Approaching Crime Prevention

Winter 2004 Volume 1, Issue 2

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The call for proposals under the Alberta Community Crime Prevention (ACCP) grant program was made in July of this year. The ACCP grant program is available as a component of Alberta's Crime Prevention Strategy, founded from the 1999 Alberta Summit on Justice. Fundamental to the grant program is supporting communities in delivering initiatives that promote neighbourhood safety and well being by deterring crime, making criminal acts more difficult to commit or addressing the root causes associated with crime and criminal behaviour. Under this year's call for ACCP proposals, 49 community proposals were recommended for funding, totaling \$596,000.

The call for applications under the Alberta Community Restorative Justice (ACRJ) grant program recently wrapped up on December 17, 2004. During the 1999 Alberta

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CRIME PREVENTION

Important Upcoming Dates

Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association General Membership Meeting January 5, 2005 March 2, 2005 www.accpa.org

Community Mobilization Program Intake Deadline (National Crime Prevention Strategy) February 15, 2005 www.prevention.gc.ca

Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association Annual Conference February 4-6, 2005 www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society 5th Anniversary February 24-25, 2005 www.ajfas.ca

Alberta Crime Prevention Week 2005 May 8-15, 2005 www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca

Alberta Association of School Resource Officers (AASRO) 2005 SRO Training May 18, 2005 - Edmonton May 19, 2005 - Calgary www.aasro.com



Message from the Alberta Solicitor General



s the new Alberta Solicitor General, it gives me great pleasure to speak to you about the Alberta Government's increased commitment to supporting local crime prevention projects and initiatives.

As many of you may know, the Alberta Community Crime Prevention grant program stopped providing grants in 2001 because of government-wide budget reductions. With the reintroduction of this grant program, Albertans are provided a greater opportunity to become involved in community safety, policing, and justice initiatives. It is encouraging to see so many community organizations in the province taking advantage of this revitalized source of funding.

Based on a recommendation from the grant review committee, I have approved 49 projects totaling \$596,000 which I know will be put to good use.

Judging from these grant proposals and others over

the years, it is clear to me that our communities rather than government are in the best position to develop innovative and effective solutions to community crime problems.

Following the Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Awards last May, award recipients were asked to identify factors that made their projects so successful. Some observations included:

- when working with other organizations, remain flexible; your goals will be different from the goals of others
- look at the young person as a whole, not just through the perspective of the particular targeted crime
- replace criminal activities with positive learning and recreation experiences
- when working with youth, include parents and youth together and separately.

Throughout this newsletter you will find many more ideas about effective crime prevention initiatives.

Solicitor General Harvey Cenaiko

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Summit on Justice, delegates recommended that victims be given a more meaningful role in the justice process and that they achieve equal status with accused persons and offenders. While it was acknowledged that prison sentences for certain types of crime are an effective and necessary option, delegates also indicated that offenders should be held directly accountable, through the use of restorative justice processes, to the community and to the individuals who have been harmed by their actions.

In response to these recommendations, Alberta Solicitor General developed the Community Justice Policy based on restorative justice principles. The policy commits the department to working in partnership with communities, grassroots agencies and other government departments to make restorative justice processes more widely available in Alberta and to improve outcomes for Albertans affected by crime and victimization. As a component of Alberta's Community Justice Policy, the ACRJ grant program is designed to foster organizational development and capacity to deliver effective and accountable restorative justice processes.

If you would like more information on these grant programs, visit the Alberta Solicitor General crime prevention website at <u>www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca.</u> Eligibility information and application forms may also be found on the site.

A Study of Community Sustainability in Crime Prevention

Part one of a two-part series

n behalf of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Community Safety and Crime Prevention, a study of six diverse communities from across Canada was conducted to examine community sustainability of Crime Prevention through Social Development activities over time.

Commonly, "community sustainability" is simply referenced in terms of how community activities persist over time. In the 2001 *Discussion Paper on the Sustainability of Social Development Activities in Canada*, community sustainability is suggested to have a more holistic, contextual meaning. In a crime prevention context, the concept of sustainability is integrally linked to concerns about community development and encompasses:

capacity of a community to identify and respond to its own needs; interconnection among crime problems and other social factors; and process through which private concerns get translated into public wide issues.

The following eight elements were identified as contributing to sustainability in the six communities studied.

A Commitment to Issues of Local Concern: The first step to sustainability involved identifying the issue(s) of specific concern to the local community. Community members came together in kitchens, schools, community centres and other locations to share their concerns and ideas. Often, the rallying point was a concern about children, youth and families.

