## Workplace Violence at Schools — Clear Communication to Prevent Escalation Stats and Facts



## **FACTS**

- 1. Inadequate communication may exacerbate minor disagreements into serious confrontations.
- 2. Lack of transparency can erode trust between educators and students, fostering a hostile environment.
- 3. Poor communication contributes to stress among staff and students, potentially leading to aggressive behaviours.
- 4. Without clear communication, resolving disputes becomes challenging, allowing issues to persist.
- 5. If communication channels are unclear, staff may hesitate to report potential threats, leaving risks unaddressed.
- 6. Failure to communicate safety protocols effectively can leave staff unprepared to handle violent situations.

## **STATS**

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports that nearly two million U.S. workers experience workplace violence annually, emphasizing the need for effective communication strategies to prevent such incidents.
- A study found that healthcare workers are five times more likely to experience workplace violence injuries than workers in other industries, highlighting the importance of de-escalation training in the U.S.A.
- The U.S. Secret Service and Department of Education emphasize that effective communication and collaborative planning are crucial in preventing school violence.
- A survey by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) revealed that 75% of members reported an increase in incidents of violence since they began working, with 31% having personally experienced physical injury.
- Two in five OSSTF/FEESO members (43%) witnessed an attempt of physical force against another staff person, with higher percentages among child and youth workers (78%) and education assistants (73%).
- In Canada, 31% of men and 47% of women reported experiencing some form of harassment or sexual assault in the workplace, highlighting the need for effective communication to address and prevent such issues.