



Community Policing & Crime Prevention

Tamarack’s goal with these guides is to find and highlight examples of community engagement. In this guide, we explore how policing and crime prevention can be made more effective by using community engagement principles. Those principles include: grassroots citizen action; collaboration between actors; clear visions and goals; and public decision-making.

Our original intent with this research was to educate ourselves about how others were putting these principles to work in the real world, but the examples we found were too good to keep to ourselves. By sharing these resources, how-to guides, and inspiring stories, we hope to encourage others to put these principles to work in their own communities.

Not all the resources we’ve included discuss “community engagement” explicitly, but we feel these are interesting and useful examples. If you know of a helpful resource or a great story we should include, please let us know—we’re always looking to revise and improve this guide. We hope this guide is a helpful start for anyone interested in engaging their communities around policing and crime prevention.

Is this your first time using one of Tamarack’s research guides? Turn to page 2 to see How To Use This Guide!

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Definitions that might be useful:

Community Engagement: people working collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, to create and realize bold visions for their common future.

Crime Prevention: the process of reducing crime by reducing its causes—poverty, poor education, political disenfranchisement and social isolation—through community engagement techniques.

Community Policing: sometimes referred to as “contemporary policing,” it builds more resilient links between the police and community actors such as social service agencies, community organizations, businesses, and faith groups, resulting in more flexible and responsive policing.

Signature Documents: Two Resources We Couldn’t Do Without

National Crime Prevention Strategy: Crime Prevention Through Social Development (Canada)

<http://www.prevention.gc.ca/en/library/publications/factsheets/cpsd/F.Sheet-CPSD-Eng.final.pdf>

National
Crime
Prevention
Strategy



This [factsheet](#) is an introduction to crime prevention through social development, or CPSD. By working on the risk factors that

lead to crime, such as poverty, inadequate housing and schooling, mental or physical health problems, addiction, and others, CPSD programs can reduce crime before it starts. The [National Crime Prevention Strategy](#) has an excellent [online library](#) of resources on community policing and crime prevention.

US Dept. of Justice: Community Policing, Community Justice, and Restorative Justice—Key Themes in Community Policing (USA)

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=291>

This [report](#) from the Department of Justice’s [Office of Community Oriented Policing Services](#) is an excellent introduction to the field of community policing and crime prevention. It covers the basics of community policing, especially the value of collaboration

between police and other community organizations; but it also looks at the entire concept of community justice, from prevention to alternative sentencing and restorative justice.



How to Use This Guide

We've divided the guide into 6 sections:

- Great Stories
- Resources
- Effectiveness
- Innovative Ideas
- Different Perspectives
- Connections

We divided the guide into these categories in order to help people like you who want to make positive changes in your community—Stories to inspire, Resources to guide you, ways to evaluate Effectiveness, Innovative Ideas to help you get started, and Connections, so there's always more information to find if you need it, and people to call on if you need help.

As you read through the guide, you'll see text that's been highlighted blue. If you're reading this on your computer, (and we'd encourage you to do so) simply click on the link to be taken to the document you've just been reading about. That way, if something catches your eye, or you'd like something clarified, the information is available right away.

You'll also notice some "Must-See" boxes in the margin, which point you towards related information. Just click on those links to find out more. It's that simple.

And remember, there's new information becoming available all the time, and we'd love to have it. So if you know of something that should be included in here, please send us an email at

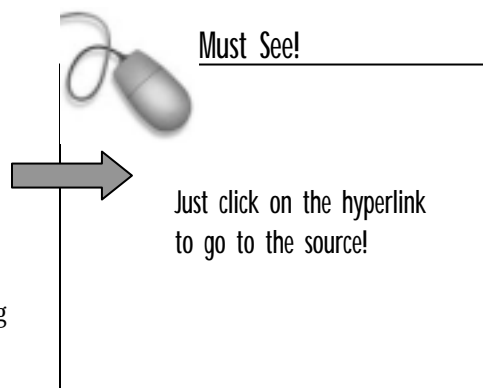
louise@tamarackcommunity.ca

. It'll only take a minute, we promise.

To access many of these online resources, you'll need the Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. The software is free and available at www.adobe.com

We hope you find this guide informative and easy to use. Happy clicking!

Tamarack



Great Stories In Community Policing and Crime Prevention

We think the best way to learn is by example. The resources in this section tell great stories about Community Policing and Crime Prevention to inspire you to make positive changes in your own community. Just click to read about them!



National Crime Prevention Strategy: Models of Practice for Community Safety and Crime Prevention (Canada)

<http://www.crime-prevention.org/en/library/publications/general/models/index.html>

These [models of practice](#) are excellent examples of crime prevention and community policing programs at work. Some highlights include the [Community Needs Project](#), the Family Intervention Program of the [Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda' xw](#) band in BC, and the [Parent Companions](#) program in Ottawa. These examples demonstrate that there are many different ways to reduce crime in the community, and that often the solutions are quite simple.



