

## **Background on the National Working Group on Crime Prevention**

The National Working Group on Crime Prevention brings together national associations of municipal and police leaders, groups working on victim and offender rights, as well as researchers and practitioners from coast to coast.

The report is the result of work of the group with the Institute for the Prevention of Crime (IPC) at the University of Ottawa under contribution agreement with the National Crime Prevention Centre of Public Safety Canada. The group was established to recommend what could be done to stop more crime in Canada before it happens.

The group is co-chaired by Ross Hastings and Irvin Waller. Waller is the Director of IPC. He was Director General of the International Centre for Prevention of Crime (1994-2000) and has advised governments across the world on prevention. Ross Hastings is a professor of criminology and past chair of the National Crime Prevention Council (1994-1997).

The group was inspired by many examples that targeted risk factors such as problem parenting or youth who abandon school. It quotes evaluations showing success in preventing the incidence of crime and victimization, some by as much as 70%.

It looked at the international norms on how successful programs can be multiplied across Canada by different orders of government and civil society. It compared recommendations from parliamentary committees and conclusions from its own work with the state of crime prevention in Canada.

The group concluded that action now on prevention would reduce crime. Prevention must mobilize sectors such as schools, youth services, policing as well as parents and ordinary citizens to solve crime problems in a preventive and positive way.

Inspired by parliamentary committees, the group recommended the allocation of the equivalent of 5% of the criminal justice budget to invest in prevention and stop crime before it happens.