



GETTING TO THE ROOTS OF CRIME

A COMMUNITY BASED PLAN FOR 2010–2014 BY THE WATERLOO REGION CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

Messages from Council Members and Staff



Dear Friends,

Waterloo Regional Council has always strongly supported the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council as it works in

partnership with other local organizations and ordinary citizens to identify and prevent the root causes of crime and “stop crime before it happens” in our community. The Crime Prevention Council continues to be forward looking in its approach and has contributed much to crime prevention initiatives not only in Waterloo Region but across Canada.

On behalf of Regional Council, I would like to thank the volunteers and staff of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council and wish them every success as they move forward with their plan “Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region”. Crime prevention is not the responsibility of any one agency or government or group. It is something for which we must all work together and the Crime Prevention Council plays a central role in focusing our efforts towards achieving our shared goal of a healthy and safe community for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Seiling'.

Ken Seiling
Regional Chair



Dear Community Members,

The Waterloo Regional Police Service is proud to work in partnership with the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council toward

preventing crime and building capacity in our neighbourhoods.

Crime prevention requires the support and participation of everyone. Individual effort makes a collective success and it is our shared goal with the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council to realize a community with safe and connected neighbourhoods for all people.

On behalf of the Waterloo Regional Police Service I would like to thank the staff and volunteers of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council for facilitating the conversation, planning for the future, and collaborating on crime prevention initiatives in our region. The content of *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* comes from those whom it affects the most, and therefore we thank you, for working together to make a difference in Waterloo Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Torigian'.

Matthew Torigian
Chief of Police



Dear Fellow Residents,

In 2009 we asked the community about their expectations of the Crime Prevention Council. *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region*

is the outcome of those conversations. When we talk about working “together for a safer community”, we mean what we say.

Community safety is the cornerstone of a healthy and vibrant community. It remains our goal to engage the entire region, from the grassroots to the highest levels of decision making, in creating one of the safest municipalities in Canada. We are grateful for the continued support of Regional Council in making crime prevention a local priority. All members of the Crime Prevention Council are committed to doing our part by putting into action what works and what has promise. Preventing crime before it happens is the smart thing to do. It is good social policy, sound economic planning and it reduces the number of persons affected by crime.

We hope you find *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* both informative and engaging. We invite your feedback as we work together to create a safe and crime-free community in which to work, live and grow.

Sincerely,

John Shewchuk
Chair, WRCPC



Dear Community Members and Partners,

The staff of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council couldn't be more pleased about *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region*. We are:

- inspired by our community's passion for crime prevention and dedication to creative solutions;
- encouraged to know there is wide-spread support for *social change oriented crime prevention*;
- fortunate to work within a context of strong local government, community and police collaboration guided by shared vision;
- excited to have a flexible and responsive plan for the next four years.

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region demands that we focus on what works best to create sustainable **momentum**, **actions**, and **results** today. This plan provides new directions and builds on previous experiences in Waterloo Region. We look forward to the next four years of working together on smart solutions to what lies at the roots of crime, victimization and fear of crime!

Sincerely,

Christiane Sadeler
Executive Director,
and the WRCPC Staff Team

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region 2010 – 2014

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region provides a framework and direction for the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRCPC) over the next four years. The work of preventing and reducing crime, victimization and fear of crime requires long-term thinking, planning and action. This orientation toward the future must also go hand in hand with planning and action in the short term.

*Smart on Crime means ...
engaging communities,
identifying needs and
developing strategies.*

Often, in order to move forward, it is important to first take a look back. Over 700 people participated in a broad based community consultation through an online survey and focus groups with partner organizations and the community at large. Crime Prevention Council members were involved in this process of learning *with* the community from start to finish. The consultation was designed to gain insight for the following questions:

What relevance does a crime prevention council have in Waterloo Region?

What are we doing well?

What could be done better?

How do we get to “better”?

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region is a reflection of what we heard during our community consultations. This plan outlines priority directions, goals and actions. It forms the best possible foundation for the Crime Prevention Council to provide collaborative leadership for *social change oriented crime prevention*.

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region is rooted in the experience of our community. We also paid attention to what we know about successful municipally-based crime prevention in Canada and elsewhere. These elements include:

Evidence based practice: understanding and maximizing what works well

Collaboration: building partnerships with all relevant sectors of the community

Cooperation: securing ongoing commitment from local government and community partners

Social Change Orientation: investing in actions that create sustainable change to root causes

Flexibility & Responsiveness: adapting to the needs and trends of the community and broader social and political environments

Broad based support: engaging citizens and organizations in planning and implementation

The goals and priority directions outlined in this plan are firmly grounded in vision, practice and experience. They create our foundation for creatively mobilizing the energy and resources needed to advance *social change oriented crime prevention* in Waterloo Region.

Priority Directions 2010 – 2014

The work of crime prevention is always dynamic and needs to be both proactive and responsive at all times. To create a four year plan with these expectations can be difficult. Each priority direction in *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* speaks to current and anticipated future actions that support the momentum for *social change oriented crime prevention*.

