

Lorrain Audy, a veteran police officer, regards community-based policing as a cost-effective measure that we must adopt if we are serious about creating safer communities. He stated:

It is only by taking a community approach that the police will be able to vanquish crime without increasing costs or resources. We must insist on taking a community approach if we are to reach our objectives. (78:9)

Increasingly, police administrators and rank-and-file officers are recognizing that effective policing must be preventive and involve the community at large in defining and solving local problems. This view has currency internationally. Among the recommendations contained in the draft resolution made to the United Nations Economic and Social Council by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Social Control was a proposal that member states take steps to ensure that

...one of the essential tasks of the police is to prevent crime and that, in order to carry out this task, it must develop prevention initiatives that involve citizens and community organizations.<sup>36</sup>

The Committee learned that in the province of British Columbia the Attorney General has established a community policing advisory committee to study the concept of community policing. The advisory committee defines community policing as

...an ongoing commitment by the police and the community to work in partnership to increase safety in the community and enhance the quality of life, with the corollary that community policing places emphasis on the ongoing police-community partnership in problem solving. (83:48)

Norm Brown of the Police Services Branch of the B.C. Ministry of the Attorney General, a staff person to the B.C. Community Policing Advisory Committee, told the Committee that crime problem-solving and a sustained relationship between the police and the public are central to community-based policing. (83:49) Dr. Andre Normandeau, a Canadian expert on community policing, itemized in his brief and in his oral submission to the Committee five "practical prevention elements" of the community policing model. They are as follows.

The *first* practical prevention element is the presence of community crime prevention programs led by police and community agencies. Neighbourhood Watch is an example of such a community crime prevention program.

To establish and sustain a cooperative relationship with the community, the police must be accessible. The *second* practical prevention element of community policing is increased police presence through police mini-stations or neighbourhood police stations.

Police must not only be accessible, they must be visible. The *third* prevention element is neighbourhood police foot patrols. Neighbourhood police stations and foot patrols foster direct contact between the police and community in a non-confrontational context and enhance their problem-solving relationship in tangible ways.

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<sup>36</sup> United Nations, *Continuation of Preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*, Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, 11th Session, 5-16 February 1990.