



Youth for Safety Project

June 27, 2016

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS
LIARD ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Youth for Safety (YFS) Community Feedback Survey Results

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Introduction

On May 19, 2016 Youth from Watson Lake Secondary School (WLSS) involved in the Youth for Safety (YFS) project presented to the community in Watson Lake, Yukon. YFS is a three-year, Youth-led learning project based on topics of safety, dignity, justice, and violence against women and girls. YFS, along with community partners including the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS), explores how men can help keep women safe and how women and Youth can stay safe.

After the presentations and dinner provided, community members were asked to complete a feedback survey that asked the following 6 questions:

1. What did you enjoy most about the evening and Youth presentations?
2. What did you learn tonight?
3. How proud are you of our Youth? (scale of 1 – 10, 1 = extremely low, 10 = extremely high)
4. What can improve safety in our community?
5. How can we get our community more involved in promoting safety?
6. Please share any other comments.

The purpose of gaining community feedback was to help YFS/LAWS learn and prepare for another series of safety workshops in the fall of 2016.

A total of 53 surveys were completed by community members who attended the Youth presentations. This report summarizes the overall trending in responses, while highlighting key quotes/sentiments shared by community members.

Methods

Responses for all 53 surveys were recorded in Excel, organized by question. Responses were then sorted according to themes that emerged (i.e. Question 1: What did you enjoy most about the evening and Youth presentations? Responses fell into 6 general categories). It should be noted that some responses fit under more than one category, and were therefore counted in both/all relevant categories (making total responses for a given question different in some cases). See Appendix for full listing of categorization by theme.

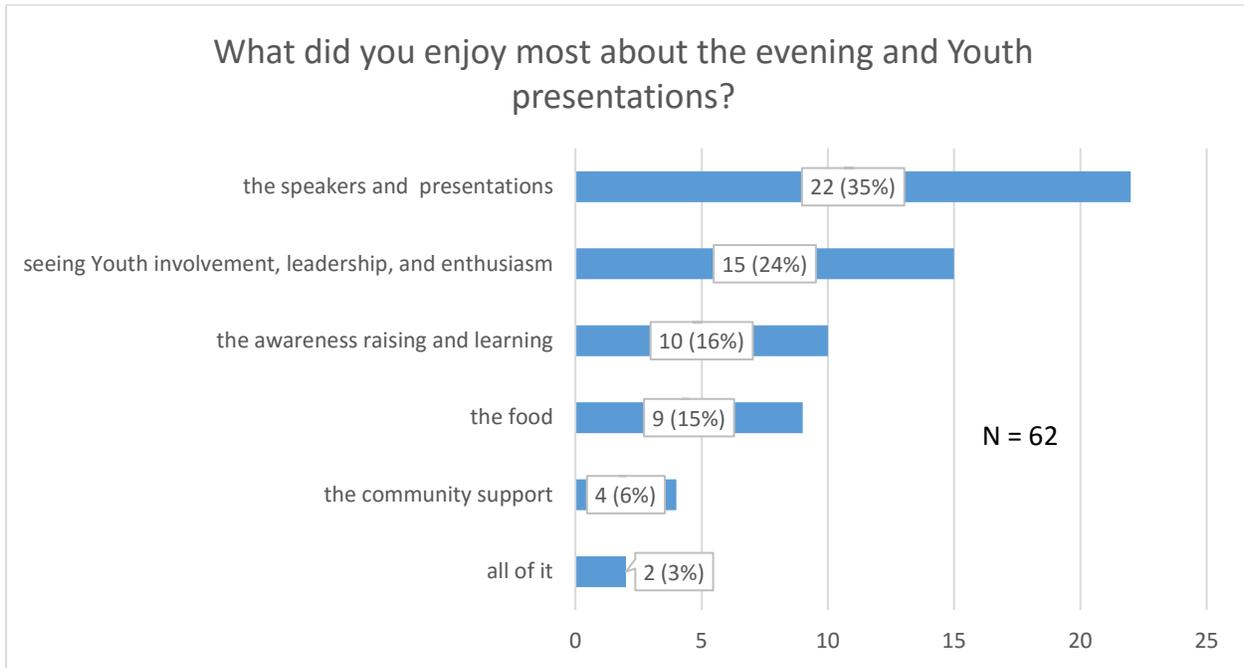
After sorting responses by theme, graphs were produced showing the number of responses by theme for each question.

