

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Respect Revolutionaries Receive Solicitor General Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award

VICTORIA – Eleven students from Lambrick Park and Mt. Douglas Secondary Schools are receiving a Solicitor General Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award at the BC Crime Prevention Association Training Symposium on Friday, September 22, 2006. The awards ceremony will be held at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond at 12:00 pm.

As volunteers with Project Respect, a prevention education 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. After an in-depth 10 weeks of training on issues related to sexual violence, the youth group created innovative and poignant skits designed to raise awareness on the negative impact of labels such as "slut", "fag", and "player" and how these terms are connected to 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."

Working during lunch hours and after school, the Respect Revolutionaries developed a presentation that they delivered to over 300 of their peers. These presentations were well-received and, in addition to raising awareness, opened up discussion around an issue which is often not talked about. The group also created colourful and attractive art pieces on the issue of sexualized violence which now hang in their schools as a legacy to their commitment.

The Respect Revolutionaries, together with Project Respect staff, will be delivering an interactive workshop as a part of the pre-conference training event, "Media Gone Wild?", being held on Thursday, September 21st.

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