

# 2007-2008 ACTION REPORT

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CRIME PREVENTION OTTAWA  
*Partners for a safer community*

## Board of Directors



**Front Row (left to right):** Shoon Omar, Community Developer/Crisis Worker at the Lowertown Resource Centre; Nancy Worsfold, Executive Director; Jacques Legendre, CPO Chair and Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe, City of Ottawa; Janet Crupi, CPO Vice-Chair and Chair of Ottawa Youth Justice Services Network and Coordinator at Algonquin College

**Back Row (left to right):** Caroline Andrew, Director, Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa; Professor Irvin Waller, University of Ottawa Criminology Department; Claude B. Gingras, President of Ginsberg-Gingras et Associés Inc.; François Benoit, Director of Education for the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario; Vern White, Chief of Ottawa Police Services; Barbara MacKinnon, Executive Director for the Children's Aid Society; Michael Allen, President/CEO, United Way/Centraide Ottawa

**Missing from photo:** Steve Kanellakos, Deputy City Manager for Community and Protective Services, City of Ottawa; Larry O'Brien, Mayor, City of Ottawa



## CRIME PREVENTION

**OTTAWA** is an effective leadership organization engaged in supporting crime reduction to build a community where we feel safe and are safe.

### Our Priorities

- Crime Affected Neighbourhoods
- Violence Against Women
- Youth Issues.

### Our Roles

- Building community capacity
- Fostering community action
- Nurturing partnerships
- Advocating policy solutions

### Our Main Concern is...

to build and support community safety initiatives that tackle the root causes of crime and disorder in our city.



***“There were 4,720 break-ins in Ottawa in 2006. Only 13% of cases were solved by police. Risk is reduced by 50% when neighbours support and help each other.”***

*Victim Fact Sheets, Crime Prevention Ottawa, 2008*



#### **Crime Prevention Ottawa Staff**

Nancy Worsfold, Executive Director (centre)  
Francine Demers, Administrative Assistant (right)  
Michael Justinich, Business Analyst (left)

## Our Achievements

### **Ottawa Youth Gang Prevention Initiative**

The issue of gang and youth violence has gripped our country and community during the past year. Residents felt they were not safe on their streets. Police reported that Ottawa had over 600 identified gang members. Since early 2007 CPO had been mobilizing the community and key stakeholders to stop the growth of youth gangs in Ottawa.

Along with over 60 partners, CPO formed a working group co-chaired by the Youth Services Bureau that is conducting research and educational initiatives. We launched a powerful and comprehensive report, entitled *"Now is the Time to Act: Youth Gang Prevention in Ottawa"*. The author, Canadian youth gang expert Michael Chettleburgh identified why and how kids join gangs and key strategies to minimize gang involvement before its too late. The next steps are moving quickly towards a comprehensive, multi-component strategy: healthy neighbourhood cohesion, early prevention, intervention and suppression.

***"The study is a first step in getting a clearer understanding of who in Ottawa joins gangs and why."***

*Ottawa Citizen Editorial, February 14/2008*

### **Together for Vanier**

A growing concern about safety led CPO and the Vanier community to undertake a comprehensive survey of nearly 500 residents in Vanier. The survey pointed to community priorities of street crime, drugs, prostitution and beautification. The results prompted dramatic action by the community. Working groups were organized and a galvanized community took brooms and rakes to beautify streets and parks, four Neighbourhood Watches were organized, Eyes of Vanier' walkabouts helped residents reclaim their streets, and more is still coming.

***"Residents Celebrate Big Wins Over Crime"***

*Geoff Nixon, The Ottawa Citizen, August 24/2008*

### **The Landlord Booklet**

When Vanier residents identified that their community was under siege from crack houses, CPO went to work and quickly identified that drug houses were primarily rental properties. Landlords were the key to a prompt resolution. This year, *Safety and Security in Rental Buildings: An Information Guide for Ottawa's Residential Landlords* was launched to assist landlords in keeping their buildings safe. It has proved to be so popular it's in second printing.

***"This information guide... is a superb document."***

*Security Committee,  
Hintonberg Community Association*



***“Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”***

*Desmond Tutu*

### ***Violence against Women – Stop Violence Before it Starts***

CPO has worked successfully with Ottawa’s two largest school boards to implement “The Fourth R,” a comprehensive and proactive curriculum for Grade 9 students that provides coping skills on dating violence, sexuality, substance abuse and violence.

### ***Bursary Fund***

Ten agencies received help to increase their capacity to work in high-risk situations, work safely with at-risk kids and learn to work with trauma — all within a budget of \$8,000.

***“No community is exempt from domestic violence.” says Vern White***

*Stittsville Weekender, March 21/2008*

***“More than 80% of violent crimes are physical or sexual assaults – there were 4211 such incidents in Ottawa in 2006.”***

*Victim Fact Sheets, Crime Prevention Ottawa, 2008*

## **Increasing Knowledge**

Knowing Facts tells us the truth of where the problems are and frequently illuminates the path to their solution. CPO presents facts to find solutions through a variety of venues.

