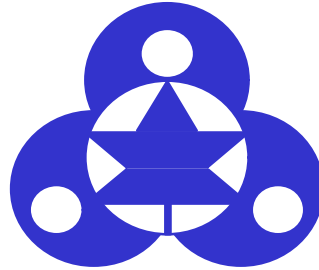


Vancouver Police Department
Contributes to a Successful
Partnered Community Protection Conference



**National Joint Committee of Senior
Criminal Justice Officials**

June 22, 2005

**Report
Submitted by**

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Vancouver Police Department Contributes to a Successful Partnered Community Protection Conference

The following premise was put to the test when organizing a partnered “community protection conference” held in the lower mainland in February 2005.

The community not only expects the respective mandates of the criminal justice system components to be consistent and compatible but they also expect the respective agencies to “prevent crime” and to “protect the community” in a mutually supportive and coordinated fashion. These expectations are enhanced when considering ways of preventing high risk offending and/or protecting the community from the occurrence and reoccurrence of high risk and harmful behaviour.

A critical objective for the conference was to ensure that the various components of the system were well represented both as delegates and presenters. Community participation at the conference was also deemed to be critical.

The challenge to test the referenced premise and to achieve the highlighted objective was accepted in partnership by the following three key agencies:

- British Columbia Crime Prevention Association (BCCPA),
- British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP), &
- Pacific Region National Joint Committee (NJC).

The constructive and collaborative effort of these three agencies with the active participation and support of the Vancouver Police Department, the Correctional Service of Canada and several other key agencies highlighted below resulted with a two-day conference held in Richmond, BC on February 8th & 9th 2005 entitled,

Community Protection is Paramount: Coordinating the System’s Response to High Risk Offending

For both the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and the Pacific Region of the National Joint Committee of Senior Criminal Justice Officials (NJC) this collaborative effort provided an excellent opportunity to contribute to enhancing community protection. The NJC Mission strives for “The promotion of effective partnerships to improve the administration of criminal justice in Canada.” The CSC highlights that “as part of the criminal justice system and respecting the rule of law, CSC contributes to the protection of society by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure and humane control.”

Both of the above are consistent and supportive of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Mission which stipulates that “In fulfilment of its public trust, the VPD maintains public order, upholds the rule of law and prevents crime.” The contribution of both VPD **Deputy Chief Constable Doug LePard** and **Constable Tim Fanning** as members of the Organizing Committee to the success of the conference was exceptional.

Community Protection Conference Organizing Committee



Back Row: Cpl. **Peter Thiessen**, Richmond RCMP, **Greg Fitch**, Criminal Justice Branch, **Tim Stiles**, Justice Institute of BC, **R.E. Bob Brown**, Correctional Service of Canada, **Doug LePard**, Deputy Chief, Vancouver Police, **Shannon Gander**, National Crime Prevention Centre, **Dave Wilmot**, BC Community Corrections, and Constable **Tim Fanning**, Vancouver Police. Seated: **Shelly Pylypiak**, Correctional Service of Canada, **Kim Capri**, BC Crime Prevention Association, **Evelyn Blair**, National Parole Board, and **Celine Lee**, BC Crime Prevention Association

The theme for the conference evolved around two primary criminal justice goals; community protection and crime prevention. It was accepted that critical and fundamental to both community protection and crime prevention was system coordination. Upon review of the principles, mandates, etc. of the various partners involved with this project it was readily evident that the respective goals were consistent.

