



**THE ABORIGINAL SHIELD  
PROGRAM**

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SHIELD PROGRAM**

**For more information, please contact**

**“THE BATTLE FOR INDIAN  
CHILDREN WILL BE WON  
IN THE CLASSROOM, NOT  
ON THE STREETS OR ON  
HORSES. THE STUDENTS  
OF TODAY ARE WARRIORS  
OF TOMORROW.”**

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**Drugs and Organized Crime  
Awareness Service (DOCAS)**



Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale  
du Canada

**Canada**

# ABORIGINAL SHIELD PROGRAM

One of the Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service's (DOCAS) main initiatives is the Aboriginal Shield Program (ASP), a youth-driven program established in 1992 to deliver substance abuse prevention and healthy lifestyles coaching to Canadian Aboriginal communities. The ASP is designed to offer culturally relevant teachings that can easily be adapted and expanded to fit individual community needs and complement existing local initiatives. The program is delivered in local schools across the country by community facilitators who undergo specific ASP training. When implemented in a collaborative manner, ASP has successfully enabled Aboriginal youth to gain a sense of cultural connection and pride, while learning to make informed choices about drug use and related activities.

The ASP is a twelve lessons Program for grades 5/6 and 7/8. Students who participate in the program will be taught to use a five step decision making model in order to make healthy lifestyle choices.

DOCAS has presently revised the old Aboriginal Shield Program to ensure the new manuals and lesson plans address the pressing needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities alike.

The newly revised ASP is being restructured to reflect a greater diversity of Aboriginal cultures and to incorporate the latest facts about Canadian drug issues, including emerging social challenges like Aboriginal gangs. Further, the new ASP manuals will offer interactive activities based on leading educational models in order to engage participants with age-appropriate and culturally stimulating content, presented in a dynamic, youth-friendly layout.

**D.R.U.M.S.** Aboriginal Shield PROGRAM GRADES 7/8

**DECISION MAKING MODEL**

Throughout the program lessons, we will be drawing on the D.R.U.M.S. model, a five-step decision-making process that can help us make strong, healthy choices when facing difficult situations. Here is the breakdown:

- D**etermine the situation
- R**emember you have choices
- U**nderstand the consequences
- M**ake a decision
- S**elf-evaluate

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Student Workbook GRADES 5 & 6

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Student Workbook GRADES 7 & 8

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