

David Fortin has been missing since February 2009

By Anne Sutherland

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MONTREAL — It has been five years since David Fortin disappeared from his home in Alma and the Missing Children's Network and Sun Youth marked the occasion by extending the reward for information about his whereabouts and pleas for the public not to forget him.



David, age 14 at the time, left his home shortly before 8 a.m. on Feb. 10, 2009, to board a bus for school. He never got on the bus and he never showed up at school. There has been no trace of him since that day.

David had been teased and bullied at school for years starting in kindergarten and might have run away.

In the five years since he went missing, there have been several alleged sightings of the youth, who would now be 19, in British Columbia, at a hockey game in Montreal and on a bus in the Gay Village.

Following a request from the investigators responsible for the case, Sun Youth announced Monday it has renewed the reward offer of up to \$10,000 for a further six months, until Aug. 10.

During an assembly of students at Vincent Massey Collegiate in Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on Monday, Pina Arcamone of the Missing Children's Network and David's mother, Caroline Lachance, launched a new safety program specially designed for high school-aged students and new initiatives to combat bullying.

Safety, Trust, Awareness and You (STAY) is an interactive 60-minute workshop with the goal of helping teens make safer choices.

“As adults, we all have the responsibility to protect our children and serve as role models for them. No matter what our role is in the community, we can influence lives and maybe even save one, by helping to prevent bullying,” Arcamone said. “Our goal is to prevent another David.

“STAY is designed to increase the students' knowledge about runaway resources and prevention, provide them with alternatives to running away and encourage them to access and seek help from trusted community members.”

Anyone with information about David Fortin's whereabouts is asked to contact the Sûreté du Québec at 1-800-659-4264 or the Missing Children's Network at 1-888-692-4673. All calls are confidential.