



CALLING ALL YOUTH in the City of Kawartha Lakes to JUMP IN & EXPRESS YOURSELF!

KAWARTHA LAKES, ON – Youth of Kawartha Lakes are invited to **JUMP IN & Express Yourself!**

If you are between the ages of **12 to 24 years**, the Kawartha Lakes Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Advisory Committee wants to hear from YOU!

The **JUMP IN & Express Yourself! Exhibit** asks youth to imagine an inclusive, safe, connected and sustainable community where all youth thrive. The Exhibit is a partnership project between the Kawartha Lakes Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee and Kawartha Art Gallery.

All exhibit details can be found at www.kawarthagallery.com and the **deadline for submissions is September 24th, 2021**. All submitted work will be showcased through a Kawartha Art Gallery online exhibit from **October 15th to November 26th, 2021**.

The Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee has identified four priority areas: mental health and addictions, poverty, housing and youth.

Presenting the four priority areas in the form of a series of questions, youth are invited to choose a priority and to tell a new story through the creative mediums of Visual Art, Photography or Video.

- How does Housing impact you and what can be done to support youth?
- How does Mental Health & Addictions impact you and what can be done to support youth?
- How does Poverty impact you and what can be done to support youth?
- How does Youth impact a community and what can be done to support youth?

Acknowledging that youth attraction and retention is an important priority for the City of Kawartha Lakes, the municipality recognizes that youth are an integral component to achieve the vision for Kawartha Lakes: naturally beautiful, offering an exceptional lifestyle. Attracting, retaining and engaging a younger demographic will help the City to offer an exceptional lifestyle by boosting the local economy while working to enhance and diversify local culture.

To create an opportunity for the youth of the Kawartha Lakes to share their voices the **Kawartha Lakes Youth Council** has been launched.

Further information regarding the **Kawartha Lakes Youth Council** can be found with the **JUMP IN & Express Yourself! Exhibit** page at www.kawarthagallery.com

Quick Facts

The Kawartha Lakes Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is being developed under the guidance of an Advisory Committee that was appointed by Kawartha Lakes Council. The Advisory Committee includes representatives from many sectors including police, health, mental health, education, community and social services, and children and youth services.

The goal of the plan is to outline priority risks in the community and address them through proactive, integrated strategies that ensure vulnerable populations receive the help they need from the providers best suited to support them.

The focus of the survey is to gather feedback from residents on perceived or experienced challenges, obstacles and gaps that may affect safety and well-being in our community.

“It is important for us to understand the issues in our community and we hope everyone will take the opportunity to participate in the survey,” said Kawartha Lakes Police Service Chief Mark Mitchell who is the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

The survey is available on [**Jump In, Kawartha Lakes**](#) and will take approximately 15 – 20 minutes to complete. Paper copies of the survey are also available at local Kawartha Lakes Library branches.

Community engagement is a key component in the development of the plan.

Have your say on the new Community Safety and Well-Being Plan by engaging online at [**Jump In, Kawartha Lakes**](#). Learn more, complete a survey and follow along with the development of the plan.

About Kawartha Art Gallery

Kawartha Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing a healthy rural creative economy through engaging art and cultural programs and services.

Kawartha Art Gallery envisions the Kawartha Lakes as a creative hub and community network, connecting and engaging people with the multiplicity of our cultures, through diverse and accessible experiences that reimagine the narrative for the arts in rural Ontario.

About the Kawartha Lakes

Community. Opportunity. Naturally.

The communities of the Kawartha Lakes have matured into Ontario’s second largest single-tier municipality and home to some of the most vibrant downtowns, abundant green spaces and diverse opportunities. As our population continues to grow, we’re evolving into something bigger—**a place of opportunity**. Our culture complements our economy and today we’re seeing more growth than ever before. Working together towards our vision of **thriving and growing communities** within a healthy and natural environment.

MEDIA CONTACT information to be confirmed by City