

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

PROMOTING SAFE, COHESIVE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A Conference Sponsored by

**The Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC
&
The British Columbia Youth Police Network**

May 10, 2007 - 8:30 to 4:00

May 11, 2007 - 8:30 to 3:30

**Location: Best Western Richmond Hotel
7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC**

This conference will present an exciting opportunity for educators, police, service providers, community members and government representatives to come together to learn, share, network and focus on best practices. Participants will focus on enhancing social cohesion for children and youth through developing communities characterized by shared values, shared benefits and opportunities, and shared responsibility to overcome challenges.

Out of town guests, please book your hotel room as soon as possible.

**REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN
APRIL 26, 2007**

Email Registration to connecting@iss-bc.ca
Registration form: www.iss-bc.ca

**For Conference Accommodation:
Best Western Richmond Hotel
Telephone 604-273-7878 Toll free 1-800-663-0299
Reservations: reservations@richmond-hotel.ca**

DAY ONE: May 10

7:15 Registration desk opens

7:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Conference Opening Session. Welcome and opening remarks.

KEYNOTE PRESENTER

8:45 Terry Waterhouse

Creating Connected Communities: Exploring the Value of Engagement and Belongingness for Youth

Terry is professor at the University College of the Fraser Valley and lead researcher with the Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC. In this keynote address, Terry will speak about the important and little understood dynamic of engagement and connectedness as protective factors for youth, especially 'at risk' youth. Terry will share some common themes and observations that have arisen from his experience as both practitioner and researcher experience. A key focus of the presentation will be on the ways in which youth and significant adults create resilient learning relationships that provide academic and social benefits for youth.

9:45 Coffee break

10:15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Choose one)

A-1 Promoting Queer-Friendly Schools for All

Glen Hansman, Vancouver School Board (VSB) & Reps from VSB Pride Advisory Committee

For the past five years, the Vancouver School Board, its employee groups, and community members have been working towards building schools supportive and affirming for transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, intersex, and questioning youth. This work has included providing training for administration, direct support to schools, organizing youth for self-advocacy, developing multilingual resources, working with families, and collaborating with partner groups to take a pro-active approach to transphobic and homophobic harassment and discrimination in schools. This session will explore some of the successes and obstacles to this work in the context of British Columbia.

A-2 Restorative Justice in Schools: Strategies and Curriculum for Changing A Culture

Dan Basham, Community Justice Initiatives

Since June of 2000, Langley School District and Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives have been working together to develop ways that restorative justice {RJ} principals and values might be applied to make schools safer and more respectful. This project is one of the first of its kind in implementing RJ as a collaborative effort and in a comprehensive manner throughout an entire school district. In this workshop we will explore this unique partnership; the curriculum developed to teach restorative values to students, staff and parents; and the strategies used to change a school culture.

A-3 CATS: Constructive Alternative to Teen Suspension
Ken Neale, North Vancouver School District No. 44

CATS is a joint venture between the North Vancouver School District, community agencies, parents and students that responds to the problem of alcohol and drug use among students. This program integrates local expertise from knowledgeable facilitators, offers flexible services, and supports a way in which students can make healthy decisions about their lives through increasing knowledge, self awareness, and skill development. CATS offers an opportunity for schools to keep at risk students engaged in the learning process through opportunities for self discovery, and sends a positive message about the importance of academic achievement by keeping kids in school.

A-4 International Education for Peace Institute, Canada
H.B. Danesh and Stacy Makortoff

There is a direct relationship between safety at home, in the school and within the community. Thus the responsibility to create safe environments is, at once, the responsibility of parents, educators and community leaders/workers. In this presentation the main characteristics of safe, violence-free environments—home, school, community—are described and practical strategies on how to create them are offered.

A-5 Risk Factors for Violence and Serious Criminality
Dr. Raymond R. Corrado and Dr. Irwin M. Cohen

This session will present the risk factors at various developmental periods for violence and serious criminality. Particular focus will be paid to the prenatal/perinatal, infancy, middle childhood, and the adolescent developmental periods and their related biological/psychological, family, environmental, school, and peer risk factors. Successful intervention and prevention strategies will also be discussed.

