

# Strategies for Educating Students About Violence Prevention

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Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN)



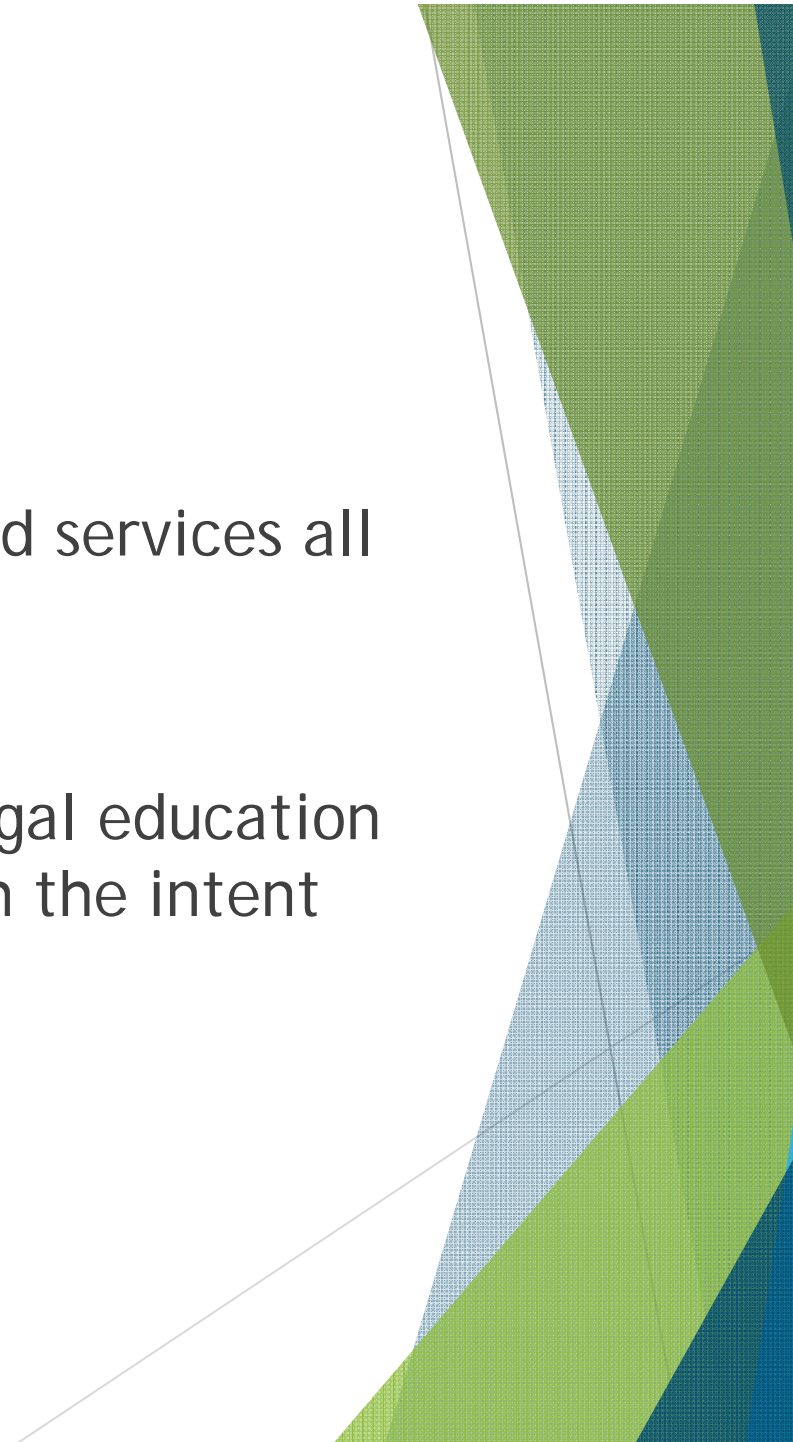
# What is PLIAN?

