

Foreword and Resources on Gangs and Gang Related Issues For Teachers

I. Foreword:

There is a growing problem in Saskatchewan with youth getting involved in gangs. By educating our youth at an early age about gangs, we are giving them a voice to take back the streets. It is hoped, by arming youth with knowledge and know-how, we will be able to instill resiliency, self-reliance, and the ability to resist the lure of gang life and gang involvement.

This curriculum resource is only a starting point and it is up to all of us to take a proactive stance on the prevention of gang involvement. Actively research ways for you and your school to promote a safe and gang free environment. Each school and community will need to adapt the level to which this gang prevention resource is implemented to ensure the students' needs are being met.

The background information provided in this document has been gathered from several sources. For further background information, please take the time to read/view the following resources:

- <http://www.getalife.ca/>
- <http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/gangproof/ganghandbook2004.pdf>
- *Youth Gangs on Youth Gangs*. Mathews, Frederick Ph.D., C.Psych.. Solicitor General Canada. ISBN 0662211456.
- http://www.knowgangs.com/gang_resources/menu.php
- *The 50 Most Asked Questions About Gangs*. Rodgers, T.. Sidewalk University, 2004. ISBN 0974990906.

The following resources are utilized in the grade five activities. Please take the time to look at the resources and find the ones that best suit your school, student and community needs. Some resources may not be suitable for all ages and maturity levels.

II. Grade 5 Resources:

Websites: Please ensure websites are available before use in a classroom as websites often change location and accessibility. It is necessary to review each website for content and usage before utilizing it in the classroom. Many websites are not classroom friendly and should be used as a learning tool for teachers and parents. Websites are not listed in alphabetical order.

- ✓ Gang awareness Handbook by the Manitoba Police Department- <http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/gangproof/ganghandbook2004.pdf>. This resource give a strong synopsis of gang involvement - useful for parents and teachers.
- ✓ Concerned Children's Advertisers - teaching Children to eat smart, move more and be media wise. <http://www.cca-kids.ca/tvandme/english/educators/index.html> or <http://www.cca-kids.ca/tvandme/>. This website gives information on media literacy, peer pressure, substance abuse prevention, active living, self-esteem, critical thinking and children and bullying for both parents and teachers. CCA's

- website has many ready to use lesson plans and extended learning experiences for classroom use K-9.
- ✓ Random Acts of Kindness Foundation - <http://www.actsofkindness.org/classroom/>. This website is a great way to communicate to youth the importance of kindness and how kindness makes a difference in our lives. The website has many ready to use lesson plans and plenty of useful information.
 - ✓ Kids help phone – offering support to youth across Canada. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/en/>. This website offers free material, teaching aids and lesson plans to use in the school and at home. Follow the links - (newsroom - info for schools – ways your school can help – building awareness in schools – teacher’s guide). Also see - http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/en/informed/sub_gangs.asp?sec=3&sb=2
 - ✓ City of Calgary interactive website on gangs – www.getalife.ca and <http://www.youthlinkcalgary.com> (be sure to look at Keith’s gang encounter) are great learning websites for students, parents and teachers.
 - ✓ Regina Police Service website offers a variety of tools to help combat gangs. Their *RU Down or RU Out : A Youth Perspective On Inner City Gangs* gang prevention strategy includes a video, links to helpful websites and a complete version of the Gang Prevention Curriculum Support Materials for schools - http://www.reginapolice.ca/gang_prevention.html.

Print:

- ✓ *A Bad Case of Stripes*. Shannon, David. Blue Sky Press, 1998. ISBN 0590929976. This book contains a valuable lesson about peer pressure and peer perceptions. It is meant for younger readers but the message is indispensable.
- ✓ *Deal with it series*. James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers, 2005. www.lorimer.ca.
 Bullying: deal with it before push comes to shove. Slavens, Elaine.
 Peer Pressure: deal with it without losing your cool. Slavens, Elaine.
 Guyness: deal with it body and soul. Pitt, Steve.
 Arguing: deal with it word by word. Slavens, Elaine.
 Girlness: deal with it body and soul. Peters, Diane.
 Misconduct: deal with it without bending the rules. Aikins, Anne Marie.
 Fighting: deal with it without coming to blows. Slavens, Elaine.
 Gossip: deal with it before word gets around. Rondina, Catherine.
 This is a collection of short, easy to use books that deal with a variety of issues facing youth today. The activities can be done individually or as a class.
- ✓ *The Book of You*. Funston, Sylvia. Greey de Pencier Books Inc., 2000. ISBN 1895688957 or 1895688965. This book takes a fun look at young people’s individuality. It spans topics from your fingerprints, to your dreams, as well as taking a look at body language, how your brain works, personality types and more.

For more resources, please look at the additional resources section of this resource material