



# NISKA

NEWS

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## Tributes to Harry Anderson and Betty Hillier

### Harry Anderson

*George Bevan*

"If you need something done, ask Harry." That's how one of Harry Anderson's fellow Lions put it recently in describing Harry's two decades with the Lions. Even while employed with AGT, Harry still found time to serve his community. He worked with seniors at the Central Lions Recreation Centre, helped organize Lions Youth Exchange programs and, for many years, was heavily involved in fundraising for Lions Quest training sessions for Edmonton-area teachers. For this outstanding achievement, Harry was awarded the International Lions President Medal.

Along with his work in the community, Harry has been very active in his Edmonton (Host) Lions Club. He has been club president twice and chairman of the Lions Club of Edmonton Foundation. It was through this foundation that the grant from the Muttart Foundation to the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project was processed.

For the past five years, Harry has played a leading role in bringing together the Lions Clubs of Alberta and the ATA as partners in the Safe and Caring Schools/Communities Project. Under this guidance, a financial campaign among Alberta Lions clubs raised some \$80,000 toward the cost of the *Who Cares?* marketing video and the five videos to support the Safe Communities workshop. Throughout the years, Harry worked closely with Dr Vicki Mather as a member of the Safe and Caring Schools Steering Committee.

Without Harry's persistence and leadership, it is doubtful that these major projects would have been as successful as they have been. However, the time has come for Harry to move on to other things. There'll be more time for golfing and curling and more time to spend at the cottage on Baptiste Lake. And now Harry and his wife Heather can finally concentrate on those pesky home renovations and their cherished grandchildren.

We will miss Harry's leadership and commitment. We will not know where to find anything because Harry was "the Archive"—he never threw anything away. And we will hope that, when Harry gets tired of his newfound life of leisure, he will return to his former haunts and become a responsible citizen again.

Good luck, Harry, and thanks for everything.

### Betty Hillier

On September 2, after much deliberation, Betty Hillier, a member of the Safe and Caring Schools Steering Committee from its inception in 1996, announced that she would be resigning from the committee. In addition to her responsibilities as a member of the board of directors for WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger, a shelter for women and children escaping violence), Betty has accepted the position of chair of the WINGS Fundraising Committee. Betty also plans to continue her volunteer work with Friars and the Festival of

*Tributes, cont'd on page 4*

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## Journaling about bullying

*JoAnn Blatchford, a teacher at Stettler Middle School, has provided the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project with a series of excerpts from her students' journals about what they see as solutions to violence. The journal topic was "What are some real-life solutions to combat violence/bullying in schools?"*

*"Overall, most of the kids claim that everyone gets bullied at some point and time in life and not much will change that. When it became excessive, then it became a problem, and most were reluctant to tell but realized it was important to inform their teachers and parents," Blatchford writes.*

*"Before we wrote the journal, we watched a little newsclip about what the Alberta government was going to do in the wake of Taber to combat violence in schools. We had a class discussion, and then they wrote in their journals."*

*Below are some excerpts from the journals. Additional excerpts will appear in a future issue of Niska News.*

*"The parents could help the situation by not letting their children watch violence on the television.*

Nowadays, violence in the world happens regularly, and now teenagers think this is the way we deal with problems."

"I think that bullying is a major issue in school today. People must learn to like, tolerate and live in harmony. . . . Because boys tend to be the bullies, maybe we should have separate schools—one for boys and one for girls. This might help."

"I think the media has a huge effect on some of the violence that takes place not only at school but at home or even at work. I mean if you think about it, if the movie *Basketball Diaries* wouldn't have come out, would the people that were involved in the school shootings got the idea to just walk into the classroom and starting shooting people at random?"

"In conclusion, the only way to stop or lessen violence in schools is to have people (teachers) aware/in touch with all the kids in their room. Listen when kids talk. Put money into small classes/more teachers as it is very hard for teachers to help everybody when you've got a big class. This is simple yet I think it would be very easy and effective."

### **Alberta Home and School Councils' Association Resolution 00C-10 SAFE & CARING SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

BECAUSE government has amended Alberta's School Act to state: "a board shall ensure that each student enrolled in a school operated by a board is provided with a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours",

AND BECAUSE government has funded a safe & caring schools project since 1996,

AND BECAUSE we as a society are learning that violence in school is an issue best resolved at the community level,

WEREQUEST THAT All schools be encouraged to implement an ongoing safe and caring school program that involves all stakeholders, and is developed to suit the unique needs of the school community, drawing on the wide variety of available resources;

WE FURTHER REQUEST THAT Each school's safe and caring program be assessed, by the school council and school community, annually and updated accordingly.

