

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 six 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 6 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.

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ Deal.org is a website that tackles the issue of gang involvement as well as many other social issues youth face today - <http://deal.org/> . It contains information for students, teachers and parents on a variety of issues facing youth. Its features include webzine, toolbox, knowzone, blog it and get involved.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Visit <http://coe.sdsu.edu/eet/Articles/jigsaw/index.htm> or <http://www.jigsaw.org/steps.htm> to find out more about jig-saw group work and how to organize your classroom.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Graffiti Hurts <http://www.graffitihurts.org> is an organization that offers a plan to put a stop to graffiti. It contains lessons and information about graffiti and its affects on the community.
- ✓ Paramount city is the creator of the GRIP program (Gang Resistance is Paramount). Posters, colouring books, edited videos for classroom use and workbooks can be ordered from the GRIP program <http://paramountcity.com/docs/recreation.php> or call Paramount City directly (562) 220-2121.
- ✓ Bullying prevention and school plus information can be found at http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/branches/pol_eval/school_plus/crse/anti_bully.shtml from the Sasklearning website.
- ✓ For information on the protocol to invite an elder to speak at your school, contact FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations) <http://www.fsin.com/educationandtraining/firstnationschools.html> or First Nations University of Canada <http://www.firstnationsuniversity.ca/default.aspx?page=184>.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Information on substance abuse can be obtained from the sasklearning website <http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/branches/curr/evergreen/index.shtml> or office. Ask for the Middle Level Health Education – Grade 6 Curriculum

Support Material for the Prevention of Substance Abuse by the Regina and Area Drug Strategy Project (2006).

- ✓ Information on financial support to get youth involved in sports and recreation can be found at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/kidsport/kidsport.html>. Kidsport is a non-profit group that provides youth financial assistance to participate in sporting activities.

Video: It is necessary to preview each video before showing it in a classroom setting. Some videos may not meet the standards or variations of your school or community.

- ✓ *McGruff's Gang Alert*, Discovery Learning <http://teacherstore.discovery.com> (1990). #854794, \$19.95. McGruff explains how street gangs hurt the community and disrupt the lives of their members. Dramatizations from McGruff's files show that gangs take away young people's freedom to make their own decisions. (check for newer versions at discovery.com)

Print:

- ✓ *Choices and Decisions: Violent Feelings modern issues that affect you.* Sanders, Pete. Aladdin books Ltd., 2006. ISBN 1596040750. This book tackles the social issues that concern young readers today. Each topic is explored from a personal as well as a social perspective.
- ✓ *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.

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