

## **WRCPA Agenda**

**September 11, 2020**

**9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

The meeting will take place via Zoom. Please follow the instructions provided in the email or the Outlook meeting invitation.

**Chair:** Cathy Harrington

**Minutes:** Mary Anna Allen

1. Welcome and Introductions – 10 min
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of the August 14, 2020 Minutes – 5 min (attachment)
  - 4.1 Business Arising
5. Status Update – Chair Cathy Harrington and Vice-chair Richard Eibach – 45 min
6. Discussion about Next Steps for Moving Forward - 15 min
  - 6.1 Review the Governance – Peter Ringrose – 5 min
7. Approval of Smart Update (Consent Agenda) - 15 min (attachment)
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

## WRCPC Minutes

August 14, 2020

Zoom Conference Meeting

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

**Chair:** Cathy Harrington

**Minutes:** Mary Anna Allen

**Present:** Andrew Jackson, Arran Rowles, Bill Wilson, Cathy Harrington, Joe-Ann McComb, Sharon-Ward Zeller, Richard Eibach, Patricia Moore, Chris Cowie, James Bond, Kathryn McGarry, Kathy Payette, Tom Galloway, Lu Roberts, Irene O'Toole, Jennifer Hutton, Peter Ringrose, Kelly Anthony, Shayne Turner, Janice Ouellette, Dave Dunk, Sarah Shafiq, Mark Pancer

**Regrets:** Angela Vanderheyden, Barry McClinchey, Carmen Abel, David Jaeger, Doug McKlusky, John Shewchuk, Bryan Larkin and Mark Crowell, Hsiu-Li Wang and Karen Quigley-Hobbs, Jonathan English, Karen Spencer and Kelly Bernier, Rosslyn Bentley, Shirley Hilton, Trisha Robinson

**Staff:** Christiane Sadeler, David Siladi, Julie Thompson, Mary Anna Allen, Michael Parkinson

**Guests:** Cynthia Martin with Wellbeing Waterloo Region and with WRPS

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

Cathy Harrington welcomed WRCPC members, staff and guests.

### 2. Approval of Agenda:

The **Collaboration and the Workings Behind Our Response to the Pandemic (Pulse Check)** survey results was added to the agenda after the approval of the Minutes. David Siladi will be sharing the results.

Moved by Patricia Moore

Seconded by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Carried as amended.

### **3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

Chris Cowie shared that he will let the Chair know, during the meeting, when he will need to declare a Conflict of Interest and shared that he will be happy to leave the room at that time to ensure members of Council can react freely to the expanded option proposal for the Centre for Justice & Prevention.

### **4. Approval of the June 12, 2020 Minutes:**

Moved by Peter Ringrose

Seconded by Richard Eibach

Carried

#### **4.1 Business Arising:**

None.

### **5. The Collaboration and the Workings Behind Our Response to the Pandemic**

(Pulse Check) Survey Results:

David Siladi thanked the members of the Advisory Group on Research and Evaluation (AGORE) for assisting in the development of the Pulse Check survey. Both WRCP members, Kelly Anthony and Mark Pancer, are members of AGORE. Additionally, David thanked Mark Pancer for his support following the survey deployment and during the process analysis. The survey was developed in partnership with the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP). A small working made of the members of the CMNCP assisted in developing the survey and with the distribution across Canada.

A total number of 126 participants, categorized by occupation and sector, responded to the survey. 72% percent of the responses were from Waterloo Region, and 28% were from across Canada.

David provided the preliminary survey results of the quantitative data based on local community responses. David will provide the qualitative data results at a later date, and a report will be shared when completed.

**Please see PPT attached.**

### **6. Centre for Justice and Prevention Concept Follow-up Presentation:**

Christiane Sadeler and Chris Cowie provided a follow-up presentation of the Centre for Justice and Prevention concept to the Council members for WRCP's consideration and the potential approval to further explore the concept.

This opportunity would see both the WRCPC and Community Justice Initiatives (CJI) combine their efforts to create a Center for Innovation in Restorative and Upstream Approaches to Justice. Within this entity, WRCPC would be hosted by CJI.

The [REACH Edmonton](#) model was used as an example of a successful community collaborative.

**Please see PPT attached.**

Following the presentation, the WRCPC had a discussion and provided some feedback:

The WRCPC members agreed that the concept provided some clarity of directions. There is clear alignment between the two organizations (WRCPC and CJI), both within the mandates and the cultures. The partnership could lead to opportunities for synergy and to the continuation of upstream prevention work.

Both WRCPC and CJI would need to be in agreement to move forward with the concept.

There has always been a strong relationship between the two organizations. The new partnership will make it easier to advance mutual goals by trying to leverage relationships and partnerships etc. in the community.

If a decision is made to move forward with the new entity, it will be important to provide the community with its benefits, the intentions of bringing the two organizations together, along with an implementation plan that can address any concerns.

If the WRCPC agrees to move forward with the new entity, eventually it will lose its core funding from the Region of Waterloo, and it will have an impact on the staff. Christiane will follow-up with Human Resources to ask about the impact on staff.

An update about the Centre for Justice and Prevention concept has been provided to the Design Team. To date, the Connectors Hub group has not yet had the opportunity to discuss the new concept.

The WRPS has expressed a strong desire to work together in Restorative Justice. The potential to continue working together on the Community Safety and Well-being Plan is also achievable.

At this time, only the Regional Chair and the two WRCPC representatives know that the new concept is being discussed.

If the WRCPC were to go ahead with the new concept, it is the hope that the Regional Council will be part of the Centre in some capacity and might demand some level of representation on the Board or the leadership round table.

The relationship between REACH Edmonton and City Council is written within an agreement. REACH Edmonton is responsible for annual plans, community safety plans, and advising on trends and crime. If the WRCPC moves forward with the new entity, important elements of the work of the WRCPC will need to be included in any agreement.

With WRCPC's endorsement, the Council will continue to further explore the new concept, as it continues with its conversations with Wellbeing Waterloo Region while maintaining the work of the WRCPC at the same time.

The Council agreed to the further exploration of creating a new organization in collaboration with Community Justice Initiatives (CJI).

Motion: To move ahead with the exploration of creating a new organization in collaboration with Community Justice Initiatives (CJI).

Moved by Mark Pancer

Seconded by Peter Ringrose

One abstention: Chris Cowie declared a conflict of interest.

Carried

## **7. Other Business:**

### **Communications Working Group on Racial Justice:**

Participants of the Communications Working Group on Racial Justice include Lu Roberts, Sarah Shafiq, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Jessica Hutchison, and Richard Eibach. Julie Thompson is currently the staff support person. Christiane Sadeler has also attended the past two meetings.

The main focus of the meetings has been to develop general principles and a strategy on how to approach in a meaningful and respectful way the various voices from the racialized community that have been and are involved in very important discussions.

The group suggested the WRCPC use the next Council Retreat to focus on the local movement and the concerns of the local conditions in an effort to raise the awareness of the various activities and proposals for local actions that have been emerging in the community. The group will provide an update as the plans for the Retreat develop.

The working group members have been reaching out to their connections and networks within the community to see if there are activists interested in contributing to the efforts of the working group and/or engaging in conversations to assist in ensuring that the group is addressing the issues in a meaningful and respectful way. The working group will provide updates as the work progresses.

**8. Adjournment:**

Moved by Irene O'Toole at 11:36 a.m.



# A Pulse Check on COLLABORATION and the Workings Behind the Pandemic Response

## Preliminary Results





# WHO RESPONDED

1

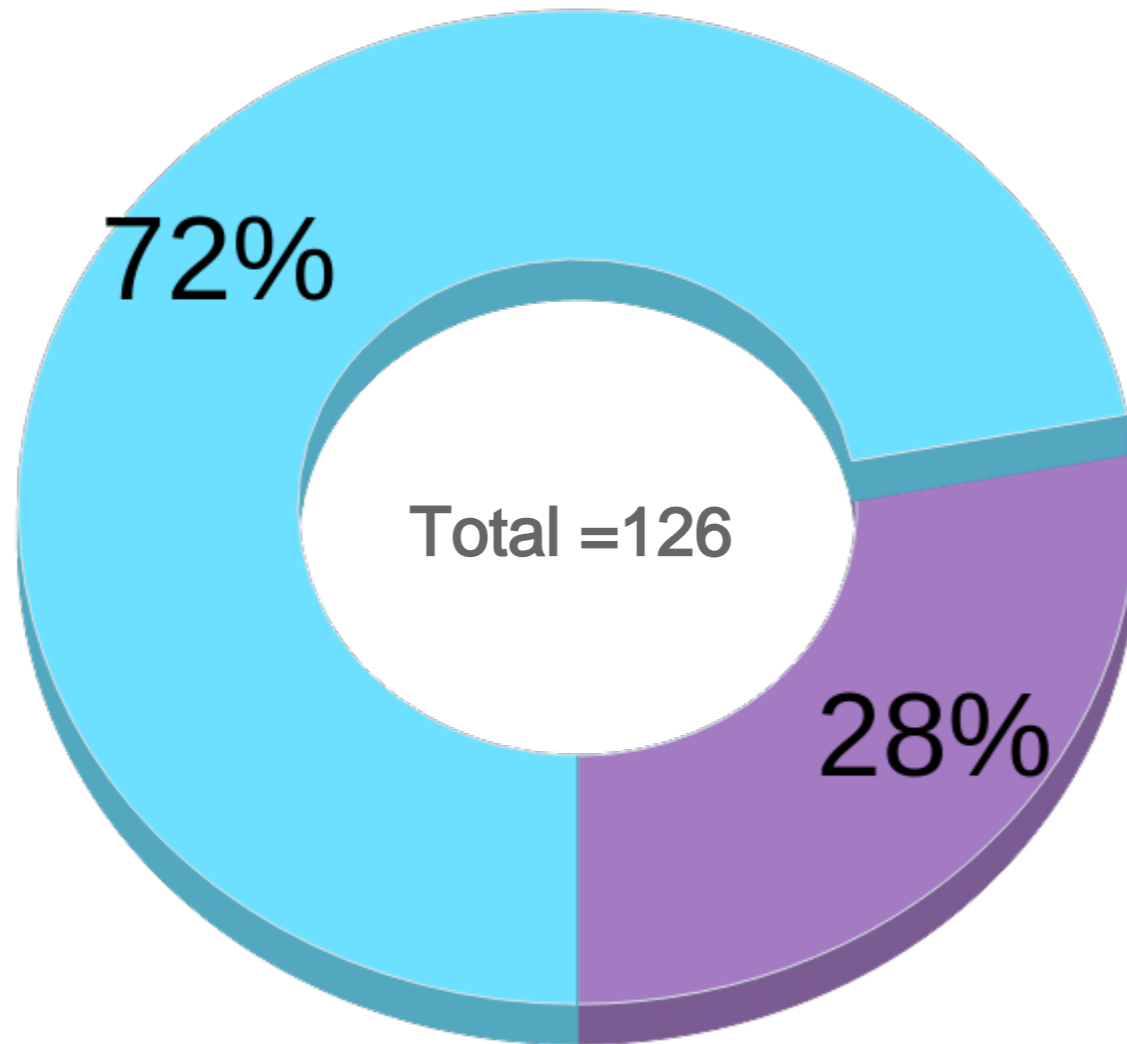




# Proportion of Local vs. Other Responders

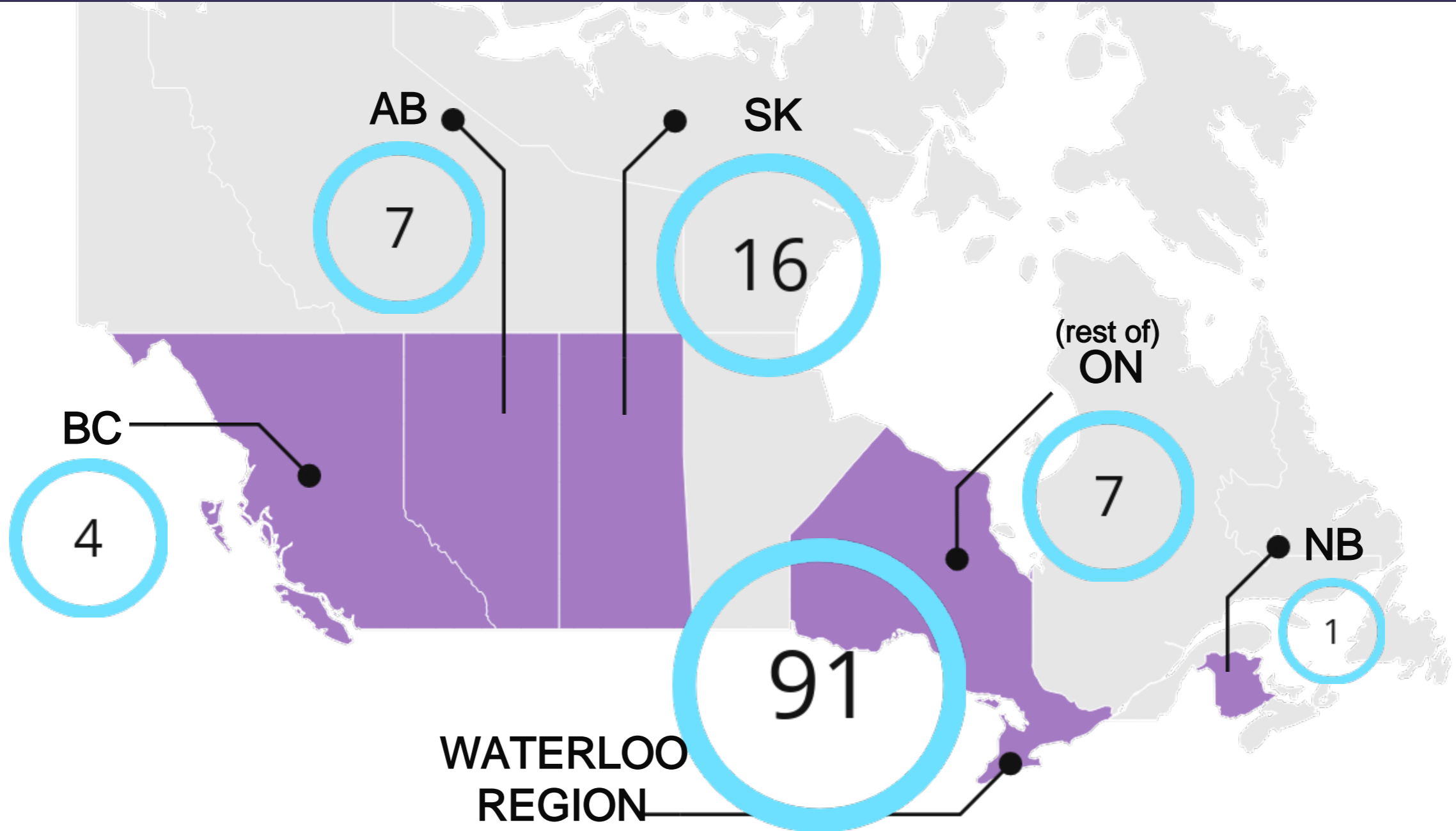


**Waterloo Region**



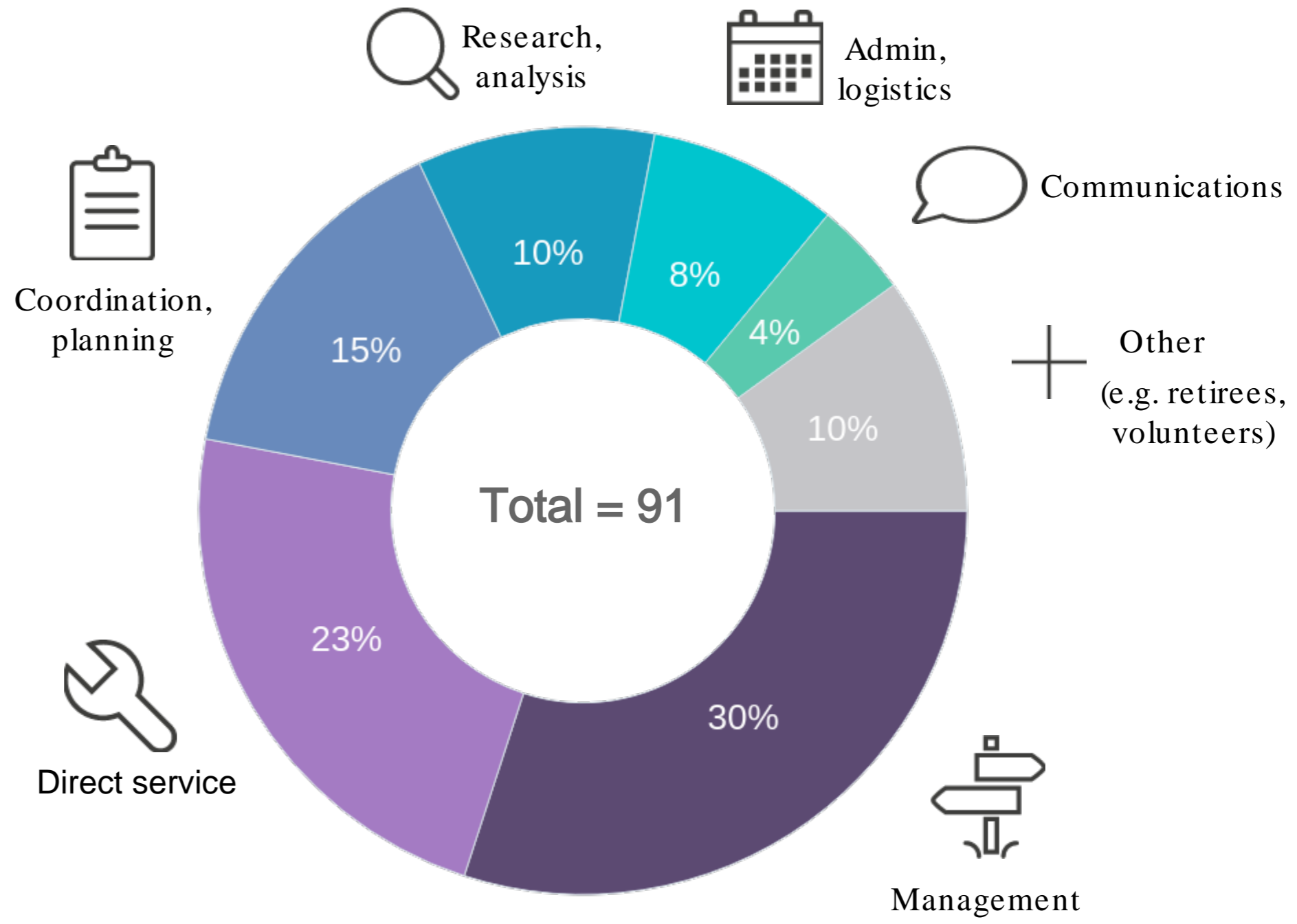
**rest of  
Canada**

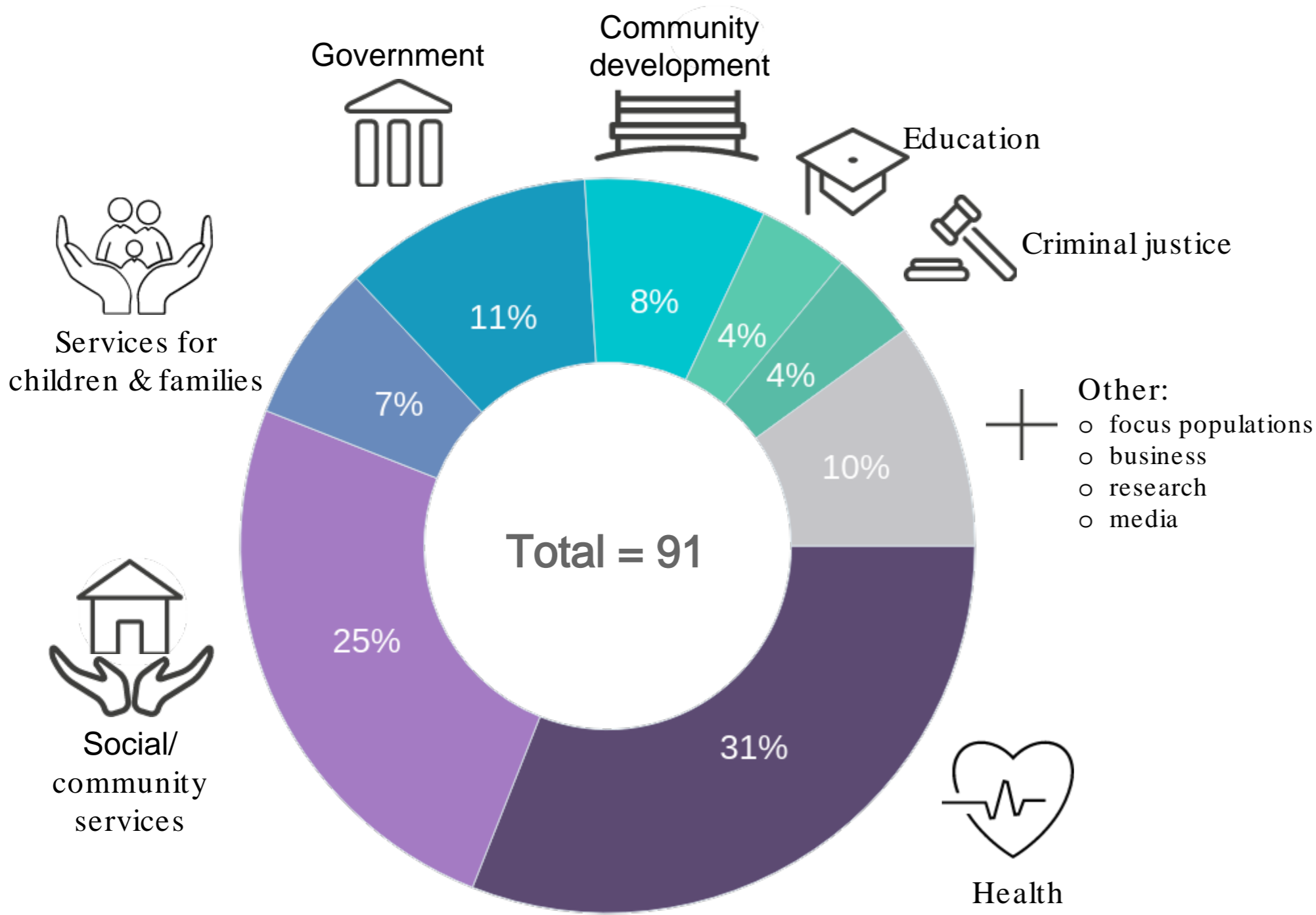
# Location of Respondents





# Respondents by Occupation





# Responde by Sector



# RESULTS

2





### Collaboration

- Crosssectoral
- Common Cause
- Working together:
  - agencies
  - agencies & gov't



### Alignment & Scope

- Clear roles
- Coordinated
- Little/no duplication
- Comprehensive



### Communication & Understanding

- Shared understanding
- Effective communication
- Active sharing of info



### Responsiveness & Adaptation

- Relevant expertise sought
- Best available evidence
- Adapting course as needed
- Alternatives encouraged
- Builds towards recovery



### Monitoring & Implementation

- Overall effects tracked
- Efficacy assessed
- Implementation challenges addressed



### Inclusiveness & Equity

- All partners have voice
- Address those in need
- Range of perspectives
- Inequities identified