An Iterative Process: Each community employed an iterative process to identify, articulate and take action on their issue(s) of concern. Each community engaged in some form of ongoing community consultation, communication, information sharing and feedback. As activities unfolded, the focus typically changed from concern of one specific issue to interest in a wider set of community concerns.

Investment in Capacity: While communities had differing levels of community capacity to address the issue(s) of concern, every community took steps to further develop their capacity. Communities acquired additional knowledge about the issue(s) by obtaining human resources to play key roles such as establishing a program coordinator and/or by applying for funding to implement a specific project.

Leaders: In each community, leaders were crucial. Leaders were individuals or in some communities, were groups of individuals. In every case, the effectiveness of community leaders was based on their commitment, their trust in others and their ability to build partnerships.

Working Together: In all of the communities, the process of working together required an ongoing effort to bring people together to raise their awareness of issues, reinforce their sense of community ownership of the problem and take action.

Linkages: Connections between individuals and groups within a community, as well as with others outside the community, were very important. Within communities, these horizontal linkages increased trust, generated creative ideas and solutions, encouraged the pooling of knowledge, skills and expertise and offered a support system. Vertical linkages, particularly to government officials and agencies, also provided important resources and support. Liaison and coordination mechanisms were crucial to facilitating linkages.

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Realized Outcomes. Each community achieved an early success or tangible achievement. Early successes helped to stimulate community interest and involvement in further efforts to address the issue(s).

Resources: Communities utilized many different types of resources to address the issue(s) of concern. People were the core strength to addressing issues of concern. In particular, having a coordinator was invaluable, however, obtaining funding for a coordinator was one of the most challenging issues communities faced. Having a physical space gave groups visibility, a sense of place and belonging, and provided community members with a point of contact and easy access to services.

The eight common elements identified lead to a number of lessons learned about how Crime Prevention through Social Development activities can be sustained. In the next edition of *Approaching Crime Prevention*, the lessons learned will be identified.

The information provided in this article has been reproduced from the study: A Portrait of Sustainable Crime Prevention in Selected Canadian Communities by Tullio Caputo, Katharine Kelly, Wanda Jamieson, and Liz Hart. The study is available on the National Crime Prevention Strategy website at <u>www.prevention.gc.ca</u>.

Restorative Justice Corner

International Restorative Justice Week 2004 "Engaging Us All in the Dialogue"

uring International Restorative Justice Week, November 14th - 21st, Alberta Solicitor General invited Dr. Susan Sharpe to Edmonton to speak on the philosophy and practice of restorative justice to justice administrators, community organizations, post secondary students and the community at large.

As the primary attraction to the department's annual Restorative Justice Forum, held on November 15th at Grant MacEwan College, Dr. Sharpe provided a historical and contemporary context for the practice of restorative justice in North America covering successes, challenges and potential future of this growing field. Following the forum, Dr. Sharpe spoke at the Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre's Restorative Justice Awareness Fair at the CBC broadcast centre at City Centre Mall. The Alberta Conflict Transformation Society, Edmonton Institution for Women, Family Mediation Services, Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton, the Restorative Justice Opportunities program of Correctional Services Canada, the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, and the Youth Restorative Action Project participated, helping to raise the profile of restorative justice and community safety initiatives in the province.

Recognized internationally, Dr Sharpe writes on restorative justice issues, provides consultation to non-profit and government agencies, and makes presentations to professional and community groups. Best known as the author of *Restorative Justice: A Vision for Healing and Change*, she has since completed *Beyond the Comfort Zone: A Guide to the Practice of Community Conferencing*.

For more information on the topic of restorative justice, visit www.crimeprevention.gov.ab.ca.

Engaging Alberta Students

2005 AASRO/TransCanada Student Essay Contest

The Alberta Association of School Resource Officers (AASRO) along with TransCanada Pipelines is proud to announce the start of the 2005 Student Essay Contest. This year there will be two individual essay contests, one for senior high and another for junior high students. The annual essay contest provides Alberta students with a great opportunity to showcase their writing abilities and express their opinions. We look forward to hearing what the students in Alberta have to say. Good luck to all.

Contest Judges and Deadline

Individual schools will select one winner to bring forward to AASRO's essay contest. Essays are due to AASRO by May 6, 2005. The Executive Committee for AASRO will then review the winning essays and determine the first, second and third place winners.

Senior High Essay Contest Details - TOPIC: Looking at Your Future: How has high school prepared you?

