

WRCPA Agenda

October 9, 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 – 10 min
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of the Sept.11, 2020 Minutes – 5 min (attachment)
 - 4.1 Business Arising
5. Status Update –Cathy Harrington – 10 min
 - a. Farewell Event
 - b. WRCPA Statement
 - c. Staff Update – Deb Bergey
6. Update from Design Team and proposed next steps – 60 min
 - a. The WRCPA Culture Document – Irene O’Toole and Peter Ringrose
 - b. Iceland Model – Kelly Anthony
7. Youth Engagement Strategy – Mark Pancer and Kathy Payette – 5 min
8. Staff Update – Deb Bergey - 15 min
 - a. Justice Dinner
 - b. Approval of the Smart Update (Consent Agenda)
Carried over from the September 11, 2020 WRCPA meeting (attachment)
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

WRPCPC Minutes

September 11, 2020

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

Zoom Conference Meeting

Present: Andrew Jackson, Arran Rowles, Bill Wilson, Carmen Abel, Cathy Harrington, Chris Cowie, Dave Dunk, Doug McKlusky, Irene O'Toole, Jennifer Hutton, Joe-Ann McComb, Karen Spencer, Kathryn McGarry, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Lu Roberts, Mark Pancer, Patricia Moore, Peter Ringrose, Richard Eibach, Sarah Shafiq, Shayne Turner, Shirley Hilton, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shayne Turner, Tom Galloway

Regrets: Angela Vanderheyden, Barry McClinchey, David Jaeger, Hsiu-Li Wang and Karen Quigley-Hobbs, James Bond, Janice Ouellette, Jonathan English, John Shewchuk, Bryan Larkin and Mark Crowell, Rosslyn Bentley, Trisha Robinson

Staff: Deb Bergey, Michael Parkinson, Julie Thompson, Mary Anna Allen

Guests: Barry Cull (Friends of Crime Prevention)

Chair: Cathy Harrington

Minutes: Mary Anna Allen

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Cathy Harrington, as WRCPC Chair, welcomed WRCPC members, staff, and guests for joining the meeting. All participants introduced themselves.

Cathy acknowledged that Christiane Sadeler's departure from the WRCPC and the Region of Waterloo was a time of emotion and confusion for members of the Council and for staff. The events that unfolded occurred outside the members of the WRCPC. The process of making staff aware of decisions was not what the Council would have expected for staff nor deserved. Cathy shared that she was impressed in the way staff have stepped out of what has been happening around them and continued with the work of Council.

Cathy thanked members of the Council for reaching out and sharing their emotions, words of support and the willingness in helping to think about how to move the work forward. It has been a difficult time for members of the Council around the table particularly for those members who have had a long-standing relationship with Council and with Christiane. There was acknowledgment about the empty spot around the WRCPC table. The Council has an obligation and an opportunity to continue with the work on Council and building that

path forward.

While Christiane has set a high standard, Cathy expressed confidence in Deb Bergey's ability to step into the Executive Director role on an interim basis, and to support staff, and Council going forward. Cathy shared that she appreciated Deb's respectful and thoughtful approach, her openness, and the effort that she has brought in getting up to speed. Cathy, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Deb to her interim role and shared that she looks forward to working alongside her with the work of Council.

Deb Bergey acknowledged that the circumstances have been an unusual and difficult time to enter an organization. She has a huge amount of respect for the staff team for helping her to get up to speed with the work of Council under an incredibly difficult situation.

Deb has worked for the Region for the last 18 years and is familiar with the work of WRCPC. She has worked in non-for-profit sector for several years. She has had different opportunities to connect with the WRCPC Chair and Vice-Chair, the Facilitating Committee and a few of the Council members. Deb looks forward to getting to know and work with each of the WRCPC members.

There is a lot to consider in the coming year, how the Council can keep the important elements of its work, and how the Council can keep the work moving forward.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The Governance review will be an opportunity to remind Council about the different components of the policy, specifically in the Terms of Reference. The hope is to bring about a better understanding of the policy, and to identify those components that will require preserving to guide the process moving forward.

Moved by Joe-Ann McComb

Seconded by Richard Eibach

Carried

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

4. Approval of the August 14, 2020, Minutes:

Moved by Richard Eibach

Seconded by Bill Wilson

Carried

4.1 Business Arising:

None

5. Status Update:

The following comments are a summary of the conversation that occurred regarding the departure of Christiane Sadeler.

- The Chair and Vice Chair (Cathy Harrington and Richard Eibach) met with Chair Redman (Regional Chair) and Bruce Lauckner (CAO). It was a constructive meeting where the CAO and Regional Chair confirmed their support for the work of the WRCP. There was a shared expression of mutual disappointment by the Regional Chair, CAO about the communication process. The Regional Chair, CAO and WRCP members made a commitment for ongoing communication going forward.
- Members expressed concerns as to whether or not the terms of reference process was followed. There was a lack of trust expressed in the Region and its staff as a result of this process. There is a difference of interpretation on some of the relevant sections of WRCP's Terms of Reference. However, there is agreement that WRCP will continue to direct the work of staff.
- Community have raised concerns to members.
- Members are concerned about the staff in general and how they are being supported.
- CJI will hold confidential circles for members to participate and share their feelings.
- Members discussed options to acknowledge Christiane's contributions and a general communication to the public about her departure.

6. Discussion about Next Steps for Moving Forward:

Through the discussions with the Regional Chair, CAO, and Facilitating Committee, it is clear that there is a real desire by the Region for the WRCP to continue reimagining its work going forward.

Cathy provided some context for the WRCP to consider for discussion.

