

Subject: Crime Prevention Ottawa Annual Report 2021

File Number: ACS2022-OCC-CPS-0001

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee on 19 May 2022

and Council 25 May 2022

**Submitted on April 20, 2022 by Councillor Diane Deans, Chair, Crime Prevention
Ottawa**

Contact Person: Nancy Worsfold, Executive Director, Crime Prevention Ottawa

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Ward: Citywide

Objet : Rapport annuel de Prévention du crime Ottawa 2021

Dossier : ACS2022-OCC-CPS-0001

Rapport au Comité des services communautaires et de protection

le 19 mai 2022

et au Conseil le 25 mai 2022

**Soumis le 20 avril 2022 par Conseillère Diane Deans, Présidente, Prévention du
crime Ottawa**

**Personne-ressource : Nancy Worsfold, Directrice générale, Prévention du crime
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Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend that Council receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil municipal de recevoir ce rapport à titre d'information.

BACKGROUND

Since 2006, the staff and Board of Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) have worked together to reduce crime and enhance community safety through collaborative evidence-informed crime prevention. We work in close collaboration with our partners to address emerging issues that affect the safety of residents in Ottawa. Our efforts are guided by a Strategic Plan with a focus on four priorities: neighbourhoods, youth, gender-based violence and vulnerable adults. We also strive to focus on anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, discrimination based on religion, and on mental wellness. CPO reports annually to Council.

DISCUSSION

CPO identifies service gaps and issues requiring research in the community, and funds them in each of our priority areas. This allows us to contribute to generating evidence that informs our work, assists our community partners, and ensures that important gaps are filled. Our flexible model allows CPO to support people and organizations that may otherwise be overlooked or underfunded.

CPO's strengths lie in our ability to be nimble to respond to emerging needs and to work closely with our longstanding partners to address community resilience, safety and the root cause of crime city-wide.

Our achievements in 2021 include:

Youth

For the city's youth, CPO's work aims to address street violence, promote proven practices for supporting youth, support healthy youth development, and invest in research and initiatives that involve and/or celebrate youth.

In 2021, we continued to navigate the pandemic and successfully support youth in our city. We responded to community capacity building needs to help parents and caregivers support youth through the education and criminal justice systems. To do so,

we funded the production of quality video resources that people can access even in the midst of the pandemic for support and advice on navigating the education and criminal justice systems.

We also finalized research on barriers to employment for those with criminal records. CPO and its Board have since advocated to reduce these barriers, engaging with officials and staff at the municipal and provincial levels.

We identified the need for a more holistic, family-oriented, and culturally adapted approach to preventing cycles of street violence, and provided start-up funds to an organization to fill that gap. We provided the backbone for the Ottawa Street Violence and Gang Strategy, and renewed our investment in the street violence exit program. We provided support to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Ottawa to develop a mentoring community of practice. Finally, we supported arts programming for at-risk youth through the Paint it Up mural program and the SHINE arts project for marginalized and racialized youth.

Gender-based violence

CPO's gender-based violence (GBV) work includes collaborating with partners and impacted communities to act on issues, foster a culture of prevention, promote public awareness, and explore emerging issues around sexual violence, social media and human trafficking. With the reported increase in sexual violence and harassment during the pandemic, our initiatives focused on immediate needs in our community.

In 2021, we published and shared the report, Needs assessment of Ottawa's 2SLGBTQ+ youth and young adults with regards to violence prevention, at an online event with strong local attendance. Following up on the report's recommendations, we held a call for proposals and funded a project to promote safe spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in Ottawa.

We also prepared and promoted an engaging information sheet for youth called Navigating online flirtationships and harassment. Finally, we explored issues around gender-based violence facing unhoused and vulnerable adults with the GBV Reference Group.