Question 3 was a little different because, rather than open ended questions, members were asked to rate how proud they were of Youth on a scale of 1-10. In this case, the total was counted for each ranking (1 through 10) and a graph was produced showing the number of times each number was selected.

Direct quotes from the surveys are also provided for each section below (excluding question 3 which was strictly a rating exercise). While the graphs show an overall summary of responses, quotes illustrate and contextualize the data by allowing us to hear directly from the community.

1: What did you enjoy most about the evening and Youth presentations?

When asked what they enjoyed most, community members primarily enjoyed listening to the Youth speakers and presentations (35%) and/or seeing the enthusiasm and leadership shown by Youth (24%). Appreciation was also expressed for the awareness-raising and learning among the Youth involved in YFS (16%). In addition, there were many comments about the meal provided for the event (15%), which was a big hit.



“The Youth standing up and sharing what they have learned and been working on”

“The growth, the awareness, the eagerness of the students, the community support”

“I enjoyed the dinner”

“Involving the Youth, not just with gathering their perspectives, but for giving them a platform to present and be part of inspiring more change”



“Hearing and seeing the Youth take the lead”

“The student presentations. Well done all!”

“Seeing the dedication and commitment of Youth to this initiative”



“The increase in awareness of violence against women”

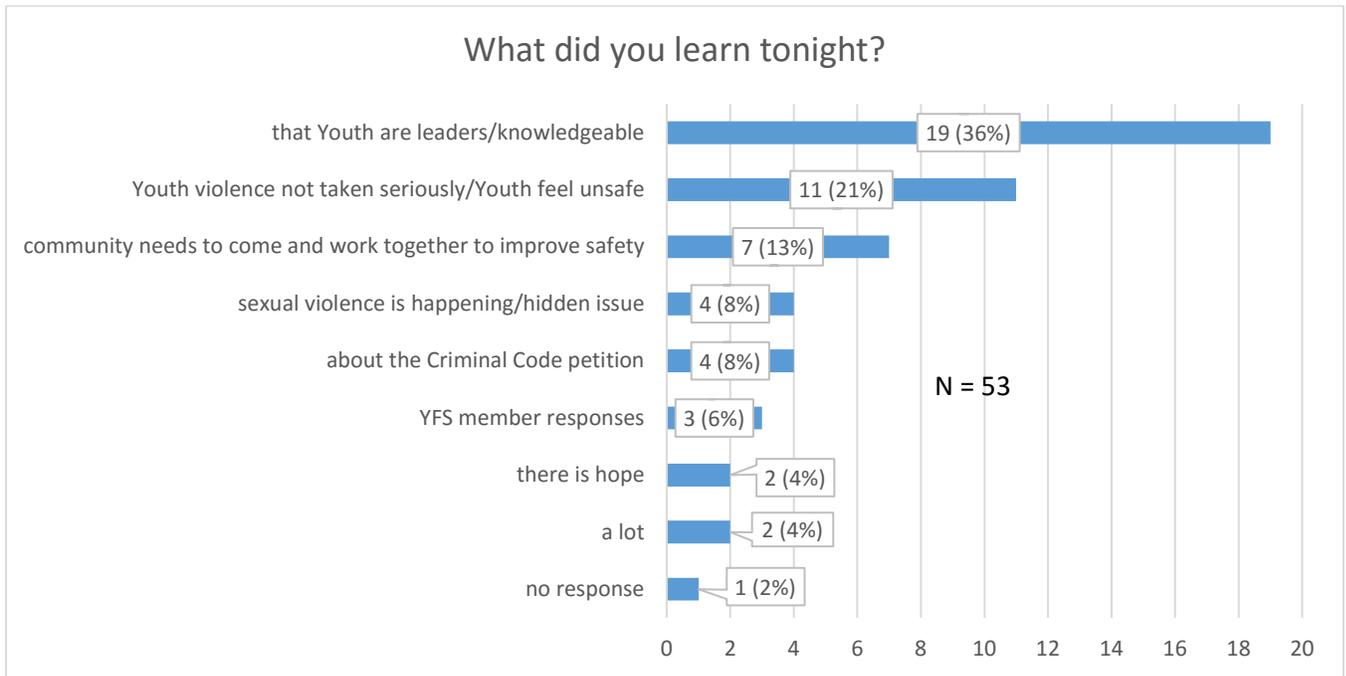
“The young men talking about safety and the young girl sharing her story”