Key Workshops Included

Sex Offender Information Registration Act

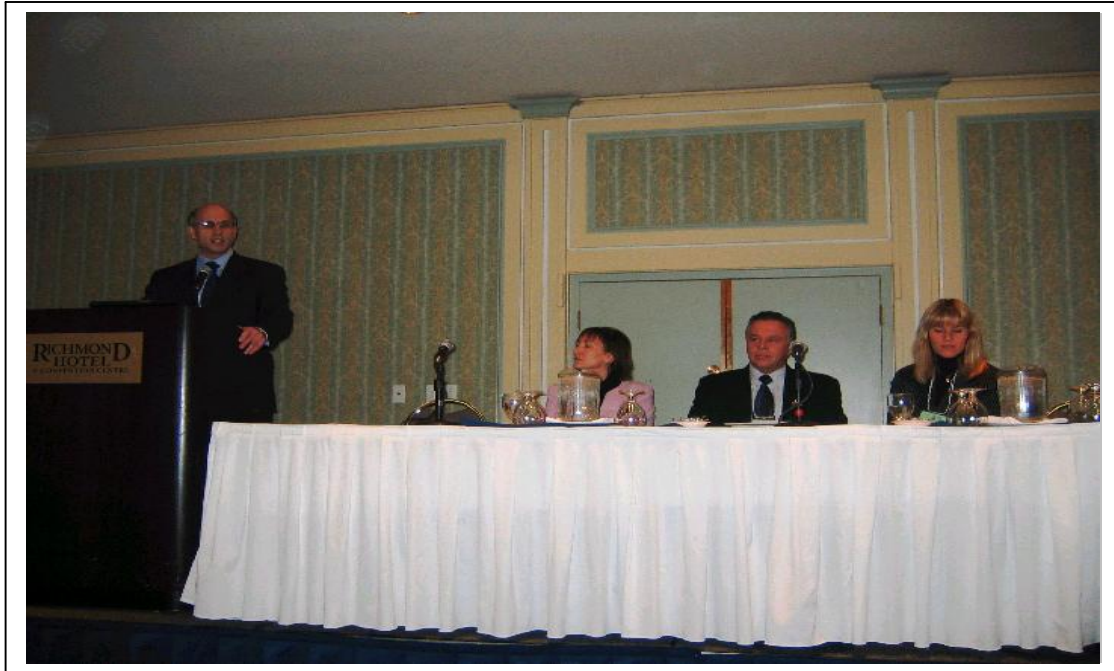
The Release of the Detained Offender:
A System and Community Response

Community Notification Then and Now

Community Protection, Crime Prevention
& Offender Reintegration: Are They
Compatible?



Deputy Chief Constable LePard was the Master of Ceremonies for the two-day event and played a critical role in ensuring that the workshops started and finished on time.



Conference Master of Ceremonies, **Deputy Chief LePard** opens the Conference by introducing from left to right, **Teal Maedel**, Chair Pacific Region National Joint Committee, RCMP **Chief Superintendent Bud Mercer**, President of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, and **Kim Capri** Executive Director of the BC Crime Prevention Association.

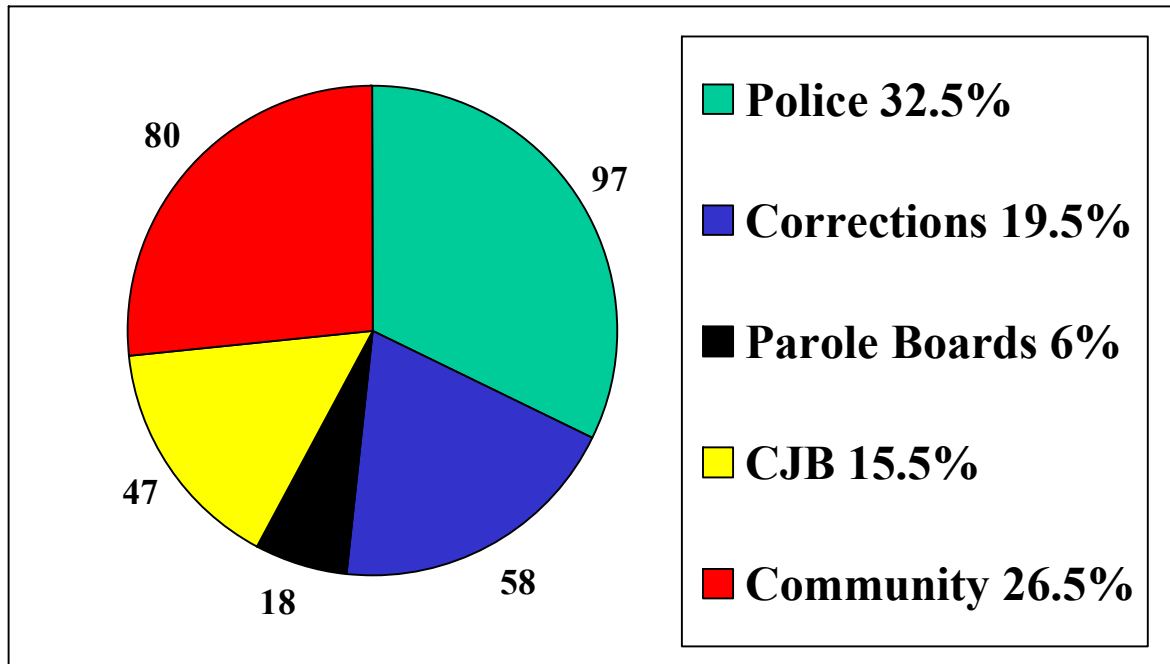
Participant Overview



The initial target for the conference was set at 210. As the project evolved it became readily apparent during discussions with the various components of the “system” that the interest was far greater than the original target. The Organizing Committee eventually capped the conference registration at 300. **Graph A** highlighted on the next page represents the breakdown of the registered delegates on the eve of the conference. **Graph B** provides a further breakdown based on a minimum “agency” representation of five delegates.

