

School perseverance the theme for Hooked on School week

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The Table estrienne de concertation interordres en éducation (TECIÉ) and the Partners for Estrie Educational Success project (Projet PRÉE) are pleased to launch the 5th edition of Hooked on School Days in the Townships. In a spirit of solidarity and mobilization, the event will be held from this week, Feb. 10 to 14. The week aims to mobilize communities to encourage youth and tell them that their success is important first and foremost for themselves, but also for the rest of the community and the future of the region.

Three ambassadors from the worlds of sports, the arts, and community involvement have placed school perseverance at the heart of their values and commitment. To mark the 5th edition, the TECIÉ and the PRÉE project have reconnected with ambassadors from previous years, such as singer-songwriter Alexandre Poulin and the Sherbrooke Phoenix Hockey Club.

This year's new member is Christian Vachon, who, by way of the foundation that bears his name, is supporting school perseverance and the academic success of young people in the region.

During the 2014 Hooked on School Days campaign, the Estrie population is invited to make a simple gesture of encouragement and support in recognition of the efforts of young people in their educational pursuits. Proudly wearing the green and white ribbon of

school perseverance demonstrates commitment to our youth. For this edition, Projet PRÉE has mobilized schools, community organization, and municipalities and has designed almost 400 activities throughout the entire region, reaching 200 different milieux.

According to a recent survey by the André and Lucie Chagnon Foundation, related to the valorization of education and school perseverance (October 2013), the Estrie stands out compared to other regions of Quebec, where more people have heard of initiatives to reduce the dropout rate in their communities. They are also more likely to be concerned about school dropout rates.

Based on the latest statistics released by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, the dropout rate in Estrie is down from a three year average of 25.5 per cent in 2006-2009 to 22.3 per cent from 2008-2011. In addition, the graduation rate has risen from 67.5 per cent in 2009 to 71.7 per cent in 2012.

"The population is responding to the call and is demonstrating its commitment to support school perseverance, says Marie-France Bélanger, Executive Director of the Cégep de Sherbrooke and co-chair of the TECIÉ. "Together, we represent a real strike force to put the brakes on dropping out of school."

For more details related to Hooked on School Days in Estrie, visit the website at www.jpsestrie.ca

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