



## **“Inclusive Voices” video series launched**

A working group of the Community Plan for Safety and Well-being for Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls has helped to launch a series of videos to raise awareness and education around issues of racism, hate and diversity.

“As we approach the holiday season and navigate the responses to COVID-19, it is a critical time to take community safety and well-being into account,” explained Erin Lee, Executive Director of Lanark County Interval House and Community Supports and one of the team leaders of the Culture and Diversity Working Group. “Whether it be a response to mental health, incidents of violence, hate in communities or the impact of things happening in and across the world, pressures are real for folks.”

In an effort to bring issues to the forefront during these challenging times, the working group decided it is important to have youth be a central focus and voice in taking some local action and encouraging change through video education.

A small team of youth is leading the campaign that they have named “Inclusive Voices.” Six initial topics have been selected, including racism, gender-based violence, LGBTQ2S+, ableism, transphobia and mental health during COVID. Future topics are under consideration, such as human trafficking.

An introduction video and the first video of the series have been posted on a dedicated YouTube channel, as well as on Instagram. There is a plan to expand to other social media.

“The goal is to reach folks and encourage conversation, learning to ultimately augment diversity and inclusion in Lanark County,” added Lanark County OPP Detachment Commander Insp. Karuna Padiachi, another working group team leader.

People are encouraged to follow the work and voices of youth and to share this community initiative widely. The Inclusive Voices videos can be accessed through the following links:

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/inclusivevoices?igshid=p9qb0jvp49bz>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEwT2pXnKVU&feature=youtu.be>

For additional information or if you want your voice to be heard, contact [inclusivevoices2020@gmail.com](mailto:inclusivevoices2020@gmail.com)

The Community Plan for Safety and Well-being is led by an advisory committee comprised of members from a wide range of human service sectors. The plan is mandated by the province and once completed was adopted by local municipalities last year. See the plan at <http://smithsfalls.ca/media/2019/01/CSWB-Plan-for-LC-and-SF-final.pdf>



## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

*Lanark County  
and Town of Smiths Falls*

## MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release  
Dec. 9, 2020*

---

For more information, please contact:

Erin Lee

Executive Director, Lanark County Interval House and Community Supports

[erin.lee@lcih.com](mailto:erin.lee@lcih.com)

613-878-5700

Insp. Karuna Padiachi

Lanark County OPP Detachment Commander

[karuna.padiachi@opp.ca](mailto:karuna.padiachi@opp.ca)

613-267-2626 x 4410

Stephanie Gray

Coordinator, Community Plan for Safety and Well-being

[LanarkCST@gmail.com](mailto:LanarkCST@gmail.com)

613-812-3778