

**LONDON ANTI-BULLYING COALITION – THREE YEARS LATER**  
**Many Voices . . . One Vision to Eliminate Bullying**

**PREPARED FOR:**

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Minister of Education and Training  
Wilma de Rond, Director of Education, London District Catholic School Board  
Bill Tucker, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board

**BACKGROUND**

The London Anti-Bullying Coalition was founded in 2004 by concerned parents in London, Ontario who came together as a result of the tragic commonality of their children being victimized through bullying while at school.

After a tragic suicide of a local teenager, the parents successfully created a non profit organization that is the London Anti-Bullying Coalition, the LABC.

LABC, in its mission of many voices coming together to work towards one vision to eliminate bullying, identified as its goals:

- To increase awareness of the extent and impact of bullying in our community.
- To advocate for education which addresses bullying
- To facilitate change amongst all levels of the community through recognition, ownership and responsibility for bullying.

We strive to foster a culture of fairness, respect and equality for all students in every school that will eliminate the problem of bullying.

Preliminary goals have been accomplished as LABC continues to address the issue of bullying, violence, and harassments in local schools by the active promotion of fairness, respect, and equality in every school for every child.

Located at 126 Queen Anne Circle, London, Ontario, (basement office of co-founder) the LABC has a developed and produced a website ([www.londonabc.ca](http://www.londonabc.ca)), has a designated phone line, and an extensive member database.

**OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Our presence in the London community has been welcomed. We have been approached by other institutions and agencies seeking referrals to supports to help them deal with bullying in the workplace, arena, neighbourhood. Recognizing that bullying is a community problem we respond to the requests but focus our energies and attention on creating safe and caring schools.

We have been asked to speak for the following:

- South London Community Resource Centre
- Cross Cultural Learning Centre
- Childreach
- London Children's Connection
- Community Safety Week – London Public Library
- Sherwood Forest Library
- National Youth Week
- Boys and Girls Club of London
- University of Western Ontario – Althouse College
- Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children
- Today's Parent For Kid's Sake Award Breakfast
- Clara Brenton Public School
- John P. Robarts Public School
- Westmount Public School
- Central Secondary School
- School Bus Fashion Show Event
- Dominos Pizza – Q-Mack
- Mocha Shriners
- Oakridge Optimists
- East London Lionesses

Believing it to be important to establish a base line of knowledge and information for our service providers, school teachers, parents and students we hosted four successful events. Attendees were from London and surrounding areas.

1. School Bus Bullying Information and Awareness Event.
2. 2006 Many Voices – One Vision; London's first conference dedicated solely to bullying
3. Brought Rosalind Wiseman, noted author, for a speaking engagement.
4. Assisted bringing Barbara Coloroso to town for a speaking engagement.

We partnered with the following agencies:

- Madame Vanier Children's Services
- Trillium Foundation
- London Children's Connection
- Investing in Children
- Ottawa Anti-Bullying Coalition
- North London Parents Group
- Fanshawe College, Sonier Centre, SSW Program

In our goal to move towards one vision we have met with MP's, MPP's, and have consulted the Ministry of Education.

We actively subscribe to various sources of resource and information to keep us abreast of legislation and government initiatives.

We write to major newspapers and are requested by media for comments on issues of bullying and safety of students.

- TVO, Studio 2 Documentary, "Battling Bullies"
- London Free Press
- Toronto Sun
- National Post
- The Londoner
- Village Voice
- Today's Parent
- SHE Magazine
- CJBK Radio
- 6X FM Radio
- CBC Radio
- Roger's Cable TV
- A Channel
- The New PL

A member's statement was read by Frank Klees acknowledging the work being done by the LABC in our community.

We are considered by the greater community to be the "Bullying Issues Watchdog".

### **DOCUMENTED AND ACCUMULATED DATED**

It is our intention that this report be used as a reporting and teaching tool, and that it also demonstrates an accounting and documentation of the growth and awareness of LABC and its effectiveness. This report also demonstrates that LABC is needed in our community, and helps us to re-establish our goals and vision for our future.

To date the LABC has received 317 telephone and email correspondences requesting assistance. Of those contacts, 6, have been regarding the London Catholic District School Board, the balance, regarding the Thames Valley District School Board.

The highest volume of requests occur in the months of August, October, February, May and June. Some of the calls have been immediate requests for assistance after an incident of bullying has occurred, with the vast majority of the calls coming from parents at wits end and desperate for help.

The bulk of the calls LABC has received have involved elementary school students.

Our records show that most of our bullying targets are male students.

We listen and offer emotional support and direct them to the stages of resolution as set out by each board and listed on our website. We encourage them to continue to contact us should they encounter difficulties in this process.

Often, we find that there are still too many who confide in us that did what was required of them and were still unsuccessful in resolving the issue.

It is the observation of the LABC that the parents who contact us are willing to work with the school system to resolve bullying but are often left frustrated that the system has seemingly failed their child by not resolving the issue.

We continue to help the frustrated parents navigate the bullying maze. We have met with and have attempted to form effective working relationships with both of our local school boards, superintendents and personnel assigned to safe schools projects.

### **FUTURE FOR THE LABC:**

LABC will continue to work hard to maintain our community presence and establish working relationships with both school boards.

We will continue to outreach and educate ourselves and others on new legislation, policy and government initiatives with respect to keeping our students safe and free from bullying.

We will always be ready to listen and respond to the requests and concerns of parents and to offer a parents perspective when invited to do so by the community.

We intend to continue to forward relevant information on safe schools, changes to legislation, budgets and requests for input, to task forces.

We will be responsive to all media requests for comment.

We will continue to form collaborative partnerships with agencies and organizations which are jointly involved in the growth and development of our students.

In the three years since the formation of the LABC we feel that we indeed have made a difference to the parents and students we've been able to help through our support, resources, and advocacy against bullying. We believe that we serve a necessary function as a liaison between families unsuccessful in finding resolution of their bullying issues and the school board administrations connected to their school.

The London Anti-Bullying Coalition represents a willingness that is proof that solutions can be collaboratively found and that together the many individual voices will come together under the one vision to eliminate bullying.

Respectfully complied and submitted January 28, 2008

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Corina Morrison  
Co-founder, London Anti-Bullying Coalition

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Kathryn Wilkins  
Co-founder, London Anti-Bullying Coalition