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## Best practices: The Safe and Caring Bulletin Board

*The following idea was submitted by Carol Steen, former principal of Winston Churchill High School in Lethbridge. In response to the shooting incident at W R Myers High School in Taber, her counseling and administration team knew that it was important to give students an opportunity to express their feelings in a non-threatening and meaningful manner. The team came up with the following idea to help students cope with the tragedy.*

*The Safe and Caring Bulletin Board is one way to respond to any crisis or event that evokes a strong emotional response in students.*

At Winston Churchill High School, we identified a bulletin board within the school and gave it the title "Share Your Thoughts and Feelings." We then invited students to post their thoughts and feelings on the board. Their responses were expressed in pictures, poems, stories and phrases.

The board gave legitimacy to the expression of student emotion and allowed them to vent and share their grief. It was a wonderful way to bring something good from a tragedy. It was amazing to watch the reactions of the students, staff and parents as they read and viewed the items on the bulletin board.

This idea can be used with any theme from the Safe and Caring Schools Project. For example, if bullying is an issue in the school, consider creating a bulletin board to allow students to express their views on the subject. Also suggest that students provide ways to make the school more safe and caring or identify ways in which the school is safe and caring.



### Let the madness end

"Nice shirt," he snickered as she walked by, he never noticed the tear in her eye.

"You're too fat," she laughed and turned him down not noticing his jolly smile turn to a frown.

"I want to kill you," he yelled as people passed by, now boys don't be silly, my oh my.

This is how it begins, and we wouldn't have known, they wouldn't do this, no signs were shown.

School was our safe place, but not anymore, as they heard shots from out the door.

People were targets and many passed away, the injured were left to remember this day.

The innocence was taken from all in the school, the crime was disgraceful, unnecessary and cruel. Now the blaming begins, was it the parents' fault? Were they part of a gang or maybe a cult?

Or how about the media for all the violence it shows, or the kids who teased them, no one knows?

But what I know is that this all needs to end, and bring to the world a message to send, WE WILL NOT BE VICTIMS... LET THE MADNESS END.



All of these tragedies that are happening around us are unnecessary and wrong. For 16 innocent people to die at the hands of stupid people is really disturbing. School is a place to feel safe and to get an education so you can go somewhere in life, not a place where you need to be looking over your shoulder and wondering who to trust or who to say hi to or to make sure you don't accidentally get pushed into the wrong person. We shouldn't be scared to open our locker and not wonder if there is a bomb in there or not.

I'm glad that the majority of our school is dealing with this in a mature way, but for those of you going around joking about it and saying it'll never happen, you need to face the facts 'cause it could. The Taber school had about the same number of students that Churchill does and it's a small community where everyone knows everyone. No one expects this to happen, but it's happening all around us. Help stop the violence!



LOVE

Let this be our focus.

**Bulletin board, cont'd on page 4**

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**Tributes, cont'd from page 1**

Trees and as a parent volunteer in her children's school.

Betty has been a highly respected member of the SACS committee. She has provided valuable input and advice from a parent's perspective as well as co-presenting a workshop at the Alberta Home and School Councils' Association's annual conference.

Although Betty was unable to make the September meeting, she asked that this message be shared with the committee: "I have enjoyed and benefited from my involvement with the members of the Safe and Caring Schools Steering Committee and believe that the work they do is both important and timely. I wish you continued success."

Thank you and best wishes, Betty. We will miss you.

**Bulletin board, cont'd from page 3**



I think the main thing that needs to be learned from all of this is the fact that something like this could happen anytime, anywhere. What we need to do now is make each day important because God forbid, we just don't know what's going to happen tomorrow or the next day. Don't waste your time being petty because it's not worth it. Life's too short as it is, and now we realize it may be unexpectedly cut short.



When we build walls and borders  
From fear and hate and guns  
The hatred turns around  
And strikes at everyone

But when we stand strong together  
And let love enjoy its will  
Misfortune can't defeat us  
It makes us stronger still

*Dan Bern, Oklahoma*

## Notices

More than 50 million people have already signed the Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, launched by **UNESCO** and several Nobel Peace laureates in March 1999. The signature campaign for the Manifesto 2000 will continue at least until the end of the year 2000, which the United Nations has declared the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

The Manifesto 2000 is not a petition but a commitment by each person who signs it to follow the six principles of a culture of peace in his or her daily life, family, work and community: respect all life, reject violence, share with others, listen to understand, preserve the planet and rediscover solidarity. These principles correspond closely to the six values adopted recently in the final Declaration at the Millennium Summit: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility.

Teachers have taken the lead in this campaign. In many countries, they have made the values of the Manifesto 2000 the subject of courses in their schools.

The Manifesto 2000 is available online through UNESCO's website at [www.unesco.org/manifesto2000](http://www.unesco.org/manifesto2000).

**UNICEF Canada** has developed a resource entitled *Teaching for Peace and Conflict Resolution*. The training and curriculum support manual enables teachers and trainers to develop conflict resolution activities and programs appropriate for their particular educational settings and cultural contexts. The resource is available online through UNICEF Canada's website at [www.unicef.ca](http://www.unicef.ca). Please go to the Curriculum Corner in the Global Schoolhouse.