Each priority direction has a built-in reasoning as follows:

- Why this direction **is** important for crime prevention;
- What this direction **must** compel us to do;
- What the Crime Prevention Council **will** commit to within this imperative.

Research & Inquiry

Smart communities invest today for the needs of tomorrow. In light of competing needs, decision-making must be based on good research & evidence. WRCPC will generate, interpret and disseminate research and knowledge that enriches the evidence base for crime prevention.

GOAL

By 2014, crime prevention research and findings inform public policy development, programming and services within our community and beyond.

Some areas of our work that will help to accomplish this goal...

- Develop a framework for WRCPC research
- Monitor & evaluate the Street Gang Prevention Project
- Advance the Violence Prevention Plan research and recommendations
- Coordinate the development and implementation of research to inform the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy
- Develop a research and evaluation centre for violence prevention to be housed in Waterloo Region
- Consistently report on the progress of *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region*

"There is clear evidence that well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimization, but also promote community safety and contribute to sustainable development of countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the formal criminal justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime."

United Nation Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex



Education & Learning

Smart communities are informed and engaged. WRCPC communication and education efforts must be relevant to our local community and based on good evidence. WRCPC will foster a shared community understanding and responsibility to address the root causes of crime.

GOAL

By 2014, the key principles and messages of crime prevention are commonly understood and shared by our community.

“Communities have demonstrated that crime prevention activities that are based on an in-depth understanding of local problems, grounded in the neighbourhoods where the crime occurs, and helped by advice and assistance from all orders of government, will succeed.”

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2000

Some areas of our work that will help to accomplish this goal...

- Develop a framework for Community Engagement
- Develop a Communications Plan and Strategy to define and communicate key messages and activities of WRCPC
- Develop and disseminate education materials about the root causes of crime and ‘smart on crime’ actions
- Provide support to communities and groups experiencing crime and safety related issues
- Collect baseline data on perceptions and opinions related to crime prevention in Waterloo Region
- Host community awareness activities and events such as: the Annual Justice Dinner, Say Hi Day in schools, Safe Cities series, and In the Mind’s Eye Film + Forum series
- Promote WRCPC resources and work within our community and beyond
- Develop a speakers bureau
- Host a conference in evidence-based crime prevention
- Facilitate workshops and training for community leadership in crime prevention

A more detailed description of annual milestones

Strategic Leadership

Smart communities mobilize and focus resources and energy on things that truly make a difference. WRCPC must commit to collaboration because it is the best form of leadership to anticipate, influence and affect sustainable social change for crime prevention. WRCPC will take an intentional role in creating this preferred future.

GOAL

By 2014, WRCPC's collaborative leadership approach is relied on as an effective model for *social change oriented crime prevention* within our community and beyond.

"Together we will make our communities safe; we can't afford not to."

Barbara Holtmann, 2010

Some areas of our work that will help to accomplish this goal...

- Provide opportunities for active learning to further develop our understanding of collaborative leadership and *social change oriented crime prevention*
- Facilitate workshops and training about community leadership and *social change oriented crime prevention*
- Advocate for national and provincial actions that advance *social change oriented crime prevention*
- Develop opportunities for network building and knowledge sharing (National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario and others)
- Host an event focused on municipalities and crime prevention
- Advance the Drugs Strategy Task Force and the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy
- Manage the Street Gang Prevention Project's community treatment and community mobilization phases
- Develop "Smart on Crime" and "Champion of Crime Prevention" community awards

through 2014 can be found at www.smartoncrime.ca

Organizational Design

Smart organizations thrive in changing environments. In light of constant change, the WRCPC governance must be dynamic and adaptable. WRCPC will build on the strengths of its current organizational design that make it an innovative and resilient model for municipally-based crime prevention.

GOAL

By 2014, the WRCPC governance is redeveloped to establish the best foundation for social change oriented crime prevention.

Some areas of our work that will help to accomplish this goal...

- Complete a review of WRCPC governance (policies, structures, roles and responsibilities)
- Implement proposed governance changes and share with the community
- Create principles of organizational design for WRCPC's role as a catalyst for social change
- Review and evaluate governance changes

"...investing in multi-sectoral strategies for the prevention of interpersonal violence is not only a moral imperative but also makes sound scientific, economic, political and social sense."

World Health Organization, 2004

Keeping an Eye on Our Progress

While we work to intentionally create change, *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* will always take a developmental approach to its work activities. Areas of work are outlined under each priority direction and actual milestones will be developed over the course of each year based on learning, outcomes and evaluation from the previous year. New milestones will be developed in anticipation of, or in response to, emerging issues within our community and the wider field of crime prevention.

WRCPC commits to providing regular updates on our progress to the community through:

- detailed description of annual milestones on our website at www.smartoncrime.ca
- an annual report card on progress and evaluation of activities;
- regular reports to our partners and the community on progress within the priority directions to ensure that all activities are aligned with this plan.

