

NOT GUNS

USING FITNESS & MENTORSHIP TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

n the heart of Alberta, a groundbreaking initiative is changing the lives of justice-involved youth through the power of fitness, mentorship, and redemption. Gloves Not Guns, a non-profit program under Pivot Society, is not just another boxing program—it's a movement aimed at steering youth away from gangs, crime, and violence while equipping them with discipline, purpose, and the tools for a better future.

At its core, Gloves Not Guns blends the physical and mental discipline of boxing with the power of lived-experience mentorship. The program serves over 200 youth monthly, including young people inside Calgary Young Offender Centre (CYOC) and Edmonton Young Offender Centre (EYOC), those in open custody, and justice-involved youth in the community. By offering non-contact boxing training, life skills workshops, and mentorship from former gang members and individuals who have served time in federal prison, Gloves Not Guns creates a structured pathway out of the cycle of violence and incarceration.