

Approaching Crime Prevention

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Welcome to our new crime prevention newsletter *Approaching Crime Prevention*. For a number of years, we have printed an annual crime prevention newsletter entitled *Wrap Up*, highlighting the volunteer efforts of community organizations and individuals during Alberta Crime Prevention Week.

In an effort to increase awareness of community safety issues throughout the province, the format of our newsletter has been changed to highlight these issues and to profile the crime prevention work Albertans are doing year round. Two editions will be printed per year - one in the spring and

one in the fall.

What is Approaching Crime Prevention? It is recognized that there are many different approaches and methods to preventing crime. From reducing opportunity through environmental design and target hardening to addressing the social factors or root causes of crime such as poverty, family violence, substance abuse and illiteracy, these methods all contribute to safer and healthier communities.

We anticipate this newsletter will bring greater awareness to the application of these approaches.

Important dates in 2004

Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) Conference.
May 5-7, 2004.
www.accpa.org

Alberta Crime Prevention Week 2004.
May 8-15.
www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca

Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Awards Ceremony 2004.
May 14.
www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca

Canadian Rural Partnership
National Rural (Youth) Conference in Red Deer.
April 15-17, 2004.

Alberta Association of School Resource Officers
(AASRO) Conference.
November 25-27, 2004.
www.aasro.com

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca

Message from the Alberta Solicitor General



By the time you read this, spring should be within sight. And with spring comes a new year, new growth and new opportunities.

We are very blessed in this province to have a vibrant and healthy economy, safe and friendly communities, and

optimistic and enthusiastic people.

Without ingredients like these, we would not have the many crime prevention initiatives that we currently enjoy.

This newsletter is one way I can use to tell you how amazed and impressed I am with the efforts of crime prevention volunteers throughout the province. You really care about making a difference in your community and for that I thank you.

As we gear up for the province's 100th anniversary, it is so important to remember that communities form the basic building block of our province. Healthy, safe communities, with concerned and committed citizens, make our province one of the best places to live in Canada.

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in Crime Prevention Week 2003 and who are preparing for Crime Prevention Week 2004. Please keep up the good work. And spread the word: community crime prevention works!

Solicitor General Heather Forsyth

Yellowhead Tribal Council addresses prescription drug misuse

Prescription drug abuse and misuse is not a new issue in Alberta, Canada or even North America. As with many other social problems, this issue is found in different communities and cultures. Recently, prevalence of inappropriate prescription drug use is being reported in a number of First Nation communities in this province.

The Yellowhead Tribal Council (YTC) Health Program has developed a Prescription Drug Misuse project to bring awareness and education of prescription drugs to the

Yellowhead member First Nations. The YTC believes in a holistic approach to healing that includes an acceptance of Western medicine balanced with traditional values.

Many elders have maintained traditional healing methods and doctoring. The YTC program emphasizes that through teaching and educating the same way the elders have taught, Aboriginal communities will gain greater knowledge as to how and when to use medicine.

As noted by Ella Arcand: "The Creator provides the wisdom in each and every one of us to



respect healing practices, either traditional or western."

The YTC has chosen the approach of education on prescription drugs as an integral part of their teaching on making healthy and informed choices.

For more information on the work the Yellowhead Tribal Council Health Program is doing with respect to prescription drug education, contact Ella Arcand at (780) 470-3454.

Urban Aboriginal Strategy



Launched in 1998, the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) is designed to address a number of issues faced by Aboriginal people living in urban centres and is part of the Government of Canada's response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The primary focus of UAS is to engage the community and stakeholders with the aim of improving policy development and program co-ordination among federal departments and with other orders of government.



Honourable Denis Coderre, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

On February 18, 2003, the Government of Canada announced \$25 million in new funding over the next three years to support the Urban Aboriginal Strategy. This funding will be used to develop pilot projects in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay and Toronto. These pilot projects are to be developed in partnership with the community, and will provide a vehicle to test new ideas on how to address local needs currently not being met through existing programs.

This grassroots approach recognizes that local communities are best placed to develop solutions that meet their unique opportunities and challenges. It also recognizes that all governments and the communities they serve need to work together to address urban Aboriginal issues.

At the end of three years, the UAS will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the approaches and projects. This information will be used to identify and share lessons learned and provide advice for future directions.

