

WE MATTER is looking for Community Teams across northern Ontario to join the

# Ontario Support Network

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

## **What is the Ontario Support Network?**

The Ontario Support Network is an exciting program that hopes to build deeper partnerships between We Matter and a select number of northern Ontario communities and deeper relationships between youth and their supports across communities. The Ontario Support Network will support Youth-led Community Teams to bring conversations of hardship, hope and healing to their schools and communities and develop mental health and life promotion projects.

## **Details:**

Community Teams made up of at least two Indigenous Youth Ambassadors ages 15-26 and a Community Guide (adult mentor) can apply to implement a life promotion project in their community with the support and mentorship from We Matter.

## **Selected youth-led Community Teams will:**

- Receive funds to lead their project
- Need an adult mentor who can hold the financial responsibility for the project, and support the Youth Ambassadors throughout the planning and implementation of their project.
- Need to identify a Community Resource who will support them in running the project
- Get to connect with other youth-led teams through a Facebook group to share and learn
- Have the opportunity to host We Matter Hope, Culture, Strength Session in their community.

## **The following are Project Options community teams can apply to lead alongside We Matter:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Art Project (up to \$500)<br/><i>Examples:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community or school mural</li><li>• Youth art show</li><li>• Photography exhibit</li><li>• Create and share sessions</li></ul></li><li>• Awareness Event (up to \$1000)<br/><i>Examples:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mental health fair</li><li>• Awareness walk/rally</li><li>• Pride event</li><li>• Knowledge sharing sessions (sharing circles, education series)</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural Activity (up to \$1500)<br/><i>Examples:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth/elder gathering</li><li>• Craft making</li><li>• Language</li><li>• Teaching and stories</li></ul></li><li>• On-the-Land Event (up to \$2000)<br/><i>Examples:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Culture/land camp</li><li>• Hunting/fishing/trapping/gathering</li><li>• Shelter building</li><li>• Snowshoeing</li></ul></li></ul> |
|--|--|

# WE MATTER is looking for Community Teams across northern Ontario to join the

# Ontario Support Network

## **Process:**

- To be a part of the Ontario Support Network, there will be an application process which is open from **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019** and closes on **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. Applications can be found on **wemattercampaign.org/supportnetwork** starting on **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**.
- Applications should be submitted by the last day of every month and will be reviewed upon submission. Applying teams will need to participate in an introduction call with We Matter, and will hear back within three weeks of submission if they've been selected.
- We Matter is here to support you in submitting your application, please contact Chelsea at the email listed below for additional support!

## **Some Goals of the Ontario Support Network are:**

- a) Mentor and support Indigenous youth to plan and implement their own mental health and life promotion projects in their area/community.
- b) Build relationships between youth, adult mentors, and support services.
- c) Introduce Indigenous youth and community members to We Matter Toolkits in order to start and sustain conversations on hardship, hope and healing.
- d) Promote and share the strengths and successes of young leaders and their communities on a national platform to inspire others.

**Indigenous youth have the ability to heal themselves and help bring healing to friends or family, though we need to make sure they have the materials, community support, and confidence to do so!**

*Note: The Ontario Support Network is not a grant, it 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.*

## **Are you an Elder, Youth, Support Worker, Teacher, Youth Worker, Council member, etc?**

We would love to chat with you more about the Ontario Support Network. Please contact [chelsea@wemattercampaign.org](mailto:chelsea@wemattercampaign.org) for more information!

## **What is We Matter?**

We Matter is a national Indigenous and youth-led organization dedicated to Indigenous youth support, hope and life promotion. Our key project is the We Matter Campaign - a national multi-media campaign in which Indigenous role models and allies submit short video, written and artistic messages sharing their own experiences of overcoming hardships and communicating with Indigenous youth that no matter how hopeless life can feel, there is always a way forward.

## **I Matter. You Matter. We Matter.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT US AT [www.wemattercampaign.org](http://www.wemattercampaign.org) FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**    **@WeMatterOrg**