

WRCPC Agenda

January 13, 2017

Waterloo Memorial Recreational Complex

101 Father David Bauer Dr.

Hauser Haus Room

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30a.m. networking)

Chair: Chris Cowie

Recorder: M. Allen

No	Item	Time	Att(s)
1.	Welcome	5 min	
2.	Approval of Agenda		
3.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest		
4.	Approval of the December 9, 2016 Minutes	5 min	✓
	4.1 Business Arising		
5.	Approval of the Smart Update (Consent Agenda)	5 min	✓
6.	Nominating Committee Slate: Shayne Turner - for approval	10 min	
7.	Root Causes Statement: Dianne Heise - for approval	10 min	✓
8.	Community Engagement League Final Report and Recommendations: Barry Cull, Juanita Metzger - for update and discussion	20 min	✓
9.	Land Acknowledgment: Gerard Sagassige, Knowledge Keeper - for information and consideration	30 min	
10.	Legalization of Marijuana: Shayne Turner - for information and discussion	15 min	
11.	Sector Leader Story: Peter Rubenschuh	10 min	
12.	Other Business		
13.	Adjournment		
14.	Next Meeting: February 10, 2017		

WRCPC Minutes

December 9, 2016

WRPS North Division

45 Columbia Street, Waterloo

Community Room, first floor

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30 a.m. networking)

Chair: Chris Cowie

Recorder: M. Allen

Present: Barry Cull, Carolyn Albrecht, Cathy Harrington, Chris Cowie, Courtney Didier, Denise Squire, Derek Haime, Don Roth, Doug Thiel, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Felix Munger, Helen Jowett, Irene O'Toole, Jennifer Mains, Joe-Ann McComb, John Shewchuk, Jonathan English, Liz Vitek, Mark Pancer, Michael Beazely, Pari Karem, Peter Rubenschuh, Sarah Shafiq, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shayne Turner, Tom Galloway

Regrets: Alison Scott, Karen Spencer, Angela Vanderheyden, Bill Wilson, Bryan Larkin Mike Haffner, Carolyn Schoenfeldt, Jane Mitchell, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Mark Poland, Karey Katzsch, Peter Ringrose, Sharlene Sedgwick-Walsh, Trisha Robinson

Staff and Students: Christiane Sadeler, David Siladi, Dianne Heise, Michael Parkinson, Tracy Jasmins

1. **Welcome:**

Chris Cowie provided greetings and introductions were made.

Land Acknowledgement:

At the last Council meeting of November 18, 2016 Council approved a motion to **consider Land Acknowledgement** at the beginning of each meeting. Before moving forward with this intention, Derek Haime shared that it would be appropriate to invite a **Knowledge Keeper** to a Council meeting to explain the significance and the purpose of **Land Acknowledgement**. Derek offered to make those arrangements for early in 2017 if requested by the Chair of Council.

Nutrition for Learning:

Tracy announced that in the spirit of the season a donation was made to **Nutrition for Learning** on behalf of the WRCPC.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Operational Plan item moved up to number eight on the Agenda.

Moved by Courtney Didier and seconded by Denise Squire. Carried

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

4. Approval of the November 18, 2016 Minutes

Moved by Courtney Didier seconded by Helen Jowett. Carried

4.1 Business Arising:

The Council meeting package included the two CPC reports that were provided at the Community Services Committee (CSC) of Regional Council: The **Charter for Inclusive Communities** presented to CSC on November 22, 2016 and **The Overdose Crisis in Ontario** presented on December 9, 2016

In addition to the **Charter for Inclusive Communities** report Sarah Shafiq participated in a delegation to the Community Services Committee.

Regional Council has endorsed the Charter and the Region of Waterloo is currently the third municipality in Canada to have done so.

As directed by Regional Council, Regional staff forwarded the endorsement of the Charter to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Sarah Shafiq asked that the WRCP Council members to share the Charter with their sectors.

As part of the CPC **Overdose Crisis in Ontario** report, Michael Parkinson presented to the Community Services Committee. The report was well received.

It was suggested by Helen Jowett that the WRCP staff keep Regional Council abreast of any new developments and updates about critical issues.

WRPCPC does provide an annual update to Regional Council about its overall work but additional updates about specific issues other than through the Regional report process are best requested by the Chair of the Community Services Committee. Helen offered to make that connection for WRPCPC.

Michael Parkinson and Tracy Jasmins will also be presenting to the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integrated Network on December 14, 2016 about the overdose issue in the region and beyond.

5. WRPCPC Dates for 2017 for Approval:

The 2017 dates for the WRPCPC meetings were presented for approval.

Moved by Sharon Ward Zeller seconded by Denise Squire. Carried.

6. Governance Policy and Root Causes Statement:

Governance:

Christiane Sadeler brought forward the updated WRPCPC Governance policy (excluding the Root Causes Statement) for WRPCPC approval.

The language of the Governance has been updated to make it more current and all the changes that were approved by Council over the years have been incorporated. There is one change to the Governance in the area of financial approval that will require Council approval. It was recommended to move the revenue accounts under "Other Financials" in the Governance. This would allow Christiane to use funds from the revenue accounts without seeking a form of approval from Council that is different from other financial limitations.

Moved by Shayne Turner and seconded by Doug Theil. Carried

Root Causes Statement:

Dianne Heise brought forward the updated **Root Causes Statement** to the WRPCPC to review, for feedback and for approval in principal.

The Root Causes Statement is a foundational statement of Council that is located in the Governance Policy and, in addition, will be reflected on the CPC website under "Research" heading.

As directed by Council and based on feedback from the CPC annual retreat, when the changes to the current statement were first introduced, staff and students continued to update the statement also by reviewing the research.

In the updated statement, there was an effort to make a clear distinction between root causes and risk factors. Some protective factors and strength-based approaches were also added. In addition, risk factors listed in the original statement have been framed as factors to reflect both risk and protective factors.

The WRPCPC reviewed the changes to the Statement and provided feedback. Dianne Heise noted the Council's feedback and will implement changes and additions based on the feedback. The final Statement will be brought back to Council at the January 13, 2016 meeting.

