

**Institute for  
Safe Schools of  
British Columbia**

**Annual Report – Fiscal 2006/2007**



Promoting safe, healthy and  
inclusive schools and communities

2007

# Table of Contents

Purpose .....	1
Vision.....	1
Mission.....	1
Mandate.....	1
Beliefs.....	1
Guiding Principles .....	2
Goals .....	3
Core Business Areas.....	3
Affiliation with Other Centres at University College of the Fraser Valley .....	3
A Successful Year – Our Report on Performance.....	5
A Focus on Developing and Disseminating Evidenced Based Research .....	5
Research Project Underway.....	6
Conference.....	9
Speakers Bureau .....	9
Community Resources .....	10
Website Development and Usage .....	10
Report on Resources.....	10

## **Purpose**

The Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC (ISSC) was established in 1998 and has been operated by the University College of the Fraser Valley since 2004. It promotes safe, nurturing, and inclusive schools and communities for children and youth. The work of ISSC is accomplished through both formal and informal partnerships with practitioners and other community partners that share ISSC's commitment to providing research, evidenced-based approaches, and resources that support the creation of safe, healthy, socially responsible, and inclusive schools and communities.

## **Vision**

Children and youth in British Columbia are nurtured in safe, caring, and inclusive schools and communities in order to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential.

## **Mission**

To facilitate the use of evidence-informed approaches to promoting safe, healthy, and inclusive schools and communities.

## **Mandate**

To provide research and resources which support the creation of safe and socially just schools and communities throughout the province.

## **Beliefs**

The Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia adheres to the following beliefs:

- Fostering physical, psychological, social, and academic health of children creates healthier and safer schools and communities.
- The views of children and youth, and their meaningful participation in the development of strategies and initiatives, are essential to achieving the goal of creating safe, healthy, and inclusive schools and communities.
- Collaborative planning and the integration of services is an effective way to mobilize community strengths to address community identified issues.

## Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia are listed below:

<b>Social justice</b>	We recognize that all members of society hold fundamental human rights, must be afforded equal opportunities, and share both social obligations and benefits.
<b>Inclusion</b>	We acknowledge and value the diverse and unique characteristics of all members of society and work to ensure full and equitable participation.
<b>Prevention</b>	While short term intervention is a necessary strategy, we believe that effective, sustainable long-term improvement is best accomplished through preventative approaches.
<b>Partnership</b>	We work in partnership with children, youth, schools, community and government to advance safe, healthy and inclusive communities.
<b>Evidence informed</b>	We encourage the use of sound research to inform decisions about policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation.
<b>Ethical Practices</b>	In the delivery of services and research practices, we ensure that our work enhances the lives of individuals and communities and does not create harm.
<b>Leadership</b>	ISSC has a leadership role in facilitating partnerships to advance innovative programs and practices and to further the goal of safe, caring, and socially inclusive schools and communities.

## Goals

The goals of the Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia are:

1. Factors contributing to social responsibility, safety, and caring within BC are well understood by the public.
2. The public is aware of the various resources available in the province to support our shared commitment to strengthening schools and communities.
3. Government and community work together to promote safe and inclusive environments.

## Core Business Areas

The core business areas and focus of the Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of British Columbia include the following:

- research into school safety and social responsibility;
- the development of strategies to prevent peer victimization (including bullying, harassment and intimidation);
- the development of evaluation and assessment tools that allow schools and communities to determine best practices in their settings;
- a resource library that provides access to a variety of print and video resources;
- training and professional development for educators, police officers, parents, and community agency staff;
- information and resources for parents, students, community members, teachers, and police officers seeking research, classroom resources, and support with program development