Caledon Institute: First Stop—Front Line Crime Prevention (Canada)

<http://www.caledoninst.org/PDF/894598768.pdf>

[First Stop](#) is a joint program of several Montreal community organizations that work within the downtown bus station. First Stop identified the bus station as a logical point to reach people who were at risk for being victims of crime, such as the homeless, women fleeing abuse, and substance abusers. First Stop refers these people to its extensive network of social services so that they can receive the help they need. This is a great example of a highly targeted crime prevention scheme that's working.

Caledon Institute: Crime Prevention in Kugluktuk (Canada)

<http://www.caledoninst.org/kugluktuk.pdf>

The Inuit population of [Kugluktuk](#) in Nunavut was seeing an alarming increase in youth crime and instituted an action plan called "Change Begins With Us" to address the problem. Sponsored by the Kugluktuk's Men's Group, the small community now offers a drop-in centre, literacy and computer training classes, and hunting trips to reintegrate disenfranchised youth in community life.



USDOJ: Investing Wisely in Crime Prevention—International Experiences (USA)

<http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/telechargement/usbjainstcrimprev182412.pdf>

This [report](#) was prepared for the [US Department of Justice](#) by the [International Centre for Crime Prevention](#), which is based in Montreal. The third part, titled "Country Examples: Keys to Success" briefly examines how several countries (U.K., France, The Netherlands, New Zealand) instituted crime prevention programs. France's experience involved local "prevention contracts" with mayors to identify and treat local problems that led to crime, such as poor housing, health, education, or recreation.

Resources for Community Policing and Crime Prevention

We think these resources will be helpful tools for Community Policing and Crime Prevention projects. They make suggestions about how and why community policing and crime prevention work, but please, adapt them to the needs of *your* community.

The COPS Collaboration Toolkit: How to Build, Fix, and Maintain Productive Partnerships

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=344>

This [toolkit](#) describes how police forces can build and maintain good collaboration with their communities. By finding stakeholders, establishing partnerships, and maintaining good communication with everyone, policing can become richer and more responsive. Though this manual was written for a law-enforcement audience, it will be useful for anyone wanting to establish a comprehensive crime prevention plan.



Building a Safer Canada—A Community-Based Crime Prevention Manual

<http://www.prevention.gc.ca/en/library/publications/general/community/index.html>

This [manual](#) describes the “Safer Communities Approach” to crime prevention, which stresses the importance of collaboration and dialogue with all sectors of the community. The guide explains how to start a crime prevention program step-by-step, from problem analysis to action and evaluation. It will be useful to both community organizations and police forces.



Ontario Provincial Police: Community Policing—“How We Do It” Manual

<http://www.gov.on.ca/opp/cpdc/english/how.htm>

This [how-to manual](#) is long, but it seems to cover everything you might need to know to put community policing to work in your community. It’s useful because it describes the everyday procedures of maintaining a community policing program, such as recruiting volunteers, building committee structures, and keeping the lines of communication open.

Community Policing Consortium: Understanding Community Policing—A Framework for Action

<http://www.communitypolicing.org/framework.htm>

This [framework](#) is less hands-on than the previous examples, but it’s still useful because it articulates the need for community policing solutions, provides a brief history of community policing, lists some of the core philosophies, and the organizational complexities of running a community policing program. This would be a useful document early on in the process, when a birds’ eye view of the project is needed.

Effectiveness in Community Policing and Crime Prevention

How successful have other people's Community Policing and Crime Prevention projects been? How did they measure their success? These resources explain how other people have evaluated themselves, and how you can use these tools yourself. Just click to read!

National Crime Prevention Strategy: You Can Do It—A Practical Toolkit to Evaluating Police and Community Crime Prevention Programs (Canada)

http://www.crime-prevention.org/en/library/publications/reports/toolkit/toolkit_toc.html



This [toolkit](#) is designed to help people involved in Community Policing and Crime Prevention evaluate the effectiveness of their programs. It explains why it is important to evaluate, the factors that must be measured, how to measure them, and how to report them. Appendices provide examples of evaluation forms and reports.

Northwestern University: Taking Stock—Community Policing in Chicago (USA)

http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/publications/policing_papers/2002/takingstock.pdf

This [research report](#) undertaken at Northwestern University evaluated the [Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy](#) (CAPS), which was founded in 1993. The report concludes that CAPS has been “moderately successful” at community involvement. Among other findings, Chicago’s crime did decrease throughout the 1990’s, and there is some improvement in police-community relations. This report will help communities to evaluate their community policing programs.

National Crime Prevention Council: Are We Safe? Survey (USA)

<http://www.ncpc.org/ncpc/ncpc/?pg=5882-3200-5232-5640>



These [two surveys](#), conducted in 2000 and 2001, evaluate how safe Americans were feeling, which naturally has a profound effect on crime prevention efforts. A community that *feels* safe is also likely to *be* safe. The survey reveals that people know that being engaged in their communities makes them all safer, but they don’t know how to get involved. Community Policing and Crime Prevention can be a way to educate them.

