



## **Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Legislation**

On 9 July 2007, Ottawa City Council approved a recommendation advocating Provincial legislation to deal with the significant public disorder and neighbourhood deterioration caused by crack houses and other problem properties. “Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods” (SCAN) legislation has been successfully used in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and the Yukon. We urge the Provincial government to adopt this strategy and urge other Ontario municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to join us in calling for the same.

This is an issue of significant concern to the residents of drug and crime affected communities across Ontario. Current mechanisms for dealing with problem properties are cumbersome, slow, expensive and not always successful. We need to bring timely relief to affected neighbourhoods.

### **SCAN – A neighbourhood approach to problem properties**

- SCAN is a provincial, civil law which counters the impact on neighbourhoods of entrenched drug, prostitution or illegal liquor sales (booze cans) based out of homes and businesses
- SCAN can be a fast, efficient and effective tool
- It targets the properties – not the individuals
- The goal is to stop the activity and restore the neighbourhood

### **SCAN – How does it work?**

- SCAN focuses on working with owners and landlords of problem properties to have the specified activities stop before any legal action is taken.
- If necessary, a SCAN enforcement unit can take legal steps, such as banning individuals from a property, or closing rental units or properties
- SCAN is an additional “tool” that communities can use to deal with problem properties in a toolbox that includes prevention services, addictions treatment and enforcement measures.

## **SCAN – Outside of Ontario**

- In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, N.S. and Yukon independent investigative units were created.
- The investigative unit receives and investigates confidential complaints.
- These provinces worked diligently to ensure the constitutionality of SCAN. It has not been challenged in the courts.

## **SCAN – For Ontario**

- SCAN has the advantage, over the current Civil Remedies Act of receiving complaints from the public and remedying situations at problem properties often without the need for expensive court proceedings
- Ontario could consider creating a province wide investigative unit or some other mechanism such as enabling legislation for municipalities.

## **Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Legislation has been endorsed by:**

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- City of Ottawa
- City of Hamilton
- Ottawa Police Service
- Ottawa Police Services Board
- Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee
- Concerned Citizens for Safer Neighbourhoods
- Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization
- Friends and Tenants of Ottawa Community Housing
- Hintonburg Community Association
- Somerset Street Chinatown BIA
- Dalhousie Community Association

If you would like to join the list of groups endorsing SCAN please contact Crime Prevention Ottawa at [cpo@ottawa.ca](mailto:cpo@ottawa.ca) or (613) 580-2424 x 22454

Full report: <http://www.ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/cpsc/2007/07-05/ACS2007-CCS-CPS-0015.htm>



*Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) is dedicated to “crime reduction and enhanced community safety in Ottawa through collaborative, evidence-based crime prevention.”*