



Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime  
Prevention and Community Safety

Comité de coordination de l'Atlantique sur la  
prévention du crime et la sécurité communautaire

## Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety (ACC) ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

The ACC is a unique partnership of individuals and organizations committed to building safer communities. Each Atlantic province is represented on the ACC by people from the criminal justice system, law enforcement agencies, crime prevention organizations, public legal information associations, provincial governments, as well as federal government department and agencies. The ACC has worked without core funding for over twenty years to organize annual crime prevention conferences and influence policy development. The ACC has no permanent staff and work is done through volunteer commitment, in-kind support and project funding.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This has been a very busy year for the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention & Community Safety (ACC). We submitted a proposal to the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) for a project entitled “Building Knowledge of Model and Promising Crime Prevention Practices” and were fortunate to receive funding over a three-year period (2009-2012). This project focuses on effective knowledge transfer, and includes activities such as the organizing and hosting of regional knowledge transfer events (such as our annual conference); establishing and developing a regional knowledge transfer Community of Practice in which knowledge transfer techniques are assessed by crime prevention stakeholders; and the testing of non-personal knowledge transfer techniques, such as printed materials. Delthia Miller was hired as Project Coordinator in September 2009, and is busy implementing the project objectives.

This year, several subcommittees have been struck to generate work plans in line with the goals of the ACC. Such work takes time and commitment, and I would like to thank the

members of the ACC for all the work they have done and continue to do. I would like to thank the Executive as well – Wilson Chaulk, Lori St. Onge and Ken MacDonald – for the support they have given me over the past year. Some members have left our Board this past year, namely Jim Ellsworth, Jane Nauss and Stephanie MacInnis-Langley. We welcomed Jeannie Flynn and Karen Swan. A special thank you also goes out to the 2009 Conference Committee who planned and carried out a truly memorable event in PEI!

In closing I would like to congratulate Tara Carlisle, Conference Coordinator, and the Local Organizing Committee for the work they have done in preparing for the 2010 conference – “Exploring Opportunities: Mental Illness, Addictions & Community Safety”. We all know what hard work goes into organizing and hosting these events.

I look forward to the next year with excitement.

Linda Patterson, Chair



## CONFERENCE 2009

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference, *Navigating Change*, was a huge success. Held in beautiful Prince Edward Island, the 2009 conference offered participants a variety of keynote speakers and workshops that focused on exchanging knowledge about crime prevention, skills and tools to take back to communities, promising practices in crime prevention across Atlantic Canada, and increasing our understanding of Aboriginal culture. Close to 170 people attended the conference, including those from crime prevention groups, not-for-profit groups, governments, police, and correctional services, to name a few. Conference surveys indicated that the vast majority of attendees felt that the conference met their expectations, were satisfied with the learning events, and felt inspired and motivated as a result of attending the conference. More details about the conference can be found on the ACC website: [www.acc-cca.org](http://www.acc-cca.org)

## CONFERENCE 2010

The Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention & Community Safety (ACC) and the Crime Prevention Association of New Brunswick (CPANB) are very excited to host the 24th annual Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference, “Exploring Opportunities: Mental Illness, Addictions & Community Safety”, which highlights the link between mental health and crime prevention. A variety of workshops and plenaries focus on tools for front line workers to assist individuals with mental illness or addiction, information sharing for managers and policy planners on developing plans for this population, and current and effective initiatives in the Atlantic Region.

## CONFERENCE 2011

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference, to be held in Nova Scotia in June 2011, promises to be another valuable and unique experience. Although a year away, ACC members are already forming a Local Organizing Committee and considering a theme.

## CURRENT PROJECT



Public Safety  
Canada

Sécurité publique  
Canada

The ACC has a long history of supporting crime prevention and community safety in the Atlantic Provinces. One way the ACC accomplishes this is by undertaking special projects that foster healthy communities. Our most recent project, “Building Knowledge of Model and Promising Crime Prevention Practices”, is funded through the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) and administered by

the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) and covers a three-year period: April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2012.

This project focuses on building and sharing practical knowledge on NCPC promising and model crime prevention programs and the implementation tools (i.e. referral, screening, and assessment tools) required in order to reduce crime. The ACC conference, for

example, is an excellent opportunity to accomplish this objective. This project also focuses on generating knowledge of effective knowledge transfer techniques and their application. One way the ACC accomplishes this is through Community of Practice (CoP) meetings that engage a diversity of knowledge holders and stakeholders to assess and test specific knowledge transfer techniques used in the Atlantic region.



## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Community of Practice (CoP) sessions are held to showcase the techniques that community members use to share knowledge about their community initiatives. Members of the CoP have assessed three techniques, and were fortunate to have Bruce Smith facilitate a workshop on the “Appreciative Inquiry” approach to assessing knowledge transfer, which focuses on identifying the beneficial outcomes derived from a technique and seeing their value.

