

# FASTFACTS

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AND INDIGENOUS POLICING SERVICES

November 2021

**\*\*To register or access more information, please click on the orange event title.\*\***

## Special Dates

- **November 5-11** – Veterans’ Week
- **November 11** – Remembrance Day
- **November 20** – National Child Day
- **November 20** – Trans Day of Remembrance
- **November 21-27** – National Addictions Awareness Week
- **November 25-December 10** – 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

\*\* Only a select few dates are listed above. This list does not encompass all of the upcoming dates that merit recognition.

## Scholarship Opportunities

- RBC announced three reimagined scholarship programs – each designed to serve the unique needs of young Canadians navigating the ever-changing world of work.
  - RBC Future Launch Scholarship for Black Youth – Application open until **November 12, 2021**.
  - RBC Future Launch Scholarship for anyone from 15- 29 years old – Application open until **December 15, 2021**.
  - RBC Future Launch Scholarship for Indigenous Youth – Application open until **January 5, 2022**.

## Virtual Educational Resources

- Lego has developed a collection of quick guides covering key topics related to digital citizenship and online child safety. They also developed a Doom The Gloom game to teach youth about these topics too.

- The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) has developed a new animated, youth friendly video, which explores the impact of substance use stigma and how to challenge it in our communities. “My Journey Begins with Compassion” tells a story about friendship, kindness, and changing harmful perceptions of people who use substances.
- MediaSmarts has updated their Facing Online Hate tutorial which examines how the internet is used to spread and incite hate, how radicalization occurs, and how youth encounter hate online. The tutorial provides strategies for building critical thinking skills for youth to understand the nature of online hate, how they may be targets, and how to respond appropriately.
  - Additionally, MediaSmarts has introduced a Privacy Pirates: An Interactive Unit on Online Privacy game. The concept of this game is to teach ages 7-9 how to distinguish between information that is appropriate to give out and information better kept private – and to recognize how this may change in different contexts.
- MyTookKit by Mindyourmind is a web platform with a series of mobile apps, videos, and education modules. MyTookKit provides a variety of ways to educate and to have conversations with young people about mental health, substance use, anxiety and more.
- Culture for Life is a site for Indigenous youth to connect with others, as well as to celebrate and learn more about Indigenous culture. The website features a map of Canada with pinpoints that showcase stories from Indigenous individuals

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## Training

- A Way Home Canada and the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness has created a 2SLGBTQIA+ Toolkit to Support Youth Experiencing Homelessness free, self-paced training. This training is designed to help frontline staff better support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness.
- The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction has developed three learning modules on the topic of stigma associated with substance use. The goal of the modules is to increase your understanding of stigma and equip you with the tools and knowledge you need to address stigma in your communities.

## In the News

- Cybertip.ca, Canada's tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children, has seen a 62% increase in reports of teens being sextorted over the past six months, with males, ages 15–17, being the biggest target.
- Internal documents found by the Wall Street Journal, show Instagram has harmful effects, such as body image issues, anxiety and depression, and suicidal thoughts, among a significant portion of its millions of young users, particularly teenage girls.
- Hate speech and online abuse have been persistent in digital spaces for many years, but the use of gaming and messaging platforms by extremists and targeting younger users is increasing as more children play online.
- Stigma can make it difficult for people addicted to drugs to seek help. The Moose Jaw Crystal Meth Strategy Committee is challenging that problem and looking to change attitudes.

## Research

- A recent study by Robert Colonna, a Western PhD student, shows there is more work to be done to educate youth on the risks of driving under the influence of cannabis (DUIC).
- Reforming the Engagement of Schools with Unaccompanied Homeless Children by Catherine Robertson, explores research suggesting that school-based programs are key to identifying children at risk, preventing homelessness, and improving learning outcomes for those who do experience homelessness.
- Already at a high-risk for adverse consequences associated with daily living, youth experiencing homelessness have faced additional barriers to health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lynn Rew from Archives of Psychiatric Nursing, has developed a study which identifies self-reported experiences and healthcare needs of youth experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.
- A study led by Dr. Yaron Finkelstein, compared cannabis-related ED visits, hospitalizations, and ICU admissions at SickKids Hospital during pre and post legalization periods. The study found that increases in severe intoxications from cannabis were primarily due to exposure of young children to cannabis edibles, which have become easily accessible and popular.

## Support Services

- Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868
    - Indigenous Help – 1-855-554-4325
    - Text – 686868
  - Black Youth Helpline – 1-833-294-8650
  - Hope For Wellness Line – 1-855-242-3310 or use their chat function
  - Sexual Assault Txt Line – Text HOME to 741741
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