



MEDIA RELEASE

RRPC Innovation Foundation donates to The Education Foundation of Niagara to help DSBN students access mental health services

May 1, 2021 – Dealing with the loss of a loved one can be difficult for anyone, under any circumstances. For the many children who have experienced loss during COVID-19, that process has been made even harder.

With a substantial contribution from the RRPC Innovation Foundation to the Education Foundation of Niagara, the DSBN will be providing clinical supports for students to help them effectively cope with grief and loss. “On average, by the age of 16, about one in 20 children will live through the death of a family member or significant person in their life,” said Dr. Amanda Sherman, Mental Health Lead at the DSBN. “Because of COVID-19, students have had to miss important rituals, routines, and rites of passage around death, like funerals and gatherings, or they’ve lacked social support due to physical distancing.”

“Complex challenges like these have made the experience of grief even more difficult, and some students require specialized supports to learn how to cope.”

We believe mental health and well-being is an essential part of student success, and to reflect this, the DSBN partners with various community agencies to empower students to address their mental health needs. For example, the DSBN currently helps students experiencing grief and loss by connecting them to a DSBN social worker, ensuring they have a supportive classroom and school environment, and advising families about the community resources available to them.

Now even more assistance will be offered to students, thanks to the RRPC Innovation Foundation. “When we are thrust into dealing with grief without the proper supports in place, we can have a lack of healing in our physical, emotional and mental states which can overtime lead to a recurring cycle of grief. Providing this contribution to enable more students to access the DSBN mental health services to heal was just the right thing to do. As a Community we should be supportive of programs that assist in improving our youth mindsets. Our youth are our future and deserve to have access to supports in our Community to ensure they have opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles.” said Suzanne Court Founder and President of The RRPC Innovation Foundation.

“This donation will make a sincere difference for DSBN students and their families who have had to face such tragedy. We are incredibly grateful to the RRPC Innovation Foundation for recognizing how important strong student mental health and well-being is, and for helping us provide these essential services for our students,” said Laura Byers, Executive Director of the Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN). The EFN actively works to reduce barriers for DSBN students, with the goal of giving every student access to all the enriching opportunities school life has to offer.

For interviews and information, contact:

Laura Byers, Executive Director
Education Foundation of Niagara
Cell: 905-980-1185 | Email: laura.byers@dsbn.org