

video games
Internet
media
violence
television
music
Ontario



When violence becomes entertaining:

Recapturing childhood and adolescence from the toxic influence of media



Dear Colleagues,

June 17, 2010

Violence in the media is pervasive. While our young people are surfing the Internet, gaming, or downloading music, they are being barraged by disturbing images. Many impressionable young people are unwittingly carrying these images into their schools and communities, perhaps putting themselves and others at risk.

Key leaders in the areas of bullying prevention, violence prevention, safe schools and media literacy will be brought together to share their expertise and explore the common elements of these challenges.

This two-day conference will feature Lt. Colonel David Grossman, a former West Point Psychology professor, Professor of Military Science and former Army Ranger, as keynote speaker. Lt. Colonel Grossman co-authored *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill: A Call to Action Against TV, Movie and Video Game Violence*. He has presented before the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric and American Psychological Associations and the American Academy of Pediatrics. An internationally

recognized scholar, author, soldier and speaker, Lt. Colonel Grossman is making a return visit as keynote speaker at an OTF conference.

The conference will also feature Craig Anderson, a Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Iowa State University. He is a pioneer on video-game violence and has consulted with educators, government officials, child advocates and news organizations worldwide. With over 100 publications and Fellow status in the American Psychological Society and the American Psychological Association, he brings tremendous expertise.

Along with our two keynote speakers, the conference will feature a panel representative of police, students, parents, educators and advocates. A special session on the promotion of violence in sports will include Dr. Charles Tator and Ron Wicks. A variety of workshops of interest to teachers, administrators and parents will be offered.



Lt. Colonel David Grossman

The conference will explore a variety of violence prevention strategies and programs. Resources geared to teachers, including the recently released Safe@School resource, will be provided to participants. Teacher workshops on integrated lesson plans from the Addressing Violence in the Media Project

October 15-16, 2010
Doubletree by Hilton Toronto Airport

will provide teachers with practical tools and skills specific to their grade/course/level. A broad range of workshops will be included in the program to meet the varied interests and needs of participants.



Professor Craig Anderson

This conference will be of interest and have practical application for active, classroom teachers. Others from the school community (parents, trustees and administrators) will also find the conference of interest and value.

Tackling the impacts of violent images requires effort at home, at school and in the larger community. Bringing all stakeholders together is an important first step.

There will be simultaneous translation of the two keynote addresses and a number of workshops will be offered in French.

Costs for OTF members (accommodation, meals, release and travel) will be subsidized by the Ontario Teachers' Federation. In an effort to make the conference accessible to teachers from all systems and across the province, a specific number of spaces will be held for teachers from each board prior to opening up broader teacher registration.

Non OTF members must also register on line and will be responsible for their own hotel arrangements and travel costs; the

registration fee will cover meals during the conference and is being set on a cost-recovery basis.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is one organization of many who make up the Media Violence Coalition, initiated several years ago by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. The assistance and input of the members of the coalition in planning this event has been critical and is appreciated.



Former NHL Referee Ron Wicks

Members of the coalition include:

- Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness
- Centre for Prevention Science, Fourth R Project, University of Western Ontario
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
- Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations
- Ontario Physical and Health Education Association
- Ontario Principals' Council
- Ontario Provincial Police, Crime Prevention Section
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association



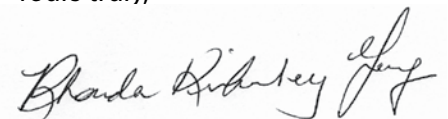
Dr. Charles Tator

- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
- Ontario Student Trustees' Association
- Ontario Teachers' Federation

Online registration will open September 8, 2010 through the OTF website at www.otffeo.on.ca, under *Professional Learning* by clicking on *Media Violence*.

We hope you can join us for this wonderful opportunity to hear from experts in this field and work with one another in the education and broader community to address this pressing issue.

Yours truly,



Rhonda Kimberley-Young
OTF Secretary-Treasurer

RKY/am