

The closer the ties between the community and the police officer, the more credibility the police officer's words have. If the person who is speaking to those people is a Mohawk police officer, the credibility increases substantially over what it would be if it were myself or someone else from an outside community talking to those people. (79:24)

These examples illustrate that there is no one model of community-based policing.

The Committee is in agreement with witnesses who indicated that community-based policing can improve relations between the police and the public and foster partnerships to prevent crime. It is also of the view, based on the evidence, that models of community policing will vary depending on the composition of the community. The Committee supports the concept of community-based policing and it is favourably impressed with the view of Chief Greg Cohoon, of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, that it can contribute to the social development of the community:

...it's now time to use community policing as a vehicle to look at social development and at the underlying problems of crime. As police practitioners, I think we know them best. We are the ones on the front line. Policemen and policewomen across the country respond on a daily basis to problems, and we're simply attacking the symptoms. (72:5)

FEDERAL ROLE IN CRIME PREVENTION

The Committee is of the view that responses to crime must be coordinated and come from all levels of government, criminal justice agencies, and non-governmental organizations and interest groups. The provinces and territories, through ministries and community agencies, are responsible for the delivery of health, education, welfare and justice services. However, the Committee sees a strong, leadership role for the federal government, in partnership with other levels of government, to promote the safety and security of all Canadians.

A. National Crime Prevention Policy

Witnesses before the Committee expressed concern over the lack of national leadership on crime prevention in Canada. They called on the federal government to develop and support a national crime prevention policy that sets out the government's approach to and support for crime prevention and community safety.

The Regional Network, an organization comprised of crime prevention practitioners and academics committed to the development of safer communities, and the B.C. Coalition for Safer Communities, among others, recommended that the following initiatives and principles be included in a national crime prevention policy.

- In recognition of the multiple causes of crime, federal departments and agencies should incorporate crime prevention into their mandates. Departmental officials would then be required to consider future policy, program and legislative initiatives in light of their impact on crime and its prevention in Canada.
- The federal government should work with the provinces and territories to promote the safer communities approach to crime prevention and it should identify social development as an essential component.