



Gatineau - May 8th, 2026

Subject: Implementation of the new “What’s the Plan?” Prevention program by the Service de police de la Ville de Gatineau in Gatineau schools.

Dear Parents,

According to a study conducted by MADD Canada, 32% of teens believe that driving under the influence of cannabis is not as risky as driving under the influence of alcohol.¹ This finding is disturbing, given that a second study demonstrated that drivers who had consumed cannabis three hours before getting behind the wheel were almost twice as likely to be involved in a collision as those who had not.²

As such, the Service de police de la Ville de Gatineau (SPVG) has upgraded some of its activities to prevent impaired driving among young people. The SPVG is pleased to present its new “What’s the Plan?” prevention program in the schools of Gatineau. Over the course of the year, students will be made aware of how to prevent impaired driving and will be invited to consider various responsible alternatives should they find themselves in such a situation. Although many of the activities are aimed exclusively at secondary 5 graduates, all students in these schools will be invited to get involved.

As part of the “What’s the Plan?” program, your child will be exposed to or participate in a variety of activities led by police officers. These activities will include:

- Humorous but hard-hitting posters displayed in strategic locations around your child's school;
- A random activity held inside the school during lunchtime, consisting of a re-enactment of a bogus driving course completed with the help of goggles simulating an impaired state;
- The “What’s the Plan? Van: Some lucky students will be surprised during lunch or after class to encounter the “What’s the Plan?” van, a modified, colourful and illuminated police vehicle. Two police officers will accompany the vehicle and

¹ Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Youth and Impaired Driving. <https://madd.ca/pages/programs/youth-services/statistics-links/>

² *Ibid*

students will be able to enjoy an immersive experience by taking a humorous and informative quiz on impaired driving and the responsible choices associated with it;

- A one-hour workshop given in the spring by our police officers to all Secondary 5 classes in the area. The workshop will include prevention messages, tools for making good choices, and a 20-minute video featuring a group of young people in an impaired driving situation.
- A short video reminding people to make good choices and to have a "plan B" presented at your child's prom when he or she is in Secondary V.

Since you have a definite influence on the choices your child will make once they have their driver's licence, we very much hope that you will accept to get involved in the cause by discussing the subject with them. Together, we can make a difference!

Yours sincerely,

The *recherche, développement et soutien organisationnel* team of the Service de police de la Ville de Gatineau