



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2005

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
LAUNCHES
FIRST ANTI-BULLYING HOTLINE
In Eastern Ontario!
February 16, 2005
1-866-444-6996

It's taken months of planning, hours of volunteer training, the cooperation of six different community/government organizations and substantial provincial funding but the phones have been plugged in and the volunteers are trained and ready to help! The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board have officially announced the launch date of the first ever Anti-Bullying Hotline in Eastern Ontario. The launch is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2005. The hotline will be manned Monday through Friday from 7:00 in the morning until 10:00 in the evening. In addition email accessibility will be available 24 hours a day seven days a week. The email server will be monitored and response time will not exceed 48 hours. It is also hoped that weekend hours will be added as the counsellor volunteer base is expanded over the next few months.

Superintendent of School Effectiveness, Dr. Maryanne Bullock says she is confident that the hotline will contribute to a decrease in school based bullying. She added that the hotline will give children who have been silenced by violence a voice! Dr. Bullock who has been actively involved in the development and implementation of the ALCDSB Anti-Bullying Hotline says one of the greatest features of this service is its inclusiveness.

The hotline will be available to fifty-five thousand, two hundred and ninety- five students in a geographical region stretching more than 16,000 square kilometres and involving three regional school boards. Dr. Bullock said she felt it vital to offer the service to all children and not to students in just one system. She added that bullying is a societal problem that demands the support of all communities. She applauded the cooperation of our community partners including; Youth Diversion Program, Queen's University, Frontenac Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the surrounding School Boards for working together as a cohesive team with one goal in mind – the physical and emotional well-being of our students!

Dr. Bullock says the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board has invested a lot of time, effort and money into assisting those affected by bullying. She says that the Board has sponsored workshops for school leaders, provided training in active listening skills for youth workers, hired an expert in the practice of intervention techniques, worked with school councils on how to detect and deter bullying tendencies in children, parents and care-givers and enlisted the services of world renowned Queen's University researcher – Dr. Wendy Craig. Dr. Bullock says the Anti-Bullying Hotline will just be one more added service designed to help those who feel victimized!

-end -

Gregory T. Cosgrove
Director of Education

Tom Dall
Chair of the
Board

For further information or a tour of the Hotline location please contact: Dr. Maryanne Bullock at 1-800-581-1116 ext.478.

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

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