

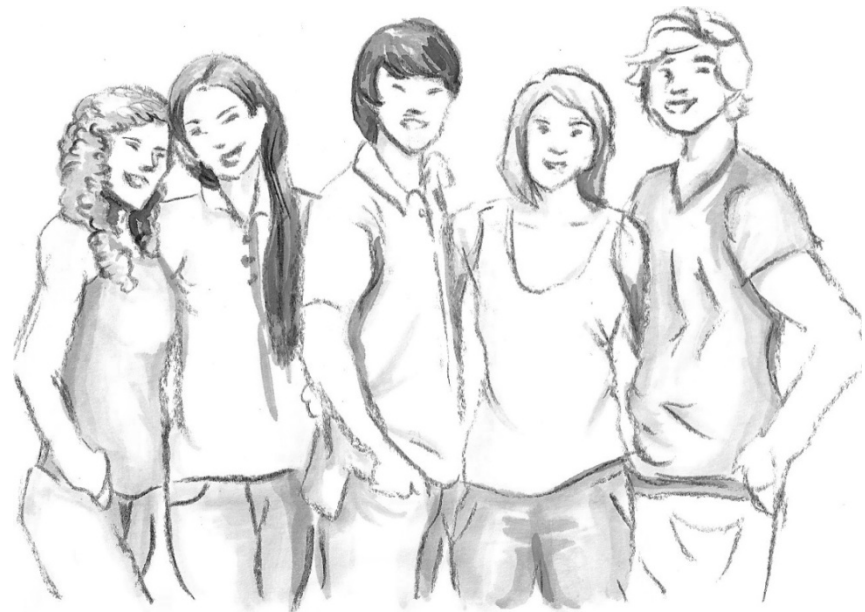


Youth Against Violence

Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls

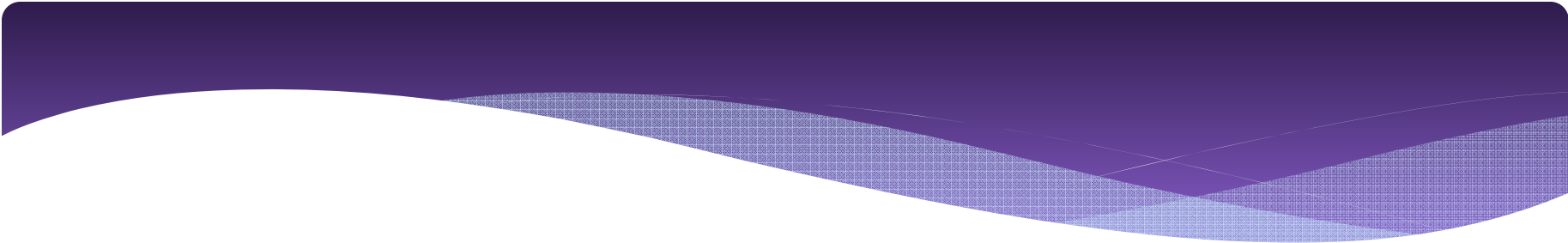
**National Research Day
Nov 7-9, 2012 Vancouver**

*Sexual Violence, Domestic
Violence: Exploring the
Continuum of Violence
Against Women and Girls*



Status of Women
Canada

Condition féminine
Canada



***Youth Against Violence* is a province-wide initiative to engage and empower youth to become involved in preventing violence against women and girls in their communities.**

It supports the We Can End All Violence Against Women BC campaign.

Funded by Status of Women Canada under the Blueprint Initiative.



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Through this program youth

- Work in teams with an adult mentor
- Learn about gender relations and violence against women and girls
- Learn how to organize events and activities
- Connect with existing community initiatives
- Become leaders in violence prevention in their school and/or community



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Resources and tools provided to teams

- Resource Toolkit for Youth and Mentors
- Initial training for youth and mentors
- Ongoing support



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Teams' Activities

All teams organize 2-3 events a year.

They are planned around significant dates:

- 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence, November 25th - December 10th
- International Women's Day in March
- Prevention of Violence Against Women Week, third week of April

...or any other time during the year!



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Activities organized by youth

- Film screenings
- Poster exhibitions
- Bake sales
- Table Displays
- Shoe Memorials
- School assembly presentations



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Shoe Memorial organized by youth on December 6 at Thomas Haney Secondary in Maple Ridge.

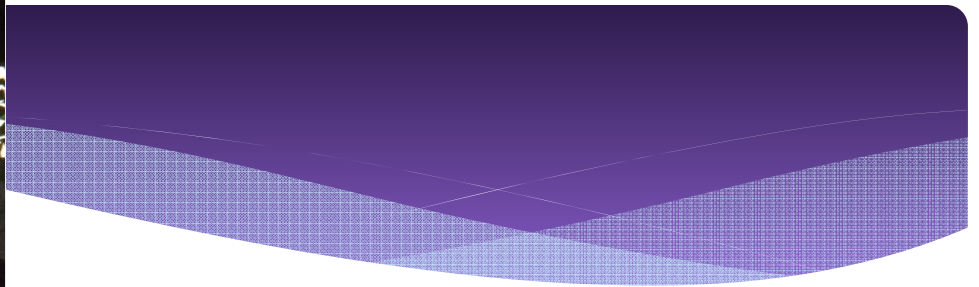


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Display created by male youth in Prince George juvenile correctional facility.



Youth from the Walk Tall program (Carrier Sekani Family Services) presenting at National Aboriginal Day event in Prince George.



