

Excerpt from the Region of Waterloo Regional Council Minutes  
April 15, 1993

### **Motion**

A. Telegdi proposed a motion with respect to the formation of a Task Force to consider the implementation of Crime Prevention and Community Safety measures, referring to an announcement that monies would be made available to communities across Canada for this purpose. He also stressed the importance of the composition of such a Task Force and suggested that the Regional Chair be asked to convene a working group for the purpose.

**MOVED** by A. Telegdi

**SECONDED** by B. Turnbull

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo establish a working group to consider the formation of a Task Force on Crime Prevention and Community Safety.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by A. Telegdi

**SECONDED** by B. Turnbull

THAT the Regional Chair form a working group to report to Regional Council in one month on the composition of a Task Force on Crime Prevention and Community Safety in Waterloo Region.

**CARRIED**

## **WRPCPC Agenda**

April 9, 2021

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

### **Video Conference**

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Welcome – 5 min
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

**5.** Approval of the March 19, 2021, Minutes (attached)

**5.1 Business Arising**

**6.** Strategic plan Follow up (45 min)

**7.** Standing Items:

a. Regional Councillor Update (Kathryn McGarry) – 5 min

b. Regional Liaison Update (Arran Rowles) – 5 min

**8.** Community Safety and Well-being Plan Update (Deb Bergey) – 5 min

**9.** Executive Director Update (Deb Bergey) – 5 min

**10.** Break – 15 minutes

**11.** Future Direction of WRPCPC Closed Session

**12.** Adjournment

## WRPCPC Minutes

March 19, 2021

9:00 am to 11:30am

Video Conference

**Present:** Amanda Trites, Andrew Jackson, Arran Rowles, Bill Wilson, Chris Cowie, Dave Dunk, David Jaeger, Fitsum Areguy, Irene O'Toole, James Bond, Janice Ouellette, Jennifer Hutton, Joe-Ann McComb, John Goodman, Judah Oudshoorn, Karen Spencer, Kathryn McGarry, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Lu Roberts, Mark Pancer, Myeengun Henry, Patricia Moore, Peter Ringrose, Richard Eibach, Rosslyn Bentley, Sara Escobar, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Sue Weare, Tom Galloway, and Trisha Robinson

**Regrets:** Angela Vanderheyden, Barry McClinchey, Bryan Larkin and Jamie Sheridan, Cathy Harrington, Doug McKlusky, Hsiu-Li Wang and Karen Quigley-Hobbs, Jonathan English, John Shewchuk, Sarah Shafiq

**Staff and Students:** Abbi Longmire, Deb Bergey, Julie Thompson, Mary Anna Allen, Michael Parkinson

### 1. **Statement from Richard Eibach:**

Richard Eibach provided a statement around the tragic events that occurred in the Atlanta-Area United States that where eight people were killed Tuesday evening on March 16, 2021. The statement focused on upstream approaches for systemic change.

Staff will post a statement on the [www.preventingcrime.ca](http://www.preventingcrime.ca) website.

### 2. **Land Acknowledgement:**

Sharon Ward-Zeller provided a Land Acknowledgement from her perspective.

### 3. **Welcome:**

All members and staff were welcomed

### 4. **Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Seconded by Mark Pancer

Carried

**5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

None

**6. Approval of the February 12, 2021, Minutes (attached)**

Moved by Chris Cowie

Seconded by Kelly Anthony

Carried

**6.1 Business Arising:**

None

**7. Code of Conduct sign off:**

All WRCPD members are required to sign the Region of Waterloo Council/Legislated Policy: Code of Conduct for Citizen Appointments to Local Boards, Foundations, and Advisory Committees.

An email with the policy attached will be emailed out to WRCPD members to sign or to agree upon through email.

**8. Standing Items:**

**a. Regional Liaison Update:**

Arran Rowles, the Ex-officio alternate for the Commissioner of the Community Services Department, Douglas Bartholomew Saunders, provided updates from the senior leadership team at the Region of Waterloo. These types of updates are to keep the WRCPD apprised of the work that is happening around the region and how it intersects with the work of the WRCPD.

Public Health and the Region are busy supporting the establishment of the vaccine clinics. Vaccine clinics for priority groups are currently operating in the Boardwalk (Waterloo), Grand River Hospital (Kitchener), the Health Sciences Campus (Kitchener), LANGS Community Health Centre (Cambridge), and in Wellesley. The Cambridge site at Pinebush is scheduled to open on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additional public clinics are being organized. The recruitment for the launching of the clinics is unprecedented and placing significant pressure on Public Health.

Within housing and homelessness, much of the focus has been on providing supports to unsheltered individuals, particularly after the fire at the Inn in Waterloo. Following the fire, support was available for some individuals to locate permanent housing. Work is underway to locate a new shelter site in the Waterloo region. Housing Services acts as the service system manager for housing and homelessness. They are currently working collaboratively with many community partners to develop and implement a plan related

to homelessness. There is work underway to develop some pilot projects through the Rapid Housing Initiative funding granted by the Federal government.

The Province recently announced their vision for the transformation of human services. The Province will be taking an integrated approach to providing support to individuals living in low income. The primary focus of this approach is to shift from Ontario Works and ODSP to Life Stabilization. The Province is moving towards managing intake for benefits. This will free up the existing staff with the Region to supporting individuals and connecting them to community resources to help to improve their quality of life. There is an anticipation that the vision, although not fully formed, will provide a focus on children's service and housing services in the future. Integrated Services: Within Community Services, integrated services were launched in 2013 and CS will continue to integrate and align with the provinces vision and direction.

Opioid Strategy: Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy (WRIDS) special committee on opioid response will be resuming meetings virtually in April 2021. The first meeting will focus on taking stock on what has been happening across the three priority areas: 1) Waterloo Region Youth Engagement Strategy 2) Mental Health and Addictions supports 3) Housing 4) Access to seamless care pathways strategy. Describing other work that has been happening outside the priorities to address opioid overdose during the pandemic is also important so that the committee can consider next steps. The Emergency Shelter Integration Initiative is underway to address harm reduction across the Waterloo Region Emergency Shelter System.

A Council member asked for an example of the Provinces' vision of transforming human services.

The Province, which fully funds Ontario Works, is taking responsibility for intake. This means that locally, each office will no longer be responsible for intake. The Province currently has a prototype in seven municipalities. Upon the Province taking over the responsibility of eligibility of services there will be more time to focus on supporting individuals find employment. The goal is for individual self-sufficiency.

A Council member asked if the individual accessibility will increase or decrease with this new model.

Many will have no need to travel to the local office. This will may be positive and more person friendly for some. Three primary locations have welcome spaces for individuals that need a computer to access benefits. Staff are available to help set individuals up on the computer and with their application.

For many years, there has been a focus on managing the risk of the individual's access to benefits. The Province is moving towards a more risk-managed approach that is less punitive in nature.

Please see a link to Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders report to Regional Council  
<https://calendar.regionofwaterloo.ca/Council/Detail/2021-03-09-0900-Committee-of-the-Whole/96b87f6e-37c0-4f00-8390-ace600bec899>

Kathryn McGarry announced that Cambridge City Council will be discussing potential Consumption Treatment Sites on March 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. WRCPC will provide a letter of support for this effort. The WRCPC Chair and staff will draft a letter of support on behalf of the Council. Kathryn McGarry will provide the deadline date for letters of support. The staff will circulate meeting dates for the Cambridge City Council for the WRCPC members to attend.

A Council member announced that there will be some focused vaccine services for the Indigenous community locally. These are in line with the provincial and federal direction for priority communities.

A Council member announced that if anyone identifies as Indigenous to contact one of three organizations listed in the link to sign up.  
<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccination-clinics-in-waterloo-region.aspx#>

## **9. Final Report Chelsea's Story:**

As part of the 'Keep Families Safe' campaign, there was knowledge mobilization related to human sex trafficking issues through a narrative of the play Chelsea's Story.

