

Consent Agenda
Friday, April 3, 2009

1. Correspondence:

Please note that correspondence received by and sent from the WRPCPC office on a daily basis far exceeds those mentioned in this list. This correspondence section features letters specifically directed at or provided by WRPCPC but does not include correspondence of common daily practice or emails unless specifically requested by the sender.

Received:

- Copy of a letter to the Honourable Minister Van Loan from Mr. Stephen Woodworth MP supporting the CPC's youth gang initiative. Copy attached.
- Copy of letter of thanks to Regional Municipality of Waterloo from Ms. Leeanna Pendergast MPP for providing a copy of Regional Council's resolution on funding for integrated drug strategies.
- Copy of a letter by Mr. Dan Tonin disagreeing with the insight article provided by Chair Shewchuk and calling for tougher laws on crime.
- For information, three reports compiled by the Social Planning Council of Cambridge through Lynn Randall, Director of Social Planning, Policy and Administration (Social Services, ROW):
 - Best Practice Research: Exploring Community Responses to Illicit Substance Use;
 - Community Tool Kit: Developing a Drug Action Plan; and
 - Waterloo Region Inventory of Substance Use Services.
- Copy of information memorandum to CSC dated January 27, 2009 regarding funding allocation to community projects, including the following paragraph related to the above reports:
 - "Preliminary Research for the Drug Use Strategy Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, Cambridge Community Foundation, The Bridges \$20,000 to establish and support a Steering Committee and develop best practice research which will support the CSCPC's Integrated Drug Strategy for the Region. The report was completed by the end of December 2008.
- Langs Farm Village Association Spring newsletter.
- Community Justice Initiatives Spring newsletter.
- Program for Life Without Bullying Conference hosted by PREVNET in Toronto on June 5, 2009.
- Program for Offender Thinking and Risk to be hosted in Toronto on June 08, 2009. Copies will be available at the meeting through Tracy Jasmins.

2. Committee and Staff Reports:

Please note that the information below is not exhaustive but rather selectively highlights key activities of the CS&CPC and its committees and staff between monthly meetings of Council.

2.1 Facilitating Committee

The facilitating committee met twice since the last formal meeting of the CPC. Main areas of discussion in addition to setting the agenda for CPC included:

- Actions to be taken with regards to the decline of the Health Canada Grant
- Next steps for the youth gang proposal
- Key elements for the 2009 community consultation
- March retreat feedback and next steps.

With regards to the March retreat members of CPC are reminded to please complete the electronic feedback form. Thank you to those who have already done so!

Items 1 and 2 feature in the staff reports below. A draft overview of the consultation developments will be provided at the May 08 meeting.

(Chris Sadeler on behalf of Tom Brenner, Chair of FC)

2.2 Violence Prevention

During the March meeting of the Violence Prevention Plan Implementation Committee ideas on how best to engage community around implementing best practices in violence prevention were shared. The committee will be focusing on refining these ideas during the next meeting in hopes of incorporating an engagement plan with the Crime Prevention Council strategic plan.

A two page summary about a center of responsibility and a joint letter signed by CPC and Conestoga College was personally delivered by MPP Pendergast to the Attorney General of the Province of Ontario the Honorable Chris Bentley. No updates have been received at time of report.

(Anthony Piscitelli for Bill Wilson, Chair of VPPIC)

On behalf of CPC staff presented a reaction to the Roots of Youth Violence report at the national working group meeting hosted by the IPC in Ottawa on March 11, 2009. A summary report from all feedback received at that meeting will be sent to the Province of Ontario. Staff reviewed and signed off on this report on behalf of CPC. Waterloo Region CPC has been asked to take some leadership role in contacting other communities across the Province who participated in the roots of youth violence consultation. Action is pending agreements on sharing contact information.

2.3 Community Relations

The Community Relations Committee has not met since last council meeting. No report.

