Community Crime Prevention Guide

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Introduction to the Community Crime Prevention Guide

Most Canadians consider being able to live in a safe and secure environment one of the most important aspects of their lives. Many Canadian communities recognize the importance of developing strategies that enhance public safety and security through crime prevention and the development of programs that help the groups most at risk of becoming involved in crime. The Community Crime Prevention Guide provides information and tools for communities in B.C. to develop action plans to achieve these goals.

There are different models for the design of an action plan. They all share a vision of the process as being divided into a series of stages, each of which requires certain types of knowledge and skills and adequate resources. In practice, it is not always feasible to break the process down into stages and address them one at a time. Decisions made at one stage will have an impact on the others. This guide provides practical information and resources on each of the stages involved in developing a crime prevention action plan in your community.

The guide is organized so that the stages can be read in sequence or as stand-alone topics.

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1 What is Crime Prevention?

Definition of Crime

Crime is an act or omission that violates the law and is punishable upon conviction. It includes Criminal Code offences against a person or property, drug offences, motor vehicle offences and other provincial or federal statute offences. Disorderly behaviour such as aggressive panhandling, public urination and sleeping in the street are not necessarily criminal acts, but they do affect communities by a gradual erosion of the quality of life. The Community Crime Prevention Guide can be used to address both crime and disorderly behaviour.

Crime typically occurs when three things happen at the same time and in the same space:

- A motivated offender is present.
- A suitable target is available.
- There is either something or someone present which encourages the crime, or nothing or no-one to discourage it.

A slightly different way to look at this is to say that crime is about people, places and situations. Crime prevention and reduction strategies try to work on all these elements.

Crime Prevention and Crime Reduction

Crime prevention is a concept that has been used for a long time. A more recent concept is "crime reduction." The terms are sometimes used interchangeably, which can be confusing. What follows are descriptions of how the terms are typically used, and how they are used in this Guide.

The major difference between crime prevention and crime reduction is one of perspective.

Definition of Crime Prevention

In its purest form crime prevention looks at people (usually babies, children and young teens) who are not involved in criminal activity and asks, "What can we do to make sure they never come into conflict with the law?"

Crime prevention also looks at places and situations which are not yet troubled by much criminal activity and asks, "How can we make sure crime never becomes a significant problem here?" For example, in the early 1980s, a new mining community was being built in north-eastern British Columbia – Tumbler Ridge. The designers of the town followed principles which ensured a good flow of foot traffic through all parts of the town, and an easy view of areas where crime might occur, thus discouraging criminal activity. Because this was a brand new town, Tumbler Ridge was a classic example of pure crime prevention.

Definition of Crime Reduction

The perspective or starting point for crime reduction is people, places or situations already known for criminal activity. This can be a group

of offenders who have racked up a long record of assaults and robbery. It might be a residential neighbourhood that has been plagued by break-ins. Or it could be a situation, such as out-of-control house parties where the peace is disturbed and underage drinking and sexual exploitation may take place. Crime reduction starts with assessing the current problem and developing strategies to decrease the amount of criminal activity, or minimize the harm it causes.

Overlap between Crime Prevention and Reduction

Crime reduction and crime prevention activities can often amount to the same thing. If a couple of assaults have taken place on a street at night, and better lighting is installed, this will both prevent future assaults and reduce the rate of assault on that street. It is not often that an entirely new community can be built from scratch, as in Tumbler Ridge, so most crime prevention takes place in the context of an existing community where there is some level of crime already. Therefore, many things done to deal with crime can either be called crime prevention (preventing future occurrences) or crime reduction (reducing an established crime problem), depending on your perspective. One form of crime prevention is called "tertiary crime prevention" and– it deals specifically with preventing people already involved in crime from doing more crime. Some believe this is really crime reduction, but it is an established concept you will see in the crime prevention literature.

In this guide, we use "crime prevention" when talking about people not involved in crime now, but who may be at risk of criminal activity in the future. And when looking at places or situations, where the crime is not at a saturation or crisis point because it is difficult to find many that are completely untouched by crime, we use "crime prevention."

For the purposes of this guide, the term "crime reduction" is reserved for people already engaged in criminal activity, and places or situations where crime is an acute problem. When reading material found elsewhere, please bear in the mind that the terms may be used interchangeably.

Types of Crime Prevention

Crime prevention can be broken down into people-, place- and situation-oriented strategies. The latter is often a blend of people and place-oriented strategies. The people-oriented strategy is usually known as "crime prevention through social development," or

1 What is Crime Prevention? *continued...*

CPSD. Place-oriented strategies are known as "crime prevention through environmental design," or CPTED. When combined with situational approaches, these strategies form a holistic and effective crime prevention package.

Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPSD)

CPSD involves long-term, integrated actions that deal with the root causes of crime. Its aim is to reduce risk factors that start people, particularly children and youth, on the road to crime, and to build protective factors that may mitigate those risks. The risk factors associated with criminal involvement are also related to many other social problems, such as child abuse and neglect, drug and alcohol misuse, school failure, teenage pregnancy, and unemployment. So when people and organizations work to prevent crime they are also working to make our communities healthy, safe and sustainable in many respects. Research shows that certain conditions and experiences may influence whether a person turns to crime. For example, poor pre-natal care (bad diet, lack of health care and alcohol abuse by the mother) can lead to low birth weight, fetal alcohol syndrome and other conditions that can affect a child's physical and mental growth. If children have cognitive problems and have lacked warm, nurturing care in their early years, they are more susceptible to risky behaviour, including criminal activity.

CPSD works at making people healthy, responsible and resilient. In a free society, there will always be opportunities and temptations to do wrong – to take advantage of another person or a situation for our own benefit. CPSD promotes community values about non-violence and respect for other people and their property, and helps young people resist peer pressure and make good decisions.

CPSD programming can occur at three levels:

- At the primary level, crime prevention refers to universal, population-based programs such as public education and health care.
- At the secondary level, crime prevention refers to programs that target those at higher risk for criminal activity. This level would include programs for youth at risk of leaving school and parenting programs for high-risk parents.
- At the tertiary level, crime prevention refers to rehabilitative and supervision programs for offenders to reduce re-offending.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED is about the places and things, the "built environment," which can be either targets of criminal activity or the location where crime takes place. The proper design, effective use and maintenance of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, and an improvement in quality of life.

CPTED is complementary to, and inter-related with, CPSD strategies as people live in the built environment and the built environment influences how people behave.