“The good food”

“The students were enthusiastic and willing to spread the word”

2: What did you learn tonight?

Many members (36%) learned that Youth are leaders in safety and that they are knowledgeable on the topic. Youth violence was also a significant area of learning, with 21% of those surveyed saying the presentations made them realize that Youth violence is not being taken seriously and that Youth often feel unsafe. Others said that they learned the importance of the community coming together and working together to improve safety (13%), and that sexual violence is happening in Watson Lake although it has been largely a hidden issue (8%). The petition Youth are spearheading to change the language used in the Criminal Code was another area of learning (8% of responses).



“How the Youth are working on safety in our community. Good to see.”

“Our Youth are powerful leaders”

“About the petition and that response-based practice is about dignity”

“That Youth know more than they share and are very intelligent in ways we barely recognize”

“That Youth violence really isn’t taken that seriously”

“Our Youth do not feel safe in our town. On a scale of 1-10, the average was only 2.”

“That it takes a community to stop violence”

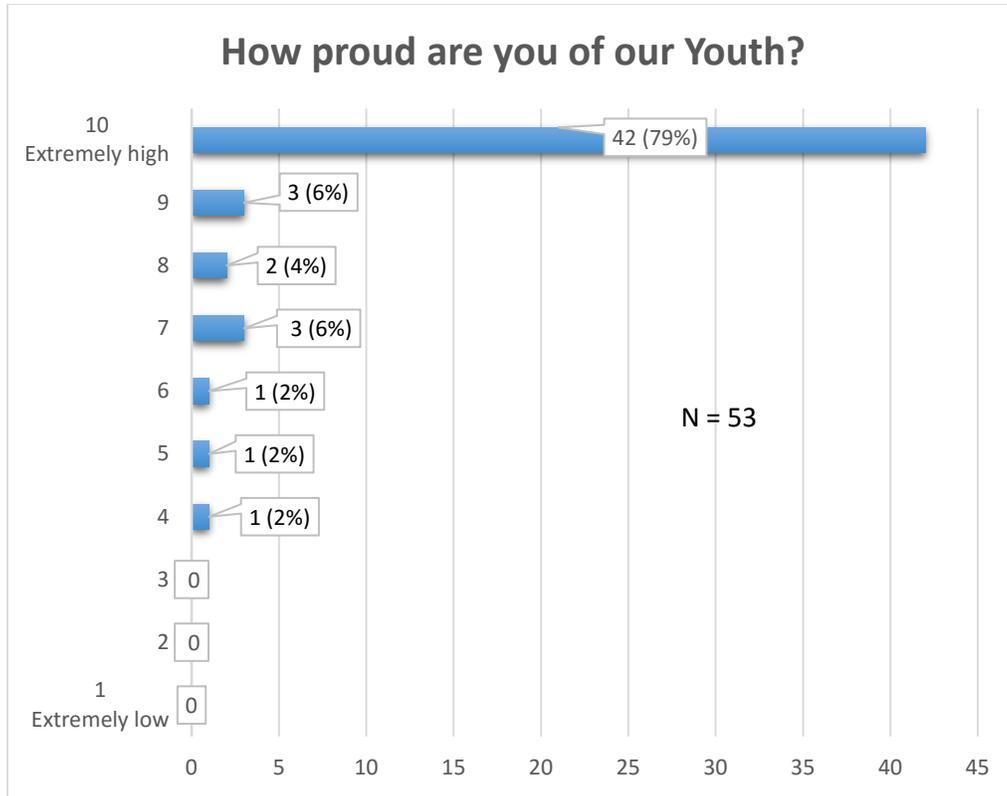
“No idea this was going on in schools”