Julie Thompson and Abbi Longmire, staff with the WRCPC, provided a report about this ongoing initiative.

This series was a partnership effort that began three years ago to raise awareness around human sex trafficking by asking the questions what is it, and why it is happening. There was also an effort to bring attention to the issue happening in the local community.

The partners involved with the planning for this work are Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region (specifically the anti-trafficking program), MT Space Theatre Company, and a Middle School Teacher from William G. Davis Public School.

In the first year, the focus of the work was based on the play Chelsea's Story. The play centres on a true story about a 15-year-old that was specifically targeted, and lured into sex trafficking by a man posing as her boyfriend. The play is written for those as young as 12 years old to help with understanding the processes involved in luring someone into human sex trafficking. A facilitated Talkback followed the plays.

In the second year, the working group made efforts to try to present the play to as many young people and guardians as possible. The series began and then discontinued due to COVID-19.

Since the pandemic has started, many children and youth are often online and for longer periods. This is partially due to isolation and deprivation of normal interaction with their friends

and family. SASC has reported a 27% increase (primarily young people and children) from those seeking support for online sexual exploitation.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, was the planned launch date in honour of the National Day against Human Trafficking.

In 2021, the series that began as an awareness building campaign started to move further upstream through conversation. The group was able to add a few more components to the series. They added a workshop and a panel discussion about the systems that contribute to human sex trafficking.

In July 2020, the working group received notice about successful funding from Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation (KWCF) and Kindred Credit Union to take the play and the Talkbacks into the schools.

The WRPCPC collaborated with other agencies and non-traditional partners as follows: Women in Crisis Guelph Wellington, the Province, Princess Cinemas MT Space, Children, and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region, Sexual Assault Support Centre, Kitchener Public Library, KWCF, Kindred Credit Union. This was in an effort to help draw people to the series.

A landing page was created on the [www.preventingcrime.ca](http://www.preventingcrime.ca) website so that all the events appeared on one-page bringing more traffic to the website

Please see presentation attached.

A Council member shared that the series was excellent and thanked Julie Thompson and Abbi Longmire for their excellent work. It was an opportunity for young people to be educated and learn through conversation.

The work that the WRPCPC is doing in building awareness and moving that conversation forward is wonderful. Human trafficking is a large problem in the Region of Waterloo and in the Province of Ontario.

The Province has expanded the provincial Human Trafficking Advisory Group. Heather Palin has been assigned as the regional representative for London, Ontario but will be working locally. Patricia Moore hopes to have the opportunity to introduce Heather to the working group.

#### **10. 'Ideas': Follow-up Discussion: Criminalization and Social Harm:**

Jessica Hutchison shared that Richard Eibach's statement about the killings in Atlanta Georgia applies to today's conversation. We understand that eight people were killed; six were Asian women who worked in massage parlours. It is important to understand the intersections of anti-Asian racism, misogyny, and anti sex-worker hate. All this accumulated and prompted a white supremacy terrorist act. This issue fits within the discussion of tackling and dismantling systems of oppression as follows: White supremacy, Anti-Black racism, Colonialism, Capitalism.

Anti-Asian racism has increased dramatically since COVID-19 locally and across Canada.

### **Feedback and Questions re: Criminalization Presentation by Jessica Hutchison**

A Council member shared that there is a misunderstanding about the field of Restorative Justice. Punishment is not part of the Restorative Justice process. Restorative Justice is about obligations. When people cause harm, they leave obligations. If there is a break-in, there is an obligation to fix or repair etc. There is also a misunderstanding about rehabilitation. Within systems and problems there are precipitating factors are. There is never any dialogue about the Individual's responsibility for their actions. Restorative Justice and justice in general, need to begin to look at how to actually deal with that. Occasionally, the term transformative justice is used to describe how we begin to affect those systems. What really comes through in Jessica's presentation is the idea that we are a society that always gives into our default propensity to punishment. It is an addiction. Punishing in every single situation where identified that harm has happened. That in itself becomes a root cause of the problem. Adding harm to harm perpetuates the very problems that society is trying to correct. It becomes a foundation piece of the crime prevention philosophy when it comes to how to deal with the upstream work. The desire to punish on all accounts needs to be eradicated from the systems. All systems have a punitive side to them. There are myths about homelessness, poverty, etc. that perpetuate these views of criminalization. The anti-carceral way of looking at things needs to be embedded in every place that we look. When we look at a restorative region, we are really talking about eradicating all the systems that perpetuate a myth that a punitive response is the only one that actually changes behaviour.

Jessica shared that **transformative justice** is a pathway and a framework that can be used to try to move towards a **restorative region**. [Mariame Kaba](#) is one of the leaders in **transformative justice**. She has this beautiful vision for how we can transform our world. She talks about the tearing down of these oppressive systems and more importantly building up systems in a world that we want to live in. Quote: "Real safety comes from our ability to be able to get what we need to live dignified lives." We do not want to give people the bare minimum. We want to give people what they need to live dignified lives. This fits nicely within the WRPC's vision that ensure people have the opportunities not just to live but also to thrive.

Using violence to deal with violence is not going to reduce violence it is going to increase violence (we can expand our definition of violence). In the TEDx Talks video [Beyond Reform: Abolishing Prisons](#), Maya Schenwar talks about 'hurt people hurt people'.

We instead need to grow and build other avenues to reduce and prevent harm. When harm does occur, we need to respond to that differently than placing people in cages and treating them in very dehumanizing ways and expecting them to return to society and not hurt people. The logic is not there. We need to address the roots.

The term radical has been demonized and seen as being something negative. When we get to the core definition of what radical is, it actually means grasping at the root. That is what the Crime Prevention Council has been doing for 26 years, trying to grasp at the root causes of



harms. That is radical! What is so radical about trying to prevent harm, what is so radical about trying to reduce the over representation of Indigenous children in Family & Children's Services. The WRCPC talks about the root causes of crime and harm. This is radical and we need to embrace it.

A staff member shared that the criminalization presentation was compelling: A carceral approach does not work and creates more harm rather than reducing harm. WRCPC needs to spend time to think about what the other end of the scale looks like as opposed to carceral approaches. This concept fits in well with the WRCPC new vision efforts. The Council needs to give some thought on what it needs to do to create a community where people can thrive and when people do cause harm, look at why this happened in the first place. What changes in the community and systems need to happen to ensure that the individual can live a life on the other side of the scale. Instead of just being anti-carceral, WRCPC needs to give identify what we need to do to be proactive.

Jessica shared that transformative justice is not only about tearing things down and being anti-carceral but also simultaneously building things up. It is not just the absence of prisons and carceral thinking, it is the presence of compassion, restorative justice, freedom from racism, and thriving, opportunity.

A staff member shared that during the strategic planning session when Council was asked about upstream approaches, the feedback was similar. Most talked about equity and meeting peoples basic needs.

A Council member shared that the propensity to punishment is rooted in historical and cultural understanding of who is considered human and who is not. Do our systems do enough to counteract this?

Some common abolitionist phrases from Mariame Kaba and Angela Davis are as follows:

- i. Nothing rooted in slavery and genocide can be reformed.
- ii. People are not violent. They are responding to violent conditions.

Jessica shared that violence is rooted conditions like poverty, and slavery. Sometimes violence is a normal response to abnormal circumstances. We do not consider the historical context as to why that might have happened.

A Council member shared that anti-carceral = pro-abolitionism. Abolitionism (as a mindset and goal) moves us towards the goals of the WRCPC.

Jessica shared that it is vitally important that Council understands the historical and contemporary context of anti-Black, slavery, white supremacy and colonialism and capitalism to grasp at the roots of these issues.

