A Sûreté du Québec intervention program in partnership with schools

What is PIMS?

PIMS stands for Programme d’intervention en milieu scolaire (school intervention program). It is a Sûreté du Québec program that has been ongoing now for a number of years. The purpose of PIMS is to combat drug use and trafficking, taxing, and violence in schools.

Some 100 Sûreté du Québec police officers are currently involved in the program and present in over 200 secondary schools in the territory served by the SQ. Police officers working in schools receive special training that provides them with tools needed for effective investigations, prevention and emergency response.

In concrete terms, a police officer is assigned to work in your school in order to make it an enjoyable place to be and a place where you feel safe.

Drugs + School = looking for trouble

Teenagers have all kinds of experiences. Fewer than half say they’ve tried marijuana at least once. Unfortunately, some who experiment become regular users. But isn’t the reason for going to school to prepare for the future? And teachers are there to help you learn. Do you think learning is possible without a clear head? And do you know that possession for your own use is illegal?

Some students are attracted to the idea of selling drugs in order to make money. One of the roles of police officers working in schools is therefore to combat drug trafficking in the school system. Investigations are conducted so that arrests can be made and offenders brought before the courts. The presence of police officers is also intended to make young people who don’t do drugs feel safe and to provide assistance to those with substance use problems (for example, referring them to a drug addiction prevention counsellor).

1 Jeunes, drogues et violence : des liens à comprendre (2004) Centre international de criminologie comparée (Université de Montréal) Serge Brochu, Marie-Marthe Cousineau, Fu Sun and Valérie Houde.

Violence at school… zero tolerance!

You are entitled to peace of mind at school and shouldn’t have to worry about taxing, threats, or physical or sexual assault. Life can be tough for young people subjected to such violence: they can lose self-confidence, no longer feel like going to school, get poor marks, live in fear and suffer from anxiety. Some may even consider suicide as a way to escape the violence. No one should have to put up with violence at school.

Your school’s police officer is there to prevent taxing and violence. His or her role is to identify and report perpetrators, protect victims and bring offenders before the courts. But you, too, have a role to play in fighting violence… by refusing to tolerate or encourage violence and intimidation and by reporting situations in which you or anyone else is a victim of violence.

Fighting violence is everyone’s business. The worse thing you can do is to do nothing!

Hello! My name is Valerie Marcoux, for a third consecutive year I’m the police officer from the SQ of the MRC of Argenteuil working in your school. My objectives, like those of the director of the station (captain Patrick Despres), aim at preventing any form of violence (intimidation, threats, way in fact, etc) and to act in prevention and repression on drugs, so that all live in a healthy and sedentary school. You can join to me to 450 562-2442 or by the means of your speakers.

Enjoy your school year!!

Help is out there!

In addition to family and friends, there are outside resources that can help if you have a problem or need to confide in someone. Here are two such resources:

TEL-JEUNES
1-800-263-2266
http://teljeunes.com/

JEUNESSE, J’ÉCOUTE
KIDS HELP PHONE
1-800-668-6868
www.jeunessejecoute.ca
To report a crime confidentially: