

# Partnership Initiatives 2016-2017



## Summary Report of Partnership Initiatives between the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, School Boards and Schools in Simcoe Muskoka

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ..... 1

Navigating the Report ..... 2

The SMDHU Healthy Schools Program ..... 3

Healthy Schools & Well-Being ..... 4

Growth and Development ..... 6

Healthy Eating ..... 8

Mental Health ..... 10

Personal Safety and Injury Prevention ..... 11

Physical Activity ..... 13

Substance Use, Addictions and Related Behaviours ..... 14

Health Connection ..... 16

Conclusion ..... 17

# INTRODUCTION

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) engages in ongoing partnerships with local school boards to support the creation of healthier schools and to promote optimal health, developmental potential and learning of school aged children and youth. These partnerships support the education sector's goal of promoting well-being and also the mandates for school-based public health programming at the local level. Recently, the Council of Directors of Education and the Council of Medical Officers of Health made a commitment to formalize partnership agreements between health units and school boards throughout the province of Ontario. The SMDHU signed a formal partnership agreement with one local school board in December 2016, demonstrating their mutual commitment to work collaboratively in support of healthy school environments that foster student well-being and academic success. Efforts are now underway to have similar agreements with other school boards in our jurisdiction.

This report contains a brief summary of the health-related initiatives undertaken as a result of the ongoing collaboration and partnership between the SMDHU and the local school boards/schools during the 2016-2017 school year and highlights the many ways in which we continue to work with school board/school staff, students, families and the community to make school communities a healthy place for all.

# NAVIGATING THE REPORT

This report is organized in accordance with the six curriculum-linked, health-related topics listed in the Ontario Ministry of Education's [Foundations for a Healthy School Framework](#). As you move through the report, please take note of the symbol(s) listed along-side each strategy:



**Curriculum, Teaching & Learning**



**Social & Physical Environments**



**School & Classroom Leadership**



**Home, School & Community Partnerships**



**Student Engagement**

These symbols reflect the broader area(s) of the *Foundations for a Healthy School* that have been met through the implementation of each strategy and, when used together, support schools in taking an integrated approach to addressing a range of health-related topics.

# THE SMDHU HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The SMDHU Healthy Schools Program helps to meet Ontario Public Health Standards across all program areas within the health unit. This is accomplished through supporting school health best practices such as Healthy Schools, Comprehensive School Health, and more. At full complement, the [Healthy Schools Program](#) at the SMDHU consists of eight public health nurses (PHNs), a public health dietitian and a public health nutritionist:

- Two school board liaison PHNs partner in collaboration with school board senior administration and staff to meet legislated requirements, streamline communications, and to identify and address common goals between the health unit and school board. This includes, but is not limited to, the many initiatives described in this report.
- Six Healthy Schools PHNs are assigned geographically (five in Simcoe County and one in Muskoka) to work with school communities on Healthy Schools initiatives. They use comprehensive school health best practices to engage students, school staff, families and community partners in creating programs and initiatives that are accessible for the whole school community. An integrated approach is applied to a broad range of health-related topics that enhance the physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual health.
- One public health dietitian supports nutrition planning in schools with comprehensive action planning, tools and resources.
- One public health nutritionist provides best practice evidence and expertise on various nutrition topics.



Healthy Schools Program staff work in collaboration with staff from other health unit programs, community agencies, school boards and schools to enhance student health and well-being.

## Staffing Updates:

During 2016-2017, the Healthy Schools Program welcomed new Healthy Schools PHNs in:

- South Simcoe: a full time, permanent PHN was hired in June 2016.
- Georgian West/Angus: a PHN was hired into this position temporarily for the 2016-2017 school year to cover a staff leave of absence. The Healthy Schools PHN who covers this area returned to her permanent position in June 2017.
- North Simcoe/Midland: a full time, permanent, bilingual PHN was hired in January 2016.

These changes have had a positive impact on program delivery and have returned the Healthy Schools Program to its full capacity.

# HEALTHY SCHOOLS & WELL-BEING

Starting in the fall of 2016, Healthy Schools PHNs contacted administrators from publicly funded, English, elementary and secondary schools to offer outreach visits. These visits provided each school with an opportunity to consult with a PHN about health-related strengths, needs and issues and to collaboratively plan to address identified school priorities. With the addition of a French speaking PHN to the team in the winter of 2016, informal outreach to French schools also occurred through meetings and outreach visits when possible.

