

Crime Prevention in Changing Times

Crime Prevention Week - November 1st to 7th, 2017

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Guiding Principles

- Focus on stages of life, not ages: There are many different stages of life within the youth demographic (high school student, young adult, university/college student, young professional), and each needs a different approach to become engaged.
- Engage Youth Early: People often develop their core interests, beliefs and habits in their high-school years (or, in some cases, earlier).
- Foster partnerships & build youth capacity: Leverage the partnerships of youth-focused organizations to build youth capacity and establish support for your initiatives.
- Put youth in positions of influence: Youth engagement works best when it's youth-led. When they see other people their age in positions of influence, it gives them greater confidence that their interests and perspectives will be respected.
- Consider different geographies and income levels: Every community is geographically, culturally and socio-economically diverse. Different approaches need to be considered for different audiences.
- Work towards both short-term and long-term change: For youth engagement to be most impactful, it needs to include both quick actions and actions that focus on longer-term goals.
- Go to where youth are: Meeting youth in the physical and virtual spaces they inhabit can bring them into conversations in a way that is convenient for them.
- Make it fun! Youth are more likely to participate in a process that's fun, creative or social.

Building Meaningful Partnerships

- Show interest in the issues being addressed or task at hand. Ask youth to help you; they can provide creative youth focused ideas or solutions. Act as a resource for information and connections to assist. Assist in maintaining the energy and focus where required.
- Allow youth to take responsibility and leadership. Challenge them, push them to be their best and share their knowledge without restrictions.
- Spend time talking to youth, asking open ended questions that build a conversation. Listen with undivided attention, avoid multitasking (responding to emails and texts) and be present.
- Build in time for maintaining relationships. Laugh with them and at yourself, humor is important to building trust. Admit when you are wrong and be upfront about boundaries and limitations.
- Be dependable and pride yourself on being true to your word. Where appropriate, keep information shared by youth confidential.
- Ask youth for their feedback on what's working and what needs to change. Show appreciation, recognize youth contributions.
- Be flexible. Meet at times and locations that are convenient, accessible and safe to youth. Incorporate healthy activities into the partnership (i.e. working out, going for a walk, healthy snacks).

Additional Resources

BC Ministry of Children and Families Youth Engagement Toolkit: a toolkit developed to assist organizations make young people genuine partners in their work.

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/data-monitoring-quality-assurance/information-for-service-providers/youth-engagement-toolkit

McCreary Centre Society: committed to improving the health of BC youth through research, evaluation and community based projects. Provides links to youth engagement resources and research.

www.mcs.bc.ca

The Students Commission - Center of Excellence for Youth Engagement: Provides resources to support youth participation in the activities of local, provincial, national and international organizations and governments

www.studentscommission.ca

Search Institute: Provides research, resources, and expertise help our partners in organizations, schools, and community coalitions solve critical challenges in the lives of young people.

www.search-institute.org

In Partnership with:



www.bccpa.org



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