“I learned that violence is a hidden issue in Watson Lake and is hard to talk about.”



3: How proud are you of our Youth?

The overwhelming majority of people are proud to extremely proud of Youth in Watson Lake. A full 95% of community members ranked their level of pride between 7 and 10 out of 10, with the vast majority (79%) selecting 10 out of 10.



4: What can improve safety in our community?

A number of ways to improve safety in the community were offered, such as increasing communication (talking/listening) and reporting violence (28%), and by implementing safety and security measures (25%) including increasing police patrol, more public phones and street lights, and holding those responsible for inflicting violence accountable. Involving the community in education and awareness through workshops and community events was also popular (22%), followed by encouraging community members to work together and support one another in stopping violence (12%) and helping Youth projects and programs (10%).



“More secure home environments for all”

“More police patrol”

“Keep the circle of talks going”

“We have to talk about the violence, then improve safety”

“Listen to our Elders and Youth”

“Keep the school and community involved and aware”

“Parents and neighbours – be more diligent”

“Report!”

“More awareness. More projects like this”

“Have more Youth for Safety project workshops for the younger kids coming into the high school”

“Keep talking about it and proceed with tough actions until we reconstruct the community mentality”

“Put pressure on the city and authorities to take action on the suggestions the students have put forth”

“Keep talking, keep loving, keep praying, keep living honest”



5: How can we get our community more involved in promoting safety?

Education, awareness and community engagement were seen as key factors in getting the community involved in promoting safety (44% of responses). Once again talking/communicating came up, with 26% of those surveyed stating this, along with media promotion, as a way to get community members involved. Working together/involvement is another recurring theme, with 13% of responses in this area (and also 15% of responses regarding what people learned during presentations, and 16% of the responses to what can improve safety). Youth leadership is another recurring theme, mentioned in 9% of responses here (also what people enjoyed most about the evening (top 2), what people learned (number 1), and mentioned as a strategy to improve safety).



"Getting together for our children. Get the Chief and Council involved."

"I think having the Youth lead the topic is powerful."

"Social media and networking"

"Media and advertisements in town"

"Get corporations on board"

"More community gatherings"

"I think evenings like this are a great beginning. More buttons!"



"Continue to raise awareness through the Youth, and possibly give student presentations more consistently in the community"

"Put up notices and an ad on the radio"

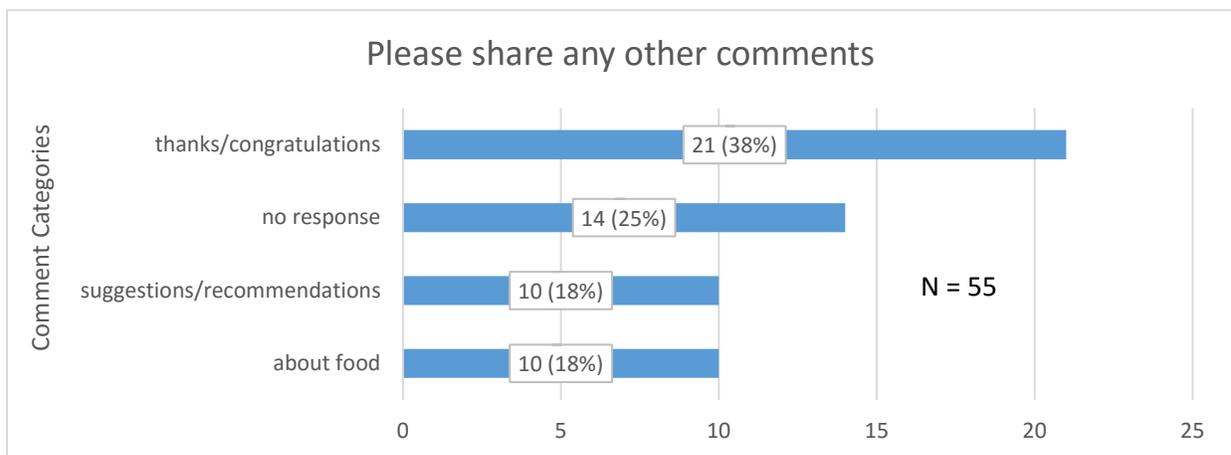
"More events and involvement with diverse groups from our community, working together"

