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For Immediate Release

News Release

Community Safety Initiative

Edson, Alberta, March 22nd, 2016 - On March 8th, in response to yet another local tragedy, a meeting was held at the Town of Edson to discuss ways to address the violence in our community. The RCMP, Town of Edson, Yellowhead County, both local Mayors, Parkland Composite High School, Holy Redeemer High School, Grand Yellowhead School Division, Child and Family Services, Probation, Victim Services, Edson Friendship Centre, and numerous other agencies met to discuss if it was worthwhile to move forward on a joint initiative to help our community heal and hopefully prevent future significant acts of violence. During the discussions it became clear from the agencies at the table, that the community has had enough of the recent tragedies and we are responding as a united front.

We are immediately concerned for the well-being of many youth in Edson and the surrounding Yellowhead County area who may have become despondent in light of the horrific incidents that have taken place in our region over the last 18 months. This, coupled with the local downturn in the economy, has put a great deal of pressure on families in and around Edson. Youth, in particular those aged 12 to 24 years, who are having emotional difficulty and don't have the resources to cope, are urged to make contact with some of the many supports that exist locally.

Spring break is upon us at the end of this week. Traditionally, many youth exercise poor decision making during this time, exposing them to unnecessary risk. This is a time when the normal routines and supports of school are not in place to help local youth. We want to assure the youth of our region that resources are just a phone call away. We are also creating a social media component to this message that can be accessed via Facebook and other social media platforms. Information and links will be posted on www.edson.ca/csi as they become available for this project.

If you are feeling overwhelmed please do not hesitate to call one of the services below. The partnering agencies in the **Community Safety Initiative** are making plans to mitigate the risks to safety in our community. Soon, we will be engaging the community on the best ways to achieve this common goal. Enough is enough!

Addictions 780-723-8232

Kids Help Line 1-800-668-6868

Children Services Crisis Line 1-800-387-5437

Mental Health 780-723-8294

Parent Help Line 1-888-603-9100

911 for RCMP and Emergency Medical Services

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