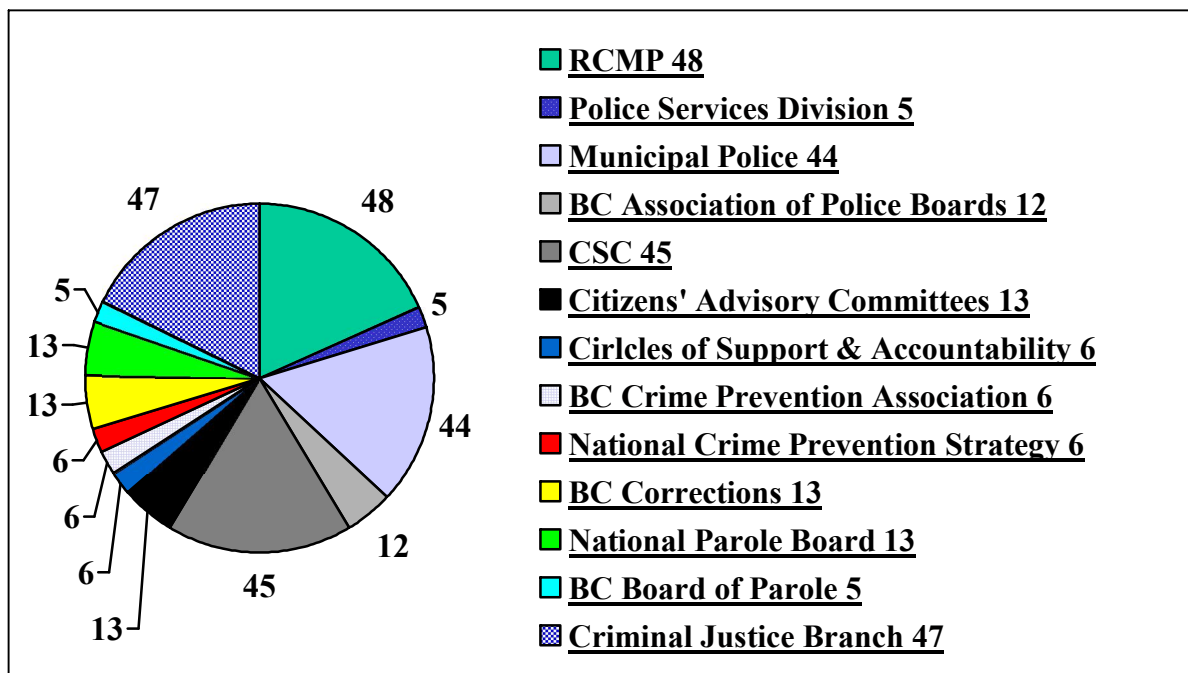
Left: VPD **Constable Tim Fanning** performed double duty assisting with the Conference Media and Communication Plan and performing as the Conference Piper.

Graph A - Representation of the 300 Delegates



Police includes RCMP, Municipal, & Police Services Division. Criminal Justice Branch (CJB)

