

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Respect Revolution Comes to Victoria High Schools

VICTORIA – Eleven students from Lambrick Park and Mt. Douglas Secondary Schools will be recognized Friday night for their commitment to the prevention of sexualized violence. As volunteers with Project Respect, an initiative based out of the Women’s Sexual Assault Centre, these dedicated youth devoted over 320 hours of their time to participate in the Respect Revolution Campaign.

Kicking off with a 9-week, in-depth training that started in September, youth were encouraged to think critically about the root causes of sexualized violence.

“The key messages of the training are designed to challenge gender stereotypes, labels and myths about sexual assault and to promote positive alternatives,” said Susana Guardado, Prevention Coordinator at the Centre. “We explore the importance of communication in developing healthy relationships and address the attitudes and beliefs that allow sexualized violence to continue to exist in our society.”

Interactive and engaging, the training empowers youth to become part of the solution by incorporating a social action component into the Campaign. This action can take any number of forms with the ultimate goal being to raise awareness within their own school or community.

“It was really exciting to see the transformation amongst the students when they entered into the action phase of the Campaign,” said Guardado. “They were coming up with the most creative and inspired ideas for sharing what they had learned. The realization that they could actually make a difference in another student’s life generated a great deal of discussion and enthusiasm.”

The chosen action component was to deliver 1-hour presentations to the Planning 10 classes at their respective schools. Through the use of skits, role-playing, collages and games, the youth volunteers have now shared their prevention messages with over 120 of their peers.

“Project Respect has been an amazing experience,” said one of the 17-year old members of the volunteer team. “Learning and sharing together – I can’t wait to shed light on it to the rest of the world.”

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The students will be honoured at a graduation ceremony at 5pm on Friday, February 17th, at the Women's Sexual Assault Centre at 941 Pandora Ave. One of the youth will speak on her experience with the Respect Revolution Campaign and why prevention education is important to youth. Teachers from Lambrick Park and Mt. Douglas Secondary Schools will also be presented with two colourful art pieces created by the youth as a legacy of the group and of their commitment to create a violence-free society.

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Members of the media are invited to attend.