

Community Action

TOOL

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR YOUTH



1) Present NWAC Youth Violence Prevention Workshops

In developing the NWAC Youth Council Violence Prevention Toolkit, NWAC Youth Council intended to offer a tool to youth and communities to use as they see fit in attempts to address violence in their communities. As one of the ways to work on violence prevention, you can present one or more of the Toolkit's Youth Violence Prevention Workshops to youth in your community and engage them in conversations on variety of topics related to violence prevention.

- Step 1: Review NWAC YC Violence Prevention Toolkit and assess what you need in order to hold a workshop
- Step 2: Select the topic(s) you will present out of 5 offered in the Toolkit - feel free to adjust the material to your needs
- Step 3: Consult the Sample Budget Tool provided in the Toolkit in order to assess related costs
- Step 4: Consult the Funding Sources Tool from the Toolkit if you need to acquire additional funds
- Step 5: Identify the venue for your workshop and identify and invite your youth audience and additional participants
- Step 6: Print out all the hand-outs and get supplies necessary for the workshops activities as stated in the Facilitator's Guide
- Step 7: Ensure you have audio-visual equipment to hold the workshop
- Step 8: Make sure to get youth feedback after the workshop by distributing the Evaluation Form



2) Organize Community Meetings

If you are thinking of engaging people in your community into discussions about violence prevention you may try and organize community meetings or gatherings, sharing circles, or any other way of getting people together. One of the reasons for organizing a meeting may be to talk about resources existing in community and identifying which other resources are still needed to address the needs of youth in violence prevention efforts.



- Step 1: Identify people of interest in your community: people active in violence prevention work, youth, violence survivors, teachers, educators, Elders, health workers, youth centre workers etc.
- Step 2: Create the Agenda for your community meeting (e.g to discuss violence issue, lack of resources in the community, programs for youth available, etc)
- Step 3: Identify a venue in your community and invite people of interest to discuss violence prevention issues
- Step 4: Try to address the violence prevention issues concerning you and your peers at the community meeting
- Step 5: Come up with concrete steps you and your community can make to reduce violence and address youth needs in

your community (e.g. talk to service providers, relevant government agencies, authorities in your community etc about the outcomes of the meeting, inform youth about existing resources in the community etc.)



3) **Present material from NWAC Youth Violence Prevention Workshops or any other violence prevention material at conferences and events**

- Step 1: Research conferences/events where you could present on violence prevention
- Step 2: Write an abstract for a conference workshop - use the Tool Sample Workshop Abstract for a Conference and the Tool Form for Workshop Presenters from NWAC YC Violence Prevention Toolkit.
- Step 3: Send the workshop abstract to the conference/event organizers.

4) **Create Raising Awareness and Education Projects**

You may do these activities at any level you wish - starting from just talking about issues in your community and organizing simple fundraisers to partnering with organizations to initiate larger raising awareness campaigns.

- Step 1: Decide which issue you want to draw attention to in your community and to wider audiences (e.g the level of violence affecting youth, lack of resources and programs available and suitable to Aboriginal youth, the representation of violence issues affecting Aboriginal youth in mainstream media, issues of violence specific to Aboriginal girls, etc).
- Step 2: Ask for help within your community, partner with service providers, join with other youth groups, or apply to available government funds to organize walks, fundraisers, rallies, traditional events, etc
- Step 3: Create pamphlets, newsletters, posters to raise awareness



5) Organize Youth Walks for Raising Awareness

See also Tool How to Organize a Youth Walk in NWAC's YC Violence Prevention Toolkit. You may also organize other similar events following the same guidelines.

- Step 1: Talk to people or other youth who organized such walks in the past and ask for their advice
- Step 2: Define clear messages and issues that you want to raise awareness about with your walk
- Step 3: Select the date and location of the walk
- Step 4: Identify sponsors, ways to fundraise for the walk: writing letters to organizations is often a very successful strategy
- Step 5: Provide snacks and refreshments
- Step 6: Put posters and announcements in prominent places
- Step 7: Contact local police to provide protection and contact media outlets for promotion
- Step 8: Discuss the outcomes and success of the walk



6) Put on a play or make a video to raise awareness on violence issue

If you have a creative streak, this is a great way to raise awareness and bring forward some violence issues in your community in a way that would be interesting and attractive to youth. Again, you can go small and have a couple of friends act out a couple of scenes on a relevant



topic or seek help from community partners to create a real theatre play.

- Step 1: Identify your peers who might be interested in this project
- Step 2: Identify possible partners that can make your project more successful (e.g local school, local theater, professional writers or theatre personnel, private businesses, etc)
- Step 3: Write a script that reflects the theme you want to address (e.g scenario situations that show early signs of abusive relationships, scenarios or scenes representing dangerous situations and how to get out of them, scenes that show the reality Aboriginal youth face in relation to violence issues).
- Step 4: Select your actors for the play - they can be your friends, people interested in acting, acting students, or professional actors based on the scale of your project.
- Step 5: Select the venue for practices and the performance
- Step 6: Identify materials and supplies needed
- Step 7: If you are doing a video, secure the equipment necessary and tape the video
- Step 8: Select a date for your theatre play performance
- Step 9: Identify your audience and promote your event with posters (consider inviting possible future funders, relevant organizations, community members)
- Step 10: Think of the ways how to further promote your play/video-to present it at conferences, events, send video to relevant organizations that work on violence prevention, think of future dates and locations to perform your play

Note: as an example, take a look at the youth video included in the Toolkit made by Wabano youth (Ottawa), and also review the “Love You Give” video available at <http://www.loveyougive.org/>



7) **Form a youth committee or join an existing one**

- Step 1: Talk to youth in your community and see if they are interested in forming a youth group
- Step 2: Discuss with your peers the types of activities you can do in your community to contribute to violence prevention
- Step 3: Schedule relevant meetings depending on your availability
- Step 4: Seek other youth groups and organizations that can help you in your work



You can also search for youth groups that work on issues that you are interested in and join them. You can consider local youth organizations or larger national youth committees. All six National Aboriginal Organizations have their own national youth councils and they all have individual processes for selecting their members. To find out more about these youth councils go to:

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)

www.nwac-hq.org

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)

<http://www.abo-peoples.org/>

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

<http://www.afn.ca/>

Métis National Council (MNC)

<http://www.metisnation.ca/>

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)

<http://www.itk.ca/>

National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)

<http://www.nafc-aboriginal.com/>

- 8) Use your imagination and creativity to think of many other ways to get involved in violence prevention work in your community and beyond!**