A non-profit and registered charity

Based in St. John's, but provides programs and services all across Newfoundland and Labrador

The designated member of PLEAC for NL

An organization with a mandate to provide legal education to all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians with the intent of improving access to justice



# LIAN's Programs and Services

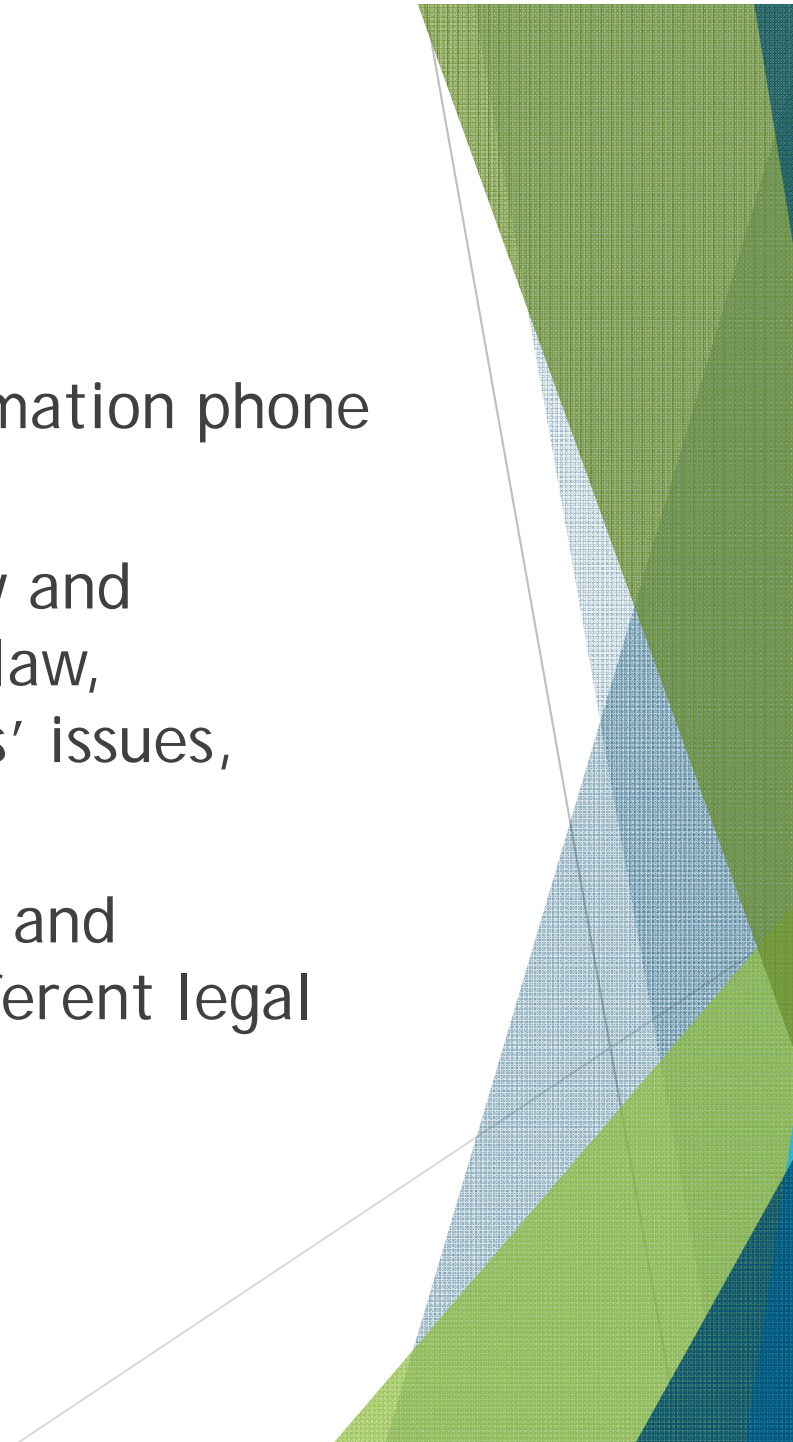
Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) and legal information phone line

Diverse series of publications (both hard-copy and electronic) on a range of legal issues (family law, wills/estates, information for victims, seniors' issues, youth and the law)

Offer presentations and workshops to schools and community groups across the province on different legal topics

Youth justice camps

Projects which vary from year to year





# challenges



- ▶ How do we reach clients in rural Newfoundland and Labrador (specifically coastal/northern Labrador)?
- ▶ Travel costs:
  - ▶ St. John's - Goose Bay round trip
    - ▶ \$797 and up
  - ▶ St. John's - Deer Lake round trip
    - ▶ \$625 and up
  - ▶ St. John's - Nain round trip
    - ▶ \$1,766 and up

# ther Challenges

Providing information and services for different groups with diverse needs and languages (i.e. Francophone Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, Aboriginal communities)

Keeping aware of and addressing differences in culture with different groups and in different geographic areas of the province



# Other Challenges – Reaching Youth

How do we connect with youth to provide information?