We want you to tell us how you have grown through high school and what you attribute your readiness for post secondary education to. Essays should be 1,000 to 1,500 words in length, typed and double spaced. First prize receives a \$1,500 post secondary scholarship and the opportunity to present the winning essay during the 2005 AASRO Conference. Second and third prize receive a \$1,000 and \$500 post secondary scholarship respectively.

Junior High Essay Contest Details - TOPIC: Looking at Your Future: How are you preparing for high school?

We want you to tell us how you have grown over the years and what you attribute your readiness and preparation for high school to. Essays should be 500 to 1,000 words in length, typed and double spaced. First prize receives a \$1,000 scholarship and the opportunity to present the winning essay during the 2005 AASRO Conference. Second and third prize receive a \$300 and \$150 scholarship respectively.

Mail essays to:

Alberta Association of School Resource Officers 9620 - 103A Avenue Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 0H7

Contest Information

www.aasro.com E-mail: aasro@shaw.ca Phone: (780) 421-3564

25 Years of Crime Prevention Service in Alberta

n the late 1970s, the Western Stock Growers' Association, Alberta Cattle Commission (now named the Alberta Beef Producers), Department of Agriculture, and the RCMP met to discuss the problem of rural criminal activities and explore ways to address concerns raised by ranchers, farmers and other rural residents. From the meetings and discussions, the urban Neighbourhood Watch program was analyzed, appearing that it could be replicated in rural areas. Thus, Range Patrol was born, which would later be named Rural Crime Watch (RCW).

The next major development for Rural Crime Watch was the creation of an Alberta-wide umbrella network. This network united the various rural crime watches throughout the province by a democratically elected board. The first president, Lynn Roberts of the Stony Plain RCW, was elected in 1995 after the constitution of the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association was passed.

Estimated to have more than 70,000 members, Rural Crime Watch continues to be one of the most successful crime prevention organizations operating in Alberta. The continued and dedicated efforts of Rural Crime Watch volunteers over the past 25 years is a testament to the success of the program.

For 25 years, Rural Crime Watch has been acting as the extra eyes and ears of police operating in rural Alberta.



Des Grant accepting on behalf of Rural Crime Watch, a Certificate of Appreciation for 25 Years of Volunteer Service from former Alberta Solicitor General Honourable Heather Forsyth, at the 2004 Solicitor General Crime Prevention Awards Ceremony held in Edmonton.

Crime Prevention In

Mill Woods Youth Project

Since its inception in 1999, the Mill Woods Youth Project in Edmonton has been an innovative example of community involvement making a difference. The goal of the project is to empower youth by providing them with valuable work experience as well as life skills, training and self-confidence.

The Mill Woods Youth Project is composed of three elements: the Mill Woods Youth Council, Youth Granting to Youth and the Neighbourhood Project. The Mill Woods Youth Council, the heart of the project, provides an incredible opportunity for youth to gain experience in financial granting, fundraising and program promotion. Youth council members meet bi-weekly to interview applicants, approve funding, chart the course of the council and decide on fundraising initiatives.

The Mill Woods Youth Council administers the two remaining elements of the Mill Woods Youth Project. Youth Granting to Youth gives up to \$500 to an individual youth to remove the financial barriers preventing them from participating in city activities. Youth gain access to positive experiences in diverse activities from martial arts to music lessons. In 2003, 67 youth received funding under this program.

The Neighbourhood Project provides funding to the community to create events and activities for Mill Woods youth. Funds are available to the community to develop events and activities for Mill Woods youth as needs are identified. Since 2001, the Mill Woods Neighborhood Project has granted \$31,500 to fund 10 community initiatives, including the Mill Woods Youth Conference, Sikh New Years Dance, Temporary Skateboard Park, Community Garden Children's project and ESL Summer School and Fun.

The Mill Woods Youth Project has granted over \$100,000 to individual youth and neighbourhood projects. The program excels in providing meaningful opportunities for disadvantaged youth, ultimately contributing to safe and fun Alberta communities.



Your Neighbourhood

Reducing Opportunities for Sports Equipment Theft

The Calgary Bicycle Theft Prevention Initiative was launched this summer at the Calgary Outdoor Resource Centre and is modelled after the Calgary Ski and Snowboard Theft Prevention Program, which was launched in 2001.

