**Email:**  **Phone Number:**

**Preferred method of contact:**  Call  Email  Text  Facebook

**What is the context of your community?**

*Things you can share include location, size, the history of your community, and 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?**

**What is your relationship to the Community Guide/how do you know them?**

**What is the role of the Community Guide in the community?**

**How will the Community Guide support the youth throughout the project to ensure that the youth are supported and the project is implemented?**

**How will the Community Guide house the project dollars and ensure that any unspent funds are returned in a timely manner along with all expense reporting necessary?**

**What type of project would you like to run in your community (see the FAQ sheet for examples of projects within each category)? Please select one of the options below.**

- Community Art Event**
- Awareness Event**
- Cultural Event**
- On-the-Land Event**

**Please describe your project and how it fits within the goals of the Ontario Support Network and the project category that you've selected (please see page one for a reminder of these goals).**

**What is the timeline and plan for your project? How long do you need to complete your project, and what are the steps you will take to make it happen? Please be as specific as possible.**

**Start Date:**  **End Date:**

**What materials and resources do you need to successfully implement your project?**

**Who might your Community Partner be, and how will they support you?**

**How do you need support from We Matter?** *(For more ideas about how We Matter can support you please see the FAQ Document).*

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

I have filled out and read all of the information provided in this application. I agree with the information provided and agree to join into this process should the application be approved by We Matter.

**Youth Ambassador #1**

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Youth Ambassador #2**

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Community Guide**

**Name:**

**Date:**

Please attach your budget to this application when submitting it to [chelsea@wemattercampaign.org](mailto:chelsea@wemattercampaign.org).