



NEWS RELEASE

May 2, 2011

STUDENTS “WiiDING OUT DRUGS”

This week, all Grade 5 students from across the district are taking part in “WiiDING OUT DRUGS 2011” at Memorial Gardens, North Bay.

This annual education event is organized and sponsored by 25 community partners. Students rotate through a series of “pit stops” which are created and manned by community partners. One of these “pit stops” is a Wii station, where students will race each other through a MarioKart® game while trying to “Stay on Track” and “Keep Control”, important messages that can be transposed to a healthy and safe lifestyle. The knowledge and skills students learn from the various stations include drug and injury prevention, road and ATV safety, bullying and cyber-bullying, water and electrical safety, stress and healthy eating. (See attached for a complete list of the “pit stops”.)

“WiiDING OUT DRUGS” is an extremely valuable, interactive learning experience for area students. Community partners have created a community-centred event to target issues identified by local students and of significant concern to the partners. The topics also coincide with the Ministry of Education’s *Foundations for a Healthy School* Document and the new Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

Since 2006 in North Bay, and 1998 in the Almaguin area, community partners have participated in this education event. WiiDING OUT DRUGS was developed last year as an offshoot of the acclaimed RCMP flagship program, “Racing Against Drugs” when the RCMP were deployed elsewhere in Canada.

Attached is a list of the many community partners who supported WiiDING OUT DRUGS and ensured the event was relevant and a beneficial for local students.

Quotes

“WiiDING OUT DRUGS” is an innovative and effective way for the Health Unit to work with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles to students. It also supports the components from the Ministry of Education’s *Foundations for a Healthy School*” and the new Ontario H&PE Curriculum.”

- Janet Humble, Community Health Promoter
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

“OPG is very proud to support the WiiDING OUT DRUGS event in our community. This unique event provides an opportunity to teach students about important safety issues.”

- Jeff Fournier, Central Hydro Plant Group Public Affairs
Ontario Power Generation



“This event will help strengthen our youth’s capacity to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing. As a new partner in “WiiDING OUT DRUGS”, the West Nipissing Community Health Centre is pleased to work with other community partners to support this event.”

- Celeste Auger-Proulx, Community Health Promotion Coordinator
West Nipissing Community Health Centre

“Helping kids learn to reach their full potential through an event like “WiiDING OUT DRUGS” will help them to be happy and healthy, and less likely to use drugs. The Community Counselling Centre is glad to work with these community partners to make our youth more resilient.

- Sylvain Leclair, Addiction Therapist/Social Worker
North Bay Community Counselling Centre

“L’évènement « WiiDING OUT DRUGS » accompagne nos élèves dans leur apprentissage de la toxicomanie et de ses effets multidimensionnels. Nous sommes fiers de pouvoir offrir cette journée à nos élèves de la cinquième année.”

- Gisèle Girouard, Intervenante en toxicomanie
Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord

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For more information, contact:

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WiiDING OUT DRUGS

Partners

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

- > City of North Bay
- > Connecting Partners in Injury Prevention
- > Community Counselling Centre
- > Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord
- > Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord Est de l'Ontario
- > MADD Nipissing
- > Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport
- > Ministry of Transportation
- > Near North District School Board
- > Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board
- > North Bay & District Ambulance
- > North Bay City Police
- > North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- > Ontario Provincial Police
- > Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- > West Nipissing Community Health Centre

Besides the Community Partners who are actively involved in the planning and implementation of WiiDING OUT DRUGS, including participating in the interactive "pit stops", we have a number of other partners who are extremely supportive of this initiative.

In Kind Donation ☆

Financial Contributor ☆☆

- Catholic Women's League
- City of North Bay ☆
- Community Counselling Centre
- Connecting Community Partners in Injury Prevention
- Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord ☆
- Conseil Scolaire Public de Nord Est de l'Ontario
- Hands the Family Help Network
- Hydro One Networks ☆☆
- MADD Nipissing
- Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport ☆
- Ministry of Transportation ☆☆
- Near North District School Board
- Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board
- North Bay Regional Ambulance Service
- North Bay City Police ☆☆
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit ☆☆
 - Healthy Schools & Families Team
- Ontario Power Generation ☆☆
- Ontario Provincial Police (North Bay Detachment) ☆☆
- Paxton Distributing ☆
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (London Detachment)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Sudbury Detachment)
- Town of Mattawa ☆☆
- West Nipissing Community Health Centre ☆☆
- YMCA—North Bay
- YMCA—Sudbury



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WiiDING OUT DRUGS

“Pit Stops”

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- > Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord Est de l’Ontario
- > MADD Nipissing
- > Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport
- > Ministry of Transportation
- > Near North District School Board
- > Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board
- > North Bay & District Ambulance
- > North Bay City Police
- > North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- > Ontario Provincial Police
- > Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- > West Nipissing Community Health Centre

Community Partners have assembled an impressive collection of topics related to the Ministry of Education’s *Foundations for a Healthy School*, while at the same time addressing issues of local concern.

Each interactive “pit stop” is about 7 minutes long, giving the partners just enough time to deliver key messages and help the student develop new skills and strategies to foster resiliency and enable them to make healthier choices.

City of North Bay Recreation and After School Program Partners
 “The Benefits of Being Active”

Community Counselling Centre
 “About Cannabis”

Connecting Community Partners in Injury Prevention
 Smartrisk Injury Prevention Messages

Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord
 “Fatal Vision Goggles”

Hands the Family Help Network
 “Kids Have Stress, Too”

Hydro One Networks
 “Hazard Hamlet”

Ministry of Transportation
 “ATV Safety for Young Riders”

North Bay & District Ambulance Service
 “Deadly Highs”

North Bay City Police
 “Cyber-Bullying and Cyber-Safety”

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
 “WiiDing out Drugs”—MarioKart® Race

“Tobacco Prevention”
 “Health Eating”

Ontario Power Generation
 “Water Safety around Dams”

Ontario Provincial Police (North Bay Detachment) + MADD Nipissing
 “Impaired Driving”

West Nipissing Community Health Centre + Conseil Scolaire Public de Nord Est de l’Ontario
 “Bullying”

YMCA—Sudbury