Trailblazing a Smart Approach

Over the past sixteen years, Waterloo Region witnessed the transition of crime prevention through social development from a marginalized theory to a household concept. Momentum for this transition was fostered by the vision and capacities of our citizens, community and government leaders, and the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council. This increasing support for *social change oriented crime prevention* became possible by way of:

- Forward thinking and decision making
- Progressive approaches in policing
- Vibrant health, social, faith and volunteer services
- Innovative and collaborative responses to community needs
- Robust support to local community organizations

As a result, social development and prevention approaches are visible in all corners of our community. With such a strong emphasis placed on quality of life efforts, this community has advanced the nature of municipal crime prevention to the point where we understand crime prevention as neither a quick fix, nor something that can be accomplished by any one group alone.

*Smart on Crime means ...
building safe neighbourhoods
through strong community
partnerships.*

*Smart on Crime means ...
building community,
building awareness.*

Within this context, there is a growing appreciation for the municipal role in crime prevention, as demonstrated by initiatives locally and across Canada. This strong foundation supports the continued trailblazing work of the Crime Prevention Council. *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* further encourages this path of innovation and allows us to respond creatively to opportunities, emerging trends and community needs.

With focus and commitment, the momentum for quality of life efforts will continue to grow. *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* is not a radical change from current developments, rather, it builds on the lessons from the past, is grounded in the present, remains future oriented, and strategically advances social change.

Our community is made safer through the actions of each and every citizen. Crime prevention is an inclusive community effort, and with your help, Waterloo Region is well-placed to sustain the progress that makes us one of the safest communities in Canada.

*"Recognize complexity
Accept uncertainty
Embrace possibility
Trust community
Proceed with humanity"*

© Eric Young, 2010
"Innovators in Action" Speaker Series

About Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council

More and more, municipalities are adopting innovative, prevention based approaches to complex issues such as crime, victimization and fear of crime. In Waterloo Region, we have a history of innovation and collaboration for our most pressing social issues.

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council brings a wide range of services and citizens together to build healthier and safer communities. Our multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral community-based council includes representatives from the social, health, and education sectors, as well as, enforcement, urban and rural centres, planning, child and family well-being, youth and more. Together, these members act as a resource and an advisory body for local communities and the Region of Waterloo.

In our experience so far, we have come to learn that the role of a crime prevention council is not to 'do for' the community, but to 'do with' the community. The role of a crime prevention council is to be a catalyst for action, an educator, a connector, a researcher, a resource and support. WRCPC is actively engaged in *social change oriented crime prevention* through:

Education	Research
Outreach	Communication
Capacity Building	Community Engagement
Community Dialogue	Partnership Building

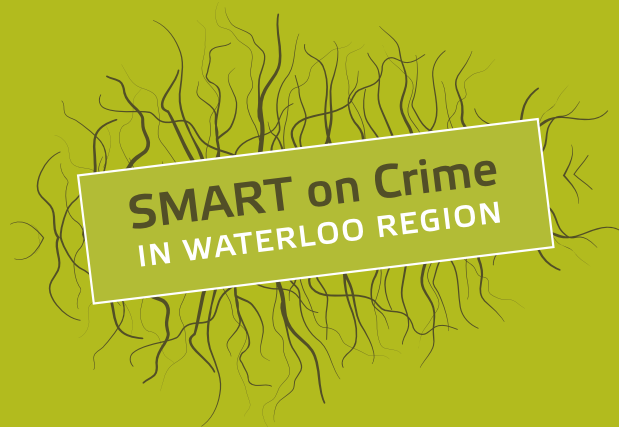
Smart on Crime means ... connecting what's right with what works.

Since 1994, WRCPC has worked collaboratively on smart approaches that prevent crime and victimization by getting to the root causes of crime. From neighbourhood engagement, training and education, to research and developments that improve services for citizens, the work of WRCPC is rooted in the best available evidence and promising innovative practice.

WRCPC works to close the gaps between service silos and to identify new directions for reducing and preventing crime, victimization and fear of crime by bringing together individuals, neighbourhoods, organizations, agencies and all levels of government. This multi-disciplinary approach is at the heart of prevention efforts in Waterloo Region and has been upheld across Canada as an effective model for municipally-based crime prevention.

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region will help us build on this 'made in Waterloo Region' smart approach to crime prevention. This plan is also sure to further knowledge, wisdom and experience about the root causes of crime and how to reduce and prevent them.

To learn more about our approaches and work, visit www.preventingcrime.ca.



Vision

A safe and crime-free community in which to work, live and grow.

Mission

To mobilize the efforts of community in reducing and preventing crime, victimization and fear of crime; increasing safety; and fostering the well-being of everyone.

Values

We believe...

- in preventing crime through dealing with the root causes
- in just and humane approaches to crime and its consequences
- that the community is part of the solution
- that we are stronger when we work together
- that effective action is based in knowledge, experience and wisdom

As partners in crime prevention, we value...

- being clear and consistent in our vision and actions
- speaking out and acting on our convictions
- showing respect in attitude and action

To request accessible formats of this document, including large print and electronic versions, please contact our office. Tel: 519-883-2304 / TTY: 519-575-4608.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."***

- MARGARET MEAD

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www.preventingcrime.ca
www.smartoncrime.ca

