PROJECT AT A GLANCE

STEP: Supporting the transition to and engagement in parenthood in adults who experienced maltreatment as children.

PROJECT GOAL:

The project will design, deliver and evaluate an innovative intervention aimed at adults who have experienced abuse or neglect during their childhood and are awaiting a child. Ultimately, this intervention aims to (a) promote the physical and mental health of Canadians who were abused/neglected during their childhood and are at the transition to parenthood, (b) to promote the psychosocial development of their child, and (c) to intercept intergenerational cycles of abuse.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To design, deliver, and evaluate an innovative intervention for adult victims of abuse or neglect awaiting a child. The project will assess whether this intervention effectively supports the physical and psychological health of participants and their children.
- To inform practitioners and the community of the challenges of parenthood in the context of trauma. Knowledge transfer activities will include two intervention manuals, one for mothers and one for fathers; a website with information on parenting in the context of trauma; tools for assessing practitioners' knowledge of trauma; and brochures for parents and professionals.
- To connect community organizations, health and social services and researchers offering services to adults awaiting a child in the intervention target area.
- To provide new evidence based on comprehensive assessments with clear performance indicators so that the initiative promotes the implementation of sustained and effective community programs.

PROJECT ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS:



PROJECT LEADS:



Centre d'études interdisciplinaires sur le développement de l'enfant et la famille. (CEIDEF): is based at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) and it aims to establish close links between theory, research and practice in the field of child development and the family.



Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR): is a university from the Université du Québec system located in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, receiving 15,000 students.

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de la Mauricie-etdu-Centre-du-Québec



The Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec (CIUSSS MCQ): is an integrated university health and social services centre offering high quality services to the population of the Mauricie and Centre-du-Quebec.

To strengthen the mentalization abilities of adults who have experienced abuse during their childhood and are at the transition to parenthood through the development of a manualised intervention program, STEP.

To conduct a series of pilot tests on the intervention program.

To evaluate the impacts of STEP before and after the birth of the child.

To develop knowledge transfer activities between stakeholders and the public.

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