A Council member provided the example of bullying. Accountability and empathy takes time. It holds the person accountable and does not give the individual an excuse for the bullying but there needs to be time to think about the restorative process. The Council needs to encourage

the teachings of anti-racism, etc. earlier in the school system, building resiliency in the generation from the beginning.

While working with primarily grade 11 and 12 students in the school system, Community Justice Initiatives shifted its focus to grade one and two students. This was in an effort to be more proactive. As a result, of the project, children were showing signs of being equipped with the ability to resolve their conflict in a way that does not immediately jump to punishment.

A Council member shared that once, abolition was considered radical. Abolition is something takes place in your heart. It is about abolishing that desire or giving into desire to jump consistently to a punitive response. If an effort is made to abolish the commitment to punish than other options can be explored that will lead to a restorative process.

Jessica shared that Angela Davis and Mariame Kaba talk both about the need to model the world that we want to see in the future. We as individuals need to start modelling that within ourselves, individual relationships, our family relationship, work relationships etc. We have not been taught or been given the tools in society to engage in healthy conflict. Furthermore, we have been taught that conflict is negative. We should try to engage in healthy conflict. In order to be in a world we want to live in, we need to engage and practice radical love as opposed to ostracizing and isolating people that we believe to be bad or dangerous.

A Council member shared that when dealing with how to address the issue around digital citizenship within the school system the usual path taken preventing it from happening again may perpetuate carceral thinking. Within these types of incidents, common labels used are aggressor, victim, and witness. Within the resolution, we need to evaluate labels and identify if there is anything in resolution that talks about restorative practice instead of moving towards carceral thinking. The systems need to evaluate how to make that paradigm shift from punishing behaviour and trying to get compliance to an understanding of what the behaviour is communicating. In addition, it is important how the school system responds to Immigrant students. Many of the students in their past have endured much trauma, and may have been victims of violence or witnessed violence. If a potential behavioural issue arises is important to take into consideration that if there is a carceral logic response to the behaviour, it may cause further harm.

Jessica shared that she was encouraged to hear Council members within their spheres of influence are trying to make changes in the structures and policies and in making that paradigm shift.

A Council member shared that Canada formed a relationship with First Nations based on treaties. Through the process of signing treaties and ceding land, there was no intention by the Indigenous community to live in poverty. It is a dire situation when people take situations into their own hand that end in the killing of Indigenous people, i.e., the killing of Colten Boushie. These situations strengthen the divide between Indigenous people and others in general public. There is a need to educate our children and youth at an early stage about the reason

treaties were signed and the land was ceded over to bring about understanding as to what has already transpired in our history. No one would sign a treaty to live in poverty.

Jessica shared that it is important that we understand the historical context. They have an impact on what the current conditions are here today.

A Council member shared that coming from a place of White privilege and practicing a self-reflection it should be uncomfortable to move forward. Many of us assume that the systems we created over time are intuitively helpful, but many are harmful. The challenge is to convince people those certain elements of the systems: criminal justice, education, healthcare are harmful. When you practice self-reflection and self-interrogation, it becomes apparent. This will guide us in our strategic planning as we go forward.

Jessica shared that there is a need to move beyond that discomfort of understanding into actions. She recommended the book 'Me and White Supremacy' by Leila Saud as a good starting point.

A Council member shared, when considering radical love and acceptance and the refusal to give into the desire to punish, that they are trying to respond with care for the individual who causes great harm. It is hard for us to live in both worlds of wanting retaliation and retribution for some and not for others. Internalizing the work of Community Justice Initiatives, we see the individual as a damaged person. We have experienced the uncomfortable truth that we may need to afford care and understanding for those that cause the greatest harm.

Jessica shared that the concept of radical love is critical to extend it to an individual that we likely would least be able to extend it to. This type of response is the only way that we will be able to transform the world to a world we want to live in. We want to live in a world when we stop asking those questions like "What did he do". We see significant amounts of violence that is being inflicted upon particularly, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour. Responding with violence in any sense is not the answer, is not appropriate, and is not the world that we want to live in.

A Council member shared that we need to know the history before we know where we are going. Radical love is more about people. It is also about the environment etc. We need to talk about it and not be ashamed of it. We need to look at the carceral violence that we imposed upon individuals does not work. How does this Council within the environment that we are in deal with the issue to changing systems? Jessica's presentation is bringing us to a healthy place where we look at restorative measure and move away from legalized systemic bullying e.g., prisons. How do we look at our local systems in that way? The Council member shared that they have worked with incarcerated women and has never met one where there was justification for being in prison or has been helped by the system by being in the prison.

Jessica shared that the WRCPC has built itself up to being at the forefront of fighting to dismantle these systems of oppression. WRCPC has discussed addressing the roots by an upstream approach for 26 years. Currently, these discussions are happening in the mainstream. Council needs to be bold and stick to its values, even if it means there are some

negative consequences and/or backlash. If the Council truly wants to make transformational change, it needs to move forward that might make individuals and systems uncomfortable. It needs to be acknowledged that incrementalism is resulting in the continuation of harm and death of people. If Council wants to stay true to its values, this is the time to be bold and visionary e.g., Individuals to stay safe on the streets because of unsafe supply. Jessica shared a quote by **Martin Luther King: White moderate**. Incrementalism and the moderate approach is what we often see in order to maintain the current conditions. We need to move beyond being moderate. We cannot afford to be moderate, and to move in incremental steps. Furthermore, we have to be bold. We have to be transformational. If the Region of Waterloo is not a space for that any longer than that is what it means. At least you are living true to your values and fighting for what is right and just. We are talking about people's lives. People are dying. We need to take bold action.

A Council member shared that we have a culture of skirting around the issues, and nationally we have a culture of not standing up for what we know are the issues. WRCP has the values, the vision, the membership, and the responsibility. It is hard to un-know what you know.

A Council member shared that they appreciated the use of radical love. It helps us gain that bigger picture. It takes you beyond the action of the individual and makes you think about why and how that individual is making those decisions. This usually takes us to a systemic issue. During the discussions in the community about the CTS sights, it was frustrating that the people were dying on the streets, there was the research, evidence, and scholars supporting the sites, and yet, a group of the population did not understand the need for the sites. During the process, there was no consideration taken about the pain of the people that survived. 'Hurt people hurt people'. There is a need to step back and challenge ourselves with radical love.

Jessica shared that we want to model the world that we would like to see.

The WRCP will think about how to integrate the information into its work, and building onto it as part of the next strategic session.

#### **11. Strategic Plan Update:**

The third and final strategic planning session for the WRCP will be held on March 26, 2021. The Council will have the opportunity to do a final review of its strategic directions, and vision and mission statements. A final report will then come forward to the WRCP at the April 9, 2021 meeting for review and approval.

The staff is committed to sending a meeting package in advance of the last planning session. This will provide an opportunity for Council members to provide feedback if they are unable to attend the meeting.

#### **12. Community Safety and Well-being Plan Update:**

Recently, Connie McDonald, the Chief Communications & Strategy Officer from the CAO's Office, and the lead for the CSWBP, provided Regional Council and CSWBP report

presentation. The report is available through this link:

<https://calendar.regionofwaterloo.ca/Council/Detail/2021-03-09-0900-Committee-of-the-Whole/96b87f6e-37c0-4f00-8390-ace600bec899>

A recommendation from the report was to announce a Request for Proposal and then hire a consultant to help lead the consultation and develop a plan. The intent is to have a fulsome consultation.

The plan is due to Regional Council by June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and communities will need to let the Ministry know that they have completed the CSWBP plan by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. As determined through discussions with CMNCP, many municipalities are submitting draft and/or interim plans recognizing the timeframe does not allow for fulsome process.

There is going to be an Advisory Committee and Steering Committee.

