

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.

1.1 Received:

Peter Braid, MP sent a letter of congratulations on having successfully received funding for the 2009 Summer Jobs application.

The Institute for the Prevention of Crime, Ottawa sent a letter to alert CPC and the Region of Waterloo to the Release of Action Briefs on May 25th, 2009

The Family & Children Services' Chip "in fore kids" Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2009, New Dundee Golf & Country Club, 11am registration. For more information please visit www.chipinforekids.com

The Canadian Criminal Justice Association Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice for April 2009 has arrived.

The Homelessness & Housing Umbrella Group released a Report Card Booklet - Rental Housing Affordability: Where Income and Housing Meet. They hosted an event in Cambridge which staff attended and which time the report card was provided.

The YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener-Waterloo provided their "Report to Our Communities 2008 – We're Building Strong, Healthy Communities".

The second edition of "A Community Fit for Children – a focus on young Children in Waterloo Region" has been released. Copies are available for each member of CPC as well as a DVD that accompanies the report.

The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation sent their "Annual Report 2008 - Helping you make a lasting difference".

The Lutherwood: News Spring 2009 arrived.

Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition invites to "Our Communities, Our Health and Our Future: Understanding and Changing the Built Environment" on 9:00am to Noon, Cambridge City Hall (Bowman Room), 50 Dickson Street, Cambridge, ON.

The Region of Peel launched a website www.connect2ENDviolence.ca on April 14, 2009.

The Canadian Mental Health Association sent: "Mental Health Matters, Spring 2009".

Family & Children Services of the Waterloo Region's invite to their 115th Annual Meeting. June 18, 2009, at 6:00pm. Concordia Club – 429 Ottawa Street, Kitchener. RSVP by Friday, June 8, 2009 to Lovina Duguid 576-1329 ext. 3502.

The John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington and Cambridge Career Connections will host an Open House, Monday June 15th, 2009, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, 40 Ainslie Street South Cambridge, ON

The John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington: 59th Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will take place on Monday June 15th, 2009, 5:00pm, Golf's Steak House, 600 Lancaster Street West, Kitchener. Guest Speaker, William Wilson, Crown Attorney. RSVP by June 5, 2009 to Lani Courchesne, 519-743-6071 ext. 223 or email: lanicourchesne@waterloo.johnhoward.on.ca

The KW Counselling: Parenting with Passion Gala lunch will be held on Friday, June 19, 2009, 11am – Noon, Galaxy Cinemas, Conestoga Mall, Waterloo, ON. Please RSVP by June 12 to parenting@kwcounselling or call 519-884-0000 ext. 222. Christiane was interviewed for their new series to be shown on CTV later in 2009.

Received from David Dirks, Director of Employment and Income Support: 2008 Ontario Works Caseload Profile Highlights.

YOU CAN invites to: Restorative Practices for Schools & Community – Saint Paul University, Ottawa, ON, August 9 – 14 (5 day training with certificate). For more information contact Barb Mitchell at 1-888-496-8226 or 1-613230-1903 or info@youcan.ca

The Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo (SPCKW) is assisting the Regional Municipality of Waterloo (ROW) with the public consultation on options for the proposed ROW Living Wage Policy. The consultation phase is getting underway now and is to be completed by the end of June. For more information contact Lindsay Beuermann, Social Planning Associate, Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo Community Information Centre of Waterloo Region, at 519-579-1096 ext. 3011.

As part of the WCSWR's capital campaign to Rebuild Anselma House "Rebuild Lives" the Board and staff of Women's Crisis Services are hosting a black tie optional fundraiser on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is the keynote speaker. A dinner and live and silent auctions will round off the evening. Tickets are \$150.00 each – savings of \$25.00 per ticket is available by purchasing a table of 8 for \$1,000. Tickets can be ordered at 1-800-625-7925.

The Honourable Roy J. Romanow will also announce the creation of an independent and non-partisan Institute of Wellbeing, affiliated with the University of Waterloo. The Institute's work is guided by an advisory board of Canadian and international experts.

Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition invite to: Our Communities Our Health and Our Future on June 19, 2009 9:00am to noon at Cambridge City Hall. For more information call the Social Planning Council at 519-623-1713.