Neighbourhoods

CPO supports neighbourhood-based initiatives to identify solutions, engage with communities of different identities and backgrounds, and develop city-wide responses. During the pandemic, we provided assistance to neighbourhoods under challenging circumstances. This included helping them stay connected to meet their immediate needs on issues such as community safety and resilience. We continued to provide support to the following neighbourhoods and groups: Overbrook, Lowertown, Vanier, Herongate, Jasmine, South Keys-Greenboro-Hunt Club, Caldwell, Byward Market, and the west end, and to the City's Unsheltered Task Force. CPO also continued to support Post-Incident Neighbourhood Support networks, city-wide, to address traumatic events. Finally, we provided support to agencies in other cities – including Grey-Bruce, Toronto,

Kitchener-Waterloo, Owen Sound, Sudbury, and Cambridge – to start up home takeovers projects.

Vulnerable adults

Our work on behalf of vulnerable adults includes collaborating with local organizations to address issues impacting this important group, and promoting a culture of prevention focusing on issues of violence and fraud. In 2021, this work included hosting two successful home takeovers train-the-trainer sessions as well as:

Exploring effective responses to mental health crises

At a time when mental health challenges were reportedly at an all-time high during the pandemic, our work in this space was critical to exploring approaches to dealing with mental health crises. CPO hosted eight Speaker Series webinars on approaches used across North America. Each webinar focused on a specific program and helped broaden participants' understanding of the range of responses to mental health crises in Canada and the U.S. This series reached over 1,500 participants and was co-sponsored by the Social Planning Council of Ottawa, Minwaashin Lodge, Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition and Ottawa Community Partnerships for Health Equity. The post-event participant survey found that 96% of respondents were highly satisfied or satisfied with the quality of the events, and 74% said they will use what they learned in their work or personal lives.

Improving services for people who use drugs

We provided funding and support to the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (SHCHC) to conduct and publish research on the safety dynamics in and around the supervised drug consumption sites in Ottawa. These efforts included consulting people who use drugs, the staff at these sites, and other key stakeholders. The research aimed to better understand what has led to decreased safety and sense of safety in downtown Ottawa for people who use drugs, organizations that work with them, and local neighbourhoods that provide services to them. The results were released in the final report, *Creating a safer downtown for all: Improving services for people who use drugs in Ottawa* and an associated infographic. The report provides valuable insight into what works and offers recommendations for action.

Community engagement

Our 13th annual Crime Prevention Ottawa Awards celebrated six exceptional winners who inspired our community to make Ottawa safer. The event was livestreamed on YouTube. To date, the event has been viewed 600 times.

We also hosted webinars and Speaker Series events. Due to the ongoing pandemic, all public events in 2021 were virtual. In total, we:

- reached 2,554 participants and/or registrants
- hosted 14 events

The full list of 2021 CPO events includes:

- Needs assessment of Ottawa's 2SLGBTQ+ youth and young adults with regards to violence prevention (182 participants)
- Paint it Up information sessions (50 registrants)
- SHINE information session (10 registrants)
- 2021 Crime Prevention Ottawa Awards (600 views)
- Home takeovers training sessions (172 registrants; 2 events)
- Responding to mental health crises, series of eight webinars (1,540 participants)

Research and publications

In 2021, CPO funded evidence-informed projects that focused on preventing crime and increasing awareness of issues in the four pillars of neighbourhoods, youth, gender-based violence and vulnerable adults. We released the following publications in 2021:

- Creating a safer downtown for all: Improving services for people who use drugs in Ottawa (report and infographic)
- Navigating online flirtationships and harassment
- Needs assessment of Ottawa's 2SLGBTQ+ youth and young adults with regards to violence prevention
- Examining barriers to employment for young men with criminal records
- Evaluation report 2018–2020: Ottawa Street Violence & Gang Strategy

Financial Information

Crime Prevention Ottawa – Financial Statement as of December 31, 2021

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>
City of Ottawa	\$1,085,548
Graffiti Management Transfer to CPO	\$50,000
Total	\$1,135,548
<u>Expenses</u>	
Staff	\$370,466
CPO Initiatives	\$87,004
Grants/Paint it UP!	\$678,078
Total	\$1,135,548

CPO Board Members:

