

# OUR COMMUNITY

Partnerships, relationships and collaboration are at the heart of our approach. WRCPC Council Sector Leaders bring together a broad range of community perspectives and work together to address the root causes of crime. Our Sector Leaders represent the community, corrections, education, health (mental health & addictions), Indigenous Peoples, justice, local government, neighborhood supports, police, youth and others.

Thank you to all involved for all that you do for the community!

## WRCPC Membership

- Axonify
- Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre
- City of Waterloo
- Community at Large
- Community Care Concepts
- Community Justice Initiatives
- Domestic Violence Response, Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region
- Kinbridge Community Association
- Lutherwood
- Persons with Disabilities Sector
- Regional Council
- Sustainable Societies Consulting Inc.
- The Working Centre
- Thresholds Homes and Supports
- University of Waterloo
- Waterloo District Catholic School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board
- Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy
- Waterloo Region Police Service
- White Owl
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Wilmot Family Resource Center
- Woolwich Community Health Centre
- YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener - Waterloo - Immigrant Services

## Ex-Officio Members

- Regional Chair: Ken Seiling
- Commissioner of Community Services: Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders
- Chief of Police: Bryan Larkin
- Medical Officer of Health: Dr. Liana Nolan
- Executive Director of Family and Children's Services: Karen Spencer
- Chair of Waterloo Regional Police Services Board: Tom Galloway
- Crown Attorney: Mark Poland
- Warden of Grand Valley Institution for Women: Liz Vitek
- Manager of Legal Services Waterloo-Wellington: Angela Vanderheyden

## Lifetime Honorary Members

- Barry McClinchey
- Irene O'Toole
- John Shewchuk
- Peter Ringrose
- William Wilson

WRCPC is a Division of the Regional Chair's Office, Regional Municipality of Waterloo



## SMART ON CRIME IN 2016 - 2017: Glimpses of our Work Together

### A Safe and Promising Future for All People in our Community.

For over 20 years WRCPC has been engaging the citizens and key decision makers from all orders of government in efforts to create a community where everyone matters and everyone is safe. In 2015 WRCPC launched its second smart on crime community plan.

Through collaboration, research, policies and hands on work WRCPC strives to advance ideas and actions that alleviate the root causes of crime and improve social well-being. Here are some highlights of our efforts from the past two plus years!

## Get Involved!

### It takes a community to create safer neighbourhoods and cities!

Everyone has a role to play in crime prevention. We invite you to be part of the solution. Attend an event, come out to a meeting, sign up as a Friend of Crime Prevention and learn more about how you can contribute to a safer community for all.

[friendsofcrimeprevention.ca](http://friendsofcrimeprevention.ca) | [preventingcrime.ca](http://preventingcrime.ca)  
519-575-4400 | [wrcpc@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:wrcpc@regionofwaterloo.ca)

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please contact the WRCPC office.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

WRCPC Chair, **Shayne Turner**, participating in a drumming circle at the annual WRCPC retreat.

On behalf of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRCPC), it is my pleasure to provide you with a glance of our progress over the last two years in advancing the Smart on Crime momentum. Upstream prevention not only reduces the likelihood of people's involvement with the criminal justice system, it also contributes to the overall well-being of the community.

It is not possible to list all accomplishments in this brief overview. But the selection hopefully provides you with a good sense of the work of WRCPC as a backbone organization. Whether we focus on the 10-year anniversary of Say Hi Day, the Porch Chats, playing a role in expanding the reach of the Canadian National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP), helping to advance proactive policies or simply responding to community challenges, Waterloo Region has a long history of grass roots collaboration. WRCPC builds on this culture of stewardship.

In 2014 over 1500 community residents informed the Smart on Crime Plan (2015-2018). This summary of highlights is our way of honoring their contributions and being accountable to our community.

Community is dynamic! We never know what is coming around the corner or when "all hands-on deck" are required. We believe that overall we succeeded in advancing our objectives

while staying responsive to our local community and beyond.

All accomplishments in community are shared. It is only through the on-going willingness and ability of many of our community partners to collaborate, to use research wisely, and to demonstrate the courage to step up, that a momentum for crime prevention becomes possible.

You may have become a Friends of Crime Prevention, attended community conversations, stayed informed and engaged with the issues or even have taken what you learned to your places of influence. All of these actions matter and help to create the rich tapestry we need to move prevention upstream.

Thank you to Chair Seiling and Waterloo Regional Council. You have and continue to be one of WRCPC's biggest supporters and loudest cheerleaders. By showing your trust in community and investing in grassroots efforts you demonstrate what can happen when local government and its community join hands in a task that is too complex for any one organization to accomplish.

We look forward to the year ahead and the many opportunities it will bring to continue to make prevention matter!

**Shayne Turner**, WRCPC Chair



# WRCPC: A BACKBONE ORGANIZATION

Everyone can contribute to the health and safety of our community.

Through knowledge exchange and community engagement WRCPC seeks to generate greater public understanding of the root causes of crime and animate deeper commitment and more strategic investment in upstream prevention. The role of WRCPC is not to create programs but rather to be the catalyst for changes in existing programs or the creation of new efforts in the community.

