



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2016 #16-05

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Strong Kids Team Launches Youth Survey

Maple Ridge, BC: In December 2015, The Strong Kids Team launched an online survey geared to parents, teachers, community leaders and service providers to allow this group of citizens to talk about the issues and resources that are required to ensure that our youth have the opportunity to achieve all they are capable of.

On Monday, February 2, 2016 Phase Two of the Strong Kids Team work began with the launch of an online survey geared towards youth and young adults in our community. The online survey is available at fluidsurveys.com/s/mapleridgeyouth/ and is available in hard copy at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre and the Greg Moore Youth Centre.

“The information for these surveys is guiding our work on Phase Three of the Strong Kids Team Community Forum, to be held on Monday, March 7, 2016, at The ACT Arts Centre on the Mainstage,” said Susan Carr, School Board Trustee and co-chair of the Strong Kids Team. “The first survey allowed us to see the most pressing issues for the people in the community who are entrusted with guiding our youth to adulthood. This second survey will allow us to determine if there’s alignment of the issues that are priorities for youth and their care givers.”

The top three issues identified in the ‘Parent, Teacher & Leader’ survey were;

1. Mental Health (anxiety, depression & stress)
2. Nicotine, Alcohol and other Drugs
3. Effects of Social Media and screen time

The upcoming Community Forum will present speakers and information to initiate a robust conversation around the most up-to-date research and approaches to dealing with the issues that have been identified as most pressing. Details of the Community Forum speakers and format will be announced in mid-February.

The Strong Kids Team is part of the broader Maple Ridge Resilience Initiative. The goal of this team is to ensure that children and youth in our community have the best environment to grow up and thrive in.

“This is an investment in the future,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “As we deal with the issues around us in the community today we need to invest time and resources to break the cycle that leads to homelessness. As a parent I’m looking forward to the upcoming Community Forum and engaging the community in this important issue.”

The Youth Survey will be available until Saturday, February 27, 2016. For more information about the Youth Survey or the overall work of the Strong Kids Team please contact Susan Carr by email at Susan_Carr@sd42.ca or Tony Cotroneo by email at tcotroneo@mapleridge.ca or by calling 604-467-7392