The Honourable Denis Coderre, in his capacity as the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, is the lead Federal Minister for the UAS. Minister Coderre works to further the efforts of Métis, Non-Status Indians and urban Aboriginal people in order to realize their full potential economically, socially and politically in Canadian society. As Federal Interlocutor, he works closely with his provincial counterparts, national Aboriginal organizations, federal departments and organizations to help improve services and support available to off-reserve Aboriginal Canadians. In Alberta, Western Economic Diversification Canada is leading the implementation of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy and is working closely with Minister Coderre.

UAS Pilot Projects are meant to build bridges across jurisdictional barriers - barriers within the Government of Canada, barriers between levels of government and barriers at the community level. The UAS continues the belief that Canada's Aboriginal peoples can and are able to play an important role in shaping and contributing to a more vibrant and prosperous nation.

For more information, contact Sue Olsen at Western Economic Diversification Canada at (780) 495-7721.

Methamphetamine: getting ahead of the problem

The issue of methamphetamine in Alberta has become quite a hot topic with frequent and increasing media attention being devoted to it.

Similar to so many other illicit drugs, methamphetamine or “meth” can have dangerous effects to the user. According to the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), side effects of using methamphetamine include rapid and unhealthy weight loss, sores on the skin, and problems with memory and concentration. There is also evidence of brain damage in some users. Those who overdose on this drug are subject to high blood pressure, stroke, and even heart failure.

Another component of methamphetamine has to do with the illegal manufacturing of it. Unlike other drugs such as cocaine and heroin, which primarily depend on plant crops in foreign countries, methamphetamine can be manufactured nearly anywhere from available ingredients. Illegal manufacturing operations, referred to as clandestine labs, can, and do, have adverse repercussions.

Clandestine labs are dangerous operations that pose a threat to the environment from the discarded toxic waste that is produced. Labs can also lead to physical injury and death to

those involved in the manufacturing of it and anyone else who comes in contact with one of these operations. Chemical reactions when manufacturing methamphetamine may produce dangerous phosphine gas, which is both poisonous and explosive and reportedly produces odours similar to “rotting fish” and “concentrated cat urine”. Children who live in conditions where a clandestine lab is operating are at risk from unintentional exposure through the inhalation of contaminated air or through accidental ingestion or injection. Front line responders such as police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and welfare workers are also at risk when responding to environments where a lab is operating.

The issue of methamphetamine is somewhat unique. Although it is a multi-faceted issue, it is clear, simple and easy to convey that using and producing methamphetamine is dangerous.

For communities, it is important to understand that before we can address the problems associated with methamphetamine, local issues and concerns need to be



Coffee filters that have been used in a clandestine lab.

identified. Conduct an environmental scan. While one community may be experiencing problems with use and addiction only, others may be experiencing problems associated with clandestine labs. Some communities may be experiencing both. Once the needs of the community are identified, get mobilized, create a plan, develop partnerships and utilize the resources agencies have established.

If you or someone you know is dealing with addiction, contact the AADAC help line at 1-866-33AADAC (1-866-332-2322). If you suspect someone is illegally manufacturing methamphetamine, contact your local police service immediately.

Volunteers honoured in annual crime prevention awards

The 13th Annual Alberta Crime Prevention Week was held from May 10-17, 2003. Throughout the province, events and activities were held to promote ways all Albertans can help reduce crime and foster community safety. Since 1993, the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) has co-sponsored the Week with the Alberta Solicitor General's Department.

As a "kick off" to Alberta Crime Prevention Week, the Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Awards Ceremony was held in Calgary at McDougall Centre, hosted by the Lethbridge Police Service and Alberta Solicitor General. Fourteen recipients were honoured for their outstanding contributions to promoting safer and healthier communities.



Front row from left: Megan Thiel, Chicks in Charge Committee; Kayla Penteliuk; Honourable Heather Forsyth, Alberta Solicitor General; Meghan Kading, Chicks in Charge Committee; Michelle Kenny, Chicks in Charge Committee. Middle row: Shannon Ross Watson; Nancy Nelson, St. Albert Citizens Patrol Society; Bert Stubbington; Mary Anne Steen, EnCana Corporation; John Fuga, Strathcona County Crime Watch. Back row: Glen Kitteringham; Chuck Blanchard; Nick Semeniuk; Solange Rivet, Chicks in Charge Committee; Melonie Dziwenka, Chicks in Charge Committee; Adrienne Yellowdirt; Don Fulmer and Constable George Carscadden.



