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April 10, 2025

#### IMPORTANT PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE: VIOLENT ONLINE GROUPS

EXPLOITING CHILDREN AND YOUTH The Fifth Estate's exposé, "This Violent Extremist Network Targets Kids Online," has amplified national concern over the violent extremist group "764," particularly after a 2024 case in Lethbridge marked Canada's first confirmed charge against a youth connected to the network. The disturbing details of 764's tactics, which range from grooming and exploitation to incitement of self-harm, signal an urgent call for vigilance in the education sector. As 764 and related online terror networks evolve rapidly, Alberta schools remain on the frontline of prevention (College of Alberta School Superintendents Newsletter, April 1, 2025).

As a result, Buffalo Trail Public Schools is sharing the Public Safety Notice: Violent Online Groups Exploiting Children and Youth information (attached) that was shared with us, to share with you, our families and community, in order to continue to support and build all of our awareness, understanding, and capacities in protecting and supporting our children and youth. Please see the Public Safety Notice: Violent Online Groups Exploiting Children and Youth information (attached)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JR & SR HIGH BADMINTON PLAYERS! This has been a week of Badminton Playoffs with the finals happening on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all competitors who have represented EPS very well! Congratulations and all the best to those students who move on to BTJHAA Finals in Vermilion! Go Eagles!

<u>MANY THANKS TO THE EPS FOUNDATION</u> for providing a Hamburger lunch to all students and staff today! Much appreciated!!

**EASTER TOY BINGO** will be held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>!! Our 2026 Grad Class will be hosting this event and since it is a small class, they are asking for 4 or 5 volunteers to help them. They are also accepting donations for prizes, pop, water or cash. Thanks so much for supporting our 2026 Grad Class! Please see attached information.

<u>HIGHWAY CLEAN UP</u> happens on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for Grades 7 – 12 from 8am – 12pm. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible. This is a great fundraiser for our Athletics program. Please call the school office or email <u>brandon.thompson@btps.ca</u>. if you can help out. Thanks so much!

#### **Attachments:**

- 1. RCMP Notice Re: Violent On-line Groups
- 2. Spirit Day Rhyme Without a Reason
- 3. Easter Toy Bingo
- 4. BRITE Golf Event
- 5. Books for Babies at the Public Library
- 6. Village of Edgerton Grade 12 Scholarship Deadline April 25<sup>th</sup>
- 7. Village of Edgerton Summer Student Employment Deadline May 2nd
- 8. Little Eagles Info

OYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE . GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

# Integrated National Security Enforcement Team Federal Policing Northwest Region





2025-02-27

The attached awareness bulletin addresses an emergent threat from violent online groups targeting youth via tactics that can include sextorition, self harm, animal torture and a radicalization to violence. While many of these cases may be identified via calls for emergency services, there is always a possibility that some may not be reported to police due to the call for service being classified as a medical emergency or a mental health-related intervention; this may result in the on-going abuse of a young person and an escalation of violence. To help law enforcement partners, government agencies/support services and the public better understand these violent groups, the attached document details why these groups are a concern, where and how they operate, warning signs and additional resources. This document is for public dissemination and was created by the RCMP's Federal Policing Strategic Awareness and Engagement Unit.

<u>See something, say something.</u> Any information or concerns related to the contents of the attached bulletin should be provided to the NWR INSET via email at <a href="mailto:rcmp.kinsetintake-keisnadmission.grc@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">rcmp.grc.gc.ca</a>, or by phone at 780-509-3588 (Edmonton office) or 403-852-6387 (Calgary office). Individuals may also contact the RCMP National Security Information Network by phone at 1-800-420-5805 or online at <a href="www.rcmp.ca/report-it">www.rcmp.ca/report-it</a>.

Anyone who feels threatened online or in person, should report these incidents to their local police. If someone in the public is in immediate danger, they should call 9-1-1 or contact their local police.







ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

**PUBLIC** 

# VIOLENT ONLINE GROUPS

#### **EXPLOITING CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Violent online groups are targeting and manipulating vulnerable children and youth across widely accessible online platforms to participate in acts of violence, including but not limited to, self-harm, torturing and killing animals, and producing child sexual exploitation material. There are multiple groups, associations and evolving subgroups that make up the online network known as "The Com" – short for community. "The Com" is a virtual community of groups and individuals who conduct illicit activities that glorify serious violence, cruelty, and gore. Elements of "The Com" network are known to have extreme ideological views and are victimizing children through desensitizing and radicalizing them to violence.