CPTED is based on the premise that much crime is opportunistic and contextual. Inadvertently, nuisance and criminal behaviour can be facilitated by poorly planned and designed space, leading to actual opportunities for crime, as well as increased levels of fear.

Through the effective use of CPTED principles, crime, nuisance behaviour and the fear of crime can be reduced. Application of CPTED principles to new developments prevents future problems; and using CPTED enhances problem-solving capability for existing developments.

There are four key CPTED design principles:

- **Natural access control** – design that directs and influences the flow of people to naturally maximize control and surveillance (e.g., exterior and interior design of a building, landscaping, lighting, and traffic calming).

- **Natural surveillance** – design to maximize visibility and ensure legitimate users can observe and monitor activities around them in a formal or casual manner (e.g., office or apartment windows with unimpeded sightlines to parking areas or other areas where crime is likely to occur).
- **Territoriality** – design of the physical environment to extend a perceived sense of influence or territory. People taking ownership of their surroundings makes it more difficult for offenders to carry out crimes or disorder.
- **Maintenance** – enhancement, maintenance and management of the built environment encourages the users of the area to respect their surroundings (e.g., removing graffiti and litter, avoiding overgrowth of hedges, fixing inoperative lighting, installing good locks).

Situational Crime Prevention

Situational crime prevention looks at particular circumstances in which people interact with one another and with the built environment, identifies particularly risky combinations, and looks for solutions specific to those situations.

1 What is Crime Prevention? *continued...*

Solutions may include:

- Increasing the effort required to commit
- a crime, making it less attractive.
- Increasing the risk of being caught.
- Reducing the potential rewards of crime.
- Reducing provocations and temptations.
- Removing excuses for committing crime.

Some of these solutions involve a combination of people-oriented and place-oriented strategies that overlap with crime prevention through social development or environmental design.

An example of situational crime prevention might address problems associated with intoxicated people leaving bars at closing time, such as fights and impaired driving. Situational solutions include education of bar staff and patrons about responsible drinking; regulations addressing the number, size and location of bars and their closing times; police presence at closing times; and availability of public transport.

Problems with credit cards might be addressed by increased security features on the cards themselves, business practices which require verification that the person presenting the card is the owner, bank procedures to rapidly cancel stolen cards, to limit the profit the thieves can make, and police action which targets known credit card thieves.

Types of Crime Reduction

As with crime prevention, crime reduction activities can focus on people, places or situations.

Because crime reduction is focussed on existing criminals, crime locations and situations, it relies heavily on information or intelligence which describes those people, places and situations in great deal. What are the characteristics of the offenders, and the factors that support their criminal activity? What are the patterns of criminal activity – the frequency, times, locations, targets, and circumstances of the activity? In crafting a response that will reduce the activity, a number of partners are typically involved, and the timeliness and integration of the response is important.

Examples of crime reduction include:

- **Prolific offender management** is a people-oriented strategy that focuses on offenders who are seen as the generators of the most offences. Generally, about 10 per cent of offenders are believed responsible for about 50 per cent of crime. Prolific offender management projects bring together resources from enforcement agencies (police, corrections and Crown), as well as health and social services to provide services to offenders. The goal is to address factors in offenders' lives that can increase their likelihood of offending, such as drug or alcohol use, and ensure an effective response when they re-offend or relapse.

- **Targeting crime "hot spots"** or geographic areas where there are high levels of crime, is primarily a place-oriented strategy. This could include increasing police presence or applying CPTED principles, such as changing traffic patterns. Hot spot strategies can align with people-oriented strategies. For example offenders who have court-ordered restrictions

on where they can be, when they can be out, and who they can associate with, may be checked by police more frequently in hot spots, thus discouraging attendance.

- **Managing major public gatherings** that have a history of problems such as public intoxication, accidents and fights, is a situational strategy. Careful planning of the event from a crime reduction perspective would involve event organizers, police, municipal officials, first aid providers and others to ensure opportunities for crime are minimized, supervision and deterrence is maximized and rapid response to emergencies is available.

2 Why Have a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan?

Introduction

According to Statistics Canada, the nation's crime rate reached a 25-year low in 2006, with B.C. and every other province and territory recording a drop. Nevertheless, in 2004 one in four Canadians reported being victimized each year by a common crime such as break and enter, car theft or assault. B.C. has one of the highest rates of property crime in Canada and its overall crime rate is higher than the national rate. As many as two-thirds of all victimization incidents never reach the criminal justice system.

The nature of crime and the factors that may increase or decrease its likelihood will vary among communities, as will programs and services to address such factors.

Identifying local issues, and evidence-based strategies to address those specific issues, help ensure crime prevention initiatives are relevant to local needs, encourage local support and, ultimately, increase the likelihood of success.

Local Community Engagement

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Agenda for Safer Cities recommends that:

- the community be the focal point for effective crime prevention;
- strategies for preventing crime be sensitive to local needs; and
- community-based approaches to combating crime be developed and delivered through inter-governmental and community-level partnerships.

2 Why Have a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan? *continued...*

Local communities are well positioned to lead the development of comprehensive community safety planning to identify and tackle the situations that put youth, families, neighbourhoods and businesses at risk of crime and victimization. Crime prevention is a long-term process that ideally becomes a normal part of local community activity and local governance.

Collaborative and Problem-Solving Partnerships are Essential

Collaborative and problem-solving relationships are essential. Local governments experience the problems of crime firsthand but don't have all the tools or resources needed to address them. Between the three levels of government – local, provincial and federal – responsibility is shared for delivering the services that tackle crime-related conditions. These services include housing, social services, recreation, police, zoning and public health.

While the criminal justice system has a critical role to play in community safety, multi-agency partnerships are essential. Community safety is dependent on the commitment and collaboration of sectors such as municipal planners, public health officials, educators, business, employment agencies, child welfare services and many others who plan and deliver care and support to children and adults in need. The reality is that no organization or community has the breadth of mandate or the depth of resources to go at it alone. Success depends on co-operation and collaboration.

Evidence-Based Approaches

Long-standing debates continue about the most effective ways for governments and communities to tackle problems of crime and community safety. Preventing and reducing crime was once seen primarily as the responsibility of police, courts and prisons. Research shows effective prevention strategies must also focus on identifying and addressing the root causes of crime, using multi-agency community partnerships.

There is sound evidence that intervening early in the lives of high-risk families and children, improving conditions in disadvantaged areas and focusing on the conditions that breed crime are highly effective in reducing crime.