Shayne Turner put forth a motion that the updated Root Causes Statement be approved in principle. This was seconded by Carolyn Albrecht. Carried

7. Nominating Committee Update:

Motion to go into closed session moved by Courtney Didier and seconded by Denise Squire. Carried

Motion to come out of camera moved by Sharon War-Zellers and seconded by John Shewchuk. Carried

8. Operational Plan Review

The **Operational Plan 2016** is part of the WRPCPC **Smart on Crime Strategic Plan 2014–2018**. It is a more detailed plan outlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Staff work plans are implemented based on this Operational Plan. The Facilitating Committee has already had the opportunity to review the Plan.

The **Operational Plan 2016** is monitored by staff. The three questions staff considered when reflecting on the Plan were as follows:

1. Did we do what we said we were going to do and how successful was that?
2. Is this something that we did not anticipate doing but it helps to support the overall strategic directions of the CPC?
3. Is there a recommendation to drop an item based on changed circumstances?

Christiane will provide a written overview and update of the **Operational Plan** at a future date. Meanwhile she provided an overview of some of the work highlights of 2016 in a brief PowerPoint presentation.

9. Youth Engagement Update:

David Siladi and Michael Parkinson provided an update on the WRCPC Youth Engagement Strategy.

Through a Service Canada grant, students Joel Badali and Brandon Hey were hired to develop a report based on a literature review and local key informant surveys. The full report is still being reviewed and currently not ready for release.

David Siladi provided some of the content included in the report. Please see PPT attached.

The second part of the presentation about the next steps in the development of the Youth Engagement Strategy and elements of the presentation regarding the content of the report was carried forward to the next meeting due to lack of time.

Christiane did share that when WRCPC had given staff the direction to develop a the Youth Engagement Strategy, which came out of the inREACH project, she had envisioned developing something akin to the drug strategy with a focus on marginalized youth.

A grant application for 100 thousand dollars has been prepared and submitted in partnership with Kinbridge for funding to establish a youth reference group. 50 thousand dollars has been procured in-kind. An announcement will be made at the next meeting on January 13, 2016 as to whether or not that grant was successful.

10. Other Business: None

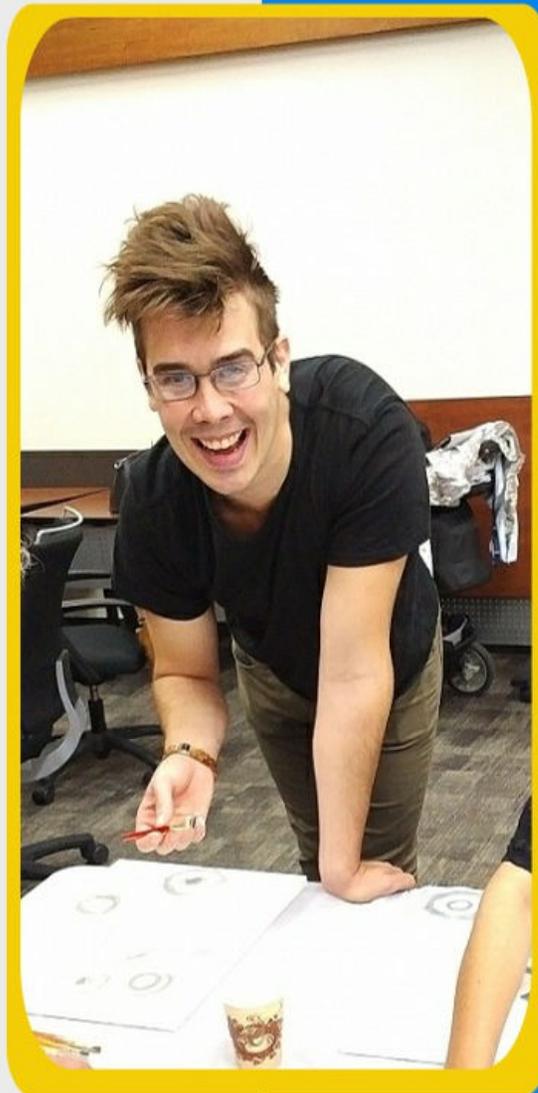
11. Adjournment: Moved by Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders at 11:32 a.m.

