

Press Release

WEAR PINK IN PORT COQUITLAM TO SAY 'NO' TO BULLIES

Port Coquitlam, BC – Feb. 23, 2009 ... Pink is the latest trend in clothing in Port Coquitlam, but it's not about fashion. City Council and staff will be seen wearing pink shirts tonight and this week as part of the City of Port Coquitlam's Stop Bullying Campaign.

As part of these efforts, the City's Youth Services program has organized events for youth and adults, and City Council will proclaim Feb. 25 to be Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day at its Regular Council Meeting on Feb. 23. That evening, Council members will wear pink shirts, which have become an anti-bullying symbol after students in Nova Scotia rallied around a younger student who was bullied for wearing a pink polo shirt.

"Bullying affects everyone at some point in their life and we need to stand together to put an end to bullying in our community," said Mayor Greg Moore. "I hope to see pink shirts worn throughout Port Coquitlam this Wednesday and know that it's a testament to our commitment to anti-bullying."

Local youth, adults and children are encouraged to wear pink shirts on BC Stop Bullying Day on Feb. 25, and to attend the following free local events:

- **Amazing Race** – *Feb. 25, 3-5 p.m. in the Sports Hall at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre* – The Amazing Race has come to Port Coquitlam and youth aged 11 to 12 are invited to come with their friends and form teams as they take on this amazing experience through relays, games and recreational activities. Prizes and food included.
- **Make a Bully Box** – *Feb. 25, 3-9 p.m. at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre* – All-ages are invited to make a Bully Box for their school, youth centre or home. Like a suggestion box, a Bully Box, provides a way for anyone being bullied, and is too nervous to talk about it, to write down the details on a form and put it in the box. At the end of the day the box is emptied and the forms passed on to an appropriate person for action. Having a Bully Box is a great way to identify bullying behaviours and help stop them.
- **Bully Theatre 2** – *Feb. 25, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Gathering Place, Leigh Square Community Arts Village* – This free event for those aged 13 years and up features Improv'D, the pocoyouth improv team, in a fun interactive evening that will help us answer the important question of why bullying starts in the first place. Come early; seats are limited.

The City's two youth centres – the Offside at the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex and the Hyde Away at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre – will also feature information for youths and adults who want to find out how to help stop bullying.

For more information about the Youth Services events, visit www.pocoyouth.com or contact Russ Brummer, Youth Service Coordinator, at 604.927.7981.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathleen Vincent, Director
Legislative & Administrative Services
City of Port Coquitlam
Tel 604.927.5335
Email vincentk@portcoquitlam.ca
www.portcoquitlam.ca