



BUILDING SAFER Communities



National Crime Prevention Strategy

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Police and Crime Prevention

Chief Edgar MacLeod of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service is the President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP). Chief Constable Ben Anderson of the Oak Bay Police Service in British Columbia is the Co-Chair of the CACP Crime Prevention Committee, with Dorothy Franklin of the RCMP as the other Co-Chair.

They are leaders in the Canadian policing community and in the following interview, they share their views on the nature and the future of the police role in crime prevention.

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The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police is a national organization of police executives and partner organizations dedicated to supporting efficient law enforcement and leading progressive change in policing. In turn, its Crime Prevention Committee is committed to promoting a comprehensive, inclusive approach to addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder.

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Letter from the Editors

A couple of months back, we came across an article in the *Manchester Guardian* that piqued our interest.

It stated that researchers in Britain, as well as in the United States and here in Canada, have been urging police over the last twenty years "to think in a radically different way — to stop relying on the conventional tools of arrest and conviction and to start looking beneath the surface to manipulate the causes of crime, to stop being dragged around by events in favour of stepping back and trying to change them."

By all accounts, the police have responded to this challenge. As this issue of *Building Safer Communities* highlights, there are indications, both in thought and action, that police across the country understand the importance of looking to the root causes of crime and actively support initiatives that have been organized to deal with them head on.

This spirit clearly informs the work of police to a much greater degree today than when the researchers first made their case. It is, to some extent, reflected in the ideas of community policing and problem-solving policing. But it is, more to the point, captured in the growing appreciation, across the breadth of society, for "crime prevention through social development" initiatives.

From the policing perspective, the challenges are, as the *Guardian* suggests, "to say that arrests and convictions have their uses but they also have their limits, to break out of the boundaries of the criminal justice system by pushing resources and energy into working with other agencies... (and) to attack the infinitely complex roots of crime with infinitely flexible tactics."

In looking at the stories we've gathered in this issue, from Whitehorse to Montreal, we can begin to get a sense of just how the barriers are being pushed and the flexibility of the "tactics" in play.

Unlike community or problem-solving policing, the role for police in these types of initiatives (crime prevention through social development) is often more of champion, partner and stakeholder. This type of role can be difficult to put into operational terms for organizations such as police that are intensely operational.

Speaking in Nova Scotia earlier this year, Chief Edgar MacLeod (who is interviewed in this issue with Chief Ben Anderson) acknowledged that partnerships are a challenge for police who "are highly skilled at taking charge of situations." But once the effort has been made, he added, the results are impressive and durable.

Both Chief MacLeod and Chief Anderson have much to say on the subject of roles which, given their own very important roles with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP), provides interesting insights on the innovative perspective of one of the most important policing organizations in Canada.

As well, in this issue, we want to give you a sense of the efforts that are underway in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and in the newly formed Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to advance crime prevention through social development. We'd like to thank our friends at the RCMP and PSEPC, Dorothy Franklin and Chantal Marion respectively, for sharing these items with us.

Taken together, the nature of the dialogues within the CACCP, the RCMP and PSEPC, reflect a genuine commitment to dealing with the root causes of crime and a determination to bring these initiatives more fully into the police fold.

As always, we hope you enjoy what we have to offer in this issue and we welcome any comments or suggestions. ■

The Editors

We've moved!

On December 12, 2003, the Prime Minister announced that the National Crime Prevention Strategy was becoming part of a new department and portfolio, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The Honourable Anne McLellan was named Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

As Minister of Justice from 1997 to 2002, Anne McLellan played a formative role in the creation and implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy. In what is something of a homecoming, the Deputy Prime Minister has said "I am pleased to once again have the National Crime Prevention Strategy in my file — and I know that it will continue to improve the lives of Canadians by empowering them to build safer communities. I look forward to the achievements that will come as a result of our collective efforts."

Among other things, the new department is responsible for corrections and policing (which makes this issue, we hope, all the more relevant).

As it happens, we have also changed locations — the Ottawa offices of the National Crime Prevention Centre are now located at 11-222 Queen Street, Ottawa, K1A 0P8.



The San Romanoway Revitalization Association (SRA) started in the spring of 2002 in one of Toronto's toughest neighbourhoods.

Its first program was a Summer Day Camp for children who would otherwise be on their own running around the neighbourhood as "latch key kids." In the first summer, there were 56 neighbourhood children enrolled in the day camp/tennis instruction and swimming program. By the summer of 2003, there were 84 children enrolled.

From its inception, the SRA recognized that partnerships with local police were integral to addressing issues in the San Romanoway neighbourhood. The SRA works closely with Toronto Police Services — 31 Division, and Staff Inspector Bernie Power is a Board member.

The SRA is confident it's made a positive impact on the neighbourhood. When the association was conceived, the crime rate in San Romanoway was an astounding 228 per cent above the national average. By last September, that rate had decreased by 60 per cent.

The following article on the project is reprinted with permission from the *National Post*.

Home Springs Eternal

What started out as a homework club is changing the face of Jane-Finch

PETER KUITENBROUWER, NATIONAL POST

Tennis? At Jane and Finch? You'd better believe it. And curried chicken, rice, salad and roti, too.

At the San Romanoway Revitalization Association, we're celebrating Vishan Shivprasad's 11th birthday with a Guyanese feast, the kids all in a line on folding chairs, red plastic sheets covering the chipped plywood tables. The cook is Bibi Baksh, a plump and cheerful woman in a checkered apron and flip-flops who has just one rule, as posted on the door to her domain: No Kids Allowed in the Kitchen.