There are a few of the key messages guiding the work of the WRCP. The landscape is changing and it is difficult in the current service and funding environment for the WRCP to continue in its current design. Simultaneously, there is an important focus on crime prevention and discussions about root causes of crime, and there have been discussions about multiple tables related to social determinants of health. The WRCP is a piece of the larger puzzle and it is important to weave all these pieces together and create a vision going forward. The WRCP has been involved in discussions about the Centre for Justice and Prevention concept and at the Design Team table with Wellbeing Waterloo Region.

In the end, any decision made by the WRCPC will need to go to Regional Council for approval. No matter what decision, the WRCPC will need to have support in some form from Regional Council.

As the Council, moves forward with exploring the different conceptual models, communication will continue between the WRCPC and the Region of Waterloo to ensure that, perspectives and parameters of the entities are in line with both organizations.

The WRCPC will continue to work with the Design Team to develop a model for WRCPC and WWR, while continuing to explore the Centre for Justice and Prevention concept.

Considering Christiane's departure, WRCPC members represented on the Design Team will talk through some trust issues before the next Design Team meeting.

As the WRCPC continues the exploration of the models, and concepts. WRCPC committed a portion of the WRCPC meeting to discussing the reaffirmation of the WRCPC's values and the principles that are critical for guiding the work going forward.

Council continues to support the engagement of Chair Karen Redman and CAO, Bruce Lauckner with discussions at the Design Team table.

Comments:

Members expressed concerns about moving forward given the lack of trust with the Region. Concerns were raised to ensure appropriate leadership moving forward and reconsidering in the model what the relationship with the Region is.

Before there is a discussion with key stakeholders in the region about any new concept, the WRCPC needs to have a good understanding of the Centre for Justice and Prevention concept. The Council needs to develop the vision and then it can move forward with confidence. The creation of a small working group can develop of a description, a purpose and an explanation on how the concept can benefit the community.

The Facilitating Committee will review and discuss Council's comments and feedback provided at the Council meeting and bring back some concrete ideas on how the Council can move forward with its work at the next WRCPC meeting on October 9, 2020.

7. Review the Governance:

Peter Ringrose presented to the WRCPC portions of the Governance with a focus on the Terms of Reference, Appendix I and the Regional Administration Liaison. Appendix VII. Please see attached.

Peter explained that during the inception of the WRCPC that he helped in the development of the Governance policies. This includes the WRCPC Goals, Council Process, Executive

Director Relationship, and the Executive Limitations. In addition, to these policies are the appendices. Most of the WRPCPC appendices, authored by the Region of Waterloo, are the rules and regulations in which the Council operates.

The spirit of the function of the Administration Regional Liaison has been one of supportive and friendly guidance to the Executive Director regarding the adherence to corporate administrative policies.

The Liaison does not provide direction to the WRPCPC and the WRPCPC does not report to the Liaison but to the Regional Chair. The WRPCPC is accountable to the Regional Chair and to Regional Council.

Performance appraisals, of the Executive Director, are completed on a yearly basis, whether by a Council process or through the corporate process. Executive committed in ensuring that the Facilitating Committee complete the performance appraisals of the WRPCPC Executive Director in accordance with corporate policy moving forward.

The Governance review, and specifically the Terms of Reference, provided an opportunity for reflection and brought about a better understanding of the policy. The review identified those components required to preserve to guide the Council's process moving forward.

8. Approval of Smart Update (Consent Agenda):

During the Smart Update (Consent Agenda) approval, the staff, asked to present their work activities, shared that the meeting time was limited and that most of the information is available in the Smart Update.

In addition, staff shared that it would be difficult to present given the gravity of the discussion already shared at the meeting.

Because of Christiane's departure, some WRPCPC staff do not see the WRPCPC office as a safe place in the same way as before.

The Smart Update was carried forward to the October 9, 2020, meeting.

9. Other Business:

None

10. Adjournment:

Moved by Joe-Ann McComb

Seconded by Irene O'Toole

Carried at 11:35 a.m.

Appendix I - Terms of Reference

Regional Council Advisory Committee Mandate

Regional Council first approved the mandate of the Crime Prevention Council in 1993.

The relationship of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRCPC) to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo:

Community safety is one of the mandates of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo by which to ensure Quality of Life for all.

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council is a broad-based community partnership consisting of residents and professionals with a common interest in increasing community safety by preventing and reducing crime, victimization, and fear of crime within the Region of Waterloo.

The WRCPC was created for this purpose by Regional Council and operates under the terms of reference approved by Regional Council.

The WRCPC will bring to the attention of Regional Council and its committees, as well as the Police Services Board, information about issues and developments that might impact on the Region's community safety.

Core funding for its operations is provided by Regional Council. Members of the WRCPC are approved by Regional Council.

Daily directions, actions, and operations of the WRCPC are delegated by Regional Council through the Regional Chair's Office to the WRCPC and the Facilitating Committee. The WRCPC establishes policies for its own governance, which are consistent with the terms of Reference of the Region. Daily activities of the WRCPC are

managed by the Executive Director under the direction of WRCP within the policies and procedures of the Region of Waterloo.

The Executive Director will bring to the attention of the WRCP any situations, which may give rise to changes in the relationship between the WRCP and Regional Council and its departments.

Preamble:

The social development approach to crime prevention recognizes that social and economic conditions are associated with crime. It emphasizes focusing services on disadvantaged groups and individuals at risk of offending and/or victimization, integrating responses among various orders of government to avoid duplication of programs and promoting inter-departmental and inter-agency partnerships.

Special efforts must be made to combat fear of crime and the insidious effect, which this has on all members of the community. The social development approach integrates various strategies to prevent and reduce crime, victimization, and fear of crime. These strategies include the reduction of opportunities to commit crime, the reduction of social measures, which reduce risks and increase resiliencies.

Terms of Reference: As approved by Regional Council (1993)

1. Mandate¹

- a. Advisory
- b. Information Sharing - inter-governmental, relevant agencies and councils
- c. Public Education and Awareness Programs
- d. Promotion of Partnerships among key sectors including liaison with international, national, provincial, and local initiatives.

