STRONG FUTURES: A Community-Based Youth Crime Prevention Strategy 2026-2029

Strategy Overview

Keeping children and youth safe is a shared responsibility across our community. Families, schools, service providers, neighbours, and local organizations all play a role in helping young people feel supported, connected, and hopeful.

Grounded in crime prevention, this strategy focuses on working together to build the strengths and supports children and youth need to be happy, healthy, and safe, including caring adults, stable homes, positive friendships, belonging, and access to help when needed.

By taking action together, we can reduce risks, prevent harm, and create safer, healthier communities where every child and youth can succeed.

Outcomes

1. **Build Well-being and Resilience**
   Children, youth, and families develop stronger coping skills to deal with challenges while getting help when they need it.

2. **Strengthen Connection and Belonging**
   Young people build strong relationships, stay connected to school and culture, feel a sense of belonging, and are valued in their community.

3. **Promote Safety and Positive Pathways**
   Young people are supported to build safe, stable, and positive pathways. They have the strengths, relationships, and supports they need to make healthy choices, prevent crime and violence, navigate challenges, and stay connected to opportunities.



Roadmap to Success

Early Prevention and Family Resilience → **School and Growth** → **Safety and Stability Supports** → **Identity, Belonging and Cultural Safety** → **Targeted Protection for Elevated Risk**

Priorities

Programs which:	Early Prevention and Family Resilience	School and Growth	Safety and Stability Supports	Identity, Belonging and Cultural Safety	Targeted Protection for Elevated Risk
Increase emotional regulation skills or social-emotional competency for children/parents	✓	–	–	–	✓
Support the early identification and treatment of mental health concerns for youth	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Provide opportunity for mentoring and connection to positive peers/adults	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop youth conflict resolution skills and/ or enable alternative dispute resolution	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Connect Indigenous youth and their families with traditional healing and cultural activities	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Provide substance use/addiction treatment for youth	✓	–	✓	–	–
Support Black and racialized youth with a positive sense of community belonging	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Increase positive attachment to school and improve access to post-secondary education	–	✓	–	–	–
Intervene in or prevent youth involvement in human trafficking	–	✓	✓	–	✓
Prevent youth homelessness	–	–	✓	–	✓