"By talking and passing information to people"

6: Please share any other comments.

Many expressed thanks and/or congratulations to the organizers and Youth involved in YFS (38% of comments). Many also chose not to add any additional comments (25%), while others offered suggestions and recommendations for improving community safety (18%) or commented on the dinner (18%).

Overall, the comments were very positive (see quotes below). Community members enjoyed the event and were grateful for the opportunity to participate and enjoy dinner together.



"Great work! Thanks for your community involvement and outreach 😊"

"Keep up the good work!"

"Great job everyone in educating our community. Means a lot coming from Youth."

"Great dinner! Wonderful event for the community. So proud of the students' efforts!"

"Fantastic initiative. Very productive for only taking place for a short time. Thank you."

"Include the men. Violence needs to stop against men, boys, girls and women. If the men are involved the women are safer."

"Thank you for giving our Youth a voice"

"It was a good presentation. Very proud of the Youth. Awesome food also."

"It was good!! Food was great!! 😊"

"The cooks did an amazing job."

"Is there a relationship between the residential school graduates and the increasing # of violence against First Nations females? How can we heal the 7th generation?"

"We need more Youth and Elders and community involvement."

Summary

A number of themes consistently emerged among community responses, showing that the following areas are important to the Watson Lake community when discussing safety initiatives:

- ❖ **Communicating** (talking and listening) about violence. This means listening to Youth and Elders, reporting cases of violence, speaking openly and sharing information with one another, and keeping the “circle of talks going”.
- ❖ **Youth are leaders.** Before the presentation, many community members did not realize that Youth could lead community initiatives (this was the number one area of learning). Youth leadership, however, was well-received. Many said that seeing Youth leadership was their favourite aspect of the evening, and Youth-led initiatives were also cited as ways to get the community involved and improve safety. Also, given the extremely high rates of pride in Youth and comments like “I love working with Youth”, “Means a lot coming from Youth, and “I think having Youth lead this topic is powerful” suggests that a Youth-led approach is fitting to the Watson Lake community.



- ❖ **Education, awareness and engagement.** The community enjoyed learning about safety and felt that education, awareness, and community engagement events were necessary to get the community involved in promoting safety and making the community safer. Having more workshops was mentioned a number of times and having “more events like this” that bring the community together and get people talking, sharing and raising awareness.
- ❖ **Working together/community support.** Another major area of learning from the presentations was that the community needs to come together to address safety issues. Community support is important to those surveyed and came up when asked what can improve safety, how to get people involved in safety, and was also what some enjoyed most about the evening.

- ❖ **The food.** Not to be underestimated is the ability of a good dinner to bring people together, make them happy, and encourage participation in future events. Food was mentioned frequently whenever relevant, and was in the top 3 of what people enjoyed about the evening and mentioned frequently in the comments section of the survey.

Returning to the purpose of the community feedback survey, which was to learn and prepare for another series of workshops in the fall, there are some important lessons learned from the Watson Lake community.

