

The *fourth* element is the establishment of citizen consultative or advisory committees. These committees, made up of citizens from a city or city district, are a forum for the public to talk directly to police management and rank-and-file officers about their community and its problems.

The *fifth* practical prevention element is the active involvement of local elected officials on police boards or commissions. Normandeau makes a distinction between political interference and legitimate political involvement in police issues. (69:10-12)

The model of community policing indicated by these prevention elements emphasizes the involvement of the community, the police organization, mayors and municipal councillors. Indeed, Norm Brown highlighted the agreement among experts that:

...adopting various community policing strategies is not, of itself, community policing unless the philosophy of community policing is embraced by all levels of the police organization, the community and its elected representatives. (83:48)

Training that instills a commitment among rank-and-file officers to the concept of preventative policing is imperative, according to Russ Hellard of the Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam Community Policing Committee:

There has to be a concerted effort to develop a comprehensive training standard on the concepts and the role of the community police officer. This first stage of development has to be at the recruit-training level. The need and value of community policing has to be shown to the police officers so they can see that working with the community to solve social and crime problems will in the long term save calls for police service, and that this method of policing is cost-effective and also rewarding. (81:6)

Witnesses told the Committee that cultural and language differences between police and the public can inhibit both law enforcement and crime prevention efforts. A police-community model developed in Vancouver to prevent crime and improve the level of trust between police and the native and the immigrant communities, was described to the Committee. Vasa Sramek, Executive Director of the Vancouver Police and Native Liaison Society, (82:45-58) and Bill Yee, president of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver and chair of the Chinatown Police Community Service Centre, (82:4-15) are associated with police-community pilot projects in Vancouver. Both the Vancouver Police and Native Liaison Society and the Chinatown Police Community Service Centre are urban store-front operations, with mandates to foster cooperation and to improve the level of trust between the Vancouver police department and the aboriginal community and the Chinese community, respectively; to mitigate fear of crime through intervention, referral and follow-up; and, to reduce criminal opportunities through crime prevention education and information.

Representatives of the Mohawk Council of Kanesatake (79:5-16) and of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, (79:17-35) told the Committee that the appropriate way to meet the security and crime prevention needs of their communities, which are largely rural, is through police services provided by native peacekeepers. At present, the Sûreté du Québec provide policing services at Kanesatake. In Akwesasne the Mohawk Council has developed a local native police force and police commission. Ernie Houghton, the interim Chief of Police at Akwesasne, is an inspector with the Ontario Provincial Police with over 25 years service. He described the benefits of a police force that is representative of the culture and community it serves.