For example, Communities That Care (CTC) is a research-based conceptual

framework used to guide communities in selecting the most effective policies, actions and programs to promote youth development. It does this by targeting the unique risk and protection needs of each community, such as risk factors for delinquency, school failure, substance abuse, school dropout and teen pregnancy.

Evaluations in the U.S., United Kingdom, Netherlands, Australia and Canada have provided positive and growing evidence of the effectiveness of the CTC prevention approach. The first Canadian project was initiated in Squamish in 1998 (www.ctcsquamish.com/approach.htm). CTC Squamish has succeeded in sustaining itself and is a source of CTC training for other B.C. communities.

There is also sound evidence that crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is effective in reducing and preventing crime and the fear of crime. Environmental design is particularly effective at the concept stage of development in a community, but it enhances social development strategies at any stage.

The RCMP E-Division offers two-day workshops for local communities on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), as well as crime prevention through social development (CPSD). For information, e-mail: cpcp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan

A What is Community

Crime prevention action plans underscore the importance of community mobilization. In this guide, mobilization is a generic, inclusive term that is used to describe a broad range of interactions, including engagement, consultation and working in partnership/collaboration.

Community mobilization is important in a community crime prevention plan because crime and community safety issues emerge from local, specific contexts. Local residents experience crime problems first hand and have valuable knowledge that may be critical to the success of an intervention. The long-term success and sustainability of action plans are linked to the degree of community involvement and ownership of strategies.

While research demonstrates the importance of mobilizing and engaging community, the challenge is to decide who to approach. The term “community” is broadly used to define groups of people, whether stakeholders, interest groups, citizen groups or others. A community may be a geographic location, a community of similar interests (such as faith-based or business groups) or a community around a particular activity, like sports.

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

A broad definition of community acknowledges the diversity that exists within any community. Diversity is reflected in characteristics such as ethnicity, culture, gender, age, socio-economic background, values, sexual orientation and physical and mental ability. A broad definition also emphasizes the importance of an inclusive culture and of valuing difference between individuals and communities.

The goal of a community crime prevention action plan is to be inclusive in all its work. At times, it may be necessary to tailor mobilization processes and activities to enable some communities or individuals to fully participate.

Identifying the formal and informal community leaderships and networks for change is critical to a community crime prevention action plan. An asset mapping method is discussed in this guide under section 3.e, "Identifying crime issues in your community."

In the area of crime prevention, three types of communities have been identified, each linked to a specific agenda:

- criminal justice (police, prosecutors, corrections) agencies that support law enforcement to reduce and prevent crime;
- interest-specific community activists or groups who advance change within the criminal justice system; and
- coalitions of community members and institutional players that advance a broad vision of community safety and well-being.

Resources

Although the task of determining what is community may seem daunting, numerous resources exist to assist in this task.

Effective Engagement: building relationships with community and other stakeholders (see URL link below for more information).
www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/wcmn203.nsf/Home+Page

Effective Engagement is a practical planning guide that shares information about tools widely used in community mobilization.

- Book one outlines the principles and importance of effective engagement and sets out a model for developing best-practice engagement activities.
- Book two is a practical guide on engagement planning using an evidence-based approach. This book also provides sample engagement planning documents.
- Book three is a list of various engagement tools, with details of their purpose, use and requirements. A "how to mobilize the community" section provides suggestions on how to start identifying and mobilizing a community. It provides information on the closely linked task of building community capacity. "How to engage youth" focuses on specific mobilization processes for working with youth.

B How to Mobilize the Community

Mobilizing the community is essential in setting priorities and selecting targets. It involves identifying partners and building collaborative relationships.

Identifying Partners

Partnerships have become an effective way of creating safer communities. By working together, partners can understand the factors that contribute to crime and safety problems, develop a well-balanced strategy for intervention and put that strategy into action for the benefit of everyone.

When thinking of potential partners, it may be helpful to develop an inventory of possible partners. **Potential partners for a crime prevention project include:**

- Police
- Community Corrections
- crime prevention associations and groups
- government agencies
- community organizations
- seniors groups
- youth organizations
- service clubs
- small businesses, large corporations and industry
- business associations
- media
- schools
- academic partners - colleges and universities
- representatives from diverse communities, such as ethnocultural, Aboriginal, people with disabilities, by gender and/or sexual orientation, youth, elders and faith communities
- libraries

Alternatively, a list of potential partners can be generated by thinking about the kind of people that should be mobilized to ensure the success for your crime prevention plan.

It may be useful to consider the following questions:

- Who is affected by crime and crime-related problems?
- Who is at risk or vulnerable in your community?
- Who can provide political or financial support?
- Who has a stake in ensuring the project succeeds?
- Who is genuinely interested and wants to help?
- Who is already working in crime prevention?
- Are different cultural groups represented?
- Are community members with special needs represented?

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

Building Collaborative Relationships

Mobilizing the community involves building successful collaboration. Collaborative relationships are characterized by a commitment to mutual goals, a jointly developed structure and shared responsibility, mutual authority and accountability for success and sharing of resources and rewards. For example, in an effort to reduce youth crime, leaders from the local school board, police force, mental health services, youth services and social services could form a collaborative body that meets regularly to discuss and implement ways of addressing the issue in a comprehensive manner.

Since making decisions through consensus is required, each partner gives up some of their autonomy and decision-making power. It is important to make sure partnerships and processes are inclusive and representative of the diversity in your community. Culturally relevant approaches will be needed to meet the needs of people from diverse communities.

Because individuals from different sectors are used to functioning in their own way, collaboration requires patience and perseverance from all involved. Often, the most effective collaborative relationships are long-term alliances that allow the development of strong trust among the involved organizations.

Research has identified that clear communication is essential for making collaborations work.

For example, clarity around the roles of partners is important. These roles may include:

- sharing specialized skills, such as networking, marketing or planning;
- sharing ideas and perspectives to address complex issues;
- co-ordinating of services and initiatives;
- identifying roles and responsibilities;
- making services readily available to clients;
- finding volunteers;
- donating space or equipment; or
- fundraising.

Ideally, the decisions around roles should be put into a written agreement.

You may wish to use one of the templates available in resources that address community development and mobilization, such as Building Successful Collaborations: A guide to collaboration among non-profit agencies and between non-profit agencies and businesses (2006), available at: www.community-fdn.ca/link_docs/collaborationReport.pdf

Resources

Many useful resources have been developed in B.C. and around the world. Here are a few to begin with.