¹ This mandate is the foundation for the Council's mandate as expressed in the Governance Policy.

- e. Focused Crime Prevention Problem Solving on local issues with an emphasis on high-risk conditions.

The overall objective of the Council is to advise, recommend and stimulate action in order facilitate the reduction and prevention of crime in our community. The Council recognizes that crime in general and violence in particular, is a manifestation of a number of problems, which do not exist in a vacuum, and that, therefore, the focus must be on addressing the underlying causes of crime. Further, it is understood that crime prevention through social development strategies cannot be viewed in isolation from law enforcement, and that a combination of these approaches are best.

1. Research and Evaluation

The Council recommends that research and evaluation be the primary responsibility of Federal and Provincial counterparts as well as universities. The local Council will seek access to relevant research as part of their mandate to share information, and inform and educate the public on issues and strategies of safer communities and crime prevention.

2. Training and Development

The Council will access Federal, Provincial and relevant organizations for appropriate training and development, including the exchange of new and innovative approaches to crime prevention. In this respect, the Council becomes a clearinghouse of data and information for local use.

3. Composition and Size of Council

The Council shall reflect a multi-disciplinary membership with a broad-based perspective that is representative of the community. The number of Council members will maximize effectiveness and economy. Council members are appointed by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and consist of citizens, consumers,

politicians, and sector representatives. Their responsibility is to provide overall direction and coordination of the activities of the Council

4. Committee Structure

Committees may be struck from time to time in order to meet the mandate of the Council.

5. Term of Council

Memberships are reviewed annually and can be renewed up to a maximum of ten years. Appointments will be made on a staggered basis.²

6. Funding

Funding from Governments as well as agencies and organizations committed to crime prevention shall be sought by members of the Council.

7. Accountability

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council will report to Regional Council and for the Community Services Committee at least three times per year and more often if needed.

8. Conflict of Interest Policy

All members shall adhere to the Conflict of Interest Policy for Advisory Committees for the Region. All members shall and annually review the Conflict of Interest Policy for Advisory Committees for the Region. Signature forms are to be returned to the Committee Clerk for safekeeping.

² The initial term for Council membership was three years renewable once for a maximum allowable term of six years. This was subsequently changed to a maximum term of ten years with an annual review as allowed within Regional bylaws. This change was approved by Regional Council as part of the approval of the governance policy.

Members are expected to undertake their responsibilities on an impartial and objective basis. Any member whose financial interests could be in conflict with the interests of the Region is obliged to disclose same at the meeting. Members will not participate in any decision or recommendation in which they or their immediate family has any financial interest except those in common with residents of the municipality.

Appendix VII - Regional Administration Liaison Background

Regional Administration Liaison

The Crime Prevention Council has grown significantly since its first inception in 1993. With this growth come additional responsibilities for the Executive Director and staff in managing the administration components of the work. While all staff of the Crime Prevention Council are Regional employees, programmatic directions are the sole responsibility of the Crime Prevention Council. Administratively the WRCPC is linked to the Regional Chair's Office. This alignment is modeled on best practices of municipally based crime prevention through social development. Being part of an office with significant community and local political influence has been a large part of the success of the WRCPC.

However, the Regional Chair cannot reasonably be expected to provide administrative support to the Executive Director and staff of the WRCPC. The CAO of the Region in conjunction with the Regional Chair therefore provides a senior staff not below the level of Commissioner to support the administrative functions of the Crime Prevention Council each year.



What is the culture of Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council? THE SECRET SAUCE



Region of Waterloo

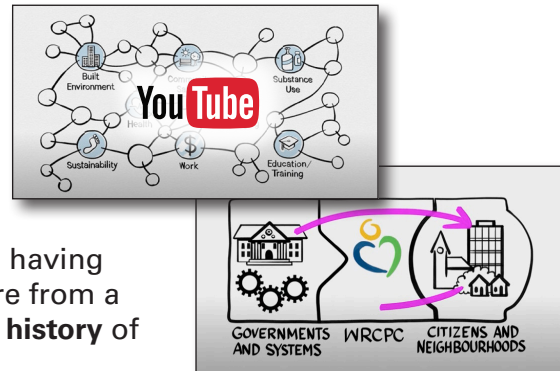


**Waterloo Region
Crime Prevention Council**
Together for a Safer Community



Our Story

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRCPC) was created by the Region of Waterloo in 1994 and was one of the first organizations of its kind in Canada. WRCPC has been in continuous operation to the present day, over the years evolving in its approaches but remaining rooted in its original principles. WRCPC is core funded by the Region of Waterloo, having generated additional funding throughout its tenure from a variety of sources¹. Its work is grounded in a long **history** of restorative justice and community stewardship.



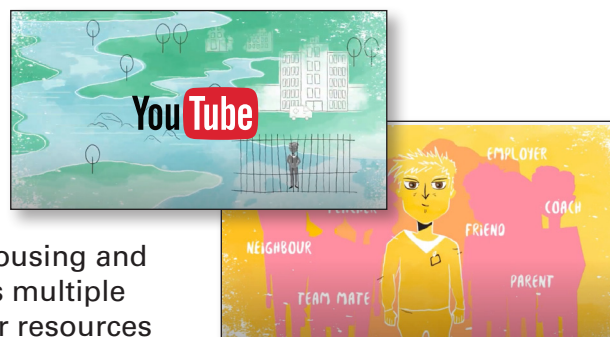
The Council consists of 40 members who represent a very broad range of service sectors and populations within the community and its work is augmented by the **Friends of Crime Prevention** network. Friends understand the connection between their everyday lives, the work they do, and the opportunities they have for helping to create a safer and more connected community.