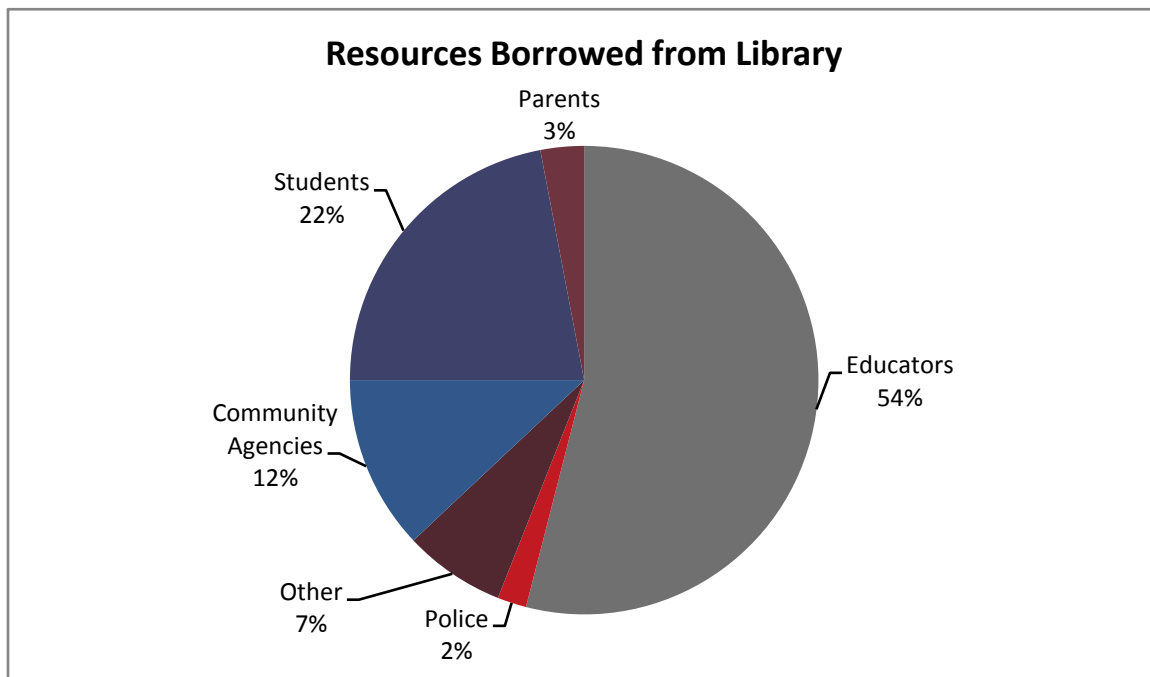
## Affiliation with Other Centres at University College of the Fraser Valley

The Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC is co-located at the University College of the Fraser Valley with the BC Centre for Social Responsibility and the BC Centre for Non-Profit

Development. One of the key factors of co-locating these centres at UCFV was the ability to collaborate on various projects and to obtain economies of scale in the provision of services. Most notable is the library and resource centre that has been created by the three centres.

The foundation of the library was the extensive resources gathered and developed by ISSC since its opening in 1998 which include a comprehensive print and video resource library. The library is accessible through an online catalogue which increases access for all residents of British Columbia. The library has more than 1,400 items in its collection with new items being added each month. The three Centres are acquiring approximately 250 new items for the library at a cost of \$10,000. The acquisition project was completed at the end of June 2007.

Statistics for the collaborative library have been kept since January 2007. Approximately 74 users have contacted the library either via phone (preferred method of user communication) by e-mail or in person between January 1, 2007 and May 15, 2007. A total of 84 resource items have been lent to a variety of users:



Key topic areas for the Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia include the following:

- Bullying Prevention
- Youth Violence

- Legal Issues
- At-Risk Youth
- Inclusive Education
- Conflict Resolution
- Substance Abuse

## **A Successful Year – Our Report on Performance**

### **A Focus on Developing and Disseminating Evidenced Based Research**

The Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of British Columbia is committed to the development and dissemination of research to support the use of evidence-based practices for the development of safe schools. This is done by:

- conducting collaborative research involving faculty, field colleagues, and student researchers; and,
- widely disseminating research findings from a variety of related disciplines

### **Early Childhood Resource Centre Established**

In March 2007, the ISSC resource library was expanded to include an early childhood education resource centre. The Centre offers resources through a lending library of books, DVDs, articles and web links for parents and Early Childhood providers on a variety of relevant topics. Resources can be delivered anywhere in the province. The Centre also provides information on local and provincial programs, services, supports, and training opportunities related to Early Years topics.