The ski program, developed by the Calgary Police Service and Canada Olympic Park, formed a strategic partnership between the Calgary police service, local ski resorts and second-hand sport stores in Calgary in an effort to reduce the incidence of ski and snowboard theft. As the program gained momentum, partnerships expanded to include surrounding mountain ski areas and their respective RCMP detachments. A reporting system was developed whereby ski hills and resorts report the theft of recent ski and snowboard equipment to Canada Olympic Park which would then redistribute the information to second-hand sport stores and pawnshops. During the 2002/2003 ski season, it was reported that theft of equipment at Canada Olympic Park dropped 50 per cent from the previous year.



The Bike Check program aims to increase public education and awareness about profiling recent bicycle thefts, bicycle theft prevention and safety through media releases, brochures and posters. Additionally, the program facilitates the sharing of



Constable Roy Moe of the Calgary Police Service at the Bicycle Theft Prevention Initiative Launch.

information regarding stolen bicycle equipment between key stakeholders. The local bicycle retail and repair industry will be sent lists of recent stolen bicycles and related equipment from the Calgary Police Service. It is intended that the program will create natural gatekeepers within the industry who will alert police if stolen property or suspicious behaviour is observed.



Calgary's Bicycle Theft Prevention & Safety Brochure.

Voices of the 2004 Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Awards

Iberta Solicitor General would like to extend congratulations to this year's Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Award recipients.

The following dedicated men, women, youth and organizations have given countless hours to foster safer communities in the province. Tapping into their vast experience, recipients were asked about their experiences volunteering in crime prevention and provided the following insights.

The awards recipients often mentioned "organization" and "collaboration" as essential to developing successful crime prevention programs.

Positive organizing components include ensuring there is a need for crime prevention services to avoid duplicating work; setting goals in a businesslike manner; providing easily accessible services; and creating positive options to address problems. Organization will help focus work, thereby ensuring greater quality of service.

Collaboration is important to any organization, perhaps even more so to the field of crime prevention, as it is dependent on community support. Two different groups can be drawn on to create a successful crime prevention program. One is the already established social network, which includes crime prevention entities, governments, professionals,



Twelve individuals and organizations honoured with crime prevention awards, along with former Alberta Solicitor General Heather Forsyth, police members and dignitaries

schools, and trained facilitators. The other is the community network. In this area, it can be helpful to include parents, victims, businesses, as well as the general community. Appeals to the community through local newspaper articles, public forums, and even door-to-door campaigns can result in a community response that can greatly exceed expectations. The diverse skills of the community will aid greatly in establishing and running a crime prevention program.

Each award recipient additionally provided ideas on how to make a difference in crime prevention, which include the following:

- Identify the need of your community and bring in organizations that can offer support.
- When partnering with other people remain flexible. Other people have goals, skills and knowledge different from your own.
- Look for who is impacted by the problem and who you are directing your services to.
- Look at the young person as a whole, not just the specific issue you are targeting.
- Criminal activities should be replaced with positive experiences such as learning and recreation.
- Youth councils give youth positive experiences and training while encouraging youth involvement in the community.
- Young people often respond quite differently when addressed as groups or as individuals. Different circumstances may require different approaches.
- The individuals who you are targeting may have reservations about participating in crime prevention programs. Easy accessibility can help alleviate this problem.
- When working with youth, work with the parents and youth together and separately. Both sides should feel a sense of empowerment throughout the process.
- Programs need to be individualized to a certain degree; everyone is unique.
- Work with the heart.

Award recipients also commented on their personal crime prevention experiences.

Although crime prevention requires persistence, once a program really started to move, huge events and important goals could be accomplished. Any effort that is given to the community will be received threefold back. Crime prevention can save lives, brighten the futures of youth and give hope to families for real achievement for their children.

The following individuals and organization were Alberta Solicitor General Crime Prevention Award recipients this year.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Drayton Valley Parent to Parent Drug Awareness Society

> Hinton Community Drug Action Committee

Prostitution Awareness & Action Foundation

RESTART/KICKSTART Program, McMan Youth Family & Community Services

POLICE MEMBER

Constable Tim Fifield Rimbey RCMP

INDIVIDUAL

Sandy Berglund Joseph Gubbels Jane Marston

Victor Moke Ngala

Diana Rowe

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Matthew French

Teens Against Doing Drugs -Sturgeon Youth Council

Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation

A lberta Children's Services has recently developed a series of brochures that aim to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in Alberta. The brochures focus specifically on child prostitution and feature useful tips for parents and youth, warning signs, where to go for help and information on Alberta legislation developed exclusively to deal with this issue.



