

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GANG ACTION INTERAGENCY NETWORK TO HOST 2_{ND} CITY WIDE GANG FORUM TODAY "We are tired of watching our children be killed, abused and left for the streets to decide their futures"

TUESDAY, APRIL 16th, 2013 WINNIPEG MANITOBA- Today will be the second city wide gang forum hosted by Winnipeg's Gang Action Inter-Agency Network, a group of dedicated agencies working together to solve Winnipeg's gang problem. The forum is based on a year of research and data collection on different gang strategies, gang exit strategies, youth consultation and key stakeholder interviews. GAIN will be highlighting three key aspects of a gang exit strategy and working to develop a strong action plan.

"It's insane that in a city like Winnipeg, with a gang problem like we have, that there is no strategy for getting kids out of a gang," says Jamil Mahmood, GAIN co-chair. "We are tired of watching our children be killed, abused and left for the streets to decide their futures. We need to step up and develop a gang exit strategy and a city wide comprehensive gang strategy before we lose any more of our children."

WHO/WHAT: A one day city wide gang forum **WHERE:** University of Winnipeg Convocation Hall

WHEN: Tuesday April 16th, 2013

AGENDA:

Keynotes and Research to be presented: 8:50-9:45 a.m.

Interviews available: 9:45-10:15 a.m.

Jamil Mahmood- *Executive Director*, Spence Neighbourhood Association Tammy Christensen- *Executive Director*, Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.

Floyd Wiebe- Gang Awareness Parents

Matt Fast- GAIN Researcher, Gang Action Interagency Network

Gang Action Interagency Network or GAIN is a network of agencies, government, law enforcement officials, working on grass roots solution to the gang problem in Winnipeg. GAIN is a network committed to taking action to address and solve the gang problem by building on research, current practices, and developing the resources needed to prevent youth from joining gangs and help youth get out of gangs.

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For more information or interviews, please contact GAIN Co-chairs: Jamil Mahmood, 204-783-8607 or 204-803-7808 e. jamil@spenceneighbourhood.org Tammy Christensen, 204-586-2588 e. tammy@ndinawe.ca