



GANANOQUE POLICE SERVICE

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Please address all correspondence to Chief of Police - Garry Hull

The Municipal Drug Strategy of the Town of Gananoque, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands and the Township of Rideau Lakes is moving forward in 2020 with youth representatives leading the process. The Strategy's focus on youth and substance use will include community action and advocacy for safe spaces and youth voice.

Police Chief Garry Hull remarks "as the Chief of Police in Gananoque I am very proud of the work that has been completed and continues to be done by the members of the Municipal Drug Strategy in our community. Their investment into the fabric of the well-being for those who struggle with addictions in our community has been commendable. I look forward to the continued support of the Gananoque Police Service in providing assistance to the MDS. You have the ability to make positive changes in peoples' lives."

On October 2, 2019, the Municipal Drug Strategy hosted a Community Conversation. This meeting highlighted the work of the Strategy with respect to the four pillars – Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Enforcement. Dr. Paula Stewart, Police Chief Garry Hull, Debbie Blair (LLGMHA), and Jessica Mackenzie (LGLDHU) spoke to the past MDS successes, future plans and best practices of community substance use and misuse.

The four recommendations from this meeting were:

- Increase public education and awareness of substance use and misuse
- Increasing access and awareness to recreational and extra-curricular opportunities for youth and their families
- Increase ways to communicate and bring awareness of the Municipal Drug Strategy efforts
- Find opportunities to more effectively integrate and connect with the 4-pillar work currently being done in the community.

The focus on safe youth spaces at our January meeting included the voice of stakeholders from the three municipalities as well as lessons learned about safe youth spaces from neighboring communities. We will continue to move this conversation forward at the upcoming March 5th meeting.

For more information or to participate in this important work, please email MDSGananoqueTLTI@gmail.com or call your local municipality for more information.