**Editorial: Report isn't the last word on bullying**

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Though a new provincial report provides some good ideas on dealing with bullying among children and youth, it doesn't offer the definitive solutions some were hoping for. Sadly, there are likely no definitive solutions to be found.

Bullying is a complex human behaviour - some among us wrongly choose, or are compelled, to pick on those they consider to be weaker than themselves - or who are just plain "different".

Every generation has had to deal with "the schoolyard bully", but the arrival of the Internet in recent years has compounded the problem. Social websites, Twitter and texting allow intimidation to continue long after school is out. Victims can be hounded online 24/7. Indeed, cyberbullying has been blamed for the suicide deaths of a number of teens, including some in Saskatchewan.

Even before yesterday's release of Saskatchewan's Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyberbullying, Education Minister Don Morgan had cautioned that "we will never as a province eliminate bullying, but we would like to have some good tools in place and be able to have an understanding where parents and students can go to look for those supports."

The extensive report prepared by Saskatoon MLA and Legislative Secretary Jennifer Campeau does provide some new tools and ideas that the government says it will implement, including: ¦ Updated policies and procedures in schools to ensure a consistent approach on prevention, rapid response and intervention when bullying occurs.

A new anonymous online tool to allow victims to report bullying incidents.

The province working with school divisions to ensure all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students are taught "appropriate and responsible online behaviour".

Echoing Morgan's thoughts, Campeau's report acknowledges that "bullying is complex and there are no easy solutions." Even agreeing on a definition of what constitutes bullying is difficult. During consultations with more than 1,000 Saskatchewan residents, Campeau and Education Ministry officials heard that it would be "difficult for a single definition to cover the many circumstances" of bullying.

In general, Campeau found that bullying is a relationship issue where one person or group uses "power and aggression to control or intentionally hurt, harm or intimidate others".

Often, bullying is clear cut, especially when it gets physical. Sometimes it is not. And in a society where social discourse continues to coarsen - driven largely by commenting cowards cloaked in the anonymity of the Internet - it can be difficult to determine when ever-changing boundaries of acceptable behaviour are crossed. Schools already have the power to suspend or expel bullies. Police get involved when bullying escalates to crime. New Criminal Code measures to tackle cyberbullying are expected soon from the federal government.

But laws alone are not the answer. Governments rightly provide tools and procedures to regulate behaviour.

But parents have major role to play here, both in teaching their children to speak out should they be victimized and to ensure their children treat others with civility and respect.