



To Parents and Guardians of Children and Youth in the Tri Cities,

This letter follows up on a combined commitment from community agencies, municipalities and the School District to keep our children and youth safe in our communities. Kevin Cameron from the Canadian Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response recently spoke to a group of 250 parents in Coquitlam. Kevin reminded us that good parenting, open communication, building loving, trusting relationships with our kids and listening more than talking **will** trump the social media challenges parents often face with their children, every time. Kevin will be returning to the Tri-Cities on the evenings of February 4th and May 15, 2014. Please mark those dates in your calendar and further details will follow at a later date.

Cyberspace Bullying (tips developed from www.prevnet.ca) :

- *The majority of youth who are victimized through electronic bullying do not report this bullying to an adult. Students are more likely to report electronic bullying to parents than teachers, but fear that their online privileges may be revoked as a result.*

We need to make it clear that online and cell phone privileges will not be revoked if electronic bullying is reported, and we need to be sure to ask our kids about their online lives, friend them on their networks and know and use the same technology that they know and use.

- *57% of the youth who are bullied electronically confide in an online friend, but fewer than 9% inform an adult.*

We need to work harder at building trust with our children/youth/students so that they will tell us when they read something online that worries them, and we need to tell them and show them that we are here to help.

- **So, what do you do?**

TALK to your kids and tell them you will help, promise not to make matters worse and promise not to do anything without informing the person disclosing. Adults need to build trusting relationships with their children/youth/students/ and provide them ideas for taking care of themselves online.

Online Resources: www.connectsafely.org/facebook-for-parents/
www.commonssensemedia.org/advice-for-parents

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