A-6 A School and Community Partnership Empowering At Risk Students through the Development of Healthy Human Relationships
Frances Soon, Family Services of Greater Vancouver

*The RSVP program is an innovative school-based program that provides at-risk children and youth opportunities for increased connectedness within their school and community, as well as the knowledge and tools they need to engage in safe and healthy relationships in life. This interactive workshop provides an overview of the RSVP program model and a unique opportunity for participants to screen our recently released 18 minute film, "**Not Alone**", thus increasing participant awareness about relevant resources available in the community.*

A-7 Youth Safe Zone

Sukhi Dhillon, Provincial Coordinator, Youth Safe Zone

BC Crime Prevention Association's "Youth Safe Zone" provides tools on how community specific projects can assist to building responsible youth. A locally driven project like "Youth Safe Zone" addresses issues of gang & crime recruitment, child & youth sexual exploitation and broader risks of crime and victimization of youth in partnership with Public and Private Sector stakeholders in each community. The "Youth Safe Zone" is not a place, rather an "Asset Development" approach to shifting community attitudes to explore protective factors and building relationships.

A-8 DARE Workshop - To Be Announced

11:30 Buffet Lunch

12:00 Inter-Ministry Panel

Moderator: Wilma Clarke, Director, Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC

Panel members: Bill Waters, Director of Settlement and Multiculturalism, MCFD

Gary McDermott, Director, Aboriginal Policy and Legislation, MCFD

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Office of the Representative for Children And Youth

Karen Wallace, Director, Child Welfare Policy Team, MCFD

Jamie Lipp, Victim Services and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

1:00 Opportunity to view the displays

1:30 Breakout Sessions (Choose One)

B-1 Developing a District Threat Assessment Protocol

Stephen Fraser, Coquitlam School District

A number of high profile lethal incidents of violence in schools in North America and the media coverage of these incidents have brought the issue of "school violence" to the forefront in the public eye. While it is important to ensure that our schools are safe places of learning for students and staff, it is equally important that our response to this public concern be empirically driven and guided by student centered principles. Without this, there is a real danger that our response to events in schools can actually become more damaging than the event we are responding to. This presentation will give an overview of the evolutionary process of one district's development of a District Threat Assessment Protocol.

B-2 The Experiential Perspective

Kyla Kaun, PEERS Vancouver

PEERS Vancouver is a non-profit organization that provides exiting programs for people looking to exit sex work and to re enter conventional employment. Through our public education we work to inform on the importance of using experiential people in the design and facilitation of programs and services. This presentation will provide participants with a real experience perspective of an experiential woman who is a former sexually exploited youth. This session offers insight into the mind of a high or at risk youth and the barriers faced by both the youth and the adults working to protect youth.

B-3 Respect for Others through Respect for Oneself

Susan Gardner, Capilano College

***Philosophy for Children** (P4C) is a "Thinking Program" initiated in the early 1970's and is now practised all over the world. Long-term exposure to **communal inquiry**, which is the core pedagogical tool of P4C, inevitably enhances **respect for persons** as, through this experience, children come to recognize that genuinely listening to opposing viewpoints is the only way to estimate the merits of their own positions. Dr. Susan Gardner, the director of the Vancouver Institute of Philosophy for Children would like to tell you more.*

B-4 Boys and Girls Learn Differently**Bruce Ivany, SD 34 (Abbotsford)**

Based on the work of Dr. Michael Gurian and his book Boys and Girls Learn Differently, the objectives of this workshop: Will examine how boys and girls minds are different; how this knowledge can impact the way you work with boys and girls (even men and women!); best practices for classrooms and schools in meeting the needs of both boys and girls; and introduce the implication of new research in brain-based gender differences on teaching methods, school and classroom discipline, and specific school programs.

B-5 Community School Teams: Vancouver Hub Model**Tom Grant and Dan Marriott, Vancouver School Board**

Vancouver School District has created a "hub" model for program delivery for children and families. An integrated, professional team called the Community Schools Team (CST) provides both direct and universal programs to each hub which is a secondary school and its associated elementary schools. In its third year of inception, the twelve hubs in the model have shown both great progress and promise in student and community engagement.

B-6 K.E.Y.S. – Keeping Exploited Youth Safe – the Five E's in Action**Detective Constable Oscar Ramos and Detective Constable Raymond****Payette, Vancouver Police Department**

KEYS is a police led program that focuses on the use and power of partnerships to build the support and structure around youth to help them avoid the traps that may lead to sexual exploitation. The program is a ground breaking approach that is built on the philosophy of the 5 Es. The KEYS program's flexibility allows it to be both a preventive and /or reactive approach to youth and children that become involved in sexual exploitation.

