

- The government should promote and support partnerships at the local level between agencies and services that have an impact on crime. They include the schools, recreation, urban planning, housing, police and social services. Responsibility for identifying and adopting crime prevention measures must rest with the municipalities.

The Committee supports the development of a national strategy to prevent crime that involves partnerships and information sharing among all levels of government, all agencies in the criminal justice system, and community organizations and interest groups. It is convinced that the prevention of crime is the responsibility of all orders of government, civic and social groups, businesses and citizens.

### **Recommendation 1**

**The Committee recommends that the federal government, in cooperation with the provinces, territories and municipalities, take on a national leadership role in crime prevention and develop a national crime prevention policy. The policy should set out the following principles and initiatives:**

- Crime prevention will be included in the mandates of federal departments and agencies responsible for criminal justice, policing, immigration, housing, and social and economic development;**
- All levels of government are responsible for crime and they must work together to prevent its occurrence;**
- Crime occurs in communities and priorities concerning crime prevention are best determined at the local level;**
- The primary approach taken to prevent crime and create safer communities entails a coordinated, multidisciplinary effort to address the root causes of crime; and**
- Prevention measures include law enforcement, community-based policing, social development and reduction of criminal opportunities.**

### ***B. National Crime Prevention Council***

Witnesses from across the country spoke of the lack of leadership in crime prevention. They expressed disappointment over the fragmentation of programs and absence of coordination from coast to coast. They were critical of the dearth of information sharing about crime prevention initiatives currently in place, successes and failures, and funding sources. Herb Chapman of the Crime Prevention Society of Nova Scotia aptly articulated the frustration felt by practitioners when they look for funding support to develop a crime prevention initiative.

If I want to develop a project, to whom do I go? You almost have to hire a consultant to find out what the funding sources are in order to get a project going. . . We actually had a consultant come to us recently to say that for 10% of the take, they would find out what