



## **Violence Prevention in Alberta**

*April 18, 2007, Alberta*

In response to the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities would like to offer consolation and encouragement to Albertans affected by this unfortunate event.

“We believe that it is important to focus on solutions rather than looking for someone to blame” said Society President Dick Baker. “We need to ensure that we continue to commit our resources to educating Albertans and implementing violence-prevention programming in our schools and communities”. Parents and education stakeholders undoubtedly place youth safety as their number one priority. This commitment requires support from the entire community to ensure that youth have the support that they need to become responsible and caring citizens.

The Society offers a variety of programming and resources that focus on building: respect, self-esteem, a sense of belonging and solidarity, prevention of prejudice and discrimination, anger-management and conflict-resolution skills, and strategies for dealing with bullying and harassment.

“It is the responsibility of all adults in the lives of youth and children, to take an active role in connecting them with their communities. Youth must know that they have somewhere to turn when they are feeling hopeless—help to find constructive means to address their issues” commented Will Simpson, Executive Director—Education.

There is no quick fix or magic solution. A long-term sustainable violence prevention strategy must be implemented to help prevent such tragedies from occurring.

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**For more information please contact Will Simpson, Executive Director—Education, for the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, at (780) 405-7347 or (780) 447-9487 or visit the website at [www.sacsc.ca](http://www.sacsc.ca).**