

# SMART ON CRIME

2015-2018

Making the Connection between  
Community Safety and Vitality



**Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region 2015-2018** is the road map that will guide the **Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council** over the next four years. This document is a snapshot of the full community plan which is available online at [www.smartoncrime.ca](http://www.smartoncrime.ca).

We consulted with nearly 1,500 people in the community through online and telephone surveys, focus groups and community consultation. It was gratifying to discover the root causes of crime are generally well understood in Waterloo Region. Where should we focus our efforts? **Smart on Crime 2015-2018** will focus on three priority areas for community vitality – **Youth, Neighbourhoods and Advancing the Momentum of Smart on Crime.**

Together we can continue to build a community that is safe and vibrant for all people living in Waterloo Region. We hope you share our excitement about the road ahead!

“We know that when the well-being of ALL people matters, then social justice and positive change follow.”



### **Our Vision**

A safe and promising future for all people in our community.

### **Our Mission**

We advance ideas and actions that alleviate root causes of crime and improve social well-being.

### **Our Values**

**Collaboration:** We believe that community safety cannot be achieved by any one person or organization. It takes all of us working together in partnership.

**Commitment:** We believe that the creation of a safe and promising future for all in our community takes time and perseverance.

**Compassion:** We believe that a compassionate world becomes possible when everyone is treated with dignity, equity and respect.

**Courage:** We believe in honest dialogue, challenging misconceptions, facing uncertainty and at times making bold decisions.



## YOUTH

### Unleashing the potential of ALL youth

“If we can show youth they are part of the world around them, they will value their involvement in the community.”  
(Consultation Participant)

#### ACTIONS:

- Demonstrate that investment in early childhood prevents crime and victimization
- Leverage resources for youth in high risk situations
- Collaborate with rural communities in promoting healthy inter-generational connections
- Infuse community safety efforts with the knowledge that youth engagement is a smart investment
- Work with the community to engage youth, particularly those who are currently hard to reach
- Improve outcomes for young people by building on their skills, talents and capacities
- Advocate for the implementation of the “**Roots of Youth Violence**” (2008) provincial report

## NEIGHBOURHOODS

### Building local capacity for change

“A strong sense of belonging in a neighbourhood will go a long way to preventing crime.”  
(Consultation Participant)

#### ACTIONS:

- Map crime and related social conditions to focus resources
- Advocate for long term investment in neighbourhood interventions
- Mobilize the **Friends of Crime Prevention** and neighbourhood leaders to strengthen communities
- Decrease the isolation of vulnerable populations by drawing attention to the effects of victimization and fear of crime
- Counter the stigmatization of mental health and addictions to promote empathic neighbourhood responses
- Support local understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee report (TRC)
- Promote the decriminalization of prostitution with key decision makers
- Increase opportunities for the successful reintegration of people who have been incarcerated

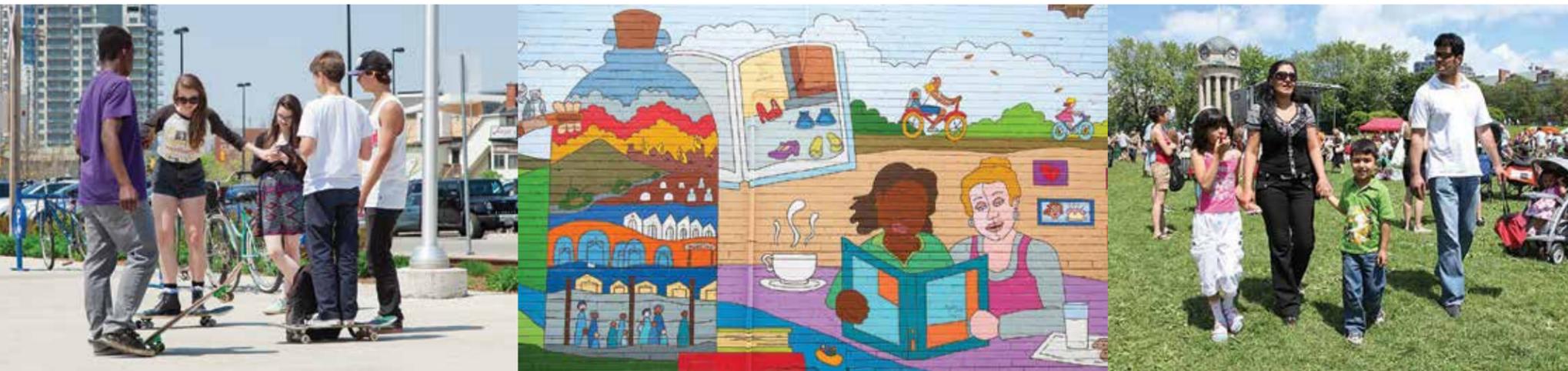
## SMART ON CRIME

### Advancing the momentum

“Strategies should be informed by research but also informed by community knowledge and action together.”  
(Consultation Participant)

#### ACTIONS:

- Further advance WRCPC as a clearinghouse and catalyst for community safety
- Monitor and report on trends in violence in Waterloo Region
- Make the connection between reduction of poverty & inequality and community safety
- Increase participation in the **Friends of Crime Prevention** program
- Increase the impact of the WRCPC sector round tables.
- Expand anti-cyber bullying efforts
- Continue to support the implementation of the **Integrated Drugs Strategy**
- Work with the **National Municipal Network** to grow the number of municipalities engaged in crime prevention through social development
- Connect economic development with equity, and equity with community safety
- Promote restorative justice as a first response
- Include more people with lived experiences in planning and intervention
- Address hate crime
- Bring focus to decreasing inequality, exclusion and stigmatization as they relate to crime and victimization



To view the full plan online, download a copy or request an alternative format, visit [www.smartoncrime.ca](http://www.smartoncrime.ca)



Cover artwork is courtesy of Mackenzie Eckert, a young Cambridge artist, who was commissioned to create the Smart on Crime cover in acrylic paint. The original canvas adorns the wall of our office at the Governor's House.

To view the plan online, or request alternative formats, visit [www.preventingcrime.ca](http://www.preventingcrime.ca) or [www.smartoncrime.ca](http://www.smartoncrime.ca)

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 Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council



Region of Waterloo



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