Councillor Tom Galloway and Regional Chair Ken Seiling forwarded information from Peel Police Services Board announcing the launch of their website www.connect2ENDviolence.ca

2. Committee and Staff Reports:

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

2.1 Violence Prevention

During the May meeting of the Violence Prevention Plan Implementation Committee Angela Pye, Social Planning Associate with the Region of Waterloo presented on the Regional homelessness initiatives. The presentation focused upon the methods used to create the strategy and some of the methods that may be appropriate to effectively implement the Violence Prevention Plan. The committee discussed next steps with a view to developing a work plan for 2010. At this time capital funding reaches into the first three months of 2010. An issue paper to enhance that resource through additional one time funding has been submitted as part of the budget process 2008 as directed by CPC. A report on accomplishments to date will be provided from the committee to Regional Council as part of the annual CPC update to Regional Council.

(Anthony Piscitelli for Bill Wilson, Chair of VPPIC)

2.2 Community Relations Committee

The committee meeting was cancelled due to many members not being available. Committee chair and staff met to discuss inviting some new members to the table to increase committee size and resources (currently at 7 people). June 18 meeting will see induction of new committee members and the new co-chairs.

Communications coordinated the local release of the national municipal network's Action Briefs "Making Cities Safer" which received local coverage as follows:

- [570 News](#) (Talk Radio/Rogers) – May 25;
- Rogers Television "First Local" - May 25;
- Community News (bi-monthly community newspaper)
- [Exchange Daily](#) (online business-daily) – May 25;
- The Waterloo Chronicle - feature to run June 10;
- 570 News "Gary Doyle Show" (Mike Farwell filling in)– June 2 (in-depth interview with Christiane Sadeler and Chief Matt Torigian)

CPC will participate in the KWCF Celebration event on Sunday, June 14, 2009 with a display.

Staff are preparing for the launch of the revamped www.PreventingCrime.ca website later this month.

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

2.3 Substance Use

CPC was successful in acquiring Service Canada funding for a summer student to support In The Mind's Eye. Those Council members who wish to support or become involved with In The Mind's Eye 2009 are encouraged to contact Michael now.

The Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy Task Force (WRIDS) held its first meeting June 5, 2009.

The Ontario Network of Drug Strategy Specialists, of which Michael is Chair, is planning a provincial conference to take place in 2010.

Health Canada's Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Funds (DSCIF) launched a new 2009-2010 Call for Proposals. Details at: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/dscif the CPC, ROOF and Christopher Champlain Community Centre had applied for the 2008-09 pool and are reworking elements of that proposal for resubmission. Letters of support will again be sought.

The CPC has now disengaged from the Overdose Prevention and Intervention Project. This ad hoc project began in the summer 2008 with a view toward addressing a research and programming gap concerning unintentional drug-related overdose incidents. Two major reports were produced: the first contained local baseline data co-written with Jamie Lee Bell and the second was a scan of existing OD prevention and intervention projects in North America (mostly USA), co-written with Jullia Weisser. Both reports were very well received by the community and media.

In the fall of 2008, 6 OD training sessions were held over two days in 3 cities, half of which were restricted to people who use drugs. Feedback was very positive and indeed, one of the participants was able to save a life as a result of the training. In January 2009, a group of citizens and service providers met to develop an on-going program to prevent and/or reduce drug-related ODs. A manual has now been created, and is being tested with a variety of target populations with a view toward training in the fall. There are no funds to support this "program". Naloxone (or Narcan)- a drug carried by paramedics to reverse an opiate overdose- was a major recommendation of the second report, and is supported by the ad hoc OD working group. However, it is not featured in the OD training due primarily to the reluctance of potential prescribers and perceived resistance from some service providers.

This concludes the CPC work on an OD project that has caught the attention of many locally and beyond.