Youth Engagement Strategy

Overview of Preliminary Work
and Next Steps

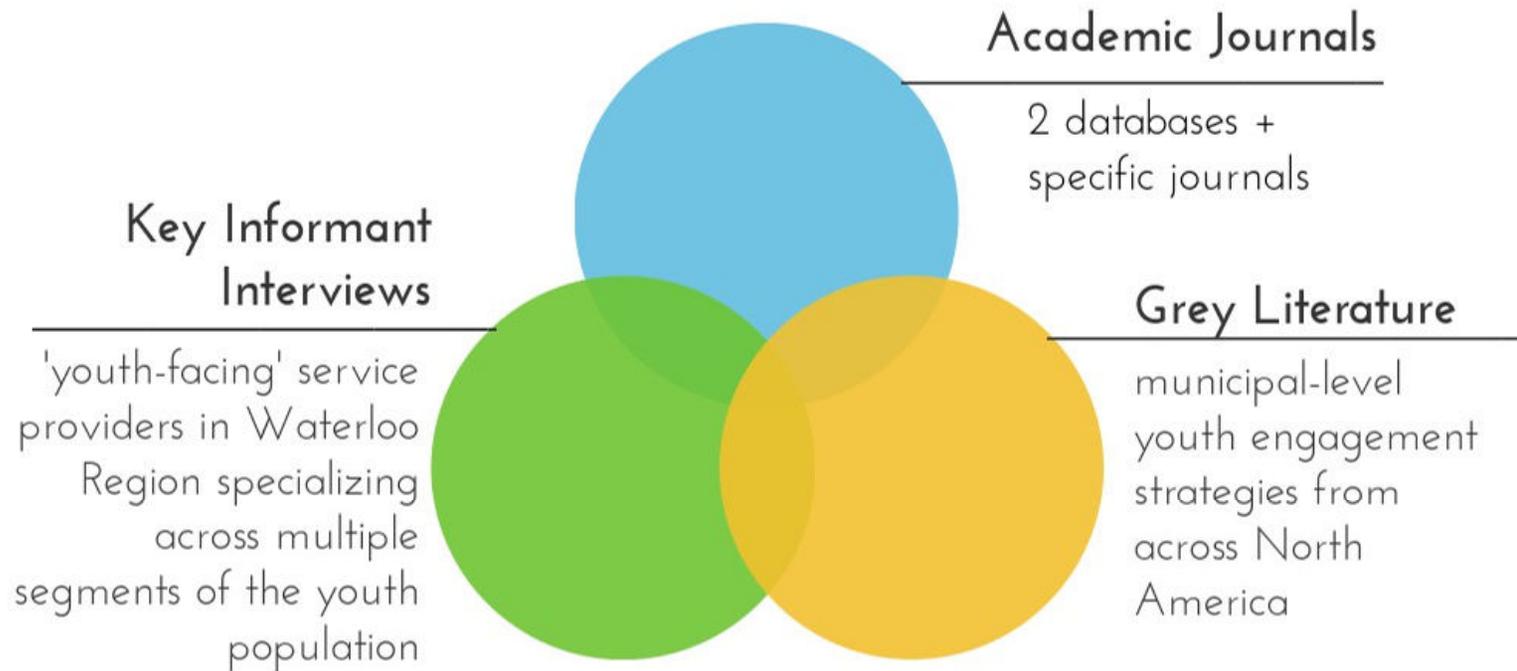
WRCPC Summer Students

Brandon Hey



Joel Badali

Methodology





Collaboration



Links Across
Academic
Institutions



Employment &
Entrepreneurship



Civic
Participation



Continuous &
Comprehensive
Engagement



Program
Design &
Implementation

Themes



National,
International
Communities of
Practice



Mental Models,
Attitudes &
Behaviours



Partnerships
with Social &
Tech Start-ups



Youth Civic
Spaces



Leadership



Organizational
Development
& Change



Collaboration

- helps to address a fragmented system of services and eliminate duplication
- complex nature of youth engagement warrants a systematic, well-coordinated and integrated approach
 - also lends itself to use of emergent and responsive planning processes
- **Youth-adult partnerships** can promote flexible and adaptive planning while also promoting equity and integration of youth into decision-making

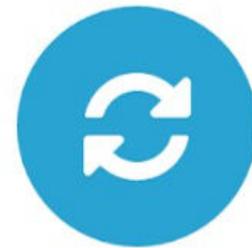




Collaboration (cont'd)

- Connecting with provincial, national and international communities of practice
- Opportunity for partnership with academic institutions
 - E.g. WRDSB's student well-being plan as well as safety, care and inclusion school teams

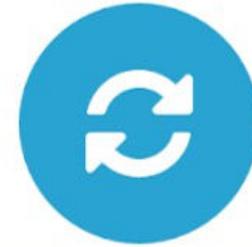




Mental Models

- Youth are often viewed negatively and their abilities underestimated - in turn, youth's entry and level of involvement in centres of influence and decision-making are reduced and their strengths underutilized
 - Also leads to decreased engagement in civic activities and apprehension and mistrust towards government institutions and broader community





Mental Models (cont'd)

- Some approaches to changing mental models include the following:
 - Artistic processes/interventions (e.g. theatre, photovoice), mass media campaigns, adult-training, raising the expectations of youth, use of champions





Employment & Entrepreneurship

- Powerful mechanism to provide meaningful opportunities for youth, contributing to positive development outcomes
- Opportunities to provide internship, apprenticeship and summer work programs for youth
- Explore partnership opportunities with local entrepreneurial hubs such as Communitech and WLU's Social Innovation and Venture Creation





Civic Engagement

- Need for non-institutionalized forms of engagement to foster social connectivity within and across youth populations and the broader community
 - Focus on recreational opportunities/activities to increase sense of community





Youth Civic Spaces

- Youth civic spaces serve as collective 'safe spaces' for youth to engage in social issues and mobilize around particular causes
 - Provide a sense of community and belonging while empowering youth
 - Can be especially important for engaging with different segments of youth population including Indigenous, LGBTQ, Muslim, refugee and 'disability' groups
 - Focus on linking with existing youth civic spaces such as gay-straight alliances, rainbow centres, black student alliances and aboriginal student centres





Continuous & Comprehensive Engagement

- Gaps in service create difficulties in accommodating broad range of capacities, interests, attitudes and needs across youth's developmental timeline
- Need to determine appropriate pathways between programs and opportunities as well as ensure appropriate level of challenge





Program Design & Implementation

- Ensuring sufficient scope, intensity and duration
- Addressing feelings of being unsafe, unwelcomed, exploited, etc.
- Offering evidence-based therapeutic programs, youth friendly spaces and mentorship programs
- Taking into consideration scheduling, transportation, compensation/reimbursement, program type (e.g. in-person vs. remote, closed registration vs. drop-in) and language (e.g. avoiding expert jargon)





Leadership

- Issue of tokenistic representation – usually only ‘high achievers’ are given opportunities to participate
- Implementation of youth advisory boards/committees helps to overcome tokenism and can provide an effective way to garner youth’s feedback and input into strategic planning as well as program and policy development
- Combining leadership development opportunities and organizational change