"Though I feel honoured on getting the Award, I know that no one person can fight crime. It takes a community of people who care to make a change."

Shannon Ross Watson, Individual Award recipient



Chicks in Charge

Melonie Dziwenka, speaking on behalf of Chicks In Charge, Youth Leadership Organization Award recipient

"The Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Award validated to this group that their efforts in educating young women about dating violence was in the right direction. Their efforts were not only recognized within our county, but throughout the province. Since then we have received many calls from all over Alberta about our program and how they can start similar programs in their area. For this group you recognized that teens can make a difference."

Honourable Mentions

Youth Leadership Category

Chad Pepplar
Kim Clennant
Noelani Avvedoti

Individual Category

Alison Hancox
Bev Tokinson
Debbie Moon
Denise Blair
Derrick Wilson
Francine Gregory
Gordon Zawaski
Joseph Lawrence Collins
Keith Johnson
Margaret Cox
Mary Elizabeth Hoskins
Mel Brooks
Ngaere Gill
Perle Campbell
Seneca Auger
Stephan Davidge
Vi Brosoky
Wilfred Steuber

Community Organization/Business Category

Community Needle Safety Working Group, Edmonton
Westlock Community Justice Committee
Elk Point Citizens on Patrol Society
Crowsnest Pass Citizens on Patrol
Hardisty Citizens on Patrol
Northeast Teen Centre
PARTY Organizational Network
St. Albert Community Justice Society
West Edmonton Mall Security

Police Member Category

Constable Daryl Scott, Drayton Valley RCMP
Constable Dave McKenzie, Barrhead RCMP
Corporal Doug Cooper, Drumheller RCMP
Detective James Elkow, Edmonton Police Service
Inspector Rick Samotej, Leduc RCMP
Constable Rob Bilawey, Edmonton Police Service
Constable Roy Moe, Calgary Police Service
Constable Sandy Andrews, Strathcona County RCMP

For more information on the awards ceremony or on the recipients, visit the Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention website at www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca.

Crime prevention in

KIDS Foundation tackles bullying

In recent years, tragic events in Alberta and other provinces in Canada increased awareness about bullying.

Although bullying awareness campaigns may have slightly tapered off, with new and different issues gaining increased profile, there still remains a commitment by many community organizations to address this difficult issue.

The KIDS Foundation, a Calgary based non-profit organization, has developed a new and exciting program for schools, parents, and the community to utilize to help reduce incidents of bullying.

The first component consists of a virtual drop box on the KIDS Foundation website. Students can go to a special web page designed for their area and submit an easy to fill out bully reporting form via email. This form is sent directly from the site to a child's school office or to a designated "trusted adult". This allows bystanders and victims to report bullying with little fear of retaliation.

The program also includes a comprehensive bullying resource guide for school principals and staff, a video presentation and interactive exercises for children. There is also an 80 page handbook for children and parents, which serves as an excellent guideline for parents by helping them identify the signs of bullying and what to do about it.

For more information, call (403) 279-8996 or email gregr@kidsfoundation.net or visit the KIDS Foundation Bullystoppers website at www.stopbully.com.

The following Canadian websites are suggested for information on bullying and strategies to address it.

www.nomorebullies.com - Site created exclusively for children.

www.bullying.org - Site caters to both children and adults.

www.sass.ca/bully.htm - Good site for children to look at. Teaches a child to "stay alert and stay safe".

Edmonton groups

What do the Better Business Bureau, Community Options, Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch, the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton and the University of Alberta Safewalk program, have in common?

They are all participants in a new and exciting initiative in Edmonton called Building Bridges. This project is a community-based collaboration of organizations that use crime prevention to build safe, inclusive and caring communities. The vision, "safer communities by working together in crime prevention", encompasses the wide spectrum of groups that address both root causes of crime and violence, as well as the traditional target hardening approaches.

Edmonton's Safer Cities has a 13 year legacy of fostering innovative community linkages in crime prevention. In March 2003, Safer Cities and the Edmonton Police Service teamed up to bring together community crime prevention agencies to talk about shared challenges such as sustainable funding, board governance, communications and volunteer management.