The Partnership Toolkit: Tools for Building and Sustaining Partnerships.
www.pcrs.ca/Images/Agency%20Documents/Publications/partnershiptoolkit.pdf

Developed in 2001 with input from over 130 people and 90 organizations in B.C., this comprehensive, 132-page toolkit includes the following topics:

- outreach and identifying potential partners
- a partnership rating tool
- working with funders
- management and decision making
- ensuring accountability
- a model partnership agreement
- legal and liability issues
- effective internal communications
- promotion and public relations
- resolving conflict
- evaluation

Building Community Capacity

Close attention to local conditions and community readiness to change are fundamental requirements for mobilization. Some level of capacity is necessary for effective community mobilization. Community capacity has been defined as a community's collective ability to undertake collective action.

Capacity includes many assets or dimensions, including:

- a shared sense of community;
- individual and collective knowledge, skills and ability;
- infrastructure; and
- enabling policies and systems.

Community Capacity Building – A Practical Guide

www.utas.edu.au/sociology/HACRU/

Given the complexity of community life, there is no single solution that will suit all. It is important that communities identify their own priorities and activities in a crime prevention plan. The guide identifies and provides information on three key stages in developing community capacity:

1. Understanding who the community is and what needs they have.
2. Engaged in community-identified programs and actions that will address these concerns.
3. Measuring the outcomes of these efforts to see whether these actions are effective in practice.

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

The Community Capacity Building Tool

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/ab-nwt/downloads.html

Although developed for community-based health projects, this guide can also be used for crime prevention projects. It was developed through a research project that draws on the expertise of practitioners and researchers from across Canada. The tool has nine features that, together, describe community capacity. Each feature is presented with questions for a project committee to discuss. The answers to the questions help with further planning.

C How to Engage Youth

Rationale for Engaging Youth

Municipal leaders regularly make decisions, shape policies and take action on issues that directly affect youth. Think of public transport, parks and recreation, use of public spaces, health, child care, education and housing. Because young people lack access to official processes such as voting, they have few avenues for influencing decisions and policies. Youth who are disenfranchised or marginalized, including youth in care, Aboriginal youth, ethno-cultural minorities and sexually exploited youth, are even less likely to have opportunities for participation in decisions affecting their lives.

Engaging youth in decision-making processes leads to decisions that are more responsive and appropriate to youth's needs and interests.

Although further research is needed to determine what is most effective in engaging youth, the evidence strongly suggests the best way to ensure success is to include youth throughout the entire design of a program. Meaningful youth participation involves recognizing and nurturing the strengths, interests and abilities of youth by providing opportunities for youth to become involved in decisions that affect them, at both individual and systemic levels.

Youth Participation in Local Governance

There is no one right way to promote or "blueprint" youth participation in governance. However, there are principles and practices that have been proven to be successful. Every city, community and organization will have different youth issues and capacities to engage youth in governance. The most successful programs are those that incorporate a variety of approaches to meet and address the diversity and complexity of the youth issues involved.

Youth councils and youth representation on boards are typically thought of in relation to youth governance. While these strategies tend to allow youth direct interaction with adult decision makers, and a greater capacity to influence planning and decision making, they generally only reach a small percentage of youths, often those who are already leaders.

Less formal structures, such as youth action teams which are peer-led leadership groups, engage a larger number and broader diversity of youth.

To build the capacity of all youth to engage in governance, the best strategy is a framework that incorporates multiple levels of youth participation. It can include opportunities to engage at the neighbourhood and community level through youth action teams, as well as opportunities to engage within formal government structures, such as youth representation on boards.

Strategies for Engaging Youth in Local Governance

The McCreary Centre Society, a non-profit organization in B.C., will facilitate half-day Youth Advisory Council (YAC) workshops for youth interested in starting up or furthering a workshop. YACLink is a how-to manual for organizing youth workshops that can be downloaded from their website www.mcs.bc.ca.

YACLink is a combination of a written guide and peer-led workshop. It includes instructions on:

- preparing for the workshops;
- a step-by-step guide to facilitating the workshops;
- overheads and handouts; and
- an appendix of icebreaker activities.

For more information,
e-mail: mccreary@mcs.bc.ca.

Resources

Youth-Activism and Participation: A Literature Review on Best Practices in Engaging Youth www.sacsc.ca

Youth-Activism contains lists of recommended websites for youth activism, as well as recommended toolkits for youth activism. It includes checklists for adults when working with and engaging with youth to ensure best practices, along with tips for adults working with youth as partners. Other features include guidelines for program initiatives, information of characteristics required for youth work and youth development programs to be successful, and strategies and practices to employ when engaging with youth.

Indicators of Successful Youth Engagement

www.engagementcentre.ca

The Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement brings together the expertise of youth, youth service providers, academic researchers and policy makers to identify, build and undertake models of effective practices for engaging youth in meaningful ways. The centre is committed to youth being involved, on a lead basis and with the support of adult professionals, in engaging in research and developing policies and products.

The website features an extensive resource centre and includes results from a scan of 78 youth-serving organizations from across Canada that identifies the ingredients in programs that successfully engaged youth.

The centre benefits from knowledge generated by other centres for excellence for children's well-being where the focus is on involving disengaged youth. The centre assists coalitions of police forces, community agencies and youth experiencing risk through programs such as Building Safer Communities: Youth/Adult Partnerships as Agents of Change (www.engagementcentre.ca/files/SafeCommunites1page_e.pdf).

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

D Why Involve Volunteers?

Recruitment, management and retention of volunteers are critical to the development of a crime prevention action plan.

A crime prevention action plan is more likely to be successful if it has wide community support and participation. Research strongly suggests that successful crime prevention action plans should include as many groups and individuals as possible.

There are numerous benefits to involving a range of groups and individuals as volunteer participants in the action plan:

- Volunteers bring different ideas, perspectives and resources to planning.
- They give voice to a range of interests.
- They can also promote flexible approaches and problem solving – both essential components of an effective action plan.
- Their involvement shows potential
- financial contributors that the community supports the project.
- When financial resources are limited, volunteers can be instrumental in getting a project off the ground.
- Additional benefits are that satisfied volunteers do a good job, have only good things to say about the project, recruit others by word and example, and are committed and enthusiastic.

Volunteer Management: There is a lot of work involved in the successful integration of volunteers into programs and projects. Effective volunteer management takes thought, planning, effort and a basic understanding of the needs and interests that drive an individual to volunteer.

