

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTH SHORE BRANCH OF YOUTH PROTECTION SERVICES AND BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Baie-Comeau, June 19, 2023 – The Direction de la protection de la jeunesse (DPJ) de la Côte-Nord is proud to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters as part of the [16|21 Mentoring Program](#) (French only).

The program aims to pair young people in the youth protection system with a mentor as they begin their transition to adulthood. To do this, volunteers aged 25 and over are needed to engage with these young people and make a difference in their lives.

What does the 16|21 Mentoring Program offer?

By becoming a mentor in the program, a person commits to a minimum of one 3-4 hour activity every two weeks and a phone call every week, depending on the youth's needs. Together, the young person and his/her mentor can participate in various activities they both enjoy: Biking, cooking, going to the movies, video games, music, hiking, etc.

The goal of the program is to create relationships that will allow young people to develop their emotional skills, improve their mental health, and become more involved in school and in their social life. The presence of a mentor also allows a young person to have a significant contact person outside of the support received in youth protection.

Youth in need of your help!

The program targets young people aged 16 to 21 who live in a youth rehabilitation centre (youth centre), a group home, a foster family or an independent apartment. Youth who have been served under the *Youth Protection Act* (YPA) or the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) and who live in their initial living environment may also be eligible for the project, if they are referred by a youth protection worker.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor should complete the online form on the Big Brothers Big Sisters [website](#) or call 1-866-464-6188.

– 30 –

Source: Pascal Paradis
Assistant to the PED – media relations, communications and corporate affairs (interim)
Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Côte-Nord
418-589-9845, ext. 252268