The new name of council has generated increased media attention. Various articles and announcements were featured in the following:

- Waterloo Region Record

- [Crime Prevention Council Adopts Easier-to-Say Name](#) (Feb 27)
- [Crime Prevention Council Receives Top Marks from Expert](#) (March 14)
- [Film Festival on Addiction Open to Entries](#) (March 18)
- Cambridge Times
 - [Crime Council Coming Back With New Name](#) (Mar 3)
- Waterloo Chronicle
 - [Safety Council Gets New Name](#) (Mar 23)
- Community News (all 3 - Stanley Park/Forest Heights/Laurentian)
 - New Name and Look for the Crime Prevention Council (no web link)
- Exchange Magazine – Morning Post (online) - Feb 26
 - [Name Change Announced for the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Council](#)

The work of CPC also featured in the following:

- 570 News
 - Response to MacLean's poll on Canada's Most Dangerous Cities (Mar 5)
- CTV News
 - Response to MacLean's poll on Canada's Most Dangerous Cities (Mar 5)

The announcements of tougher laws to curb youth gang violence generated lively media discussions. Chair John Shewchuk submitted an insight article to the Record "It makes financial sense to keep people out of jail" (<http://news.therecord.com/article/509084>) which was preceded by an article "Conservatives' Policies will do nothing to reduce crime" (March 20) by Eric Burden of their Community Editorial Board about the need for a balanced investment in prevention (<http://news.therecord.com/article/506507>).

(Tracy Jasmins for John Shewchuk, Chair of Community Relations)

2.4 Nominating Committee

Lucia Harrison, Executive Director of the Multi-Cultural Center has confirmed that she will be joining the Crime Prevention Council starting in May 2009. A letter to Regional Council ratify Gay Slinger and Lucia Harrison (previously showing as vacant positions) is pending. The business sector position is the only position that now remains vacant.

(Christiane Sadeler for Brent Thomlison, Chair of Nominating)

2.5 Substance Use

Staff completed several drug related presentations over the last month, including a keynote to a multi-sectoral drug strategy group in Windsor that was picked up by CBC TV. A call for films for ITME 2009 was picked up by The Record. Funding and work is beginning for a youth photo-voice project. A funding application for a summer student was submitted. Brice Balmer continues to solicit for the I.D.S. Task Force and process preparations are underway with 3 members of Council volunteering.

Members of Council are encouraged to suggest films related to substance use, addictions and/or mental health for ITME 2009. Films on alcohol are particularly welcome.

(Michael Parkinson, Community Engagement Program)

2.6 Research & Evaluation

The Advisory Group on Research & Evaluation held its first meeting in February. The committee primarily focused upon getting updated on the research that CPC staff are conducting and understanding the committee mandate. The committee also discussed proposing some minor changes to the committee mandate. These changes will be considered at the next advisory group meeting before being proposed to Council.

(Anthony Piscitelli for Tom Brenner, Chair of R&E)

Staff of CPC agreed to write a chapter on safety & security for a status report on seniors to be published by Public Health in partnership with Regional Social Planning later this year.

The data from the K-W Metropolitan survey were received and will be presented briefly at the CPC meeting.

2.7 Municipal Task Force

The MTF hosted the second “Key to Safer Communities” breakfast at Rockway Golf Course on March 11, 2009. Over thirty people were in attendance. A brief overview and update can be provided at the meeting of CPC by Task Force members.

2.8 Justice Dinner 2009

The Justice Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at Bingemans in the Ballroom starting at 5:30pm. The theme for this year’s Dinner is “Understanding Fear – When Perception Meets Reality.” The keynote speaker is Dan Gardner, Canadian Journalist and Author of “Risk: The Science and Politics of Fear.” The MC is Tim Jackson, with Tech Capital Partners and introducing the keynote speaker is Paul McCuaig, Publisher of the Record. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the students from W.C.I. and a youth choir from Haiti. During the event graffiti t-shirts will be available for sale by Roof and Dan Gardner’s book will be available for sale by Wordsworth bookstore. Approximately 340 tickets have been sold.

(Mary Anna Allen for Barb Hill and Wayne Morris, Co-chairs of Justice Dinner Planning Committee)

2.9 National Municipal Network:

Members of the network from across the country continue to collaborate and exchange information. Waterloo Region CPC co-chairs the network with Montreal and in that capacity completed a review of the Action Briefs which will be published in May 2009. Application for funding has been made to NCPG to keep the network supported after IPC funding has run in early April. A meeting with Claude Turgeon, Executive Director of NCPG with regards to that funding was promising. A conference call to discuss changes that have been implemented to the first draft work plan is scheduled for April 03, 2009.

