



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Cochrane-Timiskaming
Addiction and Mental Health Services

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Cochrane-Timiskaming
Services de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

Algoma University and Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming forge partnership to boost student mental health

MOU marks a milestone in advancing comprehensive mental health support for tri-campus community

(BRAMPTON, SAULT STE. MARIE, TIMMINS – ONTARIO, June 20, 2024): Algoma University and the Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming (CMHA-CT) have taken a significant step forward in enhancing mental health support for students. The two organizations recently refined a work plan and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), culminating in a symbolic signing ceremony today in Timmins.

This partnership began in response to a November 2023 call for proposals to address primary healthcare provision for students' mental health needs.

Algoma U and CMHA-CT are set to bolster AU's mental health team by recruiting three professionals to offer virtual primary mental health support across all three campus locations. The initiative is designed to foster holistic wellness through workshops, support groups, community connections, advocacy, and train-the-trainer services. It will also provide tailored support for international students, facilitating their integration into campus and community life.

The symbolic signing of the MOU, witnessed by key representatives from both organizations, is a significant milestone in the partnership, heralding a new era of impactful collaboration.

Algoma University Director of Student Success and Wellbeing Tammy McGregor Twiss expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, underlining the shared commitment to comprehensive mental health support for students. "This partnership represents a significant advancement in Algoma U's efforts to support student mental health, creating a more supportive environment and fostering the well-being and academic achievements of all students."

The Ontario government is investing \$5 million in mental health and addiction services across 10 postsecondary institutions. This will provide trained professionals to support students, particularly in underserved communities in northeastern, eastern, and south-central Ontario, including Algoma University, in partnership with CMHA-CT for in-school care.

About CMHA Cochrane- Timiskaming

CMHA-CT provides accessible public mental health and addictions care to community members across its vast catchment area. The organization offers many services, notably, case management, addiction, justice, and housing support, supportive peer groups, and public education. CMHA-CT's mission is to help people living with, and touched by, mental illness in providing the supports and services needed on their journey to happy and fulfilling lives. This mission is something CMHA-CT strives to accomplish through education and advocacy for a caring community where everyone belongs. Further information on CMHA-CT's available programs and services can be found at www.cmhact.ca.

About Algoma University

Algoma University is a public University that offers bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and graduate certificate programs in liberal arts, sciences and professional disciplines. Algoma University has three campuses in Ontario, each deeply rooted in their community: Brampton, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins. Algoma University has a Special Mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning between Indigenous populations and other communities. For more information, please visit www.algomau.ca.

Media Contacts

Algoma University
Megan Parlowe
Senior Communications Officer
megan.parlowe@algomau.ca

CMHA-CT
Callie Renouf
Communications Specialist
crenouf@cmhact.ca