- 74 schools (65 elementary and nine secondary) participated in a scheduled in-person outreach meeting with the Healthy Schools PHN.
- Healthy Schools PHNs also conducted brief drop in visits at an additional 42 schools (36 elementary and six secondary).

## Trends:

School health-related needs/issues commonly identified by school administrators included:

- mental health
- healthy eating/nutrition
- physical activity
- positive school climate
- poverty
- bullying prevention

Other health topics discussed included:

- poverty
- growth mindset
- hygiene
- substance use
- growth and development
- diversity and inclusiveness

## Healthy Schools Support:



Throughout the school year, Healthy Schools PHNs supported interested schools to create action plans to address identified issues. They shared ideas/resources and assisted with creating linkages to health unit and community programs and services. The PHNs supported more than 35 schools to apply for community and school board funding opportunities to support health-related initiatives. They also assisted with the implementation of various student and school led activities to address health-related goals identified in their school learning plans.

## OPHEA Healthy Schools Certification:



Eight schools in Simcoe Muskoka achieved Ophea Healthy Schools Certification. Healthy Schools PHNs provided varying degrees of support to school staff and students as they moved through the six-step certification process. The schools received additional points towards their certification for involving public health as a partner.

### **Health Policy and Leadership:**

In addition to working with schools and school communities to support the well-being of students, stakeholders from the health unit, school board and community were involved and collaborated on addressing a number of health topics through policy development or review at the school board level: health unit staff provided support to the school board in reviewing and revising health-related policies and procedures related to Head Lice (Pediculosis) Management, Bed Bugs, Student Nutrition Policy, Student Concussion Protocol, and Student Healthcare Policy (Asthma). These opportunities were facilitated through partnerships between the school board liaison PHNs and their key school board contacts. The SMDHU also acknowledges the commitment demonstrated by two school boards through the provision of dedicated desk space and technological resources for the school board liaison PHNs.

### **Workplace Wellness:**

Healthier staff promote healthy social environments and create positive role models for students. PHNs from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Chronic Disease Prevention – Healthy Lifestyle Program participate as members of Workplace Wellness Committee at two school boards. The health unit's Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator also supported policy development for staff health and safety at one board. These partnerships provided opportunities for the health unit to share information about relevant community health initiatives, such as the "STOP on the Road" and the "First Week Challenge" aimed at supporting tobacco cessation.

# GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

## Parenting Supports:



Nurses from SMDHU’s Healthy Schools and Child Health Programs offered **Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)** workshops and tip sheet sessions at 13 schools across three school boards. They also provided staff orientation related to Triple P at four schools. This evidence-based program aims to increase knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents and reduce the prevalence of mental health, emotional, and behavioural problems in children and adolescents.

At the **Muskoka Ready for Kindergarten** events, representatives from the SMDHU’s Oral Health, Child Health, Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention, Vaccine Preventable Disease and Chronic Disease Prevention – Healthy Lifestyle teams attended to promote key health and parenting messages. They were available to answer families’ health-related questions and concerns. During these events, parents of approximately one-quarter to one-third of children indicated that their child had not had their first dental visit yet with a dentist. The dental hygienist in attendance provided informal dental screenings for these children and spoke with their parents about how to access support through the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program.

## Immunization:

Through the **Elementary School Immunization Program**, three rounds of immunization clinics were provided. Nurses visited elementary schools to offer the Hepatitis B and Meningococcal vaccine to Grade 7 students. For the first time, the **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Immunization Program** was made available to all Grade 7 students (regardless of gender). To support this transition in vaccine scheduling, the HPV vaccine was also offered to female students in Grade 8. This was the last year that the HPV vaccine will be offered to students in Grade 8. The percentage of students who completed the full vaccination series for each of these vaccines is as follows:

Vaccine	Number of TLDSB students who completed the vaccine series in 2016-2017
Hepatitis B - 2 dose series	74.9% of Grade 7 & 8 students
Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW - 1 dose	86.2% of Grade 7 & 8 students
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - 2 dose series	63.8% of Grade 7 students (all genders) 65.2% of Grade 8 female students



Through **Surveillance of Student Immunization Records**, the health unit identified students whose immunization records were incomplete. Suspension orders took effect on October 6, 2016, for 176 Grade 3-4 students from two school boards. Following this the records of Grade 2 students at all school boards were reviewed. Immunization questionnaires (sealed in envelopes) were delivered to elementary schools for distribution to Grade 2 families, to advise if their child's immunization record was incomplete and provide options for updating it. The health unit did not request that elementary school Principals enforce suspensions for these students. A reminder postcard was also sent home with all Grade 1 students in the spring of 2017 to inform their families of immunization requirements.

