

The following article replaces and corrects the *Preventing Youth Involvement in Gangs* article which appeared in the Spring 2014 edition of BCCPA News.

Article Correction: Preventing Youth Involvement in Gangs Provincial Gang Prevention Strategy

From 2006 to 2010, the Ministry of Justice led a provincial youth gang prevention strategy with funding support from the National Crime Prevention Centre – Public Safety Canada. The Ministry worked with eight priority communities in BC (Surrey, Richmond, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Prince George, South Asian Community Coalition, Vancouver School District and the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society) to develop local action plans to address and prevent youth involvement in gangs and gang violence. The action plans resulted in a number of youth violence prevention programs including mentoring, job training, recreational programming and educational resources. Some communities received additional funding support through the Youth Gang Prevention Fund that is administered by the National Crime Prevention Centre – Public Safety Canada to support the development and implementation of targeted interventions for youth at highest risk

of involvement in gangs and gang violence.

In 2011-12 the Ministry provided additional support to 15 gang prevention projects throughout BC through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Funding Program. These included projects that built upon the work of some of the communities involved in the Provincial Youth Gang Prevention Strategy as well as supporting others.

In December, 2013 the Ministry launched a new electronic resource on youth gang prevention to help communities develop local strategies to address youth gang issues. The Youth Gang Prevention Toolkit for Community Planning, and its accompanying Quick-Start Guide, are designed to assist service providers, community leaders, and others who are working to help prevent youth from becoming involved in gangs or to help them leave gangs. The toolkit was developed with the

assistance and partnership of many stakeholders, including the 8 priority communities involved in the gang prevention strategy, Alberta's Ministry of Justice, and the federal government.

The toolkit, Quick-Start Guide, and promotional video are available free for download on the Ministry's Community Safety and Crime Prevention website at <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/publications/index.htm#gangs>

Additionally the Ministry has partnered with the BC Lions since 2010 to deliver the Lions Pride program. This program is a partnership between the BC Lions Football Club, schools and local communities to mentor at-risk youth and keep them active and out of gangs. Program components include; school presentations focused on the importance of staying out of gangs and a Flag Football Program for At-Risk Youth - http://www.bclions.com/page/lions_pride