

RESOLUTIONS

APPROVED AT THE 2005
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS' ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2005

RESOLUTION 05-1: ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH CRYSTAL METH

WHEREAS the use of and addiction to Crystal Methamphetamine is spreading at alarming rates in our communities; and

WHEREAS Crystal Meth is a highly addictive drug with a high potential for abuse, dependence and psychological damage; and

WHEREAS the ever increasing dependency on this illegal street drug makes this a lucrative and very dangerous business for those who manufacture and traffic it; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for addiction services and detoxification centers within our communities because of the use of Crystal Meth; and

WHEREAS there is an obvious need for a unified and strong commitment to enforce all laws on those who traffic in Crystal Meth while at the same time, a commitment to education and prevention practices is necessary in an attempt to prevent more widespread use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards lobby the Federal Government to establish an Action Plan in consultation with provincial governments and national and provincial policing associations, that includes education, information and enforcement to help communities across Canada to deal with the increasing and alarming rates of Crystal Meth addictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards lobby the Federal Government for immediate funding to increase the amount of beds, facilities for detoxification and treatment programs.

RESOLUTION 05-2: PENALTIES FOR PRODUCTION, POSSESSION AND TRAFFICKING OF CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE

WHEREAS methamphetamine (crystal meth) is a dangerous and highly addictive drug which can cause paranoia, depression, behavioural changes and permanent brain damage in its users; and

WHEREAS the chemical precursors of methamphetamine, and information about production methods, are easily accessible, and the resultant growing number of "meth labs" pose a danger of explosions, fire and exposure to hazardous agents; and

WHEREAS cases involving the production or importation of significant amounts of methamphetamine are being seen more frequently before the courts; and

WHEREAS these cases are often treated by the courts as equivalent to marijuana grow-ops, despite the extreme danger to the community that both the labs and their product pose; and

WHEREAS the maximum sentence of 10 years for production of methamphetamines, no matter the amount, is inadequate for major cases and does not adequately reflect the seriousness of those offences;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the federal government to move methamphetamine from Schedule III to Schedule I of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, thereby increasing the maximum penalty for trafficking or possession for the purpose of trafficking to life imprisonment, consistent with the maximum sentence for offences involving drugs such as heroin and cocaine, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the Federal Government to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to include Class A precursors found in Schedule VI within the list of substances that are the responsibility of Health Canada to destroy.

RESOLUTION 05-3:
TOUGHER SENTENCING FOR VIOLENT AND DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIMES

WHEREAS the citizens of our communities feel that lenient or inappropriate sentences are being given in serious criminal matters; and

WHEREAS there is no deterrent effect for offenders when lenient or inappropriate sentences are given in serious criminal matters; and

WHEREAS citizens are being victimized in our communities with insufficient retribution or punishment for perpetrators of these crimes; and

WHEREAS drug trafficking is an illegal and prosperous business, solely based on greed with a devastating effect on society, with respect to both policing costs and human suffering; and

WHEREAS violent crimes must be taken seriously and have accountability within punishment guidelines to send clear messages to those offending;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards lobby the Federal Government to address the current sentencing guidelines, including minimum sentences, for violent and drug trafficking offences in order to establish consistent sentencing principles that reflect the seriousness of the offence, with the emphasis on protection of our society.

RESOLUTION 05-4: VIDEO GAME VIOLENCE

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) is dedicated to the safety of police officers in carrying out their duties and responsibilities on behalf of all citizens;

WHEREAS the CAPB is also dedicated to the well-being of children and youth;

WHEREAS the video game Grand Theft Auto – San Andreas released in October 2004, allows its players to run over a police officer and steal his gun; kill three innocent bystanders; shoot two more police officers; beat a woman to death; and carjack a taxi driver to a soundtrack of racial slurs and hardcore gangster rap, all the while receiving cumulative rewards for each subsequent killing;

WHEREAS many children spend 90 minutes a day playing video games and many parents are not aware that home video games like Grand Theft Auto – San Andreas involve a constant hurting and/or killing of others, depict violent death and provide cumulative rewards to the player for each killing;

WHEREAS, many in the police governance and law enforcement communities are concerned about the possible influence and effects of visual violence, including the rampant killing of police officers, depicted in video games like Grand Theft Auto – San Andreas;

WHEREAS, the availability of a video game that rewards young people for killing police greatly undermines the positive work that police officers do with youth in our schools and communities;

WHEREAS there is no current legislation in Ontario that requires classification stickers on mainstream videos intended for home use;

WHEREAS the Ontario Film Review Board states it represents a cross-section of many diverse communities across Ontario and therefore reflects their current standards;

WHEREAS under pending legislation by the Ontario Government, the Ontario Film Review Board will be given authority to adopt the American classification system of video games played by Ontario youth;

WHEREAS the Ontario Film Review Board states that its policies have been shaped and influenced by external social forces and that it continues to adapt and mirror the tastes and standards of the various societies it serves;

WHEREAS most informed parents and grandparents would not likely accept that the killing of police officers and women in video games mirrors their tastes or standards or those of the communities in which they live;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CAPB urge provincial and federal governments to ban the purchase, sale and distribution of all video games, including Grand Theft Auto – San Andreas, that depict the injuring and killing of police officers, women and children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CAPB urge provincial and federal governments to pass legislation that requires classification stickers on mainstream videos intended for home use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CAPB urge provincial governments to adopt video game classification systems that reflect the standards of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CAPB work with interested police boards and provincial policing associations, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Professional Police Association in urging police services and their community partners to develop effective public awareness strategies aimed at reducing young people's consumption of violent video games; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CAPB forward this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for distribution to municipalities in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CAPB support the efforts of all those agencies involved in developing a consistent Canadian legislative or regulatory framework that will address video game violence.

RESOLUTION 05-5: RAISING AGE OF CONSENT

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) has forwarded a letter on behalf of one of its members, the LaSalle Police Services Board, requesting that all police boards in Canada be asked to write to the Attorney General of Canada requesting that the age of consent for sexual activity with an adult be raised from fourteen (14) years of age to eighteen (18) years of age; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Police Boards approved a resolution in 1998 urging the Federal Government to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada* to raise the age of consent to sexual activity from 14 years to 16 years for those offences enumerated in section 150.1; and

WHEREAS, under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, it is currently not a criminal offence for an adult to engage in sexual activity with a young person aged 14 years or older if the young person consents to the sexual activity with certain exceptions (i.e. it is a criminal offence for an adult in a position of trust or authority over a young person to engage in consensual sexual activity with a young person 14 years or older; and it is a criminal offence for an adult to obtain, for consideration, the sexual services of a person under the age of 18);

WHEREAS raising the age of consent from 14 years could assist in the prosecution of

adults who buy sex from young people because it would permit a prosecution for sexual assault without the necessity of proof that there was payment of money or other consideration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the Federal Government to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada* to raise the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 years to 16 years.

RESOLUTION 05-6:
ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE IMPENDING INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

WHEREAS the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the coming Avian Influenza (H5N1) pandemic will cause a worldwide public health emergency; and

WHEREAS it has been estimated by the World Health Organization that this influenza pandemic could occur any time within the next few years; and

WHEREAS the recent experience in Canada of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) has shown us how quickly such an infectious agent can circle the globe and have a powerful negative physiological, psychological, and economic impact; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for co-ordinated disaster management plans between levels of government and their respective emergency services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the Government of Canada to establish a Disaster Management Plan for Avian Influenza, in consultation and in coordination with provincial and municipal governments, that includes such essential components as education, information and enforcement to help communities across Canada to prepare for the impending pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards lobby the Government of Canada for immediate funding to increase the amount of resources available to publicly funded emergency services first responders in order to properly deal with an influenza pandemic, including such resources as early access to any influenza vaccine.

