

Social Development IS Crime Prevention: Lasting Solutions for Safer Communities | March 12-14, 2008

www.SaferCommunities2008.com

Thematic Session Summary

Session Title: The Role of the police and Other
Enforcement Agencies in Community
Safety

Session #: C2

1. *Re-Cap the Main Challenges*

Understanding of the roles and responsibilities
Prevention of crime

2. *What are the Unique Challenges in Your Community?*

First Nations (cultural barriers)
Apathy
Language barriers
No leadership on issue
Misdirected funding – is it being used for what it is designated?
Inaccessible information
Police still perceived to deliver services “TO” and “FOR” the community – not “**with**” the community
Public and Police identification of the issues not always the same
Drugs
Gangs
Substance Abuse
Lack of Housing
Poor education and awareness of issues

3. *What outcomes would you like to see in your Community?*

Respond to Emergency calls for service
Investigate and solve crimes
Safe Communities
Work with community on issues
Respond to “Hot Spots”
Better visibility of law enforcers
Better communications
Public Respect and Cooperation
Better integration/cooperation between all social services
Better visibility
Less crime
Respond to current conditions and crime trends
Increased confidence and communication between police and community
Partnerships and Team building between police and social/community services
Raise community awareness
Create proactive police presence
Engage children and youth
More community policing

Stronger Police connections with half-way houses (e.g. John Howard)

Reduce “fear” of crime

4. *Who are the stakeholders involved in realizing these outcomes*

Executive and Operational levels of the Police

Community leaders – Mayors, Councils, MLA’s, MP’s

Schools

Social agencies

NGO’s

Media

Businesses

Government agencies – all levels

Judiciary

Church groups

Youth

Families

Coaches

Teachers

Colleges/Universities

Neighbourhood Watch groups

Immigrant communities

Cultural organizations

Recreational Centres

Senior Centres

Native Cultural Groups

Fire Department

Transit Authorities

Parole Board

Chamber of Commerce

Corrections

Health agencies

Human Rights organizations

Guidance and Mentoring services

Include those who normally do not get invited to participate – offenders, homeless

Marginalized community elements – including the homeless

5. *What strategies would you develop to achieve these outcomes and what resources do you need*

Develop School Resource Officers

Develop local planning strategies

Use the media to better inform the public re: realities of crime and prevention

Educate the public

Town Hall meetings to address issues and solutions

Focus Groups to address issues and solutions

Community involvement -e.g. CPTED

Bring community groups together to discuss the issues

Encourage volunteering

Life coaching for youth

Greater use of Elders
 Conduct community safety audits
 Engage citizens in community actions
 Encourage neighbourhood “interaction” and socialization
 More after school programs
 Greater use of parent/teacher interviews
 Intercultural education and celebration
 Think outside the box – go beyond the usual small group of community leaders
 Citizen “ride-alongs” with Police Officers
 Increase use of “WebWatch” – www.netteam.ca
 Capacity building at the community level
 Problem solving approach to crime reduction at local level

STRATEGIES	RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic violence targeted (encourage reporting, education, awareness) - Involve elders in Aboriginal communities - Life-coaching and peer mentoring - Increase risk assessments strategies and improve them - Mandatory and intensive counseling and programs for domestic violence - Alternative court systems - Youth programs (anger management) - Positive involvement of media - Increase opportunities for affordable housing - Attending calls for service by working with the community - Problem identification and assessment - Holistic health measures - Community web watches and original, catchy ideas to mobilize community leaders - Emphasize community with policing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims services - Drug treatment courts - Justice system agents (lawyers, judges, police, youth workers, case workers...) - Women’s shelters - Drop-in centres - Media with government - Colleges and universities - Educational institutions - Family members - Us - Community conferences and forums - Catholic social services - Government - Community health professionals - Emergency response - Civilians/citizens and neighbors

6. How is government involved in the success of these strategies?

Provide funding to local initiatives
 Overall strategy planning
 Promotes PSA
 Sets standards
 Better use of technologies
 Build trust
 Enact legislation if required
 Review of its existing policies
 Bringing together of different enforcement agencies
 Rewarding positive behaviour and compliance with the law
 Increase policing visibility through more funding and programs
 Take risks on innovative programming
 Need federal financial help – local government \$\$ cannot cover all