#### WHY ARE THEY A CONCERN?

"The Com" network deliberately targets, victimizes and recruits vulnerable children and youth between the ages of 8 and 17 years old. Members of "The Com" are threatening, harassing, extorting, coercing and encouraging vulnerable persons and youth to: engage in explicit acts or sexually exploit others; harm or kill family pets or other animals; perform self-harm; attempt or complete suicide; or conduct other acts of serious violence. Vulnerable persons include children or youth who struggle with mental health issues such as depression. Predators are victimizing children or youth for many reasons including: building up their online notoriety "clout chasing"; furthering ideological motivations and degrading society; recruiting; vetting/initiating and radicalizing others; and desensitizing children and youth in preparation for further violence.

#### WHERE AND HOW THEY OPERATE?

These groups operate virtually in very accessible online spaces such as social media platforms, applications (apps) and online games (e.g., Discord, Telegram, Roblox, Minecraft, Twitch, Steam, etc.).













Predators use grooming processes that can include establishing trusting or romantic relationships; or using power or coercive tactics to get victims to engage in serious violence, self harm, or gore activities. This almost always escalates over time, but can also increase rapidly. The predator influences the child or youth into conducting acts that increasingly shame, incriminate, or isolate them, making them vulnerable to further exploitation. These acts can include recording or photographing themselves, siblings or others:

in sexually explicit poses

- harming others or self-harming
- committing sexual acts or sexually exploiting others •
- attempting or dying by suicide
- harming or killing animals, including family pets
- · committing other acts of violence
- ∀ Victims have also been pressured to perform:
  - <u>Cut signs:</u> names/online handle(s) of group members carved into a victim's skin and/or pets/animals
  - Fan signs: names written on notes or pieces of paper placed beside items (e.g., dead animals, cut wounds, etc.)
  - Blood signs: names written in blood, often on the floor, a note, skin, or a wall





As victims provide photos and videos to their predators, they are shared within "The Com" network, further shaming the victim and creating content for the group. Most importantly, predators do so with the objective of gaining notoriety within "The Com" network as these instances of victimization are seen as a success and a "claim to fame". This process can leave the victim feeling that it would be almost impossible to stop or escape.

#### PREDATORY TACTICS

#### Some tactics employed by members within "The Com" network include:

- Threats to publicly post and/or share the explicit or violent content with the victim's family/friends
- ► Maliciously obtaining and publishing the victim's personally identifiable information on the internet (doxing)
- ▶ Making a false report of a incident to law enforcement so emergency services are dispatched to a victim's home or school (swatting), demonstrating power while further isolating and threatening the victim
- ▶ Threatening to report the victim's activities to law enforcement or their school to get them in trouble
- Directly or indirectly threatening the security and wellbeing of the victim, family members/associates

#### WARNING SIGNS AND REPORTING

#### Key indicators that your child could be the target of members of "The Com" network include:

- They are on mobile apps like Discord, Telegram or other encrypted communications platforms for which you have no visibility as a parent
- · Family pets or other animals are being harmed or die suspiciously
- You notice a family pet is uncharacteristically avoiding or fearful of your child or you
- They are demonstrating an interest or affinity to extreme messaging online, including conspiracy theories, anti-government rhetoric, or sympathy/support toward extreme messaging or online propaganda
- They are demonstrating a newfound and abrupt interest in questioning or rejecting moral constraints on their behaviour, together with an interest in Nazism, school shootings, serial killers, or occultism
- Writing in blood or what appears to be blood
- They have a new online "friend" or network they seem infatuated with and/or scared of
- They are receiving anonymous gifts: items delivered to your home, currency, gaming currency or other virtual items





- They are covering their skin in unusual ways
- They are going through more bandages, or showing evidence of cuts, carvings on their skin, stab wounds and more
- They are more quiet than usual and uncharacteristically withdrawn
- They are excessively moody and on edge
- Their grades are dropping
- They are spending more time on the internet, unsupervised or alone in their room
- They are spending more money online or asking for money more often than usual
- They are scrawling names and/or numbers in notebooks, diaries, loose papers

These indicators alone may not appear to be significant, however when considering them in clusters or with the totality of circumstances, they could have more meaning and reason for concern.

Parents, guardians, and other adults should remain mindful these are indicators that a child or youth is being targeted. It is critical that parents and caregivers maintain open communication with their children about healthy online relationships, monitor their online activities, promote online safety, and familiarize themselves with all apps and technology their children and youth are using. Maintaining and fostering an open dialogue with your children will empower them to approach you in the event they are being victimized.