(Michael Parkinson, Community Engagement Programme)

2.4 National Municipal Network:

The NMN continues to be co-chaired by WRPCPC with Patrice Allard (Montreal). In that capacity Patrice and Christiane have worked on a smaller working group to develop a proposal to sustain and enhance the network. The proposal has now been finalized and will be sent to NCPC for their consideration. Initial conversations with NCPC under their knowledge mobilization strategy were promising. The proposal seeks \$900,000 over three years to accomplish the following:

- Increase the number of municipalities that have a dedicated crime prevention office
- Host regional and national network meetings to enhance opportunities for knowledge exchange
- Support mentoring and coaching activities between municipalities
- Mainstream crime prevention with significant stakeholders in municipalities across Canada
- Support efforts in Provinces without a crime prevention strategy to develop such strategy

The NMN project will be administered through the city of Montreal. Waterloo Region was under discussion but staff recommended to go with Montreal who has the more advanced infra structure to support this effort.

(Christiane Sadeler)

2.5 Youth Gang Prevention Proposal

Members of the Youth Gang Prevention Collaborative continue to meet to begin to action some items that are in the proposal to NCPC. NCPC staff has recommended the proposal for funding and it is now awaiting the final decision making. If funded this would provide Waterloo Region with significant dollars to prevent youth from entering gangs, assisting youth involved in gangs to exit them and finally to support priority neighbourhoods in meaningfully engaging high risk youth.

The next funding announcement from NCPC will be made before July 01, 2009.

The Collaborative is meeting with WRPS staff for a discussion of gang data. Discussions about how to communicate to the public the purpose of the funding without raising unnecessary fears continue.

(Christiane Sadeler)

2.6 CPC Alumnae/alumni

Irene O'Toole hosted a meeting of former members of CPC to see whether they remain interested in supporting the work of council. Those in attendance brainstormed a variety of actions they can support and another meeting date to begin to develop concrete action plans has been set for June.

(Christiane Sadeler for Irene OToole)

2.7 Facilitating Committee Report

The Facilitating Committee met at its regular meeting on June 03 2009 to discuss and develop the agenda for CPC. Additionally among other items the committee reviewed the budget of the Justice dinner. The budget falls short of the targeted reserve fund for this annual event of \$6500 by \$621. The committee made a motion to accept this reduction for 2009 because the targeted fund was established to allow for unique situations such as this year's Justice Dinner which was somewhat more experimental than in previous years.

(Christiane Sadeler for Tom Brenner, Vice- Chair of CPC and Chair of FC)

2.8 Nominating Committee

Lucia Harrison from the K-W Multicultural center informed staff that because of reduced resources they are not able to take on the position on CPC after all. This leaves two vacancies on the Council: One in the area of Multiculturalism and one in Business. The new ED for CJI F54raser Stewart has been contacted and will start to attend Council as soon as possible. Meanwhile he will share some of the responsibility with outgoing Ed Mark Yantzi.

The nominating committee will start meeting later in the summer to address these and other developments and draft a slate for 2010.

(Christiane Sadeler for Brent Thomlison, Past Chair of CPC and Chair of Nominating)

2.9 Research and Evaluation

The Advisory Group on Research & Evaluation (AGORE) will be meeting on June 22, 2009. In the interim, staff have been working on several projects:

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- Chapter on Older Adults' Safety for inclusion in the Waterloo Region Health Status Report
- Community Justice Initiatives business case for the Victim-Offender Reconciliation program
- Poverty, mental health and crime article for Child and Family Journal
- Fear of Crime report has been completed for Committee review
- Anthony, Tracy and Jessica have been working on a plan to strategically release fact sheets and are developing a Speakers' Bureau that will be based on the fact sheets
- Violence Prevention Plan Research Centre Proposal is being re-written

(Jessica Hutchison for Tom Brenner, Chair of AGORE)

2.10 Actual vs Budget for CPC 2009 as of June 9, 2009

The actual budget for 2009 shows that we have spent a total of 36% of the budget at this time. A more detailed budget is attached for Council review and consideration.

(Christiane Sadeler)

3. Other Information

3.1 Now before a Commons committee, **Bill C-15** proposes to impose a two-year mandatory minimum for dealing drugs like cocaine and methamphetamines in places where young people congregate. The committee heard evidence that the mandatory minimums would likely have the effect of filling prisons with petty drug felons (many of them addicts themselves), creating an even greater backlog in the overwhelmed court system and potentially taking away resources from programs that prevent drug addiction. Minister Nicholson told the committee: "We are absolutely convinced in our consultation with Canadians that this is welcomed." The New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois have voiced strong opposition to Bill C-15; the Liberals have indicated they will support it when it comes back to the Commons for third reading.

