



News Release

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The Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities

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Mayor and Special Guests Support Violence Prevention in Alberta

June 26, 2007—More than 160 corporate, education, government and student stakeholders will attend the Creating Safe Spaces WaffleMania Breakfast—a fundraising event to benefit the violence prevention programming of the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, June 26, 2007. Special guests will include Honorary Event Chair Mayor Stephen Mandel, the Society’s Honorary Patron Mrs Marie Stelmach and a variety of students from Edmonton Schools who have been personally affected by the programming.

The Breakfast will feature a special presentation by students from Strathcona High School who participated in the Youth Action pilot project during the 2006/07 school year. Their project, titled “Words Hurt”, created awareness about how prejudicial language, even when used unintentionally, can cause great harm to the school community. After identifying homophobia as an issue affecting their school, the students’ goal was to decrease the use of homophobic language through a public awareness campaign.

Youth Action, one of the Society’s key prevention programs for secondary students, engages young people in identifying and addressing important issues, such as bullying and violence, in their own schools. “Youth Action is a unique initiative that the Society developed to impact this challenging group”, said Executive Director Donna Blundell. “In order to reach Junior and Senior High students, programming must provide opportunities for youth to take ownership and develop their own strategies to address issues that they consider important”.

By supporting the Youth Action process, schools encourage youth to identify the issues that are significant to the student body and to gain a personal connection to the projects they design and undertake. Student participants adopt leadership roles and develop teamwork, communication and presentation skills, while serving their community.

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Event: Creating Safe Spaces *WaffleMania* Breakfast
Location: Crowne Plaza-Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton
Date/Time: June 26, 2007, 7:30am–9:00am

For more information please contact Nicole Pakan, Communications Manager for the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, at (780) 447-9450 or visit the website at www.sacsc.ca.