

Parents:

You are invited to a public meeting on Tuesday, May 17th from 7-9 pm at the Small Boardroom at the Tree of Peace to see and hear a presentation by the Committee for the Prevention of Youth Substance Abuse on the results of their Middle School survey that your child took part in.

What: **Yellowknife Middle School Students Drug Use Survey Results**

When: **Tuesday, May 17 7-9 pm**

Where: **Tree of Peace**

Who: **Parents, students and interested community members**

Overview of Data from the Middle School Drug/Alcohol Use Survey

- Completed by 436 students, grades 6-9, ages 11-16 in Yellowknife and N'dhilo in March 2011
- Large numbers of students (about 90%) are aware of what alcohol, marijuana and tobacco can do to a person.
- Most students get their information from school or parents and other adults. Over 90% of the students who get their information from school/parents and other professionals TRUST the information they get. Only 48% trust the information they get from movies and the internet.
- Most commonly seen substances are: caffeine, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and inhalants.
- Most common substance used is caffeine, followed by alcohol, marijuana and tobacco.
- With the exception of tobacco and alcohol – students report **much** higher perceived rates of use of drugs by friends than by themselves. (This is true nationally as well.)
- Use of drugs tends to happen mostly on weekends, with the exception of caffeine use.
- Students state that they believe that most kids use drugs to fit in or look cool – yet the HUGE majority of kids don't use. Therefore, if you guys are vocal about saying using IS NOT cool, you will have lots of support from friends and peers.
- You named that choice of friends, involvement in sports, hobbies and activities, learning about drugs and being a role model will help you stay away from drugs and alcohol.
- You said the community could help by providing more things for youth to do that do not cost money; provide better role models, more counselling and youth treatment programs.