



Education Report

Saturday February 26th CFUW Ontario Council Speakers Series

Topic – Covid, Children & Beyond Social Determinants to Education

Guest Speakers: Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt, University of Ottawa, and Mohamed Ahmed and Shanaz Ali from Success Beyond Limits.

Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt our first speaker, is a full Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa. She is a Canada Research Chair in School -Based Mental Health and Violence Prevention. Tracy is an elected member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada, Chair of their COVID-19 Task Force and the lead author of the RSC's study on the impact of school closings.

Highlights of Dr. Vaillancourt's presentation:

- Canada is failing at mental health prevention and care. Places 30th out of 38 countries.
- Mental Health is the leading cause of disability in 50 -75% of adults.
- Only 20% of youth receive mental health services.
- Bullying has decreased during the pandemic. Some children have done better.
- One in four youth experience depression.
- One in five youth experience anxiety.
- COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health problems in many individuals including children.
- Canadian children's hospitals experienced a 60% increase in admissions related to eating disorders.
- Family violence increased 10-50% worldwide. Isolation, loneliness, employment loss, food insecurity and increased parent child impact were all contributing factors.
- Decline in child abuse reporting as educators are the primary reporters. Vulnerable students lost their safeguard.

Success Beyond Limits is an educational program that enhances learning opportunities to students in the Jane and Finch community.

Shanaz Ali the Program Manager of SBL's grew up in the Jane and Finch community and understands the barriers that are imposed onto youth living in the community. Shanaz has a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Education.

Mohamed Ahmed the co Executive Director of SBL's is committed to the power of education for youth and how it can transform their lives. Mohamed has his Bachelor of Arts, his Bachelor, and Master's in Education.

Highlights of Success Beyond Limits:

- SBL is a collaborative youth led community-based program that provides students with supports to successfully complete their education.
- SBL is a charitable based organization. Therefore, no cost to students.
- The goal is to improve educational outcomes for youth in area high schools in the Jane/Finch
- Staff are in Westview Centennial Secondary School. They support youth during the school day and after school program.
- Mentor based. 70% of the mentors attend York University.
- 6-week summer program at York University
- Students receive career exposure through mentors and workshops.
- Cycle: Mentee>Mentor in Training>Mentor(paid)>Rec Staff>Staff Member or Board Member.
- There is a balance between academic and social

Respectfully submitted

Wendy Taylor

Standing Committee Education Chair