Volunteer Recruitment: Resources about volunteer recruitment typically include the following basic steps:

- define why you need volunteers;
- design valuable volunteer opportunities;
- recruit carefully;
- screen, interview and place with care;
- train;
- recognize; and
- conduct follow-up and evaluation.

A comprehensive collection of information on volunteer recruitment, relations and management can be found at: www.charityvillage.com.

Resources

Volunteer B.C. (www.volunteerbc.bc.ca) is a provincial association of volunteer centres, provincial voluntary organizations and individuals. Its website provides information on events and conferences and up-to-date information on the voluntary sector. One of their resources, The Screening Handbook, addresses the legal obligations associated with volunteer screening, particularly the need to take reasonable measures to care for and protect participants in an organization's activities and programs.

Community Volunteer Connections (www.volunteerconnections.net) supports organizations in B.C. by promoting best practices in volunteer management throughout communities. Organizations can use this website to list volunteer opportunities.

The Volunteer Resource Centre (www.volunteer.ca/en/resources) is a virtual resource centre, with extensive links to information on volunteering and volunteer management.

E How to Identify Crime Issues in Your Community

The challenge is to identify crime problems in the community and relevant issues in a logical and systematic way. Problem identification tends to take the form of a needs assessment or a mapping of community assets. A combination of both approaches is typically referred to as a safety diagnosis.

Needs Assessment

You can use a needs assessment to learn what the people or communities that you hope to reach might need generally or in relation to a specific issue. For example, you might want to find out about safety issues in your community, about access to services or about the extent to which your community is dealing with a certain type of crime or a certain form of victimization.

Your needs assessment may involve gathering information from the following sources:

- **Police** – Local police or RCMP detachments keep records of reported crimes. Their reports can give you a good idea of what crimes have taken place in your community, where they happened and how frequently they occurred. The police can provide information about related programs and services, statistics and other data and crime prevention strategies and approaches.
- **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General** – This ministry's website (www.pssg.gov.bc.ca) provides comprehensive information on B.C. crime statistics, police resources, and municipal crime rates and case burdens. Also available on the website, is a useful resource called Identifying Your Community's Crime Problem: A Guide to Needs Assessment (www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/community_programs/publications/index.htm).
- **Schools, organizations and agencies** – Community centres and small business owners usually document problems they have had with graffiti, shoplifting and vandalism. School authorities likely keep files on bullying incidents and other forms of school violence.
- **Community** – Gathering information from people is important because you need more than just statistics to tell you what your community really needs. It is particularly important to hear from diverse parts of your community, including marginalized and vulnerable individuals.
- **Local and provincial media coverage** – The media reports on issues of crime, violence and victimization and shapes public opinion and perception.

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

Mapping Community Assets

Mapping can provide you with information on resources or skills that exist among the people or communities you hope to work with. Mapping is often conducted alongside a needs assessment. The mapping process helps you identify the skills that community members can contribute to your crime prevention project. It also helps you locate resources such as community space, in-kind and financial donations, likely sources of volunteers, and other assets.

Research has shown that it is important to make the mapping of community resources as wide and broad as you possibly can. In this way you can reach and engage those who will be willing to act in ways that aid the wider community.

Safety Diagnosis or Audit

In a safety diagnosis or audit, crime and victimization are examined in relation to the social, economic, political and institutional environments in which problems occur. Safety audits are a tool that citizens can use to evaluate different features in their neighbourhood with the goal of reducing crime and improving personal safety. A safety audit helps people to look at a space that feels unsafe and determine why it feels that way. Community members can look at where the site is, what is beside it, how it is designed and what happens there. Safety audits are also used to develop an inventory of the places and programs in a community that make that community a safe place to live.

A safety audit can simply be a checklist of the features in an area or building which you feel affect your safety. The audit results allow you to focus on taking steps to correct these issues. Items that may be considered are whether there is sufficient lighting, whether you would be heard if you call for help, whether there are people nearby who can help, or improvements you'd like to see made to enhance safety.

Resources

Identifying, Mapping and Mobilizing Our Assets
www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/progdev/pdf/mappingas.pdf

This resource provides assessment tools for inventorying the assets of individual members and associations and organizations in communities. It outlines four basic steps in mapping assets of individuals:

- Identify groups of individuals where asset identification might be helpful to your project.
- Identify assets of these groups in a general way.

- Consider how these assets link to
- your project goals.
- Decide if more in-depth, first-hand assessment of assets of some of these groups would be helpful and important. Assessments might be conducted through surveys, interviews, focus groups or other research methods.

This resource also outlines basic steps in mapping assets of associations and organizations:

- Generate a list of associations in the community through brainstorming by the project committee. Extend this through a community forum or by reviewing local media coverage. Associations are informal, voluntary groups that bring people together to pursue shared interests.
- Generate a list of organizations in the community by polling the knowledge of the project committee. You can extend this by reviewing telephone or other directories. An organization is a formal government, private/business or non-profit organization with paid staff.
- Identify assets of associations and organizations in a general way.
- Consider possible links between the assets of the associations and organizations and your project goals.
- Consider how accessible the assets of various associations and organizations are
- to your project and how such access could be increased.
- Decide if more in-depth, first-hand assessment of assets for some of these associations and organizations would be helpful, e.g., survey, interviews, focus groups, etc.

The Youth Community Asset Mapping Project
www.eya.ca/youthmappers

This is a joint initiative between Environmental Youth Alliance and the Self-Help Resource Association in B.C. It includes information on community asset mapping for youth.

Guidance on Local Safety Audits: A Compendium of International Practice
www.fesu.org/index.php?id=664

Guidance is published by the European Forum for Urban Safety, in collaboration with the National Crime Prevention Centre. The publication is divided into three parts.

- Part A is directed primarily at those responsible for crime prevention policy and legislation at the national level, as well as community leaders with a mandate for crime prevention at the city level. This section identifies who needs to be involved in the safety audit, skills needed to complete the work, the scope, principles of good practice and main stages of an audit activity.
- Part B focuses on issues that pose challenges because they are difficult to investigate. Theses issues relate to specific populations at risk, children and youth, women's safety, drugs and crime against businesses.
- Part C covers a range of technical subjects. It emphasizes the importance of combining quantitative and qualitative data to gain a good understanding of problems and causal factors. It also provides tips on the use of a range of tools and techniques for collecting information.

