

Roots of Hope Early Adopters Backgrounder

Government of Yukon, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services



Why Yukon is participating

The Government of Yukon is committed to reducing the impacts of suicide on our communities. While we are fortunate to have one of the lowest suicide rates in Canada, even a single unnecessary death can have deep and long-lasting impacts. This is especially true in our smaller rural communities.

Roots of Hope is a made-in-Canada approach that focuses on suicide prevention and awareness. The program is based on engagement and input from people with lived experience and takes local perspectives into account. It empowers communities to choose suicide prevention initiatives that meet their specific needs.

We also know that the program works because there is evidence to show it. It has been used and tested, with positive results, in 22 communities across Canada.

What Yukon hopes get from the program

We hope to learn about new practices and to access new tools and resources. We also hope to connect with other governments and organizations across Canada, so we can build on this program together.

Roots of Hope allows us to share our unique experiences and knowledge with the rest of the country. It's a chance for us to contribute to a nationwide effort that is focused on promoting life and preventing suicides and on reducing their impacts when they do occur.

Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services looks forward to working closely with our First Nations government partners, and with other departments and community organizations, to help them use the Roots of Hope model in ways that meet their own needs and reflect their own cultures.

Why other communities should consider becoming an Early Adopter

When more communities take part in Roots of Hope, we learn more about the needs and experiences of all people in Canada.

As this program grows, it gathers more and more evidence about what works best. This leads to new practices based on the best this evidence has to offer that are tailored to the specific needs of each community.

Why it's important to address suicide prevention at the community level

Communities have an important role to play in suicide prevention because they understand their own needs and priorities best. When a community is fully engaged in shaping, planning, and delivering its own initiatives and activities, there is a much better chance of success.

Every community is different. It is important that we understand local attitudes and beliefs, cultural backgrounds, and stigmas around mental health and suicide.

Communities also provide the supports, cultural connections, and sense of belonging that are key to the mental health and well-being of their most vulnerable citizens.

Why it's important for Yukon to combat stigma around suicide and mental health

In our culture there is still a deep stigma toward suicide. People who survive a suicide attempt, and those close to someone who has died by suicide, feel shame when they are stereotyped or avoided. There are still many myths about suicide, and that makes it harder for us to end such stigma.

Stigma prevents people from reaching out for the help they need in times of crisis. It's one of the main barriers to successful suicide prevention.

Contact information

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