The health unit selected two secondary schools to be involved in the immunization surveillance and suspension process. Principals from these schools were required to enforce suspension orders for 103 students whose immunization records remained incomplete as of December 13, 2016. The health unit did not request enforcement of suspensions for students from the other secondary schools across Simcoe Muskoka; however, immunization questionnaires were mailed home advising families of the need to update student records.

**Secondary School Immunization Catch-Up Clinics** were offered at 12 secondary schools, where a high number of students had incomplete immunization records. 559 students attended the catch up clinics. The health unit also offered immunization clinics at local health unit offices throughout 2016-2017 to support families in updating their child's required immunizations.

### Sexual Health:

To support **professional development** related to the Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum, PHNs from the Sexual Health Program partnered with two local school boards to offer presentations for elementary and secondary educators.

As in previous school years, a Sexual Health PHN provided **bi-weekly sexual health clinics** in Muskoka area secondary schools. Students were able to access one-on-one counselling, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, birth control and other support related to their sexual health. Feedback indicates that the provision of these services is highly valued by the students and staff in these schools; a formal memorandum of understanding to support the continued delivery of these services has now been established.

In response to requests received from secondary schools throughout Simcoe Muskoka, health unit staff hosted interactive displays at school-led **safe prom events**, providing information about being safe at parties, substance misuse, sexual health services and safer sex.

# HEALTHY EATING

## Food Safety:

All elementary and secondary schools were asked to participate in a **Food Safety Survey** related to school nutrition programs and special events. The response rates for this survey were 94% from elementary schools and 100% from secondary schools. The data collected was used by public health inspectors (PHIs) to assess the need and frequency of inspections to ensure safe food handling, safe food storage and safe food serving. **Food Safety Inspections** commenced in the spring of 2017 and will continue into subsequent school years. Representatives from the SMDHU and one school board have already met to discuss some of the initial findings from inspections, and will continue to work collaboratively to support safe food practices in schools.

## Nutrition & Food Skills:

Many schools offer **Student Nutrition Programs** to provide nutritious breakfasts, snacks and/or lunches for students. Public health dietitians from the health unit provided regional support for these programs through participation on Simcoe County's Eat Well to Excel committee and the Muskoka Student Nutrition Program Committee. They also provided consultations to individual schools as needed.

Two school boards also collaborated with the public health nutritionist and public health dietitian from the health unit to support compliance with the **School Food and Beverage Policy (PPM 150)**. They reviewed applications from 16 food vendors wanting to sell food in schools, and offered supports and resources to the vendors as needed. They also worked with schools by request to support healthy school nutrition environments and compliance with PPM 150. In addition, staff from the health unit collaborated with representatives from two school boards and local Student Nutrition Program representatives to review and revise the boards' **Student Nutrition Policies**.

The health unit promoted [Nutrition Screening Tool for Every Preschooler \(NutriSTEP\)](#) to parents of children being registered for kindergarten within Simcoe Muskoka. NutriSTEP is a questionnaire that can be completed by parents or primary care providers to assess "what is going well" related to children's nutrition and "areas for improvement". Resources are then provided to support families in improving their child's nutritional status.



The health unit also promoted [bright bites](#), a free, web-based program for schools that supports improving school nutrition. Participants from elementary and secondary schools worked towards earning nutrition-related badges to receive recognition in the bright bites Hall of Fame. Badges are ranked as beginner, intermediate and expert.



To support the Healthy Kids Community Challenge in Collingwood with their third theme "Choose to Boost Veggies and Fruit", the health unit and local school boards partnered to pilot a new food skills program called "You're the Chef" in five elementary schools. The program was also piloted in two Muskoka area schools. Students learned about food skills (e.g. how to safely handle and prepare food), kitchen safety and healthy eating. An evaluation of the program is currently in progress and will be made available to school partners in the fall of 2017.