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Niska News is a newsletter produced by the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools (SACS) Project for school and community members. The goal of the SACS Project is to encourage practices that model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviors so that learning and teaching can take place in a safe and caring environment. Achieving this goal requires the involvement of not just parents and teachers but also all the important adults in a young person's life. This newsletter is designed to provide timely, up-to-date information about the project. For more information, contact the SACS office by phoning 447-9487 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta). Copying and distributing Niska News is permitted as long as the source is credited. The newsletter is available online through the Alberta Teachers' Association's website at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca). Please go to the Publications section.



# SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

Nov. 23, 2000 - Preconference - Westin Hotel  
Nov. 24 and 25, 2000 - Conference - Shaw Conference Centre

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## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Pre-conference sessions:

Pre-conference sessions will be offered on Thursday, November 23, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Westin Hotel. The pre-conference fee is \$150.00 in addition to the conference registration fees (includes materials and lunch). The pre-conference sessions will provide in-depth training in the following areas:

1. *Supporting Safe, Secure and Caring Schools in Alberta* (administrators, police, trustees)
2. *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum ECS - Grade 6* (elementary)
3. *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum - Behavior Strategies* (secondary)
4. *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum - Instructional Strategies* (secondary)
5. *Toward a Safe and Caring Community* (school councils/parents/other adults)
6. *Conflict Resolution and Mediation Training* (General)

### Group rates:

Group registration rates will only be applicable if registration forms are submitted together. Teams must be from same school, district or organization. Each team member must complete a form at the time of registering. Substitutions will be permitted during the conference. No refunds will be made after November 10, 2000 for members under the group rate. One receipt will be issued to the originator of the cheque or money order.

### Hotel information:

The Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada is the location for the Preconference and the host hotel for the main conference which is at the Shaw Conference Centre. Delegates are responsible for their own reservations and will be accommodated on a first come, first booked basis. Please make your hotel arrangements as soon as possible by calling the Westin (780) 426-3636 and asking for the SACS conference rates.

### Day care services:

Day care services will be available on-site at the Shaw Conference Centre during the conference (But not at the Preconference at the Westin Hotel). Services will be provided for \$10.00 per day. Please indicate on the registration form whether you are in need of this service and for how many children. Parents are responsible for providing their child's lunch each day.

### Cancellation/refund policy:

- Refund cheques will be issued after December 1, 2000 less \$40.00 processing fee
- A \$25.00 fee will be applied on all returned cheques due to non-sufficient funds.

### Registration deadline:

November 1, 2000: Receipts will be mailed on or before November 1, 2000.

November 2, 2000: \$40 late fees applied. Receipts will be available for pickup at the conference.





# SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

**TO RECEIVE THE GROUP RATE, REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED TOGETHER**  
One Registration form per person. Reproduce as Needed. Registration Form must be complete.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it should appear on the name tag: First, last)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School/District/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone w/area code: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your e-mail address added to the SACS list server (for future announcements)  yes  no

**Would you be interested in being a moderator for the conference?**  yes  no

Do you require special provisions?  yes - please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require day care services?  yes days needed \_\_\_\_\_ # of children \_\_\_\_\_

(\$10.00 per day for day care services)

Ages of child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Please  applicable fees

	Before Nov. 01/00	After Nov. 2/00
	GST included in all prices	
<b>Pre-conference (not included in Conference fee)</b>		
Nov 23, Thursday: (Session # _____) <small>Indicate session attending</small>	\$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$190.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Conference:</b>		
Nov 23 – 25, Thursday Evening, Friday & Saturday	\$170.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$210.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
One day only: Fri _____ or Sat _____	\$110.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Group rate 6-10 delegates, per person:	\$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$190.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Group rate 11+ delegates, per person:	\$140.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$180.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student (ID # _____)	\$ 40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 80.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Day Care Services:</b> \$10.00 per day X # of days: _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL \$</b> _____		<b>\$</b> _____

Please make Cheques/Money Orders Payable to: **Safe and Caring Schools Conference** (No purchase orders)

**TO RECEIVE GROUP RATES, REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED TOGETHER**

Complete and mail registration form(s) and payment(s) together to:  
SACS Conference, Suite 246, 11215 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 0L5  
G.S.T. # 106694425RT

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION – NOVEMBER 10, 2000**

Any questions contact Brenda Sautner: e-mail: bsautner@netcom.ca

<b>For Office Use Only:</b>		
Date received: _____	Cheque/Money Order #: _____	Amount Received: _____
Daycare: (# of Children): _____	Days Needed: _____	
<b>Preconference</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>One day Only</b>
1P <input type="checkbox"/> 2P <input type="checkbox"/> 3P <input type="checkbox"/> 4P <input type="checkbox"/> 5P <input type="checkbox"/> 6P <input type="checkbox"/>	Fri & Sat <input type="checkbox"/>	Fri <input type="checkbox"/> or Sat <input type="checkbox"/>
Receipt #: _____	Sent on: _____	Group Rate: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Cancellation: _____	Date Refunded: _____	Cheque # or Returned Original Cheque: _____