



Evergreen: Child and Youth Mental Health Framework for Canada

The Evergreen project addresses the mental health needs of young people by creating a national child and youth mental health framework for Canada. The *Evergreen Framework* is structured around six core values (see below). It will function as a blueprint to outline strategies and actions to improve mental health care, promote mental health, and maximize the potential of every infant, child and youth living in Canada.

The *Evergreen Framework* is being developed by several teams of dedicated individuals from across Canada and around the world who have expertise (professional and lived experience) in child and youth health. The first stage of the project, involved working with young people, parents and professionals across Canada to find out what they thought was important for mental health in young people. This information was used to form the *Evergreen Framework's* core values: **human rights; dignity, respect and diversity; substantive-evidence; accessible and trustworthy information; choice and responsibility; and collaboration.**

These values form the foundation from which the *Evergreen Framework* will develop strategies and plans of action (the “how to’s”) that can then be used across Canada by governments, organizations, communities and others to help establish, operate and evaluate policies and programs for infants, children and youth.

The “how to’s” phase of the Evergreen consultation is currently underway. The public are invited to participate in an online survey to share what they think may useful to promote mental health, prevent mental health problems and improve mental health care for infants, children and youth living in Canada. To take Evergreen’s survey, [click here](#), or visit <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/ChildandYouth.aspx>

The final *Evergreen Framework* document will be ready spring 2010.