Throughout the 2006/07 fiscal year the Institute has been developing an early childhood education curriculum package –PAWS the Safety Beagle. PAWS helps children learn how to use words to solve problems, celebrate the differences in people, and think about safety. PAWS curriculum is free, fun, interactive, and easy to follow and will be distributed free of charge to preschools, daycares and kindergarten classrooms.

## Research Project Underway

The Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of British Columbia is currently undertaking the following longitudinal study:

- *Safe School Social Responsibility Survey Project (SSRS)*

The Safe School Social Responsibility Survey for Secondary Schools (SSRS) is a three year longitudinal survey being conducted by the Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia. The survey draws self report data collected from grade 8 to 12 students in the BC public education system. The survey measures student perceptions and attitudes concerning personal safety (including bullying and victimization), substance use, social responsibility, school climate, home life, and community involvement. It was developed following significant consultation with several partner school districts, and a thorough review of the programs and approaches being used in BC secondary schools related to safe schools and social responsibility. This extensive consultation allowed us to create an instrument that measures items identified as important to secondary schools in BC.

This survey research is being conducted in 13 school districts across the province, involving more than 50,000 students annually. Participating school districts include:

- Vancouver School District
- North Vancouver School District
- Kamloops School District
- Nanaimo School District
- Delta School District
- Richmond School District
- Cowichan School District
- Sunshine Coast School District
- Powell River School District
- Prince George School District
- Prince Rupert School District
- Castlegar School District
- Grand Forks School District

The primary purpose of the SSRS is to provide schools with data that supports comprehensive, long term planning for the creation of safe and socially responsible learning environments.

## Safe School Network

The safe school network consists of approximately 70 educational representatives from every school district in the province. Network representatives include superintendents, directors of

instruction, special needs administrators, principals, school counselors, teachers, etc who have been selected for this position by their districts, and who act as contacts and conduit for matters related to safety and social responsibility. ISSC continues to coordinate and maintain this network through regular communication. Over the past year ISSC has provided support to school districts through this group by providing:

- Timely informational bulletins concerning new initiatives, current issues, or raising awareness of the Centre's services, resources and activities
- Training and professional development opportunities through conference planning, and resource allocation to provide funding for safe school representatives to attend the ISSC conference
- Representation on the advisory committee

### **ISSC Advisory Committee**

In December 2006 the Institute for Safe Schools and Communities established an advisory committee of key partners. The committee supports the work of ISSC by providing advice on areas of relevant research and evidence-informed programs and resources for the institute to pursue in order to assist education and community partners in addressing challenges in their work with, and on behalf of, children and youth. The advisory committee represents diverse government and community organizations. Advisory committee members are listed below.

- Affiliation of Multicultural and Settlement Services Agencies
- BC Chiefs of Police
- BC Crime Prevention Association
- BC Principals and Vice Principals Association
- BC Youth Police Network
- Department of Canadian Heritage
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- Federation of Child and Family Services of BC
- First Call
- Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives Association

- Immigrant Services Society of BC
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- McCreary Children and Youth Society
- Pacific Community Resource Society
- School District 46 (Safe Schools Contact)
- Society for Children and Youth
- University College of the Fraser Valley, Teacher Education Program
- University College of the Fraser Valley, Urban Planning
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Vancouver Foundation
- Vancouver School District

### **Participation on Committees**

ISSC also works with key partners through participation on committees and networks. ISSC currently participates on the following committees:

- Inter-Ministry Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violence and Crime
- BC Crime Prevention Resource Advisory Network
- PREVNet
- Social Responsibility and Collaborative Learning Environments
- Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) - Safe Harbour Youth Ambassador Program Committee

## Conference

The Institute hosts conferences and workshops as well as providing links on the ISSC website to other events of interest to professionals, community groups, parents, and youth to support the active dissemination and use of evidence-based practices.

