

were all the funding projects. . . I thought to myself, how incredible that was. All these funding sources are so mysterious that you have to hire a consultant to find out what they are. (73:13)

The Committee heard that there is a need for federal leadership to coordinate, communicate, and share information about crime and its prevention, to financially assist local communities to develop crime prevention initiatives, and to evaluate the effects of initiatives implemented to create a safer community. Irvin Waller told the Committee that Canada is one of the few industrialized countries in the world without a national program to prevent crime. Professor Waller and a number of other witnesses called on the government to establish a national crime prevention council.

Witnesses recommended that the mandate of a national crime prevention council should include the following activities: promote safer communities, advise the federal government and participate in policy development on matters related to community safety, gather and analyze information about crime and crime trends, stimulate local crime prevention initiatives, and provide training, research, evaluation and public education on crime prevention at the local level. As well, the national council would be responsible for providing funding to local governments and community organizations to implement community safety initiatives.

It was recommended that the council should involve the participation of those federal departments that have an impact on levels of crime. As well, it should include leadership from the provinces and municipalities and community members representing diverse backgrounds with experience in social and economic affairs broadly related to crime prevention.

The Committee concurs that Canada should establish a national crime prevention structure to promote a safer communities approach to crime prevention.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the federal government, in consultation with the provinces and territories and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, support the development of a national crime prevention council. The council's mandate should deal mainly with issues of reducing crime. Specifically, it should:

- a. promote community safety;**
- b. provide the federal government with advice and participate in policy development on matters related to safer communities;**
- c. gather, analyze and disseminate knowledge about crime, crime trends and crime prevention;**
- d. provide training, research, evaluation and public education on the prevention of crime;**
- e. provide funding assistance to local governments and community organizations to implement community safety initiatives; and**
- f. include membership from federal, provincial and municipal governments, and professionals and practitioners involved in crime prevention, health, social services, housing and education.**