On May 11, 2009 the Globe and Mail ran the following letter to the Editor:

"Public discussion of illicit drugs typically relies on simplistic and false distinctions between drug users and evil drug dealers, or victims and victimizers. The reality is not that simple.

The move to invoke mandatory minimum sentences for drug-related offences -- part of Bill C-15 currently before Parliament -- is rooted in a polarized understanding of those involved in illicit drug use. The evidence suggests that mandatory minimum sentences have the potential to make people who are already in poor health even sicker, without making the rest of us safer. They should therefore be reconsidered.

People who suffer and hurt others around them as a result of their drug use are often recognized as victims of genetic predisposition, life circumstance and unfortunate behaviour. Use and abuse of legal and illegal substances is hardly uncommon in Canadian society, and so most of us feel some empathy for these people. We all know someone -- a brother, sister, parent or friend -- who has suffered from their overuse of drugs or alcohol.

But we have less connection to the victimizers -- the more visible "villains" in this picture. They may be biker gangs, or international drug cartels, or sophisticated grow operators -- who we know don't deserve our sympathy. How well can we distinguish those in need of support and treatment from those who deserve punishment? What are the consequences of getting it wrong?

A study in Vancouver found that 20 per cent of the substance users surveyed also dealt drugs to support their own use, or to pay off debts incurred from using drugs. Those further up the trafficking chain are able to distance themselves from street-level activity, where most arrests are made. Therefore in practical terms, mandatory minimum sentences are more likely to target those whose trafficking relates directly to their own drug problem.

So why should we care if these people go to jail? Are they not committing a criminal act that ought to receive punishment? Here are three good reasons why sending more people with drug problems to jail is a bad idea.

First, prisons are a bad place to try to kick a drug habit. All evidence tells us that prison is a really good place to continue -- or even acquire -- a drug problem. A study in Ireland showed that 20 per cent of people who use injection drugs began injecting in prison. Furthermore, our own Correctional Service of Canada found that almost 40 per cent of inmates in federal prisons have used drugs in their current institution.

Second, people in prison are at higher risk of contracting communicable diseases. When they are released, the evidence tells us that the infections and communicable diseases they acquire in prison constitute a serious public health problem. The number of known cases of HIV in prisons is on the rise, (up 35 per cent in five years) within a population that already has 10 times the HIV rate of the general public. Once individuals are released, these infections become a concern not only for their own health, but for the entire community.

Third, prison is expensive. Mandatory minimum sentences for drug offences in the United States (admittedly far more punitive than those in our government's proposed legislation), caused a 925 per cent increase in federal spending on corrections over 20 years. Can we justify devoting such enormous public investment to locking up drug offenders when we spend so little on preventing and treating substance use problems in the first place?

There's simply no compelling evidence -- anywhere -- that mandatory minimum sentences are an effective public policy instrument. So why would we accept them as key part of our national approach to illicit drugs?

Perhaps we are relieved that a problem as difficult and complex as illicit drug use and drug addiction can be simplified to victims and villains. Addiction is unnervingly complicated -- a mixture of neuroscience, social factors and personal circumstance. We must also remember that there's a wide range of substance use and abuse -- legal and illegal -- in our society that cannot be divorced from a comprehensive approach to illicit drug use.

Laws that neatly distinguish between victims and villains won't help us deal with a problem as multifaceted as the individuals who use illicit drugs. Such legislation is too simple and inflexible for so complex a problem.

Our public policy on drug use should recognize addiction in all its complexity. As a society we should ask the hard questions about the connections of drug use to trauma, poverty and social exclusion. We should look at what the evidence and experience of other jurisdictions tell us. That should direct public spending -- and law-making -- to addressing the roots of the problem, rather than on misguided incarceration long after drug problems have begun.

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Dr. Paul Garfinkel is president and CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

John Bilton, ED of the John Howard Society of Waterloo Wellington asked staff to share the following article with the CPC.

