

Only Yes Means Yes!

Project Respect and the Respect Revolution Campaign in Bella Coola

Everyone has the right to be treated with Respect! Only Yes mean Yes! These are some of the key messages empowering our youth during the last several months as Project Respect and the Respect Revolution Youth Group touched down in Bella Coola.

Project Respect is an initiative of the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre that aims to prevent sexualized violence amongst youth. In the fall of 2005, Project Respect launched a youth campaign called Respect Revolution in Victoria. This campaign works closely with various youth to train them in issues of sexualized violence and how they can be active in the prevention of this behaviour in their schools and community.

While the Respect Revolution Campaign was created for Victoria, Project Respect was fortunate enough to secure funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation to deliver the youth leadership training program in Bella Coola from September to November 2006.

Project Respect trainers Susana Guardado and Billy Bingaman traveled to Bella Coola on a regular basis to deliver eight-two hour training workshops to interested youth. Each workshop explored different contributing factors of sexualized violence, including media, gender stereotypes, labels, power, etc.

In total, 15 students from Acwsalcta School and Sir Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School participated in this group. At the final training session, students were presented with a Project Respect t-shirt and lanyard, as well as a completion certificate, recognizing each student for their tremendous effort and dedication to this project.

Students then completed individual projects to summarize what

they got from the training. Many students completed posters that are on display at various locations throughout our schools. A special thank you to those students that took the time to get these projects finished and respect your commitment to Project Respect. Several students have continued on with their training and will be travelling to Victoria to participate in the 5th Annual Aboriginal Youth - Violence & Changing Times Training Conference.

Bella Coola Project Respect Participants include: Trent Siwallace, Nicole Saugstad, Stacey Hood, Sheena Hood, Jalissa Moody, Julia Evans, Nadine Hans, Jasmine Edgar, Felicia Harris, Samantha Bristol, Alandria Strand, Sasha Patrick, Tiffany Bolten, Delilah King, and Lenore Edgar.

Another special thank you to the adults in the community that took time from their busy schedules to spend time with the students and make this training possible: Annie Fletcher, Barry Prong, Karen Milanese, Peter Snow, Bill Tallio, and Wally Webber.

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