How to we hold their attention?

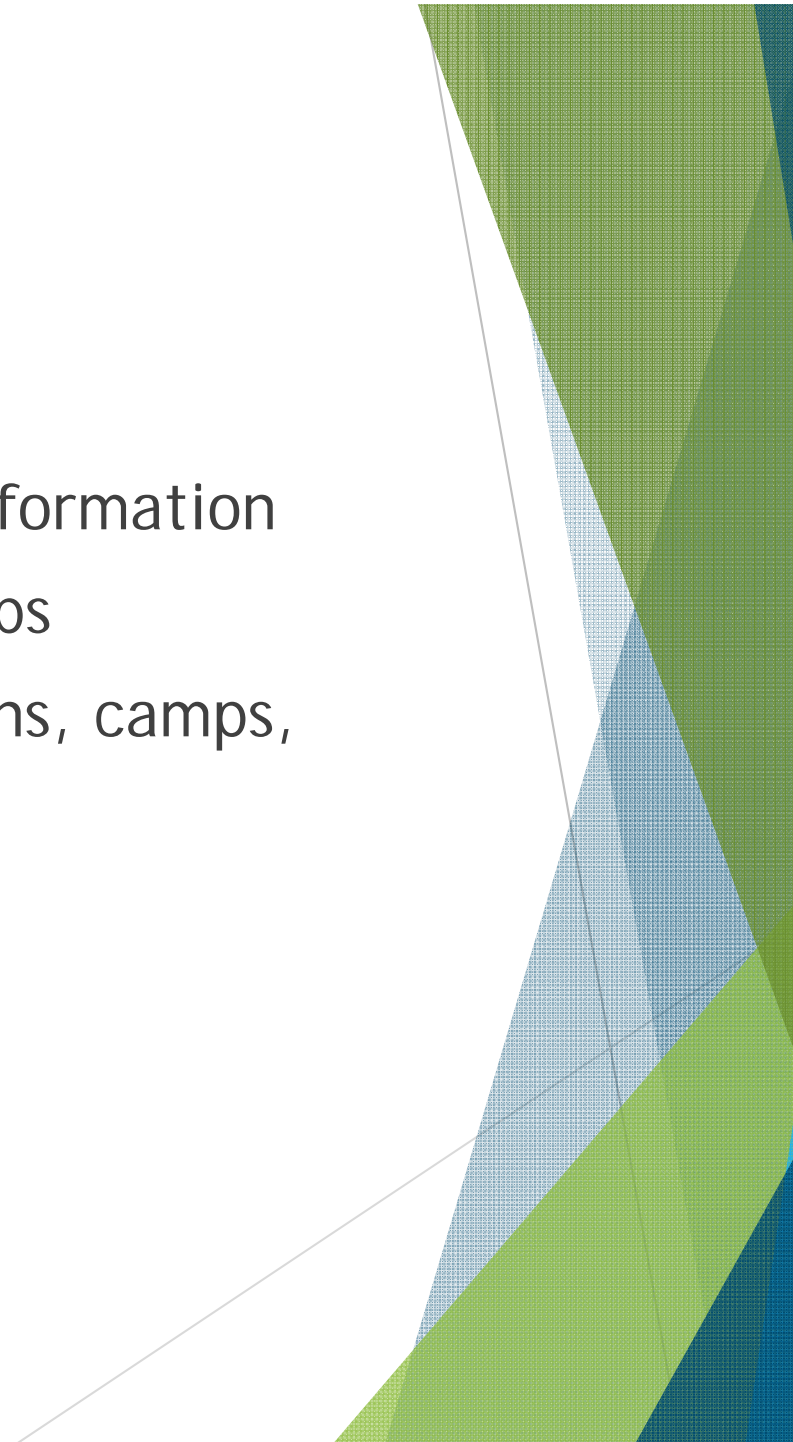
How do we keep up with quickly changing technology and media, which brings new risks and challenges?