Organizational Change & Development

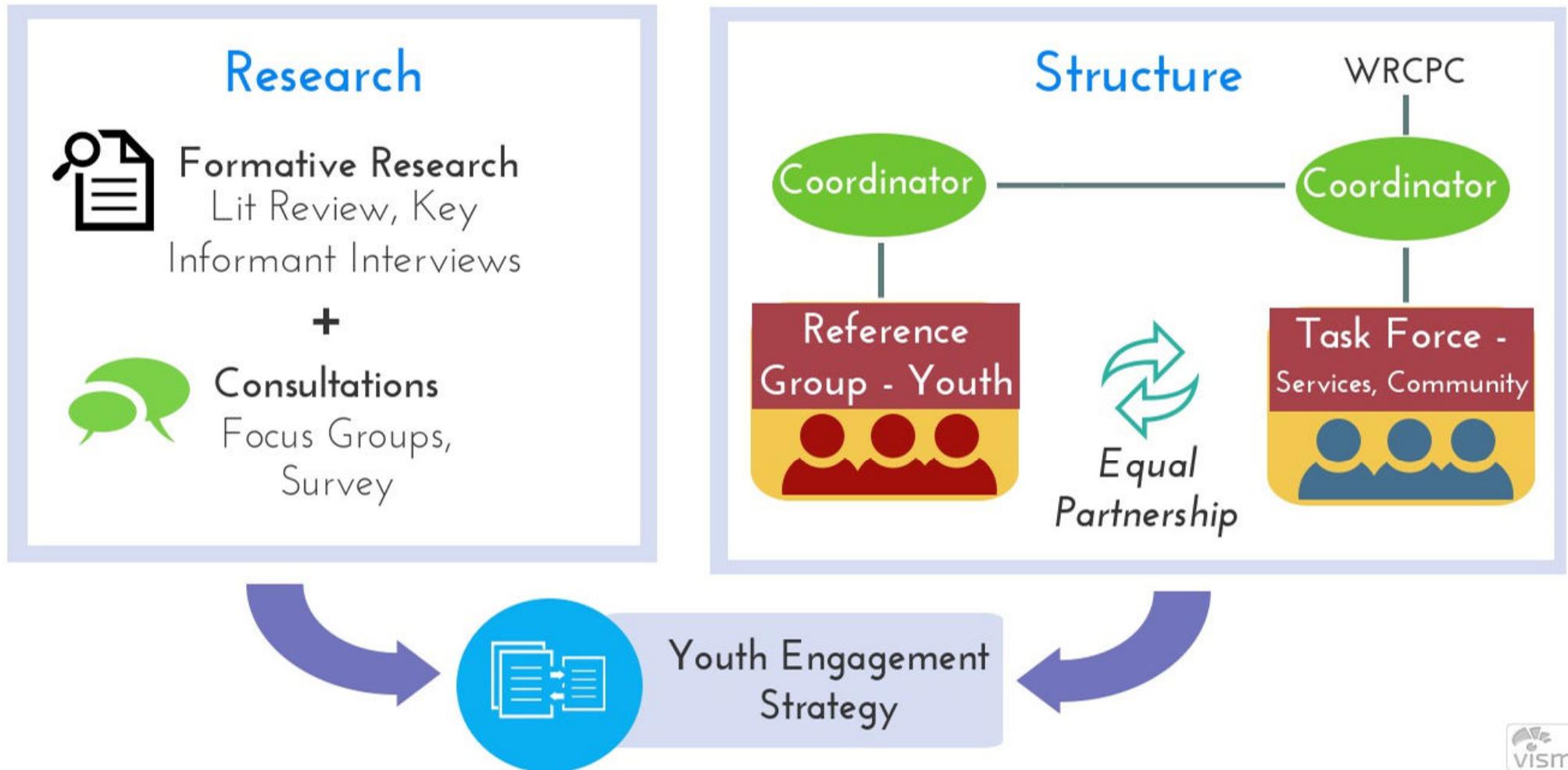
- “youth friendly” organizations – need to model commitment to youth engagement and empowerment at the level of organizational philosophies, values, policies and structures
 - Involve youth in major hiring and funding decisions
 - Ensure youth have a significant voice at the board of directors and in relation to youth programs
- Establish a certification system for ‘youth-friendly organizations’



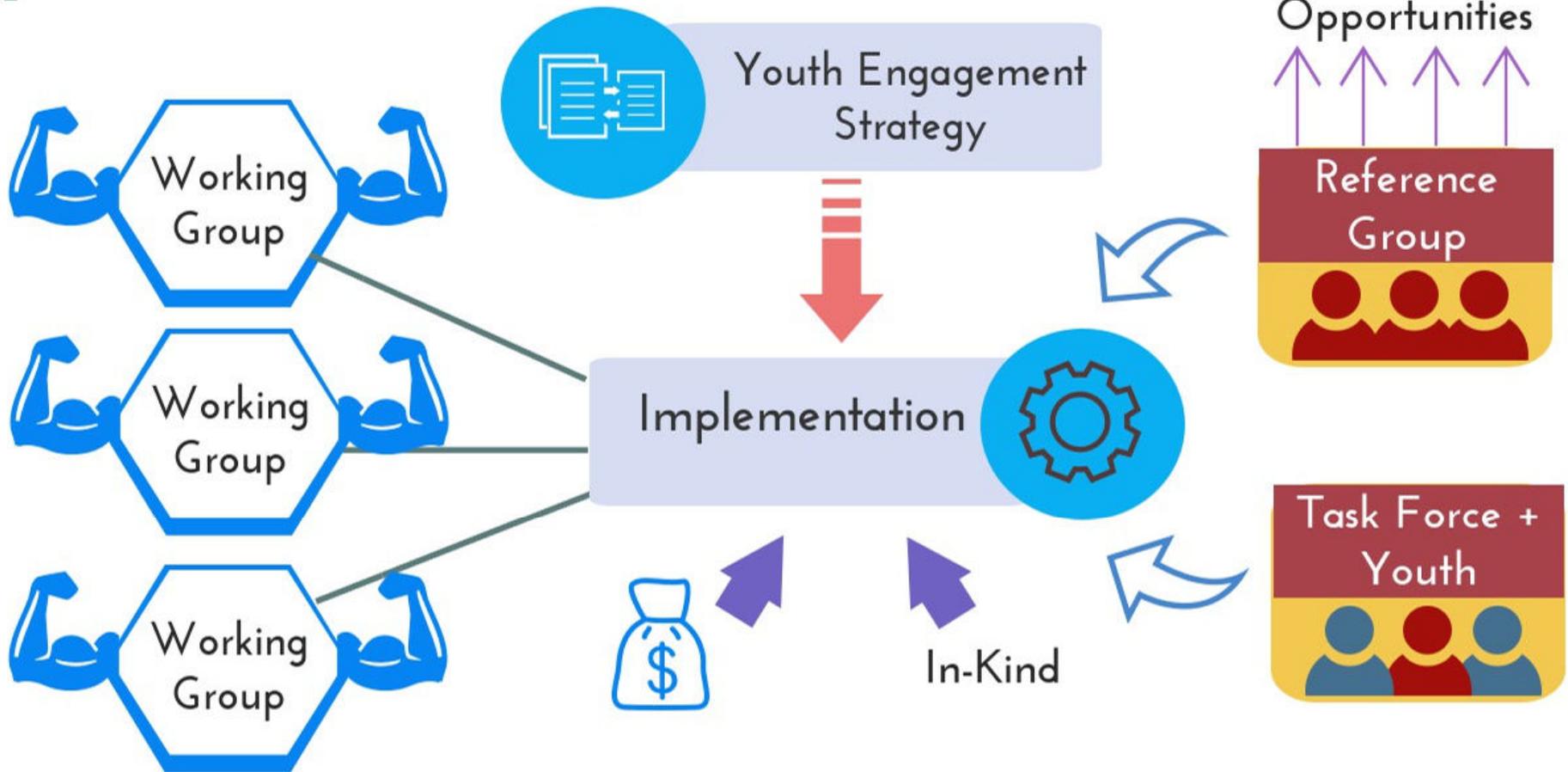
Developing a Gold Standard Strategy

Next Steps 

Process



Process (cont'd)



Reference Group

Steps Involved

- Selection (e.g. through services, youth navigators, peer-to-peer)
- Orientation (to strategy & policy development)
- Training
- Funding
- Supports

Role in...