The first knowledge exchange session featured Deborah Doherty, Executive Director, Public Legal Education & Information Service of New Brunswick. Deborah shared knowledge transfer techniques that were used in a public awareness campaign called “Safer Families ... Safer Communities”. This campaign promoted safe and violence free homes and communities, and was unique because it made the community part of the solution - community members were given practical advice on how to recognize abuse, and what to do to help. Deborah’s knowledge transfer technique proved successful in that it helped to change community attitudes, including police responses to abuse, and remains sustainable due to community champions.



The second knowledge exchange session featured Maria Franks, Executive Director, Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia. The subject of Maria’s presentation was her project “To Be or Not to Be a Charity: The Decision Tree”, which consists of a fillable, on-line tool to assist not-for-profits that are considering applying for charitable status. By completing the Decision Tree tool, organizations will gain a better understanding of whether being a charity will be of benefit to them and whether their application is likely to meet the requirements for being a charity. Maria shared several valuable knowledge transfer techniques with the CoP members: since this technique is an on-line tool, it can be updated at anytime and can be accessed 24 hours a day; it is national so can be utilized across the entire country; the on-line form can be filled out during Board meetings, which provides an opportunity for members to reflect on their organization’s purpose and structure; and, it is very easy to complete which encourages its use. Maria also shared two valuable lessons with the CoP members. First, by involving a lawyer and community members on the advisory committee, she was able to narrow down the completion time of the on-line form to 15 minutes. Second, by building in the cost of a media consultant into the project budget, public knowledge of the project is increased as media releases are more likely to be picked up and used by the media, and the consultant was able to share her expertise with the project’s advisory committee.



The third knowledge exchange session featured Tara Carlisle, Coordinator, Crime Prevention Association of New Brunswick. Tara’s presentation focused on five knowledge transfer events that took place during the fall of 2009. This collaboration between the Crime Prevention Association of New Brunswick and Public Safety highlighted the need for evidence-based approaches to crime, and took the form of four smaller workshops, along with a larger conference where all the workshops were showcased. Tara outlined several successful outcomes that resulted from these knowledge transfer techniques: city police used information that they gathered at the events; collaborations between groups were initiated; individuals came to understand what organizations to turn to when something needed to get accomplished; networking broke down silos; and, concise and compact workshops (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) that focused on specific groups allowed for more attendees from outside the area to participate, as they could drive to and from workshops within one day.



## PUBLICATIONS

The ACC has produced two brochures this past year.

Youth Crime  
in Atlantic  
Canada

What Works  
to Prevent  
Youth  
Crime?



It's All About  
Family &  
Community!

The ACC and the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) have formed a partnership to promote and share knowledge on crime prevention programs that have been shown to prevent and reduce crime. A brochure was developed to highlight several effective crime prevention programs being used in Atlantic Canada that are helping to prevent and reduce youth crime. These programs show that the best way of creating safer neighbourhoods is to help youth connect with their families and to their communities.

It is also important for Atlantic Canadians to know more about the organizations involved in creating safe communities. So, a second informational brochure was created to inform Atlantic Canadians on the history, mandate and initiatives of the ACC as a community safety organization that is build on regional partnerships. Copies are available on-line at [www.acc-cca.org](http://www.acc-cca.org) or via email at [cpknowledgeproject@legalinfo.org](mailto:cpknowledgeproject@legalinfo.org)

## ACC WEBSITE

Over the past several months, the ACC website has been redeveloped and redesigned. While not always a completely smooth endeavour, it was well worth the effort. Not only is the new website beautiful to look at, it is also functional and easy to use.

The ACC would like to thank Deborah Doherty and her staff at Public Legal Education & Information Service of New Brunswick for all the effort it took to set up the first ACC website several years ago, and for their assistance in the overhaul of our current website.

Please check us out at [www.acc-cca.org](http://www.acc-cca.org)

## ACC BOARD MEMBERS

- Linda Patterson, Chair, Crime Prevention Association of New Brunswick
- Constable Ken Macdonald, Vice Chair, New Glasgow Police Service
- Wilson Chaulk, Treasurer, Citizens' Crime Prevention Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
- Lori St. Onge, Secretary, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island
- Ann Sherman, Community Representative
- Brian Saunders, Public Safety, New Brunswick
- Deborah Doherty, Public Legal Education & Information Service of New Brunswick
- Donna Langille, Community Legal Information Association of PEI
- Jean Flynn, Policing Consultant, Nova Scotia Department of Justice
- Jill Lightwood, Office of Attorney General, Justice Resource Centre, Prince Edward Island
- John Scoville, Citizens' Crime Prevention Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
- Karen MacDonald, Office of Attorney General, Community & Correctional Services, Prince Edward Island
- Karen Swan, National Crime Prevention Centre
- Kristen O'Keefe, Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
- Maria Franks, Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

