

LOYALIST COLLEGE

Behaviours of Concern

No one can predict who is likely to commit a violent act; however, there are some traits that they have in common. The following behaviours or actions either individually or collectively have been observed in those individuals who have been involved in violent incidents. Take these behaviours “in context”. Look for multiple warning signs and signs of escalation.

- ✓ personality changes (e.g. someone who is normally outgoing and enthusiastic becomes quiet and withdrawn)
- ✓ aggressive, inappropriate or disrespectful responses or interactions with faculty, staff or students
- ✓ change in work habits (e.g. quality of assignments decline, are handed in late or not at all; class attendance decreases or ceases without explanation)
- ✓ marked change in personal hygiene
- ✓ significant weight gain or loss
- ✓ frequent incidents of irritability
- ✓ signs of alcohol or drug abuse
- ✓ bizarre behaviour (e.g. talking to someone who is not present)
- ✓ irrational beliefs and ideas
- ✓ emotional fragility, experiencing sudden changes in mood
- ✓ recurring troubled relationships – with peers, parents & others
- ✓ grandiose or narcissistic statements
- ✓ social rejection and isolationism
- ✓ fascination or preoccupation with weapons or acts of violence
- ✓ excessive behaviours (e.g. gift giving, phone calls)
- ✓ lack of concern for the safety and well being of others
- ✓ blames others for his or her mistakes or problems

Some high risk behaviours must be **immediately** referred to the Director of Student Success (students) or Director of Human Resources Services (staff):

- serious violence with intent to harm
- verbal/written/internet threats to kill others or themselves
- possession of weapons, including replicas
- fire setting
- sexual intimidation or assault