

CACP DRUG ABUSE COMMITTEE (DAC) UPDATES

Mandate

To promote safer and healthier communities through proactive leadership by addressing and influencing prevention, enforcement and treatment of substance abuse

Supporting front-line police officers in their day-to-day operations by ensuring the highest quality of police services and promote safe and healthy communities.

Accomplishments for 2014-15

Since August 2014, the Chair of the Committee, Chief Mark Mander of the Kentville Police (NS), had been sick and the prospect of his return to work and to the Committee was unknown. As Vice-Chair, Supt. Cormier took the lead to keep the Committee moving forward.

During 2014-15 the committee met on 2 occasions: November 4th and 5th, 2014 in Saskatoon and on March 24th and 25th, 2015 in Ottawa.

Before the March meeting in Ottawa it was confirmed that Chief Mander would not return to the Committee due to health issues. Supt. Cormier was elected as Chair of the Committee and Det. Insp. Steve Clegg of the OPP was elected as Vice Chair.

The Committee has remained engaged on a number of initiatives:

Supervised Injection Sites: The Committee appeared on two occasions in Parliamentary Committee to provide testimony for the Canadian Law Enforcement at large on the subject of supervised injection sites. The Committee's position is that taking drug addicts off the street requires a community response. The Committee do not support the consumption of illegal drugs no matter where it is taking place.

Medical Marihuana: The Committee has remained engaged with Health Canada as we continue to navigate the concerns and issues which surrounds this subject. Court rulings as well as outstanding matters before the court is requiring us to remain engaged with Health Canada so Law Enforcement can be ready for an appropriate response or positioning when the final court decisions are rendered.

Marihuana Dispensaries: The Committee was consulted for input to try to develop an appropriate and measured law enforcement response to the growing concern with respect to the growing number of Marihuana Dispensaries and Compassionate Clubs. As these outlets appear to be concentrated in the lower mainland of British Columbia, the development of a regional solution / response will likely be more appropriate.

Law Amendment: The Committee was consulted by Justice on possible law amendments which could see a ticketing option developed for some marihuana possession offences. Although the Committee would support a new tool to enforce illegal drug activities, we believe it would also come with its own set of challenges.

Given the outstanding issues around the medical marihuana, the dispensaries and the possible change in legislation (ticketing option), the committee attempted to get a presentation from the Colorado Police Service at the March meeting in Ottawa but the presenter was not able to attend at that time. The Committee is still hoping to get a presentation from the Colorado Police to learn from their experience in relation to the decriminalization of marihuana in that State.

Prescription Drugs Drop off Day: The Committee once again led the charge on the Prescription Drugs Drop off Day by putting forward a Business Case to Health Canada for a grant to support hiring someone to coordinate efforts. A grant was obtained for a period of two years. The Prescription Drug Drop off Day took place during police week this year and was again a success with result similar to previous years. The plan going forward will be to transition the initiative to the Canadian Pharmacies Association. In this vein, the Committee supported a Private Member Bill in Parliament to set an official

date for the Prescription Drug Drop off Day which would coincide with the Pharmacists week.

Prevention Initiatives and Drug Related Reports:

The Committee has supported the OACP Substance Abuse Committee Patch 4 Patch Program as a best practice to minimize the harm brought on by fentanyl patches epidermal drug through fentanyl patch and the importance to engage law enforcement as well as health care professional to remove patches from circulation. The Patch 4 Patch initiative was posted for sharing with all Canadian law enforcement through the CACP website.

A number of drug information reports as well as drug related warnings (Fentanyl) were distributed through the Committee and the use of the CACP website.

The Committee was consulted by a number of industry partners soliciting the DAC's support for their drug related initiatives. Some initiatives were better received than other by the committee. For example, the Committee support better temper proofing of prescription drugs to prevent abuse, misuse and diversion for illegal purposes.

Planned initiatives for 2015-16

The Committee will not meet this year during the CACP Annual General Meeting in Quebec City. The Committee is scheduling their next meeting for November 3rd and 4th 2015 in Halifax.

For 2015-16, the Committee will continue to work on the initiatives listed above as well as:

Fentanyl: The Committee will consider putting forward a Resolution for all law enforcement to acknowledge and recognise the danger Fentanyl is posing to police officers and the public and to recognise the need to implement strong communication and training programs to protect officer and the public from the danger which these drugs represent.

Prescription Drug Drop of Day: As noted above, the Committee will work with partners to transition to the Drug Drop off Day to the Canadian Pharmacies Association.

Temper Proofing of Prescription Drugs: The Committee will provide feedback and input to Health Canada on their proposed regulation which is posted for public consultation on the subject of controls for the pharmaceutical industry's Temper Proofing of Prescription Drugs. Public input is possible until the end of August 2015.

Additional Information

The Committee will take advantage of their meeting in Halifax to present Chief Mark Mander with plaque to recognize his contribution to the Committee and personally wish him well with his health.

Prepared By

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Chair CACP Drug Abuse Committee