Communities Preventing Crime

Friday, August 16, 2002 – Tracing the roots of crime often leads back to young people at risk – at risk of getting involved in criminal activity, or at risk of becoming victims of crime – and an environment that provides few positive choices.

Facts:

- The average age of entry into the sex trade in British Columbia is 15.5. Some sex trade workers start as young as age 11
- Among Canada's young Internet users, 25 percent of them have been asked by someone they've only met on the Internet to meet face-to-face – and 15 percent will do so
- In 1995, Winnipeg's Police Department created a 15-member anti gang unit. It is estimated that there are 2,000 active gang members in Winnipeg
- Studies indicate that 22 percent of girls and 12 percent of boys have experienced physical or psychological abuse in a dating relationship. More than half of these cases involved physical violence

Clearly, reaching the young people behind these statistics before they succumb to the world of crime is a key aim of crime prevention.

CPRN recently took part in a project funded by the Government of Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) to demonstrate the importance of a community-based approach to crime prevention among youth. The project produced videos and a Web site profiling six NCPC pilot programs targeting youth and the issues they face.

In ***Action on Crime Prevention: A Multimedia Profile of NCPC Pilot Projects***, a Discussion Paper from CPRN's Family Network, Sharon Stroick shows how a "social development model" of crime prevention fits into broader efforts to control crime and limit victimisation.

The social development approach recognises that a great deal of crime is the result of societal factors such as family poverty, lack of paid employment, poor education, discrimination, and other social or economic deprivations. It attempts to reduce specific risks by developing programs that assist and educate young people and improve the general social and economic conditions of the community.

Stroick demonstrates how and why community initiatives to address the youth sex trade, internet predators, young women at risk, the predicament of suspended students, youth in isolated communities or inner city youth can contribute to successful reduction of youth crime and victimisation.

You can access or download a copy of the document by clicking here

You can access the NCPC Web site by clicking here

e-network e-network work e-network e-net