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## Grande Prairie's Safety City countdown to construction

By Carla Shkwarok, Executive Director, Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities

Have you ever visited the emergency room due to an injury? Were you hurt in a motor vehicle collision? Has your child had a 'close call' while crossing the street? Chances are that you have a story.

Statistically the Grande Prairie area has some of the highest injury rates in all of Alberta. Are these just 'accidents' or can something be done? Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities strives for a community that is free of injury and pain, and is daring to commit to do something tangible to reduce injuries in the Peace Country. Hence the countdown is on for the construction of Grande Prairie's *Safety City*.

The world has become more rushed, more dangerous, and more complicated for children. Today more so than ever before, there is an increasing demand to ensure children learn about safety in all areas of their lives. Grande Prairie's *Safety City* will provide children with an experience that they will not forget as they practice safety rules in a child-sized environment built just for them, complete with battery operated Jeeps for them to navigate through the streets of the City.

At *Safety City*, children from Kindergarten to Grade 4 will be given a chance to practice safety skills in a specially designed outdoor small city atmosphere featuring paved streets, sidewalks, buildings, a barn, working traffic lights, a railway crossing and a dugout. Through experiential training, children will develop a positive attitude toward safety by learning their safety lessons in a classroom setting and then practicing them in *Safety City*. Areas of safety training will include but are not limited to: Pedestrian Safety, Fire Safety, Bicycle Safety, Farm Safety, and ATV Safety.

In addition to the educational opportunities for youth within the *Safety City* Project, the community at large has access to a one-stop safety resource centre. Training rooms are now available within the Peace Country Safety Resource Centre and a safety resource library is being established in order for the public to access safety information from a central location.

The *Safety City* Committee comprised of community business partners and volunteers is aiming to reduce child and youth injuries starting this fall with the City opening. The Committee wants to help kids stop and think before they put themselves in potentially unsafe situations, and to be pro-active with fun activities that teach safe life-lessons!

Construction will start the end of April, with the streetscape being finished first and then the addition of local business kiosks. Hopefully the 2000 sq ft Barn will be finished this fall as well. Watch for Grand Opening events happening this September.

Safe Communities is also excited to be hosting a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™ at the beginning of June for 200 Harry Balfour School students from Grades 3 through 6. The children will get a glimpse of the future *Safety City* and experience first hand how safety is possible for everyone!

"Tell me and I will forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I will understand..."

Check out the *Safety City* sitemap and pictures online at [www.gpsafecommunities.com](http://www.gpsafecommunities.com)!



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## Updates, news and resources

### **New TIRF Impaired Driving Resource**

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) recently released a DWI (driving while intoxicated) guide entitled, *Screening, Assessment and Treatment of DWI Offenders: A Guide for Justice Professionals and Policy Makers*.

The new guide seeks to inform justice professionals and policy makers about the importance of screening, assessment and treatment of DWI offenders, examines the strengths and limitations of the process and issues related to it, and identifies a number of priority recommendations for improving the application of quality screening, assessment and treatment of DWI offenders.

To download a copy of *Screening, Assessment and Treatment of DWI Offenders: A Guide for Justice Professionals and Policy Makers*, visit [www.tirf.ca](http://www.tirf.ca) and click on the DWI System Improvements icon at the bottom of the homepage.

### **2009 Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference**

After much deliberation, the Partners of the National Conference (Safe Communities Canada, Safe Kids Canada, SMARTRISK, and ThinkFirst) have decided to postpone the Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference until the fall of 2011.

The decision was made for issues of good financial stewardship, and the opportunity to build an even better conference for 2011.

## **C.R.A.S.H. – Critical Risk and Safe Habits**

### **The 3rd Annual Child Health Injury Symposium**

The Stollery Children's Hospital is pleased to announce 'C.R.A.S.H. – Critical Risk And Safe Habits', the 3rd Annual Child Health Injury Symposium on Thursday, June 11, 2009. This education day, being held in conjunction with the 9th Annual Trauma Symposium on June 12, will provide continuing education for urban and rural healthcare personnel who care for the injured pediatric patient.

Using a bus crash as the platform, the education sessions will focus on the assessment and management throughout the continuum of prevention to rehabilitation. In addition to the lecture style of presentations offered at previous child health injury symposiums, this day will include interactive opportunities.

Registration: \$50 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments)

Location: Bernard Snell Hall, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton

Time: Thursday, June 11, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Symposium materials will be posted as they are available through Kidsafe Connection @

[www.capitalhealth.ca/kidsafe](http://www.capitalhealth.ca/kidsafe).

For more information, contact Kathy Holgate at 780-407-6800 or 780-407-7250 or [kathy.holgate@capitalhealth.ca](mailto:kathy.holgate@capitalhealth.ca).

## **Recognize your volunteers!**

Volunteer Week in Alberta is April 19 to 25, 2009. The following ideas for recognizing volunteers are provided by Volunteer Alberta.

