



# Leduc and Area Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

## Fair Notice and Practice



*Schools. Communities. Parents. Protective Services.*

*Working Together To Protect Our Children and*

*Keep Our Community Safe*

## THE PARTNERS

Community partners are committed to creating and maintaining safe and secure environments in which children and youth, staff, parents and others feel safe. Black Gold Regional Division, Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division, and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School Division have taken a lead role as there is a direct application to the health and safety of the environment.

Government agency partners play an active role in a comprehensive intervention plan to support the young person of concern. Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Health Services, Community Corrections and RCMP personnel are key to determining the level of risk a young person may pose.

Community agency partners provide services that are regularly included as part of the intervention plans. Leduc County, Leduc, Beaumont, Calmar, Devon, Thorsby and Warburg support this coordinated response to any violence or threats of violence.

The North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has completed extensive research in youth and school violence. Kevin Cameron, Executive Director of NACTATR, has trained local partner personnel in the use of the protocol.

## DUTY TO REPORT

There is Zero Tolerance for not responding. Prevention of youth violence is a community responsibility and it is everybody's duty to report. Under-reaction is epidemic and a chief factor of escalation from thought to action.

## WHAT IS A THREAT?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to in a timely manner. In a culture of responsible reporting, children and youth need to believe that they will be believed when they confide; their identity will be kept confidential; their information will be acted upon promptly; and their concern will be investigated thoroughly.

## WHO IS ON A THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM?

Each threat assessment team is multi-agency. The team may include school staff, psychologists, police, child protection agencies, community mental health workers, hospital staff, probation/parole officers and other professionals.

## WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF A THREAT ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of a Threat Assessment is to:

- Ensure the safety of children and youth, parents, and others;
- Ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- Begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour;
- View the person of concern as in need of intervention rather than to be disciplined;
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker. It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid the young person in developing and using positive strategies;
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of all;
- Ensure all community partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A THREAT ASSESSMENT?

All threat making behaviour by a child or youth of concern shall be reported to the VTRA Lead who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with young person of concern, peers, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with the young person, parents/guardians, and agencies supporting the intervention as appropriate.

## CAN I REFUSE?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the young person of concern or parent/guardian, the threat assessment will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment