

**The Society for Safe and Caring Schools & Communities**

**2008–2009 Annual Report  
December 2, 2009**



## Many Thanks to the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities Supporters and Volunteers!

### Donors/Funders

Alberta Building Trades  
Council  
Alberta Education  
Alberta Solicitor General  
and Ministry for Public  
Security  
Barb Maheu  
Bev Christensen  
Bigstone Community  
School  
Brent Quinton  
Canadian International  
Development Agency  
Candas Dorsey  
Carla Thomas  
Charlotte Bragg  
Cheryl Johner  
City of Edmonton  
College Association of  
Registered Nurses  
Connie Biel  
Co-Par Electric Ltd.  
CTV  
Currie Communications  
Dave Mulek  
Dave Hancock  
David King  
Debbie Engel  
Denise Cantor  
Diane Sollows  
Dick Baker & Associates  
Donna Blundell  
Dorothy Gray  
Dwayne Donald  
Edgar Schmidt  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
Edmonton Oilers  
Community Foundation  
Edmonton Police Service  
Edmonton Public School  
Board  
Edmonton Space & Science  
Foundation  
Eleanor Kubish  
EnBridge Inc.  
EnCana  
Evelyn Roxburgh  
Fern Snart  
Fred Woods  
Glenda Lotoski  
Government of Alberta-  
Children and Youth  
Services  
Grant MacEwan College  
Hauptman, Cherkawsky,  
Hobbs LLP.

Hemisphere Engineering  
Howard Neth  
Jane Moore  
Jennifer Bocock  
John Nedd  
Karen Hobbs  
Kath Rhyason  
Kelsey Armstrong  
Kevin Hood  
Kris Wells  
Larcinia Energy  
Laura Fitzgerald  
Lise Gratton  
Maclab Enterprises  
Maria Clericuzio  
Marilyn Sheptycki  
Maureen Ungarian  
MaryLynne Campbell  
Michele Mulder  
Michelle Gronning  
Millennium EMS Solutions  
Mobile Youth Services  
Monique Baker  
Northland School Division  
Parkland School Division  
Pat Workun  
Quality Learning Services  
Randy Hobbs  
Rob Clarke  
Ron New  
Safe Communities  
Innovation  
FundScotiabank  
Sturgeon School Division  
Sutton Place Hotel  
TELUS  
Terry Fortin  
Terry Gunderson  
The Alberta School Boards  
Association  
The Alberta Teachers'  
Association  
The College of Alberta  
School Superintendents  
The Fashion Event  
Corporation  
The Public School Boards  
Association of Alberta  
Tim Monds  
UMA Engineering  
University of Alberta  
Valerie Collins  
Vicki Mather  
Warren Sentes  
Wild Rose Foundation  
William Vollmer

### Volunteers

Nora Abu Absi  
Barry Andres  
Edna Arcand  
Jody Arcand  
Loiselle Arcand  
Ed Aryee  
Robert Avveduti  
Dick Baker  
Karen Bardy  
James Battle  
Tim Battle  
Charlene Bearhead  
Trish Randolph-Beaver  
Rev Charles Bidwell  
Linda Borle  
Michelle Bourgeois  
Charlotte Bragg  
Alice Brick  
Jode Brown  
Greg Butt  
Lori Campbell  
Gladys Cardinal  
Tracy Cardinal  
Elaine Caskie  
Dale Christensen  
Paula Coombs  
George Couros  
Barry Davidson  
Theresa Davis  
Bev Dekker  
Shelagh Dunn  
Michelle Engman  
Bev Esslinger  
Sgt. Tom Farquhar  
Laura Fitzgerald  
Pat Fizell  
Terry Fortin  
Jerel Gibbs  
Christine Gullion  
Terry Gunderson  
Charlene Hay  
Randy Hobbs  
Judi Holton  
Wei Shi Hu  
Cheryl Johner  
Barb Kari  
Cam Kootenay  
Dania Kochan  
Glenn Kubish  
Patricia Layden  
Lenora LeMay  
Patrick Loyer  
Barb Maheu  
Linda Malloy  
Margaret McClellan  
Mary McGregor