Officially, the WRPCPC will be a part of the Advisory Committee. This Committee will work with the consultant and oversee the consultation process and the development of the plan.

The Steering Committee has a number of named positions and a number of community leader positions, and a number of community leader positions from the Black, Indigenous, and racialized community. This Committee will meet less frequently but will oversee the process.

Deb Bergey will continue to update the WRPCPC as the information becomes available.

### **13. Executive Director Update:**

There is a successful candidate for the Community Engagement Coordinator position with the WRPCPC. An announcement will be provided early in the next week. The candidate is expected to start in early April 2021. Deb Bergey thanked Mark Pancer and Fitsum Areguy for volunteering their time to help with interviews and selection process. The youth engagement work will be the focus of this new position.

Office staff have recently received some resource requests for the social media THINK (Is it True, Is it Helpful, Is it Inspiring, Is it Necessary, Is it Kind) Anti-bullying campaign due to the increase presence online during the pandemic. Staff are currently looking at revitalizing the campaign and relaunching it on May 6, 2021, Anti-bullying Day.

A Council member suggested adding an equity focus to the THINK campaign. Council members were encouraged to contact Deb Bergey with other recommendations for the campaign.

The WRPCPC will be holding a Speaker's Series based on the topics covered by the Council. The hope is to use the Speaker's Series as a platform for conversations with the community.

The (Un)Safe Supply Report will be going forward to Regional Council on April 13, 2021. Staff will send out information to the Council members about the meeting in advance.

**14. Sector Roundtable:**

What are the anticipated impacts in your sector – Post COVID-19? Carried forward

**15. Other Business**

None

**16. Adjournment**

Moved by Peter Ringrose

Carried at 11:35 am



Partnership started 3 years ago to raise awareness of HST – what it is, how it happens and that it happens here.


Year one – 5 performance of Chelsea's Story  
And a Film and Panel

Last year we are part way through the series before the lock down forced us to cancel.



Also a grade 7/8 teacher





**Chelsea's Story  
Play & facilitated Talk-Back**

Chelsea's Story is a play based on a true story of a 15-year-old girl named Chelsea, who is targeted to be groomed and trafficked for sex by a man posing as her boyfriend.

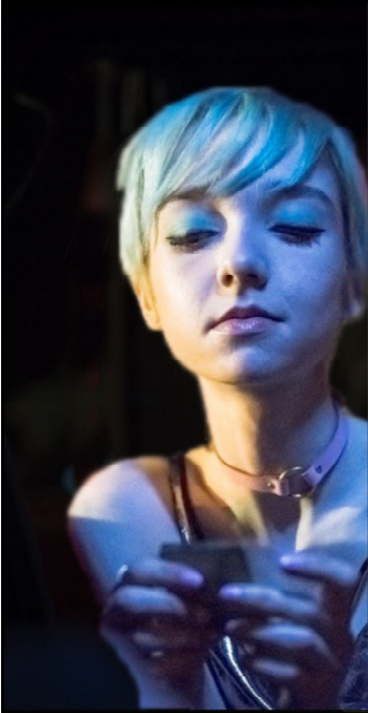
Paired with the talkback, it was written for people as young as 12 to understand what trafficking is and how it happens.

Chelsea's Story is the Centerpiece of this work. We were working to have the play and talkback be available to schools

In July we got word that we had received funding to pay for school performances and the accompanying talkbacks.

Waited for a while to see if schools would

open.



**Victims  
are commonly accessed and  
exploited online**

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**Since covid-19, access to  
children and youth has  
increased with increased  
time spent online**

Since the start of the pandemic, SASC reports that there is a 27% increase in people seeking service of online sexual exploitation.

Check Out Chelsea's Series



**Feb 22-28, 2021**

Registration required

[bit.ly/Chelsea'sSeries](https://bit.ly/Chelsea'sSeries)



**Scan:**

Using your phone  
or tablet camera



Planned a series to be launched Feb 22 in honour of National Day against human trafficking

Started at simply building awareness in the first year.

This year we added components that pushed the conversation upstream. We also

added some workshops focussed on action.

# Shout out to our funders! Thank You!!



- Community Fund
- Weiland Family Foundation Fund



Able to get some funding

## Chelsea's Series' partners were:



Looked to partner with other agencies. Also some non traditional partners like the Princess which worked out really well.

Set up the landing page for all event on our website. Marketed the events as individual events and as a series.



## Chelsea's Virtual Series 2021

- Human Trafficking in Our Communities- Panel
- Three Performances of Chelsea's Story to 3 audiences
- Honey Bee
- Reflecting on Chelsea's Story: **An Upstream Conversation**
- Supporting Youth Who Have Experienced Online Exploitation
- The Role Men Play in Sexual Exploitation

- Human Trafficking in Our Communities- Panel
- Three Performances of Chelsea's Story to 3 audiences
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- Reflecting on Chelsea's Story: **An Upstream Conversation**
- Supporting Youth Who Have Experienced Online Exploitation
- The Role Men Play in Sexual Exploitation



