



## **ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC AND LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS PROVIDE LEVEL TWO THREAT ASSESSMENT TRAINING TO HELP KEEP SCHOOLS SAFE**

School staff from both St. Clair Catholic and the Lambton Kent District School Board, along with police, community mental health professionals, probation officers and other community partners from Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton, took part in a two-day threat assessment training program. The training, which focuses on strategic interviewing of key individuals in the threat assessment process, including threat makers and targets, is aimed at helping make our schools and communities safer.

“We believe this training is important because it helps us identify and respond to behaviours that may pose a risk for violence in our schools and in our communities,” says Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. “The goal of early intervention by schools, community partners and families is to reduce the risk of violence, which may result in harm to individuals and others.”

To date, the Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton communities have held seven Level I training sessions since September 2011. The most recent Level II training involves more than 120 participants. The participation of multi-level community organizations assists in the review and sharing of relevant information, and a collaborative response, which is broad-based and makes use of a wide range of expertise.

The training is facilitated by Kevin Cameron, who is a board certified expert in traumatic stress. In partnership with the RCMP behavioural sciences unit, he developed Canada’s first comprehensive, multi-disciplinary threat assessment training program. He trains crisis response teams both nationally and internationally and consults with schools and communities. Mr. Cameron has also worked with the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Secret Service in helping to develop a protocol for schools to prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks.

***Pictured above (L-R) are Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education, St. Clair Catholic District School Board; Kevin Cameron, Threat Assessment Trainer; Mary Ann McCrae, St. Clair Catholic Resource Teacher – Behaviour; and David Doey, Superintendent of Education, Lambton Kent District School Board.***