

Messages from Council Members and Staff



Dear Friends,

Waterloo Regional Council has always strongly supported the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council as it works in

partnership with other local organizations and ordinary citizens to identify and prevent the root causes of crime and “stop crime before it happens” in our community. The Crime Prevention Council continues to be forward looking in its approach and has contributed much to crime prevention initiatives not only in Waterloo Region but across Canada.

On behalf of Regional Council, I would like to thank the volunteers and staff of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council and wish them every success as they move forward with their plan “Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region”. Crime prevention is not the responsibility of any one agency or government or group. It is something for which we must all work together and the Crime Prevention Council plays a central role in focusing our efforts towards achieving our shared goal of a healthy and safe community for everyone.

Sincerely,

Ken Seiling
Regional Chair



Dear Community Members,

The Waterloo Regional Police Service is proud to work in partnership with the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council toward

preventing crime and building capacity in our neighbourhoods.

Crime prevention requires the support and participation of everyone. Individual effort makes a collective success and it is our shared goal with the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council to realize a community with safe and connected neighbourhoods for all people.

On behalf of the Waterloo Regional Police Service I would like to thank the staff and volunteers of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council for facilitating the conversation, planning for the future, and collaborating on crime prevention initiatives in our region. The content of *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* comes from those whom it affects the most, and therefore we thank you, for working together to make a difference in Waterloo Region.

Sincerely,

Matthew Torigian
Chief of Police



Dear Fellow Residents,

In 2009 we asked the community about their expectations of the Crime Prevention Council. *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region*

is the outcome of those conversations. When we talk about working “together for a safer community”, we mean what we say.

Community safety is the cornerstone of a healthy and vibrant community. It remains our goal to engage the entire region, from the grassroots to the highest levels of decision making, in creating one of the safest municipalities in Canada. We are grateful for the continued support of Regional Council in making crime prevention a local priority. All members of the Crime Prevention Council are committed to doing our part by putting into action what works and what has promise. Preventing crime before it happens is the smart thing to do. It is good social policy, sound economic planning and it reduces the number of persons affected by crime.

We hope you find *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region* both informative and engaging. We invite your feedback as we work together to create a safe and crime-free community in which to work, live and grow.

Sincerely,

John Shewchuk
Chair, WRCPC



Dear Community Members and Partners,

The staff of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council couldn't be more pleased about *Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region*. We are:

Crime in Waterloo Region. We are:

- inspired by our community's passion for crime prevention and dedication to creative solutions;
- encouraged to know there is wide-spread support for *social change oriented crime prevention*;
- fortunate to work within a context of strong local government, community and police collaboration guided by shared vision;
- excited to have a flexible and responsive plan for the next four years.

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region demands that we focus on what works best to create sustainable **m**omentum, **a**ctions, and **r**esults today. This plan provides new directions and builds on previous experiences in Waterloo Region. We look forward to the next four years of working together on smart solutions to what lies at the roots of crime, victimization and fear of crime!

Sincerely,

Christiane Sadeler
Executive Director,
and the WRCPC Staff Team

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region 2010 – 2014

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region provides a framework and direction for the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (WRCPC) over the next four years. The work of preventing and reducing crime, victimization and fear of crime requires long-term thinking, planning and action. This orientation toward the future must also go hand in hand with planning and action in the short term.

*Smart on Crime means ...
engaging communities,
identifying needs and
developing strategies.*

Often, in order to move forward, it is important to first take a look back. Over 700 people participated in a broad based community consultation through an online survey and focus groups with partner organizations and the community at large. Crime Prevention Council members were involved in this process of learning *with* the community from start to finish. The consultation was designed to gain insight for the following questions:

What relevance does a crime prevention council have in Waterloo Region?

What are we doing well?

What could be done better?

How do we get to “better”?

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region is a reflection of what we heard during our community consultations. This plan outlines priority directions, goals and actions. It forms the best possible foundation for the Crime Prevention Council to provide collaborative leadership for *social change oriented crime prevention*.

Smart on Crime in Waterloo Region is rooted in the experience of our community. We also paid attention to what we know about successful municipally-based crime prevention in Canada and elsewhere. These elements include:

Evidence based practice: understanding and maximizing what works well

Collaboration: building partnerships with all relevant sectors of the community

Cooperation: securing ongoing commitment from local government and community partners

Social Change Orientation: investing in actions that create sustainable change to root causes

Flexibility & Responsiveness: adapting to the needs and trends of the community and broader social and political environments

Broad based support: engaging citizens and organizations in planning and implementation

The goals and priority directions outlined in this plan are firmly grounded in vision, practice and experience. They create our foundation for creatively mobilizing the energy and resources needed to advance *social change oriented crime prevention* in Waterloo Region.