Chelsea's Virtual Series 2021

8 Events

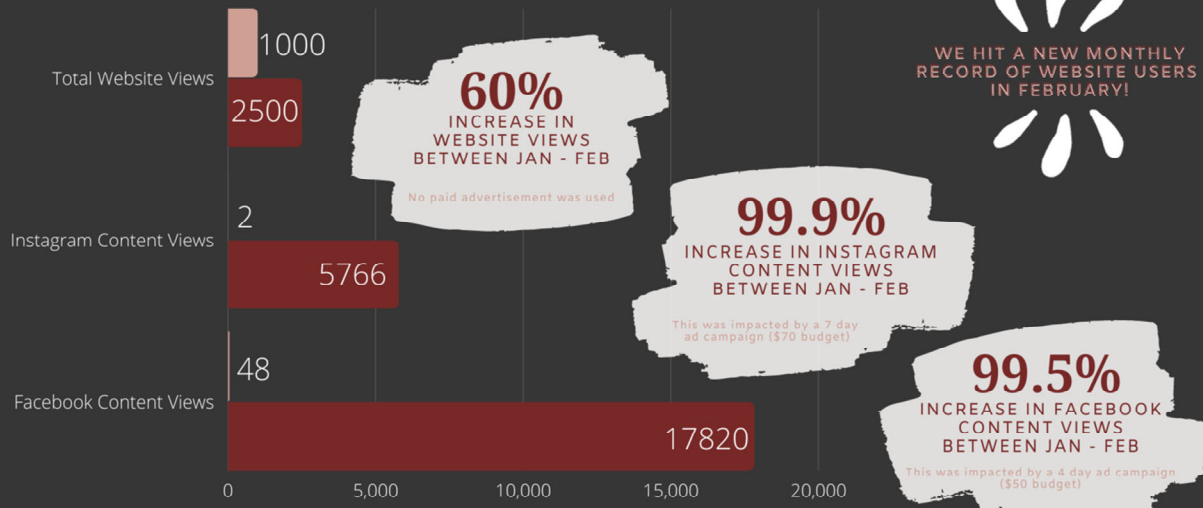
995 Registrants

507 Attendees

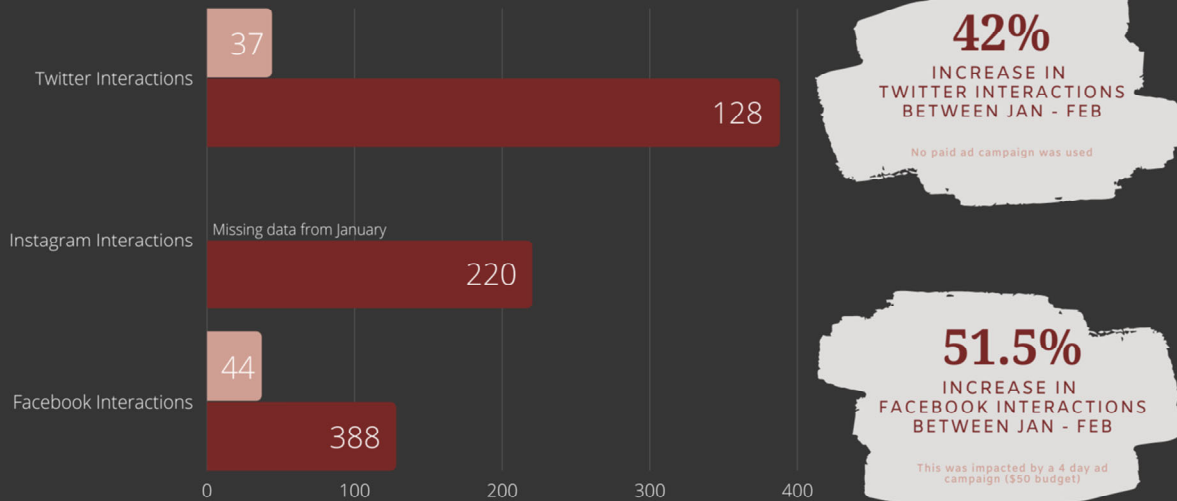


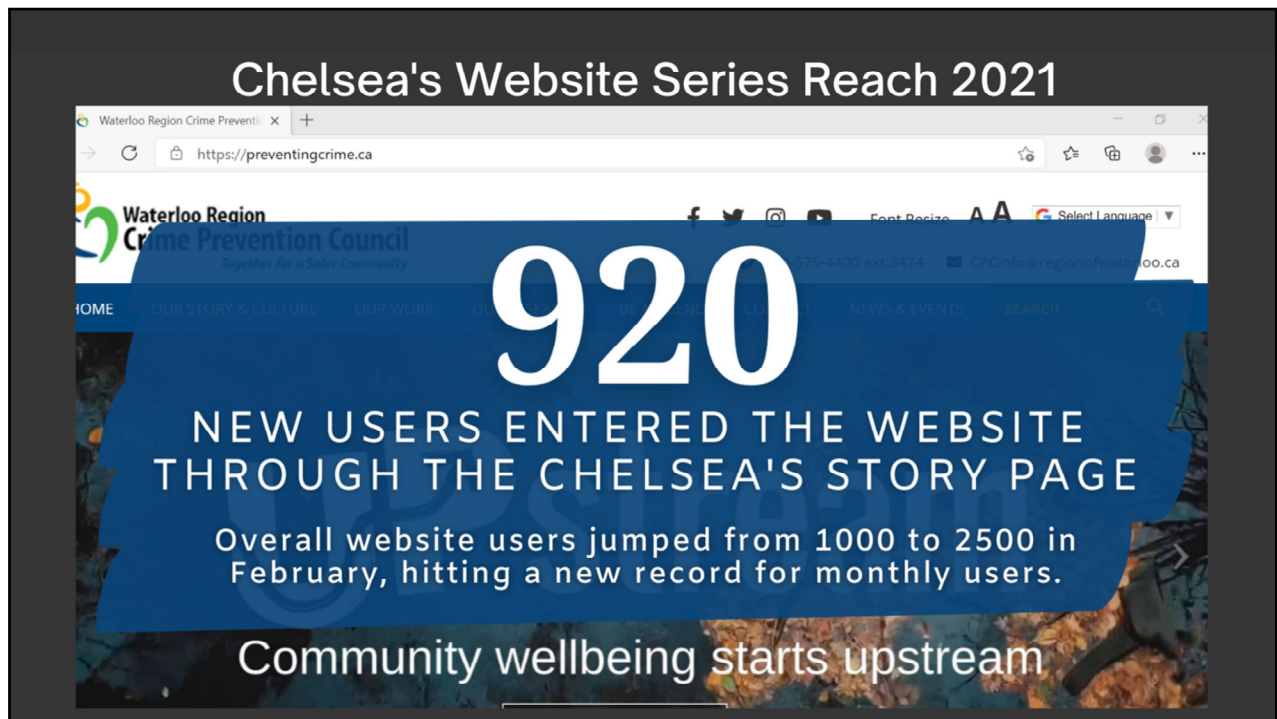
2250

# Chelsea's Virtual Series One Month Campaign Reach 2021



## Chelsea's Virtual Series Interaction 2021 One Month Campaign





Increased awareness of WRCPC

Moves us up in the search engines so we are easier to find.

Chelsea's Story  
Play & facilitated Talk-Back

3 shows geared to 3  
different audiences

332 people registered  
128 were families with 46 children (12+)



- 332 people registered
- 128 were families
- 46 children (12+)



We fully Hosted the Honey Bee Event

90 Min movie

Panel

## Tonight's Panelists

Michelle Furgiuele

**A Survivor of  
Trafficking**

Melissa Hern

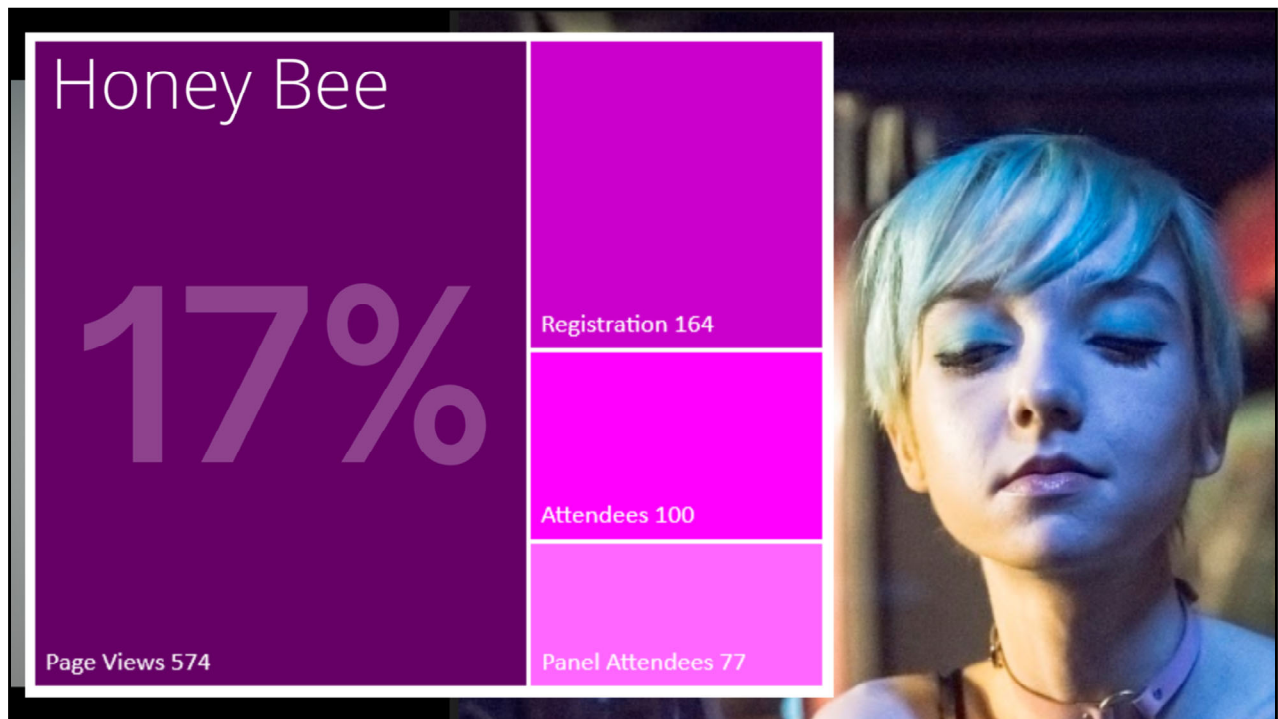
**A Victim/Witness  
Services Worker**

Sally Karam

**Honey Bee  
Film Maker**

Very rich and diverse perspectives and experiences on human sex trafficking





Interesting to start to understand the trends for virtual events.