Participants enjoyed the format of the event and requested opportunities to participate in similar future events. Youth-led programming was very popular, enjoyable for community members, and evoked high degrees of pride in Youth and the community, illustrated by the statement:

“Our town is simply amazing and it gives me great pride that our Youth ARE our future.”

Members want the opportunity to speak openly, come together as a community, and educate each other/become educated about safety; all very positive feedback for the YFS safety program.

Lastly, offering food at community events is highly appreciated by participants and contributes to an enjoyable experience.



Appendix – All Responses by Theme

1: What did you enjoy most about the evening and Youth presentation?

The speakers and presentations (22)

- the teens speaking
- hearing the address of all the speakers, passionate, dignity, honesty, intimacy, safety
- speakers and presentations, explaining the campaign
- seeing the Youth speak about their projects
- the Youth standing up and sharing what they have learned and been working on
- the Youth talking about their projects
- the students' presentations. Well done all!
- the student presentations!
- the youth presentations
- the Youth presenting and talking about what they have done. Food :)
- speaking
- the presentations (all of them)
- speakers including Youth, the parents that were here supporting, visiting friends
- youth presentations
- Echo's speech, Anne's speech, the teens who presented and Alan Wade's comments
- the kids' speeches
- food and presentations
- the kids talking
- youth presentations, awareness brought, meal
- the stories
- the young men talking about safety and the young girl sharing her story
- the awareness raising presentations

Seeing Youth involvement, leadership, and enthusiasm (15)

- hearing the address of all the speakers, passionate, dignity, honesty, intimacy, safety
- involvement of the students
- youth involvement
- yes I like Youth
- the growth, the awareness, the eagerness of the students, the community support
- seeing the dedication and commitment of the Youth to this initiative
- involving the Youth, not just with gathering their perspectives, but for giving them a platform to present and be part of inspiring more change
- students getting up in front of an audience
- the Youth sharing ideas
- the courage and initiative that the Youth presenters showed in their willingness to speak on and take action for Youth 4 Safety
- the students were enthusiastic and willing to spread the word
- hearing and seeing the youth taking the lead
- all the campaigns - enthusiasm from youth
- the different projects that kids did
- enthusiasm

The awareness raising and learning (10)

- youth presentations, awareness brought, meal
- the growth, the awareness, the eagerness of the students, the community support
- The students were enthusiastic and willing to spread the word
- Youth knowledge in preventing violence and sexual assault
- the honesty about approaching this sensitive subject
- the awareness raising presentations
- the projects and awareness
- the increase of awareness "violence against women"
- the Youth standing up and sharing what they have learned and been working on
- to see the young people learn about things while they are young

The food (9)

- the Youth presenting and talking about what they have done. Food :)
- youth presentations, awareness brought, meal
- good food. I'm so proud of all Youth together. Good work.
- Cian and dinner
- the food
- the food
- I enjoyed the dinner
- the good food
- food and presentations

The community support (4)

- the growth, the awareness, the eagerness of the students, the community support
- being with the community to support youth
- speakers including Youth, the parents that were here supporting, visiting friends
- the community listening to what we have to say

*All of it (2)***2: What did you learn tonight?***That Youth are leaders/knowledgeable (19)*

- that Youth are leaders
- how the Youth are working on safety in our community. Good to see.
- what the Youth in Watson Lake are being engaged in
- our Youth are powerful leaders
- we have powerful Youth in our community
- seeing their enthusiasm
- youth 4 safety
- how well informed and concerned Youth are about safety
- pride in the Youth
- the youth have a loud voice and we need to continue this with other Youth going into grades 10-11
- hard effort
- the extent of sexualized violence in the Yukon; I'm heartened by how engaged the Youth are in the program; they will make a difference!
- how Youth are willing to learn about violence and how to stop it
- how gifted the students were in facing fear and doing their part. I'm impressed.
- youth are learning
- how much change Youth can do if allowed to
- that Youth know more than they share and are very intelligent in ways we barely recognize
- that the Youth can be leaders when they are provided opportunities
- Youth bring our community together

Youth violence not taken seriously/Youth feel unsafe (11)

