**Tracking Gangs in British Columbia**

**Defining ‘Gang’**

**Source:** Criminal Code of Canada

[**https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/section-467.1.html**](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/section-467.1.html)

[**https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/page-101.html#docCont**](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/page-101.html#docCont)

**Comprehension:**

1. What constitutes a ‘gang’ according to the Criminal Code (and in your own words)?
2. Participation in a ‘criminal organization’ is both a indictable offence or summary conviction. Explain.
3. What is the punishment for those who would recruit a youth under 18 years of age to a ‘gang?’

**Analysis:**

1. Explain how the Crown has some flexibility in prosecuting participation in a criminal organization.

2. Explain the difference in punishment between committing a criminal offense on behalf of a ‘gang’ and instructing someone to commit an offense for a ‘gang?’ Why more severe to those who ‘instruct?’

**The Gang Lifestyle in BC**

**Source: The Usual Suspects: How BC’s middle-class gangs are unlike any other in North America**

[**https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-middle-class-gang-problem-surrey-1.5259790**](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-middle-class-gang-problem-surrey-1.5259790)

**Comprehension:**

1. Provide a three sentence overview of the article.

2. What is ‘unique’ about gang membership in BC relative to other jurisdictions in North America?

3. What are factors leading youth to ‘gang life’ in British Columbia?

4. BC gangs span socio-economic classes and are multi-ethnic. Explain.

5. Quitting ‘gang life’ can be difficult and dangerous. Explain.

**Analysis:**

1. There is some debate over whether ‘gang’ is the right word to use. Explain.

**BC’s Evolving Gang Landscape**

**Source: ‘There’s no rock bottom anymore’: BC’s evolving gang landscape causing spike in violence**

[**https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/middle-class-gang-history-in-bc-breaks-from-history-1.5261044**](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/middle-class-gang-history-in-bc-breaks-from-history-1.5261044)

**Comprehension:**

1. Are gangs in British Columbia a relatively new thing? Discuss.

2. How is it difficult for authorities to define and quantify gangs in British Columbia (nowadays)? Explain.

3. One observer notes, ‘in the good old days’ there was less violence by and between gangs. Explain.

4. What implications exist of a rise in lethal ‘gang’ violence for youth, as opposed to years gone by?

5. What is the ‘entry way’ for youth into gang life? At what cost, however?

**Analysis:**

1. "In B.C., gangs are, generally speaking, an irrational response to rational circumstances.'' Explain.