



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2025

### **Safe Schools, Strong Futures National School Safety Week**

As classrooms refill this fall, the Canada Safety Council is focusing National School Safety Week (October 17-23) on a hard reality: more students and staff are reporting violence, both in person and online.

“Every child deserves to learn in an environment where they feel secure, respected, and supported,” said Gareth Jones, President and CEO of the Canada Safety Council. “When schools, families, and communities work together, we can prevent violence before it starts and build a culture of safety that empowers students to thrive.”

## **The Facts**

Violence in Canadian schools is climbing. [National surveys](#) show **nearly one in three students report being bullied**, the highest rate ever recorded. Online harassment is also common, with **up to one in four students targeted in just a two-month span**, and almost [three in ten youth overall](#) saying they’ve faced cyberbullying.

The problem extends beyond bullying. [Youth violent crime rose 10% in 2023](#), and teachers in Ontario say [they’re experiencing more, and more severe, incidents at school](#). Nearly a third report that they’ve been physically assaulted. [In Toronto alone](#), violent incidents in schools jumped **67% in five years**, while province-wide reports show a **77% increase since 2018**.

## **The Action**

School-based violence and online harms are escalating. Parents, educators, and policymakers need coordinated, data-driven strategies that combine strong prevention, rapid reporting, and robust support for students and staff alike.

Bullying and violence can’t be solved by schools or families alone — it takes both working together. Here are four simple but powerful steps parents, caregivers, and educators can take to make a difference:

1. **Make reporting easy.** Let kids know exactly [who they can go to](#) if they feel unsafe, and encourage schools to provide clear, safe ways to share concerns.
2. **Keep an eye on online life.** Set healthy limits on device use at home, talk openly about online behaviour, and remind students to save and share evidence if harassment happens.

3. **Model calm conflict resolution.** Show children how to handle disagreements respectfully by cooling down, using clear words, and involving an adult when needed.
4. **Follow through with support.** Watch for warning signs, like sudden mood changes, and offer consistent check-ins. Schools and families should work together to ensure victims, bystanders, and even aggressors get help to recover.

By standing together — parents, educators, and communities — we can all play a part in returning schools to the safe spaces they are meant to be and allow every child to feel protected, supported, and free to learn.

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