

YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre set to open Oct. 1

WATCH ABOVE: Jill Croteau reports on a new centre targeting teens, set to open in October 2015.

CALGARY – A one-of-a-kind facility meant to address the pressures of growing up through the teen years is set to open this fall in Calgary.

“Our goal is not to cure something, but to prevent it,” said YouthLink’s Tara Robinson.

The YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre is a multi-million dollar space showcasing interactive exhibits. It’s a place that’s meant to encourage unfiltered conversations, and targets Grade 6 students.

“Kids can be very smart and very naïve: they think they’ll be offered drugs from adults and guys in trench coats, and we want to prepare them,” she said. “They’re going to see drugs and...we need to say, ‘your skin will turn yellow, their teeth will fall out we don’t sugarcoat it.’”



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FORENSICS CRIME CENTRE

A look at an artist rendering of the “forensics” section—part of the facility set to open this fall in Calgary.

YouthLink

Ten-year-old Michael Kirk went through the program’s summer camp component and said the discussion on drugs was particularly useful.

“An undercover cop came in and gave us different samples...I thought it was good information, so if I came in that situation I would know the right thing to do,” he said.

The students also learn about the impact of ever-evolving technology.

“I learned about bullying and online safety and passwords and giving out information and street smarts,” said Kirk.

Authentic and relevant examples of what the kids will face in the future are emphasized in the program.

“They want to shape us to make the right decisions when we’re older so we have a good future.”

The interpretive centre opens to the public Oct. 1. To learn more about the centre, which benefited from funding from the [Shaw Charity Classic](#), [click here](#).

With files from Erika Tucker

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