

**Community crime prevention pilot project launched to address public safety issues**

**Calgary, Alberta** – The **Community Life Improvement Council (CLIC)** has successfully completed fundraising for the first phase of its crime prevention project. The **Government of Alberta** recently approved an \$11,000 grant to initiate the project. CLIC has hired a team of crime prevention experts to conduct the pilot project in the Beltline.

The pilot project will take a proactive approach to street crime in Calgary. The team's first objective will be to gain a thorough understanding of street crime in the Beltline. It will then review best crime prevention practices throughout the world in order to identify specific programs that would assist in reducing crime and public disorder in the community. The team will consider community based policing, crime prevention through environmental design, and other community-based initiatives. Special attention will be directed to identifying strategies that recognize underlying social issues as the root causes of crime. While the project will concentrate on the Beltline, it is expected that the new ideas that are successfully introduced there will be adopted for use in other Calgary communities.

"The Beltline and surrounding communities comprise the very heart of Calgary, and in view of recent and past events it is imperative that more innovative and comprehensive crime prevention initiatives be adopted," remarks **Marilyn Arber, President of CLIC**. "CLIC is hopeful the results of this project will ultimately benefit not only the Beltline, but all Calgary communities faced with similar social issues."

**Harvey Cenaiko, MLA Calgary Buffalo**, comments: "I support this project wholeheartedly. Those of us who live and work in the inner city know that crime, and the fear of crime, continues to be a problem. I'm confident the initial funding for this project will provide new crime prevention initiatives that will help protect residents."

**Alderman Madeleine King, Ward 8**, adds, "I believe we'll see real benefits from this project. We're determined to make a real impact on safety in this area and this is an important first step towards that goal. Congratulations to CLIC."

The crime prevention team consists of 5 members:

**Glenn Lyons** is an urban development consultant specializing in Downtown and Inner City areas. He recently authored the *Beltline Initiative: Rediscovering the Centre*. Previous work included the development of a crime prevention plan entitled: *Downtown 2020: Crime Prevention in the Heart of the City* which won an Award of Merit from the International Downtown Association.

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**Dr. Richard M. Levy, MCIP** is a Professor of Planning and Urban Design at The University of Calgary. He has a BSCE from Tufts University, an M.Arch and Ph.D. in Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1996, Dr. Levy has also served as Director of Computing for the Faculty of EVDS.

**Dr. Susan McIntyre, Ph.D.**, whose experience working with families and children in the treatment of juvenile justice arenas has allowed her to develop expertise in program management and development, is recognized for her expertise on child sexual abuse and prostitution. She is an international research and policy advisor, emphasizing the relationship between law, social policy and research in the development of social programs.

**Dr. John Winterdyk**, first Ph.D. Graduate of the School of Criminology at SFU in 1988, has since been teaching in the Department of Justice Studies at Mount Royal College, and is also an Adjunct Professor at St. Thomas University in New Brunswick. He has written/edited 10 criminology/criminal justice textbooks and numerous academic articles, and has an interest in young offenders, theory, comparative and international criminology/criminal justice, with a strong interest in applied research.

**Inspector Dan Jahrig** of the Calgary Police Service, District 1, will be leading the Calgary Police Service's involvement in the Project. Participation from the Police Service's planning, drugs, vice, tactical and community liaison units is also expected.

The team will be supported by the: Beltline Community Association and the local Business Revitalization Zones (4<sup>th</sup> Street, Uptown 17 and Victoria Crossing), the Alberta Solicitor General's Office, CLIC and the various social agencies involved with these issues.

The study was initiated at an open house on November 27, 2003, where community members had the opportunity to provide input on the issues that are of greatest concern. Funding for the first phase of the project is now secured and a release of their initial report is expected in April of this year. CLIC will then begin fundraising efforts to introduce the new crime prevention programs proposed in the report.

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