The WRCPC generates a greater public understanding of the root causes of crime and of many other forms of social concern, creating a deeper community commitment to upstream thinking and prevention. To do this, WRCPC focuses its efforts on public engagement, knowledge exchange and evidence-based decision making, developing dynamic partnerships and advocating for equity and belonging and against discrimination and marginalization.



The WRCPC strives to shift the focus of crime prevention further upstream by building a community foundation where all citizens experience safety and wellbeing equitably. Upstream approaches to community safety and wellbeing are about more than the absence of crime; they are about creating a community where everyone has opportunities to grow, learn, work, play, connect, love and be loved.

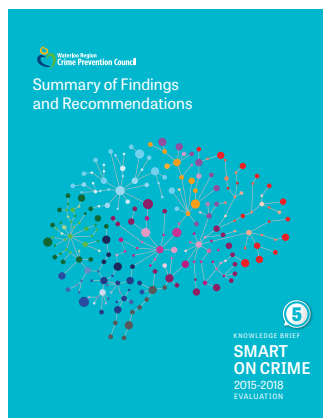


When we start **upstream**, we make the connection between many diverse aspects of wellbeing such as safety, health, income, housing and belonging. This approach allows us to address multiple downstream issues simultaneously with fewer resources and before harm happens.

¹ Some of this funding was generated by WRCPC but directed to community agencies best placed to implement initiatives in question.



Our Culture



The most recent **evaluation of the Council's community plan** illustrated what various elements of WRPCPC's culture look like in action. These elements also come out of a rich body of literature on community organizing, grassroots momentum and citizen engagement. We didn't just make them up, but rather, over time, we have refined,

revised and at times erased certain approaches based on experiences and community feedback. More than just focusing on strategy we have taken care to create a way of working in and with the community that is conducive to building broad ownership of the issues. It has been said that "culture eats strategy for breakfast." And we agree. The best strategy is only ever as effective as the will to implement it. That sustainable preparedness to work for the best of the community has taken a long time to come together to define our culture. The impact of WRPCPC is directly linked to this empowerment agenda.

The following statements outline some of the core aspects of WRPCPC's culture along with a selection of illustrative (but by no means exhaustive) examples, some of which are described in more detail in the Appendix. These aspects have been present in one way or another in all of the initiatives of the Council from the early days onwards. While these statements reflect ambitious values and principles, WRPCPC consistently continues to strive to adhere to them. This is achieved, in part, through ongoing critical reflection and evaluation.

RELATIONSHIPS

The evaluation of the **2015-2018 Smart on Crime Plan** highlighted the centrality of relationships and the need for a strong sense of trust when it comes to working with the community. The process of relationship-building is inherently intensive in nature and can't be rushed without causing damage to the community and the work overall. Strong and well-developed relationships are foundational to our work and play a critical role in the success of our partnerships and initiatives.



In Practice: Monthly Council meetings emphasize interpersonal connections as much as the agenda and much of the 'magic' happens in the informal moments before and after meetings. Staff and members of WRPCPC put a great focus on building and maintaining connections person to person and aside from their roles.

COLLABORATION

We understand that a culture that values working together and reciprocal support has a much better chance of being productive than a culture that is characterized by mistrust, territoriality and competition. Rather than trying to outdo each other, we believe that our community benefits the most when we bring all of our skills and efforts together. We can attempt to form partnerships for a wide-range of social issues, but if collaboration is not embedded in our culture (or is not something we know how to do well) then our efforts will likely miss the mark and have limited impact. That is why we believe collaboration should be a regular practice. We frequently ask: how is our **collaboration** practice going?



In Practice: When the WRPCPC came together to create a WHY (we do what we do) statement we intentionally selected divergent voices. The discussions were challenging and at times tense but the group brought forward their statement with one voice and with a sense of pride. This is true of many other often controversial positions created by Council.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Having long-standing, strong connections in the community and beyond allows us to leverage contributions and support that we could not afford to resource otherwise.

This exponentially increases our reach and our ability to affect change. It is also great value for money. We annually generate in-kind supports for direct WRPCPC work that is the equivalent of over three full-time staff, which is more than half of the organization's backbone (staff) capacity; this is not counting what people do when they move away from the round table to advance prevention within their own spheres of influence.

In Practice: The campaign to prevent cyber-bullying that became known as **THINK** started with a committee of Council and was subsequently incorporated into the curriculum of both school boards and led to a region wide school funded conference that included parents and students. In total over \$200,000 was generated in in-kind efforts.





RESPECT FOR PROCESS

We have a very strong focus on process. HOW we do something is as important as WHAT we do. This is based, in part, upon a capacity-building philosophy. We want to bring people along because it fosters ownership in the work and gets people motivated to be and stay engaged. Clarity of task and transparency are two key tools to make this possible.

In Practice: All projects of Council follow a similar formula. We engage in a problem definition and then ground the issue in evidence so that we are not tempted into mission drift. We then facilitate a dialogue with some ground rules for engagement and the outcome gets determined only through that process. We design the journey not the destination.

LOOKING DEEPER

We aim to address the ‘hardware’ of our community issues over and above the ‘software’. Many approaches have a focus on which actions to take and which programs to run, and, by extension, give less consideration to how well we are set up to undertake such actions. Simply put, crime prevention through social development is not about the projects and programs per se but it is about how we conduct ourselves in the community as equal partners with a common vision. Every voice at the table matters. We give strong consideration to this because that way actions are more likely to emerge from within the community. Social change has never been accomplished by programs or projects. This is why, rather than being a direct service provider, we are a facilitator² of change and an animator for investments in prevention as a collectively agreed upon goal (see graphic on next page). We believe in radical honesty and are not afraid of structural change even when it gets political.

In Practice: A street gang prevention project funded by the federal government and coordinated by us generated knowledge that we used to animate system reflections and change in approaches to exclusion of youth in public settings, in workplaces, in school and with addiction services. Many of the directions were entirely driven by youth which was not a common practice at the time including with some project partners. A subsequent youth navigator project funded by local funders utilized that knowledge in an equally successful youth intervention in struggling neighbourhoods. One neighbourhood carries on the work with their own resources to the present day.

