

CRIME PREVENTION IN ONTARIO

Phase II, Community Engagement

December 2013

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services



Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide local community partners with information on the work the province is undertaking toward the development of a crime prevention strategy for Ontario including:
 - information on Phase I of the strategy, the Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action booklet;
 - outline Phase II of the strategy, Community Engagement;
 - obtain responses to the community engagement questions; and
 - identify timelines and next steps.



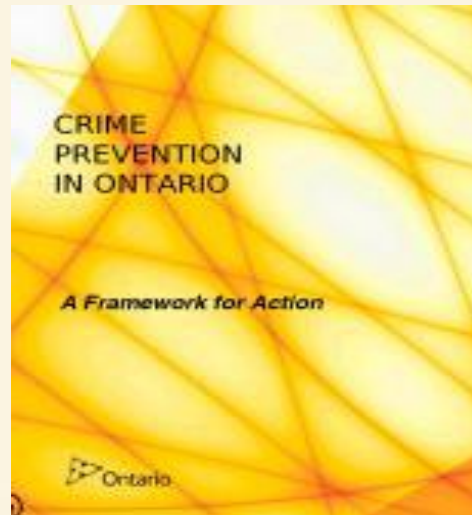
Phase I – Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action

- The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (Ministry) is working with its inter-ministerial and policing partners to develop a provincial crime prevention strategy. The first step in this process was to raise awareness and to promote the benefits of crime prevention to Ontario communities through the development of the *Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action*.
- The *Framework for Action* booklet is intended to:
 - raise awareness and generate a dialogue on crime prevention in Ontario;
 - highlight the work already undertaken by the provincial government in the area of crime prevention;
 - set the stage for the development of further crime prevention work which will: build and enhance crime prevention partnerships; encourage the development of coordinated, multi-sectoral responses; and
 - promote community leadership and participation in crime prevention.

Crime Prevention Definition

- The *Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Framework for Action* booklet defines crime prevention as:

The anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the actions taken – including the integrated community leadership required – to remove or reduce it.



Pillars of a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Crime Prevention

- Prevention through **Social Development** by targeting risk factors associated with crime and victimization.
- Prevention through **Situational Measures** by reducing opportunity to commit crime.
- Prevention through **Education and Awareness** of all Ontarians, including building knowledge about local communities and their needs.
- Prevention through **Community Policing** by enhancing policing efforts and supporting police in their crime prevention activities.

Crime Prevention Approaches

- **Situational crime prevention** seeks to reduce the opportunity to commit crime in a particular time and place. As part of this approach, situations are altered to make it less likely that the potential offender will commit a crime. Examples of situational crime prevention include:
 - surveillance and monitoring systems;
 - crime prevention through environmental design; and
 - car and home alarm systems.

- **Crime prevention through social development** involves long-term, integrated actions that deal with the reduction of risk factors that start people on the road to crime, and builds protective factors that may mitigate those risks. Examples of crime prevention through social development include:
 - teaching parenting skills;
 - improving literacy rates;
 - providing aggression management and counseling; and
 - increasing employment opportunities.

Risk Factors

- Risk factors are the negative characteristics and/or conditions present in individuals, families, communities or society that may increase the presence of crime or fear of crime in a community. These factors may also increase the likelihood that individuals engage in crime and/or become victims.
- Some examples of risk factors associated with criminal involvement include:

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| • Poor mental health | • Prior criminal behaviour | • Violent victimization |
| • Negative parenting | • Poor peer influences | • Mistreatment during childhood |
| • Few social services | • High poverty concentration | • Availability of drugs and firearms |
| • Negative media messaging | • Cultural norms supporting violence | • Prior delinquency |

Protective Factors

- Protective factors are positive elements that can mediate or moderate the effect of being exposed to risk factors and can help to foster healthier individuals, families and communities thereby increasing the safety of a community.
- Some examples of protective factors include:

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| • Personal coping strategies | • Adequate parental supervision | • Housing in close proximity to services |
| • Self-esteem/self-efficacy | • Positive peer influences | • Cohesive communities |
| • Low social tolerance of violence | • Parent(s) engaged in child's life | • Positive school experience |
| • Recreational facilities for youth | • Strong attachment to adult | • Personal sense of responsibility |

Guiding Principles of Crime Prevention in Ontario

➤ **Prevent crime through community leadership**

- Communities are best suited to provide the most relevant information pertaining to their crime problems and can best create responses specific to their needs.
- Community responsibility and engagement are essential aspects of developing and delivering effective crime prevention programs.

➤ **Prevent crime through evidence and evaluation – based experience**

- Evidence-based crime prevention ensures public funds are being spent on programs that actually work and help decision-makers allocate funds appropriately.
- An evaluation component should be built into all crime prevention programs to help measure their effectiveness.

