

WE BELIEVE:

Ontario Youth Matter!

We all believe the best way to improve lives of youth is to have them, along with adult allies, identify common goals and outcomes and agree on how to measure progress. The most effective way for the Province to achieve better social, education, and health outcomes for all youth in Ontario is to develop a comprehensive set of policies, programs and services that address root causes of social problems for youth.

WE SUPPORT:

- **A call for Healthy Youth Outcomes through an Ontario Healthy Youth Outcomes Strategy** – involving all orders of government, community and private sectors, and youth – to give young people the power to improve their lives.

Why a Healthy Youth Outcomes Framework?

- **Too many youth fall through the cracks. EXAMPLE:** In mental health there are currently examples where a lack of coordination leads to inconsistency and gaps when serving the needs of youth. Young people are assessed and dealt with differently for the same behaviour. What is assessed as “anti-social behaviour” in the justice sector is identified as “exceptionalities” in the education system and “disorders” in community health. Similar conditions, different assessments and different underlying assumptions exist on how to approach the issues.
- **Better coordination leads to better outcomes.** Better coordination among various systems (justice, education, mental health) would allow efforts to be aligned across sectors reinforcing and building consistent approaches to programs, services, and even underlying philosophies of the different systems dealing with youth.
- **This approach is not new.** Many other jurisdictions have already concluded coordination improves the lives of young people.
- **Ontario has done it before.** The Early Years Strategy developed consensus-based outcomes for children 0-6 and it is making a difference to family health already.

WE SUPPORT A HEALTHY YOUTH OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK:

Name

Date