Oral Health: 



**Dental screening** was provided in 158 elementary schools, in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards – Oral Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol. In all schools, students from junior and senior kindergarten, Grades 2 and 8 were included in the screening. In some schools, where past SMDHU oral health assessment data reflected an increased need for service, Grade 4 and 6 students were also screened.

Students in need of urgent dental treatment at the time of screening received follow up support from the health unit to ensure care through their family dental provider or publicly funded programs such as [Healthy Smiles Ontario \(HSO\)](#).

Dental Screening Assessment Data, 2016-2017

Number of students who participated in elementary dental screening: **18,092**.

Number of students with urgent dental concerns that required additional follow up and case management: **1,691**.

**Preventive dental clinics** were provided at 83 elementary schools across Simcoe Muskoka. Topical fluoride, pit and fissure sealants and cleaning were provided to students with parental consent. In addition, dental hygienists visited elementary schools in Midland, Penetanguishene, Orillia and Innisfil to deliver service to 133 students enrolled in the **Fluoride Varnish Program**. Children from selected childcares are eligible to enroll in this program, and receive two fluoride varnish applications per year. The program continues until the end of Grade 2.

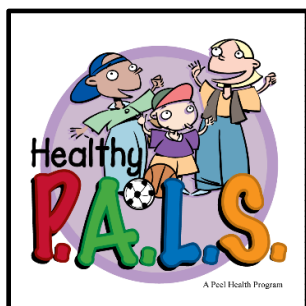
# MENTAL HEALTH

## Mental Health Promotion:



PHNs delivered **Can You Feel It? (CYFI)** training sessions and provided the workshop resources for teachers interested in delivering the program in their own classroom. They also provided the workshop in seven elementary classes and one alternative education setting. Can You Feel It? is designed to help students build the skills necessary to identify what stress is and how it manifests emotionally and physically. Through the program, students explore and reflect on what stress means and looks like in their own lives and build a toolbox of resources to turn to in times of stress.

One school board approved the health unit's proposed evaluation of the Can You Feel It? workshop to determine its effectiveness in building student awareness and skills related to stress and coping. The survey is available to participating staff/facilitators and students. A report will be generated based on survey results and will be available in the summer of 2018.



The **Healthy Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (P.A.L.S.)** program aims to develop student leadership skills and developmental assets, increase physical activity, and decrease bullying and playground incidents by engaging students in fun and safe activities during recess. The Healthy Schools program PHNs supported interested elementary schools with Healthy P.A.L.S. training and implementation at interested elementary schools across three school boards. They also supported schools by sharing newsletters three times a year with tips and additional resources for teacher supervisors and student leads.

In addition, the health unit conducted an evaluation of the program with one school board to determine its effectiveness and to inform any required changes to the program. Data was collected from past and present school staff with P.A.L.S. experience through an online survey and a report will be available in the fall of 2017.



**Roots of Empathy** is an evidence-based program that has been shown to decrease bullying and aggression while raising social emotional competence and empathy among children. Four PHNs from the Healthy Schools program delivered [Roots of Empathy](#) in one elementary school each. Due to unforeseen circumstances, two programs were cancelled mid-year. The school board liaison PHN to SCDSB partners with a SCDSB staff member to coordinate instructor training and local programming, in their roles as Roots of Empathy Key Point Persons.

# PERSONAL SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION

## Injury Prevention:

Each year Parachute Canada celebrates **Safe Kids Week** by offering tips and education to the community about ways to prevent childhood injuries. This year's theme "everyday superhero" encouraged children to become leaders in road safety by learning how to keep themselves and others safe when they walk, bike or wheel. The health unit worked collaboratively with local school boards to support and promote this message through newsletter inserts home to parents and using social media. Eight schools across Simcoe Muskoka worked with the health unit to host **Road and Bicycle Safety** events to encourage safe and active transportation. The events included activities such as bike safety checks, helmet fitting checks, concussion awareness, bike rodeos and free helmet giveaways.

One school board also formed a project team in 2016 to revise its **Concussion Protocol**. The school board liaison PHN and nurses from the health unit's Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention program were invited to participate as members. Together, the project team reviewed and revised the existing protocol to reflect new and emerging best practice information under the guidance of a local sports medicine physician.

