

CASE STUDY

Canadian Police Project



BUILDING CONNECTIONS ACROSS CANADA

EDMONTON

The Dallaire Initiative facilitated five participatory workshops with community stakeholders, at-risk youth, front line police officers and senior officers. Along with the Toronto workshops, the Dallaire Initiative found a high need for better police-community relations and engagement, and more effective and efficient tools to assist police in intervening with at-risk youth.

TORONTO

Three workshops were held with at-risk youth from different community organizations to gather their perspectives on radicalisation and interactions with police. This resulted in an in-depth awareness of youth issues across Toronto which are contributing directly to the creation of tools for police to use in preventing and intervening youth radicalising to violence.

MONTREAL

The Dallaire Initiative is excited to be working with the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence (CPRLV), which is mandated to work with the Montreal Police Services on this topic. We will be working together on jointly creating and implementing tools for police to use in Montreal.

IN FOCUS **KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS ON** **UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF** **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN EXTREME** **VIOLENCE AND MEANINGFUL** **INTERVENTIONS**

To ensure that a rigorous academic basis informs this project, the Dallaire Initiative undertook a comprehensive literature survey and knowledge synthesis on youth radicalisation into extreme violence. Whether disenfranchised youth are gravitating towards right wing extremist groups, gangs, or emergent foreign fighter groups, police are often at the frontlines when it comes to opportunities for prevention or intervention of such radicalisation. Understanding how children and youth are used within these various groups as instruments of violence, will better inform police and community members in how to best engage with and respond to the issue of violent radicalization.

The following recommendations were developed from the knowledge synthesis:

1. **Build networks in the community.**
2. **Equip other front-line workers for recognizing and responding to youth who might be radicalized.**
3. **Challenge racist meanings bestowed on radicalization language.**
4. **Create opportunities for marginalized youth to positively engage with police and community.**
5. **Support collaborative research projects that contribute to evidence-based responses to radicalization.**

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“The Edmonton Police Service's partnership with the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is exceeding our expectations very early on. When representatives of the Initiative visited our city and led diverse stakeholder meetings we learned a lot from our officers and partners because of this external facilitation opportunity. As workshop findings were released, we were extremely pleased with acquiring the highlighted themes that arose from the findings and have already focused on these gaps moving forward with other collaborative initiatives. The Edmonton Police Services is excited about next steps and the possibility of the development of an innovative communication tool that supports front line officers as they interact with youth in our community.”

Michelle Fillion
Manager, Youth Services, Edmonton Police Services