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

F How to Implement an Action Plan

Research demonstrates that crime prevention initiatives tend to encounter three main challenges. These relate to capacity, mandate and resources.

- Although working in partnership is key to success, not every community will have equal capacity to deliver on multi-agency partnerships. In reality, very disadvantaged communities where interventions are most needed may have difficulty developing and sustaining partnerships, conducting needs assessments, identifying programs that show promise of reducing crime and conducting evaluations. Related to this is the fact that co-operation with crime reduction projects may not be readily obtained from agencies who don't deal with crime regularly.
- A second major challenge is that the organizations that are mandated to respond, and that have the greatest level of resources, are sometimes not inclined to break new ground. They will need encouragement to extend their mandate or activities.
- The third key challenge is the reality of limited resources. The availability of resources is often the key determinant of the choice of response to crime prevention problems. Community agencies and groups often do not have the flexibility, resources or staff to take on additional responsibilities.

These challenges can be overcome. Practical tools are available to assist communities to plan and implement crime prevention strategies based on the basic principles of:

- leadership,
- partnerships,
- safety diagnosis or audit,
- action plans,
- Implementation, and
- evaluation.

Resources

The Primer: Municipal Crime Prevention
www.fcm.ca//CMFiles/primercrime1MZI-3282008-8756.pdf
The Primer, available through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, provides guidance on how to organize locally, identify problems, develop crime prevention programs and implement them, and monitor and evaluate programs.

The Key to Safer Municipalities

This toolkit was developed with the assistance of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. It provides detailed information on what municipalities can do to implement effective crime prevention strategies in their communities. Fact sheets are included that provide communities with the information required to identify unique risk factors and safety problems, secure political commitment, develop partnerships, engage citizens and develop a plan of action. To obtain a copy of this toolkit, send an e-mail to: cipc@crime-prevention-intl.org.

Sustainable Approaches to Crime Prevention through Social Development
www.carleton.ca/cicyc/tool_kit/index.html

Sustainable Approaches is a toolkit developed by the Centre for Initiatives on Children, Youth and Community, in collaboration with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. The toolkit assumes community leaders are well versed in the principles of community mobilization and crime prevention through social development. It is designed for community mobilizers, policy makers, community leaders and community residents to work together to find sustainable ways to address issues of common concern. The publication includes interactive materials such as a workshop plan, facilitator's notes, participant exercises, a PowerPoint presentation, handouts, worksheets and an evaluation form.

Sustainable Approaches acknowledges it can be challenging to undertake a sustainable approach to crime prevention if funding is only available for short-term projects. It offers a sustainable, holistic approach to community planning.

The toolkit contains materials designed to help:

- provide information to different community players on the philosophy and principles of
- a sustainable approach;
- facilitate a dialogue on sustainability among people and organizations in the community, while encouraging them to develop horizontal and vertical relationships;
- encourage communities to invest in a sustainable plan early in their process; and
- provide examples and insight into ways to support sustainability, such as capacity building.

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

G How to Develop a Communications Strategy

A communications strategy should be an integral part of a crime prevention action plan because it is an essential part of mobilizing local communities and helping make the right connections to build partnerships.

An effective communications strategy will also help to:

- raise the partnership's profile in the community;
- gain community support for the partnership's work;
- reduce fear of crime; and
- change attitudes towards the criminal justice system.

Resources

Communicating Crime Reduction
www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/comm_strat/home-page.htm
Communicating Crime Reduction is designed to help community-based partners to develop and implement their own communication strategies. This website includes practical tools such as a communications strategy template.

It contains the following checklist for developing a communications strategy:

- Has the partnership agreed on the communication strategy's aims and objectives?
- Are all partner agencies committed to delivering clear and unified messages?
- Have areas of responsibility been agreed upon?
- Are roles and responsibilities clear?
- Has a realistic action plan been drawn up, taking into account the available resources?
- Have you identified your key messages and audiences?
- Have the links between the communications strategy and other community/involvement mechanisms been made?
- Have you identified your key stakeholders?
- How will you make sure that your key stakeholders are kept fully briefed on the partnership's work?
- Do you have the mechanisms in place to facilitate two-way communication?
- Is your communications strategy flexible enough to react to changing circumstances?
- How will you monitor and evaluate your communications strategy?
- How will you measure the strategy's success?
- Who is your media and public relations spokesperson?

Information on the following topics is also available:

- Developing a communications strategy explains the importance of having an effective strategy, as well as offering guidance on the content of a communications strategy and how it should be implemented.
- "Spreading the word" looks at paid publicity and how it can be used to communicate crime reduction strategies. It also examines how and when to use it in order to gain maximum effect.
- Taking the message into the community focuses on arranging public events, making the most of face-to-face contact, as well as enabling practitioners to give practical advice to people they meet.
- Considering the fear of crime provides information on skills that are needed to avoid inadvertently raising the public fear of crime through communication.
- Connecting with youth – also see section 3.c of this guide, How to Engage Youth.
- Connecting people with disabilities highlights the factors in ensuring communication is accessible to those with disabilities.
- Connecting with ethnic communities advises on numerous topics ranging from what media to use to language issues.
- Connecting with business helps show how businesses can be brought into community partnership and outlines some of the benefits to participation.
- Research and evaluation in communication – also see chapter 4 of this guide, Evaluation.
- There is a significant body of research on the role the media plays in influencing public perceptions about crime. For information on how to work with the media and have an impact on the reporting of crime and crime prevention, see How to Involve the Media in this guide.

3 How to Develop a Community Crime Prevention Action Plan *continued...*

H How to Involve the Media

The media is an important crime prevention partner. For most of the public, the media is their only source of information about the criminal justice system. Their perceptions and attitudes are shaped by what they hear, read and see. Media can help promote your crime prevention efforts and they can help you deliver important messages related to community safety.

To gain community-wide support, you may want to develop a communications strategy. Communication tools to consider include:

- print publications,
- posters,
- newsletters,
- flyers,
- banners or other signage,
- community events,
- radio and/or television,
- computer bulletin boards, blogs and online news services,
- e-mail, and
- word of mouth or networking.

From the outset, it is essential to determine exactly what you want to say. Do you want to increase public awareness of community safety issues and concerns? Do you want to raise the profile of a particular project? Do you want to obtain donations of time, money or services?

It is equally essential to understand what the media wants and needs. Understanding deadlines for time-sensitive stories is important. Establishing a long-term relationship also has its benefits. Media outlets can provide advice on how you can get your stories printed or broadcast. You can help them develop personal feature stories about crime-related topics. You may even want to consider inviting media owners and managers to participate as members of your project team or to serve as resource people for your project.