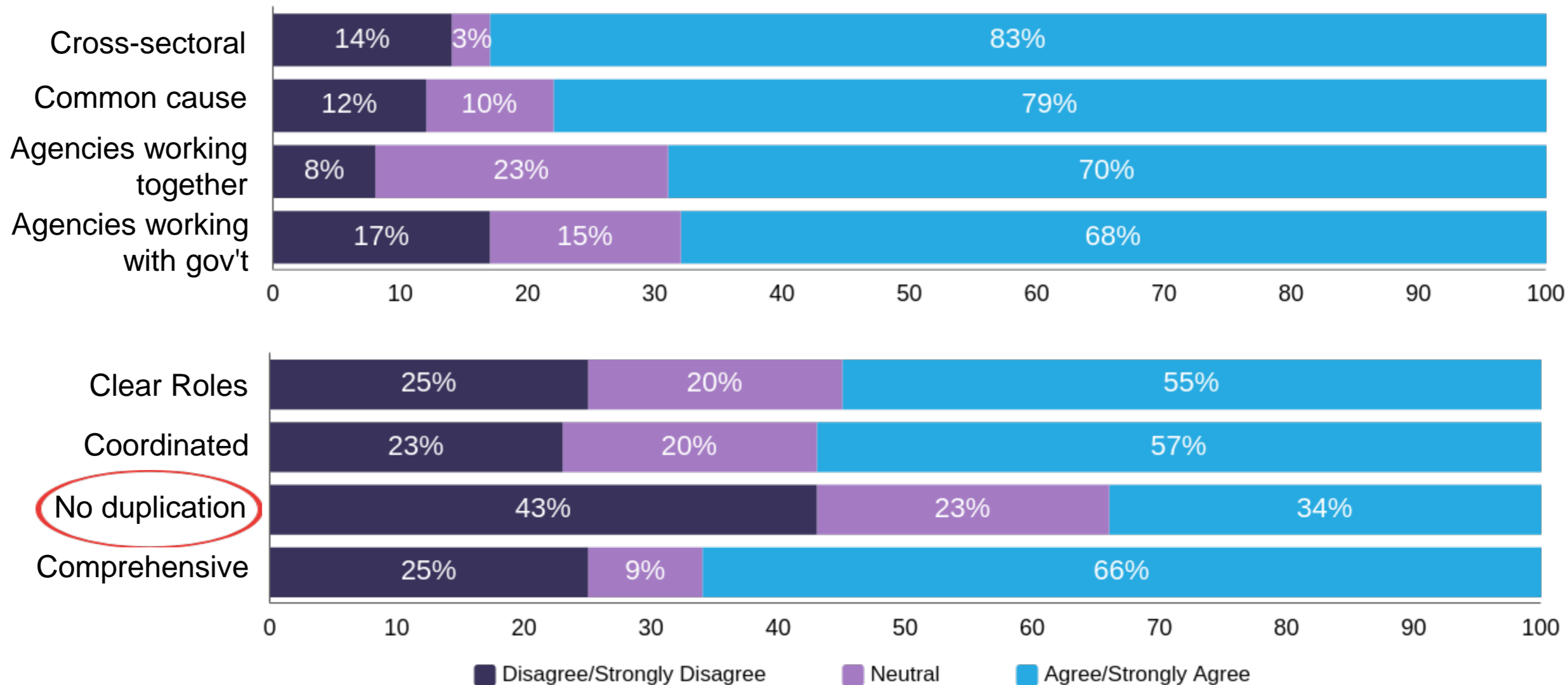
### Prevention & Bigger Picture

- Anticipation of issues
- Looks at longterm impacts
- More than quick fixes
- Considers negative effects

# Categories and Indicators



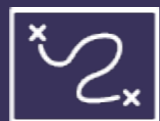
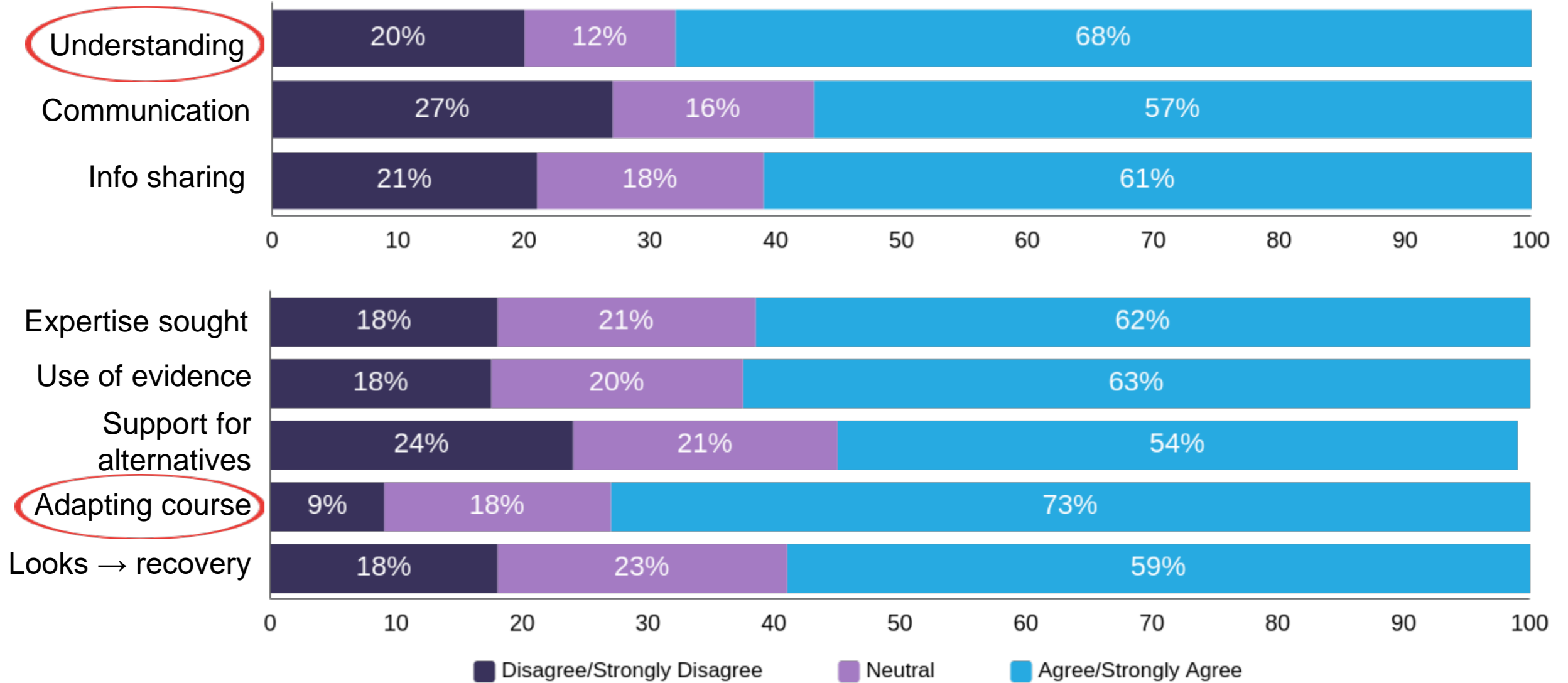
# Collaboration



