



## **Successful Lockdown Drill at YRHS/Parkland College Main Campus**

On May 1, 2019, at approximately 1:00 pm a School Lockdown Drill was completed at The Yorkton Regional High School/Parkland College Main Campus. The staff and students of the YRHS/Parkland College Main Campus did an outstanding job following their lockdown policies and procedures. The drill was a valuable learning opportunity for the school division senior leadership, school administration, staff, and students. It was also highly productive for the area Emergency First Responders to refine their skills in the unlikely event of a real lockdown.

The purpose of lockdown drills is to prepare and protect students and staff from potential threats. In this instance, the students and staff at the YRHS/Parkland College Main Campus were not advised what time the lockdown was to take place to get a true representation of a real event and how students and staff would react. The Fire Department and EMS also responded and used the situation as a training exercise. RCMP were truly impressed with the professionalism and response times from all Emergency Services. After the scenario was complete, the YRHS Administration & RCMP held separate debriefings. A joint meeting will be held next week to analyze what went well and areas of improvements.

The Yorkton RCMP hope to continue to hold these type of drills in the future to prepare school staff and students for a true crisis. RCMP feel it is important to note that not one student has been killed by a fire at a school in North America in the past 50 years yet we practise fire drills several times every year. In contrast, more than 400 people have been shot (138 whom were killed) in over 200 school shootings in North America since 2012 (New York Times, February 15, 2018). These facts are very alarming and the very reason we hope to continue practising and improving on these lockdown.

If anyone has any questions on school lock downs, please contact the Yorkton RCMP.

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