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Reach

- Geographically: 25 communities/schools across the province
 - 12 in the Lower Mainland
 - 6 on Vancouver Island
 - 5 in the Northern Interior and Northern Coast
 - 2 in the Kootenays
- Demographically: youth ages 11 to 19 from every socio-economic and ethnic background
- Setting: both school and community



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Lessons Learned

Conceptually

1. “As needed” engagement is both a strength and a challenge.
2. Talking about the issue – “hard sell” to many; the use of language and analysis is a delicate balancing act.
3. “At-risk” youth benefit most.



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Lessons Learned

Logistically

1. It's all about partnerships and relationships.
2. Timing is everything – identifying where teachers/community workers are in their planning stages throughout the year.
3. Getting youth involved over a period of time is a challenge – changing lives and circumstances.



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Bottom line

- Transformative life change for some
- Increased awareness and greater support for the issue for many others so that helps to change the culture of schools/communities
- Community involvement on a broader level: partners, schools, supporters

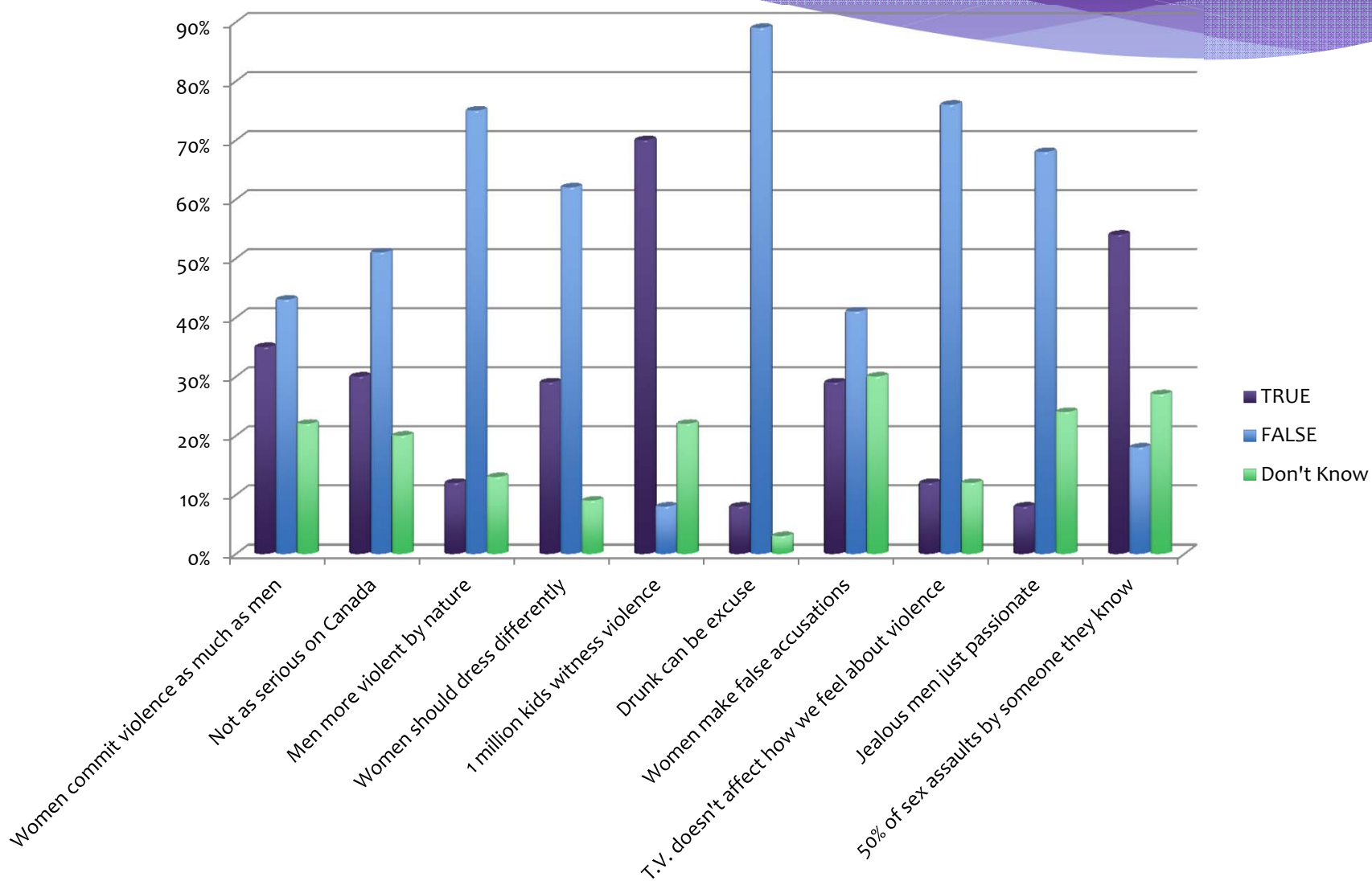


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Why Evaluate?

- To help make decisions
- To make sure you are helping the right people in the right way
- To be accountable
- To ensure you aren't wasting money
- To go beyond assumptions
- To accomplish what you set out to accomplish and maybe more!
- To be a leader





What youth are learning

- “It’s not just physical violence”
- “Abuse is not just physical or mental, but also religious or financial”
- “Violence against women is a lot more common than they thought”
- “How to be a leader and the importance of preventing violence”
- “The statistics about violence against women and girls”
- “New ways to recognize when a person is hurting”
- “Statistics and how prevention happens”
- “There are people wanting to make a difference and they can be a part of that”



Things to consider in evaluating:

youth led projects
gender-based projects
anti-violence projects

- Qualitative information versus Quantitative (bureaucracy 'versus' activism)
- Power dynamics and voice
- The real risks where domestic violence is at issue
- Positive impact of process/developmental evaluation on including marginalized communities

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