

# Our Commitment to Excellence in Child and Youth Safety

## Scouts Canada's Child and Youth Safety Update June 2012

### Fact Sheet

- Throughout its 105-year history, Scouts Canada has been helping children and youth discover new things and experiences they wouldn't discover elsewhere. Along the way, they develop into capable, confident and well-rounded individuals, better prepared for success in the world.
- In 2012, over 75,000 children and youth are actively engaged in Scouting activities, delivered by 24,000 caring and well-trained volunteer leaders.
- To meet today's expectations and to anticipate the needs of tomorrow, Scouts Canada is committed to revitalizing its culture of safety and entrenching it more deeply at every level of the organization.
- The independent Child and Youth Protection Advisory Committee was formed to: conduct a thorough review of all Scout Canada's policies and procedures related to Child and Youth Safety; recommend changes required to strengthen our current policies and procedures; recommend any additional measures necessary given today's realities and to anticipate the needs of tomorrow.
- The Committee was chaired by Peter Dudding, then CEO of the Child Welfare League of Canada and composed of:

Peter Dudding (Chair until June 13, 2012)

*Former Chief Executive Officer, Child Welfare League of Canada*

Jeremy Berland - Deputy Representative

*BC Office of the Representative for Children and Youth*

Lynn Barry - Director and Continuing Education, Coordinator *Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse*

Chief Gary Crowell (retired)

*Halton Regional Police Service*

Gordon Phaneuf (Chair), Acting Chief Executive Officer,

*Child Welfare League of Canada*

Judi Fairholm - National Technical Director,

*Canadian Red Cross*

Dr. Jean Yves Frappier, MD, FRCPC, M.Sc., Professor of Paediatrics,

*Université de Montreal and President, Canadian Paediatric Society*



- A comprehensive Child and Youth Safety Plan was developed and then approved in March 2012 by Scouts Canada's Board of Governors. It is currently being implemented across Canada leading up to the new Scouting year. The plan contains more than 30 action items mainly focusing on historical review, policies and procedures, adult screening and training, child, youth and parent education and communications.
- Scouts Canada's Child and Youth Safety Plan was developed with guidance from the Child and Youth Protection Advisory Committee. The Committee's mandate extends beyond advising on child and youth protection policies to provide guidance on the organization's training methods, curriculum and in-the-field implementation.
- On May 5, 2012, Scouts Canada's Board of Governors approved five new or revised policies related to child and youth protection:
  - Code of Conduct
  - Bullying/Harassment Policy
  - Child Abuse and Protection Policy
  - Staff Whistleblower Policy
- Changes to Scouts Canada's Policies and Procedures will impact each and every volunteer leader. No pending volunteer can participate in Scouting programs or wear the Scouts Canada uniform without first completing all steps of registration, training and screening.
- All Volunteer members must complete the compulsory Child and Youth Safety training before they can become active in September for the 2012-13 Scouting year and be permitted to participate in Scouting activities. The training, which is available online or in-person, is comprised of three modules:
  - Module 1 – Emphasis on Risk Management Information for Leaders
  - Module 2 – Accessibility or interactions with persons with disabilities
  - Module 3 – Child and Youth Safety – policies, procedures and expectations related to keeping youth safe. It includes content developed by World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM).
- To ensure that Leaders recruited by Scouts Canada are of the highest calibre, several updates to the interviewing process will be implemented. Teams of interviewers trained in interviewing techniques will be assembled across Canada for Fall 2012 to support Groups in volunteer selection. Guidance will be provided on the interviewing process and preparing interview assessment summaries. Recording of all data in Scouts Canada's membership management system, [myScouts.ca](http://myScouts.ca), will complete the rigorous and comprehensive process.



- Scouts Canada has implemented several new communications initiatives to increase awareness of child and youth safety among children, parents and volunteer leaders. These include:
  - An updated Child and Youth Parent Fact Sheet that includes feedback from the Child and Youth Protection Advisory Committee.
  - An updated Child and Youth Safety section on the [Scouts.ca](http://Scouts.ca) website, with resources for parents, links to partner sites, links to online child safety support tools and information to educate parents and leaders.
  - A partnership agreement with Kids Help Phone to promote the Kids Help Phone line (1-800-668-6868) and access Kids Help Phone child and youth safety resources.
- Initiating dialogue on child and youth abuse is crucial for society. Every professional or expert involved in this issue agrees on the importance of breaking the silence surrounding child or youth sexual abuse. Promoting open community conversations about abuse is necessary; Scouts Canada is committed to helping mobilize adults, families and communities to take steps to protect children and youth before they are harmed.
- In September 2012, Scouts Canada will introduce a number of youth educational programs, aimed at teaching our members how to stay safe and to open a dialogue about abuse by engaging children, youth and their parents during regular section meetings through activities, games and take home activities. This integrated approach will reinforce positive messages and help empower children and youth, thus supporting a culture of safety among all members of Scouting.
- For older youth, these modules will include sections on peer-to-peer abuse. They will be delivered through our Scouting programs, but will have applications in all aspects of a child's life.

Child and Youth Safety Update - June 2012 is available on [scouts.ca](http://scouts.ca) at: [scouts.ca/cys/SC-CYS-Update-2012.pdf](http://scouts.ca/cys/SC-CYS-Update-2012.pdf).

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