# Alignment & Scope



# Communication & Understanding

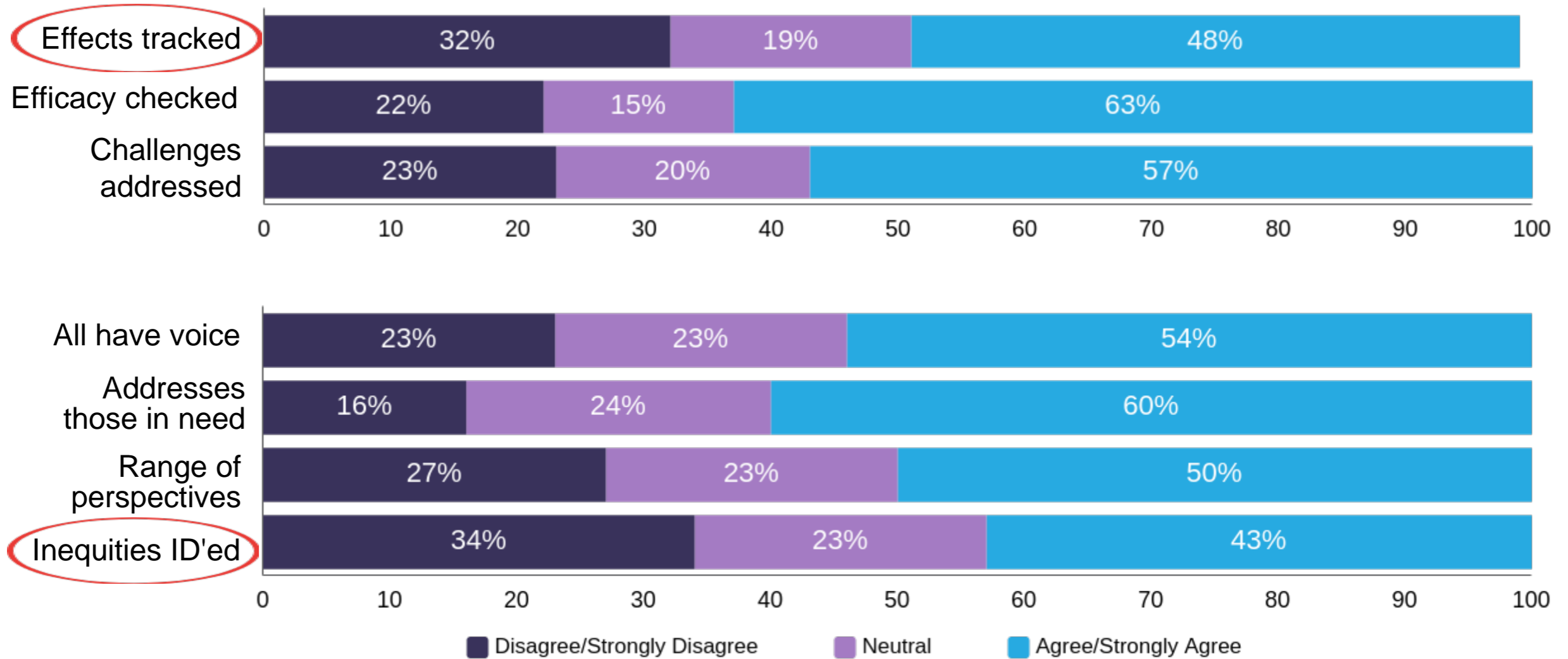


# Responsiveness & Adaptation

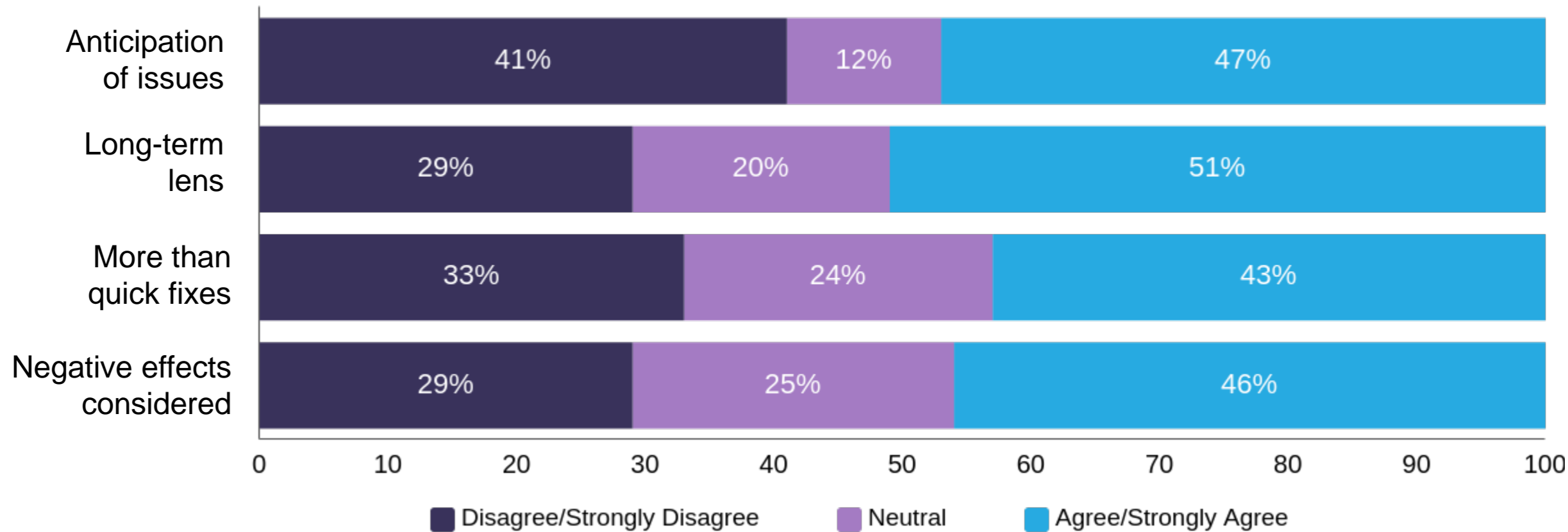




# Monitoring & Implementation



# Inclusiveness & Equity



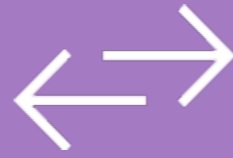
# Prevention & Bigger Picture



# Averaging of Indicators

## SCALE

- 1 = Strongly disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Neither agree nor disagree
- 4 = Agree
- 5 = Strongly agree



- 4.07** Crosssector collaboration
- 3.96** Agencies working together
- 3.95** Focus on common cause
- 3.81** Adapting as needed
- 3.80** Agencies + government(s) working together
- 3.71** Shared understanding
- 3.70** Reflects available evidence

- 3.56** Comprehensiveness
- 3.54** Involvement of experts
- 3.52** Addresses those in need
- 3.51** Looks toward recovery
- 3.48** Coordination
- 3.46** Efficacy checked
- 3.43** Active sharing of info
- 3.40** Support for alternatives
- 3.39** All partners have a voice
- 3.38** Effective communication
- 3.38** Clear roles
- 3.37** Implementation challenges addressed

- 3.26** Long-term lens
- 3.26** Range of perspectives
- 3.18** Considers negative effects
- 3.16** Tracks overall effects
- 3.12** More than quick fixes
- 3.09** Identifies inequities
- 3.08** Anticipation of issues
- 2.92** Little/no duplication

# Ratings across Categories

## Legend:

Higher

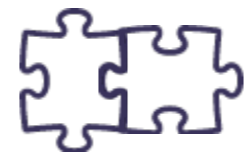
Lower



### Collaboration

Crosssectoral  
Common Cause  
Working together:

- agencies
- agencies & gov't



### Alignment & Scope

Clear roles  
Coordinated  
Little/no duplication  
Comprehensive



### Communication & Understanding

Shared understanding  
Effective communication  
Active sharing of info



### Responsiveness & Adaptation

Relevant expertise sought  
Best available evidence  
Adapting course as needed  
Alternatives encouraged  
Builds towards recovery



### Monitoring & Implementation

Overall effects tracked  
Efficacy assessed  
Implementation challenges addressed



### Inclusiveness & Equity

All partners have voice  
Addresses those in need  
Range of perspectives  
Inequities identified



### Prevention & Bigger Picture

Anticipation of issues  
Looks at longterm impacts  
More than quick fixes  
Considers negative effects



# SUMMARY

3



# Relative Standings

Collaboration



Responsiveness  
& Adaptation



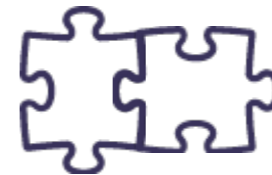
Communication &  
Understanding



Monitoring &  
Implementation



Alignment  
& Scope



Inclusiveness  
& Equity



Prevention/  
Bigger Picture



# General Findings



Collaboration was seen as going well

Indicators related to Responsiveness & Adaptation were rated more positively while...

...indicators related to Prevention were rated more negatively

Equity-related considerations also received lower ratings

Duplication of efforts was seen as an issue





# Region of Waterloo Centre for Justice & Prevention

A Concept Presentation to WRCPC, August 2020

Chris Cowie (ED of CJI) and Christiane Sadeler (ED of WRCPC)

# The Reach Edmonton story

- ▶ In 2009 Edmonton Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety creates Edmonton Coordinating Council for Community Safety (akin to Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Heritage Council) as a foundational step towards establishing Reach Edmonton.
- ▶ REACH is now incorporated and a stand alone organization with a Council of 13 members and 20 staff.
- ▶ The City of Edmonton provides ten year financial commitment via two five year contracts:
  - ▶ \$1.2 million in core funding p.a.
  - ▶ \$1.3 million in 24-7 crisis diversion p.a.

## Reach Mission:

To strengthen community safety in our city and region through innovative ideas, building relationships and inspiring action.

"Making Edmonton Safer in One Generation".

REACH Edmonton's Council for Safe Communities is a backbone, community-based organization working to mobilize and coordinate organizations, community groups and Edmontonians to find innovative solutions to prevention and community safety.

# Reach Mandate

- ▶ Research, monitoring and evaluation of community safety practices
- ▶ Timely dissemination of prevention trends
- ▶ Community and organizational capacity building
- ▶ Development, implementation and sustainment of a community safety strategy for the city of Edmonton
- ▶ Facilitation of collaborative community solutions
- ▶ Communication and public awareness raising to affect a culture shift towards prevention
- ▶ Support of and/or hosting of start-up community safety initiatives
- ▶ Model policy development
- ▶ Advise and inform the Council and Senior Administration of the city of Edmonton
- ▶ Participation in national and international crime prevention efforts
- ▶ Management of the 24-7 crisis response

# Reach Board of Directors

- ▶ Akin to a traditional BoD from the NGO world
- ▶ Person who are accepted as community leaders in the community
- ▶ Persons with expertise to support a policy board: e.g. accountant
- ▶ Persons with a long time stake in prevention (e.g. education)
- ▶ Chief of Police, Senior City Staff (2), one Elected official are advisors without a vote

The work of the board is augmented by working groups that draw in the diversity of the community.

