



SEMIAHMOO TRAIL PAC NEWSLETTER

Hello Semiahmoo Trail

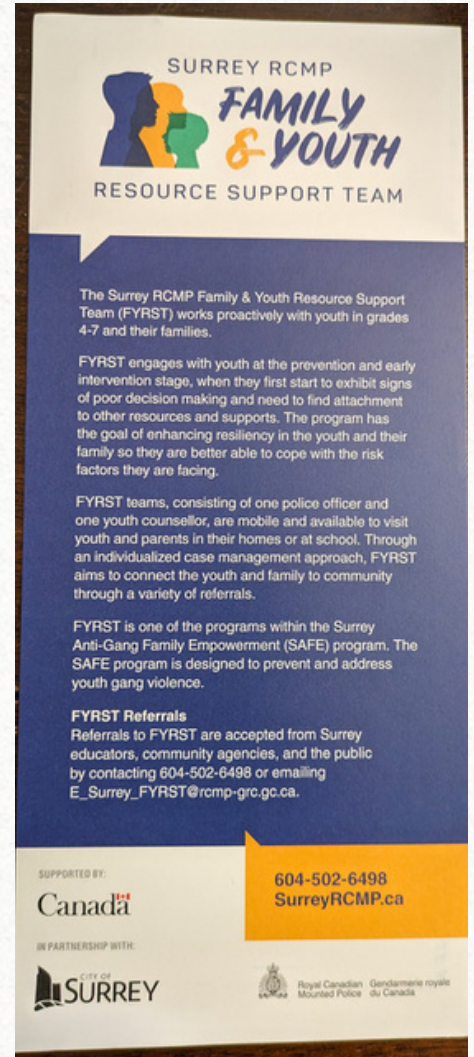
PAC attended The Project Lavender Parent presentation Ms. Fadum arranged for parents in February. It was such an informative presentation PAC decided to share our notes so those parents who missed it still can take part of the resources and information shared.

Project Lavender works with Students in grade 5 up to grade 12. The RCMP works in partnership with Surrey Schools and visits schools all over Surrey.

This was the first parent presentation Project Lavender has done.

Subjects covered with students include but is not limited to sexting, sextortion, luring, criminal behaviours online and in person, hate speech, digital footprint/tattoo, addiction, healthy relationships.

GR.6 & 7 STUDENT'S AT SEMIAHMOO TRAIL ATTENDED THIS PRESENTATION



[More on Project Lavender can be found here](#)

Disclaimer

The information shared by Project Lavender used gender normative language, therefore the information shared here also is. Updating the language may change the information/stats we are relaying, so for accuracy's sake we chose not to change it.

It is our hope that Project Lavender updates their presentations to be more inclusive in the future.



Thanks for your understanding

Statistics from Project Lavender

75% of Kids they meet through their school presentations know what sexting and sextortion are. That is a steep increase in the last few years when only a handful of kids would know what that is.

ALL Girls in the year of 2018 they spoke to had been asked already to share at least one nude or sexually compromising image online.

41% Increase in sextortion cases from 2022 to 2023.

70% of all sextortion victims in 2022 are boys

1% of Male sextortion victims knew their predator

38% of Female sextortion victims knew their predator

Luring Kids Online

Adults pose as kids online, targets school group chats where there are a lot of kids in the group. For Example; A group named 'Gr.8 at Elgin' or 'ElginPark class of 2028' would be typical groups a predator may target. Not all kids who join the group know each other personally, in real life, and a predator can easily go undetected and befriend kids.

Luring happens on ANY device with internet access such as phones, tablets, computers, xbox's, playstation's, any other gaming console.

Luring often happens while online gaming, it happens on any social media platform not just snapchat.

The predator establishes a connection, builds trust. They have had cases where a child has been lured in only 20min. A predator will share images first to build trust but ALWAYS starts making demands after they shared. Once a child has shared an image they are either pressed and shamed to send more or pressured for money for the predator not to spread the images online. These images are very often sold to child pornography sites on the dark web.

Please see the resource section for 'Take Back Your Images' program info.

Most boys who are targeted are tricked by the predator who pretends to be a girl their age. They "fall in love" and start an online relationship.

Drugs and Alcohol

Most kids have seen intoxication. They are being taught by project lavender that an intoxicated person by alcohol or drugs do not act the same way they would in their sober state. The typical social norms of social interactions change when a person is impaired and you no longer can trust that this person would react to a situation in a predictable way.

