



Where the world opens up



Canadian Center for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response



Tri-Municipal Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol

Fair Notice and Practice



Community safety is everyone's responsibility.

The goal of VTRA is that every incident of youth violence in our communities be addressed.

VTRA is early intervention – which is quite possibly prevention.

The Partners

Education partners are committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Parkland School Division, Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional School Division, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, Living Waters Christian Academy, Mother Earth's Children's Charter School, SML Christian Academy, and Columbus Academy – Unlimited Potential Community Services have taken a lead role as there is a direct application to the health and safety of the school environment.

Government agency partners play an active role in a comprehensive intervention plan to support the young person. Alberta Human Services-Children & Family Services, Alberta Health Services, 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 plan. City of Spruce Grove, Town of Stony Plain, Parkland County, Alberta Parenting for the Future Association, and Aboriginal Parent Link-Native Counselling Services advise on different facets of the VTRA protocol to ensure it is tailored to the Tri-Municipal Community.

The Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has completed extensive research in youth and school violence. Kevin Cameron, CEO of CCTATR, has trained local personnel in 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 key 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 and be investigated with a clear and appropriate response. In a culture of responsible reporting, students/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, psychologist, police, child protection agencies, community mental health workers, hospitals, probation/parole and other professionals.

What is the Purpose of a Threat Risk Assessment?

The purposes of a student/youth threat risk assessment are to:

- ensure the safety of students/youth, staff, parents, and others;
- ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour;
- view the student/youth as in need of intervention rather than discipline;
- be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker which may include disciplinary action but will also include appropriate supports to aid the student/youth in developing and using positive strategies;
- promote the emotional and physical safety of all; and
- ensure all school and agency partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

What happens in a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student(s)/youth shall be reported to the Principal/Supervisor who will activate Stage 1 of the protocol for the initial response. The protocol requires contacting 911 if imminent danger is present.

When the Stage 1 team is activated interviews may be held with student(s)/youth, the threat maker(s), parents, staff, and/or partner agency personnel to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Instances of serious threats or violence will result in a Stage 2 response which will bring agency personnel together to work toward a deeper understanding of the situation.

An intervention plan will be developed and shared with parents, staff, and students/youth 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 risk assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning/community environment for all.