

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Drug Abuse Committee

Chair/ Vice Chair:

Barry MacKnight

Tom Bucher

Annual Report of Committee Activities

August 2010

Message from the Chair:

The past year's activities within the Drug Abuse Committee have focused our efforts on the priorities identified through the committee. The meeting following the conference in PEI was hosted by the Toronto Police Service in November 2009 and focused on a review of the committee's mandate, values, and priorities.

There were several important activities for the committee in 2009-2010:

National Scope Report on Canadian Police Experience with Health Canada's (HC) Medical Marijuana Access Regulations (MMAR): This report has yet to be finalized, but as of August 2010 the final review was being completed. This report has flowed from the committee's elevation of the MMAR reform issue from an "issue of interest" to a priority. At the November 2009 meeting the newly formed MMAR sub-committee of DAC identified a national scope report as a useful mechanism to gather anecdotal evidence from police agencies across Canada, with a view to provide recent and relevant information to HC on problem with the current regulations. The RCMP's Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service (DOCAS) took up the challenge of pulling this report together. This report will be presented to the CACP Board of Directors at their December meeting in Victoria, B.C.

Research Project-Policing People Suffering From Addiction: In March of 2009 the CACP (through DAC) and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, in collaboration with Public Safety Canada, hosted a workshop on the enforcement priority of the *National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances*.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Build an understanding of the issues related to enforcement from several perspectives, including that of consumers (people who use illicit drugs)
2. Start to identify best practices in enforcement
3. Determine which issues an action plan should focus on, including further research as necessary

Representatives were present from police services (national, provincial and regional), consumers, treatment organizations, provincial and federal government departments, and the host organizations.

One of the key steps in the action plan that was developed through the workshop was research into effective programs and practices that are in place in Canada at this time. To that end, Public Safety Canada released a request for proposals to identify best practices on police responses to those suffering from addiction. The general purpose of this project is to conduct a review of best practices and lessons learned in the area of an integrated approach to policing those suffering from addiction in Canada and abroad. The CACP DAC has been involved in

preparing the RFP and helping to set the overall direction of this research project. The contract has been awarded and the research is underway at this time, with a report expected in September 2010.

If the committee and the CACP are able to achieve anything, it is through the dedication of our members and so, in closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the committee past and present for their devotion to this work.

Thank you, Barry MacKnight

Drug Abuse Committee Mandate and Profile*:

Mission:

“Our mission is to promote safer, healthier, *and stronger* communities through proactive leadership by addressing and influencing prevention, enforcement, and treatment of substance abuse.”

Values:

Integrity: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in adherence to the highest ethical standards to ensure that decisions and positions shall be based on knowledge, research, best practices, legislation, and identified community needs.

Collaboration: The Drug Abuse Committee believes that the expertise and perspectives of partners and strategic alliances enhances the effectiveness of the Committee and will lead to successful outcomes.

Innovation: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in encouraging, enabling, and exploring creative responses consistent with safer, healthier, *and stronger communities*, through a unified, reasoned, and *nationally coordinated* voice.

Inclusion: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in a balanced approach to the issues to be examined, the partners with whom we will collaborate, and the strategies to be employed.

Excellence: The Drug Abuse Committee believes in excellence in all that we do through professional standards, best practices, internal and external communications, needs-assessment, and evaluation.

*Minor changes to the wording of the Mandate and Profile of the DAC from the meeting of November 2009 are in *italics*.

Priorities 2009-10

1. Education/Prevention: develop clear and consistent communication about the harmful effects

of selected drugs.

- Deliverables:
 - Drug fact-sheet kits for Chiefs of Police
 - Promotion of Clan Lab Video
 - Promotion of RCMP E-Aware program

- 2. Disposition of Seized Property (CDSA): disposition and storage of property seized and managed by police as a result of drug investigations.
 - Deliverable:
 - Determine the current impact and state of affairs with the police community relative to human resource and financial commitment.

- 3. Drug Endangered Children: advocate for federally legislated additional penalty when endangering children in the commission of the substantive offence.
 - Deliverable:
 - Legislative amendment

- 4. Medical Marijuana: Through an examination of the impacts of the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations across Canada, influence Health Canada in the reform of the current regulations.
 - Deliverable:
 - National Scope Report- police experience, impact, abuse, problems, and challenges associated with the current regulatory framework.

Overview of Meetings Held

Charlottetown PEI- August 2009

Toronto- November, 2009

Saskatoon- April, 2010

Edmonton- August, 2010

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Drug Abuse Committee
Membership List

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