

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

VTRA partners are committed to creating and maintaining safe environments in which children, youth, staff, parents and others feel safe. Our VTRA Partners collaborate in multidisciplinary assessment when determining the level of risk posed. The VTRA team includes:

Parkland School Division	SML Christian Academy
Evergreen Catholic Separate School Division	Columbus Academy – Unlimited
Grande Yellowhead School Division	Potential Community Services
Living Waters Christian Academy	Children's Services
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School	Alberta Health Services
	RCMP
Grande Yellowhead School Division	Alberta Justice

Community Agency partners support this coordinated response to any violence or threats of violence and provide services that are regularly included as part of the intervention plans. Our Community Agency Partners include:

City of Spruce Grove	Alberta Parenting for the Future Association
Town of Stony Plain	Aboriginal Parent Link Native
Parkland County	Counselling Services

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 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 family will be kept confidential; their information will be acted upon promptly; and their concern will be investigated thoroughly.

What is 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 children/youth threat risk assessment are to:

- ensure the safety of children/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 behavior;
- view the threat maker 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 child/youth in developing and using positive strategies;
- promote the emotional and physical safety of all; and
- ensure all agency partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

What happens in a Threat Risk Assessment?

All threat making behavior shall be reported to the Agency Administrator who will activate the protocol for the initial response. The protocol requires contacting 911 if imminent danger is present.

When the VTRA team is activated, data is reviewed and interviews may be held with children/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.

An intervention plan 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 risk assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning/community environment for all.