

# **The Community Solution to Gang Violence**

## **PARENTS ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

While most young people do not join street gangs, there are some common warning signs that parents need to recognize to help their children avoid interest in or involvement with gangs. Know what your children are doing, watch for changes in behavior and attitude, and help them protect themselves. If your child has changed his or her habits, attitude toward family, friends and school, or is suddenly secretive about aspects of his or her life, you may have reason to be concerned.

Some things to watch for:

- stays out late without a good reason
- has an unusual interest in special clothing styles, colors, logos
- has a special interest in gangster influenced music, videos, movies or web sites.
- has unexplained injuries, such as black eyes, injuries to hands/knuckles
- has unexplained money or goods, such as jewelry or a cell phone
- is secretive about new friends
- uses 'gang slang'
- suddenly changes friends and withdraws from the family
- has sudden mood changes, is harder to handle, is more resentful
- skips school, has lower grades, no longer does homework

## **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

**S**upport your children. Do things together you both enjoy.

**O**pen communication. Talk to your children about the dangers of alcohol, drugs and gangs.

**L**isten to your children. Let them know they can talk to you about anything.

**U**nderstand that you, as a role model, must set a good example.

**T**each your children to think for themselves and act in a responsible way.

**I**nvolve your children in positive after school activities.

**O**ffer to help and support your children, no matter what the problem.

**N**ever feel you're alone. Ask advice from family, friends, teachers and neighbours.

If you suspect your child is involved in a gang or are concerned about the safety of your child, contact the Gang Hotline at (780) 414-4264. If you are looking for counseling or support services for you or your child contact The Support Network Dial 211. Outside of Edmonton call (780) 482-4636

For more information about what you can do to be part of the solution contact:

**The Community Solution to Gang Violence**

**Phone: (780) 447- 9339**

**email: [info@csqv.ca](mailto:info@csqv.ca) Web Site: [www.csqv.ca](http://www.csqv.ca)**