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Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Drug Abuse Committee

Chair:

Barry MacKnight

Annual Report of Committee Activities

Prepared for and submitted to
CACP Committee and Function Chairs
Sunday, August 24, 2008
CACP Conference
Montréal, Quebec

Message from the Chair:

The past 12 months have been particularly active for the Drug Abuse Committee from the communications perspective. With the federal government's launch of the NADS in October 2007, and numerous announcements about financial investments in programming and drug education, the committee was able to signal the CACP's support for the government's approach to some of the most difficult drug issues in Canada.

Consistent with the CACP Drug Policy, adopted at the AGM in Calgary, education and prevention initiatives were important over the last year including work with Health Canada on a toolkit for agencies. We are also continuing to advance standardized drug awareness training for police officers, as well as a new nation drug awareness initiative. This new project is a very exciting communications project in partnership with Health Canada that would see CACP at the forefront of a National Drug Awareness Campaign. Similar to a project that CACP supported in the 80s and 90s, this initiative has great potential to reach Canadians of all ages in order deliver clear and unequivocal messages about the harmful impact of drugs.

We are also very concerned about protocols being employed by agencies across the country in dealing with meth labs. Our committee will be working to facilitate the exchange of protocols and practices among agencies in order to ensure the safety of our staff and citizens. In the interim we will be encouraging agencies to devote special efforts to ensuring that have the appropriate policies in place regarding meth labs.

The most significant new priority that the committee will begin addressing is that of Drug Endangered Children. This issue is nothing new for most cops working the streets, but one that must be addressed aggressively at the national level. I look forward to bringing you an update on this issue, and I will be looking for your support on advancing this issue in the new future.

If the committee and the CACP are able to achieve anything, it is through the dedication of our members and so, in closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the committee past and present for their devotion to this work.

Thank you,

Barry MacKnight

Drug Abuse Committee Mandate and Profile:

Mission:

“Our mission is to promote safer and healthier communities through proactive leadership by addressing and influencing prevention, enforcement, and treatment of substance abuse.”

Values:

Integrity: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in adherence to the highest ethical standards to ensure that decisions and positions shall be based on knowledge, research, best practices, legislation, and identified community needs.

Collaboration: The Drug Abuse Committee believes that the expertise and perspectives of partners and strategic alliances enhances the effectiveness of the Committee and will lead to successful outcomes.

Innovation: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in encouraging, enabling, and exploring creative responses consistent with safer and healthier communities, through a unified, reasoned and co-coordinated voice.

Inclusion: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in a balanced approach to the issues to be examined, the partners with whom we will collaborate, and the strategies to be employed.

Excellence: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in excellence in all that we do through professional standards, best practices, internal and external communications, needs assessment, and evaluation.

Priorities 2007-2008

1. Education/Prevention

- Clear Communication with Canadians about the harmful effects of drugs.
 - Drug Awareness Officer Training
 - Drug Awareness Toolkit
 - National Drug Awareness Initiative
2. Disposition of Seized Property (CDSA)
- Meaningful Consultation with GC on CDSA amendments
 - Development of Best/Current Practices manual on disposition issues
3. Drug Endangered Children
4. Meth Lab Best Practice
- Develop repository for current practices and protocols

Issues Being Tracked

1. Clandestine Labs
2. Marijuana Grow Ops
3. Pharmaceuticals
4. Access to Marijuana for Medical Purposes

Overview of Meetings Held

Calgary - August 2007

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Ottawa- November, 2007

Halifax- May, 2008

Other Events & Activities

2nd Forum on the National Framework for Action

This meeting was held in Toronto in May and provided an opportunity for a broad group of stakeholders in the substance abuse environment to review the **Framework For Action to Reduce the Harm Associated with Substance Abuse**. This framework is not a government strategy but rather a consensus document supported by a broad group of interested agencies and NGO working on drug issues in Canada.

National Anti-Drug Mass Media Campaign Working Group

This group has been formed by the Department of Justice in their role as the guardian of the new National Drug Strategy. The group will be working to assist in the development of a national campaign on drug awareness and Prevention. I will be representing DAC/CACP on this working group.

Barry MacKnight, Chair
CACP Drug Abuse Committee

Drug Abuse Committee
Membership List

CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
<p>Chief Barry MacKnight Fredericton Police Force 311 Queen Street Fredericton, NB E3B 1B1 Phone: (506) 460-2421 Fax: (506) 460-2301 Email: barry.macknight@fredericton.ca</p> <p>Asssistant : Dianne Phillips Phone : (506) 460-2325 E-mail : dianne.phillips@fredericton.ca</p>	<p>Supt. Richard Sauvé Director, Drug Branch 1200 Vanier Parkway, LH Nicholson Bldg. H-400 Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2 Phone: (613) 949-7742 Fax: (613) 993-5454 Email: richard.sauve@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</p> <p>Assistant: Jennifer Norris Phone: (613) 993-2086 jennifer.norris@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</p>

MEMBERS	
<p>(Ret) Chief Barry King, OOM (Past Chair) Life Member (Formerly CACP Secty-Treas) 62 Clairfields Dr. West Guelph, ON N1G 5H8 Res: Phone: (519) 824-7750 Cell: (613) 246-3626 email: barryking1@sympatico.ca</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Cst. Steve Sweeney Operations Support Division Vancouver Police Department 312 Main Street Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2 Phone: (604) 717-2614 or (604) 717-3705 Fax: (604) 717-3707 Email: steve.sweeney@vpd.ca</p>
<p>Superintendent Hal Zorn Criminal Investigation Division Regina Police Service P.O. Box 196 1717 Osler Street Regina, SK S4P 2Z8 Phone: (306) 777-6371 Cell: (306) 536-7719 Fax: (306) 777-6387 Email: hzorn@police.regina.sk.ca</p> <p>Paul T.L. Urmson</p>	<p>Bernard Lamothe, Inspector Chief Division, Organised Crime Division Montreal City Police 7275, Sherbrooke st. #605 Montréal Québec H1N 1E5 Phone (514) 280-6942 Fax (514) 280-8777 <i>E-mail: bernard.lamothe@sylvm.qc.ca</i></p> <p>Gary C. Broste, Deputy Chief Operations</p>