2.10 Youth Gang Proposal

No news has been received about this proposal other than that it has been passed in principle and is now proceeding to the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Security the Honorable Mr. Peter Van Loan. In discussion with Regional Social Planning it was decided for the CPC to play more of a leadership with regards to the funding. Details still need to be worked out. Thank you to Lynn Randall and staff for their work in the proposal development stages of this project.

2.11 Substance Use

Staff have provided detailed and up to date information about the declined Health Canada “Partners ion Prevention” grant to MPs upon their request. MP S Woodworth offered to look into the background for this decision. At times of consent agenda release no additional information was received. However, a recent announcement showed how another project quite similar in nature to the one submitted by Roof, Christopher Champlain and CPC did get funded: The Government of Canada is providing \$534,185 in funding to the Addiction Services of Brant Inc’s *Youth Drop In* project and \$73,691 for the Brant County Health Unit’s *Brantford/Brant County Drug Awareness* project.

3. Other Information

3.1. The Province of Ontario presented its budget on March 26, 2009. Staff compiled some Budget Highlights for CPC consideration:

It was hoped that the budget would outline a commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Roots of Youth Violence Report. The budget does not outline the creation of a Centre of Responsibility related to violence prevention. Nor does a cursory scan of the budget mention delivery on most of the key recommendations from the report. Those Roots of Youth Violence Report recommendations that are to be implemented mostly featured in the poverty reduction strategy. In particular the following recommendations have been covered by elements of the Ontario budget:

Within the identified disadvantaged neighbourhoods, the Province should support and ensure the funding of the following structural initiatives:

- *Community hubs to provide space for community activities, including for meetings, recreation and the arts, and service providers. Wherever possible, these hubs should be based in or near schools.*

This item is addressed in the budget through a brief paragraph stating

“As a component of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the government will invest \$3 million in 2009–10 to help establish community hubs in selected low-income neighborhoods. The community hubs will bring together a range of community partners to identify and provide social, community and educational supports.”

The Province must address the level of poverty in Ontario, its concentrations and the many invidious circumstances that accompany it.

The Province must increase the supply of decent, affordable housing units, diversify their locations and improve standards within both public and private accommodation.

The budget describes this as priority stating:

“Social Housing Infrastructure: Together with the federal government, the Province plans to invest more than \$700 million over the next two years to rehabilitate social housing and make it more energy efficient; more than \$360 million to help create new affordable housing for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities; and \$175 million over the next two years to

extend the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program, which is creating new homes for low-income families, senior citizens, persons living with mental illness, and victims of domestic violence.”

The Province must work with and encourage the private sector to create meaningful, long-term employment opportunities for youth.

This recommendation seems to be primarily addressed in the budget through the creation of summer employment for students:

“The government recognizes the employment challenges that youth face, especially during difficult economic times. Ontario is increasing spending on summer employment opportunities for youth by 57 per cent or \$32 million in 2009, bringing spending this summer to nearly \$90 million. This includes targeted resources for youth in high-needs neighbourhoods and expanded opportunities for student-led summer businesses. This significant expansion means that over 100,000 young people will benefit from support for summer employment opportunities this year, up from 73,000 last summer. The summer jobs program enhancements will continue in 2010.”

It is worth noting that evidence on the effectiveness of these programs for the purpose of eliminating violence is not promising.

Of the three recommendations that were deemed highest priority in the Roots of Youth Violence report: addressing racism; investing in mental health; and the creation of community hubs only the last features in the budget. Since the details on community hubs are scant it is hoped that when implementing the community hubs the recommendation in the Roots of Youth Violence Report are followed:

“Steps Towards Community Hubs: There is an overwhelming consensus in favour of building community hubs and, accordingly, no reason to delay action on that front. In neighbourhoods where it is clear that the Index of Relative Disadvantage will demonstrate a high level of disadvantage, or where similar methodologies have already done so, the Province should promptly initiate discussions with the municipal governments, to begin to plan for a hub if none exists and in particular to determine the availability of recreational and arts facilities. Where the latter facilities are lacking, the Province should work actively with the Ontario Realty Corporation and the municipality to lease alternative space for youth and youth services until a hub is developed. Another winter and spring should not go by in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods with there being no safe place for youth to gather and play”.