After lunch, it's time for colouring, climbing and swinging on the spanking new playground, as well as swimming lessons and tennis.

Yes, things are looking up at the corner of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West, long known as one of the city's most violent neighbourhoods. This is an area where lots of kids don't have lunch, never mind opportunities for advancement.

But all that's changing. Three years ago, Baksh teamed with the property managers and some volunteers and started Time Out, letting kids play with balls and hula hoops on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the summer on the then-derelict tennis courts. "It was all busted up at the time," she recalls.

Back then, the community centre was abandoned, the pool broken and closed down, and the kids spent their days hanging out on the bald patches between the two forbidding towers, No. 10 and No. 25 San Romanoway, which are 32 and 25 storeys high. The kids had nothing to do and, often, nothing to eat.

"It's hard to have your lunch and you'd see kids sitting around and they're hungry," says Sham Shivprasad, who has worked for 16 years at the daycare here. "I'd say, 'Where's your lunch?' and they'd say, 'I don't have any,' and so I'd give them money to go to McDonald's."

Two years ago, in the disused space in the basement of 15 San Romanoway, which houses the daycare — a rough space of worn linoleum and marked-up walls

— the Revitalization Association opened shop. It started small, just a homework club with used computers donated by Rogers. The place took off. Now the day camp, in its second summer, counts 70 kids, with more on the waiting list, each of whom pays \$150 for two months of all-day programming, including breakfast, lunch and snack.

Today, Shivprasad says, the mood has changed.

"Now the kids are keeping busy, go to parks and have picnics. My son is in the camp. He loves it. The older kids help the younger kids."

A remarkable patchwork of funding sources, volunteers and donations make up the association. Stitching it together is Stephnie Payne, a nurse who emigrated from England in the late 1960s and for 35 years has lived, she says, "in the shadow of these buildings."

Payne, who is also a school trustee, knows this area's bad image, knows of all the crimes committed around here. When she first started working here, she says, police came by all the time, to make sure she was safe. Now they hardly ever come, except to say hi. Still, a woman jumped to her death off a balcony here a few weeks ago after calling 911 (police ruled it a suicide) and, the other day, a gun scare forced Payne to evacuate the tennis courts and playground. It was a false alarm. But with the revitalization picking up steam, people are moving back to the neighbourhood.

Roxanne Nanton, a mother of four, grew up here, then moved to Bloor Street West and Islington Avenue.

"It was a predominantly middle-class neighbourhood," she says. "I always felt that I was a thief when I walked into a store because of the colour of my skin." Now she's

back, volunteering at the association. "It's bringing out more people. People are getting to know each other," she says.

May 30 was a historic day. Hundreds of volunteers, helped by donations from the Jane & Finch Mall, plus Canadian Auto Workers Local 27, assembled a Home Depot playground between the buildings, all in one day, complete with four slides, a rock climbing wall and a couple of swings. The playground is way too small, but it's a heck of a start, and they've even planted lots of new shrubs and trees around it.

"I was tired as a dog, my great toenail smashed in, and then these Ethiopian women came up in their hijabs and they were kissing me," Payne recalls, smiling.

The Revitalization Association functions with \$100,000 a year for three years from the National Crime Prevention Strategy, plus money from Human Resources Development Canada to pay counsellors \$8 an hour. The building owners, Glen Corp., Residential Equities and Greenwin Property Managers Inc., have spent about \$2 million on

the revitalization effort since 1999, Payne says. Second Harvest delivers food on Thursdays. Tennis Canada resurfaced the tennis courts.

Armin Milani, 21, is the tennis instructor, paid by the Doug Philpot organization, a group that teaches tennis to inner-city

kids and is funded by donations. He's jazzed about his summer job.

"It's sort of a passion for me, working with the kids," he says. A few kids are developing very quickly. Monte, he says, pointing out one boy, "developed the fundamentals of tennis, and Suban is developing very rapidly, too. It shows that if you give these kids an opportunity, they can excel. We try to stress discipline, hard work, respect, following instructions."

On the tennis courts we do exercises. "Hold your hands out at shoulder height," Milani says. "Fight the pain. Fight the pain. The first person whose hands go below shoulder level is doing a lap. Burrito! You're doing a lap."

The kids here are so excited and happy. Here are some of their names, which they made me promise I'd publish: Oneisha, Lisa, Georgicia, Maxwellleta, Dominic, Rhondel, Terry and Chantal. "What do you think of the camp?" I ask. "It's wicked," Rhondel says.

So there.

I'm glad my first visit to Jane and Finch is a happy one. I am eager to return. ■





CACP continued from cover

Q How are you fostering crime prevention through social development in your communities, and what have been some successes and challenges?

E-M What we've been doing in our area is trying to engage the community and get them doing activities where they're taking a very proactive approach. So our officers are facilitating activities and making sure that they are owned by the communities. The challenges, of course, are convincing people that they can make a difference.

Q And do people do that?

E-M Absolutely. We've got more and more people working at building the community, and actually there are a lot of partnerships in action. We are actually just a small part of the process. We feel that's the right way to go because programs are owned by the community.



