

For immediate release

BELL LET'S TALK COMMUNITY FUND HELPS TEACH FOR CANADA PROVIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING IN THE NORTH



Teacher Development Manager and safeTALK facilitator, Dan MacDonald, leading a discussion during Teach For Canada's Summer Enrichment Program, July 2018

TORONTO, October 23, 2018—Teach For Canada is pleased to receive a \$25,000 grant from the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund to support mental health programming in the North. The funds will be used to equip teachers and community members in northern First Nations with suicide prevention tools. This training is critical for communities in the North where youth suicide rates are six times higher than the rest of the country.

“With support from the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund, Teach for Canada staff have been trained as safeTALK facilitators and will, in turn, train 200 community members across 19 remote northern First Nations,” said Kyle Hill, Executive Director of Teach for Canada.



**TEACH FOR
ENSEIGNER POUR LE
CANADA**

This week Teach For Canada staff members are in Pikangikum First Nation hosting our first workshop. These workshops provide teachers and community members with safeTALK's alertness training that prepares anyone to become a suicide-alert helper. safeTALK-trained helpers can recognize these situations and take action by connecting people with life-saving intervention resources.

"Bell Let's Talk is very pleased to help Teach for Canada offer suicide prevention training in northern First Nations communities, which will improve the well-being of community members living with mental health challenges," said Mary Deacon, Chair of Bell Let's Talk. "Having doubled the annual Bell Let's Talk Community Fund to \$2 million this year, we are supporting some 120 organizations across Canada, like Teach for Canada, that are making such a difference for all those affected by mental health issues."

The Bell Let's Talk initiative promotes Canadian mental health with national awareness and anti-stigma campaigns like Bell Let's Talk Day, and provides significant Bell funding of community care and access, research and workplace leadership initiatives. To learn more about the Bell Let's Talk campaign, and to download the Bell Let's Talk toolkit to help get the conversation started, please visit Bell.ca/LetsTalk.

About Teach For Canada

Teach For Canada is a non-profit organization that works with northern First Nations to recruit, prepare, and support committed teachers. Too often, teachers arrive in the north without the preparation and support they need to succeed—and stay—in the classroom. The twin challenge of teacher supply and turnover compound historical injustices and systemic inequities to produce an education gap between First Nations and non-First Nations communities. We work with our partners to begin to close that gap. For more information, visit www.teachforcanada.ca.

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