574 Reg Page views

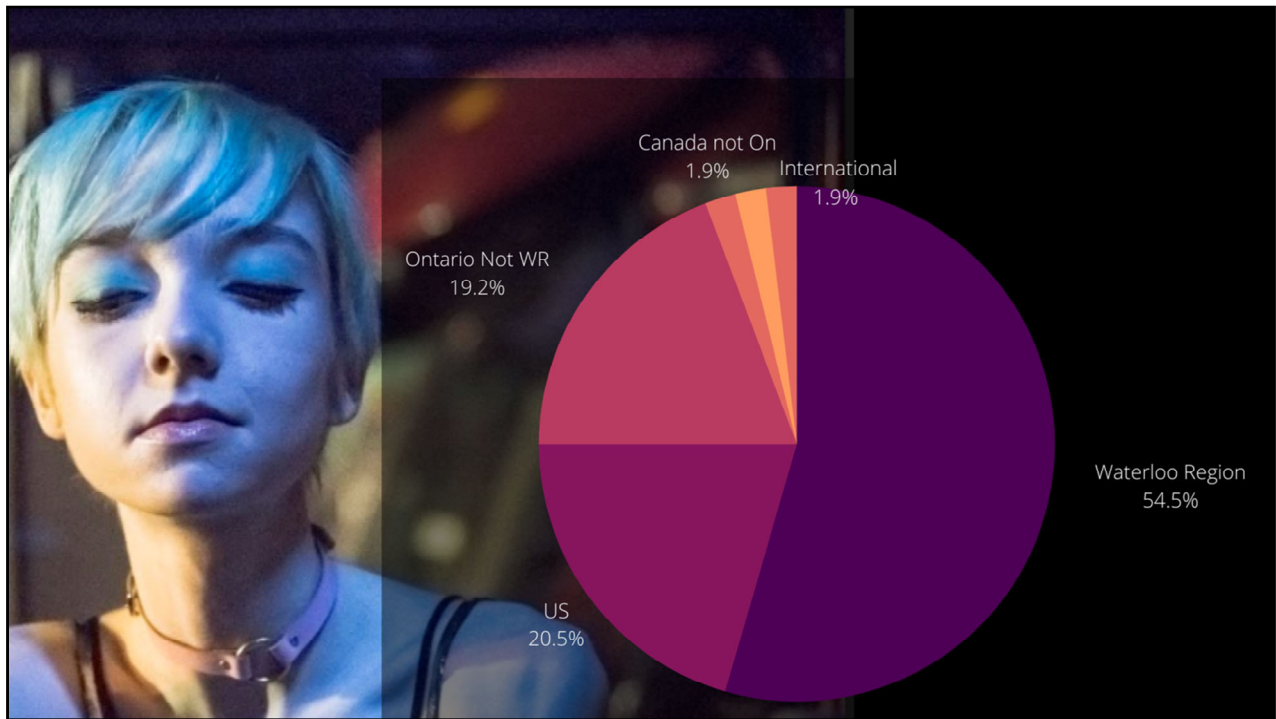
164 Registrations

100 Attendees

77 panel attendees

Over 3 hours!





Virtual allowed for people from all over the work to attend. Over 20% from the US

54% WR

20.5% US

19% rest of On.

2% rest of Canada

2% International



We played with some of the Zoom features

In a poll at the beginning of the event we asked what people's knowledge was for HST.

- 57% basic or none
- 37% Knowledgeable and 6% expert – included presenters

An exit survey asked if this event increased that knowledge

- Scored 4.4 out of 5

Ranked

4.8 / 5

"I'm truly impressed with the panel content and how engaged the audience was even though it was virtual."

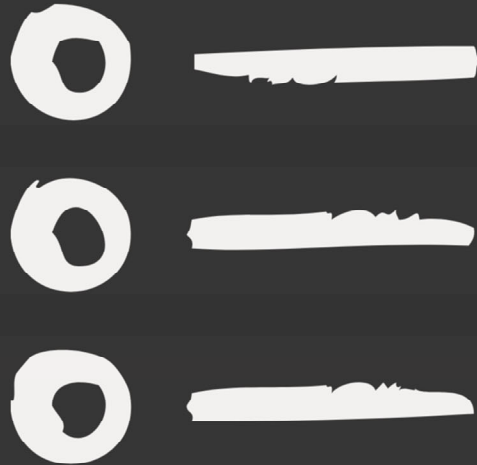
"I didn't feel judged for my lack of knowledge, and I learned so much from this."

"...found it so impactful (and, truthfully, unsettling). The panel was amazing and I learned a lot. My mind is going in a lot of directions thinking about the role of financial institutions."



Also transcript of the Q&A

## Lesson's Learned



- A series create momentum
- Eight events in a week is too much!!
- Partnering with non-traditional partners to get the word out attracts people who don't know us and may be new to the issue
- Learned our tech! Team is everything - Practice! Played with the tools
- Virtual events transcend geographical barriers
- Add key messages to registration page: about 2500 people went to the registration page 27% of those actually registered
- Prepare initial questions to get the panel going
- Prepare panelist with questions and who's in the audience

- 40% of people who register don't come

The logo for the UPstream Virtual Speakers Series is displayed on a dark grey background. The word "UPstream" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The "U" and "P" are stylized, with a black arrow pointing upwards from the top of the "P" and curving around the "U". Below "UPstream", the words "Virtual Speakers Series" are written in a white, sans-serif font, stacked in two lines.

# UPstream™

## Virtual Speakers Series

Looking at running them thought the year.

Start with 4 or 5 before summer and then start up in the fall.

**Panel Discussion:**

**Lori Campbell – Director, Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre**

**Jennifer Caskie – Assistant Crown Attorney, Ministry of the Attorney General**

**Neil Desai – Vice President, Magnet Forensics**

# **Tamara Menon – Founder, YUVA Arts Project**



# New

## Vision

A safe, equitable, and just community where everyone has access to opportunities to thrive.

## Commitments

We work with communities and systems to address barriers and amplify voices not being heard. We prevent and reduce social harms by driving structural change through evidence informed strategies that address the root causes and honour diverse ways of knowing and being.

# Council's Key Functions



## Community Engagement

Working with community where they're at;  
Mobilizing community;  
Amplifying existing partnerships and community conversations.



## Knowledge mobilization

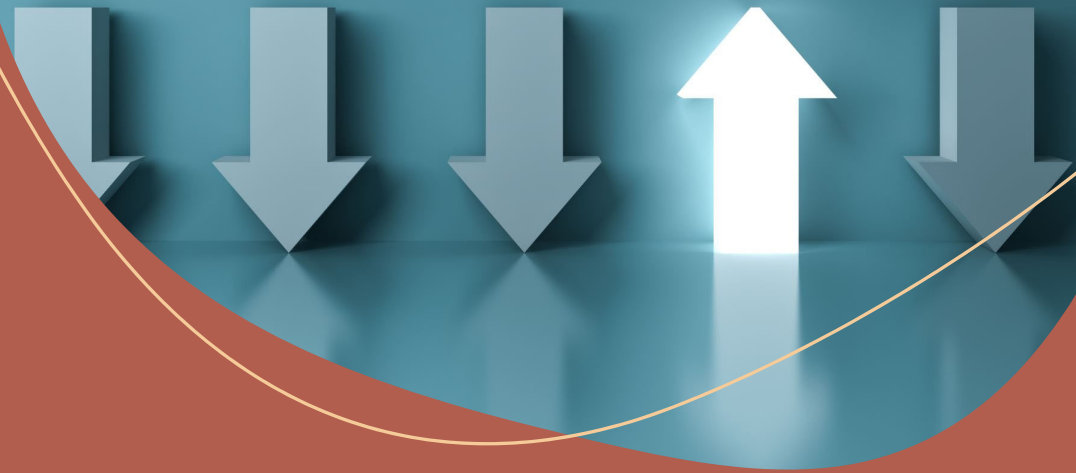
Generating, sharing and applying key concepts and research to address issues of social harm.