## Technology-Based Student Mentorship:

In partnership with the Simcoe Muskoka Integrated Fall Strategy (SMIFS) committee, of which the health unit is a member, students from three schools participated in the [Cyberseniors](#) project. The Cyberseniors project connected students with seniors living in local seniors' residences in an effort to help bridge the generation/technology gap between these age groups. This program provided students with an opportunity to build leadership skills, digital citizenship, and cross generational relationships. Students involved acted in a mentorship role, once per week for 8-10 weeks, teaching seniors how to use technology for engaging with family and friends through social media. All schools that participated in this project reported positive outcomes and some have already signed up to offer the program next year.

## Communicable Disease Prevention:

School board staff sought consultation with the SMDHU 139 times throughout the year related to infectious diseases and/or infection prevention and control in schools. The Communicable Disease Program provided information and education in response to calls about:

- reportable diseases and reporting processes, as well as information about non-reportable diseases
- staff illness, including workplace acquired illnesses and prevention
- increases above usual rates of illness/absenteeism
- cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, hand hygiene and immunization
- management of students with chronic infectious diseases
- communicating with families and school communities about exposures to reportable and non-reportable diseases.

They also responded to complaints related to infection prevention and control, as required.

The health unit investigated all reported outbreaks of illness in schools and engaged in daily discussions with school administrators related to the progression of illness among students and staff, cleaning and disinfection processes and provided best practice recommendations.

In 2017, the Communicable Disease program at the SMDHU started conducting **inspections of before/after school programs** that are licensed as child care providers under the Ministry of Education. They also commenced **inspections at schools offering personal services**, (e.g. hairstyling and aesthetics or cosmetology services). During inspections, PHIs assess for compliance with appropriate infection prevention and control procedures.

**Infection prevention and control awareness training** was provided to students participating in a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Health and Wellness Program or Health Care Technology Course at five secondary schools across Simcoe Muskoka.

# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

## Naturalized Outdoor Environments:

One school board has demonstrated strong leadership in encouraging **outdoor initiatives and education**. Representatives from the SMDHU partnered once again in three outdoor professional development conferences for educators. The health unit's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Charles Gardner, provided the keynote address at one event. Two PHNs also attended the three events to provide workshops and to engage in and learn from the presentations by others.

The same school board has also entered into a collaborative partnership with a local conservation authority on a **pilot project to naturalize outdoor school environments**. The SMDHU has provided staff representation to support the school-scaping and naturalization projects underway at five elementary schools. Each school is at a different phase of planning and implementation of the pilot. The health unit looks forward to continued collaboration with these schools as the projects continue to move forward in the fall of 2017.

The Healthy Schools program at the SMDHU loaned **tarmac stencils** to schools, by request, to support encouraging students to be more active at recess. There are [five stencils](#) available for loaning along with an [online games booklet](#) available for printing.

## Healthy Active Living:

This year, the Healthy Schools school board liaison PHNs were invited to contribute monthly submissions to one school board's **Special Education Newsletter** and to another school board's online blog. Submissions were offered on various healthy active living topics, with a focus on comprehensive approaches for school communities. Examples of submissions include: Playground Activity Leaders in School promotion, Tips to Being Active Over the Holidays, Safe Kids Week, and more. Feedback about the submissions has been positive and the liaison PHNs have been invited to contribute again next school year.

## Active Transportation:



As part of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge in Collingwood, a PHN from the health unit's Chronic Disease Prevention- Healthy Lifestyle program worked in collaboration with local community partners to support a **Walking School Bus** pilot at one elementary school. Adult leads met students every morning from January until June at a designated spot and walked with those students to the school.

# SUBSTANCE USE, ADDICTIONS AND RELATED BEHAVIOURS

Drug and Alcohol Awareness: 



The **R.A.C.E. (Respect, Action, Courage and Excellence)** program gives Grade 5 students the opportunity to learn about decision making and personal safety with regards to drug and alcohol. Students “race” through “pit stops” offered by the health unit and other community partners to support development of curriculum linked skills. R.A.C.E.

events were offered in the South Simcoe Area, Collingwood, Orillia and Midland areas with over 2,257 students participating across multiple school boards. Over 900 students also participated in the Muskoka area.



Five secondary schools across Simcoe Muskoka participated in **Truth and Consequences** conferences this past school year, including one Francophone secondary school. These conferences offered students the opportunity to learn about drugs and alcohol and to build decision-making skills for use in social situations involving drugs and alcohol. Truth and Consequences aligns with the Health and Physical Education curriculum and is also available for educators to offer independently as lessons in the

classroom.