Chief Edgar MacLeod

B-A I think the important thing is to encourage practices to ensure that the community feels empowered and that they are part of the solution. For example, people at the local level are very concerned about traffic issues. So we have the Speedwatch program that works with the police



Chief Constable Ben Anderson

through the community. It is a volunteer program which sees citizens man a board that displays the speed of approaching vehicles, encouraging drivers to slow down. It may not be a crime prevention practice per se, but it is the development of a partnership at the local level.

Q How do you see the role or commitment of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to crime prevention?

E-M First and foremost, we took the very significant step in the last year or two to endorse a national strategy on community safety and crime prevention. It speaks specifically to addressing crime prevention through social development. So that was a first step for us, recognizing a sustainable approach to crime prevention. It involves a number of activities, but most importantly we're addressing some of the root causes of crime, causes that erode family and social and economic conditions.

The second part is that some researchers tell us that the police in Canada are still looked upon as credible authorities on crime and crime prevention. So we feel that by lending our voice to this strategy, we'll indeed send a signal to other government agencies, such as health, welfare and education, that we need to work together in practical partnerships.

Thanks for Making a Difference

"...You are the Cop who I called Pig and DirtBag and probably worse. Do you remember the night I was out drinking with a bunch of guys, out showing off on my first night in the big city? It was my first week at College. I could have blown it all right then and there. I was loaded drunk and had no idea who I was hanging around with. I could have ended up in a bad way. You cleaned me up and let me sleep it off in the lock-up. You showed me pictures of your own family. You asked me something I never forgot. You said "If you found your own daughter out loaded drunk with a bunch of guys, almost passed out in a crowd of strangers, how would you feel?" And I couldn't even answer you, it made me cry so hard. You said "You'd want to take care of her, and love her." Then you said, "You deserve that kind of love too." Wow! I realized then and there that I was more than my body. My body was worth treasuring, and so was my mind. Sometimes after that I'd see you around, and you always gave me a smile..."

excerpt from "Letter from the Future," by Berni Stapleton

Award-winning St. John's playwright Berni Stapleton is developing Letter from the Future, a public education tool, in conjunction with National Crime Prevention Strategy staffers in Atlantic Canada. It is a composite story of a young woman who had a rough time growing up. The "letter" is meant to be delivered as a dramatic monologue, touching on several vignettes where the attention and intervention of community members made a lasting, positive difference in a troubled person's life.

Letter from the Future has been delivered at about a dozen events and conferences in Atlantic Canada, and is being evaluated to determine how best to make this tool or storytelling format available to partners in crime prevention. ■

But probably most important, the chiefs are seeing that if these crime prevention programs are driven and owned by the community, they will in all likelihood be far more sustainable than if they are led by the police. So in this whole strategy, we see our role more as facilitators than leaders.

The federal government has done wonderful work at the national level with the National Crime Prevention Strategy. We believe that what is needed is a coalition engaging in a public policy discussion across three levels of government instead of just federal and provincial. This means that partners like the Federation of Canadian Municipalities would play an important

part in these discussions. We need to become the catalyst, developing a way to drive the strategy right down through our networks and communities. Now that's a big task, but it's a task which we think we need to undertake. That's why it's so important for us to build this coalition, to rally behind a national strategy, so that it's not just governments themselves that are pushing the strategy. It's all of our agencies coming in and saying, 'Look, this approach make sense.' So we think there's a lot of work that needs to be done at the national level and at a very strategic level. But then it needs to be brought down to a more practical level to the provinces and then ultimately down to the local level.



Role of Police in Crime Prevention, Past, Present and Future

BY CHANTAL MARION

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

In the last few decades, governments have increasingly realized that a traditional criminal justice response alone cannot solve the complex problem of crime. Legislation can only go so far in providing safer communities. A larger criminal justice system will not solve all crime-related problems.

What is needed to help reduce crime and the fear of crime, rather, are prevention-focused solutions that address risk factors and root causes.

Over the past three decades, there have been significant changes in the organization, management and delivery of police services in Canada.

As early as the 1970s, police agencies began to experiment with team and zone-policing strategies, which were precursors to what would eventually become community policing.

By the early 1990s, the majority of police agencies in Canada had shifted towards a community-oriented policing style, which incorporates proactive crime prevention initiatives. Some of these changes were due to political pressures. Others came from within and were based on the recognition that to be effective, police forces had to better recognize and reflect the needs of the communities they served.

Community-orientated policing is not only about crime. It is about setting up inter-agency partnerships, incorporating community involvement and increasing the delivery of prevention-oriented services. Overall, this approach is about bringing the police and communities together to make crime prevention a part of their everyday lives.

While the community policing model went a long way to better responding to community needs, there is still a need to focus more on the root causes of crimes. The police are the only 24/7/365 service available to respond

to emergencies, yet recent budget cuts have meant some police agencies are operating well below optimal staffing levels. A new approach is needed, and an integrated model of crime prevention through social development to help reduce the number of calls the police have to respond to.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy (which is part of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada) was introduced to provide this comprehensive framework. One of its components, the Crime Prevention and Public Safety Initiative, aims to strengthen the capacity of one crucial player — the police — to address the root causes of crimes. The Government's role, under the National Strategy, is to provide the appropriate tools and framework to allow law enforcement officials to adapt and improve their responses to crime.

The "crime prevention through social development" approach is based on the principle that the surest way to reduce crime is to focus on the factors that put individuals at risk — factors such as family violence and drug abuse. The Strategy attempts to provide the police and communities with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to work collaboratively to address the root causes of crime at a local level.