## Backbone support

Providing the support to get the work started and stepping away;  
Policy development;  
Advocacy;  
Mobilizing funding and resources;  
Navigating systems.

# Strategic Directions



## 1. Advancing

**Advancing upstream ideas and approaches that address the root causes of social and structural harms**

## 2. Improving

**Improving safety by reducing and eliminating the reliance on criminalization and punishment**

## 3. Building

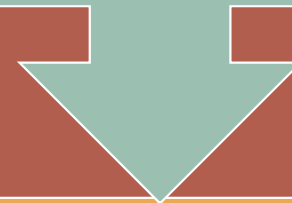
**Building equitable and thriving communities by promoting restorative and transformative justice principles and practices**

Everything council does has to  
centre intersectional, anti-racist,  
anti-colonial, equity lenses

This should weave throughout all undertakings of the  
council

What could this look like in practice?

Identify upstream approaches to social and structural harms



Utilizing council's Key Functions to advance upstream approaches

Community Engagement

Knowledge Mobilization

Backbone Support

# Current Priority Areas

Family Violence/ Femicide

Safe Supply

Youth Engagement



# What are your initial impressions about the strategic directions? Is there anything you would change, remove, or add?

Love the directions!

It seems like going 'upstream', to root causes, actually allows for the 2nd two directions- it is foundational.

I'd like to just reiterate the importance of emphasizing heteropatriarchal systems and imbedded transphobia through all of this. It seems to be left out of the discussion responding to the strat plan survey, despite being suggested on the form.

Does #3 speak to #2 and/or could we combine these two directions? I see #1 as really upstream and #2 as more downstream. Do we have anything we could say that is more midstream and preventing harm?

The plan looks good and there are some good ideas. Not all programs developed by CPC have been a success. It is my humble opinion we stay away from identifying them in the plan.

Appreciate the need for intersectionality, anti racism, etc lenses woven through. The 3 fits with the vision and commitments. Maybe in # 2 add something to include another word to describe an alternative to criminalization and punishment?

I am fine with them. This layer of the strategic plan is where the community needs to have a clear understanding with a more cursory look. I think that is accomplished.

In 2 and 3 take out the word "by"....it is an action word verse an overall goal statement (ie. In#1) and needs to be part of the action plan statements. Otherwise I am good.

The 3 strategic directions do a nice job capturing the core work of CPC. I particularly like how the work to address criminalization is captured in the second priority. Also like how the concept of transformative justice was



# What are your initial impressions about the strategic directions? Is there anything you would change, remove, or add?

Like the focus on upstream and root causes in advancing. That's key to the work that we do. We can never eliminate criminalization and punishment. There is a role for them in the justice system. Could change reducing and eliminating to minimizing

Only concern is the labels. Advancing and Improving seem too similar as labels. How about Rethinking or Reimagining safety?

Does this include concepts of support, advocacy, walking with,

I really like the directions and at point I would not change anything.

I like it !2. why not say....reducing and/or eliminating

#3 - adding promoting belonging, inclusion and restorative and transformative justice principles and practices.. This makes it more midstream.

In #1, can we somehow encourage a more collaborative approach with our many community sectors, partners and groups to really identify these root causes of harm or lack of thriving and then address them together?

I am thinking we are looking at the strategies from a place of downstream, the idea of preventing harms before they happen is important. Maybe the words criminalization and punishment need to be broken down or explained.

I like the three areas of focus. When I read the high level content, the word promoting in the Building strategy does not fit. For me promoting means pre/post building. Educating and training in implementing these principles and practices.



# What are your initial impressions about the strategic directions? Is there anything you would change, remove, or add?

I like the "advancing" and "improving" statements, and I like the idea of "building", but I think there are other ways of "building" in addition to restorative justice practices, such as giving people the opportunities they need to thrive.

Concepts great, need a way of making concepts clear. Language matters. Love it if language is massaged

These look good Some thoughts on what is missing- "evidence-based" concept. - improving safety "and well-being" - "advocacy and public education"

It seems to imply we are just fixing what is broken, can we emphasize fixing before it is broken.

It is deep and great not sure it is clear enough

It is great, it might need to include our reliance on shaming, discriminating

Like the restorative approach in building. Understand the transformative aspect but struggling for a synonym for that as people who review our strategic directions may not understand what it's meant to convey.

These directions must be accompanied by more explanation and examples. Most people who are not part of CPC won't have a clue what these directions mean in real terms and may easily just tune out. More explanation can get them on board.

I really like the 3 strategic directions. I think this is a good fit with CPC & where we are at & where we come from. I do think about what that actually means in practice and what might be key activities to reach these goals. No changes well done.



## WRPCPC drug-related updates: March 2021

1. Two of the three reports – (Un)Safe and Focus On: Safe Supply - presented to WRPCPC in December are now live on the web at [www.overdoseprevention.ca](http://www.overdoseprevention.ca). The third report based on research conducted at an emergency shelter is on hold pending discussions with the Region.
2. Two of the reports will be presented to the Region’s Committee of the Whole on Tuesday April 13. Joining staff is Richard Eibach, Chair, Sarah Escobar, WRPCPC member, and Jesse Burt of ACCKWA, who greatly assisted with the (Un)Safe and Shelter reports. The presentation will be live on the Region’s YouTube channel; the Briefing Note prepared for Regional Councillors and staff is [here](#). A media release will be issued on Tuesday.
3. On April 20, 1:30 – 3:00PM, the WRPCPC will be hosting a webinar for people who work with, or on behalf of, people who consume unregulated drugs and/or lack stable housing. Persons with living or lived experience are always welcome. **This webinar is restricted to persons in Waterloo region serving in related direct services, policymaking, funding etc.** A forthcoming WRPCPC speaker series will share key findings for a general audience.

Several organizations are also providing both open and restricted platforms to share the recent WRPCPC research. Open webinars include the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention and the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinator’s Network of Ontario on 19 May and 26 May respectively.

4. Through the Chair, WRPCPC – and many WRPCPC members - wrote a letter to Cambridge City Council in support of establishing a Consumption Treatment Services site in Cambridge. A copy of that letter is attached.
5. The WRPCPC provided comments on CTS to 570 News on March 30 that aired through the day.
6. The Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinator’s Network is requesting support for more equitable provision of CTS and other Harm Reduction and Treatment Services throughout Ontario by signing the petition at: <http://chnq.it/dTw6qGdqTM>
7. Through staff, with consent of WRPCPC Safe Supply Committee and the Chair, WRPCPC provided a submission on Bill S-229 (short title: *Health-Centred*

*Approach to Substance Use Act*), currently proceeding to Second Reading in the Senate. A copy of that letter is attached, and suggests the Bill would be improved by 1) strengthening investment in prevention and 2) consideration legalization with strict regulation to eliminate the toxic, unregulated drug markets, and reduce the role of enforcement and justice systems in advancing health centred approaches to substance use.

8. A major Health Canada funded project coordinated by Addictions and Mental Health Ontario and collaborators across Canada, including WRCP, concluded in March.