- Informing the process
- Knowledge-gathering
- Decision-making
- Opportunities beyond Youth Engagement Strategy

QUESTIONS

Smart Update (Consent Agenda)

For the Meeting of WRPCPC on January 13, 2017

Please note that any member has the right to “pull” an item from the Consent Agenda and add it to the regular agenda for discussion, comment or clarification. Consent agendas are published on the Council’s website www.preventingcrime.ca along with approved minutes. Consent Agendas are selective, not comprehensive. Whenever possible, Consent Agenda items will fall under the directions of the current strategic plan. The template reflects Smart on Crime 2015-2018 plan’s key approaches to accomplish three overarching Council directions:

- Youth: Unleashing the Potential of ALL Youth
- Neighbourhoods: Building Local Capacity for Change
- Smart on Crime: Advancing the Momentum

Happy New Year!

1. Expand Reach through Understanding and Engagement

- Councillor Tom Galloway, Vice-Chair Shayne Turner and Chief Bryan Larkin along with Christiane attended a two-day exchange with Winnipeg as part of the CMNCP project on behalf of WRPCPC.
- Felix Munger and Christiane presented to Halton Region about the CMNCP and the WRPCPC model for a Center of Responsibility.

2. Base Change in Good Evidence and Innovation

- WRPCPC has developed and purchased survey questions in the Waterloo Region Area Survey for 2017. Survey results provide data for monitoring community trends over time such as residents’ perceptions of safety. They serve as indicators for projects such as the Regional Central Transit Corridor monitoring project, Vital Signs and WRPCPC publications.
- WRPCPC has reviewed the public safety indicator data for the Region’s annual Central Transit Corridor Monitoring along the ION route and will continue to contribute to this process annually.

3. Lead Side by Side: Leverage Dynamic Partnerships

- The WRCPC, in partnership with Grand River Hospital, announced a new Naloxone initiative with the Emergency Department aimed at improved patient care for people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose.
- The steering group of the CMNCP met in December in Montreal to plan for the year ahead and to check on the accomplishments of the project to date. Managing consultant Felix Munger has developed a one page overview looking back at year one (see attached) which saw many accomplishments – not all of which were anticipated. The next face-to-face meeting will be hosted in Waterloo Region on March 30th and 31st. Please mark your calendar for a reception at the Region of Waterloo Museum on March 30th from 5 - 7 PM.
- The Community Safety and Well-being Initiative of the Region has now been named Well-Being Waterloo Region. WRCPC continues to support the work on several committees and more recently in a forum focused on measuring impact through the Canadian Index on Well-being. Denise Squire (Community Health Centers Representative) was one of the panel members for the event. The initiative now also has a website and twitter account. Members of WRCPC that are not yet connected to the work are encouraged to look out for the community forums that will bring further education and information about this type of work. <http://www.wellbeingwaterloo.ca/blog/>

4. Advocate for Equity and Belonging. Reduce Marginalization and Discrimination

- 2016 Drug-related Media: Total media hits for 2016 are in excess of 300 mentions, primarily related to issues of bootleg fentanyl and accidental overdoses. The media has been a formidable vehicle for knowledge exchange and the WRCPC research and framework for OD interventions has permeated many institutions in media and beyond. This has also served to further put WRCPC on the map. Staff are looking at the next steps with regards to this particular work. It has also featured in a staff assessment of advancing the WRCPC strategic plan through more depth than breadth.
- The WRCPC presented to the Community Services Committee of the Region of Waterloo about drug-related work and in particular, the significant impact experienced by the WRCPC office in 2016 due to our expertise and networks related to the bootleg fentanyl and issues of accidental death and injury.
- The WRCPC presented to the Board of the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network on drug-related work, and the critical drug and overdose related issues our community is facing. In that context the severe resource limitations for an office such as WRCPC were also again brought to light.
- An application to the Canada 150 grant in partnership with the Kinbridge community to enhance the civic engagement of marginalized youth has been declined.

5. In the News

[New Charter to help Muslim residents feel safer in Waterloo Region](#) (CBC, Nov 23 w/ Sarah Shafiq)

Please note that as a result of the fentanyl crisis WRCPC has had a plethora of media mentions and inclusions not provided here. They are available upon request.

6. Community Corner:

Gentle reminder:

Members of WRCPC are encouraged to send materials/events that can feature in this part of the consent agenda. Staff appreciate if you can make the announcements brief and/or provide a summary with a link. Many thanks!

7. Trends Corner:

The WRCPC receives many research reports and current data regarding crime prevention. In future staff will provide a brief summary of relevant information in this new section of the consent agenda quarterly and include a link for those who wish to dive deeper. This section will then also be posted on the website as a clearinghouse function where visitors to the site can find relevant information at a glance.

8. Additional Information:

At times, it seems that life is a journey filled with good-byes and hellos. The journey of WRCPC is no exception.

After 13 full busy, creative and (we hope) mostly fun years Tracy Jasmins (Communications and Marketing) has accepted a new position with the Foundation of FCS. Her last day with WRCPC will be on January 13, 2017. At that time, there will be an opportunity to appreciate her many contributions to our work. This mention in the consent agenda is just a small formal thank you to Tracy for her tireless efforts to use the tool of promotion to engage everyone in prevention: from **Saying HI to Reaching Out** to encouragement to **Volunteer** and so much more. On behalf of all connected to WRCPC we wish Tracy all the very best in her new role! Her passion for children finally got her to make a move that will – from a bigger picture place – be ALL our gain. Thank you Tracy for all you have done to make us look and sound good in Waterloo Region and way beyond. Best of luck in your new role. And please remember: Don't be shy ...! We would love to see you and see you often.

