



Pembina River Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol

Fair Notice and Practice



Community safety is everyone's responsibility.

The goal of VTRA is that every incident of youth violence in our communities be addressed.

**VTRA is early intervention –
which is quite possibly prevention.**

The Partners

Education partners are committed to creating and maintain school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division and Pembina Hills Public School, have taken a lead role as there is a direct application to the health and safety of the school environment.

Government agency partners play an active role in a comprehensive intervention plan to support the young person. Alberta Human Services-Children & Family Services, Alberta Health Services, and RCMP personnel are key to determining the level of risk a young person may pose.

Community Agency partners provide services that are regularly included as part of the intervention plan. Town of Westlock, County of Barrhead, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Government, FCSS Barrhead, Evergreen Catholic School Division and Pembina Hills Public Schools advise on many facets for the VTRA protocol to ensure it is tailored to the Pembina River community.

The Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has completed extensive research in youth and school violence. Kevin Cameron, CEO of CCTATR, has trained partner local personnel in use of the protocol.

Duty to Report

There is zero tolerance for not responding. Prevention of youth violence is a community responsibility and it is everybody's duty to report. Under-reaction is epidemic and a chief factor of escalation from thought to action.

What is a Threat?



A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, and posted on the internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, and investigated with a clear and appropriate response. In a culture of responsible reporting, students need to believe that they will be believed when they confide; their identity will be kept confidential; their information will be acted upon promptly; and their concern will be investigated thoroughly.

Who is on a Threat Assessment Team?

Each threat assessment team is multi agency. The team may include school staff, psychologist, police, child intervention workers, community mental health workers, hospitals, probation/parole and other professionals.

What is the Main Purpose of a Threat Assessment?

The purposes of a Student Threat Assessment is to:

- ensure the safety of students, staff, parents ,and others;
- ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour;
- view the student as in need of intervention rather than to be disciplined;
- be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker. It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid the student in developing and using positive strategies;
- promote the emotional and physical safety of all;
- ensure all school and agency partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

What happens in a Student Threat Assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student(s) shall be reported to the Principal/Supervisor who will activate the protocol for the initial response.

Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with students, the threat maker(s), parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff, and students as required and as appropriate.

Can I Refuse?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning community environment for all.