# LIAN's Approach

- Mixture of programs and forums to provide information
- Connection with schools and community groups
- Online information and in-person presentations, camps, workshops
- Trying to reach youth in rural areas



# Anti-Bullying Presentations

Roughly 50 presentations of 'The Legal Implications of Bullying' since 2007, to approximately 3,425 students (all on an ad hoc basis, as requested by schools)

Mainly presented to high school and junior high students in St. John's and surrounding area



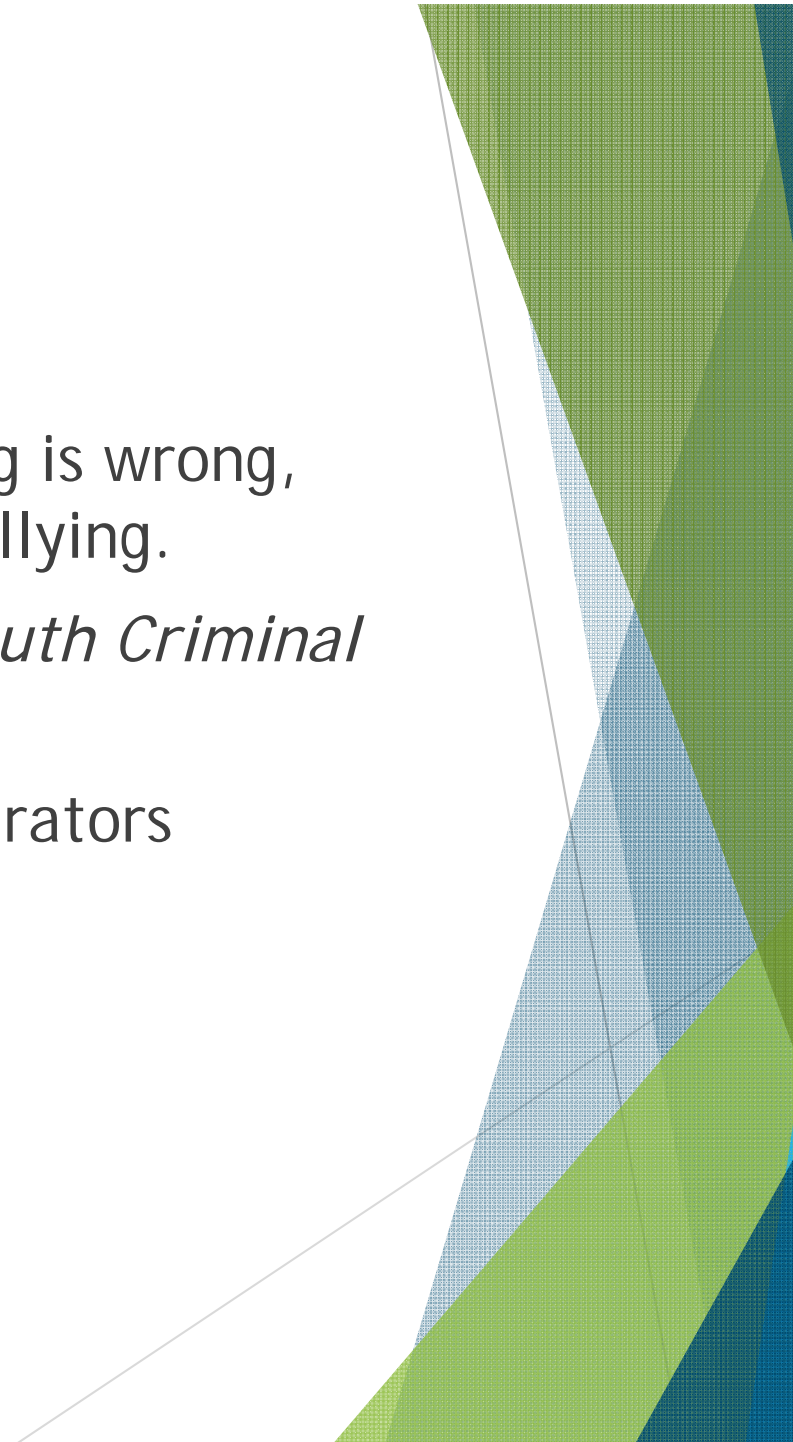


# Anti-Bullying Presentations

Unique approach: not focused on why bullying is wrong, but on the legal/criminal consequences of bullying.

