



Aboriginal Shield Program - Spring and Summer 2007

Overview

The Aboriginal Shield Program is a substance abuse prevention initiative designed specifically for Aboriginal youth.

Aboriginal Shield was originally developed by the Nechi Institute on Alcohol and Drug Education in partnership with the RCMP.

The program's content was recently revised in consultation and collaboration with community elders, cultural and addictions experts, educators and social workers.

The Program

Aboriginal Shield is aimed at young people at three grade levels: 4/5, 6/7 and 8/9.

The curriculum is comprised of 10 lessons designed to deliver age-appropriate information.

Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service

The RCMP's Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service (DOCAS) is responsible for the national revision, update and implementation of this program.

DOCAS works in partnership with all levels of government, non-governmental agencies, other police agencies, private organizations

and other community groups to provide proactive awareness initiatives in our communities.

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Aboriginal Shield, DOCAS promotes the program's delivery within Aboriginal communities by Aboriginal community members.

The Pilot

To introduce the revised Aboriginal Shield curriculum, a pilot program is now being implemented in eight Aboriginal communities across Canada:

- ▶ Membertou, N.S.
- ▶ Nelson House, Man.
- ▶ Behchoko, N.W.T.
- ▶ Black Lake, Sask.
- ▶ Walpole Island, Ont.
- ▶ Merrit, B.C.
- ▶ Sheshatshui, N.L.
- ▶ Burnt Church, N.B.

The pilot program will be completed in each of these communities by the end of the school year.

An evaluation will be conducted and the program revised, if needed, accordingly.

Quick Facts

- Aboriginal Shield is built on a holistic awareness that our behaviour has four aspects: spiritual, emotional, physical and mental.
- The program stresses strong and healthy relationships within the traditional Aboriginal community providing youth with practical information they can use to shield themselves from substance abuse."
- It is built for young people from all Canadian Aboriginal groups, whether First Nations, Inuit or Métis.
- It is facilitated by the RCMP's Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service, which works in collaboration with many community partners.