Working closely with community stakeholders and police representatives, it is developing and supporting activities to promote and enhance the role of the police in addressing the underlying causes of crime. Through a series of Crime Prevention Workshops and the work of key partners who are solidifying the necessary partnerships at the local, regional and national levels (such as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police), the message is being relayed that there is a need to re-think the way we police.

To do this more effectively, more information about crime prevention through social development is needed. PSEPC is currently undertaking a "visioning" exercise, which will form the basis for policy development and discussions among stakeholders. This process will assist in identifying and collecting police-related crime prevention issues in Canada, and in assembling a comprehensive guide to the police role in crime

prevention through social development. Specifically, this process should provide a better understanding of the state of crime prevention and policing and a vision of how crime prevention through social development could be better integrated within police work and the communities they serve.

To accomplish this, PSEPC is focusing on further defining the role of police in crime prevention through social development. In consultation with key partners and stakeholders, it will now move to:

- (1) Assemble a compilation of promising projects involving police participating in crime prevention initiatives;
- (2) Evaluate known crime prevention projects to provide a better understanding of the process and obstacles of implementing crime prevention through social development initiatives;
- (3) Publish the results of a sample survey of police detachments conducted to better understand the current state of crime prevention and policing (*Core Policing, Crime Prevention and the Future of Policing In Canada: Towards a Vision*); and
- (4) In collaboration with NCPS and the CACP, administer a national survey of chiefs of police on crime prevention through social development.

Ultimately, the Government is committed to contributing to a sustained reduction in crime by providing police and communities with the knowledge, tools and support they require to work together to address the root causes of crime and victimization. ■

Chantal Marion is a Policy Analyst with the Drug and Crime Prevention Strategy of PSEPC.

I think that our role is not leading or taking charge, but taking some responsibility for ensuring governments bring us together, to sit down and look at policies and look at relationships. Things don't happen just by good will themselves. We've got to put structures in place and we've got to do things that will make this process go. Words are not enough. Paper is not enough. We actually have to sit down and build a structure, a coalition to encourage and enable communities to be proactive in their crime prevention efforts. Otherwise the strategy makes us less effective; it becomes nothing more than a document in a binder.

Q Chief Anderson, what will be your responsibility for crime prevention in your role with the CACP?

B-A Clearly we have to show the leadership, we have to be leaders in this initiative. We've come a long way, I think, in the last two years showing leadership and broadening the coalition. As the CACP, we have to take that responsibility to a national level and ensure that we deliver, and indicate to our membership and our communities that they have a role to play.

Q Do you think Canadians will embrace police-led and police-partnered crime prevention efforts?

E-M Absolutely. I think our conversation about how we will be the catalysts and the leaders says much about the interest of the public. I think that when we show the way and state our intentions to do this kind of work, it will be seen as a positive sign by Canadians that these are worthwhile endeavours. ■



Taking Crime Prevention to the Extreme

BY CARRIE RICHMOND — YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRESS

WHITEHORSE

— For some Yukon youth, crime prevention is going downhill — literally — thanks to RCMP Const. Eyvi Smith.

Smith runs Youngriders, an innovative program that allows at-risk and underprivileged youth the opportunity to experience prime outdoor recreation.

Every weekend during the winter, Smith and his band of volunteers venture out to Mount Sima with a handful of anxious rookie snowboarders.

The 33 year-old RCMP officer, who has worked with troubled youth for a number of years, says that giving young people positive activities they are interested in is a good way to keep them out of trouble.

"It's a healthy pastime and an alternative to drugs and alcohol. Then there is the self-esteem issue. Once they have gotten to a point where they are comfortable snowboarding, their confidence level just skyrockets," Smith says.

In the four years the program has been running, Smith has noticed a significant change in many of the kids.

"I've already seen direct results from a number of youth. I see them taking the initiative to get to the hill and trying to find the money to get their own equipment. So a few of them have graduated from our program and they are still out there. Some have even taken part in an instructors' course, so that is also providing them with employable skills."

The program not only helps the kids, Smith adds, it also helps the volunteers, giving them a better understanding of youth issues and helping them to form lasting relationships.

"A lot of the kids were already in conflict with the law, kids that we deal with quite regularly. It helps to provide a bridge between us and them. They get to see us in a different light. They get to know us on a first-name basis, which makes all the difference," Smith says. "You'll see these kids on the street. They won't wave to you because it is not cool to wave to a police officer, but they give you a nod and that is enough."

Judy Thrower of the Yukon Youth Directorate (a government directorate focusing on involving youth in governing) credits Smith's age and ancestry as reasons for the program's success.

"As an RCMP officer, he doesn't exhibit that authority on the hill, and as a First Nations person, he understands the culture," she says.

Thrower says it is especially important to have these types of youth programs in the North.

"There is a huge isolation factor, and many issues around alcohol and drug abuse. Those kinds of things have caused all levels of government to create youth programming in the communities," she says.

"It is giving them a positive environment. They are gaining skills and something that is of interest to them. These kids would not have the benefit of being able to participate if this program didn't exist because of cost. Just the activity is crime prevention in itself."

Smith says Youngriders has been able to make more than 300 trips to the hill thanks to outside funding of between \$7,000 and \$10,000. Funding has also helped Smith purchase seven full sets of equipment over the years.

