



Crime Prevention Week

November 1st to 7th, 2019

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Allyship **Creating Safer Spaces for Marginalized Community Members**

Across society inequality exists everywhere. Gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, dis/abilities, ethnicity/ethnic heritage, race, age, size, and socioeconomic class are some visible examples of how individuals may be marginalized.

Marginalization is a social process of becoming or being made unimportant and without worth within a larger society. Marginalized individuals often report an increased level of fear for their safety, in addition to being victimized by crime.

A privileged group views its social, cultural, and economic experiences as a norm that everyone should experience; rather than being earned. Privilege is something that is given to a person based on characteristics they are assigned at birth, such as cultural identity, ability, class, sex, gender, age, species or size

What is Allyship?



Allyship creates an opportunity to actively challenge oppression and work in solidarity with a marginalized group.

Everyone can be an Ally. No matter what groups we may belong to or have been born into, we each have certain benefits in this society that make it difficult for groups without those benefits to get equal access and a sense of safety.

➔ Allyship is not an identity: it is a lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability with marginalized individuals/groups.

➔ Allyship is not self-defined—our work and our efforts must be recognized by the people we seek to Ally ourselves with. It is important to be intentional in how we frame the work we do.

Examples of Allyship in Action



The Vancouver Police Department and RCMP Safe Place program provides members of the LGBTQ2S+ community with a safe place where they will be welcomed, call for police, and wait until the police arrive.



A partnership between *Ending Violence Association of BC* and the BC Lions creating awareness of the importance of bystanders speaking up to prevent violence against women and girls



Crime Prevention Week 2019

November 1st to 7th, 2019

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Ally Types

Ally for Self-Interest

Motivated to protect the ones they care about from being hurt.

Ally for Altruism

As one's awareness of privilege begins to arise; the individual seeks to engage in Ally behaviour as a means of dealing with the guilt. Seeks to empower members of the oppressed group, which maintains credit and some control in the person doing the empowering, rather than encouraging and supporting members of the oppressed group to empower themselves.

Ally for Social Justice

Works with those who experience oppression in collaboration and partnership to end the system of oppression.

Tips for Being an Ally

Be aware of your own privilege. You may not have direct control but, be aware and consider how others may perceive and relate to you.

Understand that you do not have to understand everything about an individual's challenges to make them feel appreciated, respected and safe in your presence.

Do not make assumptions about an individual or a group based on stereotypes or personal experience. Do not assume that every member of a marginalized group feels oppressed.

Take a stand, don't be the bystander. Call-out inappropriate behaviour or derogatory comments about a marginalized individual/group.

Do your homework, do not expect to be educated by others. Explore your own biases. Ask questions. Learn about the experiences and issues facing those you are trying to be an Ally to. Expect to make some mistakes, but do not use this as an excuse for inaction.

Take guidance and direction from the people we seek to work with and keep your word. Refrain from 'pushing' your ideas or solutions, as those you seek to work with will develop solutions that best meet their needs.

Your needs are secondary to the people you seek to work with. Be responsible for your own self care and recognize that part of the privilege of your identity is that you have a choice about whether to resist oppression. Do not expect awards or special recognition for confronting issues that people must live with every day.

Additional Resources:

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion: www.ccdi.ca

Canadian Community Economic Development (CED) Network: www.ccednet-rcdec.ca

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation: www.nctr.ca

PeerNetBC: www.peernetbc.com

