

# Empowered Students

Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP) is a student-driven high school safety program facilitated by staff advisors and Toronto Police Service officers.

The program was initiated by the Toronto Police Service in 1997 and since then thousands of Toronto students have taken leadership roles in their schools and communities by participating in ESP.

Students are empowered to identify, plan, organize and execute year-long safety initiatives in their local schools and communities.

ESP allows students to define the culture of their school while maximizing their potential and educational experience.

## Benefits

The ESP program gives students the opportunity to:

- learn in a safer school environment
- develop leadership skills
- demonstrate respect for themselves and others
- cultivate meaningful interaction, understanding and trust with their peers, school staff and police officers



32 Division and Loretto Abbey students promote safety awareness at Yorkdale Mall



2006/2007 ESP Showcase

At the end of each school year, students from participating schools come together to celebrate their success and showcase their initiatives. These students are truly the leaders in their schools and will go on to be leaders in their future endeavours.

*“ESP is a place where I can talk to people as motivated as I am to make a difference in my school. It’s a group that comes together and is always supportive in accomplishing our goals and making high school a better experience.”*

student, Vaughan Road Academy

*“I’m proud to be involved in this program with its goal of empowering students so they can take a key role in improving our school. This program has taught me how the strength of a few people can create effective change in their community. ESP has given me a chance to express who I am”.*

student, Senator O’Connor

*“ESP is a great program because it helps students come together and learn how to trust one another. It helps students understand that staff and police officers are here to help.”*

student, St. Mary’s CSS

# Getting Involved

Each involved school has its own ESP committee comprised of students and a staff advisor.

At the beginning of each school year, ESP students conduct a survey to identify the safety concerns of students within their school. Based on the results of the survey, the ESP committee designs a plan of action with activities, presentations and safety campaigns that are executed throughout the school year.

The school ESP committee meets monthly with other local schools and police officers involved in the program to share ideas, concerns, and safety initiatives.

The goal is to have all Toronto high schools registered and fully participating in the ESP program.

## Winners of the 2006/2007 ESP Mural Competition



1<sup>st</sup> Place winner  
Father Henry Carr  
CSS



2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner  
Woburn Collegiate SS



3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner  
Don Bosco CSS

## Success through partnerships

**Staff Advisors** (teachers, youth workers and other staff members) facilitate the ESP program by lending their educational expertise and leadership skills.

**Toronto Police Officers** provide program coordination and knowledge of safety issues and crime prevention required to implement the safety initiatives.

**ProAction Cops & Kids** is a founding partner and major donor to the Empowered Student Partnerships program. It is a registered charity that provides officers with the financial resources required to develop and operate programs targeting at-risk youth within our communities.

**Canadian Safe School Network** is a national, charitable organization dedicated to reducing youth violence and making schools and communities safer. It participates by bringing expertise and resources to the ESP program.

## ESP Program Partners



ESP is generously supported by:



For more information,  
please call 416-808-7035  
or visit [www.esponline.ca](http://www.esponline.ca)

## Empowered Student Partnerships



It's about students!  
It's about safety!  
It's about positive changes in your community!