Besides funding from the Youth Investment Fund (a fund contributed to by a number of Yukon Government departments), the RCMP and Crime Prevention Yukon, Smith says the program also benefits from much community involvement and attention.

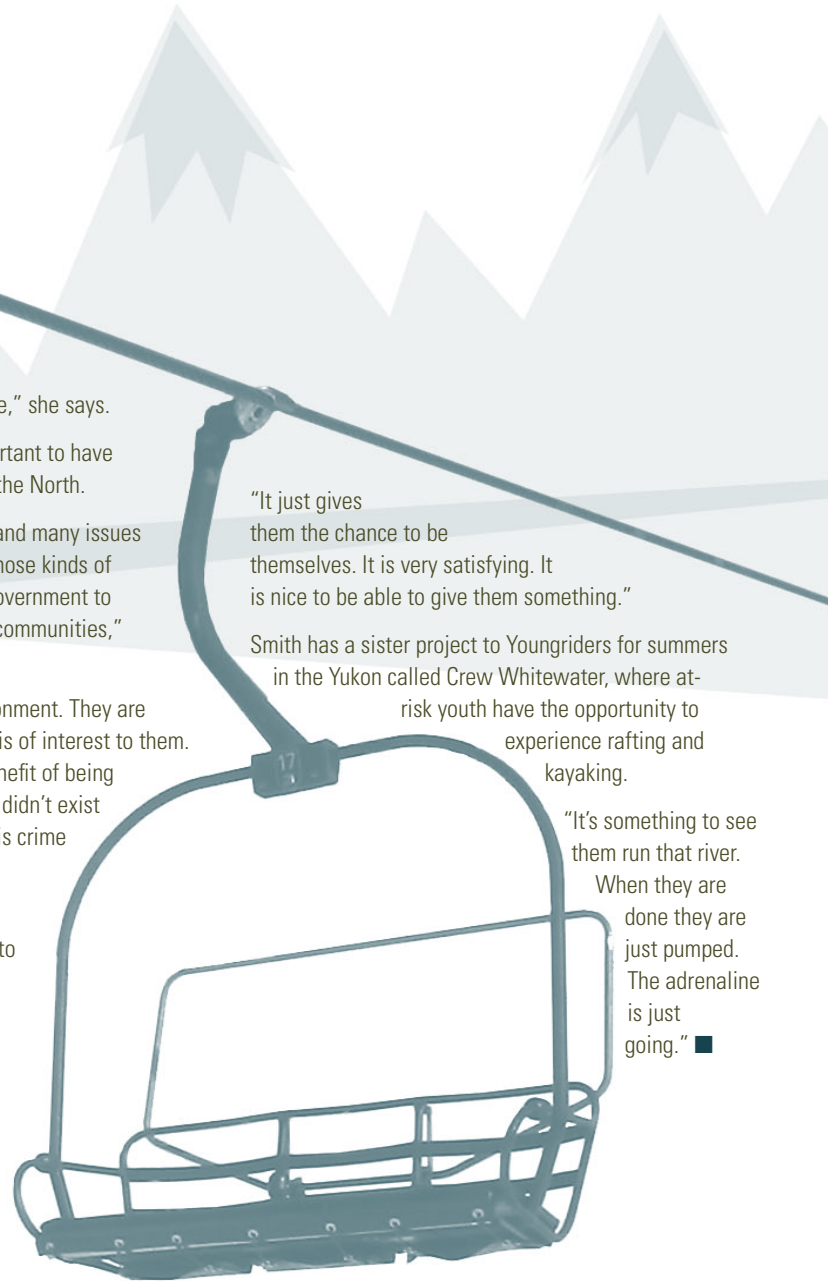
"There are a lot of people who believe in it," he says. "Every now and then, individuals will drop by and drop off money for us. Just a little while ago a local business dropped off \$1,000. There is a lot of involvement."

Smith says this community involvement has made all the difference for Youngriders. The hill's support and huge discounts have made it possible for large numbers of youth to be able to participate.

"It just gives them the chance to be themselves. It is very satisfying. It is nice to be able to give them something."

Smith has a sister project to Youngriders for summers in the Yukon called Crew Whitewater, where at-risk youth have the opportunity to experience rafting and kayaking.

"It's something to see them run that river. When they are done they are just pumped. The adrenaline is just going." ■





COLE'S Kids: Fulfilling Their Contract for Success

BY SARAH GRANT

EDMONTON — In the fall of 1998, Constable Rick Cole arrested a 14-year-old boy for shoplifting at the West Edmonton Mall.

A few months later, the Edmonton Police Service veteran arrested the same youth for committing the same crime at the same mall.

But this wasn't the first time Cole had to deal with the same young person more than once.

"I was frustrated by all the repeaters — dealing with the same kids over and over again — and I made a decision that I was going to do something a little bit differently," says Cole.

That something different was COLE'S Kids, an award-winning program that helps young people involved in bullying, assault, theft and mischief improve their behaviour.

For his innovative work with youth in conflict with the law, Cole is the 2003 winner of the Minister of Justice National Youth Justice Policing Award.

The program requires young people to sign a "contract for success," which often calls for them to attain better marks at school and keep their parents informed of their whereabouts.

The young person, their parents and police, create the contract as quickly as possible after an arrest or intervention, which is one of the main reasons the program works, Cole says.

"A month is a lifetime for a 12-year-old. If some kind of consequence doesn't happen quickly, it's not relevant," Cole says.