Criminal Behaviour

Most kids **do not** know what is considered a criminal act, and, what is not when it comes to the online community.

A big issue is Elementary School Kids and High school kids sharing intimate images (Partially undressed/nude)of themselves and of others.

Apparently this is a HUGE issue, the Surrey RCMP youth team gets about **4-6 cases per day in Surrey school district alone.**

What to do if your child is sent a nude/semi nude image of an under aged person

- 1) Contact the RCMP's non emergency line for ALL nude/semi nude images, even if the sender is the person in the image. It needs to be reported as your child who received it commits a crime by just having it on their device.
- 2) Contact your child's principal who then is required to report it to the RCMP Youth team.
- 3) Contact the senders parents if you feel they would be receptive to this information

Criminal Offences for 12 year olds and up

Children aged 12 or older are held criminally responsible and can be charged for criminal acts they commit.

An image of **any kind of weapon** sent to a person is considered a death threat and a criminal offence, it does not matter if it's an airsoft gun the threat is considered the same.

Bringing weapons to school

Possessing an intimate image (partially undressed/nude) of anyone under the age of 18 years of age is a criminal offence

Sharing an intimate image (partially undressed/nude) of anyone under the age of 18 years of age is a criminal offence

If your kid is sent an intimate image of another kid, he/she can be criminally charged for keeping that image on their device.

Back side of Social Media

Kids are being fed unrealistic lifestyle, wealth and beauty standards that create a sense of 'have not' and anxiety. (expensive cars, houses, clothing, shoes, body image etc)

Kids used to be able to get a break from peers when they were at home, now kids have access to each other all the time. Drama that may have started at school can continue long after the school day is over.

Drama can happen online outside of school that affects the next day or week at school.

The Fear of missing out is a real anxiety builder amongst kids

People say different things online than they would in real life.

What is Pre-Criminal Behaviour

Typically seen in younger grades, about gr.5- gr.8 but could be later as well.

Pre criminal behaviour would include Glorifying of criminal behaviours such as gang violence and lifestyle. Glorifying weapons and people who have committed serious violent crimes , often gang related. Some small crimes such as shoplifting.

What Can parents do

-MONITOR, MONITOR, MONITOR!

-You should know your kid's online contacts

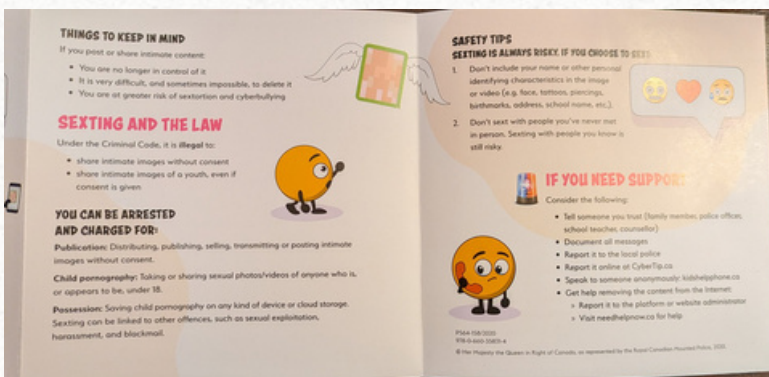
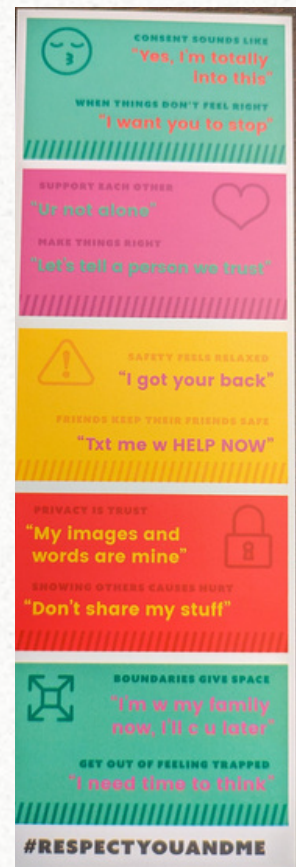
-Limit Screen Time/gaming time- have screen breaks

-Talk to your kid, many kids disclose they don't want to tell parents when they come across issues online in fear of having their phone removed even if they have not done anything wrong.

