

Crime Prevention Ontario: A Framework for Action - Action Needs Smart Investment Now

For the harm done by the offender, he is accountable. For the harm done by not using "the vast amount of knowledge and information on crime prevention efforts that are effective" for that we are all responsible.

1. *Crime Prevention Ontario: A Framework for Action* provides the parameters for a strategic plan for the province and a model framework for municipalities wanting to make their cities safer while husbanding taxpayers money
2. *The Ontario Framework* brings together many essential points (see pages 24-29), including:
 - a. Crime prevention must be based on evidence, using reliable and valid data ... Evaluation is a key component ... so that effectiveness can be assessed ... and public funds are spent on programs that actually work ...
 - b. A vast amount of information and knowledge exists on crime prevention efforts that are effective.
 - c. Action must include early action with children and youth and victim support.
 - d. Partnerships ... are essential to coordinating ... relevant sectors ... and ensuring that the risk factors ... are attacked from every angle.
 - e. Sustainable responses enable communities to build capacity for crime prevention. Without ... long term programs in place, crime and victimization will come back.
3. The "vast amount of knowledge" (mentioned in *the Ontario Framework*) is accessible in plain English to politicians, police service boards and chiefs, the public, as well as leaders of schools, housing, youth services, and child protection agencies (see next page).
4. To implement the vast amount of knowledge, Ontario must go beyond the *Ontario Framework*, to take steps shown by other Provinces and jurisdictions to be essential to success:
 - a. A leadership centre
 - b. Local government making a shift from reaction to more prevention
 - c. Investment – matching any new \$ for reaction with \$ for prevention – and either way equivalent to 5% for targeted prevention
5. Implementing the *Ontario Framework* is also a solution to the concerns of the Drummond report that drew attention to the escalating costs of policing and overcrowded jails - the MCSCS budget had grown to \$4.3 billion in 2010-11 at an average rate of 5.6% per year since 2001. Drummond recommendation 14-1 called for : "Improve evidence-based data collection ... to achieve better outcomes". To succeed, it must be part of a Canadian action plan, that prevents victimization, treats incarceration as a scarce resource, and uses our taxes effectively.

Irvin Waller, Full Professor, University of Ottawa, President, International Organization for Victim Assistance, shares knowledge publicly about what reduces crime, what meets the needs of crime victims, and what gets this knowledge implemented. See www.irvinwaller.org and @IrvinWaller. His popular books are *Less Law, More Order: The Truth about Reducing Crime* (in 5 languages) and *Rights for Victims of Crime: Rebalancing Justice*. He writes for savvy readers, particularly (potential) victims, smart police leaders and legislators, and the media.

Vast Amount of Knowledge on Effective Prevention” in plain English for politicians, taxpayers and media

1. What works to stop violence and reduce property crime

Making Cities Safer: Action Briefs for Municipal Stakeholders, 2009, University of Ottawa - See making cities safer at <http://irvinwaller.org/policy-adviser-effective-policies/>

What is the best thing the police can do to reduce crime? London, HMIC, <http://bit.ly/SekCjA>, <http://bit.ly/SekCjA>

Waller, Irvin. *Less Law, More Order: The Truth about Reducing Crime*. Manor House, 2008.

World Health Organization, 2009. *Violence Prevention: The Evidence*. <http://bit.ly/QfpmYZ>

2. Evidence that multi-sectoral partnerships across government have reduced crime

Linden, Rick, chapter 15 in *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective*, Nelson 2012
<http://www.winnipeg.ca/police/TakeAction/WATSS.stm>

Scotland Violence Reduction Unit, <http://www.actiononviolence.com/about-us>

Youth Justice Board, <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/yjb>

3. Jurisdictions with a responsibility centre and commitment to evaluating results

Alberta, Justice and Attorney General, *Safe Communities and Sound Solutions*, Crime Prevention Framework http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/what-doing/Pages/CrimePreventionFramework.aspx

Saskatchewan <http://gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8be0b676-5ec7-4a61-b8c1-01412875214c>

Waterloo Region, 40 Year Violence Prevention Plan,
<http://regionofwaterloo.ca/en/safeHealthyCommunity/violenceprevention.asp>

4. Sources for “vast amount of knowledge” on effective crime prevention

National Crime Prevention Centre. 2011. *Promising and Model Crime Prevention Programs*. <http://bit.ly/WkBoGI>, and 2008. <http://bit.ly/TcJuHJ>

United States, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Website on Solutions to Crime: what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.
<http://crimesolutions.gov>

5. Provide understanding of the costs to victims and governments of current system

Waller, Irvin, 2010, *Rights for Victims of Crime: Rebalancing Justice*, Rowman and Littlefield.
For Canada, see Waller chapter 7 in Linden, Rick, *Criminology*, 2012

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