

video games  
Internet  
media  
violence  
television  
music  
Ontario



October 15-16, 2010 Doubletree by Hilton Toronto Airport

## When violence becomes entertaining:

Recapturing childhood and adolescence from the toxic influence of media

Violence in the media is pervasive. While our young people are surfing the Internet, gaming, or downloading music, they are being barraged by disturbing images. Many impressionable young people are unwittingly carrying these images into their schools and communities, perhaps putting themselves and others at risk.

Key leaders in the areas of bullying prevention, violence prevention, safe schools and media literacy will be brought together to share their expertise and explore the common elements of these challenges.

This two-day conference will feature Lt. Colonel David Grossman, a former West Point Psychology professor, Professor of Military Science and former Army Ranger, as keynote speaker. Lt. Colonel Grossman co-authored *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill: A Call to Action Against TV, Movie and Video Game Violence*. He has presented before the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric and American Psychological Associations and the American Academy of Pediatrics. An internationally recognized scholar, author, soldier and

speaker, Lt. Colonel Grossman is making a return visit as keynote speaker at an OTF Conference.

The conference will explore a variety of violence prevention strategies and programs. Resources geared to teachers, including the recently released Safe@School resource, will be provided to participants. Teacher workshops on integrated lesson plans from the "Addressing Violence in the Media" project will provide teachers with practical tools and skills specific to their grade/course/level. A broad range of workshops will be included in the program to meet the varied interests and needs of participants.

While the conference will have practical interest and applicability for teachers, others from the school community (parents, trustees, administrators) will also be invited. As usual, OTF will subsidize conference costs for OTF members, but in an effort to make the conference accessible to teachers from all systems, a specific number of spaces will be held for teachers from each Affiliate local prior to opening broader teacher registration.

Registration opens September 8, 2010.



Visit the OTF website on September 8, 2010 for registration and more information.