Innovative Ideas in Community Policing and Crime Prevention

The materials in this section are ones that we thought took a fresh approach to Community Policing and Crime Prevention. They don't all approach "community" the same way, but their solutions are original and inspiring.

Solicitor General of Canada: Developing Crime Prevention Strategies in Aboriginal Communities (Canada)

http://www.sgc.gc.ca/publications/abor_policing/pdf/Crime_Prevention_Strategies_e.pdf

This [report](#) from the Department of the Solicitor General describes how Problem Oriented Policing can be tailored to aboriginal communities. Many aboriginal communities suffer from high crime rates and have found that traditional policing methods have simply not worked. Using alternative crime reduction techniques such as Problem Oriented Policing has frequently been helpful, and often solves two problems at once: the crime itself, and the poverty or disenfranchisement that was its root.

National Crime Prevention Strategy: Business Action Program on Crime Prevention (Canada)

<http://www.prevention.gc.ca/en/programs/bapcp.html>

The [Business Action Program on Crime Prevention](#) (BAPCP) aims to involve private businesses in crime prevention programs. Engaging businesses in crime prevention is a good way of engaging them in the community generally. The program brings together several business associations and funds community crime prevention programs. It carries out its funding at the national level from donations from the member associations, but also works with individual businesses at the local level to foster greater community involvement. BAPCP is lead by the Business Network on Crime Prevention (BNCP).



Different Perspectives In Community Policing and Crime Prevention

The resources that appear in this section are meant to challenge our conventional thinking about Community Policing and Crime Prevention. That means they could offer a different solution to policing problems, or suggest that the conventional thinking about community policing is flat-out wrong. We want to know about all the thinking in this field, not just from people who agree with our view.

Toronto Crime Stoppers: About Toronto Crime Stoppers

<http://www.toronto-crimestoppers.com/pages/about.html>

[Crime Stoppers](#) is one successful method of involving the community in policing, but it is reactive instead of proactive. Instead of focusing on preventive measures, Crime Stoppers is a way that community members can report their knowledge of a crime that's already been committed.. Crime Stoppers isn't about *preventing* crime, but about catching criminals..

Correctional Services Canada: Restorative Justice—Basic Resources

http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/forum/restore2000/basicresources/home_e.shtml

This [primer](#) on Restorative Justice outlines basic concepts and describes how communities can begin to use Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice provides alternatives to the traditional punitive legal system, in which people who commit crimes are incarcerated or put on probation to punish misbehaviour. It often employs mediation and reconciliation between the offender and the victim or community. It has its roots in Aboriginal models of law, which are still used by many bands today. Restorative Justice has the potential to become an important part of any crime prevention program, but it is not alone preventative, since it is used after the crime has been committed. It does, however, increase community engagement by opening up the justice system to the community and inviting their participation.

Connections for Community Policing and Crime Reduction

If you're still looking for information, and we hope you are, these resources will tell you where to find it, or who you can talk to. The things we've tried to draw your attention to are a start—these resources will help you along the way.

National Crime Prevention Strategy

<http://www.prevention.gc.ca>

This is the [national website](#) for the NCPS, which advocates for community solutions to crime and provides resources to help communities tackle the root causes of crime. It has an excellent "[virtual library](#)" and provides [funding](#) for crime prevention projects.



Ontario Provincial Police: Community Policing Support Section

<http://www.gov.on.ca/opp/cpdc/english/>

This section of the OPP website offers brief descriptions of community policing and how it's implemented by the OPP. It also includes the "[How We Do It](#)" manual, and useful [definitions](#) of community policing.

USDOJ Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/>

This website of the COPS office of the United States Department of Justice provides information on community policing across the country. Its [publications](#) are useful, as are its "[community policing topics](#)" which contains special sections on [school safety](#) and [technology](#).



The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime

<http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org>

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime exists to distribute information to countries and cities about crime prevention. It hosts events and meetings to [exchange expertise](#), and publishes [research](#) on crime prevention.

Community Safety & Crime Prevention Council

<http://www.preventingcrime.net>

The CS&CPC advocates for community crime prevention in Canada and around the world. It studies crime prevention methods and runs [advertising campaigns](#) to foster community connections. Its [Resource Library](#) contains some of the research they've done.

Department of the Solicitor General of Canada Aboriginal Policing Directorate

http://www.sgc.gc.ca/abor_policing/index_e.asp

The Aboriginal Policing Directorate is responsible for researching and implementing policing services that will be beneficial to aboriginal communities. It has a [collection](#) of publications about aboriginal policing in Canada, and runs [crime prevention initiatives](#) in aboriginal communities.