

GANGS AND GUNS 2020

GUIDE FOR PARENTS



SAFER
SCHOOLS
TOGETHER



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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- Safer Schools Together

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YOUTH

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ABOUT SAFER SCHOOLS TOGETHER

Safer Schools Together (SST) has a proven record of helping schools throughout North America minimize and manage their risks of student violence with reliable, professional training. Using best practice from the field of Student Threat Assessment, SST helps schools and their communities learn how to collect data and “connect the dots,” providing the tools necessary to prevent needless tragedy, violence and trauma. Also offered are comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies to assist schools and professionals with the identification, tracking and intervention of negative influences.

In British Columbia, SST provides extensive safety-related training and resource materials for educators, students, parents, law enforcement and other community stakeholders through the Provincial ERASE Strategy and Expanded ERASE Gang & Gun Violence Prevention Initiative. SST’s team of dedicated professionals provide ongoing consultative services and support to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth in our province.

INTRODUCTION



Gangs have a negative impact on communities throughout British Columbia. The presence of gangs that often involve youth threatens the safety and well-being of citizens. It is important to raise awareness with children, youth, educators, families and community members to prevent young people from becoming involved in a gang lifestyle. Typically, young people gravitate towards gang involvement either to fulfill their needs or their wants.

This educational resource aims to educate parents about BC gangs, the dangers of youth gang-associated behaviour, and the destructive impact it can have on their lives and the lives of their family members.

The “Gangs and Guns 2020” video is comprised of four chapters that contain a number of sequences and commentary from:

- Experts in the field of research, gang prevention, intervention and enforcement
- Current and former gang-associated individuals
- Individuals operating successful prevention initiatives
- Youth participating in programs that are helping them develop resiliency and make healthier life choices

CHAPTER ONE: THE PROBLEM

- Introduces us to BC's gang problem. Topics addressed in this chapter focus on the allure of gangs, the history of BC gangs, the impact of the digital age, dial-a-doping, who would become involved in the lifestyle, jail and drugs.

CHAPTER TWO: IMPACT

- This chapter explores pathways to gang involvement, more on the allure of money, how young people become trapped, the rural, female, and parent perspectives and the consequences of gang-associated behaviour.

CHAPTER THREE: PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

- Introduces us to the importance of prevention, featuring some successful initiatives that are helping children and youth develop resilience and make healthier life choices. Highlighted initiatives include Her Time, Peer to Peer, YoBro/YoGirl, Game Ready Fitness and Gang Reduction Through Informed Practice (GRIP). The importance of deep and enduring relationships and the vital role that parents play in keeping kids safe from gangs are explored in this chapter.

CHAPTER FOUR: BROTHERS IN ARMS

- Introduces us to the life story of Gurmit Dhak from his early years through his high school years when he became involved in gang-associated behaviour that led to increased criminality, jail time and running a drug empire. His younger brother Suk also embraced the gang lifestyle. The inevitable outcome for both of them was their early deaths.

OVERVIEW OF THE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Each chapter is divided into sequences that are summarized to capture key points being made by the speakers to build parental awareness and understanding of how gangs can impact their children or their children's friends. Parents are provided with questions to consider after each sequence and additional information at the end of each chapter.

CHAPTER ONE: THE PROBLEM



KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

- Current and historical context of the gang landscape in British Columbia
- Negative influences of social media
- Recruitment of young people via social media
- Characteristics and motives of dial-a-dope operations and recruitment

Glossary of Terms

Traditional At-Risk Youth - Come from disorganized neighbourhoods, impoverished homes, or distressed families. These youth have all sorts of needs that are not being met at home or in their community.

Non-Traditional At-Risk Youth - Come from stable homes where their basic physiological needs of food, shelter and clothing are taken care of, but they may lack attachment to a healthy adult.

Youth Gang - Self identify as a group (e.g. have a group name), are generally perceived by others as a distinct group and are involved in a significant number of delinquent incidents that produce negative responses from the community and law enforcement agencies.

(Youth Gangs in Canada: What do we know? - 2018)

Dark Web - A part of the internet that isn't indexed by search engines and often hosts illegal and concerning information.

Fentanyl - A synthetic opiate drug which is a powerful painkiller and tranquilizer.

