



### 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 our [website](http://www.preventingcrime.ca) 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.



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. 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".



**(Re)Think Our Stories:** the reality of structural violence is next up on **June 15th from 6:30-8:30pm**.

We invite you to join us in a conversation where panelists share their stories of how they are impacted by structural violence. We will critically explore how societal systems, institutions and organizations can enforce harmful stereotypes, biases, rhetoric which dehumanizes racialized and marginalized communities. In examining how punitive approaches play out in our day-to-day lives beyond the justice system, we can learn how and why we need to prioritize and center the voices and experiences of racialized and marginalized community members. Ummulkheir Mohammed will be moderating a conversation with Amy Smoke, Autumn Fitzpatrick, and Daniel Henry.



**June 17th from 2:30-4:30pm** join three community members for **(Re)Think Our Organizations:**

how we harm when we mean to help. How do our social organizations and systems cause harm? We will discuss how to move away from punitive thinking to approaches based in care, compassion, and support. Join Fitsum Aregu as he moderates a panel of community leaders Karen Spencer, Megan Ruttan Walker, and Teniele Warren as they explore open and authentic self-reflection and dialogue. You may be surprised to learn how “criminalization”, or carceral logics, exists in many of our systems in unexpected ways! Join us in shifting focus from individuals to systems and structures as we build a fair, just, and equitable society.

**(Re)Think “Crime” Prevention:** through an upstream lens on **June 21st from 6:30-8:30pm** and learn what “upstream” is. Learn how to make systemic changes that help prevent harm before it happens. Alfgier Kristjansson, Janice Ouellertte, and Lana Wells will discuss how to advance upstream ideas and approaches that address the root causes of social and structural harms. Upstream prevention focuses on changes to systems that are at the root of suffering while preventing the harms from occurring in the first place. Investing in upstream can save money to the overall system by preventing more costly reactive services. The more upstream we go, the more downstream harms we can avoid.

Together, let’s (re)think our community. These events are part of **Join Us Upstream**, an ongoing series of virtual events discussing upstream prevention concepts and strategies from various perspectives. For the most up to date information, links to register, and more upcoming events, please visit our website and follow us on social media.

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.

**About the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council:** The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council consists of 40 members who represent a very broad range of service sectors and populations within the community. We envision a safe, equitable, and just community where everyone has access to opportunities to thrive. Together, we can create a community where everyone has a range of opportunities to grow, learn, work, play, connect, love, and be loved.