Patricia Mennie  
Kailey Schmidt-Morrison  
Jean-Marie Mvita  
Constable Hal O'Gilvie  
Tim Osborne  
Constable Janine Peter  
Tammy Poorman  
E. Patrick Powell  
Alice Rachynski  
Chief Allan Paul  
Sandra Prokopiw  
Evelyn Roxburgh  
Bev Sawyer  
Gail Schuller  
Dave Sinclair  
Robert Simonowits  
Will Simpson  
Dave Sinclair  
Jacquie Skytt  
Colleen Soetaert  
Raymond Soetaert  
Diane Sollows  
Marie Stelmach  
Eileen Szelewicki  
Shawn Taylor  
Don Tessier  
Maureen Ungarian  
Njeri Waiyaki  
Kris Wells  
Kelly Wilkins  
Lou Yaniv

# Contents

---

<b>President’s Report 2008–2009 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Message from the Executive Director .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Summary of Projects .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Aboriginal Elementary Student Action—Promoting Human Rights, Peace and Global Citizenship .....	5
Alberta Prevention of Bullying Youth Committee .....	5
Building Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools through Restorative Justice, Phase 4.....	6
Creating Safe Spaces <i>Wafflemania</i> Fundraising Breakfast.....	6
Engaging Albertans in Sustainable Bullying Prevention and Intervention .....	7
From Risk to Resiliency: Implementing SNAP for High Risk Boys.....	7
Helping Schools and Communities Address Relational Aggression through Youth Action.....	8
Protecting Youth from Cyberbullying–Educating Parents and Teachers.....	8
SACSC Programming in Wabasca Schools and Communities .....	9
<b>2008-2009 Board of Directors .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## **President's Report 2008–2009**

2009 was my first year serving as Chair and President of the Society's Board of Directors, and it has been a great privilege to become part of an organization so strongly committed to creating safe, caring and inclusive environments for youth. I would like to thank the many volunteers, staff and partners who continue to make the Society's work possible. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Dick Baker, who served as President and Chair of the Society's Board from 2004 to 2008 and continues to serve on our Board.



The ongoing role of the Board of Directors is to review recommendations from the Board's standing committees, ensure the Society's programming continues to meet its mandate, assist with fundraising and promotion, and ensure sustainability by building and strengthening the Society's relationships with partners in government, education, community and corporate sectors. When necessary, the Board will also create regulations and draft amendments to the Society's constitution and by-laws for consideration at the annual general meetings.

### **The Year Behind Us**

We were privileged to have Marie Stelmach, the wife of the Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta, continue to serve as our honorary patron.

Board member Terry Gunderson developed an in-depth performance review process for the Society's Executive Director and led the Board through a performance review in February, 2009. The process focused on measuring the Executive Director's performance in the following nine areas:

1. Executive Leadership
2. Strategic Planning
3. Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability
4. Personnel Management
5. Board/Executive Director Relationship
6. Fund Development
7. Communications/Community Relations
8. Promotion and Marketing
9. Office Management

The Executive Director's performance was ranked extremely high in all categories, and the Board determined the following four items to be future goals for the Executive Director:

1. Increase emphasis on strategic corporate fund development
2. Raise the Society's community profile
3. Develop a personnel guide for the Society's staff
4. Work closely with the Board to identify measurable strategic initiatives

During the past year, the Board continued to review recommendations brought forward by the Society's standing committees. The Fund Development Standing Committee was recently combined with the Public, Corporate and Government Relations Standing Committee, as the Board decided that Fund Development was a function of public, corporate and government relations and these committees would better serve the interests of the Society by combining their efforts.