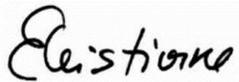
And...

Welcome Daniel Bader our newest addition to the team. Daniel is on placement from his MSW program. Daniel brings many years of experience in therapeutic and restorative justice and has chosen the WRCPC because of our focus on community development, planning, research and policy. Daniel will initially support several research endeavors of WRCPC before launching into more development efforts. Daniel will be with us until mid July 2017 for three days per week.

Change in WRCPC package approach.

Please note that starting February 2017 the full package for the WRCPC meetings will be available on the website (as one file including minutes and consent agenda and attachments). This will streamline these postings and is a practice in line with other organizations such as the PSB, Regional Council, etc. Staff will make clear in any posting that anything other than the agenda must be regarded as draft until they have been approved by WRCPC.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christiane".

Christiane Sadeler,
Executive Director
January 11, 2017

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

We understand that municipalities are the order of government most able to work with local agencies and neighbourhoods to identify specific service needs and tackle the multiple causes of crime in high-risk areas.

140 PEOPLE REACHED

40

ELECTED OFFICIALS
10 Mayors & Deputy Mayors
29 Councillors
1 Members of Parliament (MP)



22

POLICE REPRESENTATIVES
6 Police Chiefs & Deputies
16 City Police & RCMP

5

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

13

RESEARCHERS & POLICY ANALYSTS

60

PRACTITIONERS

5 ACTION BRIEFS

- Recent Development in Effective Crime Prevention
- Why Invest in Crime Prevention in Municipalities?
- Major Resources that Provide Evidence on Effective Crime Prevention
- Examples of Proven Crime Prevention Programs
- Comprehensive Community Safety Strategies for Delivering Effective Crime Prevention

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

5 NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEETINGS

Human Trafficking

Radicalization

Indigenous Communities

COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

14

2-hour meetings



2

2-day meetings

WEBSITE

400 
VISITORS*

*since October 2016

200 
DOWNLOADS OF ACTION BRIEFS*

WORKSHOP
HALIFAX

5 INTER-MUNICIPAL EXCHANGES

VANCOUVER, EDMONTON, WATERLOO REGION, WINNIPEG, MONTREAL, TORONTO

SOCIAL MEDIA



80

TWEETS

135

FOLLOWERS

MEMBERSHIP

17

Municipalities

35%

Canadian population represented

10

Municipalities expressed interested in joining

\$80,000

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS



RÉSEAU MUNICIPAL
CANADIEN EN PRÉVENTION
DE LA CRIMINALITÉ
Ensemble pour des villes canadiennes plus sécuritaires

CANADIAN MUNICIPAL
NETWORK ON CRIME
PREVENTION
Together for Safer Canadian Cities



Root Causes Approach to Crime

“When I think “root cause” I don’t think about the plight of an individual, but rather the broad systemic, cultural and legislative contexts. Addressing the root cause means effecting large systems, changing cultural norms and influencing broad policy change. Those policies should then empower, facilitate and support agencies to provide services that address risk factors and build/enhance protective factors.”

- WRCPC Chair, 2015

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council ‘advances ideas and actions that alleviate root causes of crime and improve social well-being’. Root causes of crime and victimization are found in social, economic, cultural and societal systems that can lead to inequities and disadvantages for some individuals, families and communities. These, in turn, can result in negative outcomes including crime, victimization and fear of crime.

The **root causes approach** is a way of thinking systemically and holistically about the complex, multiple, and interconnected roots of social problems such as crime. It calls for collaborative, comprehensive and sustained efforts to transform these underlying conditions rather than focus solely on the symptoms. The ultimate goal is to prevent crime and victimization from occurring in the first place by building a society that supports the well-being of everyone.

From Root Causes to Risk and Protective Factors

Over 100 years of research has produced many different theories about the causes of crime. Some theories focus on biological or psychological factors, others take a sociological, economic or life course perspective, or integrate multiple perspectives.¹

There is no direct or simple cause–effect relationship in any of these approaches. Instead, causal relationships should be viewed as chains of events over time which impact

¹ Wortley, S. (2008). The Root Causes of Youth Violence: A Review of Major Theoretical Perspectives.

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/professionals/oyap/roots/volume5/index.aspx>

individuals, families, communities and societies. These impacts vary depending on populations and contexts.²

Much of what we know about why crime and victimization occur comes from a growing body of knowledge about risks as well as protective factors. This research provides an important understanding of the many factors that increase or decrease the likelihood of negative outcomes such as crime. Though the terms ‘risk factors’ and ‘root causes’ are sometimes used interchangeably, there are important distinctions between them. For example, not completing high school is a ‘risk factor’ that strongly predicts delinquency. A ‘root causes’ approach would take a deeper look at the family, community and societal conditions over time that explain why some individuals are less likely than their peers to complete high school in the first place.

Risk factors are negative influences in the lives of individuals or a community that may increase the presence of crime, victimization or fear of crime.

Protective factors are positive influences that can improve the lives of individuals or the safety of a community by decreasing the likelihood that persons engage in crime or become victims. Building on protective factors makes individuals and communities stronger and better able to counteract risk factors. (Public Safety Canada, <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca>)

Factors that lead to crime most often go beyond the individual, their family and peers to the heart of the community. Risk and protective factors combine to make the probability of crime, victimization and fear of crime more or less likely. No one variable should be considered in isolation. Instead, crime and victimization are the outcome of interactions between risk and protective factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels. This is commonly referred to as the **ecological framework**.

“It is critical to address the larger societal and community level factors that can have direct and indirect influences on individual and family risks for violence. For example, parents working to maintain a strong

² Sampson, R, J., Winship, C & Knight, C. (2013). “Translating Causal Claims: Principles and Strategies for Policy Relevant Criminology.” *Criminology & Public Policy* 12, no. 4: 587–616.

relationship with their children and reduce their risk for violence are likely to be more successful if their community is providing the services and supports they need (e.g., reliable child care; safe and affordable housing).”³

Protective and Resiliency Factors

Individuals and communities have inherent strengths and capacities. Developing and building upon the assets and resources of individuals, families and communities promotes thriving as well as bolstering resilience to cope with adverse circumstances that might otherwise increase the risk of crime or victimization. A summary of some key protective factors appear below.