COLE'S Kids also requires parents to hold up their end of the bargain. The parents or guardian are asked to spend 15 minutes of one-on-one time with their child each day and make sure all the required chores are completed.

This often opens up the lines of communication between the child and their parents and allows the parents to lead by example, Cole explains. "The parents are really key," he says.

Cole started running the project entirely on his own in 1999, but it was so successful he had to find volunteers to share the work. Now, he has a team of volunteer mentors — teachers, principals, pastors, seniors and other community members — who help him ensure the young people are fulfilling their contracts.

The 22-year police veteran acts as a supporter and trainer for the mentors, and meets with them regularly to make sure the program is running smoothly — all this in addition to his duties as a full-time patrol officer.

The Youth Justice Policing Award is sponsored by the Department of Justice in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP). Cole was presented with the honour in Halifax at the Awards Gala Evening of the CACCP's annual conference, in August.

Along with the award, certificates of distinction were also presented to three officers working individually: Corporal Greg Fleet of the Regina Police Service; Retired Constable Terry Simm, formerly of the Sarnia Police Service; and Constable Ken Anderson of the Winnipeg Police Service.

Honourable mention certificates were also awarded to three officers working individually and to a team of two officers: Constable Richard McDonald of the Halifax Regional Police; Superintendent Dan Okuloski of the Halton Regional Police Service; Staff Sergeant Jake Bouwman of the RCMP's Chilliwack Detachment; and Constables Grant Hamilton and Tom Woods of the Victoria Police Department.

The awards recognize the efforts of police officers whose work promotes and reflects the goals of the federal government's initiative to renew the youth justice system in Canada.

The cornerstone of the initiative is the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, which replaced the *Young Offenders Act* as the basis for Canada's youth justice system in April, 2003. The new legislation encourages the use of programs that, like COLE'S Kids, provide meaningful responses for wrongdoing outside of the formal court process.

Helping young people through the program has been a rewarding experience for Cole. "Seeing the changes in some of these kids is really amazing," he says. ■

Susan Grant was a Communications Officer for Youth Justice Policy at Justice Canada.



Constable Rick Cole

Words Hurt.

That's the key message that Concerned Children's Advertisers hopes to deliver in its newest public service announcement "Words Hurt."

The goal of "Words Hurt" is to create a commercial which would demonstrate, in a credible and graphic manner, the painful and negative impact of psychological bullying. The hope is that kids will tap into, and act on, their feelings of empathy for the victim, by being aware of the negative impact of their actions.

"Psychological bullying, particularly verbal and social bullying, can be misconstrued as teasing or as a harmless rite of passage," says Cathy Loblaw, president of Concerned Children's Advertisers. "We want to help children and families to understand that this kind of bullying can be as hurtful as a slap to a child. This form of aggression undermines a child's self confidence and self worth — damaging them inside with lasting results."

The commercial uses high-tech animation techniques to illustrate the effect that words and behaviour can have on a child. By showing the effect of the actions of not just the bully, but her clique as well, the audience is reminded that both bullies and bystanders need to take responsibility for their words and their actions.

Canadian bullying experts Dr. Debra Pepler and Dr. Wendy Craig found that over 65% of boys and 75% of girls reported being socially and/or verbally aggressive toward their same sex peers. Their research

suggests that being involved in psychological bullying is associated with an increased risk for other problems, including delinquency, aggression, anxiety and depression. Girls, particularly in the pre-teen and early-teen years, may be especially vulnerable to this kind of bullying because of their natural need to belong or to fit in. Focusing on girls from ages 8 to 12 is a pre-emptive strategy, to try to prevent psychological bullying from becoming an established behaviour.



Created and produced by Toronto advertising agency Publicis, "Words Hurt" is the second commercial produced in partnership between CCA

and the National Crime Prevention Strategy. The first, "Walk Away," focused on physical bullying and the role a bystander can play in stopping a bullying episode by simply walking away or telling someone.

"Walk Away" has been shown across Canada on all major networks and is a vital part of the bullying tips and tools and lesson plans in TV&ME, CCA's parent and educator resource materials. These materials will also include tips and tools, strategies and lesson plans in English and French, to deal with psychological bullying for Canadian teachers and families. These materials are available free of charge on CCA's website.

For more information on Concerned Children's Advertisers, and to view the commercials and materials, see www.cca-kids.ca. ■



TIGR

Keeping Ahead of Street Gangs

BY SONIA TENGELSEN

MONTREAL — In 1997, a police investigation code-named *Espadon* led to the arrest and imprisonment of 26 street gang members and leaders on Montreal's South Shore.

By any definition, the investigation was a great success. However, once released from jail, the gang members were quick to return to their old way of life, carrying on their criminal activities as though nothing had changed.

The incident revealed how widespread gangs were on Montreal's South Shore. But it also demonstrated that, in spite of their efforts, the police alone cannot stop gangs from forming.

To those living on the South Shore, and for organizations working to serve young people, there was a strong sense that different approaches were required.

"We realized we were all working with the same youth, the same group of young people, and we were not talking to each other," explained Detective Sergeant Martin Valiquette of the Longueuil Police. "There was a lack of communication, not just among ourselves, but also within our own organizations.

"Generally speaking, information does not flow very freely among people working in the same sectors, for example between inspectors and officers on the beat, between social workers in child protection and those who work with young offenders, between teachers of different grades and in different schools. So imagine how difficult it is to share information between the police, teachers and social workers.

