Youth will help solve crime problems

The provincial government is on the final step to having what are called "Youth Action Teams" in 46 different B.C. communities

The program was first hinted at by Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh during his visit to the Spruce Capital last month but the \$490,000 initiative wasn't official until Monday.

The idea behind the program is to get young people involved in dreaming up, developing and initiating programs for youths of all kinds.

They'll work primarily on projects dealing with crime and violence prevention, peer mentorship, positive role modelling, conflict resolution and problem solving issues specific to youth.

"If young people are to be given an opportunity to reach their full potential, they need support, skills and positive alternatives. The Youth Action Team will give youth a chance to develop community projects and put them into action," says Mr. Dosanjh.

The director of youth programs for the Attorney General's office says this has been a dream of hers for a long time, and it's very close to becoming a reality.

We've been advertising in schools, local policing agencies and youth groups for regional youth workers. There'll be six of them across the province co-ordinating the teams and helping to get the plans rolling," says Wendy Taylor.

She hopes to have these co-ordinators in place by mid-May.

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CKKN morning man Rob Mitchell (in the dress) lost a bet with George Blanis as to whether the Montreal Canadiens would make the playoffs and had to dress up in a compromising fashion on Monday. But Mitchell had the last laugh, when the New York Rangers eliminated the Habs from the playoffs.

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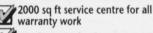
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