### ***Victim Fact Sheets***

A CPO sponsored initiative with Justice Canada.

### ***The Speaker Series***

CPO is communication; it’s message ‘community knowledge is power’. The Speaker Series offers debate, insight, controversy and facts about crime prevention.

### ***“CCTV cameras in public spaces debate”***

Ottawa Police Service, Chief, Vern White argued for; criminal defence lawyer, Mark Ertel, argued against. CBC host Adrian Harewood served as moderator.

***\*\* An informative, good-natured and entertaining debate \*\****

### ***“Now Is The Time To Act: Youth Gang Prevention in Ottawa”***

Youth gangs expert Michael Chettleburgh presented his findings on youth gangs in Ottawa and the gaps in gang prevention programming. Chaired by Alex Munter, Executive Director of the Youth Services Bureau.

**“Less Law, More Order:  
The Truth about Reducing Crime”**

Dr. Waller presented his short book about the limits of US populist spending on more police and prisons while providing hope for Canada that crime can be significantly reduced through prevention.

**“Youth and Gangs II”**

A forum for service providers with an update on the current situation in Ottawa and presentations about community approaches to street work and Intervention in Montreal.

**“Reaching further...ending violence against women”**

A panel of innovators from the Muslim, Jewish, Aboriginal and mainstream communities explored avenues to end violence in the home.

**“Rising Strong: Disability, Abuse and Prevention”**

In Partnership with Reach Canada and the City of Ottawa Accessibility Office, this panel explored the institutional and domestic abuse of people living with disabilities.

**Outreach – Investing In Knowledge**

Over 1000 citizens attended CPO’s events and training sessions last year.

Visits to a detention centre, community roundtables, partnerships with the RCMP, home security workshops and a series of powerful and informed speakers were the highlights of our Outreach and Training initiatives.

## Funded Projects

**Keeping it Cool**

An intensive, anti-violence, anger management program for youth. 500 youths were referred to the program in the last 2 years. Eight 10-week programs were delivered in 6 separate locations across the city. This resulted in success. Suspended kids returned to school or avoided further involvement in the criminal justice system. The creation of a culturally appropriate version of the program for the aboriginal community is underway.

**“The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance.”**

Socrates

**Neighbours, Friends and Families**

Community education and capacity building that supports women as victims of violence and increases awareness. With extensive local media coverage and a City Hall launch, over 1,000 people attended presentations highlighting the victimization of women in our city.

**Productivity Prevents Crime**

A highly effective employment service for high-risk, new immigrant and visible minority kids. ‘Productivity Prevents Crime’ proves its point by offering employment preparation and counseling, industry involvement, mentorship, placement and education.

**\*\* Extremely well attended... lots of passion and interest \*\***



### **Strong Parents - Strong Families**

400 Inuit children and their parents attend sessions in Vanier that results in increased skills and decreased inter-personal conflict. Parents report using more positive approaches when dealing with conflicts with their children.

### **United Neighbours**

A community mobilization initiative for Pinecrest-Queensway that will impact nearly 35,000 people, 75% are new Canadians, immigrants and/or visible minorities comprising mainly of Chinese, South Asian, Somali and Arab. 800 community resident surveys, a community forum and 4 working groups were formed to deal with the most pressing safety issues in a drive to make a healthier community.

***"...a factual basis on which to develop preventative policies."***

*Ottawa Citizen, Feb. 14/2008*

### **No Communities Left Behind**

Four South East Ottawa communities develop and coordinate community-based strategies to reduce and prevent youth gang crime. Now in Banff for four years, this program has given effective communication between community and law enforcement. So effective that the City has adopted this model for it's community development framework.

## **Financial Report**

### **CRIME PREVENTION OTTAWA**

*Financial Report*

*for the period*

*January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007*

### **Expenses**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Staff           | \$ 241,671        |
| Grants          | \$ 254,475        |
| CPO Initiatives | \$ 110,474        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$ 606,620</b> |

### **Revenue**

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| City of Ottawa | \$ 400,000        |
| In Kind        | \$ 214,119        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 614,119</b> |

### **Surplus**

\$ 7,499

## Into the Future

Building on achievements, we will continue bringing forward new initiatives. A community based youth gang prevention strategy is being implemented, as well as plans to maximize the benefits of crime prevention through environmental design. Our first strategic plan, 2007-2009 will be completed next year, so we will evaluate our work, consult the community and plan for the future.

Moving forward, CPO's strong focus on residential neighbourhoods may now reach out to the business community. Our emphasis on youth could extend to seniors and disabled communities. CPO will investigate leadership strategies to engage and achieve our ultimate goal of a community that feels safe and is safe.

CPO goes to the root causes of crime before it happens. We want to stop reacting – and we all know how expensive that is – and start preventing.

## CRIME PREVENTION OTTAWA

***Partners for a safer community.***

For more information contact:



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