- Diane Deans, City Councillor and Chair, Crime Prevention Ottawa

- Farhia Ahmed, community volunteer and Co-Founder of the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition
- Michael Allen, President and Executive Director, United Way/Centraide Ottawa
- Kim Ayotte, General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services, City of Ottawa
- Rev. Anthony D. Bailey, Coordinating Minister of the Parkdale United Church
- Acting Chief Steve Bell, Ottawa Police Service
- Ed Buller, community volunteer and retired research director
- Jim Devoe, Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Anthony Di Monte, General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services, City of Ottawa (retired)
- Thomas D'Amico, Director of Education, Ottawa Catholic School Board
- Julianne Dunbar, General Counsel, Military Police Complaints Commission and community volunteer
- Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health, Ottawa Public Health
- Stéphane Giguère, CEO, Ottawa Community Housing Corporation
- Rawlson King, Ottawa City Councillor
- Steve Monuk, Partner, York Entertainment
- Kelly Raymond, Executive Director, Children's Aid Society of Ottawa
- Dr. David Rosen, CHEO, University of Ottawa
- Shawana Shah, Community leader
- Chief Peter Soly, Ottawa Police Service (resigned)
- Kelli Tonner, Executive Director, South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the CPO Board members whose terms ended in February 2022: Jim Devoe (9 years), Steve Monuk (8 years) and Farhia Ahmed (4 years). We also recognize the valuable contributions of former Board members Chief Peter Soly and Anthony Di Monte. Thank you for your service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to receiving the information in this report.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This is a city-wide report.

CONSULTATION

As demonstrated in the Crime Prevention Ottawa Action Report 2021, CPO engages in broad-based engagement activities throughout the year.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

CPO worked closely for years with people living with disabilities and community services through Connecting on Disability and Abuse (CODA). CPO has been expanding this work through our new strategic focus on vulnerable adults.

INDIGENOUS, GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

Indigenous Policy Considerations

Crime Prevention Ottawa strives to close gaps in outcomes for Indigenous people in Ottawa. As such, we promote, engage and partner with Indigenous individuals and organizations. Two examples from 2021 follow:

- The SHINE Youth Arts microgrant specifically identifies Indigenous peoples as priority fund recipients. Four of the 17 applicants were led by or included Indigenous youth, and 3 Indigenous youth were among the 11 youth awarded funding.
- Minwaashin Lodge was a co-organizer of the Mental Health Crisis Response webinar series. CPO sought out this partnership, recognizing that mental health interventions have a disproportionately negative impact on Indigenous peoples and people of colour. In each of the 8 webinars, the first two questions asked of the presenters came from Minwaashin Lodge and the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition (another co-organizer).

Gender and Equity Implications

Crime Prevention Ottawa's priority focus areas include vulnerable adults and gender-based violence. This work includes addressing the needs of racialized people, those who identify as women or gender diverse, 2SLGBTQIA communities and immigrants. The following examples from our 2021 achievements underscore the value of this work:

- The Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition was a co-organizer of the Mental

Health Crisis Response webinar series. CPO sought out this partnership, recognizing that mental health interventions have a disproportionately negative impact on Indigenous peoples and people of colour.

- The SHINE Youth Arts microgrant identified 2SLGBTQIA and racial minority youth as priority fund recipients. All of the 17 applicants had representation from racial minorities, and 9 had youth who identified as 2SLGBTQIA. Of the 11 awarded the grant, 5 included 2SLGBTQIA youth.
- CPO published the research report entitled Needs assessment of Ottawa's 2SLGBTQ+ youth and young adults with regard to violence prevention. Following up on the report's recommendations we held a call for proposals and funded a project to promote safe spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in Ottawa.
- CPO continues to support Black leadership in the city. We have renewed funding for two Black-led agencies addressing neighbourhood safety and street violence. The funding of nearly \$170,000 for projects in Britannia Woods and Overbrook represents 25% of CPO's funding budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications to this report. Crime Prevention Ottawa has participated in discussions on rural community development.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The work of Crime Prevention Ottawa contributes to the Strategic Priority of "Thriving Communities." This priority is defined as "Promote safety, culture, social and physical well-being for our residents."

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

DISPOSITION

Council and Committee Services to forward the report to Council for information.

Document 1

Creating a safer downtown for all: Improving services for people who use drugs in Ottawa (report and infographic)