During a strategic planning session in March 2009, the Board of Directors worked with the Society's staff to create a three-year strategic plan. This session resulted in the development of target outcomes for each standing committee based on specific strategic priorities. These include the following:

#### **Governance and Succession Standing Committee**

- Ensure that the Board participates in an annual strategic planning process that focuses on strategic priorities and measurable outcomes
- Ensure that the Executive Director develops a business plan that advocates the strategic plan, and that the Executive Director is evaluated and compensated in accordance with outcomes established by the Board
- Develop an annual evaluation process for the Society's Board of Directors
- Review the Board composition to determine there is an appropriate balance between education and community stakeholders and adjust the recruitment/nomination process accordingly
- Develop a succession plan for the Society's Executive Director

#### **Programming Standing Committee**

- Continue to provide existing programming in schools and communities where there is a proven need and interest
- Adapt and develop research-based programming on violence prevention, youth social and emotional wellness, and other topics that reflect current needs and research while ensuring all programming continues to fall within the Society's vision/mission and topic areas
- Expand the delivery of SACSC programming in schools and communities into areas that have been under-represented by demography and geography

#### **Public, Corporate and Government Relations Standing Committee**

- Develop a strategic communications plan in order to increase awareness of the Society among target stakeholders
- Strengthen relationships with government officials and policymakers to ensure the Society has input into the development of anti-bullying legislation and to obtain funding
- Define target funders based on programming needs and develop funding proposals
- Maintain relationships with existing funders
- Build and expand on existing fundraising events and explore the possibility of new events

#### **The Year Ahead of Us**

The Board will continue to utilize the diverse backgrounds and expertise of its members to provide the Society with strategic recommendations, create greater awareness of SACSC programming, and expand into new communities across the province. With this in mind, our Board member from Calgary, Barry Davidson, has been working to expand the Society's presence in southern Alberta. The Board will also continue to work closely with the Society's staff, along with our many partners and supporters, to promote SACSC as a primary source of research-based violence-prevention programming in Alberta.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the Society for their continued contribution and support.

Respectfully submitted,



Bev Esslinger, President

## Message from the Executive Director

It has been another busy and exciting year at the Society for Safe and Caring Schools & Communities. We continued to work with our many valued partners across the province to develop and implement violence prevention and preventative intervention programming and resources, and I would like to share some of our past successes and our goals for the coming year.



First of all, I am very happy to say we were able to maintain all of our existing staff members, who have extensive expertise in resource development and the implementation of school and community programming.

With support from the Alberta Children's Services Community Incentive Fund, SACSC was able to bring our community workshops and community facilitator training into 7 locations across the province: Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. SACSC presentations were also delivered at numerous locations, including:

- The Alberta Home and School Councils' provincial conference;
- Calgary, Mighty Peace, Palliser and Red Deer teachers conventions;
- Edmonton Rotary Clubs;
- The Beginning Teachers' Conferences in Calgary and Edmonton; and
- The University of Alberta.

One of the Society's goals is to continue implementing violence prevention programming in schools and communities across Alberta. During the past year, with the help of Alberta Education, the Canadian International Development Agency, Northland School Division, the Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, and TELUS, the Society was able to implement programs in Edmonton, Gibbons, Morley, Red Deer, and Grande Prairie. We also hosted our second annual Youth Action conference, which gathered students and educators from across the province to share their findings on relational aggression in schools. Numerous Family and Community Support Services employees, school resource officers, teachers and school administrators also joined us in Edmonton for a full-day workshop session designed to address both relational aggression and cyberbullying.

With fund development and grant writing identified as a strategic priority for the Society, a grant from the Wild Rose Foundation enabled us to hire a part-time fund development coordinator and grant writer, which will assist the Society in securing new sources of funding and expanding our programming. We hosted our third annual Creating Safe Spaces *WaffleMania* breakfast, which attracted 200 people and raised approximately \$25,000. We also partnered with the Fashion Event Corporation for a special fashion fundraiser in May, which raised \$2,700. Looking towards the future, SACSC was recently approved for partnership with the Edmonton Oilers 50/50 Raffle Program, which could raise up to \$15,000 of unrestricted funding in the coming year.