Focuses on potential criminal charges, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, effects of having a youth record

Positive feedback from teachers and administrators dealing with bullying issues



# Youth Justice Camps

Offered annually since 2000, plus additional camps where funding allows (this summer we will offer our 35<sup>th</sup>!

Aimed at youth between 12 and 15

Focus on crime prevention:

- ▶ Presentations by police, lawyers, judges, other justice personnel
- ▶ Field trips to police station, courthouse, etc.
- ▶ Mock trial held in court





# Youth Justice Camps





# Youth Justice Camps

Particular focus on at-risk youth

Collaboration with community organizations and community centres for youth in St. John's

Previous camps have been held in other locations outside St. John's, including Conne River and several in Labrador. We've also offered an entirely Francophone camp

Financial challenges:

- ▶ Camp is offered completely free of charge to participants
- ▶ Travel costs to provide youth in different parts of the province with the opportunity to participate

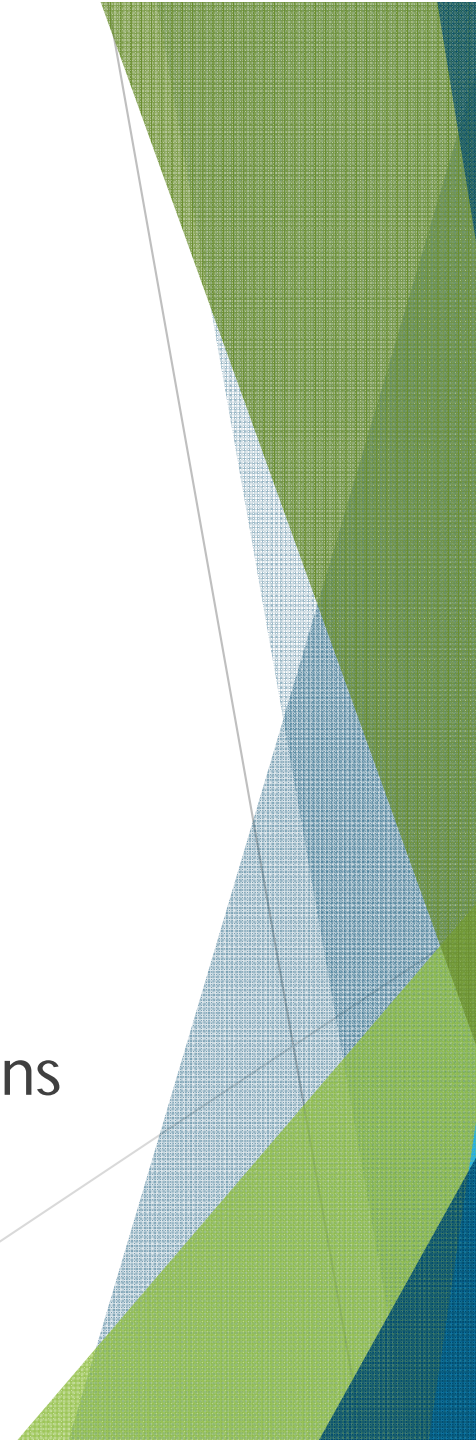


# Online Resources for Youth

Ideal for youth we can't reach through in-person presentations, camps or school visits

Dedicated section of our website with:

- ▶ Information on camp
- ▶ Access to publications on youth criminal justice, careers in justice, other information
- ▶ Links to other resources and frequently asked questions