Do not judge, but rather approach the situation with support and understanding.

When considering whether or not to report any suspicions to police, remember:

Your report could be the missing piece that prevents life altering consequences for a child or youth.

If you believe someone is in immediate danger, please call 9-1-1

#### RESOURCES

- Take It down
- Kids Help Phone
- Need Help Now
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- Project Arachnid

#### REFERENCES

Covenant House | Traffickers and their tactics | Washington Post (2024) | On popular online platforms, predatory groups coarce children into self-harm

Federal Bureau of Investigations (2023) | Violent Online Groups Extort Minors to Self-Harm and Produce Child Sexual Abuse Material

Global Network on Extremism & Technology (2024) | 764: The Intersection of Terrorism, Violent Extremism, and Child Sexual Exploitation Reuters (2016) | Mack's Criminal Law Bulletin | Doxing Medium (2023) | An Analysis on Online Self-Harm & CSAM Cults; Part 1 Madium (2023) | An Analysis on Online Self-Harm & CSAM Cults; Part 2 Vice (2023) | Police Arrest Alleged Leader of Horrific Child Sextortion Ring





#### "RHYME WITHOUT A REASON!" ~ spirit day Thursday, April 17th, 2025

- Find a friend
- Pick your best "rhyme without reason"
- Be creative and have fun dressing up



Bird + Nerd



Christmas Gift + Taylor Swift



Dairy + Fairy

### Lightning McQueen + Mr. Clean Cinderella + Umbrella Referee + Bumblebee Trash bag + Flag

What can you & your friend(s) come up with?





The 2026 grad class will be hosting this years toy bingo. The 2026 grad class is a class of 4 and we are in need of donations.

If you are able to help out we are in need of

prize donations valued between \$30 \$50

-cases of pop (15 cases)

-juice boxes (12 packs)

-chocolate bars (6dozen)

If you are willing to donate please

# Free Golf Event at the Edgerton Golf Course on May 7, 2025





The BRITE (South Schools Mental Health Program) and our local mental health resources are joining forces to initiate the conversation around mental health focused on children by bringing Grade 5 to 12 students together through a Free Golf Event at the Edgerton Golf Course on May 7, 2025.

#### **Details of the Event:**

**3:30 pm: Registration Open for Golfing participants at Clubhouse.** Everyone must check in at the registration table located at Clubhouse on the Covered Patio (where you enter the building).

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Interact with Local Mental Health Resources - earn a free hot dog and pop.

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Play 4 holes of golf and "Putt to Win" for extra prizes.

All students will be placed on a team or register their own team of 4 with a designated leader. Shared golf clubs will be available. They are welcome to bring their own golf clubs. After they play 4 Holes, they will interact with the resources and eat. The students must have an adult present during the event.

All students must register to play golf by May 1, 2025 at <a href="mailto:shannon.fife@btps.ca">shannon.fife@btps.ca</a> or/ <a href="mailto:nicole.fraser@btps.ca">nicole.fraser@btps.ca</a>. Limited number of spots available.







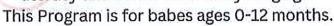
#### **EDGERTON**

# BOOKS FOR BABIES

## WEDNESDAYS APRIL: 9, 16, 30 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

AT THE EDGERTON LIBRARY

Join us for this registered program at the Edgerton Library, brought to you by the Wainwright Family Resource Network.
Each week will be exploring a new book, which you get to take home. We will be learning the importance of literacy and connection at a young age.







#### The Village of Edgerton Community Leadership Scholarship

The Village of Edgerton is offering a \$1,000 scholarship based on community involvement and a commitment to rural Alberta communities. Applicants must be completing Grade 12 at Edgerton Public School and planning to attend post-secondary or trades studies in Fall 2025.

The successful recipient of the Village of Edgerton Community Leadership Scholarship will be awarded **\$1,000** at the May 10<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. The Village of Edgerton reserves the right to retain and publish the winning essay for promotional or community engagement purposes.