- our Youth do not feel safe in our town - on a scale out of 1-10, the average was only 2
- that Youth violence really isn't taken seriously
- how unsafe our Youth feel
- how unsafe our Youth feel in our community
- how unsafe our children feel in our community
- safety for teenage women is close to 20%. There is no phone signal in Lucky Lake. They need more police after 9:00 pm on the street.
- that out of every 1000 reported cases, 3 lead to conviction
- the gap between the reality of sexualized violence and the parental perception of it needs to be reduced
- how important our response is to someone who has experienced sexualized violence
- that the Youth are interested in 'safe' zones in communities
- that rape is bad and should be illegal

Community needs to come and work together to improve safety (7)

- how the community works together
- who in our community actually care about our Youth's safety
- the value of working together and trusting Youth
- how important it is to create more safety for youth in the community
- that it takes a community to stop violence
- learning to give support to children
- that it takes a community to stop violence

Sexual violence is happening/hidden issue (4)

- no idea this was going on in the schools
- awareness that violence can be even more harmful silent than loud
- I learned that violence is a hidden issue in Watson Lake and is hard to talk about
- about things that happen and can happen

About the Criminal Code petition (4)

- about the petition!
- about the petition and that response-based practice is about "dignity"
- that Youth will change the Criminal Code on sexual health
- issues with the criminal code/language

YFS member responses (3)

- I was in the workshop ;)
- I'm part of the group so I know most of it
- speaking isn't so hard

There is hope (2)

- there is hope for our kids' safety
- there may be light at the end of the tunnel

*A lot (2)**No Response (1)***4: What can improve safety in our community?***More talking/listening/reporting and action (17)*

- keep the circle of talks going
- listen to our Elders and Youth
- listen to the Youth and their feelings
- voices to be heard!
- listen to the Youth
- listen to kids and implement their ideas
- we have to talk about the violence, then improve safety
- talk to anyone you meet
- keep talking, keep loving, keep praying, keep living honest
- keep talking about it and proceed with tough actions until we reconstruct the community mentality
- take action (implement) some of the ideas provided by Youth to show we are listening and that safety matters
- listen to the Youth, they are more informed than the adults
- speak up
- consider the suggestions previously (and repeatedly) made
- take suggestions
- report!
- speak out, end violence against our fellow beings (physical and verbal), support and reassure

Increased security, accountability and safety (15)

- those who are responsible for inflicting or participating in violence need to be held accountable
- more secure home environments for all
- more police patrol
- mere public phones and street lights
- ban alcohol, bust the dealers and change the FN government
- safety for our Youth
- more surveillance

- provide better security to the Youth
- more police
- more police patrol
- put pressure on the city and authorities to take action on the suggestions the students have put forth
- stop violence
- change the rec hours, having a Youth worker to work at the rec centre or in Watson
- lights, safe spots, more awareness by everyone

More education, awareness, engagement and programs (13)

- more education, resources, services, etc.
- continue awareness
- more awareness, more projects like this
- keep up the good work and spread it around
- continue with this type of event
- have more Youth for Safety project workshops for the younger kids coming into the high school
- just keep up the good work you are doing
- be aware of responses to violence/how you support victims
- keep on helping the Youth learn about violence
- more programs for our Youth to participate, more understanding as to the do's and don'ts of society
- lights, safe spots, more awareness by everyone
- more programs
- see #5 (more awareness, education, honesty, sharing)

Working together, supporting and respecting each other (7)

- parents and neighbours - be more diligent
- working all together on safety, help each other
- love and respect one another
- keep the school and the community involved and aware
- networking and working together
- speak out, end violence against our fellow beings (physical and verbal), support and reassure
- work together

Listen, help Youth; projects and programs (6)

- listen to the Youth and their feelings
- take action (implement) some of the ideas provided by Youth to show we are listening and that safety matters
- listen to the Youth, they are more informed than the adults
- keep on helping the Youth learn about violence
- have more Youth for Safety project workshops for the younger kids coming into the high school
- more programs for our Youth to participate, more understanding as to the do's and don'ts of society

No Response (2)

5: How can we get our community more involved in promoting safety?

