

Script: Presentation on DEAL.org

Please note that presenter's notes are italicized

Slide 1: DEAL.org

Slide 2: What is the DEAL.org program?

- **An RCMP by-youth, for-youth web-based**
- **Run by the Youth Engagement Section, which is part of the National Youth Services Branch of the RCMP's Crime Prevention Services**
- **Part of the RCMP's Youth Strategic Priority**

DEAL.org is a unique program in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that is entirely run by youth. The program and its website are fully bilingual.

Did you know that youth is one of the RCMP's 5 strategic priorities?

The RCMP created this by-youth, for- youth program in order to ensure that young Canadians have a greater awareness of the issues affecting their lives and communities. Through the website, the youth at DEAL.org provide young people with information on issues that affect them and encourage youth to take an active role in their communities and make positive changes in their lives. DEAL.org also exists to give youth from across Canada a voice within the RCMP.

Slide 3: Our goals

- **To reduce youth involvement in crime as victims and offenders**
- **To give youth resources to help them make healthy lifestyle choices**
- **To encourage youth to think critically about the issues and to make positive changes in their schools and communities**

What are some of the issues facing your school or community right now?

DEAL.org aims to provide information on the topics you have identified as well as many others. By encouraging critical thinking and supporting youth as young leaders, DEAL.org aims at reducing youth involvement in crime.

Slide 4: The DEAL.org Youth Site

4 main projects:

- **Blogs**
- **Knowzone**
- **Youth Initiatives**
- **Youth Advisory Committee**

DEAL.org has four distinct projects: Blogs, Knowzone, Youth Initiatives and the Youth Advisory Committee. They are all available on the website.

Slide 5: Blogs

- **Written by our youth staff writers**
- **About youth and crime prevention issues**
- **Updated a few times a week**

The blogs are a collection of online posts and short articles written entirely by youth. They are written by our youth staff writers and are updated a few times a week. The blogs cover a range of topics from drug use and school violence to book reviews and profiles of youth leadership initiatives.

Slide 6: Knowzone

- **Digital library of fact sheets on a variety of topics such as drugs, bullying and mental health**
- **Carefully researched using highly credible sources**
- **Includes links for more information**
- **Useful for school projects or just for personal knowledge**

The Knowzone provides important information in an easy-to-understand format. The Knowzone is a digital library of fact sheets on many different subjects, including drugs, health, diversity and violence, as well as the popular “How To” section, which demystifies things like how to write a resume and how to apply for scholarships. The Knowzone is a great resource if you need information for a homework assignment, or if you need more information on subjects like depression or drug abuse. Each fact sheet also contains links to other resources if you want more information on a subject.

Slide 7: Youth Initiatives

- **A database of successful youth-led initiatives from across Canada**
- **To inspire other youth and showcase the positive changes that youth are making in their schools and communities**

This section is the newest addition to the DEAL.org site. By recognizing the achievements of young Canadian leaders, this section can be drawn on by other youth who want to make a change in their community.

Slide 8: Know of a Youth-led Initiative?

If you know of a youth-led initiative and want DEAL.org to showcase it on the site:

- 1) **Download the questionnaire from the Youth Initiatives section of DEAL.org**
- 2) **Answer the questionnaire**
- 3) **Send it by email to deal-choix@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.**

Slide 9: Youth Advisory Committee

- **Made up of youth aged 14-18 from across Canada who interact through a secure online forum**
- **Discuss issues of importance to Canadian youth, give input on DEAL.org program materials and on RCMP youth policy**
- **Committee applications available on DEAL.org**

Members serve on the Committee for one school year. They share their opinions on issues that are important to them through the committee's online forum. In past years, the members' input has been used in many ways:

- *To train Internet Child Exploitation officers*
- *To compile a report about effective youth engagement strategies for police officers*
- *In DEAL.org presentations at national conferences on internet safety, drug education and youth engagement.*
- *To help DEAL.org create new resources to meet the needs of Canadian youth*

The most active members of the Youth Advisory Committee may have a chance to come to Ottawa for an in-person meeting and for leadership training. The 2008-2009 Youth Advisory Committee expressed a desire to learn more about project development, and the outcome of their Ottawa trip was that each member in attendance created a project to address a problem in their community. Some focused on mental health education, while others focused on providing after-school recreational activities for youth. At the end of their trip, each member went back into their community and put their plan into action. Updates on their projects can be found in the Youth Advisory Committee section of the website.

To apply to be a member of the Youth Advisory Committee, download the application and reference form from the DEAL.org site and return it to the address on the form.

Slide 10: kids.DEAL.org

- **Has interactive activities for kids aged 5-12**
- **Encourages the development of critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving skills**

This new DEAL site was launched in November 2009. Activities include a Choose Your Own Adventure game and an online scavenger hunt.

Slide 11: parents.DEAL.org

- **Aimed at parents and educators**
- **Contains fact sheets on how to talk to youth about sensitive issues like drugs and bullying**
- **Contains a "Toolbox" of pre-made youth-friendly presentations on a variety of topics**

Like the kids site, this DEAL site was launched in November 2009. The goal of this site is to teach parents and educators from a youth perspective about the issues facing young people. It focuses on how to talk to youth about issues like drugs, bullying, mental health and a variety of other issues.

The Toolbox contains presentations written in youth-friendly language on a variety of topics such as bullying and internet safety. Each presentation also comes with a presenter script, icebreakers and activities to engage the youth audience and reinforce what they have learned.

Slide 12: How Can I Get Involved?

- **Send us a suggestion for a blog topic**
- **Let us know about a youth-led project that you've participated in or heard about in your community. We'll post the information on our site to help inspire other youth!**
- **Join our Youth Advisory Committee – sign up on our website!**

Slide 13: Questions or Comments?

Visit: www.DEAL.org

Email: deal-choix@rcmp-grc.gc.ca