SEQUENCE ONE: THE LANDSCAPE

Summary

Dr. Keiron McConnell, Det. Sandy Avelar and Dr. Alanaise Goodwill are introduced in this sequence. Dr. McConnell states, “Cities in BC don’t have a gang problem? BC has a gang problem.” He provides a conservative estimate of 3,000 individuals engaged in the gang lifestyle and approximately 120 groups in operation throughout BC. Det. Avelar indicates that the gang problem is not confined to the lower mainland. Dr. Goodwill shares that in her work with Surrey Safe Schools, children as young as ten are engaging in gang-associated behaviour. Dr. McConnell says, “A lot of kids are coming from non-traditional at-risk homes and in my mind, they are making a rational choice as to why they are joining these gangs.”

Questions To Think About

- Why do you think Dr. McConnell states, “Cities in BC don’t have a gang problem? BC has a gang problem.”
- What do you think Dr. McConnell means when he says, “A lot of kids are coming from non-traditional at-risk homes, and in my mind, they are making a rational choice as to why they are joining these gangs?” Why might these homes be considered as “at-risk?”
- Why would kids as young as ten become involved in gang-associated behaviour?

SEQUENCE TWO: THE ALLURE

Summary

Sgt. Michelle Horchuk expresses concern about how children, youth and adults are inundated by the images shown on social media that, in some cases, have resulted in a culture of immediate gratification without having to work for it. Rob Rai, Safer Schools Together, suggests that many youths are attracted to what they see as making easy money. Straten affirms that “everyone is in it for the money.” S/Sgt. Lindsay Houghton emphasizes that “you can’t separate the sale of drugs and the use of drugs from real gang or organized crime activity”.

Questions To Think About

- In what ways do you think social media is influencing your child?
- Why is it important to understand that “you can’t separate the sale of drugs and the use of drugs from true gang or organized crime activity?”

CHAPTER ONE: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Chapter One emphasizes that BC gangs are profit-driven, typically in the illicit drug-trade, and are opportunistic and regionally mobile. With social media apps trending as the preferred method of recruitment, youth at a much younger age are becoming involved in gang activity. In addition, females are not immune from the violence and are being drawn into gangs for profit, money, excitement, perceived relationships, support, and love.¹

¹ Gottenbos, McConnel, & Bain, 2018

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Digital

It is beneficial to maintain an open, transparent, and ongoing dialogue with your child regarding the internet, technology, social media, and video games. Remaining approachable could be the difference between whether they decide to come to you when issues or uncomfortable situations arise rather than feeling alone in the process or going to their peers instead.

- Become familiar with the social media platforms your child is using
- Keep abreast of new social media platforms your child uses, especially those that contain negative and harmful posts
- Do your homework. Download the app first, and try it out, play around with it and do your research. If your child already has the app or the game, ask them to teach you about it.
- Monitor your child's use of technology
- Know their passwords
- Become knowledgeable about who your child is connecting with online

Other Considerations

- Show interest in your child's social activities
- Know who their friends are
- Spend quality time interacting with your child
- Be aware if they are coming home with expensive merchandise, they can't account for



CHAPTER TWO: IMPACT



Knowledge and Awareness

- Landscape of lower mainland and rural gang involvement
- Gang recruitment tactics and the glorification of the gang lifestyle
- Consequences of parental denial
- Impact the gang lifestyle has on families

Glossary of Terms

- Traditional At-Risk Youth - Come from disorganized neighbourhoods, impoverished homes, or distressed families. These youth have all sorts of needs that are not being met at home or in their community.
- Non-Traditional At-Risk Youth - Come from stable homes where their basic physiological needs of food, shelter and clothing are taken care of, but they may lack attachment to a healthy adult.

- Residential schools - In Canada, the Indian residential school system was a network of boarding schools for Indigenous peoples.
- Cultural Appropriation - Also phrased cultural misappropriation, is the adoption of elements of one culture by members of another culture.

SEQUENCE ONE: PATHWAYS

Summary

In sequence one, you meet Nicole, who shares that alcohol was her downfall. Det. Parhar goes on to say that some individuals start with the use of soft drugs then move into addiction. Dr. Goodwill reminds us that “it can happen to anyone’s child”. Mr. Rai names several middle to high-income communities where youth are involved in gang-associated behaviour. Jordan and Straten share where they grew up. Det. Avelar stresses that “there is no one definition of at-risk, as there are different risk factors for different individuals”.

Questions to Think About

- How aware were you about substances such as alcohol and cannabis as a gateway to addiction?
- How familiar were you with the risk factors identified by Det. Avelar?
- Why do you think so many non-traditional youths in the lower mainland are drawn to the gang lifestyle?