- Volunteer recognition can be done by anyone, whether your organization has paid staff or relies entirely on volunteers.
- Encourage them to attend in house training, professional development activities, and conferences.
- Involve them in your organization's long range planning process.
- Put an article about a volunteer in the local newspaper, their college alumni publication, or their office newsletter.
- Thank the individual for their contribution alone or in front of others.
- Send a letter to the volunteer's employer informing them of the volunteer's contribution to your organization.
- Have an at home tea party. Send volunteers a tea bag in a thank you card and invite them to enjoy a cup of tea.
- Ask them to take a leadership position, either in direct service or through committee or board activities.
- Ask them to conduct orientation or training activities, or to organize an event or project. Encourage and develop

them to take on expanded responsibilities.

- Invite them to attend and participate in staff meetings.
- Ask effective volunteers to recruit another volunteer who is just like them, or to mentor a new recruit.
- Let volunteers know they were missed while on holidays or away sick.
- Have reserved seating at events for your organization's volunteers.
- Ensure volunteers know the difference they make to your organization.
- Encourage your organizations' clients or participants to thank volunteers for their contribution.
- Attach a note reading "Thanks for raisin all those funds" to a small box of raisins for fundraising committee members.
- Plant a tree in a public space in recognition of the contribution your volunteers make.
- Present an award for Volunteer of the Month including a designated parking spot.

Adapted from *Volunteer Recognition* available at [www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca](http://www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca).

## The CICF at Ten

By John Fisher, Grant Program & Communications Coordinator, Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research

On April 1, 2009 the Community Injury Control Fund (CICF) began its tenth year of providing help to Alberta organizations seeking to address injury prevention problems in their communities. It seems an appropriate time to glance back at what has been accomplished.

The first grant application approved by the CICF - C1 A 01 - was awarded to Camrose and District Support Services in May 2000 for its Safe Park program. Safe Park was designed to make children 5 – 12 years of age more aware of fire, farm, railway, and water safety, the dangers of wandering away from home, and how to lead healthy and safe lives in rural environments.

From the period April 2000 to March 2009, 355 CICF grant applications were submitted to the CICF with 301 receiving approval for grant support - an overall approval rate of 85%. From Cycles 5 through 9, that rate increased to 91% (157 approvals from 172 submissions).

Some quick facts about the CICF at ten:

### Grant Values

- The total of CICF grants awarded - \$1,717,643
- 151 larger grants awarded valued at \$1,500,173
- 150 smaller grants awarded valued at \$217,470

### Community Participation

- Number of communities that applied for CICF grants – 119
- From Cycles 1 through 5, 67 communities received 197 grants
- From Cycle 6 through 9, 52 communities received 104 grants

### Top 10 communities applying for CICF grants:

1. Edmonton (41)
2. Medicine Hat (29)
3. Calgary (22)
4. Camrose (16)
5. Grand Prairie (14)
6. Red Deer (10)
7. Bonnyville and Fort McMurray (8)
8. St. Paul and Cold Lake (7)
9. Elk Point, Westlock and Lethbridge (6)
10. Brooks and Slave Lake (5)

- The top 10 communities (actually, 15 in total) accounted for 190 grant applications (54%).
- 31 communities applied for two, three or four grants, accounting for a total of 97 grant applications (27%).
- 68 communities applied for one grant (19%).

### Community Injury Priorities

The top five CICF injury prevention priorities addressed by communities:

1. Injury prevention for children (71 projects)
2. Suicide prevention (55 projects)
3. Traffic related injury (51 projects)
4. Falls - seniors (45 projects)
5. Farm safety (28 projects)

However,

- Only 5 projects addressed Aboriginal injury prevention issues
- Only 6 projects addressed the issue on violence

Congratulations to participating communities and to the Community Injury Control Fund for their collaborative contributions to an injury-free Alberta in which to work, play, and live.

### Grant Cycle 10 Announced

ACICR is pleased to announce new grant levels for the 2009 – 2010 Cycle 10 Community Injury Control Fund (CICF). Cycle 10 larger grants will be available up to a maximum of \$15,000 with smaller grants increasing to a maximum of \$4,000. Grants are available to support initiatives that address locally identified injury prevention problems in communities across the province. Projects are limited to one year duration. The deadlines for larger grant applications are June 1 and November 2. Small grant applications may be submitted at any time. Consultation with the Grant Program Coordinator must be conducted at least two weeks prior to the submission of the application. Updated application and support documents are available on the ACICR website at [www.acicr.ualberta.ca](http://www.acicr.ualberta.ca) under Funding Opportunities or through the Grant Program Coordinator at 780-492-9766 or [cicf@ualberta.ca](mailto:cicf@ualberta.ca).

