

## Background

### Effects of municipal crime

Certain violent street gang crimes have drawn attention across Canada.

According to national rates published by Statistics Canada, on average, a city of 100,000 citizens experiences 6,000 assaults, 1,600 sexual assaults and 1,800 car-related thefts each year.

National data from Justice Canada sets a dollar value of losses, injury and trauma for this city of 100,000 people at \$150 million.

Expenditure data show police services for this city cost more than \$30 million per year from local tax coffers. An additional \$9 million in federal and provincial taxes go to correctional services.

### *The Action Briefs*

The Institute for the Prevention of Crime (IPC) recommends a two-pronged approach: plan how to invest and take the actions necessary to reduce crime and victimization.

<b>Series I: Invest smartly in safety for city</b>	<b>Series II: Tackle safety successfully in the city</b>
Assess local realities Plan strategically Use funds effectively Engage community leaders, including those from school boards as well as housing and police services, along with families in order to get results	Follow BCMC (Big City Mayors Caucus) resolution: each new dollar for law enforcement to be matched with one new dollar for prevention Implement programs using what has worked in other cities, with a focus on local realities
<b>Action</b>	<b>Action: Applying what works</b>
Encourage leadership by mayors and councils Set funding at \$1 per citizen for assessment, planning and development Allocate and leverage funds Use Action Briefs as a resource	Make streets safer by reducing violence Make cities safer for women Stop the cycle of violence affecting some Aboriginal peoples Reduce property crimes, such as break and enter and theft from or of cars

### Successful international crime prevention models

Some of the project highlights outlined in the Action Briefs:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description and outcomes</b>
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<p>Youth inclusion programs (YIPs)</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Demonstrates reductions in youth urban crime in England and Wales.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Operating in high crime areas in England and Wales, YIPs (a program to work with at-risk youth before they commit offenses) reduced the seriousness of offenses, reduced arrests by 65% and reduced overall crime in neighbourhoods by up to 27%.</p>
<p>Boston Strategy to Prevent Youth Violence</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Establish problem-solving partnerships to reduce youth gang violence.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Within two years, problem-solving partnerships in Boston that established social programs to get young men out of gangs and to stop them from carrying guns demonstrated a 71% reduction in homicides committed by youth.</p>
<p>Winnipeg Auto Theft Suppression Strategy</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Comprehensive strategy to reduce auto theft.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> This strategy, inspired by a successful program in Regina, has reduced auto theft by 75% in four years—the \$52 million investment has already saved \$59 million, and future savings are estimated at \$30 million or more a year.</p>
<p>The Fourth R program</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> School-based prevention program that addresses precursors to violence against women.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> A special part of the school curriculum addressing bullying, dating violence and peer violence, this program has led to significant changes in attitudes towards aggressive behaviour directed at peers.</p>

**Members of the Municipal Network**

The Mayors of 15 municipalities in Canada delegated community safety officials to collaborate with the Institute for the Prevention of Crime. They have reviewed international experience, exchanged information on current practices in Canada, and confirmed the importance of the municipal role in preventing crime. Observers participated from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the National Crime Prevention Centre. The Municipalities are Vancouver, Surrey, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Waterloo Region, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, St John and Halifax.

## **The Institute for the Prevention of Crime**

Located at the University of Ottawa, the Institute for the Prevention of Crime brings together scientific knowledge from authoritative sources so that Canadians will enjoy lower rates of crime and victimization. Our Website offers policy makers, practitioners, the media and the public access to this knowledge. It presents:

- crime trends in Canada and evidence on how to reduce crime,
- examples of projects that have been proven to prevent crime,
- reasons for investing in crime prevention, including its cost effectiveness and public support,
- a virtual library of Canadian and international commissions that have recommended ways to invest in sustainable crime prevention.