SEQUENCE TWO: THE ALLURE

Summary

Straten begins the sequence by saying all he saw was the big stacks of money, brand new cars, clothes etc. To him, it seemed like a pretty good lifestyle and an easy way to make money. Jordan says he was drawn to what the lifestyle offered in terms of power, wealth and respect. The Gang Member shares that they recruit young people by showing them success. Jordan says he was promised protection, a sense of power, and a way to make a good living. He goes on to say that what he was looking for was a sense of belonging and purpose.

Questions to Think About

- What factors do you think influenced Jordan and Straten’s involvement in gang activity?
- What can you do to help your child not be swayed by the allure of the gang lifestyle?

SEQUENCE THREE: TRAPPED

Summary

In sequence three, Jordan states, “It was actually quite early on that I started to notice that these guys were using me for their own ends.” Straten goes on to say, “If I was robbed of the drugs, the police seized it, or I came up short, it was up to me to make up the money and if I didn’t, violent consequences were to happen.” The experts explain it is hard to get out if you don’t have the right support systems. Young people on the front lines are the most pressured, victimized, indebted, and tortured.

Questions to Think About

- How can we help young people fully comprehend the dangers of becoming involved at the entry level?
- What supports do you think are needed to prevent young people from getting involved in gang-associated activity?

SEQUENCE FOUR: THE RURAL PERSPECTIVE

Summary

In this sequence, Mr. Rai shares that gangs in rural BC are typically poverty driven. He emphasizes that historical risk factors can be traced back to residential schools and cultural appropriation.

Questions to Think About

- How do gangs in rural communities differ from gangs in the lower mainland?
- Why is it important that we understand the risk factors for gang involvement that can be traced back to residential schools?

SEQUENCE FIVE: THE FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

Summary

In this sequence, Dr. McConnell remarks that for many young women, getting involved in the gang lifestyle is a calculated choice. Nicole shares that it is very easy to get manipulated. Det. Avelar and Det. Parhar share that young females find themselves in situations where they owe the gang. Girlfriends and wives are no longer off-limits for gang retaliation.



Questions to Think About

- How aware were you about female gang involvement?
- Were you familiar with the consequences these young females face when they become involved in the lifestyle?

SEQUENCE SIX: THE PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Summary

In this sequence, Mr. Rai and Cst. Jaswal express their concern that many parents deny their children's involvement in gang-associated behaviour. The South Asian community, in particular, want to believe their children aren't involved because they give them everything they want. The message children receive is, "No matter what I do, Mom and Dad have my back."

Questions to Think About

- Do you hold your child responsible for their actions and behaviour?
- How would you respond if you were informed that your child was getting involved in negative peer or gang-associated behaviour?

SEQUENCE SEVEN: CONSEQUENCES

Summary

Dr. Goodwill begins this sequence by stating youth gang involvement hurts families and the next generation. Jordan shares that a lot of negative things happened to him, including time spent in jail and getting a criminal record. It was a long journey back for him. Straten shares that if he could go back, he wouldn't have stepped one foot into the lifestyle. The Gang Member shares that he wanted to get out but felt he deserved to be in the crowd he was hanging out with. He wishes there had been someone around to tell him he deserved better friends. It would have made a difference.

Questions to Think About

- What do you think was the impact on the families of the young people who shared their stories of gang involvement?
- What would be the impact on your family if your child became involved in the gang lifestyle?

CHAPTER TWO: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Traditional At-Risk & Non-Traditional At-Risk Youth

Despite coming from very different backgrounds, both vulnerable and at-risk youth end up making choices that lead them to youth gang involvement. Geographically, they are raised in very different locations, the Traditional At-Risk often living in rental suites while the Non-Traditional At-Risk reside in homes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions. The Traditional At-Risk have many needs that go unfulfilled each day and, as a result, they are lured into gangs as the only perceived option to a better lifestyle. Non-Traditional At-Risk youth are left unsupervised and unattached from physically or emotionally present parents or role models and they take their bearings in life from negative peers, movies, and social media. They do not have a physiological need to join gangs, they are pulled into gangs because it is easy, exciting, and better than working hard.¹

1 Preventing Youth Involvement in Gangs, 2011



Aboriginal Youth Gang Involvement

Aboriginal youth gangs often model themselves after traditional street gangs from the United States complete with tattoos, colours, and gang signs.² Aboriginal gangs have existed for decades both on and off reservations and typically have the largest representation in the Prairie Provinces, although they are active throughout Canada.

