

## Virginia Tech Shootings û Reviewing the Lessons

CTV NEWS

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LLOYD ROBERTSON: After every school shooting of course the same questions are asked. How could this happen, and how can future tragedies be prevented? Some schools install cameras and metal detectors, others try to reach out to troubled students and raise awareness of bullying. And the gun control debate is always renewed. But as CTV's Genevieve Beauchemin reports, despite the many measures taken, the killings continue.

GENEVIEVE BEAUCHEMIN (Reporter): As news of the shootings spread across this country, shock spread across campus at Dawson College. Hader Kadihm was shot in the head the day of the rampage here last September. Images of that day and of the classmate they lost came flooding back.

HADER KADIHM (Dawson College Student): If we start talking again about this event it might bring us back the memories and the sadness.

BEAUCHEMIN: Dawson College and so many others before it, and every time the same question, what can be done to prevent the next killing spree? Dawson administrators refuse to change this place of learning into a fortress.

PIERRE BEAULIEU (Dawson College): The college will not become a jail.

BEAUCHEMIN: Still there's one more security guard on duty and a better emergency plan. At other schools, too, there's more surveillance.

ROBIN ALFORD (University of Winnipeg): We are fully aware of our responsibilities as an institution to protect those who learn here.

BEAUCHEMIN: Police, too, have changed their techniques. They waited for back-up in 1989 as a gunman killed 14 women at the Polytechnique. Now procedure calls for them to go after the killer right away to limit the number of victims. Still, this safety expert says, schools are simply vulnerable.

STU AUTY (**Canadian Safe School Network**): Somebody with an agenda, somebody with a weapon can always somehow get in and cause havoc.

BEAUCHEMIN: In Canada, gun laws are stricter since the Polytechnique. Still, many want to toughen them up even further. For some, though, the answer may be more elusive. Reverend Dale Lang's son Jason was killed in Taber, Alberta.

REVEREND DALE LANG (Father): It now seems to be that whenever people get into a very desperate place in their lives, this becomes some sort of a chosen solution.

BEAUCHEMIN: He's spoken out against bullying in schools, talked about reaching out, still he and others no know single program, no single law can make schools entirely safe. Genevieve Beauchemin, CTV News, Montreal.

ROBERTSON: And we'll have more coverage of this dark day on the campus of Virginia Tech later in the news, including more eyewitness accounts. But here at home, the tables turn as the former head of the Mounties faces interrogation. Giuliano Zaccardelli defends his actions as RCMP Commissioner. But first, spring surprise. How the rain and even some weather records fell on a very damp day. Still to come on CTV National News.