Useful Tools

The Safe Communities Kit
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/community_programs/publications/index.htm

Produced by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Safe Communities contains a useful guide called Working with the Media.

It contains practical information on how to prepare for an interview with the media and how to prepare news releases. The guide also includes several templates for writing media advisories.

Dealing with the Media
www.gdrc.org/ngo/media/index.html

This toolbox of resources on working with the media covers the following topics:

1. Steps to Getting the Most Out of the Media
2. Developing a Media Resource Inventory
3. Media Opportunities
4. Alternative Marketing Strategies
5. Checklist for Media Campaigns
6. During a Crisis: 10 Most Important Rules
7. Tips for Handling Reporters
8. What do the Media Want?
9. Dealing with journalists
10. Being Interviewed
11. Press Conferences and releases
12. How a Story Gets into the News
13. Newspapers: The Black and White on Getting into Print
14. Maximize your Media Exposure and Minimize your Risk
15. Tips for Dealing with the Media
16. Make Sure Your Message is Heard
17. Publicity Do's and Don'ts
18. The Media Rules
19. Open, Honest Communication
20. How to Speak so That People Will Listen
21. How to Plan Press Releases
22. The Care and Feeding of the media
23. Packaging Information for the Media

4 How to Evaluate

Evaluation is a process that determines whether a project's activities are meeting the project's goals and objectives in the manner expected. The evaluation results can help you revamp your project or plan a new one.

A well-developed evaluation plan shows prospective sponsors that your project is well thought out and offers potential benefits. It also indicates your group is committed to assessing the impact of the project on the community.

The basic steps of project evaluation are:

- identify the goals and objectives;
- describe the project activities;
- identify what you want to know - anticipated results or outcomes;
- identify data sources and data collection tools that will give you actual results and outcomes;
- collect, organize and analyze the data and conclusions; and
- report the results and identify next steps.

Community groups often think evaluation requires the services of an expert outsider. While expert help is sometimes needed, it's not always required.

You could consider using an outside evaluator in the following situations:

- when complex statistics are needed to analyze the results of your evaluation;
- when you plan to use a wide variety of information-gathering methods, requiring detailed comparison and analysis;
- when you are unsure what information is needed to answer your evaluation questions;
- when you want an objective viewpoint; and
- when your evaluation involves experimental and comparison groups, requiring different levels of statistical comparison.

Reporting the results of your evaluation is an important final step. For key partners and funders, it ensures accountability. At a practical level, the evaluation may lead to additional funding for future projects. Dissemination of the evaluation report also contributes to the evidence base and assists other communities in their future planning and in identifying opportunities for improvement.

Your local college or university may be able to assist with designing and carrying out an evaluation.

Resources

Evaluation of Crime Prevention through Social Development Projects: Handbook for Community Groups (March 2006)
www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/_fl/Evaluation_handbook-E.pdf

This 173-page handbook is organized into seven chapters that correspond to seven modules of a training package for crime prevention through social development developed by the National Crime Prevention Centre.

Each chapter provides a glossary of terms used in the chapter and a list of resources relevant to the topics covered. Worksheets used in the training session sections are provided at the close of each chapter.

The handbook is based on a logic model, which is a way of describing a project. A logic model provides a simple picture of what programs do and what they plan to accomplish. Logic models are useful tools for visioning and priority setting. They are also a good way to bring project staff, managers and partners together to identify what they hope to accomplish and what activities they will undertake. The logic model helps ensure all players communicate the same message when describing the project and its purpose to senior managers, participants, potential funders and media. Their use in a grant application shows the funder the project has taken the first steps to putting an accountability structure in place.

Splash and Ripple: Using Outcomes to Design and Guide Community Justice Work – Safe Communities
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/community_programs/publications/index.htm

Outcome measurement is the primary focus in the "splash-and-ripple" approach, a term used to describe the effects, or outcomes, of putting human resources into crime prevention activities. Outcome measurement is described as a cyclical process. A group can get started by:

- brainstorming the things your project is doing;
- categorizing the results;
- refining the information in each category;
- developing indicators; and
- brainstorming different ways of gathering information.

Appendix I of Splash and Ripple provides an outcome measurement framework for a fictitious community crime prevention project.

5 Sources of Support

Funders

Most projects need financial support, whether it is a small donation from neighbourhood residents or a major investment for a long-term activity. There are a number of sources of funding for crime prevention activities, including federal and provincial ministries, municipal governments, corporate sponsors, community foundations and service clubs.

Federal

Public Safety Canada, Crime Prevention
www.sp-ps.gc.ca/prg/cp/index-eng.aspx
Look under "Funding programs."

At the federal government level, the National Crime Prevention Centre offers the following funding programs:

- **Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF)** – supports community projects where policing, community health, voluntary and private sectors work together to enhance community capacity to prevent crime through social development.
- **Youth Gangs Prevention Fund** – supports projects in communities where youth gangs are an existing or emerging threat and supports initiatives that clearly target youth in gangs or at greatest risk of joining gangs.
- **Research, Knowledge & Development Fund** – supports a range of activities and research that identify and analyze gaps in the current body of knowledge related to crime prevention in Canada. Projects are intended to demonstrate what works and what is promising in reducing risk factors associated with crime and victimization.

Provincial

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Community Safety and Crime Prevention
www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/community_programs/funding/index.htm

At the provincial level, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General victim services and crime prevention division offers the following funding programs:

- **Civil forfeiture crime remediation and crime prevention grants** – support communities for projects that address crime, violence and victimization.
- **Safe Streets and Safe Schools programs** – supports community and youth organizations, local governments, school districts and police departments for strategies that enhance public safety and local crime prevention efforts.
- **Restorative justice: community accountability programs (CAP) grants** – support projects that hold low-risk, youth and adult offenders accountable for their actions.

Initiatives in Canadian Municipalities
The Institute for the Prevention of Crime (www.crime-prevention-intl.org) at the University of Ottawa coordinates the municipal network on crime prevention. (The network includes Vancouver, Surrey, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Waterloo Region, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Saint John and Halifax.).

It works together to improve the capacity of municipalities and regions to develop and sustain crime prevention and community safety initiatives. By fostering a network and organizing conferences

and workshops to share knowledge and experience, this collaboration identifies gaps and needs for more effective prevention strategies.

