



Atlantic Summer  
Institute on  
Healthy and Safe  
Communities  
l'Institut d'été  
sur les collectivités  
sûres et en santé au  
Canada atlantique

## Atlantic Canada Showcase Presentation

### **The Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program**

#### **Description of Presentation**

Do you want to learn how to motivate your community and your kids to get them back into reading? Come speak with Cst. John Kennedy, Founder of The Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program. Cst. Kennedy has spent the last 13 years battling illiteracy on a local, national and global level. The partnerships he has built have brought millions of dollars of product, cash, books, prizes, incentives and in-kind support of various types to the world of literacy. The partnership between police, libraries and kids has grown and evolved into The World Literacy Championship which saw 80 schools from 4 countries compete for 4.5 months in 2007-2008. The 16,000 students read just under 1.1 million books with the winning school averaging 613 books per student.

According to the National Literacy Secretariat 48% of all Canadians fall into the two lowest levels of literacy. When you consider that statistic and add to it that 65% of inmates entering Canadian jails for the first time have difficulty reading, you can see where Cst. John Kennedy is coming from with his slogan of fighting crime one book at a time.

#### **How you will benefit**

- How to motivate your community
- How to network within your community
- How illiteracy and crime goes hand in hand

#### **Handouts**

Available during the presentation

#### **Presenter** John Kennedy



Cst. John Kennedy has been a Police Officer for 25 years. He founded this program in 1995, after 5 years of development the program took off after he was transferred to NS. With the assistance of staff from Pictou Antigonish Regional Library Cst. Kennedy was able to tie in illiteracy and crime and develop this long-term crime prevention initiative based on the belief if we teach our kids to read today we can keep them out of jail tomorrow. Also referred to FIGHTING CRIME ONE BOOK AT A TIME.

Cst. Kennedy has been developing unique ways to do community policing throughout his career and was inducted into the N.B. Crime Prevention Hall of Fame in 1997. His passion is to make literacy a priority for communities, politicians and kids.

John has 2 children and his wife Karen is a registered nurse.



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### **Resources**

[www.fightingcrime.ca](http://www.fightingcrime.ca)

### **Contact Information**

Cst. John Kennedy  
RCMP  
Nova Scotia  
Telephone: (902) 755-6031  
Email: aal@parl.ns.ca