



STRENGTHENING FRANCOPHONE YOUTH AND FAMILIES:

An exciting new project
from Health Nexus and Parent Action on Drugs



[Parent Action on Drugs \(PAD\)](#) and [Health Nexus](#), as members of [HC Link](#), are pleased to announce the start of a two-and-a-half year project: **Strengthening Francophone Youth and Families**. With funds from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on French Language Services, this project will introduce an evidence-based program model to increase resiliency in at-risk youth to Francophone communities across Ontario. The project will work with PAD’s [Strengthening Families for Parents and Youth \(SFPY\)](#), an initiative involving at-risk youth 12-16 years old and their parents and caregivers in a nine-week program beginning with a shared dinner, separate adult and youth sessions, followed by a shared parent-youth session. SFPY was adapted from Dr. Karol Kumpfer’s Strengthening Families Program, 12-16, identified as one of the best evidence-based interventions of its kind. From 2009 – 2011 PAD worked with diverse community youth, addictions and mental health agencies to test and evaluate SFPY, showing positive outcomes in parenting skills, youth mental health and social skills and family functioning equal to the norms established by Dr. Kumpfer’s program.

The nine-week SFPY is currently being implemented successfully by organizations and collaboratives in Guelph, Wellington County, Peterborough/County, Muskoka and Toronto.

The current project will introduce the SFPY model to Francophone communities throughout Ontario through a series of workshops, webinars and implementation in two pilot sites. An Advisory Committee will be key to consider the necessary implementation strategies that will be most effective to ensure the application of the program meets the specific needs of Francophone communities in Ontario in all their diversity. With the expertise provided by Health Nexus, a bilingual organization and a designated French language service provider, this project will increase the capacity of Francophone organizations and networks to provide a significant program to increase mental health and decrease substance misuse among Francophone youth.

Persons and organizations who are interested in working with our team on this project or keeping up to date on our work plan please contact PAD.

This project builds on the commitment of Health Nexus and Parent Action on Drugs to support and work with Francophone communities. We look forward to working together on this exciting initiative.

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