<p>Assistant Deputy Commissioner Institutional Operations Correctional Services Canada PO Box 9223 2313 Hanselman Place Saskatoon , Saskatchewan S7K 3X5 (306)-975-4846 (w) (306) 221-1045 (cell) (306)-975-5476 (fax) Email: urmsontpl@csc-scc.gc.ca</p>	<p>Saskatoon Police Service P.O. Box 1728 Saskatoon, Sk S7K 3R6 Ph. (306) 975-8250 Fax(306) 975-8327 Assistant- Ms. Caren Tryon caren.tryon@police.saskatoon.sk.ca</p>
<p>Chief Inspector Richard Toupin, Director Criminal Investigation Surete du Quebec 1701, rue Parthenais Montreal, QC H2K 3S7 Phone: (514) 390-8259 Email: richard.toupin@surete.qc.ca</p>	<p>Staff Superintendent Rick Gauthier O i/c Detective Services Toronto Police Force 40 College Street Toronto, ON M5G 2J3 Phone: (416) 808-8073 Fax: (416) 808-7696 Cell : (416) 315-7255 Email: rick.gauthier@torontopolice.on.ca</p>
<p>Superintendent Mike Burns Criminal Investigation Division 1975 Gottingen Street Halifax, NS B3J 2H1 490-4038 office 229-5970 cell Email: burnsm@halifax.ca</p>	<p>Supt. Frank Elbers, Director Drug Enforcement Section OPP Investigation Bureau 777 Memorial Avenue Orillia, Ontario L3V 7V3 Phone: (705)329-6321 Fax: (705) 329-6324 Email: frank.elbers@jus.gov.on.ca</p>

<p>Acting Staff Superintendent Blair Foley 7750 Hurontario St. PO Box 7750 Brampton, ON L6V 3W6 Phone: (905) 453-3311 ext. 4720 Fax: Email: blair.foley@peelpolice.on.ca</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Darryl da Costa Edmonton Police Service 9620 103A Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0H7 Phone: (780) 421-3460 Fax: (780)421-2211 Email: darryl.dacosta@police.edmonton.ab.ca</p> <p>Admin. Assistant: Shauna Girard Shauna.girard@police.edmonton.ab.ca Ph. (780) 421-3462</p>
<p>Deputy Chief Myles Burke Cape Breton Regional Police Service 865 Grand Lake Rd Sydney, NS B1P 6W2 Phone: (902) 563-5098 Fax: (902) 567-2266 E-mail: mfburke@cbrps.ca</p>	<p>David Quartermain, Director Borders Intelligence Division Canada Border Services Agency 1912 Laurier Ave. West, 18th Floor Ottawa, ON K1A 0L8 Phone: (613) 954-7575 Fax: (613) 948-9109 Email: david.quartermain@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca</p>
<p>Shaun Gissing Inspector, Organized Crime Calgary Police Service. phone (403) 206-8631 fax 206-8749 e-mail pol2599@calgarypolice.ca</p>	<p>Michel Perron, CEO Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse 75 Albert Street, Suite 300 Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7 Phone: (613) 235-4048 ext. 227 Fax: (613) 235-8101 Email: mperron@ccsa.ca</p> <p>Executive Assistant: Linda Bordeleau Email: lbordeleau@ccsa.ca Phone: (613) 235-4048 ext. 232</p>

TECHNICAL ADVISORS	
<p>Staff Sgt. Michel Pelletier Drugs & Organized Crime Awareness Service (DOCAS) / Service de sensibilisation aux drogues et au crime organisé (SSDCO) Federal & International Operations Directorate/ Directions des opérations fédérales et internationales 1200 Vanier Parkway/Promenade Vanier 4th floor/ 4ième étage H Wing/Aile Ottawa, Ontario K1A OR2 Phone: (613) 993-2501 Fax: (613) 993-5454 Email: michel.pelletier@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</p>	<p>Pamela Arnott, LLB, Barrister and Solicitor (Ontario) Associate Director General / Directrice générale délégué Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Program / Programme de la stratégie anti-drogue et des substances contrôlées Healthy Environment and Consumer Safety Branch / Direction générale de la santé environnementale et de la sécurité des consommateurs Santé Canada / Health Canada</p> <p>pamela_arnott@hc-sc.gc.ca</p> <p>T: 613-948-8651 F: 613- 946-6460</p>
<p>Nathan Lockhart Senior Policy Advisor Office of Policy, Evaluation and Consultation Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Programme Health Canada</p> <p>Tel. 613-948-2158 Fax. 613-946-6460 Email: nathan_lockhart@hc-sc.gc.ca</p>	
<p>Taunya Goguen Chief / Chef National Strategies Division / Division des stratégies nationales Public Safety Canada / Sécurité publique Canada Tel: 613-998-0385 Fax: 613-993-5252 Taunya.Goguen@ps-sp.gc.ca</p>	<p>Sr. Counsel Paul Saint-Denis Dept. Justice Canada, Criminal Law Policy Section East Memorial Bldg, Room 5081 Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8 Phone: (613) 957-4751 Fax: (613) 941-4122 Email: psaintde@justice.gc.ca</p>