## Pros and Cons of the Model

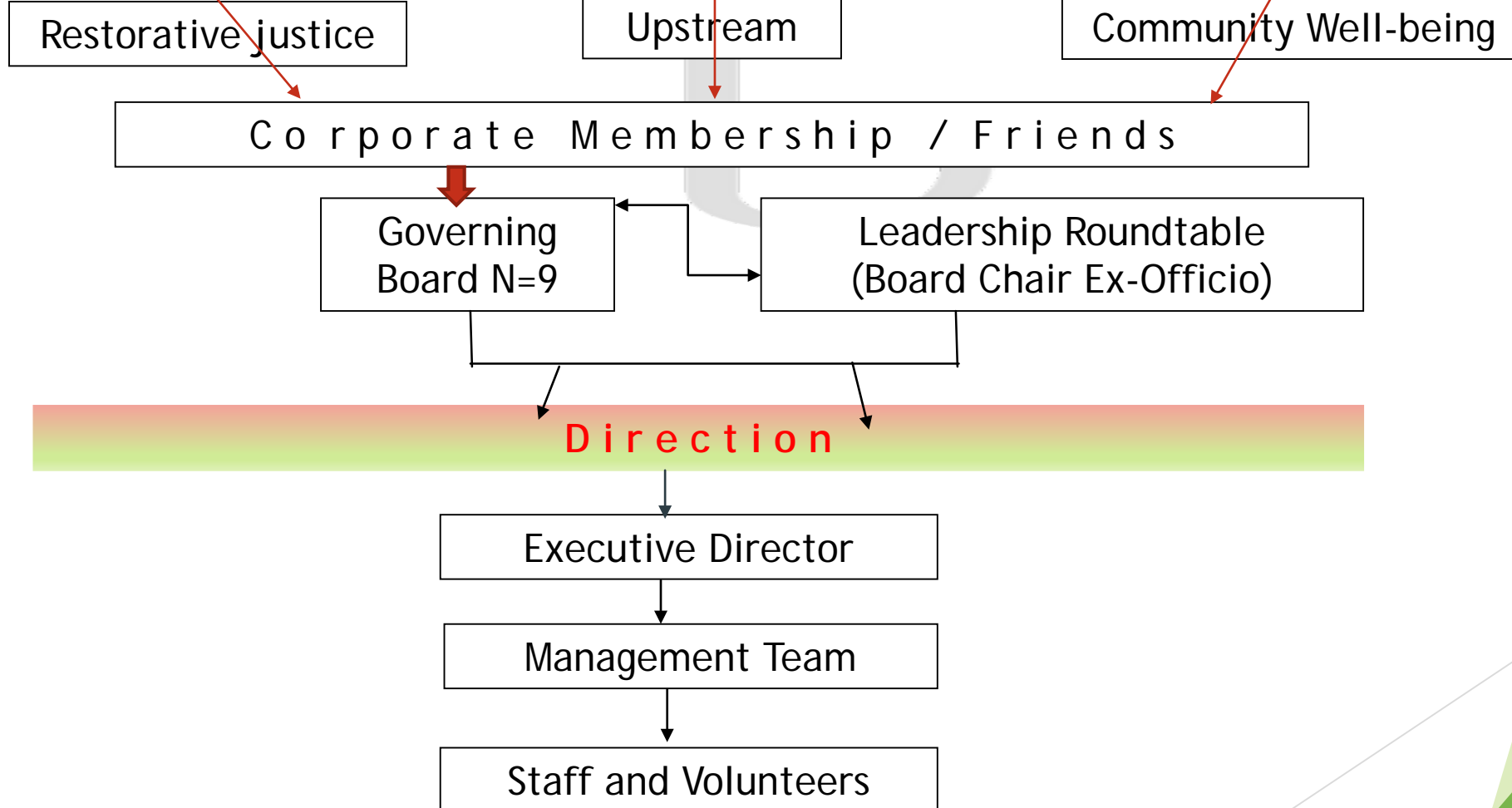
### Pros

- ▶ High level of independence from the City
- ▶ Contractual relationship with the City providing clarity on roles
- ▶ High level of community buy-in due to flexibility and nimbleness
- ▶ Action and innovation focused
- ▶ Long term funding arrangement (as part of city core budget)
- ▶ Equity of voice on the board (limited power dynamics)

### Cons

- Vulnerable to new political directions
- High demands from the community to support responses efforts
- Diminished focus on upstream prevention
- Success of 24-7 crisis response program dependent on police partnership approach
- Need for incorporation