In British Columbia, Aboriginal gangs are present in urban and rural areas, in large metropolitan cities and throughout smaller communities. Aboriginal gangs in British Columbia often do not carry the same level of sophistication as other mid-level or street gangs but do carry a high and noticeable presence in prison populations, again, especially in the Prairie Provinces.³ Due to this lack of sophistication and structure, Aboriginal gangs are used by organized mid-level gangs for high-risk and low-reward tasks including street level drug trafficking, street enforcement, robberies, and break-and-enters. Aboriginal gangs are also more prone to engage in violence with other Aboriginal gangs over revenge, retaliation, geography, and reputation as opposed to financially motivated violence based on drug trafficking and drug territories.⁴

2 Giles, 2000

3 Grekul & LaBoucane-Benson, 2008

4 Dunbar, 2007

Female Participation in Gang Activity

Females who are part of the youth gang lifestyle carry the same risks and consequences as their male counterparts in terms of injury, incarceration, and even homicide. There are multiple documented incidents in British Columbia of females being murdered for their roles in gang activity and this includes being shot and killed in parked or moving vehicles with their children in the car at the time.⁵

The reasons females join youth gangs do not differ significantly from the reasons why males join gangs. Females will often carry the same risk factors as their male counterparts, and they are often centred on a troubled childhood, a lack of familial support and supervision, and an association with negative and delinquent peers – both male and female. The one noticeable difference between males and females in youth gangs is the degree of exploitation and victimization suffered by females in comparison to males. As is the case with males joining gangs for the myths of power, money, and reputation, the false promises to lure young females into gangs are much the same. Safety, protection, family, security, and wealth are offered, whereas in reality, females suffer from abuse, sexual exploitation, and other risk laden behaviour, including drug use and trafficking, drug transportation, and holding and carrying weapons, in addition to other illegal activities.⁶

Impact from Residential Schools

The last residential school in BC closed in the early 1980s. Many Indigenous people are survivors of residential schools. Others are descendants and may be the first generation in their families who did not attend residential school. The impact of residential schools has resulted in loss of language and culture, intergenerational trauma, poverty, addictions, abuse, suicide, violence and criminal activity. Youth gang involvement can be traced back to residential schools. Dr. Goodwill notes poverty, violence and a lack of resources are determinants for gang involvement.

5 Bolan, 2010

6 Totten & Canada, 2010

CHAPTER THREE: PREVENTION AND EDUCATION



Knowledge and Awareness

- Effective prevention programs that are proving to be successful
- Protective factors for children and youth at-risk for gang-associated behaviour
- Importance of relationships and healthy connections for at-risk children and youth.

Glossary of Terms

Stigma – A set of negative and often unfair beliefs that society or a group of people have about something.

Resilience – Better able to handle everyday stressors and frustrations and to respond effectively when experiencing difficulties, pain and uncertainty – helps us adapt to change and find ways to be healthy and better equipped to participate in family, school, community and work.



SEQUENCE ONE: PREVENTION

Summary

In sequence one, the experts stress the importance of providing young people with the truth and facts about gang involvement. Joe Calendino states that prevention is the key and should begin with elementary students. We learn about various prevention initiatives that are successfully deterring youth from engaging in gang-associated behaviour. These initiatives include Her Time, Peer to Peer, YoBro/Yo/Girl and Game Ready Fitness.

Questions to Think About

- Why is it important for children, youth, families and others to have the facts related to gangs in our province?
- Why should prevention work begin with elementary school children?

SEQUENCE TWO: RELATIONSHIPS

Summary

In this sequence, the Gang Member acknowledges that Game Ready Fitness and YoBro are engaging kids in activities that are good for them both mentally and physically and have good people to go to in tough times. He goes on to say that if he were thirteen and had access to such organizations, it would have changed the probability of some of the things he had done. Dr. Goodwill references the research – one protective, safe, pro-social relationship with an adult can offset some of the harm they face. Will Loftus reminds us that people are social beings, we want to belong, recognized, know you care and be validated – that’s what we need to create for our community and kids.

Questions To Think About

- What do successful prevention programs offer children and youth?
- What characteristics do the individuals providing these programs need to have?

SEQUENCE THREE: PARENTS

Summary

Mr. Rai begins this sequence by stressing that parents play the most significant role in keeping kids safe from gangs. Sean Wicker, Principal of the Chilliwack Education Centre, talks about how he wants his students to be involved in positive things outside of school and have good relationships with peers and adults in different settings. Dr. McConnell stresses that parents have to be involved, be a parent, set limits, know who their friends are and what they are doing and why. They need to ask their kids what is going on in their lives.