Education, awareness and engagement events/workshops (24)

- awareness
- more of the same as this gathering
- workshops
- events like these, groups like this one
- invite them into the projects
- more dinners
- more community gatherings
- more community gatherings
- maybe having community meetings
- educate
- I think evenings like this are a great beginning. More buttons!
- regular events such as this
- workshops
- be more active
- by having sessions and these kinds of gatherings
- more community gatherings
- more events like this
- more programs
- have more meetings like this and workshops
- invite "all the men" of different ages in one room, let them hear the same presentation
- the awareness of issues
- more awareness and education, as stated safety, honest, sharing
- dinners/programs, recreation
- more events, involvement with diverse groups from our community, working together

Talking/communicating and media promotion (14)

- speak to people about safety in community
- better advertising
- keep talking
- media, advertisements in town
- don't be afraid to talk about it
- communicating
- get corporations on board
- talking about safety issues
- by talking and passing information to people
- keep talking
- keep talking about it - include the men
- social media and networking
- by talking them Youth is getting crazy
- put up notices and on radio

Working together/involvement/initiatives (7)

- more events, involvement with diverse groups from our community, working together
- watch out for each other
- keep groups working together
- work together and openly
- get Elders and young ones to help
- getting together for our children. Get the chief and council involved.
- I really like the idea of land-based initiatives for Youth

Youth-led initiatives (5)

- I think having the Youth leading the topic is powerful
- more awareness in the community, increased Youth involvement
- community events / workshops that are Youth-led
- continue to raise awareness through the Youth and possibly give student presentations more consistently in the community
- continuing to get the Youth involved, more wellness opportunities for adults

No response/not sure (4)

- no response x 3
- not sure

6: Please share any other comments.

Thanks/congratulations (21)

- Great work! Thanks for your community involvement and outreach :)
- I love working with Youth
- stay focused kids! Good job
- keep up good work
- good job!
- excellent!! Youth
- thank you for giving our Youth a voice
- I had lots of fun. Thank you, Julie xoxo
- great job everyone in educating our community! Means a lot coming from our Youth.
- Great dinner! Wonderful event for the community. So proud of the students' efforts!
- well done!!
- It was good!! Food was great!! :)
- Fantastic initiative. Very productive for only taking place for a short time. Thank you.
- it was a good presentation, very proud of the Youth. Awesome food also.
- love the direction this is headed and I am optimistic in seeing the progress!
- good work students, teachers, LAWS, and support people Allan, Jeff, and all the rest.
- thank you for creating awareness and building up our youth
- our town is simply amazing and it gives me great pride that our youth ARE our future great eve!!
- such great work by the kids. Glad LAWS brought this in for the Youth.
- it was very good to see young people talk, especially the one that you wouldn't think they'd speak

No response (14)

Suggestions/recommendations (10)

- have a safety retreat
- lots more coming out
- I'm not from Watson Lake, but wanted to learn more about this program. I see potential for a similar program in other communities.
- would like to see every Youth in the community have a future
- is there a relationship between the residential school graduates and the increasing # of violence against the First Nation's females? How can we heal the 7th generation?
- anxious to see more progress with the following years with Youth
- include the men, violence needs to stop against men, boys, girls and women. If the men are involved the women are safer.
- involvement of Dr. Alan Wade, Jeff Cook, Julie, Ann, Kristal and Crystal, Ann made the difference
- alcohol and drug free community
- we need more youth and elders and community involvement

About food (10)

- the cooks did an amazing job
- put out more food
- the food was good
- chicken nuggets
- Great dinner! Wonderful event for the community. So proud of the students' efforts!
- add bacon
- people get a bad habit of leaving before the program is over. Eat n' leave.
- The meal was great!
- Food good!!
- It was good!! Food was great!! :)