

## *Together for a Safer Community*



### **ABOUT US**

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (CPC) is dedicated to engaging the community in the task of reducing and preventing crime, victimization and fear of crime. Since 1995, the CPC has encouraged and supported community efforts to address known risk factors associated with crime through research; local action; policy; advocacy; and communication.

Partnerships are at the heart of our approach with nearly 40 individuals representing local organizations, including social service agencies, education, public health, planning, housing, justice, corrections, police, media, community and neighbourhood support agencies, political representatives and the community-at-large.

*We believe that by working together we can make a difference.*

### **OUR MISSION**

To mobilize the efforts of community in preventing crime, increasing safety and fostering the well-being of everyone.

### **OUR VISION**

A safe and crime-free community in which to work, live and grow.

### **OUR VALUES**

- We believe in preventing crime through dealing with the root causes.
- We believe in just and humane approaches to crime and its consequences.
- We believe that the community is part of the solution.
- We believe that we are stronger when we work together.
- We believe that effective action is based on knowledge, experience and wisdom.
- We, as partners in prevention, value being clear and consistent in our vision and actions.
- We value speaking out and acting on our convictions.
- We value respect in attitude and action.

### **OUR 3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

- Partnership Building
- Public Engagement
- Problem Solving

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Council works to establish a rapport with community partners, and raise the CPC's broader public profile within Waterloo Region. Previous public awareness campaigns include:

- **Look Deeper** (2003)– addressed perceptions of youth ([www.preventingcrime.ca](http://www.preventingcrime.ca))
- **Say Hi** (2004) –aimed to connect people ([www.sayhi.ca](http://www.sayhi.ca))
- **Say Hi - Schools** (2007) –aimed to connect students within a school community ([www.sayhi.ca](http://www.sayhi.ca))
- **Reach Out** (2006)– encouraged people to reach out to others in the community ([www.reach-out.ca](http://www.reach-out.ca))

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Staff work with neighbourhoods and across systems to address key issues related to crime, fear of crime and victimization. These are typically time-limited interventions that range from providing appropriate resources to facilitation of initiatives, for example, creation of community spaces, and programming.

## **SUBSTANCE USE**

In an effort to address persistent issues of licit and illicit substance use, a number of multi-sectoral initiatives have been undertaken, including:

- Establishment of a “harm reduction” network.
- A community development effort to establish a mobile health and outreach van.
- Research and planning to prevent and/or reduce the harms associated with drug-related overdoses.
- An Integrated Drug Strategy to address issues of substance use using a 4 pillar template.
- Establishment of “In The Mind’s Eye”, a unique series of 40+ events each fall that combines film, training, and keynote presentations regarding substance use. ([www.inthemindseye.ca](http://www.inthemindseye.ca))

## **VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

A Violence Prevention Report was commissioned in 2006 as part of the Region of Waterloo’s Growth Management Strategy. The report led to a number of recommendations including: rural outreach; increasing government-community collaborations; developing a local Integrated Drug Strategy; developing a cross sector protocol for the collection of information about risk factors for violence; providing on-going community updates by way of periodic Violence Prevention Report Cards; establishing a framework for the collection of information on violence and the risks of violence; connecting with post secondary institutions and other research centers to find opportunities for collaboration and to enhance research capacities.

## **JUSTICE DINNER**

Each spring, the Crime Prevention Council hosts an Annual “Justice Dinner” as a public awareness raising opportunity. The event is attended by up to 900 guests and presents topics on social and community development that are known to reduce and prevent crime, victimization and fear of crime. Past themes have included: restorative justice, youth engagement, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, fear of crime, among others.

## **NATIONAL MUNICIPAL NETWORK**

The Institute for the Prevention of Crime (IPC, Ottawa) started two national committees: The National Working Group and the National Municipal Network. Waterloo Region Crime Prevention is represented on both. Waterloo Region co-chairs the National Municipal Network with the City of Montreal.