Questions To Think About

- Why is the parent role and relationships so important?
- Do you feel you know enough about the gang problem in BC to help your child understand the dangers of becoming involved in gang-associated activity?

SEQUENCE 4: GRIP

Summary

The Gang Reduction Through Informed Practice (GRIP) initiative is a provincial gang prevention program that provides education and training opportunities for students, parents,



educators, law enforcement officials and representatives of community-based organizations. GRIP helps reduce the stigma related to gang involvement in the community and develop the understanding that gangs are a more significant provincial and national issue.

- Why do you think there is a reluctance to address the problem in some communities?
- What role can you play in helping to reduce the stigma?

SEQUENCE 5: CHANGE

Summary

Jordan begins this sequence by stating that real change doesn't happen overnight. Loyd expresses how grateful he is for his band giving his people and family a lot of options and activities. Sean Loney, Game Ready Fitness, comments that he would work for pennies to help someone see a positive change in their life. Her Time co-founders stress how important it is to empower young people with the truth. The more they know, the better able they are to stay safe. Mr. Rai ends this sequence by reminding us how meaningful relationships are to make young people feel they matter.

Questions To Think About

- What pro-social programs and activities for children and youth are there in your community?
- What else is needed?

CHAPTER THREE: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Common Elements to Successful Interventions

- Creating a positive shift in the attitude of youth regarding anti-social behaviours, negative peer groups, criminality, and youth gang involvement
- Creating a reduction in risk factors with youth while increasing protective factors
- Creating a positive shift in behaviours with youth in all five social development domains: individual, family, peer, school, and community

Successful Prevention Programs

Her-Time

This prevention initiative educates teens and young women about the risks of dating men who are involved in organized crime or drug trafficking. Young women who have lived, and survived, the lifestyle share their stories during the presentations. Nothing is more powerful than hearing the story from someone with personal experience.

High School Peer-to-Peer Program

The Odd Squad Peer Education program has been working to assist youth in choosing to live healthy, drug-free lives through pro-social messaging by their peers. Participants attend a one-day program with Odd Squad members.

YoBro/YoGirl

A prevention initiative that operates a series of strength-based programs in several communities. The program cultivates resiliency in at-risk youth and empowers them with the skills to avoid the perils of drugs, gangs, crime and violence.

Game Ready Fitness

A youth development program that provides positive role modelling to children and youth in the community. They learn how to be productive, positive, well-balanced and physically fit. With encouragement and support, children and youth learn they can accomplish whatever they put their minds to.

CHAPTER FOUR: BROTHERS IN ARMS



Knowledge and Awareness

- Early signs of delinquent activity and pathways to gang-associated behaviour
- Personification of a glamorous gang lifestyle by recruiters
- Signs that warrant parent intervention
- Signs of dial-a-dope operations in school settings
- Impact gang involvement has on gang members and their families

Glossary of Terms

Cocaine – A powerfully addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America. Although health care professionals can use it for valid medical purposes, such as a local anesthesia for some surgeries, cocaine is an illegal drug. As a street drug, cocaine looks like a fine white crystal powder. Street dealers often mix it with things like talcum powder, cornstarch or flour to increase profits. They may mix it with other drugs,

Meth Lab – A makeshift laboratory people use to manufacture and create meth



SEQUENCE ONE: THE EARLY YEARS

Summary

In sequence one, we learn from retired Cst. Spencer and retired Cst. Stewart that Gurmit and Suk Dhak came from a loving middle-class family. The parents were first-generation immigrants who worked long hours at the laundromat they owned. Gurmit's sister and parents were never involved in any criminal activity. Gurmit shares that his family began to notice signs a year after his involvement in gang activity, but they didn't do anything about it. Gurmit affirms that parents need to have meaningful interactions with their kids. Gurmit's gang associated behaviour started towards the end of grade eight.

Questions To Think About

- What were Gurmit's parents focused on during his early years? And why?
- What impact do you think this had on Gurmit when he started to attend high school?

SEQUENCE TWO: CRIME

Summary

In this sequence, retired Cst. Stewart says that Gurmit's job was dial-a-doping and putting drugs in the school and that his whole character changed. Retired Cst. Spencer says Gurmit started to gain a reputation and his name was out there in the community. In this sequence, Gurmit remarks, "The guys that I worked with asked me to do some stuff and then we ended up doing it, committing some crimes that I guess other people wouldn't do."