ENGAGEMENT & INTERACTION





COLLECTIVE THINKING AND ACTION

Many years ago we agreed to develop a WHY statement³ because what motivates people to do their part is knowing WHY you do something, not just WHAT you do. We do with (people) and never for/to (people)! We refrain from manipulating the outcome by never committing ourselves to pre-determined results. We are a catalyst towards designing outcomes through bringing community attention to issues and then facilitating local, evidence-based solutions.

In the spirit of “we all know more than I do”, we provide the space and the tools for collective thinking and action to emerge. WRCPC adheres to the notion that communities have wisdom and that this wisdom deserves the same consideration as professional knowledge. We employ the ‘honest broker’ approach whereby we put the community in a position to be able to determine the most appropriate course of action. We do this by coming up with a range of options/alternatives for addressing community issues and by equipping the community with information and insights that facilitate sound evaluation of options on the table.



In Practice: The Council co-facilitated a process with a local College that led to the development of a Community and Criminal Justice Degree Program that is the only one of its kind in the Province of Ontario. The program recently celebrated ten years of training students in multi-disciplinary prevention, intervention and restorative justice approaches. Council members remain in an advisory role supporting the College to adjust curriculums and field placements to changing industry realities.



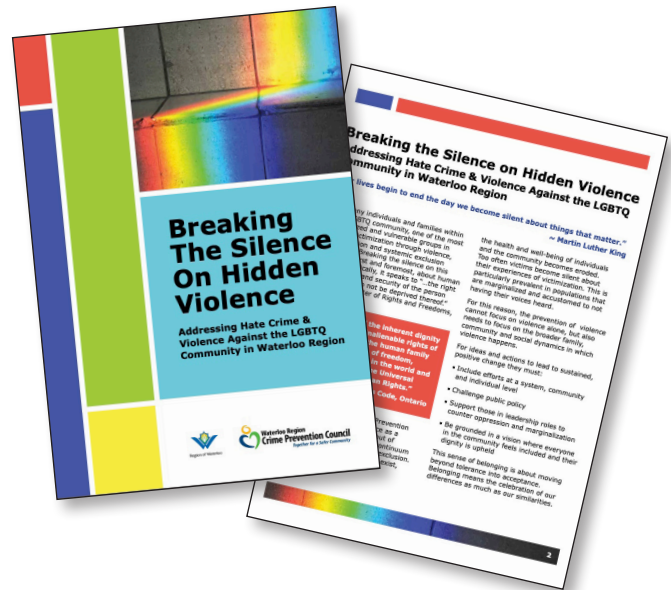
³ We know that when the well-being of ALL people matters then social justice and positive change follow.

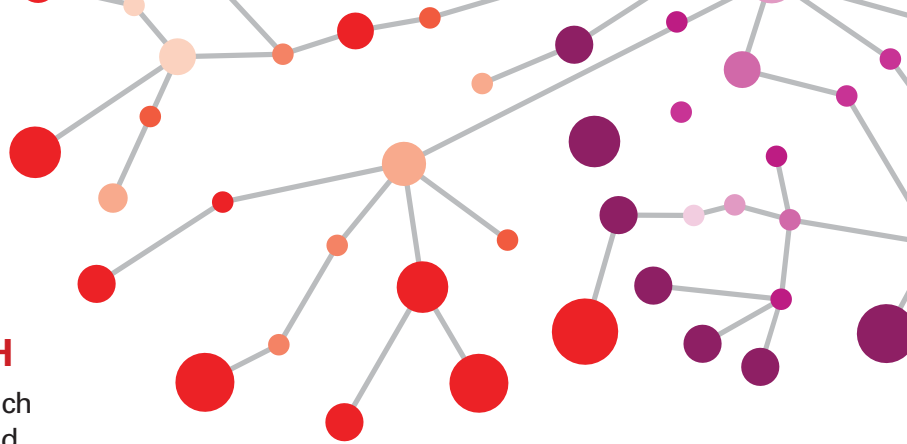


MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

The WRPCPC community engagement approach has a key ingredient of meaningfully (never in a token way) engaging people with lived and living experiences. This can be at odds with traditional consultation methods because the complexity of engagement is perceived to be too high to be tolerated by large systems that also tend to have a low threshold for difficulty. This community engagement approach has caught the attention of many other municipalities as a unique government-community-grassroots partnership of equals that brings together the best of all three worlds. It is neither top down, nor bottom up – but rather middle out.

In Practice: The **Breaking the Silence against Violence in the LGBTQ+ Community (BTS)** was a report that came out of the realization that hate crimes in the region were increasing especially against the gay and trans community. A community forum was hosted to dialogue about this issue, and directed us to write a report which was subsequently endorsed by many organizations and municipalities. The report ‘has legs’ to the present day and is now owned by the BTS group of the rainbow community. Among many other efforts, a major research study was completed assessing the experiences of the trans community. The study was not Council’s doing but Council was a catalyst and remains a partner to the present day.





DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many of the positive outcomes to which we have contributed over time evolved organically. This means that we are prepared to change track mid-stream if that is what makes the most sense. This allows us to learn on the go and stay responsive to the community while keeping our eyes on the overall direction and staying rooted in our values and principles. We are often described as nimble and highly accessible – something that was echoed in several evaluations (e.g. **inReach**⁴). The most recent evaluation of our Smart on Crime community plan recommended the developmental method for collaboration as a model for engagement of both the grassroots and those in decision-making roles, and strongly suggested that we further advance this strategic approach into the future.