Resources

Take Back your Images, support for removal of shared intimate images:

<https://takebackyourimages.gov.bc.ca/>



Be socially responsible

- Treat online life like regular life, remember your values and beliefs.
- Develop healthy friendships and review connections when adding friends to social media sites.
- IT'S OKAY to say NO to BECOMING ONLINE FRIENDS!
- When communicating with someone new online, ask yourself, "Would I share this much offline?"
- Manage your online identity and reputation.
 - PICTURES - Who needs them?
 - VIDEOS - Who is watching?
 - COMMENTS - Who is reading?
 - STATUS - Do people really care?
- Speak up and do the right thing. If you see something you don't agree with, like cyberbullying, harassment or threats, tell a trusted adult to guide you through the process of getting advice or help.

Understand the pitfalls and benefits of your online activities

The Internet has evolved into a communication tool that we use constantly. We learn and grow as individuals by using the Internet to understand the world around us, explore interests and research information.

The social part of the Internet has allowed youth to form online identities beyond homes and classrooms, changing how they can be viewed and contacted. Because of all this, youth need to have conversations about their beliefs around using the Internet as a learning tool and as a form of entertainment.

Think about the negative and positive aspects of Internet use, using the following topics as a guide:

- Social Responsibility.** Do I behave online as I would offline?
- Educational Uses.** Am I using the Internet to better my education?
- Forms of Communication.** Do I communicate in an appropriate way online?
- Consequences and Crime.** Do I fully understand that my actions online can have offline consequences?
- Building Awareness.** Do I use social media and the Internet to raise awareness around issues that youth care about?

Privacy

Check and adjust privacy settings regularly to limit who can see and post on your profiles, keeping in mind that privacy online is only as secure as the information you share. If you don't want the content to be in the hands of others, don't post it.

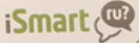
Think Before You Post

Keeping personal information private can be a difficult task. Names, birth dates, ages, phone numbers, home addresses, birth places, maiden names, social insurance numbers, school names and sports teams can complete a puzzle of personal information when posted and shared online. As a result, your identity, whereabouts and activities can be pieced together by anyone.

Savvy Shopping

Online shopping is convenient and fun, but be careful about providing personal banking information. When using online services such as PayPal, eBay and Craigslist, double check the web address to ensure you haven't been directed to a phishing scam (a way of attempting to get sensitive information by disguising as a trustworthy source) and check for security features such as a security lock near the bottom of the web page. If you are meeting with someone through one of these sites to purchase or sell an item, let an adult know so you can discuss safety issues.

No ID Required? Online gaming sites such as e-casinos, card games, live bets and poker are popular among teens. These sites require you to be 18 or 19 years of age. Youth from 13 to 19 years of age can be held criminally responsible for activities related to online gambling. Keep in mind that online gambling can lead to a potential gambling problem and a number of issues that you might not have considered, such as addiction, potential debt for you and your family, and fraud. Again, always guard your personal information, such as credit card numbers and social insurance numbers when you're online.



Understand laws around child pornography and luring

The use of the Internet to attract or persuade anyone under the age of 18 to meet for sexual acts or to hold arrangements such as a meeting is a crime under the Criminal Code of Canada. There can also be serious consequences if you are in possession of sexually explicit images of someone under the age of 18.

The following Criminal Code Offences affect youth should they use the Internet in a negative way:

- Child Pornography
- Criminal Harassment
- Luring a Child
- Uttering Threats




Be socially responsible

- Understand the pitfalls and benefits of your online activities
- Understand how to raise cyberbullying and luring for 13-16 Year Olds

For more information check out:

Deal.org - Internet Safety
 Inlet.ca - safe texting practices
 TheDorothyUnlocked.ca/ Internet Safety

Need to report something?
 www.cybertip.ca receives and analyzes tips from the public about online sexual exploitation of children

Published by:
 "E" Division RCMP
 Crime Prevention & Program Support Services




RCMP + BULLYING

Kind. Always. Bullying. It's against the law. Don't bully. Bullying isn't a friend, it's no job. Bullying: it's not a friend, it's not a bully. Bullying is against the law. Be kind. Always. Bullying: it's not a friend, it's not a bully. Bullying: it's not a friend, it's not a bully. Bullying: it's not a friend, it's not a bully.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying happens when there is an imbalance of power where someone purposely and repeatedly says or does harmful things to someone else. There are many different forms of bullying including: physical, verbal, social, psychological and cyberbullying. Some examples are:

- name calling, teasing
- hitting, punching
- stalking

Over 80% of the time, bullying happens with peers around.
 57% of the time, bullying stops within 10 seconds when a bystander steps in.