B-7 School-wide Positive Behaviour Support: A Systems-Level Approach to Student Success and Social Responsibility**Kent McIntosh, UBC**

The presenter will provide an overview of school-wide positive behaviour support (PBS), an approach to school social behaviour that promotes student social and academic success. PBS has been implemented across BC and Canada for over a decade. The overview will include the basic elements of PBS and how it can be used to reduce disruptive behaviour and improve outcomes for students from all backgrounds. Attendees will leave with an understanding of an instructional approach to school discipline and social responsibility.

B-8 School Violence in British Columbia: Selected Findings**Terry Waterhouse and Amy Johnson, University College of the Fraser Valley**

This session will outline the findings related to youth violence from the 2006 Safe Schools Social Responsibility Survey (SSRS) for Secondary Students. The survey was administered to 37,000 students in 47 schools across the province of the British Columbia in 2006. The SSRS is a longitudinal research project measuring students' personal experiences with and perception of their physical and emotional safety, school engagement, substance use and social responsibility (the degree of involvement in pro-social activities in their school and community). This paper will focus on selected findings related to various forms of bullying, harassment, sexual and racial discrimination in terms of both victimization and perpetration.

2:45 Break

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

3:00 Clarence Lochhead

Pointing Fingers Doesn't Work: Our Shared Responsibility in Creating Communities that Enable Pro-social Behaviours of Children and Youth

Mr. Lochhead is Executive Director of the Vanier Institute of the Family in Ottawa. The number of children and adolescents in Canada who exhibit problematic behaviours – acts that negatively affect or hurt others - is on the rise. But if you are prone to finger pointing, you had better take out both hands. In this plenary, Clarence Lochhead, Executive Director of the Vanier Institute of the Family, discusses the findings of new research by Anne-Marie Amber, Professor Emeritus, York University, into the multiple and inter-locking causes of problematic behaviours of children. Whether it is a culture that emphasizes individualism, media which display materialism and violence, employers who fail to recognize and support family obligations, schools and neighbourhoods providing weaker social controls, parents who are unable or unavailable to monitor and engage in children's lives, or low social consensus of values, the combined result is an environment which too often *enables* problematic behaviours. Mr. Lochhead will share his views on the importance and shared responsibility of creating cohesive communities that optimize children's abilities and pro-social tendencies.

4:00 Adjournment

DAY TWO, FRIDAY MAY 11

7:30 Registration desk opens

7:45 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Conference resumes
Welcome and announcements

KEYNOTE PRESENTER

8:45 Richard Catalano

The Knowledge Base for Prevention Science

Dr. Catalano is Professor and Director of the Social Development Research Group at the School of Social Work, University of Washington in Seattle. Our children are our future. Today we know more than ever before how to help them grow up without school problems, violence or drug problems. With the right efforts in our schools and communities we can empower our children to become successful adults. The tragedy is that too much of what we do now simply does not work. Communities can utilize the knowledge base for promotion and prevention to enhance positive development of youth. This presentation will present the scientific knowledge base for promotion and prevention, and will illustrate how communities can utilize this information.

9:45 Coffee break

10:15 Breakout sessions (Choose One)

C-1 It Can Happen to Anyone

Diane Sowden, Children of the Street Society

In this eye-opening workshop, Diane talks about her own family experiences and uses videos and overheads that are directly from youth who have been in the sex trade. The "It Can Happen to Anyone" workshop will cover:

- Who is being exploited - You will be shocked, it really can happen to anyone.*
- Who is doing the exploiting - Find out what kind of people are creating the problem.*
- What is it like being sexually exploited - Listen to first hand accounts of exploitation.*
- Warning signs - In depth look into the emotional and behavioral changes.*
- How can you help - Gain insight to solve this problem.*
- Resources - Where and how to reach out for help.*

The workshop aims to raise awareness of the issue of child and youth exploitation, a problem that is occurring in your community.

C-2 Applying the Knowledge Base for Prevention Science: Communities that Care

Richard Catalano, University of Washington, Seattle

Communities need an operating system to take advantages of the advances in prevention science. Communities that Care (CTC) has been developed to provide the tools and decision making process that communities around the world have used to enhance the positive development of youth. CTC assists communities to assess youth exposure to risk and protective factors and match priority needs to programs

that have proven to be effective in changing prioritized risk and protective factors. CTC facilitates a community process to mobilize and support the assessment, high quality program delivery, and monitoring and adjusting programming to meet goals. CTC has been used in over 500 communities in the U.S., UK, the Netherlands, and Australia.

