



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

VTRA partners are committed to creating and maintaining safe environments in which children, youth, staff, parents and others feel safe. Our VTRA Participants include Black Gold School Division, Evergreen Catholic Separate Division, and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School Division, Children's Services, Alberta Health Services, and RCMP. These partners collaborate in multidisciplinary assessment when determining the level of risk posed. Community Agency partners provide services that are regularly included as part of the intervention plans. Leduc County, City of Leduc, City of 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 partner local 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 an 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 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, hospitals, probation / parole and other professionals.

WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF A THREAT ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of a Threat Assessment is to:

- To ensure the safety of children, youth, staff, 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 threat-maker 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 child or youth in developing and using positive strategies;
- Promotes the emotional and physical safety of all;
- Ensure all agency partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A THREAT ASSESSMENT?

All threat making behaviour shall be reported to the Agency Administrator who will activate the protocol for the initial response.

Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the threat maker(s), 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 parents, staff, and the person of concern, as required and 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 threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment