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Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

**Towards a Crime Prevention Coalition:
The Police Role in Crime Prevention Through
Social Development**

June 2003





Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police



“There are two lasting bequests
we can give our children: one is
roots, the other is wings”

William Hodding Carter Jr.



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Purpose of the Presentation

- share the recent work of the CACCP on community safety, health and well-being
- challenge to police
 - foster development of community capacity
 - facilitate work of other agencies and citizens
 - support and champion community-based initiatives
- challenge to communities to take rightful ownership



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

- dedicated to efficient law enforcement since 1905
- national in character, local in focus, international in impact
- representing more than 90% of Canadian police
- numerous operational committees for specific issues



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CACP Objectives and Beliefs

- quality police service must enhance the safety and development of communities
- advocating innovative solutions to crime and public order issues
- advocating community partnerships with the people of Canada
- the public has the right and responsibility to participate in policing



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CACP Crime Prevention Committee Mission

The CACP Crime Prevention Committee is committed to providing leadership in promoting a comprehensive, inclusive approach addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder. We support positive social change to ensure the quality of life for our communities.



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What Kind of Crime Prevention?

a typology:

- situational, based on use of judicial system, victim services, after the event, to prevent recurrence = **tertiary** prevention
- situational, based on opportunity and harm reduction, before the event or to prevent recurrence = **secondary** prevention
- social development, addressing the individual, family, community factors underlying crime = **primary** prevention



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What Works in Crime Prevention?

- Advocate a Blended Approach
 - conventional methods of crime control are being complemented/blended with more innovative and proactive approaches that address root causes



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Focus on Primary Prevention

- primary prevention is the area with greatest potential to effect sustainable change



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Benefits of Crime Prevention Through Social Development

- recognition of complex social, economic and cultural factors that contribute to crime and victimization
- identifying those that are amenable to change
 - in the individual
 - in the family
 - in the community
- connecting criminal justice practices with community-based initiatives



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Backdrop: risks of reliance upon police

- competing government priorities (public safety, health care, defence)
- police resources affected by economic fluctuations
- root causes are beyond police mandate
- core policing functions, police accountability
- ✓ the constant element is the community, the foundation of social development



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Ingredients of Success

- community ownership, personal investment, creativity are key
- building upon small successes
- communities not all at same level of health and well-being
- roles of government, police, other professionals may depend upon community capacity



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CACP Crime Prevention Vision

- expressed in CACP resolution 2002-3 on “Community Safety, Health and Well-being”
 - community is the foundation
 - community partnerships and collaboration
 - police are champions, supporters
- CACP role in public policy discussions



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Role of Police and Community Leaders

- credibility of police spokespersons at local, regional, national levels and internationally
- influence and reinforce government efforts towards community well-being



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Crime Prevention Coalition

- communities want to build on Canada's hallmark community policing approach
- employ an approach that encompasses situational and social development crime prevention
- emphasis on social development (primary prevention) that addresses root causes of crime and victimization



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Conclusions

“There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil, to one who is striking at the roots”

Henry David Thoreau



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Thank you to the people who contributed to this presentation:

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