Questions To Think About

- What decisions do you think led up to Gurmit committing some crimes?
- Do you think he was fully aware of the outcome of his actions?

SEQUENCE THREE: GUNS

Summary

In this sequence, Gurmit comments that if you are a gang member, you pretty much have a gun. He states, "99% of gang members have a gun". Retired Cst. Spencer shares that Gurmit was caught with a kilo of cocaine and a handgun. He accepted the charge for a fellow Lotus Gang member and went to jail for 9 months

Questions To Think About

- Were you aware of the prevalence of youth access to firearms and other weapons?
- Other than to gain respect, what additional reasons, do you think Gurmit had for taking the charge for his fellow gang member?

SEQUENCE FOUR: JAIL

Summary

Gurmit begins this sequence by expressing what it is like to be in jail. Retired Cst. Spencer indicates that after Gurmit's 9-month stint in prison, he no longer had to be on the streets. He had other individuals working for him. Gurmit went for some time without any convictions but then did an extensive stint in jail on a manslaughter charge. He now had his younger brother, Suk working for him. Retired Cst. Spencer comments that once you do a couple of healthy stints in jail, it is hard to get out unless you move away. Gurmit shares that it is not just one specific group that could be after you, it could be every group after you depending on the actions of your gang.



Questions To Think About

- What did Gurmit's time in jail signify for his next level of gang involvement?
- What influences do you think made Suk decide to become involved in the gang lifestyle with his brother?
- What prevention initiatives might have helped Suk decide not to go down the same pathway as his older brother?

SEQUENCE FIVE: RISKY BUSINESS

Summary

In this sequence we learn Gurmit built his drug empire operating one of the largest drug lines on the west coast. Multi-cultural gangs and the biker and Vietnamese communities were coming to him to buy their drugs. Gurmit comments on the risks associated with operating his drug empire. He shares that he was tired of looking over his shoulder.

Questions To Think About

- Why did Gurmit agree to do the candid interview with Odd Squad?
- What impact did his key messages have on you?



SEQUENCE SIX: THE INEVITABLE

Summary

In this sequence we learn that Gurmit did predict his own death. He also shared that if he could go back in time, he wouldn't get involved in the gang lifestyle. Two years later Suk was gunned down.

Questions To Think About

- What reasons did Gurmit identify for wishing he would never have gotten involved in gangs?
- What impact do you think Gurmit's murder had on Suk?

SEQUENCE SEVEN: GANG LEGACY

Summary

In the final sequence, retired Cst. Spencer shares that Gurmit wanted to shelter his kids so that they could live a normal life. He had lots of money, several cars, expensive homes but, in essence, had nothing. Both Dhak murders remain unsolved.

Question To Think About

- What might have helped Gurmit and other young people from choosing the gang lifestyle?

CHAPTER FOUR: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



British Columbia's unique and changing gang landscape involves new gang alliances that are focused on gaining power and control of the illicit drug market. Former enemies work together and align with other criminal groups beyond BC's borders.

Current- Dial-A-Dope Trends

- After dial-doping "training shifts," young dialers are provided with a nominee driver (typically a drug user who is paid in drugs to drive the young dialer).
- If a young dialer possesses a valid driver's license, it is usually a Class 7 in British Columbia.
- The recruit is provided with a vehicle. Often, the vehicle is registered under the young dialer for car insurance purposes with an 'N' sign on the back. Recruiters tend to use this strategy to obtain the trust of the youth. This vehicle is used for the dial-a-dope operation even when the dialer is not working the shift.

- Things to watch for as a parent. ICBC mail stating your child has a vehicle registered under their name that the parent is not aware of.
- Recruiter's target youth with 'open' Snapchat or other social media platforms. Expect reactions from youth upon the explicit Snapchat Story they post, which include bands of Canadian or American currency, firearms, bear-mace/pepperspray.
- The recruiter's typically recruit youths that consume gateway drugs; marijuana usually being the primary gateway drug.
- Recruiters provide free 'smoking sessions'; they are aware that secondary youth struggle to purchase cannabis. Often, they will offer to smoke them up for free. This activity usually takes place after schools on the grounds of a closed elementary/secondary school.
- Recruiters often recruit at a private gym facility offering cheap steroids such as DecaDura-bolin (oral tablets) or testosterone 200 (injectable vials).
- Knowing the youth is interested in gaining size quickly, they become vulnerable to accepting. Often these youth will be used as enforcers or recruiters in their secondary school.
- Privatized gyms are trending more than the community recreation centre for recruitment purposes.