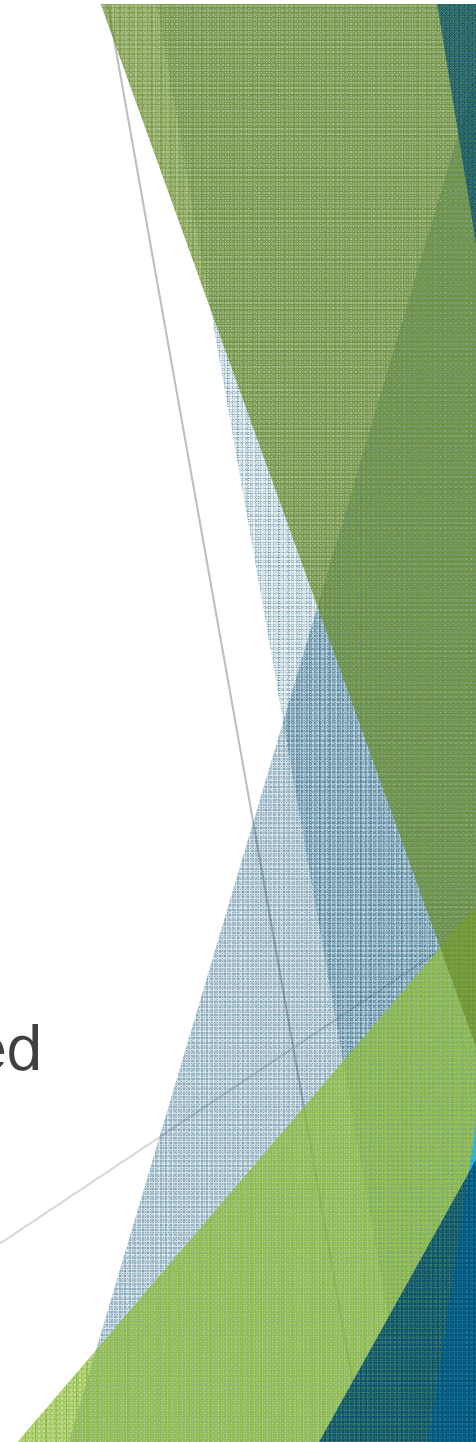
# Projects with Mixed Media

'My Parents Live Apart' publication - hard copy and electronic format

Focus groups with youth on language used, layout, graphics, etc.

Information for youth with parents going through separation/divorce

Explains terms, processes, and frequent questions related to family law and separation/divorce





# Projects with Mixed Media

Supplemented by short videos, posted to YouTube and our website, with shorter versions of information included in the publication

Sustainable information, can be accessed throughout the province and by people who did not see the publication



# ew Project: Healthy Relationships Workshops for Aboriginal Women and Girls

Series of eight workshops aimed at different Aboriginal populations in Newfoundland and Labrador

Focuses on intersection of two particularly marginalized groups - Aboriginal women

Providing legal information related to violence prevention and response (i.e. emergency protection orders, peace bonds, court processes), as well as recognizing signs of unhealthy relationships and potential violence

