



# BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

July 02, 2002

## ***Junior Canadian Rangers: (JCR) Preventing Harassment and Abuse through Successful Education (PHASE)***



### **The Junior Canadian Rangers**

The Junior Canadian Rangers is a Department of National Defence (DND) programme that offers community-based activities. The Programme promotes traditional cultures and lifestyles free of charge to young people 12-18 years old living in remote and isolated regions of Canada. Participants in JCR activities build self-esteem by learning to handle increased responsibility, and by improving their understanding of and connection with their communities.

### **PHASE, or Preventing Harassment and Abuse through Successful Education**

The PHASE program is designed to ensure that Junior Canadian Rangers participants promote and have a safe, positive, respectful environment in which to learn and develop free of harassment and abuse. The program also provides assistance to the JCRs with respect to any form of harassment, abuse of authority, child abuse or neglect, whether emotional, physical or sexual. PHASE follows the Canadian Human Rights Act as well as provincial and territorial child protection legislation.

The PHASE program consists of both a policy and an educational program. The policy, which applies to all participants of the JCR Programme, including the JCRs, JCR Patrol Leaders, Canadian Rangers, JCR Instructors, volunteers and Adult Committee members, sets out the principles and practices relating to the preventing and resolution of harassment and child abuse, situations, allegations or complaints.

The educational component of the program provides the youth with an understanding of what the meaning and differences are between harassment and abuse utilizing a variety of teaching methods. It also provides information where a participant can go to seek help if required.

### **Development of the PHASE program**

The PHASE program was built on a foundation of community consultation, co-operation and mutual support. It was developed specifically for the Junior Canadian Rangers by DND

following the advice and guidance of First Nations and Inuit consultants and experts from the Canadian Red Cross. The consultants received guidance from a National Advisory Group composed of members of the Canadian Rangers and other Canadian Forces units, and representatives of communities across Canada.

## **Goals of the PHASE program**

The PHASE program has the following goals:

- To keep Junior Canadian Rangers members safe from harassment and abuse;
- To encourage respect for self and others;
- To support the efforts of local abuse-prevention initiatives; and
- To encourage healthy, positive relationships.

## **How does the PHASE program work?**

The PHASE program is made up of training modules to be led by a trained facilitator. Program materials include videos, stories and activities, including games, designed to pique JCRs' interest and reinforce learning.

Using plain language, the videos show how to recognize harassment arising from the forms of discrimination prohibited in the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. They also cover the four kinds of abuse—emotional, physical, sexual and neglect—defined by provincial and territorial child-protection laws.

To stimulate and focus discussion, facilitators have options: they can show a video, play a game or tell a story appropriate to the JCRs' age and culture.

JCR communities are encouraged to incorporate and imbed the PHASE program into their community services as they think necessary, while working through the modules together in an age- and time-sensitive manner. The entire set of PHASE program modules could take a week, a month or a year, depending on the community's needs and the resources available.

## **PHASE program facilitators**

PHASE program facilitators are community members with credibility and the trust of local youth—for example, JCR Instructors, youth protection workers, community social workers, nurses, police officers, teachers and members of the Canadian Rangers.

Facilitators are selected and screened by the local Band Council, Community Council or Municipal Council, in co-operation with the local JCR Adult Committee. They receive a week of training delivered by DND in conjunction with PHASE program's First Nations and Inuit consultants. The first time a new facilitator presents the PHASE program, they may work with a co-facilitator from Canadian Ranger Patrol Group Headquarters. Each facilitator is encouraged to establish links with other community members involved in education and youth protection.

## **A final word**

The Junior Canadian Rangers' PHASE Program is more than DND's way to discharge its legal and moral responsibility to provide a safe and respectful environment for JCRs. It is also more than just an educational package. PHASE policy applies to all participants of the JCR Programme. It is an investment we make today to help safeguard the future of our youth.

By joining the Junior Canadian Rangers, young people in remote and isolated communities can become involved in meaningful activities and experiences that foster good citizenship, community responsibility, personal health and welfare, and self-esteem. These are the building blocks of strong, healthy communities for us all.

-30-

For more information about the Junior Canadian Rangers and the PHASE Program, please contact the JCR Co-ordinator at (613) 995-9524 (telephone) or (613) 992-8956 (fax) or visit our web site: [www.rangers.forces.ca](http://www.rangers.forces.ca).