Everything WRCPC accomplishes is done through working in collaboration with government, community and other stakeholders and by initiating awareness campaigns, providing research and developing policies and positions on issues that affect the safety of the community

specifically and the well-being of the community overall. A small body of staff core funded by the Region of Waterloo take directions from members of WRCPC in how to make the goals of the Smart on Crime plan become a reality. Only collectively can we have an impact on the conditions that create a safe Waterloo Region.

In 2016-2017 WRCPC featured prominently in over 280 forms of media. From matters related to crime in neighbourhoods, to the connection between drugs and crime, or many other topics such as hate crime, WRCPC locally and beyond has become a source of insight and information regarding matters of upstream approaches that set a tone for now and future generations.

AT OUR CORE  
COLLABORATION.  
COMMITMENT.  
COMPASSION.  
COURAGE.

Porch Chats were hosted in 2016 and 2017, engaging over 200 members of the community in conversations with local change-makers. The goal was to create a welcoming space for people to better understand community issues by talking to those who have directly experienced them. Out of these conversations grew additional work, specifically surrounding the criminalization of mental illness and the bystander effect. To get involved – look out for and stay tuned for the 2018 Porch Chat schedule.

Porch Chats: Community Conversations About Issues That Matter!

WRCPC has been partnering with the Waterloo region school boards and other community stakeholders to hold the annual Say Hi Day for the past 10 years. With the goal of increasing caring, belonging and responsibility in our community, in excess of 102,000 students from 170 schools have participated. Research shows that character development, equity and inclusion messages can greatly contribute to a safer school community in the near term and responsible engagement in the wider community in the longer term.

A Connected Community is a Safer Community - Don't Be Shy, Just Say Hi! 10 Years of Say Hi

In existence since 2003 this vibrant grassroots network (spearheaded in part by WRCPC), by now brings together 24 member municipalities, that account for over 40% of the Canadian population. These municipalities are dedicated to preventing and reducing crime through social development and fostering safer communities. CNMNCP received UN recognition as the only grassroots national municipal network of its kind! Visit [www.safercities.ca](http://www.safercities.ca).

Canadian National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention: 24 Member Municipalities and Growing: Making Safer Cities

As part of the annual WRAS (Waterloo Region Area Survey) a section of the survey's questions were developed by the WRCPC research team. WRCPC included questions about trust, perception of community safety in the downtown cores, frequency of downtown visits and understanding of the phrase "smart on crime". Results help us better understand how the perception of safety and crime are changing over time, allowing us to focus on gaps and areas of need and addressing perceptions that may not be rooted in reality.

Waterloo Region Area Survey (WRAS): 2017. We Asked, You Answered!

WRCPC, the City of Kitchener, Waterloo Regional Housing and Carizon Family & Community Services engaged a team of Youth Navigators that connected with 1,100 at-risk adolescents in various programs that included finding solutions to life challenges through education, employment and conflict resolution. Navigators successfully developed strong connections to youth who have complex needs and struggle with making healthy long term choices. Much like the former inREACH street gang prevention approach the youth navigator project received a positive evaluation. Despite this longer term funding could not be secured.

Youth Navigators: Encouraging Interconnectedness

This annual WRCPC event brings together citizens, community leaders and municipal, provincial and federal government representatives to network, celebrate and inspire the broader community to continue crime prevention work through social development. Past keynote speakers have included (now Prime Minister) Justin Trudeau, CBC host Michael Enright, (former Ontario Premier) Bob Rae and others who are well known leaders in the country. The event is attended by 300+ guests each year and the two most recent themes featured local voices and initiatives in Restorative Practices and the intersection of Mental Health and Justice.

Justice Dinners

In 2015 WRCPC moved our office to the Governor's House at 73 Queen Street North in downtown Kitchener. Originally this building was occupied by the wardens of the historic jail adjacent to it. As the new home for crime prevention initiatives in our region, it has caught the attention of the public in Waterloo Region and beyond. This has opened up new opportunities for engaging the community. A display curated by WRCPC showcases the transition of the space from its original purpose to the current upstream work.

Governors House: Preventing Crime From a Historic Jail House

Often, our understanding of crime, justice and prevention come from a blend of personal experience, the political arena and the media. In light of our 21st century reality, it's a good time to re-examine some of these assumptions and beliefs with some upside down thinking, critical reflection and deep questioning. All social transformation requires new ways of thinking in order to ignite community activities that create change. A community course created by Friends of Crime Prevention, for Friends of Crime Prevention was designed to deepen our awareness and understanding of community issues, leading to informed critical action. This course was offered for the very first time in fall 2017 and an evaluation is underway.

Reframing Crime, Justice and Prevention: A Community Course

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

With the help of work done by the WRCPC since 2012, The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act is now law in Canada. The hope is that by providing limited immunity from possession charges and conviction, 911 call rates will improve at the scene of an overdose, in effort to save lives and reduce stigmatization of people who use drugs. WRCPC, along with partners, has developed a Good Samaritan Fact Sheet and a wallet card. The fact sheet and wallet card are available on our website.

Good Samaritan Overdose Act of Canada: Reducing Stigmatizing and Influencing Law

# INITIATIVES | IMPACTS | RESULTS

To better understand the root cause of crime, WRCPC events and activities invite people to make connections with others who value collaboration, commitment, compassion and courage - all vital values that can lead to sustainable change.