**Jurisdictional Scan of P/T Strategies for Promoting Student Engagement**

**Summarization of Findings:**

* No province or territory has established a **Healthy Schools** Student Engagement Strategy.
* Alberta and Ontario have very similar models (SpeakUp and Student Voice) that feature similar components supporting student engagement in the Ministry of Education:
	+ Provincial Youth Advisory Councils;
	+ Regional forums to consult with local students (these forums are student driven with guiding questions and support materials);
	+ Individual Action Projects (grassroots level, research model) supported by grant funding up to $1000;
	+ Leadership training and support focused on capacity-building for students;
	+ Social media presence, including active Facebook groups (in Alberta, an interactive website engages students).
	+ Strategies tended to target high school students
* Elements identified as key in supporting a successful youth engagement strategy:
	+ Support from a Minister or having champions in the Ministry for youth engagement;
	+ Substantial financial and human resources for sustainable youth engagement programming (launching an initiative without sustainable funding can have detrimental effects towards authentic, meaningful youth engagement).
	+ Education curriculum that prioritizes student engagement (and healthy living).
* There was a resounding caution that when asking for student voice, there comes a responsibility to listen to what students have to say and present their feedback in an authentic manner. “Setting the stage” and managing the expectations of students working with adult partners in government was identified as important.
* The process for sharing the story of the youth engagement initiative must be part of the plan. Story sharing is important for:
	+ The students involved to know what impact their participation or recommendations had;
	+ Ensuring that those contributing funding towards a youth engagement initiative know what impact they had;
	+ Spreading the word about and expanding the reach of the initiative towards engaging more youth and more diverse youth.
* It has been a challenge for all jurisdictions to access the student voice of hard to reach youth; effort to do this was reported as highly important; actively seeking this voice through organizations supporting at-risk youth or those typically unengaged was key. Furthermore, the application and selection processes for Youth Advisory Councils or other engagement opportunities can promote diversity through screening for a variety of lived experiences.
* A variety of facilitation techniques and tools were mentioned and it is important to select appropriate facilitation tools for the type of engagement. Specific resources that may be of particular interest include: *SpeakUp in a Box, Student Council and Student Voice*, *Students as Researchers* Training, Speak Out DVD Toolkit and MSAC training; specific facilitation tools that may be of particular interest include: Open Space, World Cafe, and Graphic Facilitation.
* Youth engagement at the level of youth partnering with adults requires opportunities for youth and adults at the government level to interact and build relationships to be available as part of the initiative.