This project aimed to assist provincial governments and health authorities in advancing supervised injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) programs using diacetylmorphine (heroin) in Ontario for persons with opioid dependence. The project aimed to support the implementation of programs by documenting system level processes, including training, and regulatory requirements reflect clinical and operational standards. Visit: <https://amho.ca/our-work/ioat/>

9. The WRCP's Safe Supply Committee has met twice and will begin extending invitations that expand committee membership in a quest to advance safe supply in Waterloo region. Sarah Escobar and Irene O'Toole are the WRCP members on the committee.
10. A 2-year federal grant valued in excess of \$2.3 million that WRCP inspired and collaborated on with area partners has begun hiring. More details to be made public in the near future.
11. The Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy, which was established by WRCP and on which the WRCP sits on the Steering Committee, just released their [2020 Annual Report](#).

Respectfully,

Michael Parkinson

**From:** Michael Parkinson  
**Sent:** March 28, 2021 8:32 PM  
**To:** 'Kim.Pate@sen.parl.gc.ca' <[Kim.Pate@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kim.Pate@sen.parl.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Bill S-229 : WRCPC

28 March, 2021

Senator Pate,

I am pleased to offer the following comments based in the understanding gleaned from Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council's multi-sectoral efforts on drug-related issues, and as the first entity in Canada to anticipate and identify the bootleg fentanyl as a threat to public health and safety in 2008, 2013, and in 2016. The Council continues to seek urgent, proportional, and collaborative solutions with clear targets, timelines, and dedicated resources.

While the WRCPC has yet to fully consider Bill S-229, below are comments for the Senate's consideration that align with Council's values and directions. The Council is interested in this Bill's progress and any subsequent legislative developmental process by Health Canada.

While WRCPC has been a catalyst for some successes along the way – *The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act*, widespread provincial naloxone distribution, overdose monitoring etc. – the fatality data continues to trend the wrong way, with little end in sight. Across most of Canada, authentic efforts to address the demand side of substance use via prevention suffer from a chronic deficiency of sustainable funding and a lack of focused policy approaches. The existing funding mechanisms disproportionately allocate scarce public resources to downstream interventions, predominantly through the criminal justice system.

In a regulatory model that is decriminalization or status quo, there is close to a zero per cent chance that the criminalized, unregulated markets will self-correct, begin providing a safer supply to consumers, and cease being a source of thousands of deaths, injuries, and suffering across Canada. Additionally, it is unlikely that downstream interventions will ever be able to significantly address the demand for services in the absence of authentic, evidence-informed prevention efforts.

The WRCPC, therefore, welcomes improvements in Canadian drug policy, and offers two main comments about Bill S-229 for consideration by the Senate:

1. While decriminalization is an improvement over the status quo, it falls short in two areas.

First, decriminalization does not alter the chronically toxic nature of the unregulated market. Only legalization with strict regulation can provide the same consumer health and safety protections afforded to currently legal products such as food, medicines, and other consumer items. The regulatory framework established for cannabis provides one recent example. Currently the federal government tacitly supports the unregulated drug market through a prohibition policy. It is difficult to reconcile the ‘public health approach’ mentioned in the preamble to the Bill (short title: *Health-Centred Approach to Substance Use Act*) with a legislative framework that criminalizes certain drugs, thereby supporting unregulated marketplaces lacking any basic health and safety protocols or protections. Since the Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada began overdose monitoring in 2016, unregulated opioids – primarily the fentanyl - have led to more than 20,000 accidental poisoning fatalities, with extremely disproportionate impacts on certain groups of people, for example, people of a certain race and/or income.

Second, attempting to solve problematic substance use through enforcement, courts and corrections will remain an ineffective and expensive downstream mitigation strategy. Despite billions of public dollars spent over decades, and many efforts by those within the enforcement-justice systems, there is no discernable evidence of any impact on either the supply of unregulated substances, or the demand for them. The opportunity to reduce or eliminate (downstream) public expenditures, criminal enterprises, and significantly improve public health, safety and well-being cannot be achieved via decriminalization or status quo approaches. Eliminating the toxic nature of the unregulated markets, including production and distribution sources, is possible only through legalization with regulation.

The Bill would be strengthened by, at a minimum, full consideration of legalization with strict regulation.

2. The WRCP has long been supportive of 4-pillar approaches (prevention- harm reduction- treatment- enforcement and justice) to substance use, through, for example, the development of a municipal drug strategy and a lead role in establishing Ontario’s Municipal Drug Strategy Network. The WRCP is supportive of Health Canada’s 4-pillar framework.

The greatest return on investment lies in the prevention pillar and the farther upstream the better. Across Canada, the chronic absence of funding for upstream approaches to prevention is a significant short-coming in efforts to address drug-related issues. There is little opportunity to enforce, incarcerate, treat, or harm reduction our way out of the

deadly poisoning crisis without strong investments in community-led prevention initiatives alongside bold structural and systemic change.

Section 2b from Bill S-229 would be improved by indicating if not prioritizing an investment in prevention, and recognizing data demonstrating a substance use disorder is not pre-requisite for accidental poisoning death, injuries or other harms. Section 2b could read:

(b) encouraging greater investment in all areas related to addressing problematic substance use disorder, particularly in the areas of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and other diversionary approaches;

Thank you for your consideration of the aforementioned comments on Bill S-229, and to all members of the Senate seeking to advance legislation improving consumer health and safety, particularly on behalf of those persons disproportionately affected by antiquated drug policy and practice. If the WRPCPC can be of any assistance on Bill S-229 or related issues in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Michael Parkinson

Michael Parkinson

Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council

73 Queen St. North, Kitchener, ON N2H 2H1

Office: 519-504-8758

Email: [mparkinson@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:mparkinson@regionofwaterloo.ca)

Website: [www.preventingcrime.ca](http://www.preventingcrime.ca)

Twitter: @preventingcrime

March 28, 2021

Re: Consumption and Treatment Services

Mayor McGarry and members of Council,

On behalf of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRPCPC), I am pleased to report that the WRCPC strongly supports efforts to establish Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) within the City of Cambridge. The WRCPC is a 35-member collaborative and national model for crime prevention through social development. The first in Canada to anticipate and identify the bootleg fentanyl as a threat to public health and safety, the WRCPC continues to advise on opportunities, and function as a collaborative catalyst for life-saving initiatives at local, provincial, and national levels.

Consumption and treatment services are a critical pathway for meeting our neighbours where they are at, both literally and figuratively. The evidence from the plethora of studies indicates supervised consumption services achieve their intended purpose of preventing, reducing, and/or treating acute and chronic medical conditions, preventing fatal overdoses onsite, and establishing authentic opportunities for engagement with community, health, and social service systems. The WRCPC is not aware of any evidence that CTS increases crime, rather CTS reduces issues of disorder, contributing to an overall positive impact for communities. We note that the evidence of this positive impact has grown in the decade since the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously affirmed the evidence in favour of consumption services in a 9-0 decision. The addition of wrap-around services as a feature strengthens the value of local consumption and treatment services for both individuals and communities.

Consumption and treatment services are a guaranteed life-saving opportunity in an era where fatality data continues an alarming trend in the wrong direction, with little end in sight. The WRCPC encourages sustained and concentrated investment in a suite of evidence-informed approaches in prevention, harm reduction, and treatment as part of a robust, comprehensive strategy to improve public health and safety for all members of the community. Consumption and treatment services are a key intervention in that suite of opportunities.

The WRCPC recognizes that the poisoning crisis continues to provoke health debates in ways that other important but less common health issues do not, in communities and councils from coast to coast to coast. The WRCPC very much acknowledges the challenges before members of Council, and trusts that the final decision is one that is



reflective of the robust evidence base, and the high value experienced in municipalities that have established consumption and treatment services.

The WRCPC extends its gratitude to Councillors for consideration of consumption and treatment services in Cambridge. The lives at stake matter and their deaths are preventable through the interventions that you are considering. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Eibach".

Richard Eibach, Chair

Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council