

do not, as a general rule, perceive public safety issues and crime prevention to be components of their roles and responsibilities. Consequently, there is a lack of coordination between government programs that do, in fact, impact on crime levels.

According to Gaston St-Jean of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) education is needed to help bureaucrats and politicians link crime and its prevention to departments and agencies other than police and corrections. In their attempt to establish a list of crime prevention programs operating in Canada, the CCJA sent a letter to federal departments and provincial ministries such as Ministries of Social Affairs, Attorneys General, and so forth. The responses it received are illustrative

In some cases we received a letter from the minister stating that he had forwarded the letter to his colleague, the Solicitor General, since he as Attorney General, was not responsible for crime prevention. Social Affairs gave the same reply. We say there is a lot of educating to do. It is important that the Minister of Social Affairs or the Minister of Education understand that he or she can do something about juvenile delinquency or single-parent families. (75:25)

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Urban Safety and Crime Prevention Program provides assistance to municipal leaders to develop crime prevention programs applicable to the situation in their own cities. The program is funded by six different federal departments—Justice, Solicitor General, Health and Welfare, Secretary of State, Employment and Immigration, and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Paul Sonnichsen of the FCM told the Committee that it took a year and a half to negotiate funding because many of the departments do not see themselves as having a responsibility for crime prevention. (70:29)

An example of a coordinated crime prevention strategy at the provincial level, that reflects the safer communities approach, is the Quebec Round Table on Crime Prevention. Representation is drawn from municipalities, police and corrections, education, and community organizations. The objectives of the Round Table are to identify effective crime prevention policies and programs, establish objectives and determine the roles of the partners in the prevention of crime at the municipal and community level. Another example of a provincial crime prevention structure is the B.C. Coalition for Safer Communities. The Coalition is made up of partnerships between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the provincial Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and local community agencies and organizations.

The safer communities approach also emphasizes the importance of municipal inter-agency coordination to prevent crime. Coordination is promoted among social agencies providing services to youth, the unemployed, offenders, the under-educated, families, early school leavers, substance abusers, the homeless, victims of physical and sexual violence and others. Some of the programs to unblock opportunities and foster a sense of self worth are: recreational services, child care, school initiatives, emergency and affordable housing, job training and skills development, literacy programs, language training, counselling and violence prevention programs. The Committee heard that these services are interdependent and that they should be coordinated with police services and directed at specific high-risk populations.