This past spring, SACSC was also approved for a three-year grant from the Alberta Safe Communities Innovation Fund, which will allow the Society to implement the project *From Risk to Resiliency: Implementing SNAP for High-Risk Boys* at Kipohtakaw Education Centre and Forest Green School. The Stop Now And Plan program is a proven strategy that teaches at-risk youth how to effectively manage aggressive behaviour, avoid violence, and learn constructive problem-solving strategies that will help them avoid future involvement with the criminal justice system.

The Society continued to meet with all levels of government to raise awareness of SACSC programming, strengthen relationships with partners and funders, and provide feedback and recommendations on legislation that stands to impact the lives of youth in our province. SACSC issued a response to Bill 44, a Bill that could limit the ability of teachers to openly discuss religious and sexual diversity in Alberta's classrooms. We also met with MLA Heather Forsythe to respond to Bill 206 (formerly Bill 210), a Private Member's Bill that sought to address bullying and violence in schools through amendments to the School Act.

While travelling throughout Alberta implementing safe and caring programming in schools and communities, the message we hear continues to be the same: "*We need to continue implementing effective strategies to prevent and address youth violence, and we need to work together—schools, government, businesses and community members.*" The Society continues to hear that funding is a major barrier to program implementation, that building respect for diversity is one of the the greatest challenges in schools and communities, and that youth involvement continues to be a key to the success of any violence prevention program. We also continue to hear from communities that our current justice system is not working in terms of preventing recidivism, and that our schools and communities need practical strategies to address bullying.

In response to these messages, SACSC has secured funding through the following agencies which allows us to implement new projects:

- National Crime Prevention Centre (Implementing SNAP violence-prevention programming for at-risk youth in two aboriginal communities in partnership with the Centre for Children Committing Offences)
- Children's Mental Health (Developing peer mentorship programming using the Society's Youth Action process in Lethbridge, Camrose and a to-be-determined aboriginal community)
- Alberta's Community Initiative Program (Implementing a relational aggression Youth Action project in Canmore and Evansburg)
- Community Incentive Fund (Training SACSC Community Workshop facilitators across Alberta to engage multicultural and newcomer groups)
- University of Alberta (Work with the Faculty of Education to review the availability and use of multicultural resources in secondary schools in Edmonton and Calgary)

The Society will also continue to work with the Alberta Prevention of Bullying Committee, PrevNet, Community Initiatives Against Family Violence, the Alberta Provincial Restorative Justice Committee, the Alberta Teacher's Association Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee, the University of Alberta and various community organizations to ensure that knowledge networks and partnerships are formed which continue to ensure the Society is using every means possible to build safe and caring schools and communities.

With your support, the Society looks forward to another exciting year.



Donna Blundell, *Executive Director*

## Summary of Projects

### Aboriginal Elementary Student Action—Promoting Human Rights, Peace and Global Citizenship

**Funder:** Canadian International Development Agency

**Duration:** July 1, 2008–June 15, 2009

The purpose of the project was to develop responsible global citizens by engaging students and educators in global issues and promoting an understanding of Canada's international efforts. This was accomplished by:

- increasing students' knowledge of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals;
- promoting an understanding of the actions of non-government organizations;
- raising students' awareness of the work of the Canadian International Development Agency;
- engaging students and educators in community action to meet the targets set out by the Millennium Development Goals; and
- building a more inclusive learning community where students and staff work together.

Working with three teachers from two pilot schools (Morley Community School and Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik), this project reached more than 900 students in Alberta. An additional class from Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik (Bigstone Community School) also became involved during the course of the project.

The Youth Action process and related resources were also introduced to educators, parents and other community members at numerous presentations across Alberta. These resources will continue to be promoted at special events and through the Society's communications network. SACSC will also continue to offer the workshops developed during the course of the project (*Addressing Global Issues through Youth Action* and *Global Issues: Non-government Organizations*) to practicing and pre-service teachers across the province.

### Alberta Prevention of Bullying Youth Committee

**Funder:** Alberta Children and Youth Services–Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying

**Project Duration:** 2007–2009

The ongoing role of the Alberta Prevention of Bullying Youth Committee is to provide the Alberta Government with a youth perspective on bullying issues in our province. The committee provides feedback and advice on proposed strategies, as well as recommendations and findings that relate to bullying prevention. Committee members comment on current initiatives and campaigns, suggest improvements and provide new ideas.