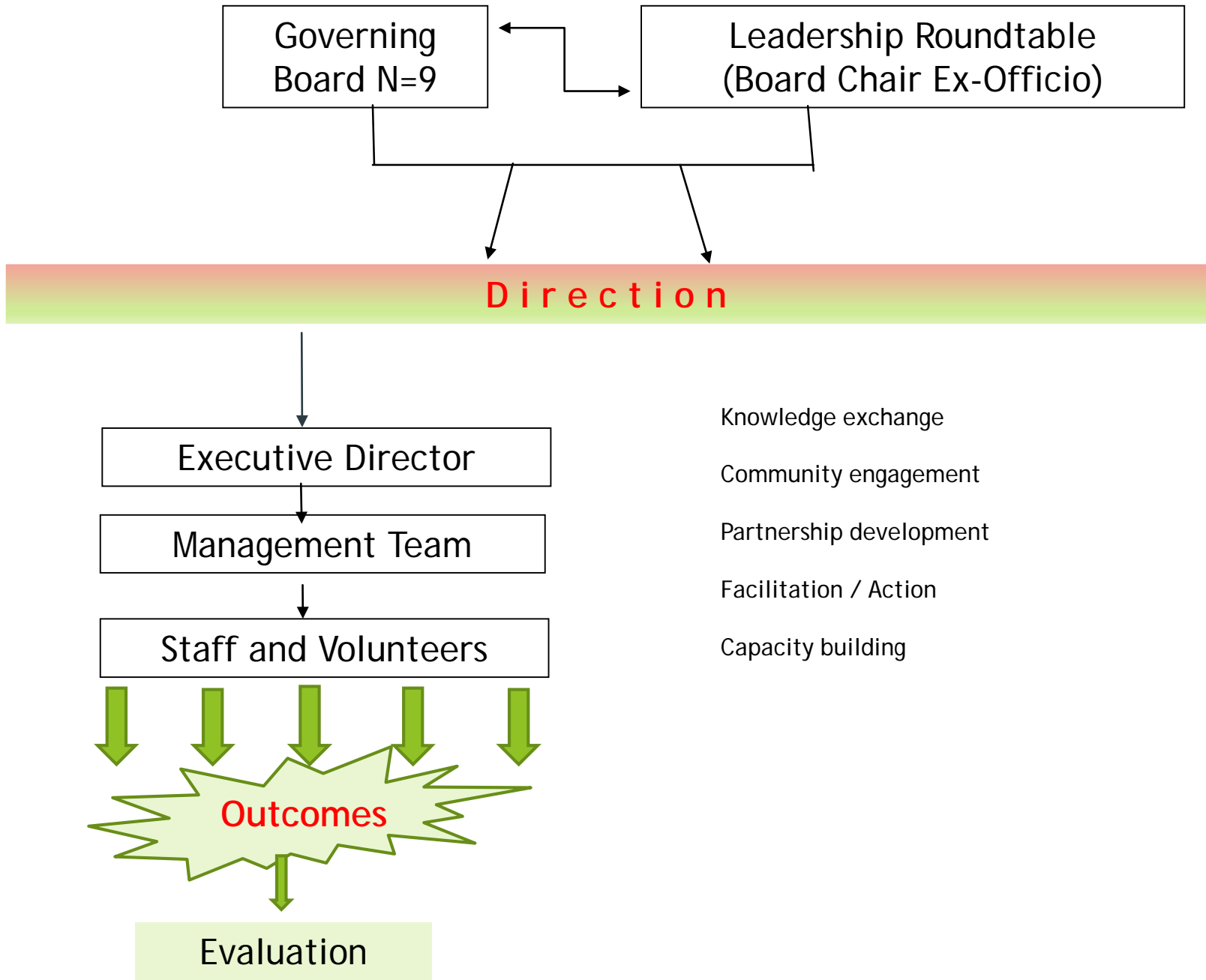
# Centre For Justice & Prevention



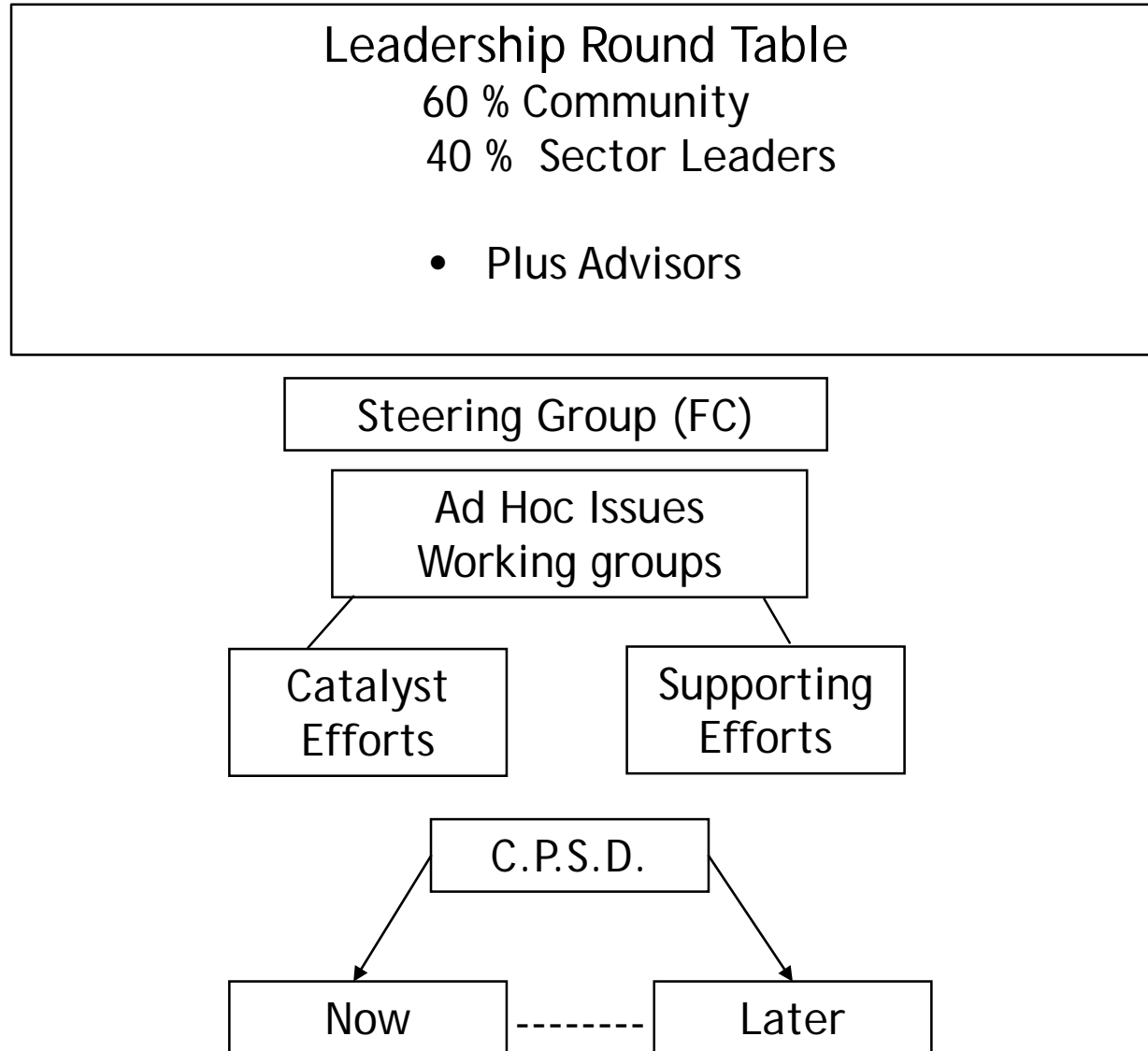
# How We Work?

- Knowledge Exchange
- Community Engagement
- Partnership Development
- Facilitating Action
- Capacity Building





# Upstream Well-being Direction



## Smart Update (Consent Agenda)

For the Meeting of WRPCPC on September 11, 2020

The Consent Agenda is published on a bi-monthly basis. **Please review this report before meetings.** Any member of Council member has the right to “pull” an item from the Consent Agenda and add it to the regular agenda for discussion, comment, or clarification. Approved consent agendas are published on the Council’s [website](#) along with approved minutes. Consent Agendas are selective, not comprehensive. Whenever possible, Consent Agenda items reflect the key approaches of the Crime Prevention Council.

### Expand Reach through Understanding and Engagement:

➤ **New look for the Website!**

- Still more work to be done....[Check it out](#) and let us know what you think?

➤ **Keep Families Safe-Preventing Family Violence in Waterloo Region:**

- Specifically exacerbated by the stress and isolation of Covid-19 - The UN has called it the “shadow pandemic”.
- In May, the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council initiated a coalition of Community Partners now numbering 18.
- With traditional avenues for support cut off by the lockdown, we developed key messages for families, friends, neighbors and the workplace.
- Developed a comprehensive campaign to reach out to people who need help and to people who can help to let them know:
  - services are available and safe,
  - how to identify the signs of family violence in person and on-line,
  - and how to help or to get help.
- Developed, [Website](#), shareable products including an [infographic](#) and [postcard](#) (products are being translated into 10 languages).
- Launched campaign on June 21, 2020 with [5 videos by dads](#) circulated on social media.
- Developed a workplace campaign including [video](#) and [PowerPoint](#) for managers to talk about family violence in the work place and their responsibilities.
- Developed sample social media messages, video scripts and PowerPoint presentation for other partners and community leaders to use.
- Engaged community leaders in creating and circulating videos following a script.
- Working with Interfaith Grand River to engage religious leaders to create videos for different faith groups.

- Advocating with MPPs to include family violence in future pandemic plans. To quote Karen Spencer, "The ICUs are empty but the women's shelters are full."
- With social media and traditional media alone, we have reached more than 700,000 people in Waterloo Region. This is in large part thanks to The Record for covering the issue, our porch chats and reprinting our infographic.
- Our coalition partners, including City of Waterloo, City of Cambridge, City of Kitchener, Township of North Dumfries and Region of Waterloo have also all shared information through their employee portals.
- Community leaders including Mayors Vrbancovic, Foxton, and MPP Fife have also generously recorded brief videos to share the message. MP Louis featured the campaign as part of his Town Hall in June 2020.
- Working with The Coalition of Muslim Women on a project called "Keeping Your Families Safe During Pandemic", this project is inspired by the #Keeping Families Safe campaign. It will provide online training in 6 different topics for 10 women from different backgrounds and languages enabling them to deliver information sessions in their languages to their communities.
- Engaging large employers to ensure they are sharing the online distress signal, know there is help and know how to help. We have created a slide deck, video, infographic and more resources - all easily downloaded from our dedicated website.
- Making local materials available to other communities across Canada.

➤ **2020 Porch Chat Series:**

- Following the Theme of #KeepFamiliesSafe Campaign.
- Provided virtually. Three porch chats facilitated- Four more being planned.
  1. Understanding emotional abuse and precursors to violence in the home
  2. Understanding the Impact of Trauma and Abuse on Children
  3. Resolving Conflict in Families
  4. Becoming An Active Bystander find out more here : <https://bit.ly/PC4-2020>
- Three Porch Chats are being developed in other languages – Turkish, Kurdish and Arabic.

➤ **Missed Opportunities Project - Preventing Family Violence through interactive virtual Theatre:**

- Partners with The Domestic Assault Review Team (DART), MCC and Theatre of the Beat.
- Develop and perform script on Domestic Assault for the purpose of exploring how family, friends, neighbours and the workplace can help.
- In Forum Theatre, the play is performed once; Then the play is performed again and the audience is invited to intervene when they see an opportunity to change the story. [Sample of forum theatre here:](#)
- Will premier in Nov. 2020

- Public Performances. Possible Radio performances. Taped for podcast that can be reused by partners.

➤ **Chelsea's Story Professional Theatre Tour 2020:**

- The Chelsea's Story Working Group consist of MT Space, SASC and a Grade 7-8 teacher and is lead by WRPCPC staff.
- Met with the Catholic School Board to bring into schools in Feb 19th, 2020. Scheduled a reading and dialogue with key members of the Board to bring in this material into their schools– cancelled due to lockdown.
- Received funding from the KWCF - \$22,000 towards this project. Must be used by July 2021. Will wait until schools settle to determine how to proceed with this project.
- On line child exploitation has significantly increased since Covid-19 – Children are required to spend more time on-line and it is difficult for families to adequately supervise. In addition, Children and teens are feeling lonely due to social isolation and are easy targets for those accessing them through social media apps and gaming platforms. The Sexual Assault Support Centre reports that since COVID-19, calls with concerns and referrals of online sexual exploitation have increased. The primary method we are hearing about is DISCORD, an app meant for video games, followed by Instagram and TikTok.
- In response to a recent request from the Catholic School Board, WRPCPC Staff are helping connect them with suitable online resources for both teachers and students due to the increased vulnerability of their students. There are several new resources that have recently become available.