RESOLUTION 05-7:
ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF COMPUTER CRIME

WHEREAS the use of the Internet and computers by criminal elements has given rise to the emergence of new types of crime as well as the commission of traditional crimes by means of new mediums; and

WHEREAS the increased connectivity of both businesses and home residences to the Internet has dramatically increased the vulnerability of our citizens and our information

systems by providing increased opportunities for criminal exploitation if proper precautions are not taken; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for law enforcement to attract, train, and retain more technology savvy members, both sworn and civilian; and

WHEREAS those who perpetuate crime by way of computers and the Internet are increasingly located in places other than where their acts produce their effects and this results in jurisdictional, investigative, and procedural challenges for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS solutions to the problems posed by computer and Internet crime must be addressed by international law, necessitating the adoption of adequate international legal instruments; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation has recognised the seriousness of computer crime and made it their third priority after counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the Government of Canada to establish an immediate Action Plan, in consultation and in coordination with other levels of governments, and the governments of other countries, that addresses education, information, and enforcement strategies to deal with the explosive growth of worldwide computer crime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the Government of Canada for immediate funding so as to increase the number of law enforcement officers engaged in policing the Internet and preventing computer crime generally.

RESOLUTION 05-8: FEDERAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

WHEREAS the protection of the public, especially children, must be the primary focus of any registry of sexual offenders; and

WHEREAS a rapid response is critical in an investigation of a child abduction for a sexual purpose, in that of victims murdered in these circumstances 44 per cent were dead within an hour of abduction, 74 per cent were dead within three hours and 91 per cent were dead within 24 hours; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Sex Offender Registry 'Christopher's Law' provides for this capability, as well as numerous other features designed to maximize the ability of a police service to investigate and locate potential victims of sexual offenders in as timely a fashion as possible; and

WHEREAS the efficacy and investigative practicality of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry has been proven over the course of the four years it has been in effect; and

WHEREAS SOIRA is deficient in many ways to the Ontario registry, including a lack of investigative capabilities, a delayed response to queries, and legislative restrictions on queries from law enforcement personnel, to a point where it is estimated that 70 per cent of current convicted sex offenders are not being tracked; and

WHEREAS, in the near future when the Provincial Sex Offender Registry and the Federal Sex Offender Information Registration Act are to be merged, the investigative capabilities of the OSOR may be eliminated, either through the merger or a legal and/or constitutional challenge;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Police Boards urge the Government of Canada to take every action possible to ensure that the advantages provided by 'Christopher's Law' be incorporated into SOIRA, and to the extent possible, be adopted by every jurisdiction in Canada.

RESOLUTION 05-9: INTEGRATED POLICING POLICY FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS a policy review of policing arrangements has not been conducted during the past two decades in Canada; and

WHEREAS the current system of policing creates inefficiencies, duplication and fragmentation at a time when many serious threats to public safety are multi-jurisdictional and global in nature; and

WHEREAS Canadian police services are embracing "integrated policing" as a concept to guide collaborative operational work across jurisdictional and agency boundaries, to meet the expectations of citizens and orders of government; and

WHEREAS Canadian police agencies, governance bodies, municipal representatives, independent research and government officials have agreed that a definition of integrated policing is required so that there is no ambiguity about respective roles and responsibilities and how this concept applies at the tactical, operational and especially strategic levels; and

WHEREAS an integrated policing policy framework is required to be developed by governments, in their role in providing the legislative and policy structure to clarify and support police management and operations; and

WHEREAS orders of government have an opportunity to shape policing for Canada's future in a way that reflects a greater voice for communities in the national dialogue about safety and security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards join with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in calling upon the federal and provincial governments to:

- 1) pursue studies and analyses on the costs, and operational and strategic implications of current policing arrangements;

- 2) confirm roles and responsibilities of each order of government consistent with Canada's constitution and governments' stated commitment to municipal engagement on public safety issues;
- 3) jointly, with representatives of the municipal order of government, establish a policy framework to support police agencies in operating within Canada's multi-jurisdictional policing environment; and
- 4) define integrated policing as a concept and analyze the implications of this concept applied respectively at the tactical, operational and strategic levels.