## CALENDAR

### Volunteer Week

April 19-25, 2009  
Wild Rose Foundation,  
Volunteer Alberta  
Phone: 780-422-2247  
Website:

[www.wildrosefoundation.ca/volunteerweek/default.aspx](http://www.wildrosefoundation.ca/volunteerweek/default.aspx)

### Physical & Health Education Conference

April 30 - May 2, 2009  
Banff, AB  
Phone: 613-523-1348 or 1-800-663-8708

Email: [banff09@phecanada.ca](mailto:banff09@phecanada.ca)  
Website:  
[www.phecanada.ca/Banff09/e/general\\_info.cfm](http://www.phecanada.ca/Banff09/e/general_info.cfm)

### 6th Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities

**Innovation and Collaboration: Building Resilient Communities**  
June 3-5, 2009

University of Prince Edward Island.  
Charlottetown, PEI

Call for Presentations Deadline: March 13, 2009  
Website:

[www.upei.ca/si/si2009/en/call-presentations](http://www.upei.ca/si/si2009/en/call-presentations)

### 19th Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference

June 7-10, 2009  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Student Paper Competition  
Deadline: April 15, 2009

Website:  
[www.carsp.ca/cmrrsc\\_call.htm](http://www.carsp.ca/cmrrsc_call.htm)

### 3rd Annual Child Health Injury Symposium

June 11, 2009  
Bernard Snell Hall, University of Alberta Hospitals  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Phone: 780-407-6800

Website:  
[www.capitalhealth.ca/kidsafe](http://www.capitalhealth.ca/kidsafe)

### Hospital Admissions

Over the 10 year period from 1997 to 2006 there were, on average, 419 bicycle-related hospital admissions each year.

The majority (86 per cent) of the hospital admissions were as a result of falling or being thrown from the bicycle; 14 per cent involved a collision with a motor vehicle.

Males accounted for 76 per cent of the admissions. Males between 10 and 14 years had the highest admission rate. Males between 15 and 19 years of age had an admission rate almost 9 times that of females in the same age group.

### Emergency Department Visits

Over the 9 year period from 1998 to 2006 there were, on average, 6,197 bicycle-related emergency department visits each year.

The majority (93 per cent) of the visits were as a result of falling or being thrown from the bicycle; 7 per cent involved a collision with a motor vehicle.

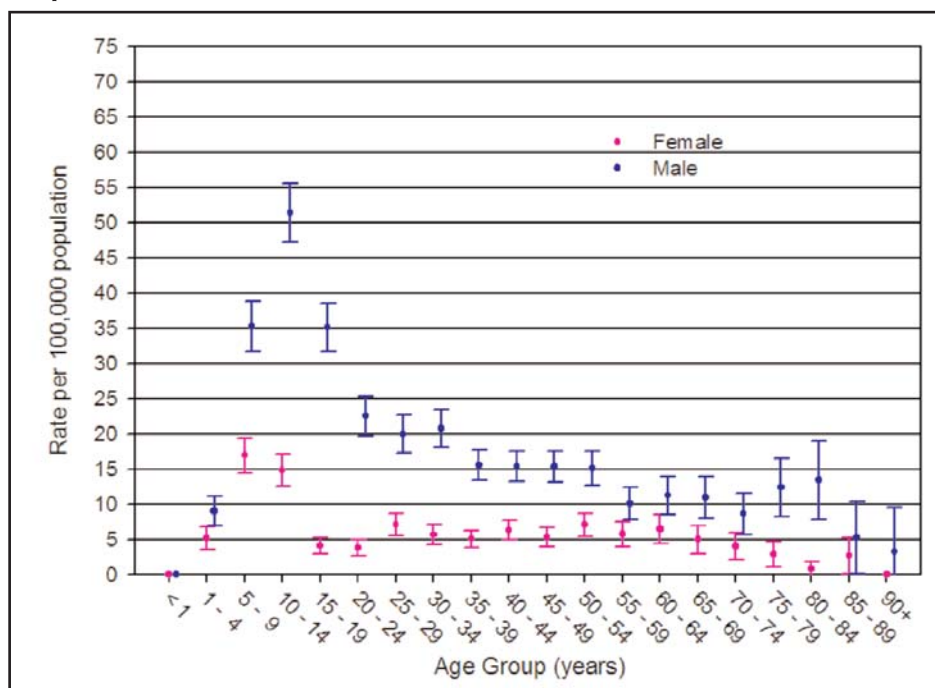
Males accounted for 74 per cent of the visits. Males between 10 and 14 years had the highest visit rate. Males between 15 and 19 years of age had a visit rate 6 times that of females in the same age group.

Note: the rates are based on population and are not corrected for the number of cyclists, or the duration of cycling.

Source: Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, Edmonton. Database held by Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research (data accessed March 2009, unpublished, data available upon request).

## Bicycle-related injuries, Alberta

Hospital Admissions 1997-2006



Emergency Department Visits 1998-2006