In anticipation of federal legislation changes concerning marijuana, the health unit hosted a **Marijuana and Youth Mythbusting Workshop**. The half-day session included information sharing from national and local experts about the issues and potential impacts of the legalization of marijuana. The expert panel included representation from the SMCDSB’s Dr. Patrick Carney who provided insight from a school perspective on this issue. Over 180 community partners attended the workshop, including local police, school board/school staff, Mental Health and Addictions Nurses, Canadian Mental Health Association staff, etc. Feedback received from those in attendance emphasized the need for continued awareness raising and the need for supports for community agencies and schools.

**Substance misuse** was a particularly hot topic in the 2016-2017 school year, both due to the anticipation of the legalization of marijuana and also because of the high national rates of opioid overdoses. One school board has committed to addressing the issue of substance misuse through their Addiction and Substance Misuse Sub-Committee, which includes membership by a health unit representative. Another committed to addressing these health topics through school board representation on the Barrie Drug Safety Strategy Committee, on which the health unit also has representation. In addition, the health unit and two school boards had representation on the Muskoka Prescription Opioid Prevention Strategy committee, which offered two awareness raising events in Muskoka. The events were well attended by various school and community members.

The school boards also offered feedback to the health unit regarding issues associated with opioid use and availability of naloxone, specifically in reference to impacts for schools/school boards. Resources and education for staff, parents and students are being created by the SMDHU to support awareness raising of substance misuse among these audiences. Work on this topic will continue collaboratively between the health unit and school boards during the 2017-2018 school year.



## Tobacco-Free School Environments:



Tobacco Enforcement Officers from the health unit visited all secondary schools to conduct annual inspections to assess compliance with the **Smoke Free Ontario Act**. Where issues were observed, they provided additional support to assist the schools in meeting the requirements of the Act.

The SMDHU and SMCDSD worked together to share information with parents and caregivers about **Smoke Free Movies**. This coincided with a provincial awareness raising campaign about the influence that smoking scenes in movies can have on young viewers and advocacy for youth rated movies to be smoke-free. Parents were encouraged to learn more about this issue by visiting

[www.smokefreemovies.ca](http://www.smokefreemovies.ca).

Throughout the year, one elementary school, six secondary schools and one alternative school contacted the SMDHU's **Tobacco-Free Living Program** to request support with school initiatives related to tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping. Public health staff provided support to meet each school's unique needs. For example:

- presentations for teachers about e-cigarettes and vaping
- meeting with a group of students to discuss tobacco cessation supports and involvement in a school wellness committee
- providing information and supports for students and parents at a school health fair
- offering an interactive display for students in collaboration with community partners
- working with a group of students to plan an anti-tobacco campaign
- partnering with a school Social Worker on a Start Talking About Drugs and Coping (STACD) project
- information to help students make a quit plan and be aware of cessation resources
- providing resources related to tobacco prevention and cessation.

# HEALTH CONNECTION

**Health Connection** is the health unit's free confidential health information and advice service. Schools, families and students can contact Health Connection to access health information and resources. A telephone interpretation service is available in 170 languages.

Throughout 2016-2017, schools in Simcoe County and Muskoka contacted Health Connection for information and resources. Common topics of inquiry included: immunizations, communicable diseases, health eating/nutrition, parenting, sexual health, infection control, physical activity, oral health, and curriculum supports. Health Connection also supported schools to connect with their assigned Healthy Schools PHN, or staff from other health unit programs where additional support was being requested.



# CONCLUSION

Across Simcoe Muskoka, partners in health and education understand the importance of well-being for children and youth and are taking steps to make well-being a stronger priority within the school setting. This report summarized the collaborative efforts of the health unit and local school boards during the 2016-2017 school year. The initiatives described provided examples of the partnership and mutual commitment between our organizations for supporting student health and well-being. The Healthy Schools program staff look forward to continuing to build and strengthen our partnerships with school boards in the 2017-2018 school year.

To access additional information about the initiatives described, please consult the SMDHU website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or contact the Healthy Schools Program Manager, Cathy Thomson at 705-721-7520, ext. 7469, or [cathy.thomson@smdhu.org](mailto:cathy.thomson@smdhu.org).



[@smhealthyschool](https://twitter.com/smhealthyschool)