Photo: L to R Building Bridges Steering Committee: Sarah King, Eileen Bell, Colleen Fidler, Fugi Saito, Bernice Neufeld, Mike Ryan, Kate Gunn. Absent: Ted Greenaway, Peter Windel, Staff Sgt Garry Meads.

The first Building Bridges forum in March was followed by three more forums over the past 10 months, as the community affirmed the need to work more closely together. In June, participants agreed that creating a new umbrella organization structure would be the best way to meet the

your neighbourhood

build bridges together

needs of the community and participating agencies. It is anticipated that by June 2004, the umbrella organization will be established. In total, over 50 agencies have participated in this grassroots process of creating a new made-in-Edmonton approach to partnership in the area of crime prevention.



Fred Tyrell, Alberta Community Development, presenting on organization governance.

The Building Bridges Steering Committee asserts that an umbrella organization will serve to enhance skills and knowledge of the community crime prevention sector, facilitate networking and foster collaboration. In addition, an umbrella organization will facilitate access to, and awareness of, crime prevention services to the people of Edmonton.

Seed funding from Edmonton City Council and the Edmonton Police Foundation will help fund several unique and needed collaborative projects under the Building Bridges banner including a crime prevention directory, website, electronic bulletin board and newsletter.

For more information call Kate Gunn, Safer Cities Initiatives Coordinator, Edmonton, at (780) 496-4889.

Calgary and Red Deer are also working on similar initiatives. For information on Calgary's Initiative, contact Debra Bray, Community Social Worker, at (403) 268-2710. For information on Red Deer's Initiative, contact Municipal Councillor Diana Rowe at (403) 358-1725.

Meaningful youth involvement in crime prevention

Identified as a need by young women to educate and prevent acquaintance sexual assault, Chicks in Charge was formed in Sturgeon County in 2002.

The program began as a one-day conference for young women aged 13-18 covering issues around healthy relationships, acquaintance sexual assault, media influences, and self-defense. The most important message being delivered to those who attended was "always be aware of your surroundings to prevent any type of assault".

The workshop, made possible by the Morinville RCMP and Sturgeon County Community Services, was so well received that a number of communities inquired about establishing Chicks In Charge in their areas.

Chicks In Charge is still going strong and will be helping other communities establish similar groups that meet their area's needs. The committee is in the process of creating Chicks In Charge Jr. to target 10-13 year olds.

"Wherever the need is, Chicks in Charge will find a way to address it and bring the information to the community", said youth co-ordinator Melonie Dziwenka.



From left to right: Meghan Kading; Honourable Heather Forsyth, Alberta Solicitor General; Solange Rivet; Melonie Dziwenka, Youth Coordinator; Megan Thiel; and Michelle Kenny.

The group was recognized for its outstanding work during the Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Award Ceremony in Calgary in 2003.

For more information on this program, contact Melonie Dziwenka, Youth Coordinator, at (780) 939-3556.

Thanks!

Thank you to the following people and organizations for their contributions to the following articles:

Crime Prevention & Restorative Justice Programs

Kevin Hood, Manager

**Miles Partington
Prevention Programs Liaison**

**Diane Bosch
Program Assistant**

10th Floor
J.E. Brownlee Building
10365 - 97 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5J 3W7
Tel: (780) 427-3457
Fax: (780) 427-5916
Email: acpw@gov.ab.ca

www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca

Yellowhead Tribal Council addresses prescription drug misuse - Ella Arcand, Yellowhead Tribal Council Health Program

Urban Aboriginal Strategy - Narmin Hassam, National Crime Prevention Centre, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

Methamphetamine: getting ahead of the problem - Sgt. Ian Sanderson, RCMP "K" Division

KIDS Foundation tackles bullying - Greg Rector, Program Manager, KIDS Foundation

Edmonton groups build bridges together - Kate Gunn, Safer Cities Initiative, Edmonton

Meaningful youth involvement in crime prevention - Melonie Dziwenka, Youth Coordinator, Chicks In Charge

If you would like to share with the province a promising crime prevention initiative your organization is involved with for profile in our next edition, please contact Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Programs at (780) 427-3457.

Partners in Crime Prevention



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