



JOIN US UPSTREAM: A Virtual (Re)Thinking Series

Webinars discussing upstream prevention concepts and strategies from various perspectives.

Together, let's (re)think our community.

Waterloo, ON: The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council is hosting an ongoing series of virtual events beginning this June. As this is an ongoing series, please check bit.ly/UPstreamSeries for the most up to date information about events and links to register. Registration is free but limited and these virtual events will be held on zoom webinars. Upstream approaches to community safety and wellbeing are about more than just the absence of crime; they are about creating a place where everyone has a range of opportunities to grow, learn, work, play, connect, love, and be loved. Together we can start upstream and stop problems before they start.

These webinars will discuss foundational structures and harms along with upstream prevention concepts and strategies from various perspectives such as crime and carceral logics, lived experiences, systemic and structural approaches, and more. We define harm as encompassing social, economic, psychological, and environmental injury or damage inflicted on individuals, communities, and society either intentionally or unintentionally. Through this series, we will explore how many systems construct and perpetuate punitive approaches beyond the justice system.

The first event on **June 10th from 6:30-8:30pm** will be launching our series where we will **(Re)Think Crime... because it's not real**. Jessica Hutchison will lead a provocative and challenging presentation that turns our concept of "crime" upside-down. Jessica will discuss how crime and criminalization are social constructs and how we can move away from operating from carceral (control and punishment) mentality in many aspects of society to upstream approaches that address social harms. We all have a role to play in creating a world where everyone has the supports, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. Let's begin by asking ourselves some tough questions. Together, let's (Re)Think "Crime".

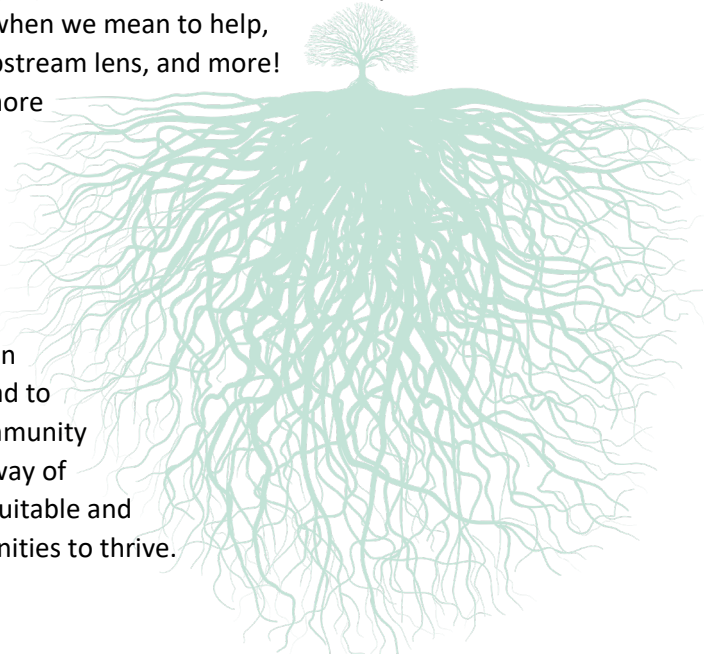


Jessica Hutchison is a PhD Candidate in Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University where she is researching the impacts of strip-searching in women's prisons. She has been a long-time advocate for criminalized and imprisoned women and has worked for the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council, Community Justice Initiatives, and the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. Jessica also has a master's degree in Community Psychology from Laurier and an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Western and teaches in social work and critical criminology. She is dedicated to dismantling oppressive systems and structures and building a society that is equitable, fair, and just.

Some of the other upcoming events include: **(Re)Think Our Stories**: the reality of structural violence, **(Re)Think Our Organizations**: how we harm when we mean to help, **(Re)Think “Crime” Prevention**: through an upstream lens, and more!

For more information, links to register, and more upcoming events, please visit our website.

Join the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council as we advance upstream ideas and approaches that address the root causes of social and structural harms. Together we can engage community and inspire action, build an understanding of issues and concepts that lead to social and structural harms, and improve community knowledge about UPstream Prevention as a way of preventing harm by creating a safer, more equitable and just community where everyone has opportunities to thrive.



Key Messages:

- Upstream is a proactive approach that addresses the harm/conflict/problem BEFORE it occurs.
- Upstream identifies the systemic drivers that enable harm.
- Upstream approaches will focus on building a foundation of equity for all citizens.

Join the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council UPstream and register for our speaker series. To stay up to date on news and events become a [Friend of Crime Prevention](#) and follow us on social media! [Facebook/LinkedIn](#): [Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council](#) | [Twitter/Instagram](#): [@preventingcrime](#)



About the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council: The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council has focused for many years on identifying and offsetting the root causes of crime. Moving forward we want to address the more foundational structures and harms under those root causes, moving upstream to the source, instead of treating the subsequent results farther downstream. Together, we can create a community where everyone has a range of opportunities to grow, learn, work, play, connect, love, and be loved through open and authentic self-reflection as system leaders.