In Practice: A member of Council designed a business development course for women at Grand Valley Institution for Women, a federal correctional facility. The course attracted other local business leaders in support, leading to a greater understanding of women in prisons by a sector of the community that would be unlikely to normally engage in this exchange. The partnership led to several well attended community forums looking at challenges in rehabilitation and reintegration, such as lack of employment, to animate business to 'give the women a chance'. The forums were co-designed by the women, a local agency, the business community and the Council. No-one could have envisioned this outcome from the original effort. It developed organically.

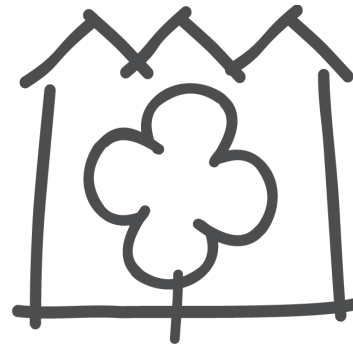
⁴ Youth street gang prevention program, which operated in Waterloo Region from 2009 to 2013

UPstream



UPSTREAM THINKING

From the beginning, WRPCPC has been committed to an approach of preventing crime and nurturing safety by addressing the underlying conditions that lead to crime and many other social ills that impact communities. Over time, this focus on **root causes** evolved into advocacy for comprehensive and integrated prevention approaches in all sectors, known as **Upstream** thinking. This involves going beyond social determinants of well-being to shine a light on structural, institutional and systemic barriers to equity. Many of the experiences during a crisis tend to underscore the impact of structural shortcomings and a lack of proactive, long-term measures. When we look at different issues they tend to converge at the upstream point. This means that when we work upstream we integrate our efforts and simultaneously address multiple issues such as social exclusion, problematic substance use, food insecurity, violence, and many others.



Safe & Sound

In Practice: Project Safe and Sound, funded by the federal government, placed facilitators in neighbourhoods that were facing significant economic, social, and community struggles with an often transient population. The goal was to demonstrate that neighbourhoods are an ideal place for proactive interventions through building natural leadership and enhancing local capacities. Ten years after the project ended, one of the neighbourhoods that had built citizen leadership successfully advocated for a community centre. Project Safe and Sound was identified by the neighbourhood and the municipality as the animator for that change.

CLOSING REFLECTIONS:

When community collaboratives do their job well they are often invisible and do not take credit for the impact. Especially with prevention, the outcomes tend to be removed from the initial actions and we can't always point back to that point when actions took root.

To a large extent, citing examples of success is counter intuitive to the culture of WRPCPC. It doesn't matter who gets to be in the limelight as long as the impact upon the community and beyond is positive and the public can be reassured that the collective efforts are value for money.

In times of high competition over limited resources, it is our hope that this document leads to the lessons learned being retained for the well-being of future generations even if the organizational arrangements change.

This document was unanimously endorsed by the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council at its regular meeting on May 08, 2020.



Appendix

EXAMPLES OF AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Look Deeper: the campaign was created to support the transition from the Young Offenders Act to the Youth Criminal Justice Act. It won several awards and Council was asked by the Province at the time to facilitate multi-sector development efforts to animate communities to support the prevention and restorative justice mandate of the new legislation.



Say Hi: was a campaign designed to encourage citizens to engage in simple actions that lead to the community being and feeling safer. Over a decade, schools in the region hosted a Say Hi day. The campaign spread across Canada and far beyond (all the way to the London Olympics).

THINK: a newspaper article citing an increase in online bullying led to the development of an exploratory working group that eventually gave rise to the THINK campaign. The campaign has gone as far as Australia and remains a known concept in schools to the present day.

Upstream: based in research and extensive reflection and dialogue on prevention, the Upstream campaign is designed to take Council into its next chapter where it becomes clear that crime prevention has far more to do with designing equitable communities than it is about preventing crime. It has already caught national attention as the next iteration of municipally based crime prevention efforts.

RAP (research and planning) sheets: Council, often in response to a community issue, has produced many educational materials which follow the pattern of identifying data, describing the problem, alerting to local resources and making a call to action. The topics range from elder abuse and intimate partner violence to the importance of volunteering for children.



EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES:

Integrated Drugs Strategy (WRIDS): Problematic substance use is connected to over 55% of all crimes and affects people's lives and communities in significantly negative ways. The WRIDS offers recommendations to prevent, reduce or eliminate problematic substance use and its consequences through five pillars:

- Prevention
- Recovery & Rehabilitation
- Harm Reduction
- Enforcement
- Pillar integration

The strategy was developed in 2011 by a 26-member Task Force of the Crime Prevention Council in consultation with more than 300 citizens and service providers across Waterloo Region. After it was adopted, Council generated the funds so the strategy could be housed in the community for implementation. The WRIDS has become the basis for many community efforts including the Opioid Response Plan. Council remains a member of both to the present day.

Overdose Prevention Strategy: Overdose prevention and intervention provides life saving tools for people at risk of experiencing an overdose. Across Canada, a fatal opioid-related poisoning occurs every 2 hours. Ontario's opioid-related poisonings grew 33% in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. WRCPC was an early advocate for Naloxone kits to be made widely available to emergency services and the public.

The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act came out of WRCPC research with people with lived experiences identifying barriers to calling 911. This research led to a report which was



picked up by an MP as a private member's bill that addresses some of the structural barriers to seeking emergency medical assistance by providing limited immunity from prosecution during an overdose emergency for victims and witnesses. Council was instrumental in passing the bill including providing evidence to a Senate committee. Council subsequently worked with national and local partners to create wide ranging awareness campaigns about the legislation which included publications and films and involved significant media engagement.



Youth Engagement Strategy: The Waterloo Region Youth Engagement Strategy aims to address barriers to equity and engagement for youth in Waterloo region, particularly for youth farthest from opportunities. The research report, Ounce of Prevention - Pound of Cure, was developed to inform discussions on cannabis legalization and regulation in the context of significantly higher rates of cannabis use in Canada versus our European counterparts. In particular,

Ounce of Prevention drew attention to the near-absence of, or lack of attention to, funding for upstream prevention.