➤ **Human Sex Trafficking Awareness Events cancelled due to Covid-19:**

1. Honey Bee Film and Panel Cambridge in July 2020
  2. Chelsea's Story Script Reading 5 events
  3. The YUVA Arts Project – public event
- Due to increased vulnerabilities of children and youth during Covid this work is imperative and will continue.

➤ **Every Voice Matter Mural:**

- Touring the Region of Waterloo- Tour halted due to COVID-19. Displayed currently at the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation Office

**Base Change in Good Evidence and Innovation:**

➤ **Surveys Developed During Redeployment:**

- WRPCPC staff developed two surveys during redeployment. The first survey was of a diverse group of staff deployed to the YMCA Overflow shelter. Respondents indicate overwhelming support for a low barrier shelter option(s) in Waterloo region that allows for drug consumption on site, provision of safe

supply as an alternative to the toxic unregulated market and increases in supportive housing options. The second survey is near completion and asks people dependent on substances from the unregulated market a variety of questions related to housing-shelter preferences, substance use, crime and victimization. Early results indicate people existing in a near-constant state of being unsafe.

➤ **Pulse Check on Collaboration and the Workings behind the Pandemic:**

- (Draft) report of the preliminary findings is complete
- Further/deeper analysis of the findings to include qualitative results, comparisons between groups, as well as overall findings from communities across Canada
- Consideration needs to be given to how the report will be mobilized (e.g. who needs to hear the results)

➤ **Research Action Team on Violence and Victimization in the Home during/after the Pandemic:**

- Team includes representatives from the Council (Richard and Kelly), Family and Children's Services, Lutherwood, Women's Crisis Services and Police/Wellbeing Waterloo Region of Waterloo
- The group has identified a number of sources that look at the relationship between the pandemic and the experience of violence and victimization in the home; this includes recommendations for measures that help to reduce and/or prevent violence and victimization
- The group has also been working on gathering and reviewing data from local agencies to get a sense of what the local experience has been over the last few months; so far, data from FACS and WCSWR have been reviewed (police data will be available soon)
- The plan is to take all of the findings and turn them into a knowledge brief to help inform ongoing/future pandemic planning; this work is linked to the Keep Families Safe campaign

**Lead Side by Side - Leverage Dynamic Partnerships:**

➤ **Support and Advice on Prevention Initiatives:**

- WRCPC staff continue to support and advise on prevention initiatives locally via KW4Health and the Inner City Health Alliance, among others. For decades, prevention has been recognized as a key if underfunded priority in a variety of health domains (e.g. Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, 1986). The WRCPC is currently advising with area health entities on an opportunity from Health Canada aimed at supporting low-no income persons using unregulated substances. WRCPC staff continue to support the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy (developed by WRCPC and a 26-member Task Force) at the Steering Committee. Two other drug-related municipal committees in the region have paused activities due to COVID-19.

- **The Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP):**
  - CMNCP met in September. Members acknowledged the key contributions of Christiane Sadeler. The bulk of the meeting focussed on community engagement related to Indigenous communities and opportunities via the United Nations for selected municipalities to highlight innovative crime prevention initiatives. The CMNCP has requested WRCPC assistance with the review of template for municipal overdose prevention plans.
- **The Community Safety and Well-being Plan (CSWBP)**
  - The Core Writing Group met twice over the summer. Immigration Partnership and the Children and Youth Planning Table have been added to the writing group along with Richard Eibach of WRCPC. The Region previously added the Pandemic Control Group into the CSWBP process. The Province has waived the January 1, 2021 deadline. The Province has not set a new deadline for Ontario municipalities to complete a Plan and the group has not determined a new completion date.

## **Advocate for Equity and Belonging. Reduce Marginalization and Discrimination:**

- **Breaking the Silence:**
  - BTS group submitted an application in May 2020 to the Status of Women in partnership with Stride of Community Justice Initiatives to enhance work with the LGTBQ2+ community inside of Grand Valley Institution for women. Other work of BTS has been delayed due to Covid 19 and staff redeployment.
- **Speak Up Event:**
  - **Racism Is a System Not an Event.** Date: March 26, 2020: The committee is made of reps from ACCKWA, African Community Wellness, the equity office of WRDSB, Laura Mae Lindo's office, Sara Shafiq of the Coalition of Muslim women, Immigration Partnership, KPL and WRCPC staff. Postponed due to Covid-19.
- **WRCPC's ad hoc Racial Justice Communications Committee**
  - The Committee met on August 21, 2020. Several conversations and inquiries to our BIPOC neighbours have occurred since the committee last met. The Committee suspended agenda items related to outreach, WRCPC retreat planning etc. during staffing transition until the impact to community relationship could be assessed. The Committee noted that advocating for systemic change makes individuals and organizations vulnerable to structural violence. The Committee unanimously decided to remain committed to the

work of establishing dialogue between WRCPC and local organizations and individuals who are challenging systemic racism and structural violence.

➤ **Youth Engagement Strategy:**

- In July 2019, WRCPC discussed supporting the Youth Engagement Strategy and advancing the hybridized Icelandic approach by utilizing approximately \$1,494,000 in provincial funds provided to the Region and area municipalities through the Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund. The WRCPC had recently completed two reports – original research with youth currently using substances and a prevention-orientated policy document - linking the YES and variations on the Icelandic model to issues of cannabis use amongst area youth. A proposal for \$240,000 was subsequently submitted for consideration to the Region.

➤ **Other Collaborative Efforts:**

- The work of WRCPC was interrupted earlier this year by redeployment to an ad hoc low barrier shelter-drug consumption facility in Kitchener as part of the local COVID-19 response. Previous to being re-deployed by Community Services Department, some WRCPC staff were working to ensure a robust COVID-19 response for our neighbours lacking in opportunities – people without or relying on shelters, people using substances for example. Upon redeployment and beyond the ‘normal’ activities at the shelter, WRCPC staff organized a barbeque and entertainment for residents, staff and volunteers. Staff went above and beyond to provide care to residents in the shelter in very difficult circumstances.

## **In the Media:**

### **Media about the Keep Families Safe Campaign:**

Child protective agency urges ‘Please pay attention’ after sudden deaths of two children  
[https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/08/10/child-protective-agency-urges-please-pay-attention-after-sudden-deaths-of-two-children.html?li\\_source](https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/08/10/child-protective-agency-urges-please-pay-attention-after-sudden-deaths-of-two-children.html?li_source)

Intervention vital to change trajectory for abused children  
<https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/08/12/intervention-vital-to-change-trajectory-for-abused-children.html>

Emotional abuse typically builds, warns women’s crisis services  
<https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/07/27/emotional-abuse-typically-builds-warns-womens-crisis-services.html>

Agencies helping women, children at risk of violence seeing return to more normal levels  
<https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/07/13/agencies-helping-women-children-at-risk-of-violence-seeing-return-to-more-normal-levels.html>



Pandemic creates urgent need to flatten the violence curve

<https://www.therecord.com/opinion/columnists/2020/05/05/pandemic-creates-urgent-need-to-flatten-the-violence-curve.html>

Karen Spencer talks about child abuse during the Pandemic as part of the #KeepFamiliesSafe Campaign <https://www.570news.com/audio/the-mike-farwell-show/> at 1hour 9 min. mark.

CTV covered July 19<sup>th</sup>'s Porch Chat on Understanding Family Conflict:

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/mobile/video?clipId=2018330>

### **In other News:**

An [evaluation of the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#) has been undertaken and has been subsequently published in the International Journal of Drug Policy.

[Overdose Awareness Day is a time for healing](#). By Fitsum Areguy, The Record, August 31, 2020

WRPC on the Mike Farwell Show ([Audio](#)). September 5, 2020.

[Petition asking government to fund alternative drug options](#). By Aastha Shetty, Kitchener Today, September 5, 2020

### **Community Corner:**

Nothing to report.

### **News from the office:**

- We wish David Siladi well as he and his partner have recently welcomed their baby into their family. He will be off on parental leave until 2021.
- Mary Anna Allen, Michael Parkinson and Julie Thompson were redeployed to the AR Kaufman Emergence Overflow Shelter for Men.
- Deb Bergey, Interim Executive Director, joined the team in August and has been meeting with staff, the Facilitating Committee and other key stakeholders to begin her orientation to the work of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Bergey, Interim Executive Director  
September 11, 2020