The budget also features Justice funding increases in a number of sections. The items most worth noting are as follows:

- “**Justice** expense increased by \$125.1 million, primarily for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, community safety, and public inquiries.”
- “**Justice** sector spending will increase by \$0.7 billion from \$3.8 billion in 2008–09 to \$4.5 billion in 2011–12. This level of spending includes investments for various justice and community safety initiatives, including courthouses and correctional facilities.”
- “**Justice** expense increased by \$0.1 billion in 2008–09, primarily for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, community safety and public inquiries. In 2010–11, the sector will also see an increase of approximately \$0.3 billion, primarily for infrastructure investments.”

This budget highlight section of the consent agenda was taken from the following reports

- Duncan, Dwight. 2009 Ontario Budget. Toronto: Ontario Government, 2009. Available at www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/budget/ontariobudgets/2009/papers_all.pdf
- McMurtry, Roy and Curling, Alvin. The Review of the Roots of Youth Violence: Volume Two. Toronto: Queens Printer for Ontario, 2008. Available at: www.rootsofyouthviolence.on.ca/english/reports/volume2.pdf

3.2 Spotted in the Alliance for Children and Youth Mid Month Connection:

Kitchener Public Library (KPL) Wins Award For Innovative Prison Literacy Program - KPL's Parent Links to Literacy program at the Grand Valley Institution for Women was recently awarded the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence by the Ministry of Culture at this year's Ontario Public Library Association Super Conference. This unique program, which reaches out to inmates and their families through literacy, is the first of its kind in Canada. For the past ten years, KPL staff have visited the Grand Valley Institution for Women to make audio recordings of prison inmates reading aloud to their children. This simple gesture has become an important method for mothers and grandmothers to communicate and connect with their children while separated

3.3 Information items received with a request to share:

(a) The **Sexual Assault Support Centre** of Waterloo Region is hosting a free one day workshop for men in our community who wish to be allies in the fight to end sexual violence. This condensed version of our MAASV Program (Male Allies Against Sexual Violence) will be held on Saturday, March 28th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Heritage Room at Terrace on the Square, 100 Caroline St. S., Waterloo.) This workshop will explore the impact of sexual violence on individuals, families, and communities. Further, it will examine concepts of masculinity and strategies to engage men and boys in the work to end sexual violence.

We do this because:

- More than one third of Canadian women report having had at least one experience of sexual assault since the age of 16 (Ontario Women's Directorate, 2006).
- Every minute of every day a woman or child in Canada is sexually assaulted (CRIAW, 2002).
- Most males don't sexually assault but 98% of perpetrators are male (Statistics Canada, 1999).

For more information about our MAASV Program, or to register for this special workshop, visit www.sascwr.org/maasv.htm or call our Centre and speak with Joan Tuchlinsky, our Public Education Coordinator (PubEd@sascwr.org or 519.571.0121 ext. 32).

(b) The **Board of Directors of Community Justice Initiatives** of Waterloo Region (CJI), a non-profit organization located in downtown Kitchener, invites interested members of the community to apply to the position of Board Member. CJI strives to build a safer, more connected community through supporting creative, peaceful solutions in situations of conflict or harm. Restorative Justice principles are at the heart of everything we do. To apply for a volunteer board position, please visit our website and submit an application at www.cjiwr.com

(c) The **Kitchener Youth Action Council** (KYAC) is hosting their 12th Annual KYAC Youth Awards on Wednesday May 6th 2009 7-8:30 p.m. They want you to nominate a young person (ages 14-24)

in your community that is making a positive contribution. Friday April 3rd 2009 is the deadline for nominations. Those that are nominated will be invited to participate in the Youth Awards ceremony – every youth that is nominated is recognized for the great things they are doing.

So act now. Spread the word. Take the time to show appreciation for a young person. Take the time to show our community that young people are making a positive difference in our region each and every day. See below for a link for more information and to obtain a nomination package.

http://www.kitchener.ca/award_prog/kyac_awards.html

(d) As part of our capital campaign to **Rebuild Anselma House**...Rebuild Lives we are hosting a black tie fundraiser on Saturday, June 13. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is our keynote speaker. Arun resided with his grandfather for 18 months as a child and will share the life lessons he learned.

You may order tickets online at www.rebuildanselma.com. Tickets are \$150.00 each – savings are available by purchasing a table of 8 for \$1,000.

4. Attachments:

Letter from Mr. S. Woodworth, MP

Respectfully submitted,

Christiane Sadeler, ED
Tuesday, March 31, 2009