C-3 Recruitment and Recovery: A Guide for the Prevention of Recruitment into Hate Groups

Alan Dutton, Canadian Anti-racism and Education Research Society

This workshop examines the factors that lead to hate group recruitment and how helping professionals, families and peers can help youth recognize, avoid and leave hate groups. Utilizing a multimedia format, the workshop will present the result of interviews with youth who have left hate groups and provide a forum for discussion of concerns about destructive groups and recovery.

This workshop will be repeated Friday afternoon

C-4 Against the Odds: Street Involved Youth Need Safe and Cohesive Communities Too

Annie Smith and Kimberley Godfrey, McCreary Centre Society, Vancouver

Annie is Managing Director at the Centre and Kimberley is an experiential youth who worked as a researcher on the project. McCreary Centre Society's 2006 study of street involved and marginalized youth in 9 communities across BC shows that despite overwhelming odds, many youth are working hard attending school and looking for opportunities to contribute to their communities. The results presented here show the value of participatory research with marginalized youth and also highlight what is needed to ensure these youth are engaged and recognized within their community.

This workshop will be repeated Friday afternoon.

C-5 Making Our Communities and Schools a Safer Place for All Children and Youth: Addressing Homophobia/Transphobia and Bullying

Anisha Abdulla, Chris Bucher and Lydia Luk, GAB Youth Services at the Centre

Bullying has been noted as a pervasive problem among youth in schools, youth centers and in many different communities. One of the main reasons that children and youth are bullied is because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. In this session, we will look at what homophobia/transphobia is, how it impedes on a child's or youth's sense of safety and belonging, and what we as service providers can do to respond to the homophobia and transphobia that is occurring in our communities and schools.

C-6 Promoting Community Diversity: AMSSA's BC-wide Safe Harbour and Youth Ambassador Programs

Lindsay Marsh, Safe Harbour Program coordinator, AMSSA, Vancouver

This session will present an overview of both the Safe Harbour program and the Youth Ambassador project, coordinated by AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C.). Safe Harbour is a B.C.-wide initiative which provides businesses, agencies, and institutions with an opportunity to take a leadership role in creating an environment where all members of their community feel welcomed and safe. Campbell River is the pilot project site for the Youth Ambassador project and the curriculum is currently being developed.

This workshop will be repeated Friday afternoon.

C-7 Random Acts of Kindness – Empowering Kids to Create a More Positive and Caring Climate in our Schools, Community and Province
Harriet Chang, School Counsellor and Random Acts of Kindness Club (RAK), 4 Student Members, Central Elementary, Coquitlam

What is Random Acts of Kindness, and does it work? This was the question a grade 4/5 class was asked. At first they thought the idea was a little unusual but after a class discussion decided that it should be in their class, and actually throughout the whole school. They have since lobbied with the local and provincial governments and had proclamations passed for a Random Acts of Kindness Week in February 2007. Learn how you can empower your students to make a difference by promoting kindness and solving problems in peaceful ways in and beyond your school.

C-8 THREAT ASSESSMENT - PRESENTER TO BE ANNOUNCED

11:30 Opportunity for networking and viewing the displays

12:00 Diverse Insights and Reflections: Youth Panel
Jorge Salazar, Moderator

1:00 Buffet Lunch

1:45 Breakout sessions (Choose One)

D-1 Police Networking Session

D-2 Safe School Contacts Networking Session

D-3 Against the Odds: Street Involved Youth Need Safe and Cohesive Communities Too

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D-4 It Can Happen to Anyone

Kyla Kuan, PEERS Vancouver and Diane Sowden, Children of the Street Society

In this presentation Kyla and Diane team up to share their experiences about youth who have been in the sex trade. Diane will focus on the parents' perspective and Kyla on her own experience. This workshop is a combination of workshops presented earlier in the conference. See descriptions for Session B-2 and C-1.

D-5 To Be Announced

D-6 Recruitment and Recovery: A Guide for the Prevention of Recruitment into Hate Groups

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This workshop is a repeat from Friday morning.

3:15 Adjournment

INSTITUTE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES OF BC

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