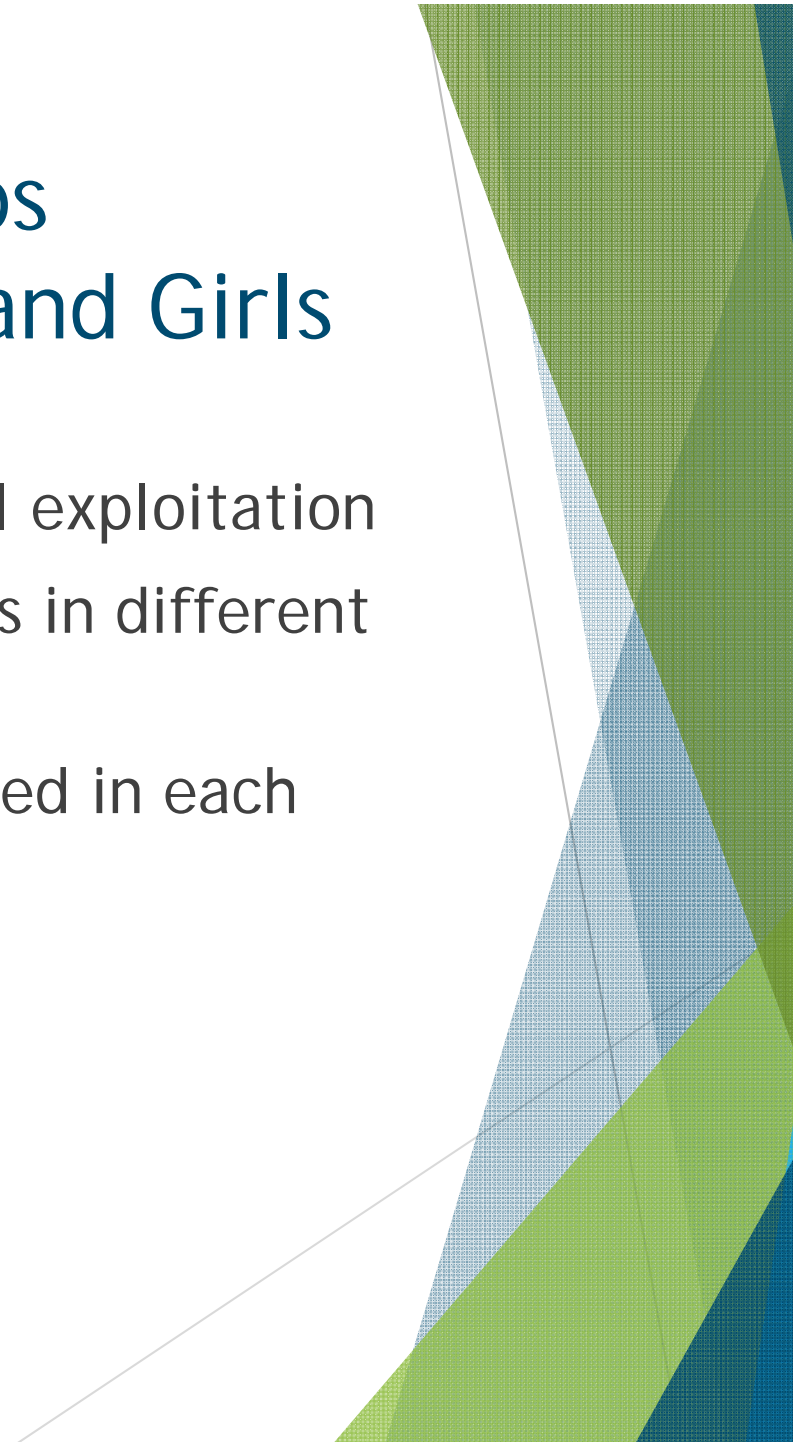


# ew Project: Healthy Relationships Workshops for Aboriginal Women and Girls

Information on cyber-safety and online sexual exploitation

Based on consultations with Aboriginal leaders in different communities

Curriculum adapted to specific needs addressed in each community - not a 'one size fits all' project





# Emerging Concerns

Cyber-bullying  
Online sexual exploitation  
Lack of legal literacy in  
students/legal education  
in schools