Resources

The Key to Safer Municipalities
Developed with the assistance of the Institute for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), this toolkit contains fact sheets that provide communities with information required to identify unique risk factors and safety problems, secure political commitment, develop partnerships, engage citizens and develop an action plan. For information on how to obtain a copy, contact ICPC at: cipc@crime-prevention.intl.org.

Another ICPC publication, **Making Cities Safer: Canadian Strategies and Practices** describes activities and governance structures in each municipality belonging to the municipal network on crime prevention, along with strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for the future.

The Primer: Municipal Crime Prevention
www.fcm.ca//CMFiles/primercrime1MZI-3282008-8756.pdf
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities provides practical tools to assist municipalities to plan and undertake crime prevention strategies based on the basic principles of leadership, partnerships, safety diagnosis, action plans, implementation and evaluation.

The Primer provides guidance on how to organize a local council, identify local problems, develop an action plan, plan crime prevention programs and undertake, monitor and evaluate interventions.
Workshops and Training

RCMP Crime Prevention Workshops: Crime Prevention through Community Partnerships – This two-day workshop allows local RCMP detachments to bring in a trained facilitator to assist your community to identify local issues, assets and solutions. Contact your local RCMP detachment or e-mail: cpcp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

BC Crime Prevention Association
(www.bccpa.org) – Annual crime prevention training event provides participants with training in crime prevention leadership.

6 Promising and Effective Practices

The previous sections provide a great deal of information about how to organize your crime prevention effort, involve the partners, communicate the objectives, analyze the needs and develop a plan. Now it's time to think about what kind of activities your plan should include.

- What are the actual practices and programs you want your community to adopt?
- Is an after school basketball program the best activity in which to invest your time and resources?
- A support program for single parents?
- What about a program that helps seniors secure their homes and property?

You will want to make sure that the activities you choose are based on good evidence about what works to prevent crime, and what will attract the active support of your partners and the community. Here are three respected resources that will help you select appropriate activities.

National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC)

The mission of the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) is to provide national leadership on effective and cost-efficient ways to prevent and reduce crime by addressing known risk factors in high-risk populations and places.

The NCPC concentrates on two core activities:

- it supports targeted crime prevention approaches and interventions; and
- it builds and shares practical knowledge.

The NCPC is part of the federal Department of Public Safety and was created in 1998 to oversee the implementation of a National Crime Prevention Strategy. Since then it has administered federal funding to local crime prevention initiatives which meet the Strategy's criteria requiring programs which target known risk factors, and which employ evidence-based practices. The Centre works closely with provincial and territorial governments in making decisions about the most promising community programs to fund. In British Columbia, the Centre works with the Policing and Community Safety Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Promising and Good Crime Prevention Practices and Approaches
(www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/42ENG.pdf)

This publication is part of an ongoing effort by NCPC to actively promote and disseminate information and knowledge on effective, evidence-based crime prevention programs, strategies and initiatives.

The programs selected for the 2007 document are examples of Canadian approaches and practices that respond to the NCPC's priorities:

- prevention in Aboriginal communities;
- early risk factors among vulnerable families and children (ages six to 24) and youth at risk;
- priority crime issues (youth gangs, drug-related crime).

The identified programs have fundamental elements necessary to the success of their specific initiative.

The programs also have the following key elements for success that are universal to crime prevention programs:

- Identifying risk factors and promoting protective factors that focus the interventions;
- Developing programs and interventions that are evidence-based and that use a logic model for implementation and evaluation;
- Creating partnerships in order to identify gaps in existing community services and to use resources, expertise and time efficiently among the partners; and
- Assessing project impacts and results.

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC)

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) is based in Montreal (www.crime-prevention-intl.org).
The ICPC provides an international forum for national governments, local authorities, public agencies and community-based agencies to exchange experience and consider emerging knowledge in crime prevention and community safety.

Specifically, ICPC seeks to:

- Enhance awareness and access to international knowledge on crime prevention and community safety policies;
- Promote best practices and tools in crime prevention and community safety;
- Facilitate international exchanges between cities and countries, the justice system and community associations; and
- Provide technical assistance facilitate expert exchanges.

6 Promising and Effective Practices *continued...*

On the ICPC website, you can find information on events and conferences, subscribe to email bulletins and online publications on emerging research, and access documents that provide information in five main topic areas:

- **Policies/Strategies** – Links to national crime prevention and related community safety policies and strategies, and national organizations specializing in crime prevention research in various countries.
- **Indicators on crime prevention and community safety** – Indicators on basic demographics, general development, crime, victimization, criminal justice, and risk and protective factors for various countries.
- **Practices** – Good practice projects that share ideas for action. They tell you what people are doing, illustrate "ways of working" and describe what communities have learned from their experience and how it made a difference.
- **Relevant documentation** – Key documents and reports that have informed crime prevention policy and practice (national to local), academic articles, reviews, training guides and manuals.
- **Tools** – Tools to assist in strategic action towards community safety and crime prevention including links to international declarations and conventions, best practice websites, crime mapping tools, toolkits and guides.

In 2004, the ICPC launched the International Institute on Crime Prevention whose purpose is to provide training and a forum for the review and testing of new strategies in crime prevention across the world.

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CPSV)

Based at the University of Colorado in Boulder, the Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CPSV) offers technical assistance for the development and evaluation of violence prevention programs and the identification of promising practices.

Blueprints for Violence Prevention
www.colorado.edu/cspv/index.html
Blueprints for Violence Prevention identifies prevention and intervention programs that meet scientific standards in terms of program effectiveness. CPSV launched this project as part of a U.S. national violence prevention initiative. The 11 model programs, called Blueprints, have been effective in reducing, for example, anti-social behaviour, aggression, delinquency, substance abuse and violent crime among adolescents. Another 18 programs have been identified as promising programs.

CPSV conducts a detailed and comprehensive process evaluation at each program site. A CSPV

objective is to build a body of knowledge about the implementation problems that cause many programs to fail by accumulating data on the Blueprints pilot projects (also known as replication sites) about problems encountered, and solutions that worked or did not work, and why.

CPSV also collects useful data for screening potential pilot projects such as:

- organizational capacity needed,
- funding,
- stability,
- commitment,
- resources, and
- other factors required for a high probability of success.

Community Crime Prevention Guide

The Community Crime Prevention Guide was produced by the Law Courts Education Society on behalf of the Criminal Justice Reform Secretariat.

For more information, please visit www.criminaljusticereform.gov.bc.ca