

**ONTARIO  
SAFE  
PLACES  
YOUTH  
CERTIFIED**

**COMMUNITY  
IMPLEMENTATION**

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An Initiative of Rural Response for Healthy Children  
Funded by Government of Ontario



# WELCOME

Safe Places Youth Certified is a community safety program founded by the City of Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 2016.

The intention of becoming Youth Certified is to create a community of parents, coaches, youth leaders, business owners and extra-curricular leaders who are aware of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination risks and have capacity to respond.

Being Safe Places Youth Certified means an individual has completed a Police Vulnerable Sector Check and has undertaken an evidence-based education program to build their understanding and ability to effectively respond to children & youth.

In 2018, Rural Response for Healthy Children commenced a pilot project to adapt the program for implementation in Ontario. The Government of Ontario supported the pilot through an investment from the Ontario Sports and Recreation Community Fund.



# KEY CONTACTS

When your community is considering the Safe Places Youth Certified program, it is essential to contact the following organizations to build an understanding of the program components, access developed resources and receive implementation support.

## **SAFE PLACES SASKATCHEWAN**

Kelly Schafer, Safe Places Manager

177 1st Ave NE, Swift Current, SK S9H 3W1

Phone: 1.306.778.1677

<http://www.safeplacesk.ca/>

Email: [safeplaces@swiftcurrent.ca](mailto:safeplaces@swiftcurrent.ca)

## **RESPECT GROUP INC**

<https://www.respectgroupinc.com>

Email: [info@respectgroupinc.com](mailto:info@respectgroupinc.com)

## **RURAL RESPONSE FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN (RRHC)**

<http://www.rrhc.on.ca/safe-places-huron>

Email: [mail@rrhc.on.ca](mailto:mail@rrhc.on.ca)



# SWIFT CURRENT

As founders of Safe Places Youth Certified, the City of Swift Current is a wealth of information and resources for the program and community implementation.

Upon signing a Memorandum of Understanding and agreed payment to the City, your community or organization will have access to the following program components;

- invaluable support and advise from the Safe Places Manager and Safe Places team
- the database structure and IT support for creating individual Safe Places Youth Certified cards indicating approved certification
- customized Safe Places marketing materials and a customized Safe Places logo for your community
- numerous templates, tips and additional resources for successful implementation



# RESPECT GROUP INC

Respect Group Inc. is a national organization committed to empowering people to recognize and prevent bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination (BAHD) through interactive, online training courses. They provide the evidence-based online training that is a requirement of Safe Places Youth Certified program.

Upon signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Respect Group Inc., your community will receive;

- a community portal web page designed for your local project for promotion and tracking purposes
- the opportunity to add customized video messages from local leaders to the portal
- access to Respect Group Inc download resources and the opportunity to create and upload your community resources to the portal
- invaluable advise and support for implementation



# RURAL RESPONSE FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

As the first community organization in Ontario to adopt Safe Places Youth Certified program, Rural Response for Healthy Children has knowledge and experience that are assets for Ontario communities.

RRHC provides the Ontario perspective as to how it relates to;

- working with O.P.P rather than RCMP
- collaborating with Victim Services to further build community support for youth leaders
- gaining upper tier and lower tier municipal government adoption of the program and how it relates to their Community Safety and Well-Being Plans
- Ontario based program templates
- marketing and engagement tools such as overall marketing plan, social media posts and community and parent engagement tools
- the pitfalls and challenges with community engagement

# SUCCESS TIPS



It takes time for the lead organization or community to build the necessary partnerships, the infrastructure and gain municipal support for Safe Places Youth Certified program.

1. Build program understanding by contacting Swift Current Safe Places, Respect Group Inc and Rural Response for Healthy Children.
2. Identify community partners for necessary human and financial resources support for adoption and implementation.
3. Notify local detachment of O.P.P and engage them in supporting the program.
4. Set up database, Respect Group community portal and practice the process with internal staff to identify glitches and rectify prior to public promotion.
5. Create marketing plan and print promotional material once the process is tested.
6. Commence presentations to municipal government as early, local adopters of the program to demonstrate community leadership for the program.
7. Promote, educate and engage the community.

# THANK YOU



Rural Response for Healthy Children is very grateful to the following people, municipalities and organizations that supported the pilot project in Huron County.

- Kelly Schafer and the City of Swift Current, Saskatchewan
- Mark Allen and the team at Respect Group Inc.
- Sheldon Kennedy
- Inspector Jason Younan and Huron O.P.P
- Deborah Logue and Huron Victim Services
- County of Huron, Town of Goderich, Municipality of Central Huron and Municipality of North Huron
- Jeff Bauer and the team at Homefield Group Royal LePage Heartland Realty
- Jeff & Una Roy from Excalibur Insurance