

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

January 12, 2016

RE: National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

On behalf of the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, we write to congratulate you and the Liberal Party of Canada on your new mandate. Canadians have voted decisively for new leadership and for new policy priorities.

This letter is an offer of support to help you build a safer, healthier, more inclusive and more prosperous Canada through crime prevention. Collectively, we (the members of the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention) have been working towards our vision *to build capacity and mobilize Canadian municipalities to prevent and reduce crime and foster community safety and wellbeing* by shifting from an overreliance on punishment, to investing in the prevention of crime.

The health care system has long shown us that prevention is better and often more cost-effective than treatment. The same goes for crime. In fact, there is significant evidence that crime, victimization, and fear of crime can be significantly reduced through prevention.¹ We know that crime prevention would increase the quality of life of millions of Canadian women, men, children, and Indigenous Peoples, while simultaneously increasing savings for Canadian taxpayers.

Interpersonal violence alone, for example, costs \$83 billion each year in Canada – the equivalent of 5% of the Canadian GDP. We have the knowledge that investing as little 0.1% of our GDP in proven, evidence-based prevention strategies can reduce the harm of interpersonal violence to victims by at least 50% by 2025.²

We also know that Municipalities are the order of government closest to neighbourhoods, communities, and citizens, and are in a strategic position to mobilize local stakeholders, to ensure coordination of comprehensive and evidence-based crime prevention methods, and to interface in that regard with other orders of government. They provide many direct services and programs that enhance community safety, from problem-focused community policing, to safe urban design, strategic supports for vulnerable groups, and investments in other pro-active measures. As a result, we established the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention ten years ago to bring together representatives from Canadian municipalities that are interested in, and committed to, sharing expertise and experiences in social and

¹ For example: [European Forum of Urban Safety](#) and the [World Health Organization](#)

² <http://irvinwaller.org/> / Smarter Crime Control: A Guide to Safer Futures for Citizens, Communities and Politicians, 2014

community development efforts in order to allow our communities to become smart on crime, thus rendering them safer. Our aim is to complement the traditional policing and criminal justice approach with a broader notion of community safety that calls for diverse preventive measures, the mobilization of local stakeholders, and broad public engagement. Today we have representation from Vancouver, Surrey, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Waterloo Region, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, and Halifax, as well as the University of Ottawa's Institute for the Prevention of Crime.

Over the next three years, we will implement a national initiative entitled "*Building Municipal Capacity to Harness the Evidence to Prevent Crime*." This knowledge-mobilization initiative will focus on animating, coaching, training and mentoring additional municipalities, and further building the capacity to implement evidence-based crime prevention interventions.

We believe our work meets many of the objectives outlined in your mandate letters to Ministers in your cabinet, and would also decrease expenditures in policing and prisons (saving \$6 billion per year in this area alone). Any financial savings would of course be surpassed by reductions in human suffering.

We are very interested in assisting your government in its efforts to foster community safety and wellbeing. We, like you, hope to build a Canada where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected. We offer our support and expertise (both local and research based) in addressing the root causes and risk factors of crime and victimization, as you further your justice agenda.

We look forward to working with you and your new administration and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this letter further. You can reach the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention via Felix Munger at the office of Sustainable Societies Consulting Group.

At our last meeting in Montreal, the Network asked me to send this letter to you on their behalf—and I am pleased to do so. In addition to the consultant Dr. Felix Munger, please feel free to connect directly with me in my role as the Co-chair of the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention at the office of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Christiane Sadeler
Co-Chair of the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention
Executive Director, Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council
Phone: 519-575-4400 x 3475 | csadeler@regionofwaterloo.ca



Felix Munger, PhD
Project Manager
Managing Director, Sustainable Societies Consulting Group
Phone: 519-589-7788 | felix@sscgroup.org