Council with University partners brought the Iceland Prevention Model to Waterloo region. After a concerning drug problem among its youth, Iceland now has one of the lowest rates of substance use among youth in Europe, and has approximately 2/3 less youth engaged in substance use than youth of a similar age in Ontario. Intentional and sustained funding for upstream prevention efforts has generated enviable results. Realizing a hybridized version of the Icelandic model is a key priority for the WR Youth Engagement Strategy to the present day.



EXAMPLES OF MUNICIPAL ENGAGEMENT:

Municipalities play a key role in crime prevention and WRCPC has been instrumental, from its beginning, in profiling this. As the level of government closest to the people – responsible for policing, housing, social services, recreation and public works – municipalities are well positioned to work with local groups to establish effective community-based programs.

Many Canadian municipalities have come to understand the importance of developing strategies that enhance public safety and security through:

- Reducing the risk factors known to contribute to anti-social behaviors
- Developing programs to help the groups most at risk
- Ensuring that programs and services are accessible
- Improving the quality of life in neighborhoods
- Providing public spaces that increase human interaction
- Engaging all youth in meaningful activities

Council developed a training program for municipalities that included forums and the production of a DVD. Council also participated in the development of several national publications on the topic of municipal engagement including the Key to Safer Municipalities.



Council partnered with the media in running two multi-part series featuring local efforts in prevention, named **Safe Cities**.

In and around 2005, Council started to advocate to the Province of Ontario to make municipal crime prevention planning mandatory to highlight the critical role of municipalities in public safety and security. Ontario has now legislated the development of community safety and well-being plans and Council has actively supported local efforts in this regard.

EXAMPLES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT:

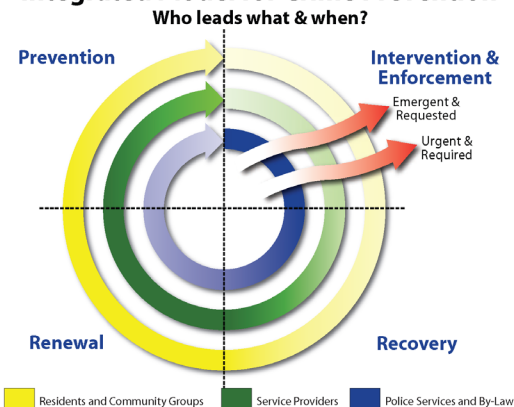
Neighbourhoods can be faced with many challenges that contribute to crime and fear of crime. To address these challenges neighbourhoods require:

- Citizen involvement
- Support from local leaders
- Equitable partnerships with service providers
- Access to basic means (e.g. a place to meet)



By working together, community members are mobilized, residents can build on local skills, and services can complement these efforts towards creating safer neighborhoods. The **WRPCPC Neighbor to Neighbor Toolkit** was created to assist neighborhoods in this work. The tools were generated through experiences in various neighborhoods throughout the region where WRPCPC had a facilitation role.

Integrated Model for Crime Prevention



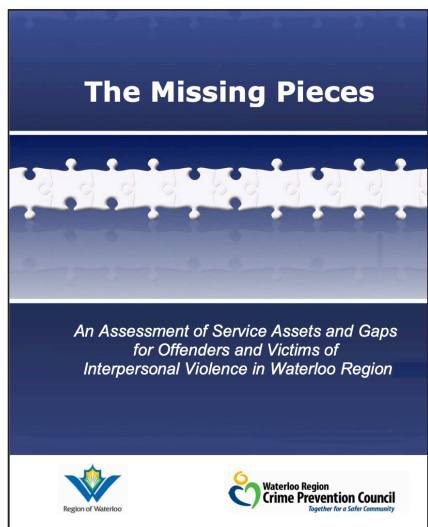
The Integrated Model for Crime Prevention

identifies how neighbourhoods, law enforcement, service providers, policy makers and citizens can each play a vital role in finding solutions to community problems. The model was developed out of the learnings from Project Safe and Sound and is based on a shared understanding that crime is a complex issue with roots in economic, social, cultural, family and individual conditions. It takes a comprehensive look at the prevention, intervention, recovery and renewal continuum after a crime has occurred. The model continues to inform Council thinking and actions to the current day.

EXAMPLES OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS:

Interpersonal violence – including physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and deprivation or neglect – is a pervasive and complex social problem with serious long term impacts and consequences for individuals and society.

Interpersonal violence can be prevented when communities work together in partnership to develop effective responses and to address the root causes of violence.



Since 2006, the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council has been engaged in research, planning, and initiatives to prevent and reduce interpersonal violence. These include:

- Reducing Violence by Enhancing Human and Social Development – a 40 year plan for Waterloo Region
- **The Missing Pieces: An Assessment of Service Gaps and Assets for Offenders and Victims of Inter-personal Violence in Waterloo Region**
- From One System to Another: Crossover Children in Waterloo Region

THE BIGGER PICTURE:

The role of the WRCPC is to advise, recommend and stimulate actions that reduce and prevent crime, victimization and fear of crime. As part of this role we review the impact of legislation, policy decisions, trends or major decisions on our local community, organizations and citizens through a prevention lens and bring this information to our local community including municipal councils.

