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Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Drug Abuse Committee

Annual Report

Submitted by:

Chief Mark Mander, Chair

Message from the Chair:

In November 2012, I was elected Chair of the committee and Eric Slinn was elected as Vice Chair.

The past year's activities within the Drug Abuse Committee have focused our efforts on the priorities identified through the committee. There were several important activities and issues for the committee:

Medical Marihuana Access Regulations MMAR:

The new regulations were announced by Health Canada and as a committee we made a submission supporting the regulations as well as identifying areas of possible concern. The Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations came into effect in June 2013. The existing regulations will be phased out, and will be repealed on March 31st 2014. This will bring a closure to a significant amount of work done by the DAC members and others to create change to the old regulations. These changes will make the production and distribution of medicinal cannabis (marihuana) more secure and remove the ability of persons to grow the product at home requiring them to obtain it from a licensed supplier.

Diversions and Abuse of Prescription Drugs:

DAC coordinated and held the National Prescription Drug Drop-Off Day on May 11th/2013. Police agencies across Canada collected and disposed of unwanted medication, thereby reducing the risk to the community of these medications being diverted for illicit purposes and being disposed of improperly. There was a considerable amount of media attention around this event. By all accounts, from those who participated, it was seen as very beneficial from a community awareness perspective and most importantly nationally we were able to dispose of 2 TONS of unwanted medications. We will look to increase participation next year.

Through resolutions the CACP committed itself to working with health sector partners, including pharmacists and physicians, to develop formal and informal channels of communication on the issue of prescription drug misuse, undertake joint efforts to increase awareness, and to develop and disseminate tools and training aimed at reducing prescription drug misuse and related criminality.

Further the CACP urged all members to undertake data collection on pharmaceutical-related incidents, as well as participate in monitoring and surveillance efforts in partnership with health authorities, in order to track trends in illicit pharmaceutical use.

These issues are being managed through DAC and will continue to be a priority. Along with the Drug Drop-Off they have been identified as the Law Enforcement Commitments in the

“First Do No Harm: Responding to Canada’s Prescription Drug Crisis” Strategic Plan. DAC will continue to work with the other stakeholders to ensure our commitments become reality.

Disposition of Seized Property:

This long standing DAC priority cannot be resolved without amendments to the CDSA. There is a CACP resolution from 2007 seeking the appropriate related legislative amendments, but the file was not a priority within Health Canada until late 2010, when work was re-initiated in collaboration with Public Safety Canada. A cost analysis was completed in late 2011, and since then, Health Canada has been working on various aspects of the issue. This work is of priority to Health Canada as the Department is aware of the health and safety risks and cost burden imposed by the current scheme. We are advised that work is continuing to be done to address this issue.

Supervised Consumption Sites:

The CACP was asked by the Health Minister for its position on the introduction of new legislation, the Respect for Communities Act (Bill C-65), in relation to Supervised Consumption Sites. The members of DAC undertook to develop a position and message on this very polarizing issue. Our position was that while we support the need for a framework for communities interested in starting such a site in their community, that the decision to support a centre is one that is best made by the local Chief of Police. Currently we are finalizing a document that will assist Chiefs in the decision making process.

Drug Information Resources:

To better assist members of the CACP, the DAC members are working to build a resource that will be available on the CACP web site. This will provide members and the media with access to subject matter experts, current research, crime stats, CACP resolutions and best practice crime prevention initiatives that police services are engaged in across Canada. The information will be divided into common “portfolios” where members can more readily access the information needed. These will include the illicit drugs, synthetic drugs, prescription drugs as well as general information about drugs and related harms to individuals and communities.

Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport:

This past year DAC Members met with the Canadian Centre of Ethics and Sports to develop a relationship and understanding of how the CCES and police services could work together on illicit drug use and organized sport. The CCES has a significant body of knowledge in the field of performance enhancing drugs and can provide experts to police services that would assist investigations and court preparation.

Media:

Over the past year the members of DAC have played a prominent and proactive role with local and national media in addressing issues related to drugs and the impact they are having on our collective communities. We will continue to seek opportunities to inform the media and public about the CACP position relative to illicit drugs.

Conclusion

The success of this committee in moving issues and priorities forward is due to the dedication of our members; and so, in closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the Drug Abuse Committee, past and present, for their devotion to this work.

Chief Mark Mander

Mission:

Our mission is to promote safer, healthier, and stronger 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, healthier, and stronger communities, through a unified, reasoned, and nationally 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 2012-13:

1. **Disposition of Seized Property (CDSA):** disposition and storage of property seized and managed by police as a result of drug investigations.

Deliverable: CDSA Amendment

2. **Drug Endangered Children:** advocate for federally legislated additional penalty when endangering children in the commission of the substantive offence.

Deliverable: Review and disseminate report

3. **Medical Marihuana:** Through an examination of the impacts of the Medical Marihuana Access Regulations across Canada, influence Health Canada in the reform of the current regulations.

Deliverable: MMAR Reform implementation

4. **Prescription Drug Abuse:** Prescription drug abuse has had a significant impact nationally. Our focus will be to ensure that we engage the membership of the CACP in this very important issue.

*Deliverable: National Prescription Drug Take-back Day implementation
First Do No Harm Strategic Plan implementation*

5. **Supervised Consumption Sites:** The new legislation, the Respect for Communities Act (Bill C-65) regarding Supervised Consumption sites has been introduced. DAC will continue to follow this issue and provide support to the members of the CACP.

Deliverable: Briefing document

6. **Drug Information Resources:** To better assist members of the CACP, the DAC members are working to build a resource that will be available on the CACP web site.

Deliverable: Web based resource

7. **Review of CACP Drug Policy:** The CACP drug policy was last reviewed and updated in 2007. To ensure we are in step with current research and best practice standards with regards to dealing with substance abuse issues we will undertake to conduct a review of the 2007 policy.

Deliverable: Updated Drug Policy

8. **Participate in developing legislative changes to the Canada Post Corporation Act (CPCA):** Recent case law surrounding police search and seizure of mail in-transit with Canada Post highlights gaps in current legislation. In response, PPSC has formed a working group to explore seeking amendments to the CPCA. Sections 40 and 41 of the CPCA provide authorities for the interception and detention of mail by Postal Inspectors. Currently the CPCA does not recognize court authorizations obtained pursuant to the Criminal Code. In the past, Canada Post Corporation (CPC) would seek to quash these court authorizations. More recently, Postal Inspectors advise law enforcement investigators serving criminal code search warrants that the requested search is unlawful, but will nonetheless act upon the authorization. Reform is needed.

Deliverable: Recommended changes to legislation

- 9. **Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport:** This past year DAC Members met with the Canadian Centre of Ethics and Sports to develop a relationship and understanding of how the CCES and police services could work together on illicit drug use and organized sport.

Deliverable: Develop a contact information sheet for distribution to police services across Canada

Meetings Held

Ottawa - Nov 2012

Ottawa - May 2013

**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Drug Abuse Committee
Contact information**

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