"According to the Canadian Red Cross"

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying involves the use of communication technologies (social media, texting, Internet) to intimidate or harass others. It can be anonymous and follow a victim everywhere, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Some examples are:

- online harassment
- trolling
- fake accounts
- sharing private pics without consent

BULLYING CAN LEAD TO...

- Depression
- Loneliness
- Social anxiety
- Stress-related health problems
- Embarrassment

BULLYING CAN BE ILLEGAL*

- ASSAULT** Threats or acts of violence and bodily harm.
- DEAMATORY LABEL** Spreading rumors about someone.
- IDENTITY THEFT/ FRAUD** Creating a fake profile to ruin one's reputation.
- UTTERING THREATS AND EXTORTION** Threatening to share someone's personal information to others if they don't do what you want them to do.
- CRIMINAL HARASSMENT** Constantly sending mean or threatening messages that make someone feel for their safety.
- CHILD PORNOGRAPHY** Sharing intimate pics and videos of minors (under the age of 18).

"According to the Criminal Code of Canada"

IF YOU EXPERIENCE BULLYING, YOU CAN:

- Not respond to texts or e-mails.
- Unfollow or block the user.
- Adjust your privacy settings.
- Take a screenshot and report the problem to the website or app admin.
- Talk to someone: a parent, friend, police officer or trusted adult.

IF A FRIEND EXPERIENCES BULLYING, YOU CAN:

- If comfortable, stand up for them! Try not to be a bystander.
- Speak to someone: a parent, teacher, school counselor, police officer, or trusted adult.
- Listen to your friend and provide them with support. Be by their side.

RESOURCES

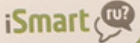
RCMP CENTRE FOR YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION
 rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cycc-cpsc

KIDS HELP PHONE
 kidshelpphone.ca
 1-800-648-6868

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION
 www.childprotection.ca
 1-800-387-7868

CANADIAN RED CROSS
 redcross.ca/interactions

** Her Majesty the Queen, In Right of Canada, as represented by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2018. Book 133,0018 978-0-662-24766-7*



Indicators & Warning Signs of Exploitation

- LIFESTYLE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGES**
The person isn't acting like they were before and may become suddenly secretive, fearful, act aggressively, make risky choices, or have highly sexualized knowledge -- all signs that they may be experiencing exploitation and need help.
- GUT FEELING**
Sometimes we know something isn't right, but we're not sure how. Let's trust our gut and speak up!
- ISOLATION**
Encouraging someone to distance themselves from their friends, family or community can be ways to make it hard to reach out for help when needed.
- VIOLENCE & CONTROL**
Exploiters use threats, violence, sextortion, forced branding tattoos, forced substance use, and even fake debts to take control.
- GIFTS**
Everything from cell phones, tattoos, nails, and drugs and alcohol. Gifts are often given to create relationships or to build trust. They are given as "free" and later are expected to be paid back by sexual acts.
- AGE DIFFERENCE**
A small or large age difference in a relationship can be a sign to look for. Even a small age difference can provide access to things like a vehicle, substances, and less parental supervision which can be used to influence someone.
- INJURIES**
Injuries such as unexplained bruises or cigarette burns can be signs that someone is being exploited.

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-833-900-1010
 The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline is a confidential, multi-lingual service, operating 24/7 across Canada to connect victims and survivors with social services, information, law enforcement, and emergency services when necessary, and accepts tips.

SUPPORTED BY: CITY OF SURREY, Anti-Human Trafficking Programs, ICANIC | IC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: [RCMP Logo]

Our Spirits are Not for Sale: Preventing Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking

WHAT IS IT?

Exploitation happens when a youth is forced or tricked into exchanging a sexual act for something in return like a ride, a place to stay or drugs and alcohol. Sex acts could be traded for a cell phone, clothes, money, as well as love, safety acceptance, and belonging.

WHO IS BEING TARGETED?

Exploitation can happen to anyone. Exploiters target all genders, ethnicities, ages, and all sexual orientations.

WHERE DO YOU MEET THE EXPLOITERS?

Exploiters hang out at places we do, such as fast food restaurants, the mall, public transit, schools, parties, bush parties, trap houses, hitchhiking or around work camps. More often than not, it's happening online and out of sight.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We can educate ourselves, and educate others. Speak up if we see it happening to friends, family or people we know. Access resources to stay safe in our communities!

If this is happening to you or someone you know, you are not alone. It is not your fault. Seek help.