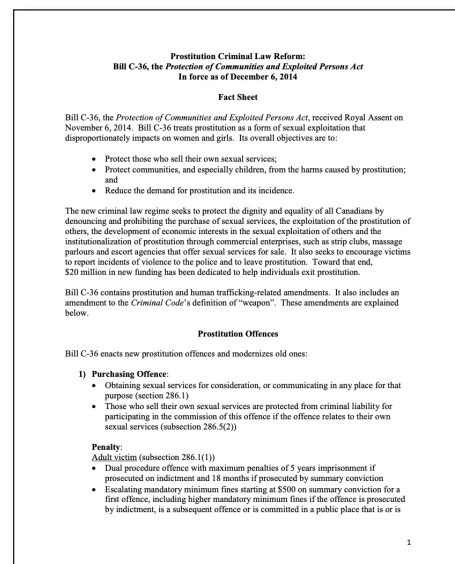
In response to various issues, we developed many position papers, such as:

Bill C-36 – Prostitution Law Reform - 2014

No to Casinos – 2013

Bill C-10 – Safe Streets and Communities Act - 2011

Bill C-91 – Long Gun Registry - 2010



NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION:

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council is a founding member of the **Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP)**, which brings together municipal leaders in crime prevention from across Canada. It is a community of practice serving to build capacity and mobilize Canadian municipalities to prevent and reduce crime and foster community safety and well-being. The network had its inception in Waterloo region where in 2003 a forum of over 125 policy-makers, elected officials, researchers and practitioners collectively wrote the Agenda for a Safer Canada. Council subsequently facilitated and co-chaired the development of the network, which included successfully negotiating federal funding on two occasions. The network is a growing and thriving initiative covering over 50% of the Canadian population by including many major urban centers as well as smaller communities.



RÉSEAU MUNICIPAL
CANADIEN EN PRÉVENTION
DE LA CRIMINALITÉ | CANADIAN MUNICIPAL
NETWORK ON CRIME
PREVENTION

Ensemble pour des villes canadiennes plus sécuritaires

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

Creation of this WRPCPC document was a collective writing effort and we acknowledge all involved for their dedication to the task in a short time frame.





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Alternate formats of this document are available upon request.



Region of Waterloo



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

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 19th'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



CHRISTINE TARLING
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September 23, 2020

Ms. Kris Fletcher
Region of Waterloo
150 Frederick St., 2nd Fl.
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3

Dear Ms. Fletcher:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on September 14, 2020, passed the following resolution regarding safe supply initiatives:

“WHEREAS the overdose crisis, attributed to contamination of the unregulated market by a wide variety of substances, has been one of the most significant public health crises in recent Canadian history; between January 2016 and December 2019, nearly 15,400 Canadians lost their lives from apparent opioid-related causes; and,

WHEREAS the contaminated drug crisis has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the unregulated drug supply reported to be more toxic and service providers hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, preliminary counts in Ontario show a 35% increase in the number of suspected overdose-related deaths; within Waterloo region, opioid-related poisoning deaths are expected to reach record levels in 2020; and,

WHEREAS in August 2020, the federal Minister of Health called on all Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health and regulatory colleges to proactively encourage practitioners to provide people who use drugs with a full spectrum of care, including access to safer, pharmaceutical-grade alternatives to the contaminated drug supply, for people at risk of overdose; and,

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ontario’s Community Health Centres, the Municipal Drug Strategy Network of Ontario, and others have requested support to facilitate the establishment of Safe Supply initiatives in Ontario communities; and,

WHEREAS despite these and other recent proactive steps, funding and regulatory barriers continue to prevent people who use drugs and the community organizations supporting them from accessing or establishing a Safe Supply; and,

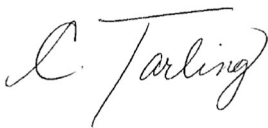
WHEREAS offering Safe Supply initiatives to people who use drugs is an approach that will prevent death and injuries and reduce the community impacts of problematic substance use resulting in a healthier and safer community for everyone.

NOW THEREFORE the City of Kitchener calls on the Provincial and Federal ministers of health and relevant regulatory Colleges to support and fund the provision of Safe Supply initiatives in our community; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener shares this resolution with our local health authorities and health care providers to encourage implementation of Safe Supply initiatives during this unprecedented time as an important component in their efforts to provide a health response to the overdose poisoning crisis; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with the provincial and federal Ministers of Health, all local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, all local municipalities, Waterloo Region Integrated Drug Strategy, KW4Health, Waterloo Wellington LHIN, Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council, Ontario Health Team, Inner City Health Alliance, Alliance For Healthier Communities, Municipal Drug Strategy Network of Ontario, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Ontario College of Pharmacists, Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Public Health Ontario, Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Public Health Association, Canadian Drug Policy Association, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.”

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Tarling'.

C. Tarling
Director of Legislated Services
& City Clerk



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- c: Honourable Christine Elliott, Provincial Minister of Health
Honourable Patty Hadju, Federal Minister of Health
Honourable Tim Louis, M.P.
Honourable Raj Saini, M.P.
Honourable Marwan Tabbara, M. P.
Honourable Bardish Chagger, M.P.
Honourable Bryan May, M.P.
Honourable Amy Fee, M.P.P.
Honourable Catherine Fife, M.P.P.
Honourable Belinda Karahalios, M.P.P.
Honourable Mike Harris, M.P.P.
Honourable Laura Mae Lindo, M.P.P.
Ashley Sage, Clerk, Township of North Dumfries
Dawn Mittelholtz, Director of Information and Legislative
Services/Municipal Clerk, Township of Wilmot
Grace Kosch, Clerk, Township of Wellesley
Olga Smith, City Clerk, City of Waterloo
Val Hummel, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of
Woolwich
Danielle Manton, City Clerk, City of Cambridge
Sharon Ord, Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network
Dr. Brenda Copps, President, College of Physicians and Surgeons
of Ontario
Waterloo Region Integrated Drug Strategy
Alliance for Healthier Communities
Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinator's Network of Ontario
Ontario College of Pharmacists
Public Health Ontario
Bill Karsten, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Christine Sadeler, Executive Director, Waterloo Region Crime
Prevention Council
Ontario Health Teams
Tina Namiesniowsk, President, Public Health Agency of Canada
KW4Health
Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario
Inner City Health Alliance
Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Drug Policy Association