

PDIG Final Report Requirements – 2019

1. Project Description: Describe/show to what degree the project was carried out as planned. Include what went well and what proved to be a challenge.

Due to the context of Covid-19, this PDIG project on adapting the MEES Sexuality Education/Sexual Assault Content in an insightful and non-threatening way, was carried out at about 85%.

Strengths of this project

- Participation of two Organizations – Enfance Libre Lanaudière as well as the support from the sexologist from Public Health was resourceful and appreciated on both parts. We were able to meet twice with the Sexual Assault Prevention Organization, and the person responsible for the Sexuality Education dossier supported us with her expertise. As planned, Enfance Libre Lanaudière delivered their workshop to grade 1, 3 and 5 students of Joliette Elementary School. This was very interesting as we were able to observe their teaching as well as the students' reactions.
- The team of teachers involved in this PDIG was incredibly dynamic, totally engaged and dedicated. We even added some working sessions during the pandemic. I would work with this group of teachers anytime. They called themselves the *World Tour PDIG Team*, and if possible, would like to lend their support to teachers, when teaching this delicate topic.
- All of them learned a lot and found out that there were many user-friendly resources available on this topic. They all felt that teaching this topic was not just important, *but necessary*. They also practiced some of the lessons with their students.

Challenges of this project

Although this project went very well, we did face some challenges:

- **There was a change of teachers in the group.** One of them was too busy with new responsibilities and tasks. She needed to dedicate more time as a staff-assistant, and gave her place to another teacher from her school. This was not really a challenge, as the new teacher quickly and efficiently became involved in the project, with a lot of interest and dedication.
- **Many resources:** We found out that there was an incredible amount of great resources and the challenge was to choose and focus on the most pertinent ones. The idea was to propose simple lesson plans with just the right amount of optional or alternative resources.
- **Ambitious project:** The project was more ambitious than what we had expected: many resources, delicate topics, three grade levels. We eventually dedicated more time, and met in smaller groups in order to complete the lesson plans.
- **COVID-19:** Then the pandemic came and closed our schools. This had an impact on our last working sessions but we were able to adapt slightly to the situation. A few teachers were interested in pursuing five two-hour meetings on Zoom to review the lesson plans. Our outside partners were also very busy within their own capacity and had to respond to the needs of their clientele.

Teachers were not able to practice their lessons as much as planned and were not able to share them with colleagues either.

We also had to cancel our workshop for elementary teachers, which was scheduled for March 30th. We postponed the workshop to a later date in the 2020-2021 school year. In the meantime, we will post our lesson plans on our School Board's Sexuality Education Website.

2. Project Goals: Describe/show to what degree the goals of the approved project were met. If the goals were only partially met or not met at all, describe the reasons for this.

Most of the project goals were met.

- **Lesson plans to review and finalize.** The lesson plans are completed but still need to be reviewed in order to be finalized. The group of teachers practiced parts of the lessons but they did not have enough time to share them with peers for feedback.
- **Workshop:** We were planning to deliver the actual workshop to elementary teachers but we will have to wait for next year. The agenda and power point are almost completed but the actual March workshop date was cancelled because of Covid-19. Now, with some schools reopening, teachers have other priorities to focus on before attending this workshop. As I mentioned, we will reschedule this workshop in real or virtual version. I also applied for a Phase 2, which is all about creating video capsules for teachers on how to teach this subject.

3. Project Outcomes: Describe/show the gains that the participating teachers achieved through this project.

- **Knowledge and expertise on a delicate topic:** The teachers involved achieved more than first expected. By working with the Sexual Assault Prevention Organization and Director of Public Health / Sexuality Education, teachers increased their knowledge and expertise about the topic of sexual assault (definition, statistics, understanding, resources).
- **Teaching sexual Assault in Elementary:**
- **Teaching Sexual Assault in Elementary:** The major gain stated was that through this project they were able to have a clearer and concise understanding of how to incorporate sexual assault into other subject areas; such as ELA, FSL and ERC. This was important because it allowed them to see how they could help teachers find ways to cover the material in comfortable manner, which also falls into a framework that they are already using and comfortable with.

With sexual assault being a heavy topic, part of the reluctance to cover the topic was not knowing how to fit it into the curriculum (time-wise), but also how to address the topic in an age-appropriate way depending on grade level. By means of the "*clé en main*" lessons we created, teachers should feel a little more prepared and comfortable to cover the material, since we used activities that were aligned with subject-area competencies that were familiar to both teachers and students.

The topic of sexual assault is a delicate one, but also an important one. By showing how to address it through our lessons, it helps to see that we are not reinventing how to teach, but using the skills and guidelines that we already have as teachers, and adjusting the activities to include this sensitive topic.

- **Collaboration and networking:** As a team, through the working sessions and creation of lesson plans, they developed a professional and friendly collaboration which increased their engagement and ownership. They have now a group with who they can rely on and share their ideas and challenges. and higher level of comfort in teaching it to their classes and peers.

The PDIG group also broadened their professional network by working with organizations and specialists and teachers they did not know at the beginning. This networking is rich and resourceful as they can share their experiences and ideas. Now, they would like to work on Phase 2 of this project!

4. Reinvestment: Clearly describe how the resources created and/or the learning achieved by the participants can be of benefit to the educational community at large.

There are two levels of how the educational community can benefit from the resources.

1. Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Elementary Teachers

- Teachers intended to share their lesson plans with peers in order to get some feedback. Due to Covid-19, schools closed before we completed the lesson plans.
- Workshop: Initially, the PDIG group of teachers were supposed to offer a workshop to their peers. This workshop is postponed to a later date due to the school closure.
- The lesson plans and tools were supposed to be presented during the workshop and first shared with the SWLSB Elementary School teams.
- The final lesson plans, resources and power point will also be on the SWLSB Sexuality Education website when completely finalized so that teachers can access them.
- The “draft” lesson plans and power point presentation are included with this report.

2. The English Network

- When finalized, the material created will be shared with every English School Board, through their Sexuality Education Consultants.
- The same material will also be shared with LEARN Québec and posted on their website, under Sexuality Education.

Draft documents – Lesson Plans on Sexual Assault/Personal Safety topics

[PDIG Gr. 1 Draft Lesson Plan](#)

[PDIG Gr. 3 Draft Lesson Plan](#)

[PDIG Gr. 5 Draft Lesson Plan](#)