Graph B - Agency, Department, Association Representation

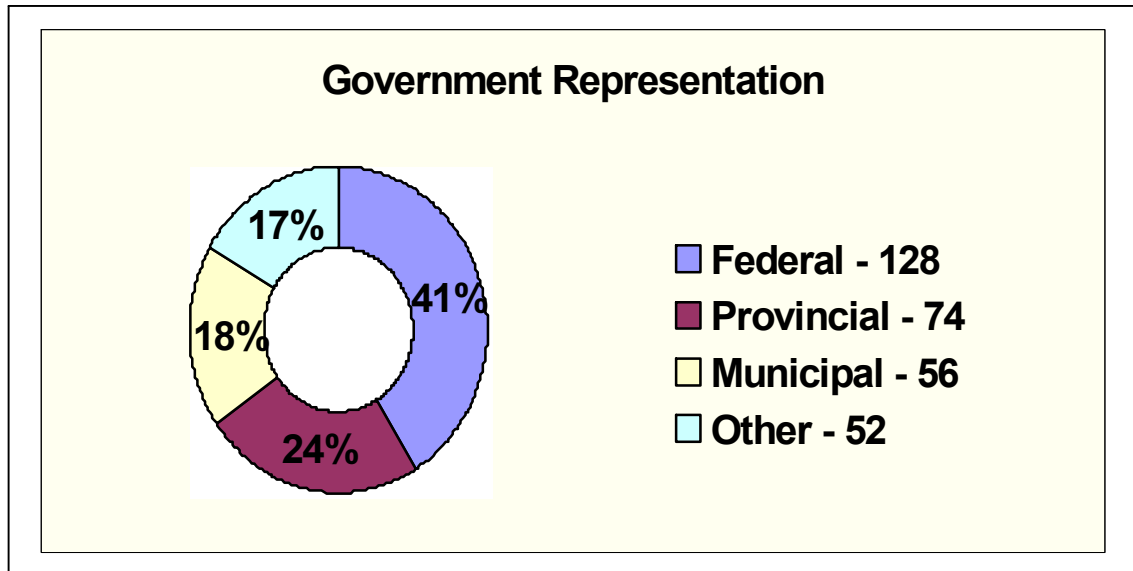


Includes Agencies, Departments, Associations with a Minimum of 5 Delegates

The BC Association of Police Boards (BCAPB) was one of the many agencies that supported the conference. Vancouver Police Board member and BCAPB Chair **Peter Webster** was instrumental in facilitating the support.

As previously stated a critical objective of the conference was to ensure that the various components of the system and the community were well represented. As highlighted in the previous two graphs it is evident that the critical “cross section” was achieved. Upon review of **Graph C** it is evident that the three levels of government were also all well represented.

Graph C - Government Representation



“Federal” included Citizen’s Advisory Committee Members to Correctional Service of Canada facilities. “Municipal” included Police Board delegates.

Key to the success of the two-day conference was not only the impressive cross section delegate representation but also the truly collaborative supportive structure as evidenced by the following contributors.

- British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police
- British Columbia Association of Police Boards
- British Columbia Corrections, Public Safety and the Solicitor General
- British Columbia Lottery Corporation
- Correctional Service of Canada, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- Corrections and Community Justice Division, Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Criminal Justice Branch, Attorney General and Treaty Negotiations
- Executive Network Incorporated
- National Crime Prevention Centre, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- National Joint Committee, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- National Parole Board, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- Police Academy, Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Police Services Division, Public Safety and the Solicitor General
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

Concerning the conference and the need for enhanced collaboration and cooperation amongst the many players that are involved with the criminal justice system the following reflections are provided. **The Honourable A. Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness** offered the following. “Organizations represented at the conference contribute significantly to the safety and well being of all Canadians and are especially active in protecting communities from crime and harmful behaviour of high risk and sex offenders. Your work in a variety of settings and with people of diverse backgrounds advances social justice, promotes human rights, and contributes to crime prevention and safer communities.”



Master of Ceremonies **Doug LePard** introduces the panelists for the session entitled *Community Notification Then and Now*. L to R **Roxanne Lieb** Director, Washington State Institute of Public Policy, **Dr. Stephen Hucker** Psychiatry, University of Toronto, **Derek Tangedal**, Freedom of Information and High Risk Offender Notification Analyst, B.C. Corrections, **Laura Huey**, Member of the Board of Directors, BC Civil Liberties Association

Pacific **Region Deputy Commissioner D.J. (Don) Demers**, Correctional Service Canada (CSC), highlighted that a coordinated approach between criminal justice system agencies is essential for community safety. He recognized that criminal justice agencies function to their fullest potential when dovetailing services. In the pursuit for excellence, he indicated that the Correctional Service of Canada seeks to develop new, innovative and integrative ways to enhance public safety.

Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services Division Kevin Begg, Policing and Community Safety Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General offered the following. “A coordinated risk assessment and safety planning approach is considered to be the most effective way to address the communities' needs for safety and security. Such a collaborative approach involves all relevant criminal justice systems working together to ensure a communities' needs are met in the most effective and efficient way possible. In particular, high risk cases require that policies and

communication strategies are in place for the sharing of offender information that will protect the community from high risk offending.”

Vancouver Police Department made a significant contribution to this very successful collaborative venture. As a past Executive Member of the Pacific Region National Joint Committee of Senior Criminal Justice Officials, **Chief Constable Jamie Graham’s** ongoing support for the activities of NJC and the February conference is both acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

The critical issue that now faces CSC, the National Joint Committee, the Vancouver Police Department and the numerous partners that were involved in this initiative as highlighted above is to ensure that the positive momentum that was established as a result of the conference does not falter. Consistent with this would be the collective commitment to find further ways and means to enhance our constructive interdependency while maintaining our respective independence and contributing to safer communities.

Original signed by

Teal Maedel
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