

For Release – Wednesday, October 5th

Today Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities celebrates National Safe Communities Day along with 61 other designated Safe Communities across Canada. Since 2007, National Safe Communities Day has been celebrated on the first Wednesday of October to help re-charge communities and to raise the profile of injury in Canada. "To put personal injury into context, every 10 seconds in Canada, someone enters a hospital as a result of an injury" Paul Kells, President of Safe Communities Canada said. "An hour and 340 people later, 22 will be admitted, 1 person will die, 7 will carry a disability for the rest of their lives and of those 7, an hour later, 1 will be diagnosed as totally disabled. What really matters is that we can stop most of this."

As part of our celebration today, we are pleased to share the results of our National Report Card. As part of our designation responsibilities, Grande Prairie completes a comprehensive survey each spring helping to create a profile of the state of the Safe Communities movement in Canada.

The report profile is based on four attributes: Leadership, Priority Setting for Programs, Sustainability and Community Engagement. The results of the report card confirm that the network of communities are effective and committed organizations taking strategic steps to achieve their goals and engage more Canadians in promoting a culture of safety.

Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities is one of only ten Canadian Safe Communities to report a perfect 20/20 attribute score.

Safety City is also officially open. We have been host to Grade 2 students and staff from Avondale School, as well as Grade 3 and 4 students from Bezanson and Hillside School. We received an amazing review on our very first day saying "I thought this presentation was spectacular!"

Today, Safe Communities is also proud to showcase the County of Grande Prairie Farm Safety Barn. Construction of the barn is now 99% complete and the Farm Safety Barn is ready for classroom setup. The Farm Safety Barn has always been a key feature in the design of Safety City. Agriculture ranks as Canada's third most hazardous industry. In terms of absolute numbers of fatalities, there is no more dangerous occupation. And obviously the farm is not only a work site but home to many children. Children account for up to 22% of farm-related fatalities and injuries in Alberta. Interactive hands on displays will be set up in the 2000sq ft classroom space that will bring awareness to issues such as ATV safety, safe animal handling, water and dugout safety, tractor rollovers, chemical safety and equipment safety. The information taught will be valuable to anyone living in the city, on an acreage or on the farm. The sponsorship of the Farm Safety Barn showcases the commitment and value that safety and injury prevention are to the County of Grande Prairie. Safe Communities is proud to work



together with ALL our sponsors and would today, like to thank the County of Grande Prairie specifically for their commitment to preventing injuries in the Peace region.

Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities mission is to promote public safety and reduce the incidence of injury in Grande Prairie and area through the maintenance and operation of Safety City and other programs designed to educate the public about safety and injury prevention.

Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities

Barbara Campbell, Chair

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