

# A LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTNERSHIP TO ENGAGE YOUTH ON A CHALLENGING TOPIC



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# Successful Youth Programs



## Key ingredients:

- Structure and opportunity for skill building (e.g. a program such as WWW to act as a vehicle which initiates youth engagement)
- Adult ally support and expertise
- Developing youth-adult partnerships



# Being the Adult Ally

- Adult allies are relationship builders. Allies can work with youth to reduce barriers that negatively affect their engagement.
- An adult ally helps youth have their voice heard through meaningful youth engagement
- A youth-adult partnership results when youth and adults work together as a team to make decisions that affect their lives



# What's With Weed

- Originally funded by Health Canada
- Program created by Parent Action on Drugs to reduce problematic marijuana use in secondary schools
- Based on best practices using the peer to peer model
- WWW has been extensively evaluated and proven to be successful in many different regions of Ontario



## In the beginning...

- WWW meets the demands of the schools re: problematic marijuana use
- Created in partnership with youth from beginning to end
- NDAC, in partnership with PAD with school board support to pilot in two Niagara secondary schools



# Partnerships!!!

## Before implementation

- Principals
- Key teacher was identified
- Staff meeting
- School nurse as a support
- School advisory council
- Public Health support



# The Process

- All seniors attended WWW recruitment assembly
- 44 were chosen to be peer-leaders
- Attended training day off-site
- Junior assembly facilitated by seniors
- Grade 9 workshops facilitated by seniors (peer-to-peer) to discuss the risks and realities of problematic marijuana use



# The Youth

- Engagement
- Experiences with the program
- Post – WWW program



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