Important Protective Factors Essential to Promoting Resilience

Community Assets	School Assets	Family Assets	Individual Assets
Connectedness to community	Connectedness to school	Positive adult role models	Positive peer group Problem-solving skills
Positive and clear community norms and values	Supportive school environment	Positive communication within the family	Communication skills Positive conflict resolution skills
Effective prevention policies	Participation in after-school activities	Parental involvement in the child’s life	A positive sense of self
Absence of weapons and firearms	Effective involvement in the school	Clear rules and consequences within the family	Ability to take responsibility for own behaviours
	Clear rules and consequences within the school	Time with family	Empathy and sensitivity toward others

Source: Adapted from Schneider, S. (2015). Crime Prevention Theory and Practice. CRC Press: FL., p. 123.

³ Preventing Multiple Forms of Violence: A Strategic Vision for Connecting the Dots. Atlanta, GA. Division of Violence Prevention, National Centre for Injury Prevention and Control, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016, p.7.

Key Factors Related to Crime and Victimization

The following are some of the factors reported in the literature:

Age

Research emphasizes the opportunities of focusing crime prevention efforts on early childhood because many persistent offenders begin their involvement in anti-social activities before and during adolescence, when risk taking behaviour tends to be more prevalent than during other stages of life.

Gender

Males are more likely than females to be involved in crime because crime tends to involve aggression and risk taking. These biological differences when seen within the context of social learning and cultural norms provide important opportunities for prevention.

Peer Influence

When youth lack a sense of belonging within the family and the community, they are more likely to associate with peers who are in conflict with the law, which in turn increases their risk of offending. This connection between the individual and peer behaviours provides key prevention opportunities through peer-based approaches. Ideally, however, children and youth have healthy attachments to their families and communities, which are more likely to lead to pro-social peer relations.

Difficulty in School

Schools provide an important setting for the promotion of healthy relationships and healthy development, which includes educational attainment. Students who at least complete high school tend to experience more positive outcomes including better employment opportunities. As children, many offenders were less successful in school, had lower attendance rates and were frequently more likely to leave school earlier than their peers. As much as 45% of inmates have learning disabilities and/or literacy issues, which were not detected during their childhood years.

Problematic Substance Use

The majority of inter-personal crimes are committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol or are related to problematic substance use. Regular alcohol and/or drug use during adolescence is associated with higher conviction rates in adulthood. Therefore, preventing or delaying the onset of substance use and reducing harms associated with problematic substance use can significantly reduce crime.

Mental Health

Persons with mental health issues are at higher risk of victimization or coming in conflict with the law. People with psychiatric disabilities are also over-represented in correctional facilities. To reduce the risk, appropriate mental health facilities and supports need to be readily available and easily accessible.

Parenting

Frequently when people try to understand crime, they go from blaming the offender to blaming the family. In reality, families must be seen within the broader social and community context. Research shows that parenting practices that are inconsistent, neglectful, overly punitive or permissive increase the risk of delinquency, as do parental criminality and serious family conflict. Supporting families and promoting positive parenting practices provides important opportunities for decreasing criminality.

Violence in the home

Interventions to reduce family violence will have positive inter-generational effects. While family violence and interpersonal violence that occur outside the home are crimes in and of themselves, they also significantly contribute to crime and victimization later in life. Victims of child maltreatment and neglect are more likely to come in conflict with the law. It has been estimated that up to 85% of inmates experienced some form of physical or sexual abuse as children. Studies even show that over 50% of violent young offenders witnessed spousal abuse in the home during their childhood. Reducing family violence, recognizing the impact of childhood trauma and provided trauma-informed systems of care, greatly contribute to community safety.

Social Exclusion

Members of racialized groups continue to be over-represented in correctional facilities. Race/ethnic factors associated with crime, in reality, are the consequences of people being kept at a social and economic disadvantage. Decreasing stereotyping, discrimination and marginalization as well as increasing equity and belonging can go a long way to addressing such disadvantages.

Unemployment

A high number of youth and adults admitted to correctional facilities have been chronically unemployed and/or underemployed. Unemployment after terms of incarceration also increases the likelihood of re-offending. Stabilizing employment situations in communities and countries decreases the likelihood of crime and greatly contributes to community safety.

Poverty

Poverty, income insecurity and other inequities are linked to chronic stress and health problems, unsatisfactory living conditions and relationship challenges. The effects are particularly stressful during pregnancy and for lone parents. An equitable distribution of resources and opportunities inevitably will lead to significant reductions in social ills including crime.

Note Regarding These Factors

The factors presented above do not comprise an exhaustive list. Researchers continue to explore other influences on crime such as entertainment/social media, nutrition, and exposure to environmental toxins. Ongoing commitment to evaluation and research will strengthen the evidence base for crime prevention.

In Summary

It is clear from the research that there is no single cause of crime. Crime is the result of a combination of social-economic, community and family conditions that create a predisposition to anti-social and criminal behaviour. These conditions also increase the risks of victimization.

“There are experiences, particularly early in childhood, that make it extremely predictable that individuals are at substantially higher risk for involvement with violence, be it interpersonal, youth violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, or child abuse.”⁴

When children grow up in caring families, safe and healthy communities, and equitable and inclusive societies, their chance of living fulfilled and peaceful lives is exceedingly better than when these conditions are not met.

Risk factors point to the importance of early intervention and prevention in the lives of children. Protective factors and strengths-based approaches point to the opportunities for us to create optimal conditions for preventing crime and victimization before it happens. A root causes approach supports systemic understanding and upstream actions and must be part of any comprehensive crime prevention and reduction agenda.

The prevention of crime and other social ills follow the same principles. Effective prevention approaches are:

- Intensive never ad-hoc
- Happen in natural settings
- Start as early as possible
- Based in good evidence and community wisdom
- Work on multiple levels
- Place a high value on future generations
- Encourage citizen engagement and leadership

⁴ Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, p.1.

Community Engagement League: Final Report & Recommendations

2015 - 2016

The Community Engagement League arrived at the end of its two year term at the end of 2016. This final report outlines what it accomplished and the League's recommendations for the next steps.

We believe that the Friends of Crime Prevention initiative and the Community Engagement League have great potential to be a safe community space for people to learn, grow in their understanding of crime prevention issues, exchange ideas that further community change and help support putting them into action.