Evidence from the U.S. indicates mandatory minimum prison terms just don't work
May 15, 2009, Else Marie Knudsen
Policy Analyst, John Howard Society of Ontario
The Toronto Star, 15 May 2009

"We are absolutely convinced in our consultation with Canadians that this is welcomed." That was Justice Minister Rob Nicholson's only response to questions about what evidence supports the government's Bill C-15, which would impose mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug crimes. Not exactly the sort of evidence one would expect to justify a new law that will have tremendous social and fiscal costs for us all. There are no credible studies to show that this approach is likely to be effective in decreasing drug crimes, no examples from other countries, no reviews of the best-practices literature, not even case studies of individuals who have stopped dealing or using as a result of this approach. The reason is that this research doesn't exist; in fact, the research shows the opposite. Mandatory minimum sentences have been a clear disaster in the U.S., spiraling the cost of the criminal justice system out of control and doing nothing to decrease crime rates. So why would the Canadians who were polled by the government "welcome" a law that will cost them millions but not make them any safer? For many in the criminal justice policy field, Nicholson's answer underscored the need for more meaningful and informed public discussion about prisons: how they work, what purposes they serve and how the criminal justice system can be more effective. Unlike other public policy areas such as health care, criminal justice policy is often debated only by noisy pundits and ideologues, and with little attention to the evidence. In fact, it is important for us all to think and talk about prisons because we are all affected by them. We pay for them, we depend on them to make our communities safer and we are concerned if abuses occur inside. Some worry about their parents and children living inside.

While many think that prisons serve to prevent crime, this is a function that they perform very poorly, if at all. Prisons are isolating, violent, overcrowded and stagnating places where people's anti-social behaviours worsen. Though it may be counterintuitive, prison stays fail to have a deterrent effect, meaning that sending someone to prison in no way decreases the chance that they will re-offend after their release. In fact, research shows that many prison settings actually increase the likelihood that those who leave will re-offend. Compared to evidence-based correctional programs in the community, prison is very poor at reducing further criminal behaviour. Nor do sentences of incarceration have any meaningful general deterrent effect. Sentencing convicted people to certain or longer prison terms has no impact on the criminal behaviour of others. If it did, then the murder rate in Canada would have skyrocketed after the death penalty was abolished (in fact, it went down steadily in the years following, along with the general crime rate). So the argument that sending people to prison "teaches them a lesson" or "sends a message" to other bad guys is a fallacy.

So what about the programming offered inside prisons? While laudable in many regards, these programs cannot be as effective as those offered in community settings. The lessons learned are impossible to meaningfully practice and incorporate, and are often contradicted by the social skills required in the "gladiator school" culture of many prisons. Prison mainly teaches people how to survive in prison - a set of skills that doesn't make our communities safer once prisoners are released. Sending people to prison may meet a need for vengeance when we're understandably angry at those who cause hurt and fear in our communities. But the redemption that we hope to see will not be created in prison environments. We mustn't let our anger get in the way of recognizing the research about what works, particularly since the vast majority of prisoners eventually return to our communities. Part of the reason is that our prisons house a great number of those with treatment needs that contribute to the behaviors that landed them in the system and that are poorly met in prison environments. Rates of addiction, mental health concerns, fetal alcohol syndrome and a host

of other health and social issues are all disproportionately high inside our prisons. Prisons are not a treatment centre for addictions, mental health concerns and other health issues; in many cases they make them worse. So what function does prison serve well? It can incapacitate, for a time, those few among us whom we have decided are too dangerous to live in our communities. That's important, but that's all.

If we want to be smart about crime, meaning that we want to make community safety the main goal of our criminal justice system, then imprisoning more people is not the answer. Mandatory minimum sentences legislation will have only one effect: sending many, many more people to prison. At an average cost of \$164 per inmate per day in Ontario, this is an extraordinarily expensive mistake. The research clearly shows us what to do: community-based correctional programs that keep most convicted people out of jail and busy in programs that meaningfully target their anti-social behavior while keeping them connected to positive social networks. More broadly, the most effective (and also, incidentally, the cheapest) approach is to prevent crime in the first place through social development. Effective crime prevention starts with ensuring quality education and health care, employment opportunities and a range of social supports. Our reliance on prisons to solve the problem of crime is deeply misguided. Getting "tough" about crime might sound good, but it will not make us safer only getting smart will do that.

Christiane Sadeler, ED
Tuesday, June 8, 2009

Attachment:

1. Mid-year CPC Actual vs. Budget