



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 9, 2019

Experts discuss children's mental health and key findings of SNAP Halifax

Halifax, ON—On April 11, 2019, learn about plans to expand children's mental health programming across Nova Scotia at a special presentation delivered by representatives from Toronto's Child Development Institute and The Centre for Building Resilience through Anti-Violence Education (BRAVE), a Halifax-based non-profit, as well as a number of representatives from Halifax service agencies.

Child Development Institute, an accredited children's mental health agency with over 100 years of experience in working with children and families, is collaborating with communities across Canada to expand Stop Now And Plan (SNAP®), an evidence-based children's mental health program for boys and girls aged 6-11 experiencing serious disruptive behaviour at home, at school and/or in their communities.

Learn how more children in the Atlantic Region can benefit from this internationally recognized model program that teaches children, and their parents, how to stop and think before they act and make better choices "in the moment" by improving emotion-regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills, resulting in better outcomes for children and their families.

Speakers include Dr. Leena Augimeri (Child Development Institute), Dr. Michael Ungar (Resilience Research Centre), Dr. John LeBlanc (IWK Health Centre), Dr. Jennifer Bernier (BRAVE), Tara Moore (SchoolsPlus) and more.

DATE: Thursday, April 11, 2019

TIME: 10 am – 2 pm.

Recognition Ceremony for local SNAP Champions to commence at 1 pm.

LOCATION: Marriott Halifax Harbourfront
1919 Upper Water St., Halifax, NS B3J 3J5

MEDIA CONTACTS:

About the event or current programming available in Halifax:

Lauren Butler

BRAVE (Centre for Building Resilience through Anti-Violence Education)

902-422-3777

admin@iambrave.ca

About the SNAP National Expansion Campaign:

Simona Panetta

Manager, Marketing and Communications

Child Development Institute

416-603-1827, ext. 2273

spanetta@childdevelop.ca

PHOTO & INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

About Dr. Leena Augimeri

Director, SNAP Scientific & Program Development and Centre for Children Committing Offences at Child Development Institute (CDI) in Toronto, Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto, and Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology. Dr. Augimeri is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Child Welfare League of Canada's inaugural Outstanding Achievement Research and Evaluation Award, and the Elizabeth Manson Award for Community Service in Children's Mental Health in recognition of exemplary contributions to the promotion of children's mental health by the Hospital for Sick Children.

About Dr. Jennifer Bernier

Founder and Executive Director of The Centre for Building Resilience through Anti-Violence Education (BRAVE), which was established to house Atlantic Canada's first SNAP site. Dr. Bernier has worked for over 15 years in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice - particularly with women and girls. She has extensive experience in applied social and community-based research, program evaluation, gender-based analysis, and community development. Dr. Bernier previously received the Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention from the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

ABOUT STOP NOW AND PLAN (SNAP)

SNAP was developed by Child Development Institute (CDI) over 33 years ago as an intervention program for children under 12 with disruptive behaviour problems. SNAP is an internationally recognized evidence-based model for teaching children, and their parents, emotion-regulation,

self-control and effective problem-solving skills. Gender-specific SNAP Boys and SNAP Girls programs are offered at CDI in Toronto, and through SNAP Affiliates across Canada and around the world. The primary goal of SNAP is to keep children in school and out of trouble.

After being selected as LEAP | Pecaut Centre for Social Impact's inaugural partner in a venture philanthropy model to create massive social change, SNAP is becoming available to more Canadian children and families from coast to coast. SNAP was awarded the 2018 International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioner's Community Program of the Year Category I (population over 100,000), and given the highest effectiveness designation by Washington State Institute (WSIPP) in 2018.

For more information about SNAP, please visit stopnowandplan.com.

ABOUT BRAVE

BRAVE (the Centre for Building Resilience through Anti-Violence Education) was established in 2014 as a division of Bryony House to house the Alternative Pathways project. With five years of funding through Public Safety Canada's Crime Prevention Action Fund, the project brought over 3.4 million into the region to provide comprehensive services using the evidence-based Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) program model. These services are available to high-risk girls ages 6-11 who are experiencing social, emotional and/or behavioural challenges at home and/or school, along with their families and peers.

Through SNAP, BRAVE teaches girls to stop, think and plan positive alternatives in order to respond in a way that makes their problems smaller, not bigger. Together, girls and their families learn effective skills in emotion-regulation, problem-solving and self-control.

For more information, please visit iambrave.ca.

ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Child Development Institute (CDI) is an accredited children's mental health organization mandated with the mission to support the healthy development of children, youth and their families. A leader in the field, CDI is the home of the evidence-based SNAP model. In addition, it also develops and delivers world-class, evidence-informed mental health programs and services across four streams (Early Intervention, Family Violence, the Integra Program and Healthy Child Development). Recognized for its innovation and excellence in child development, CDI is committed to transforming the landscape of children's mental health through continuous process improvement, research and training. For more information about CDI, please visit: childdevelop.ca.

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