The Community Engagement League recommends that:

- In 2017, WRCPC staff recruit & coordinate a diverse group of Friends to help direct and lead the 2017 events, with support from WRCPC Community Engagement Staff and rooted in newly developed Friends framework & strategies
- CEL be supported with the capacity within & among Friends of Crime Prevention in order to move the initiative more squarely into the community (this would help to reduce confusion about WRCPC/Friends and clarify messaging)
- WRCPC staff lay the ground work internally for Friends of Crime Prevention to move more arms length from WRCPC
- There be a role for one of the Community at Large members of WRCPC to be a liaison on the Community Engagement League
- WRCPC explore funding sources to support more community led approaches to organizing and growing Friends of Crime Prevention

What is the Community Engagement League?

The Community Engagement League was designed with a BIG vision in mind: To dream up strategies and approaches that engage our community in creating a safe and crime-free community in which to work, live and grow: Then put those strategies into action.

The Community Engagement League was designed in 2014, then launched into action in January 2015. It had a 2-year mandate (2015-2016). The League membership included WRCPC members and a cross section of our community, Friends of Crime Prevention & Community Engagement Staff.

League members included Barry Cull, Pari Karem, Lisa Doran, Lisa Armstrong, Jeanean Thomas, Jeremy Steffler, Bill Walters (who left the League when he moved back to Newfoundland) and Jennifer Robinson.

The League met monthly for two hour gatherings and accommodated virtual participation via Skype, video calls and conference calling.

What was its purpose?

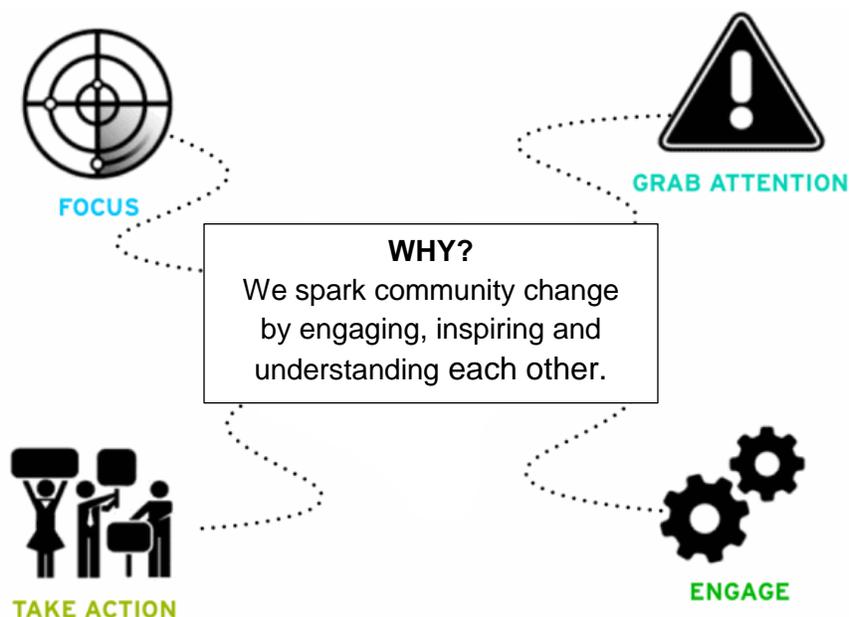
The CEL had two primary activities as its purpose:

- Develop and implement a process for defining & deeply understanding the “prevention” value of WRCPC with respect to crime prevention through social development and community engagement
- Advance & boost the Friends of Crime Prevention initiative

What did the League accomplish?

The group had energy for the Friends work so that’s where we started.

- We schooled ourselves in knowledge areas relevant to Friends so that we could develop a common frame of reference: designing social movements, community engagement and [.....]
- Struggled and wrestled with our “WHY” (identity statement) for Friends of Crime Prevention and ultimately conquered that WHY in the following statement:
 - We spark community change by engaging, inspiring and understanding each other
- Developed a comprehensive framework for how we plan, structure and implement initiatives to animate & activate the Friends network.



- Hosted [Popcorn, Prisons & Prevention](#) in partnership with KPL featuring Howard Sapers and a Panel of local experts and people with lived experiences to highlight the realities of Canada's prison system
- Conducted a survey of Friends to determine short term directions for 2016.
- Developed 20+ Principles Statements to help potential Friends identify themselves as a Friend (i.e. You might be a Friend of Crime Prevention if you believe that you can create social change by working with others)
 - Statements will be used as part of recruitment & online campaigns
- Hosted a [Porch Chat series](#) in the gaol garden, June 2016
- Hosted the [Turn the Page Book Club](#), November 2016, together with community partners Community Justice Initiatives, Grand Valley Institution and Wild Writers Festival (The New Quarterly)
- Both the Porch Chat & Book Club events brought new voices to the table and people who had not heard of Friends of Crime Prevention before
- Started to identify some of the philosophical underpinnings of Friends of Crime Prevention
- Through low key recruitment, were able to increase number of Friends of Crime Prevention to 341 Friends (end of 2016)
- The CEL hosted some of the most engaging & productive 'meetings' (as commented by League members!),

We didn't get to the work of developing a value statement (similar to the collaboration statement) on the "prevention" value of WRCP for three reasons:

- The CEL was so engaged on the Friends of Crime Prevention work
- WRCP revised and changed its values statement so this task became moot
- WRCP is reshaping its thinking on prevention with the sector roundtables

What did we learn?

A seemingly straight forward task is never quite so straight forward....

- We discovered we needed to go through our own learning process to better understand what the Friends initiative is about and how we could help to move it forward
- While in a much condensed format, we suspect we went through a learning curve similar to what other new Friends of Crime Prevention might experience, too
- We developed a better understanding of how Friends of Crime Prevention – the movement – can have an impact in our community
- With deeper understanding, individuals found clearer language to advance the dialogue about Friends of Crime prevention within their own networks and connections

- Partnering with other organizations for events helps to amplify the reach and connects to individuals and groups outside of our usual circles
- It would help CEL to be more firmly rooted in its work with clearer understandings of some core principles i.e. root causes of crime, crime prevention through social development, community engagement, prevention, social determinants of crime...
- The next iteration of the CEL will need to develop clearer indicators for measuring the success of its work
- The line/boundary between WRCP and Friends of Crime Prevention is still blurry and leads to some confusion in the community
- We need to find a way to ensure that Friends of Crime Prevention are not confused with “volunteers for WRCP”.