On May 10 and 11, 2007, in partnership with the BC Youth Police Network, the Institute hosted a provincial conference titled Promoting Safe, Cohesive Schools and Communities for Children and Youth. The overall conference goal was to explore the challenges to establishing a sense of belonging for children and youth in schools and communities. An additional conference goal was to strengthen relationships between representatives of community and all levels of government through our joint efforts to develop and implement strategies to increase social cohesion and a sense of belonging for all of our children and youth and encourage their pro-social behaviours. Educators from each district, and police from every region of the province, were invited to attend and financial support was provided to some delegates. Academic researchers, government officials, community agencies, other service providers, and youth were also represented. The conference provided the opportunity for informed dialogue and presentations of best practice research and effective school-based curriculum and school and community based programs, both local and from other jurisdictions. Over 300 individuals attended the conference.

## Speakers Bureau

The Institute maintains a website based list of speakers on a wide variety of topics as outlined below:

### For Educators and Community Members

- Building Community
- Cyber bullying
- Education K-12
- First Nations
- Health and Prevention
- Racism
- Restorative Justice – Community and School
- Sexuality and Sexual Orientation
- Substance Abuse
- Theatre

### For Parents

- Bullying
- Health and Prevention
- Sexuality and Sexual Orientation
- Substance Use

### For Youth

- Health and Prevention
- Sexuality and Sexual Orientation
- Substance Use
- Support

## Community Resources

The Institute provides a list of help lines and referral information for children and youth, for both emergency and non-emergency general use.

## Website Development and Usage

The Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia has created an extensive website that provides an overview of the services of the Centre, on-line access to the Centre's print and video resource library, research links, training and events, resources for educators, parents, police, children, youth, and the community, as well as funding opportunities and contacts at the Centre. As illustrated in the following table the Centre has received a total of 92,548 hits between January 2007 and April 2007. The monthly average number of hits are 23,137. The average length of a session by a user is approximately 5 minutes.

Website Usage January 2007 to April 2007			
<u>Month</u>	<u>Visits per Month</u>	<u>Pages Viewed</u>	<u>Total Number of Hits</u>
Apr-07	2,724	12,884	37,414
Mar-07	1,437	8,403	37,718
Feb-07	102	1,680	9,539
Jan-07	78	2,333	7,877
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>92,548</b>
Average Length of Session: 5 minutes			
Average Page Views per Session: 5.8			

## Report on Resources

The University College of the Fraser Valley provides infrastructure and administrative support to the Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia. Initial funding for the establishment of the Institute at the University College of the Fraser Valley was provided by a grant from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General between April 1, 2004 and November 1, 2006 totaling \$264,000 paid in semi-annual installments of \$44,000. The Ministry also provided eight

computers, network and support services, telephones and mail services at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 per year.

The Institute is led by a director, with the support of a project coordinator and an early childhood education coordinator. The Institute is also assisted by a research information manager, a library technician and a coordinator who provide support to all three centres.

<b>Institute for Safe Schools and Communities of BC Budget<sup>1</sup> 2006/2007</b>		
	Allocation	Actual
Operational Budget	\$564,000 <sup>2</sup>	564,213.22
Research Budget	\$260,000	\$253,003.13

On-going operational funding for the Institute for Safe Schools of British Columbia for the current fiscal year is being provided by the Ministry of Labour and Citizen Services through a grant of \$150,000 provided in March 2007.

---

<sup>1</sup> Additional projects are funded by the University and through partnerships outside of this core budget.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$476,000 in one time funding for ECE