#### **Application Timeline**

- Application opens: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Application deadline: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:00 PM (Late applications will not be accepted)
- Winner notified: At the Graduation Ceremony on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### How to Apply

Applications must be submitted to the Village of Edgerton Office or emailed to admin@edgerton.ca by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **Requirements for Submission**

#### Part A: Contact Information

- Applicant Name
- Applicant Phone Number
- Applicant Email Address
- Applicant Home Address
- Planned Area of Study and Institution Chosen

#### Part B: Volunteer and/or Extra-Curricular Experience in the Edgerton Community (Max 250 words)

Provide a short explanation of your involvement in the Edgerton community. Please include:

- Volunteer experiences
- · Community engagement activities
- · Any other contributions to our community

#### Part C: Essay (Max 500 words)

Share your story and future aspirations by writing an essay that includes:

- Your goals and aspirations for pursuing higher education
- How growing up in the Village of Edgerton has shaped your ambitions
- The role Edgerton Public School has played in preparing you for future success



#### Village of Edgerton - Summer Student Employment Opportunity

The Village of Edgerton is seeking enthusiastic and hardworking Summer Students to join our team for the 2025 summer season. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain valuable work experience while contributing to the community.

**Position: Summer Student** 

Employment Term: June - September (exact dates TBD)

Location: Village of Edgerton, Alberta

**Hours:** Full-time (Monday – Friday, occasional weekends as required)

Wage: 18.00/hour

#### Responsibilities:

Assist in general maintenance of village parks, green spaces, and public facilities

Perform landscaping duties such as mowing, trimming, and watering

• Support public works staff with maintenance projects and repairs

• Ensure cleanliness and upkeep of public areas

Other duties as assigned by the supervisor

#### Qualifications:

Valid Class 5 driver's license

Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions

Strong work ethic, reliability, and a positive attitude

Ability to work independently and as part of a team

#### How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to submit a resume and cover letter to the Village of Edgerton

By Mail: Box 57 Edgerton, AB, TOB 1KO

Email: admin@edgerton.ca

In person: Village of Edgerton Office: 5037 – 50 Ave. (after hours drop slot available)

Deadline: May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Join us for a rewarding summer job experience in the Village of Edgerton!





# BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

- Help continue the growth & success of Eagles Nest Programs!
- Volunteer & organize kids events around the community

Join us at our AGM on May 8<sup>th</sup> @ the Edgerton Public School Pizza @ 6PM, AGM @ 6:30PM

Childcare provided by Eagle Nest Staff for the duration of the meeting Email: eaglesnestoosc@gmail.com if you would like to join but are unable to attend THURS MAY

# Eagles Nest AGM

PIZZA SUPPER 6PM MEETING STARTS AT 6:30PM

Meeting will be held at Edgerton Public School

Free Childcare Available



Want to learn what Eagles Nest is all about? Join us at our AGM Everyone Welcome



FOR MORE INFOMATION OR TO RSVP

Call: 587-791-0632

Email: eaglesnestoosc@gmail.com



LOCATED IN
EDGERTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL



# Spring Break DAY CAMPS



Hours

6:30am-

6:00pm

Registration

\$35/day







### Join Us for a week of FUN or just a day or two

- -Minute to Win it
- -BINGO -Cooking & Baking
- -GYM Games -Free Play
- -Outdoor Adventures
- -Egg Hunt -Games & Movie
- -Scavenger Hunt
- -Arts & Crafts -And So Much
- -Science Fun More



For more information or to register please contact us via email at eaglesnestoosc@gmail.com



# Little Eagles Preschool Registration Open!!

Get ready for an exciting new school year! We are thrilled to announce that registration for the 2025/26 school year is now available.

\*limited spaces available\*

#### 📵 Things to Know:

- 1/2 day Tuesday AM Programming for 3 year olds. Children must be 3 by Sept 8, 2025.
- 2 full day Tuesday & Thursday Programming for 4 year olds. Children must be 4 by January 1, 2026
- Children must be fully, independently, potty trained.
- Located in the Edgerton Public School

#### **EARLY BIRD DRAW**

 Register before April 30th to be entered into a draw for a \$200 credit to our programs!

#### How to Register or More Info:

Visit our website at www.edgertoneaglesnest.ca, Scan the QR Code, or send an email to eaglesnestoosc@gmail.com











# GAMPS

Join Us for a Summer Filled with Fun, Learning, and Exploration!

> Admission \$35/day or \$625/month

#### Camp Highlights:





- Weekly Field Trips
- Cooking and Baking Fun

#### **Registration Information:**

If you have Questions or to sign up contact us

Open

**Monday- Friday** 6:30am-6pm

Call Us

587-791-0632

Send us an email eaglesnestoosc@gmail.com

Sign up today! Limited spots available!