Each of the brochures can be identified by their common image of a young person's eyes on the front cover. Both young women and men are victimized by prostitution, which is why the image of the eyes was chosen; it cannot be easily identified as either male or female.

Brochures can be obtained by calling (780) 422-4682.

Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying

he Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying occurred on May 7, 2004, in Calgary. The purpose of the roundtable was to examine and compile recommendations of over 2,000 Alberta stakeholders into a progressive comprehensive framework for action.

One of the most important conclusions arising from the roundtable was that bullying and family violence cannot be solved through one single approach.

Six key areas for action were identified as essential to addressing family violence and bullying.

Social Change - Approaching family violence and bullying must be done at a broader level, where violence is considered unacceptable, where more is done to prevent family violence and bullying and where factors that contribute directly to violence are addressed.

Provincial Leadership - Provide a more coordinated approach at the provincial level, support community actions and plans and develop funding models that promote long term sustainable community approaches.

A Collaborative, Co-ordinated Community Response - Communities are in the best position to bring people and organizations together for planning, developing and delivering services relevant to community needs and capacities.

Services and Supports - People affected by family violence and bullying need a full range of community-based services and supports to ensure basic safety, support and healing. As part of these

services, emphasis is needed on prevention programs to support healthier individual, family and community outcomes and to reverse the prevalence of family violence and bullying.

Accountability - Governments, communities, and agencies need to be accountable for the effectiveness and outcomes of the programs and supports they provide, while individuals need to be accountable for their own actions.

Aboriginal Communities - Development of Aboriginal strategies and solutions that reflect the needs of Aboriginal communities by building on the strengths of individuals, families and communities and that reflect culture and ceremony in the basic framework.

Further to these key areas, there are a number of solutions presented within each respected area. To view the Framework for Action, visit www.familyviolenceroundtable.gov.ab.ca/.

The information provided in this article was reproduced from the Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Framework for Action, 2004.



Participants mingle during a break on the first day of the Roundtable on Family Violence.

Neighbourhood Empowerment Team The Power of Partnerships

ommunity leaders, police, and local governments have joined together to prevent crime and victimization with the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET), a community-based organization in Edmonton. Through the power of partnerships, NET has successfully reduced crime in one community and is expanding its efforts to other local neighbourhoods.

"We have successfully reduced crime by 68 per cent in one community, but the other results are also important," said Michelle Fillion, coordinator of NET. "For example, we have developed partnerships with local police, municipal governments, and other important stakeholders, and people in the community are now working together to help prevent crime and victimization."

With funding support from the National Crime Prevention Strategy, NET has developed an expansion project into a south Edmonton community and a Youth Capacity Building project, which helps at-risk youth participate in their communities.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy supports community-based responses to crime by providing information, support and resources to help communities deal with the interconnected social, economic and cultural factors that contribute to crime and victimization. The Strategy is designed to enhance the knowledge and expertise of communities with respect to crime prevention, as well as foster partnerships and collaboration.

A good example of this approach is the Youth Capacity Building project (an important part of NET), which helps atrisk youth become involved in their community. Activities such as the Bully-Buster patrols help children prevent violence in their schools. Youth also form graffiti patrols that clean up neighbourhoods and make communities less attractive to criminals.

"By giving youth recreational facilities and other ways of helping their communities, crimes are reduced because youth have something to do and feel valued", said Michelle Fillion.

Partnerships with the Edmonton Police Service have added to the success of NET's expansion project. Edmonton police officers work with other NET members, including social workers and youth. Police are one of the major partners in many of the National Crime Prevention Strategy's funded projects, and experience has shown that crime prevention projects are most successful when police work in partnership with communities.

"When people see us taking action, they want to get involved," said Constable Joe Dosramos.

NET is planning to take its crime prevention campaign into another at-risk community in Edmonton and may even replicate the model throughout Canada.

For more information on the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET), contact Michelle Fillion at (780) 426-8152.

More information on the National Crime Prevention Strategy, which has engaged thousands of Canadians participating in approximately 4,000 projects in more than 800 communities, can be found at <u>www.prevention.gc.ca</u>



Members of the Edmonton Neighbourhood Empowerment Team.

Kevin Hood Senior Manager

Miles Partington Prevention Programs Liaison

> Diane Magnusson Program Assistant

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If you would like us to profile a promising crime prevention initiative your organization is involved in, please contact Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Programs at (780) 427-3457.





National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention Stratégie nationale sur la sécurité communautaire et la prévention du crime