"Most people who work with youth have no idea how gangs work, do not know how to react, cannot read the signs that young people are involved in gangs and, above all, have no idea what to do about it. This leads to fear, stress and eventually burnout."

Valiquette, along with Marcel Vézina, from the Centre jeunesse de la Montérégie youth centre, and

Gilles Deslauriers, from École secondaire Gérard-Filion, decided to pool their efforts and create the Toile des Intervenants en Gangs de Rue (TIGR).

The initiative aims to help meet the needs of professionals who work with young victims or witnesses of violence or bullying, young people who want to get out of a gang, parents who are worried about their children's future and anyone who is concerned with the realities that young people face.

Surfing the Net to stay on top of things

To improve communication among the various groups, TIGR set up a Web site.

Part of it is accessible to the public and features Frequently Asked Questions and a discussion group, among other things.

For those who work closely with youth, or who are likely to become involved with gangs, either as victims or as members, the site has password-protected areas that allow them to share more sensitive information.

Most research on gangs presents a very clear picture of the phenomenon, but it is usually a snapshot frozen in time. The Web site allows those who work with youth and the public to keep abreast of developments and share information in real time, "because street gangs are a phenomenon that is constantly changing... What a gang is like today will be completely different in six months," says Valiquette.

Getting the latest information about street gangs means that action can be taken more quickly and effectively to deal with youth who are gang members or are likely to become members or victims, he says. It is reassuring for those who work with youth to know that they have their own network, a kind of "gang" of their own, Valiquette explains.

When denial hampers prevention

The research done on gangs shows that there are three main obstacles to prevention: a lack of common definitions, the effects of media coverage and denial that the phenomenon exists.

Information on street gangs is usually closely guarded, and considered taboo. Some people are afraid that if they talk about a gang, they will damage the reputation of the city or school where the gang is active or reinforce the gang's reputation.

By contrast, Valiquette believes that if institutions decide to face up to the problem in their communities and take action to prevent it, the public will be more inclined to do its part. Denying the problem will not make it go away. "When young people do not feel safe and do not believe that the authorities are dealing with the problem, they will deal with it their own way. And that leads to more gangs. We saw this in Longueuil: at least two gangs were started just to protect their members from other gangs."

A solid information sharing network

TIGR is trying to overcome these obstacles. First, the information shared in the discussion group enables users to work toward a common definition of gangs and a common vision for dealing with them.

To diminish the fear aroused by media coverage, the organization met with local media to make them more aware of the impact their coverage of street gangs can have on the public. And to overcome denial of the problem, TIGR encourages open discussion of the issue both on its Web site and through other activities.

For example, in 2002, TIGR and Chantal Fredette, from Centres jeunesse de Montréal, gave training on street gangs and the use of the Web site to 79 workers from Montérégie youth centres, 124 community workers,



Preventing Crime, Creating Community: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) serves over 2,000 communities across Canada. The Mounties are both an icon and a working national police force, with a history that stretches back over generations.

Prevention has always been part of the police mandate, yet the forms it has taken have changed dramatically over the last few years. The RCMP is taking steps to incorporate a comprehensive crime prevention approach into its policing. As a partner in the National Crime Prevention Strategy, the RCMP has embarked on a series of initiatives that are focused on the root causes of crime.

Police role in crime prevention through social development

The police are first to acknowledge that traditional crime control measures do not address the root causes of crime and victimization. And often, these factors fall outside the criminal justice realm, and into the broader arena of civil society. This has raised questions about how, and where, the RCMP, and police in general, get involved in crime prevention.

To create a better understanding of crime prevention, the RCMP is finalizing an interactive learning module for police and community members. It will provide concrete examples of how 'crime prevention through social development' works, and provide an impetus for them to mobilize around an issue. For police, this may mean stepping back from a direct "programming" role, to instead support and champion the collaboration of social agencies and community groups around particular local concerns, such as school drop-out rates, literacy or substance abuse.

For example, the Whole Child Project at Whitehorse Elementary School in the Yukon seeks to strengthen children's learning in the classroom through the development of a supportive and nurturing out-of-class environment. With the support of the RCMP, the project brings together community organizations to strengthen families with activities such as cooking school and parenting workshops.



Communities with high needs

Many communities served by the RCMP experience tragically high rates of youth suicide. The RCMP worked with Suicide Prevention Training Programs, an organization based in Alberta, to develop a suicide prevention awareness program. Called "Whitestone," this pilot

project consists of week-long workshops that teach young adults and community caregivers about suicide prevention and give them the knowledge and skills to talk to youth about suicide-related issues. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot project is planned.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a complex and difficult issue in many of the communities served by the RCMP. In partnership with experts from the health, legal and social services professions, the RCMP is producing learning materials to increase police awareness of FASD so that officers are better equipped to deal with victims, witnesses and suspects who may be affected.

Ensuring youth input and influence

Crime prevention efforts in many communities are largely concentrated on young people. Youth are, after all, the most vulnerable to risk factors for crime, and most likely to be helped by positive interventions. Making young people part of the solution, rather than a problem to be dealt with, is often seen as key. The RCMP Week, usually held in February, as part of the Canadian Unity Council's Encounters with Canada, allows young people a forum for direct conversation with the RCMP Commissioner on issues such as bullying, relationship violence, inadequate parenting and substance abuse.