Guiding Principles of Crime Prevention in Ontario (Cont'd)

➤ **Prevent crime by established integrated, multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary responses and partnerships**

- Crime prevention partnerships – formalized at the local level – are essential to coordinating efforts among the relevant sectors and disciplines to address the numerous risk factors associated with crime from every angle.

➤ **Prevent crime through sustainable responses**

- Sustainable responses enable communities to build capacity and be prepared for crime. Without sustainable, long-term programs in place, crime and victimization will come back.

Guiding Principles of Crime Prevention in Ontario (Cont'd)

- **Prevent crime by increasing knowledge and information sharing among police, criminal justice and community agency partners**
 - A lot of information already exists on crime prevention efforts. Facilitating the sharing of this information allows communities to build capacity using existing resources, ideas and practices.
 - It is important to share information among agencies and partners about individuals who are at risk for offending. The more that is shared, the greater the likelihood that the individual can be helped and provided with the proper services.

- **Prevent crime by recognizing the diversity of Ontarians**
 - Ontario's demography is diverse in many ways and continually changing. Crime prevention approaches should develop and deliver programs/policies/strategies that recognize and apply to these diverse regions, populations and groups in Ontario.

Rationale for Engaging in Crime Prevention

- Extensive research on national, international and local experiences indicates that in order to effectively prevent crime, governments must lead a coordinated response to addressing the risk factors associated with crime.
- When asked to identify the principal goal of the criminal justice system, twice as many Canadians supported prevention as opposed to punishment.
- A study released in 2009 showed that for an average municipality of 900,000 people, the estimated annual cost of crime to victims and the public is more than \$1.3 billion.

Rationale for Engaging in Crime Prevention (Cont'd)

- Extensive research shows that crime prevention programs have proven to have significant returns on investment and are a cost-effective manner in which to address crime.



- Every dollar invested now in crime prevention and early intervention avoids seven dollars spent on incarceration, victim services and other associated costs in the future.
 - One study found that one dollar allocated for enriched child care saves seventeen dollars in criminal justice costs in the future.
 - Through economic evaluation it has been shown that preventing just one career criminal can save society over \$2 million.
- It is fiscally responsible to work collaboratively and allocate resources in a balanced manner to target the risk factors of crime.

Phase II – Community Engagement

- The Ministry is currently in Phase II, which represents the next step towards the development of a provincial crime prevention strategy and involves the strategic engagement of various stakeholders, including the public.
- Community engagement includes representation from Ontario's diverse make-up of urban, rural and remote communities including Aboriginal communities.
- Phase II will also include engagement with communities who identify themselves as needing assistance to develop local crime prevention programs/strategies.
- Phase II will result in the development of the following two key deliverables:
 - ***Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Community Analysis***
 - Will provide an analysis of the crime issues, risk factors, challenges, resources/partnerships in Ontario's communities.
 - ***Crime Prevention in Ontario: Promising Practices***
 - Will provide an overview of promising practices currently being used in Ontario.

Community Engagement Goals

- The immediate goals of Phase II are to:
 - build better relationships with stakeholders in an effort to:
 - raise awareness about existing crime prevention policies and programs; and
 - review and enhance existing policies and programs where required.
 - identify key risk factors, crime issues and challenges in Ontario's communities as they relate to establishing local, multi-disciplinary crime prevention strategies;
 - increase cooperation and collaboration at the local level to establish/enhance local crime prevention programs/activities; and
 - obtain information on current crime prevention activities in Ontario.

Community Engagement Goals (Cont'd)

- The long-term goals of Phase II are to build stronger relationships with stakeholders in an effort to:
 - increase efficient spending of funds by working collaboratively and sharing information;
 - provide focussed, targeted crime prevention responses to local crime issues; and
 - break down the silos between ministries, organizations and sectors to provide multi-disciplinary crime prevention solutions.

Stakeholders to be Engaged

- In order to ensure a multi-disciplinary perspective from communities, the following local community stakeholders are anticipated to be in attendance during community engagement sessions:
- Municipal government officials
 - Police Services/Boards
 - Community agencies
 - Members of the public
 - Private sector representatives
 - Educators (including School Board Officials, Principals and Teachers)
 - Health care professionals
 - Mental health professionals
 - Social workers
 - Corrections and Youth Justice Staff (if applicable); and
 - Researchers/University students.

Community Engagement Questions

1. What types of crime prevention/community safety strategies and programs does your community currently have in place?
 - a. Is there anything that could help your community enhance your crime prevention/community safety strategies and programs?
2. Are there any concerns or gaps (systemic, disorder, quality of life, crime, etc.) in your community that you would like to address?



Next Steps

- Continue to conduct community engagement.
- Develop two key deliverables – “*Crime Prevention in Ontario: A Community Analysis*” and “*Crime Prevention in Ontario: Promising Practices*”.
- Develop a provincial crime prevention strategy based on information gathered in Phase II, Community Engagement.



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