Ranging in age from 15 to 22 years old, the committee comprises youth from across the province. Panel members represent a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including Aboriginal members and youth at risk. The group also represents both rural and urban perspectives. From 2007–2009, SACSC supported this committee by serving on the Alberta Bullying Prevention Strategy Working Group and co-facilitating weekend meetings with the Youth Committee.

The Society for Safe and Caring Schools & Communities

*Annual Report 2008-2009*

In the coming year, the Society will facilitate a collaborative partnership between members of this youth committee and trained SACSC community facilitators. This will provide the Youth Committee with a greater support network as they bring bullying and violence prevention presentations and resources to communities across Alberta.

## **Building Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools through Restorative Justice, Phase 4**

---

**Funder:** Alberta Community Restorative Justice (AB Solicitor General)

**Project Duration:** March 2008–March 2009

Based on recommendations from our provincial and Wabasca restorative justice project steering committees, SACSC developed restorative justice lesson plans for youth (ages 6-12) which could be integrated into the health and social curriculum. The Society also continued to provide restorative justice education and workshops for teachers across the province.

During the course of this project, the restorative justice booklet developed in 2008 continued to be distributed to parents in Wabasca. The Society also worked closely with Bigstone Band School, Calling Lake School, Pelican Mountain School, Mistassiniy Jr/Sr High School and St. Theresa Elementary School (Northland School District) during the development of lesson plans to help teachers incorporate restorative justice into the curriculum and use a classroom conferencing approach to deal with discipline issues. The Society also acted as a mediator between schools and community members/RCMP in Wabasca to help build trust and form a cohesive, effective, committee for dealing with youth issues.

## **Creating Safe Spaces *WaffleMania* Fundraising Breakfast**

---

The Creating Safe Spaces *Wafflemania* Breakfast is designed to serve as a fundraiser and a celebration—honouring key supporters, celebrating achievements and showcasing some of the Society’s current projects. Our third annual *WaffleMania* met with great community support and success, attracting approximately 200 corporate, education, government and student stakeholders. Proceeds for the event totalled approximately \$25,000. Special guests at the breakfast included the Honourable David Hancock, Minister of Education, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, the Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Service Alberta, his Worship Mayor Stephen Mandel from the City of Edmonton, and a variety of students from Alberta schools who have been personally affected by SACSC programming.

## **Engaging Albertans in Sustainable Bullying Prevention and Intervention**

**Funder:** Alberta Children and Youth–Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Community Incentive Fund

**Project Duration:** August 1, 2008–July 31, 2009

Over the last few years, SACSC has received many requests for financial aid for Alberta organizations wanting to attend our Bullying and Violence Prevention community workshop series. This project provided support for numerous not-for-profit and community organizations who work with youth by providing an opportunity for education and professional development relating to the prevention of bullying and the promotion of conflict resolution strategies. The goal was to train community service providers in a way that allows them to sustain bullying and violence prevention programming within their own communities.

During the course of this project, the SACSC *Toward a Safe and Caring Community* workshops were delivered to 119 adults, representing 53 community youth organizations from across Alberta. Participants were taught how to develop community-based programming or integrate bullying-prevention strategies into existing programs. The next phase in this project involves creating a communication tool that will enable participants and trained facilitators to stay connected and informed about new resources. In the coming year, SACSC will also host a second series of workshops with a focus on multi-cultural and newcomer groups as we continue to provide support to trained facilitators across Alberta.

## **From Risk to Resiliency: Implementing SNAP for High Risk Boys**

**Funder:** Alberta Safe Communities Innovation Fund

**Duration:** May 2009–July 2012

During the course of this three-year project, SACSC will work closely with educators and staff at Kipohtakaw Education Centre in Alexander First Nation and Forest Green School in Stony Plain to address risk factors and build protective factors in identified high risk male youth (age 6-12). These youth are frequently suspended from school for assault, theft and other disruptive behaviours. Unfortunately, being suspended can lead to theft, property crime and assault outside of the school, which often leads to police involvement.

The Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) program is a proven preventative intervention approach (listed by the National Crime Prevention Centre of Canada as an evidence-based, best-practice model) that reduces and prevents crime in high-risk male youth. This project's goal is to provide high-risk youth with the skills they need to make good decisions, teach them alternate strategies for controlling impulses, and provide their support networks (parents/adults and school staff) with proven strategies to ensure they have the support they need to be successful. The SNAP program is targeted toward children with behaviour problems and those most likely to “flip” into the youth justice system by addressing key ingredients of their antisocial behaviours: inadequate impulse control and problem-solving skills. Studies have shown that children who participate in the program are twice as likely not to have a criminal record by their 18th birthday.

## **Helping Schools and Communities Address Relational Aggression through Youth Action**

---

**Funder:** Alberta Education

**Duration:** April 2008–June 2009

This project helped students, teachers and school communities develop strategies to address relational aggression. Relational aggression, for the purpose of this project, is defined as “psychological, (social/emotional) aggression between people in relationships.” Teacher facilitators from four junior high schools attended SACSC training workshops that helped them guide student leaders within their schools as they implemented this Youth Action project.

By exploring relational aggression through personal experiences, role playing and dramatization, participants developed problem-solving strategies to help resolve relational aggression issues they identified. In order to assist with changes, school advisory councils were provided with an information session along with resources designed to help them support the project and build a positive school environment where students can learn without feeling threatened. The students developed dramatizations that were presented within their own schools at a culminating activity that involved more than 170 participants from across Alberta.

Additional resources developed during the course of this project include a relational aggression literature review, booklet, brochure and poster. These resources, along with a half-day workshop designed to help adults work with youth to address relational aggression, will continue to be offered to schools and communities across the province.

## **Protecting Youth from Cyberbullying-Educating Parents and Teachers**

---

**Funder:** TELUS

**Project Duration:** 2008–2009

This project integrated cyberbullying education into current anti-bullying/violence prevention programming offered by the Society. It also provided opportunities for teachers across Alberta to learn how to integrate cyberbullying protocol into the classroom.

During the course of the project, cyberbullying prevention information and tip sheets reached approximately 1,900 schools across the province. In addition, SACSC presented cyberbullying prevention workshops to more than 900 students and 250 parents, teachers, counsellors and school administrators. As the Society continues to bring this presentation into schools and communities, this project has the potential to positively impact thousands of students across Alberta. The central theme of this project is character education based on the question, “Who are you when no one is watching?”

## **SACSC Programming in Wabasca Schools and Communities**

---

**Funder:** AISI–Northland School District 61

**Project Duration:** 2006–2009

Over \$25,000 annually has been invested into this three-year project in Wabasca, leading to the continued implementation of SACSC’s comprehensive approach to building a safe, caring and inclusive environment in Wabasca and Pelican Mountain schools and communities. The restorative justice approach to classroom discipline, which focuses on reparation and interpersonal healing, was also integrated into these schools as an alternative to traditional discipline models. The Society developed training for students, school staff, parents and other community members which was used to facilitate classroom meetings, community conferencing and healing circles as part of the restorative justice process.

## **2008–2009 Board of Directors**

---

**Dick Baker**, Past President/Past Chair

**Michelle Bourgeois**, Member at Large

**Barry Davidson**, Member at Large

**Bev Esslinger**, President

**Laura Fitzgerald**, Member at Large

**Terry Fortin**, Vice President./Vice Chair

**Terry Gunderson**, Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Representative

**Randy Hobbs**, Secretary/Treasurer, Member at Large

**Cheryl Johner**, Member at Large

**Patrick Loyer**, Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Representative (Joined June 2009)

**Barb Maheu**, Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Representative (Resigned June 2009)

**Robert Simonowitz**, College of Alberta Superintendents (CASS) Representative

**Maureen Ungarian**, Member at Large

**Kris Wells**, Member at Large

**Lou Yaniv**, Member at Large