Special consultation sessions have been held with Aboriginal, visible minority, and sexually-exploited youth, to understand how the police can better support these groups to address the root causes of their involvement as victims and offenders.

It is hoped that these three areas of focus will add to the RCMP's existing knowledge and expertise of crime prevention and further influence modern police practices. ■



364 teachers and 30 police officers from Longueuil. TIGR also made presentations at an international conference on violence in schools and at a symposium on youth and street gangs.

In 2002–2003, TIGR had received 381 pieces of information on gangs by telephone or via the Web site (in accordance with the *Access to Information Act*, all information posted on the Web site must be of a general nature and must not mention anyone by name).

For its part, the TIGR team provided workers and agencies with information through e-mail, phone calls and seven newsletters. A portion of the information received was forwarded to police to assist them in dealing with hard-core elements of street gangs. TIGR also conducted an awareness campaign, wrote articles for the press and produced public service announcements for radio.

Because of the Web site, and its ability to foster a dialogue, police, social workers, community workers and others concerned with street gangs can overcome their feelings of isolation and share information about gangs and how to deal with them.

Since it was started in the Montérégie region, TIGR concentrates on information from that region and the Montreal area for now. However, it is keen to broaden the project to exchange information about a much wider area.

To find out more about street gangs, go to the TIGR Web site at www.tigr.ca. To attend a training session or become a member of TIGR, call (450) 651-TIGR, or send an e-mail to: info@tigr.ca. ■

Sonia Tengelsen is a Communications Officer for the NCPIC in Montreal.



By the Numbers

85

The percentage of children enrolled in after-school activities in Canadian urban centres¹

10–300

The cost, in dollars, of after-school athletic programs for youth in Canada²

85

The cost, in cents per day, of a school-program breakfast per child in Ottawa³

1,200

The estimated cost, in dollars, of probation supervision for a youth in Canada for one year⁴

19,250

The estimated cost, in dollars, of three months open custody for a youth in Canada⁵

28

Average age of an Ontario police recruit⁶

80

Average percentage of Ontario police officers who have post-secondary education⁷

1990

Year when the implementation of community policing started in the RCMP⁸

Thunder Bay

The city with the most police officers per 100,000 population⁹

less than 1

The percentage of female police officers in Canada in the 1960s¹⁰

15

The percentage of female police officers in Canada in 2002¹¹

3

Rank of Canada among the United States, England and Wales in police per capita¹²

2.7

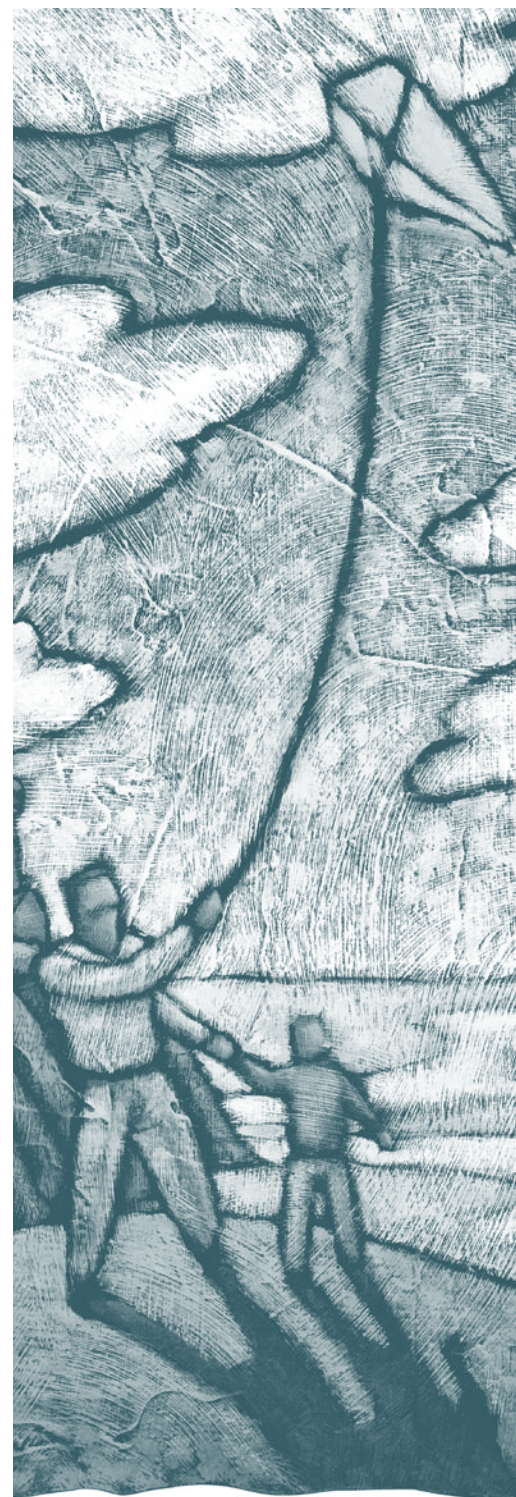
The rate that the number of police per capita in Canada has risen since 1998¹³

234

The cost, in dollars, of policing per Canadian in 2001¹⁴

80

Percentage of the public in Canada who believed police in their area were doing a good job of controlling crime¹⁵



By the Numbers – References

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- 3 The School Breakfast Program: www.ottawaschoolbreakfastprogram.ca/FAQ.asp
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