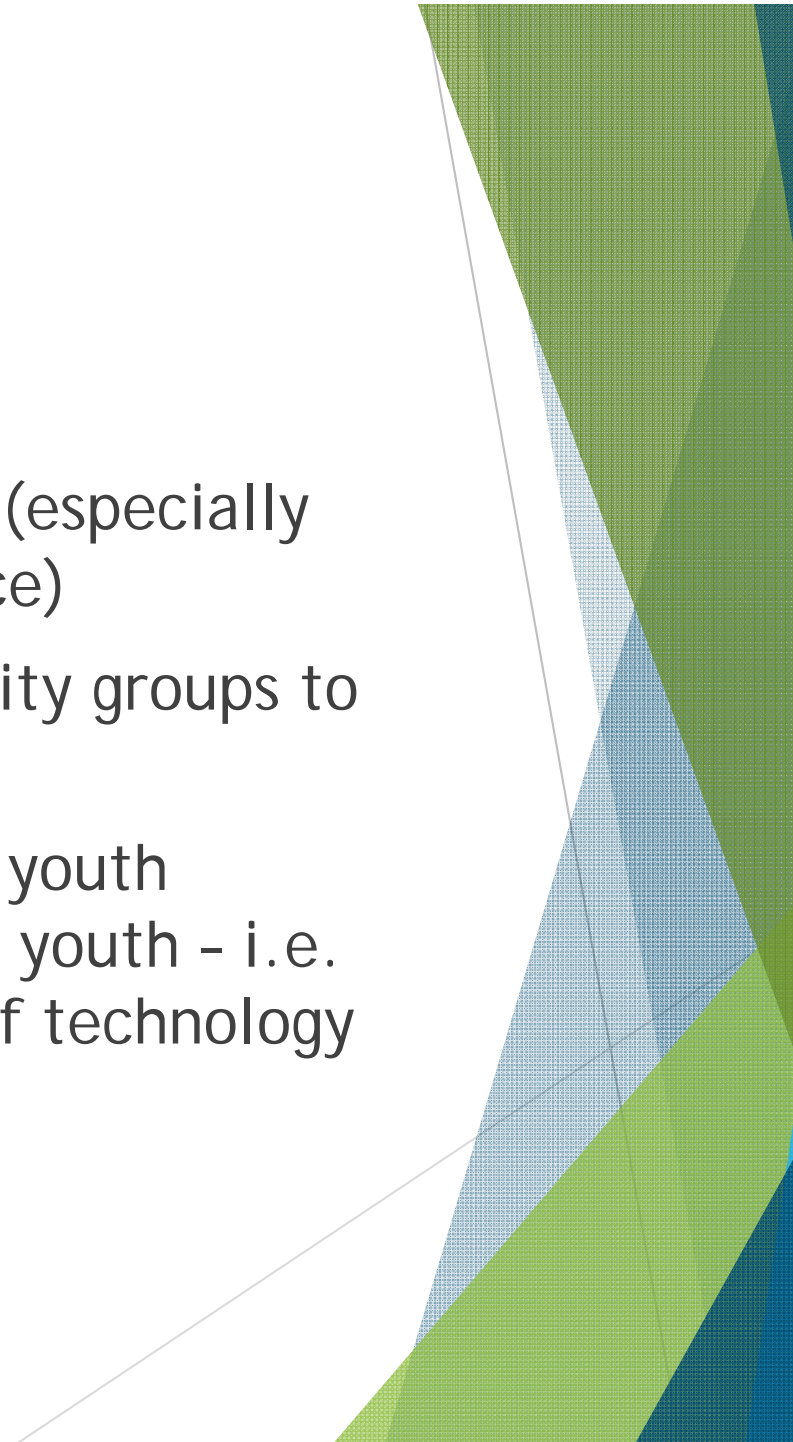


# he Way Forward

Collaboration with like-minded organizations (especially violence prevention groups across the province)

Consultation with local partners and community groups to understand needs of specific communities

Contact with teachers, guidance counsellors, youth workers to stay on top of emerging trends for youth - i.e. how is bullying taking place, changes in use of technology





# he Way Forward

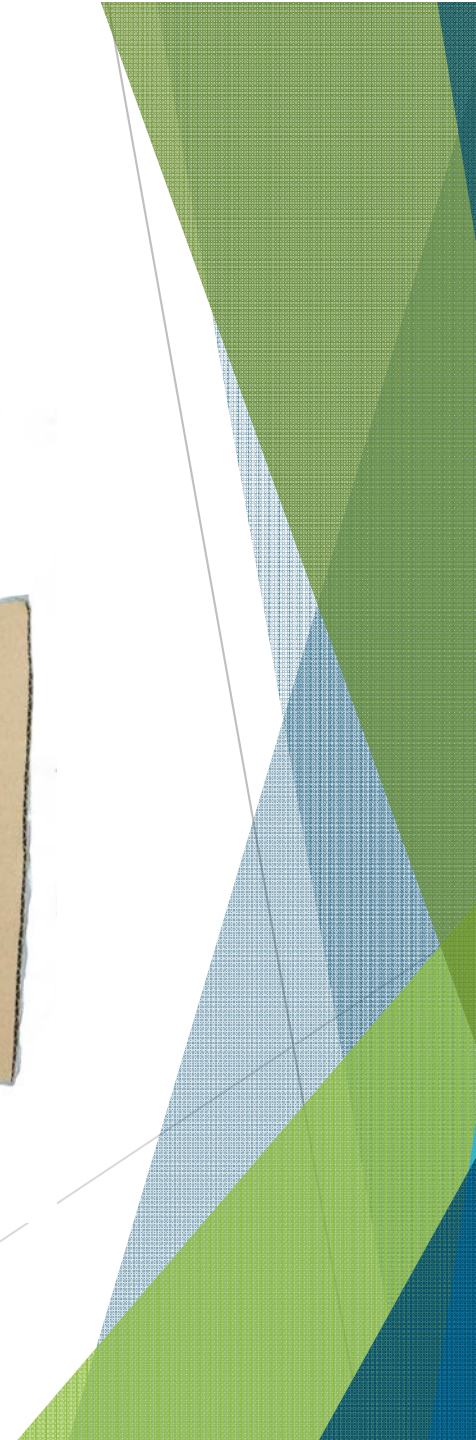
'Think Outside the Box'

Partnerships with  
Government

Partnerships with non-  
legal organizations

Creative funding  
structures

Not re-inventing the  
wheel





# Questions?



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