

Taking Stock:
Focus Group Report

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As the main researcher for these focus groups, it was my responsibility to do the preparations and planning, manage the logistics, co-facilitate the events, and report on the findings. As with any series of focus groups, they can't be successful without a lot of people working together, with consensus decision-making, towards a stated goal. I want to thank everyone who helped make these consultations such a success.

The other members of the research team are Julie Devon Dodd and Jill Lightwood. And the other researchers are Nishka Smith, Paula Gallant, Colette Arsenault and Susan Hornby.

I also want to thank the individuals who put their time and energy into recruiting participants and providing space for the focus groups. This includes:

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Grace Vos – Mi'Kmaq Confederacy of PEI, and

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The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author, and reflect the comments made by the participants. They may not reflect the views of the author or the funder.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, the Taking Stock project was launched to “take stock, and with community and government partners, put in place a plan to work together for community safety and well-being by addressing the root causes of crime.” The goal is to move towards a comprehensive community approach to crime prevention through social development in Prince Edward Island.

The focus group report is a piece of work that is one component of a larger project. The goal is to organize and host a series of six focus groups with communities of interest across Prince Edward Island. The focus groups brought participants together to ask their opinion of crime prevention and community safety from the perspective of their community of interest. The research findings will provide a basis for discussion and contribution to the provincial Comprehensive Framework and Action Plan.

In 1995, a report entitled “*Strategies for Safer Communities in Prince Edward Island*” was released. One part of the research that informed the Strategy was a series of focus groups. To attempt to line up with the communities of interest from 1995, focus groups were set up with the following communities: seniors, newcomers, gay men, francophone and acadienne people, Aboriginal youth and women. A total of 41 people participated in the six groups. All the information gathered from the focus groups was collated and analyzed for common themes. The focus groups were not designed to be exhaustive.

There are numerous limitations to this research. One is that for the six focus groups, there were several co-facilitators based on language and skill with the audience. A second limitation was in the translation. And, a third limitation was in timing.

BUILDING ON THE “STRATEGY FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES” (1995)

In 1995, the “*Strategy for Safer Communities in Prince Edward Island*” was released by Community and Correctional Services and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee. For this research, nearly 400 Islanders were consulted by survey or focus group including:

- Nearly 200 seniors interviewed about their safety concerns through the *Seniors Housing Survey*

- Nearly 100 students in grades 7 to 9 answered a questionnaire, and
- Over 80 people participated in the focus groups.¹

The research in 1994-1995 led to the Strategy and from that, a vision statement of safer communities was developed:

“Visions of safer communities in Prince Edward Island are similar for people from Souris to Tignish. The qualities of a safer community are the same for men, women, disabled, youth, gay or immigrants. A safe community is one where people know their neighbors, respect themselves and each other, where everyone is valued and included in decisions and activities of the community. There is an absence of alcohol and drug abuse, violence and fear.”

This vision became the foundation of work that led from the Strategy in 1994-1995 to the document *Working Together for Community Safety, a Prince Edward Island Approach for Safer Communities*, released in 2004 by the Office of the Attorney General.

SYNOPSIS OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

For this report to have a longitudinal flavour, it is important to capture a short synopsis of government and community interventions since the 1995 Strategy before examining the comments made by focus group participants. There seem to be more examples of changes in community safety when there are more organizations working together, in partnership, for change. This increases the ground-swell, and government and community both put more focus in these areas. For each community of interest that was part of these focus groups, a quick review of federal, provincial and community initiatives linked to crime prevention and community safety or the root causes of crime were described.

FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

To understand the perspective of six communities of interest in relation to community safety, a set of three questions were asked: what makes a community safe; when don't you feel safe; and, what are the root causes of crime? The comments reflect common themes across the groups as well as point out any differences by community.

5.1 What makes a community safe?

For this question, most focus group participants named a short listed of concepts that answered the question for them. This question didn't seem to elicit as much open discussion as the questions that followed it. However, all groups talked about the following:

- Looking out for each other and a sense of belonging
- Leaving your house or car unlocked
- Being connected to your history and heritage
- The presence of police and other services as a deterrent to crime
- Community inclusion, diversity in language, religion and culture
- Lack of family violence and resources to support families
- Absence of drug and alcohol abuse
- Prosperity and having resources

5.2 When you don't feel safe? Activities you don't do because you don't feel safe?

This question led to much discussion yet there was considerable agreement across the groups as to when they did not feel safe in their communities. Common themes included:

- Lack of personal safety to walk alone at night, driving at night in rural areas and harassing phone call
- All forms of family violence
- Youth hanging around in groups in intimidating and the need for safe schools
- Alcohol and street or prescription drugs abuse
- A lack of police presence in our community
Youth Criminal Justice Act not being used as it was originally intended
- Architectural security and a lack of lighting, home security,
- Places of employment that aren't inclusive or consider the personal safety of their staff

5.3 The Root Causes of Crime

In discussing the root causes of crime, most groups mentioned the same issues, in the same order of importance. Their answers included the following:

- Drugs and alcohol

- Poverty and lack of good paying jobs
 - Youth and parental responsibility
 - Stranger and family violence
 - Lack of inclusion
 - Literacy and education/consolidated schools
- Architecture including signage, lighting and parking garages

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

To summarize, it can be noted that repetition of themes across the questions. Concepts that participants described as factors that make their communities safe, were then reiterated as issues for community safety from other perspectives. They all continued to come back around in the discussion on the root causes of crime. There were very few discussions that were particular to just one group. Almost everything mentioned by any one group, was reflected in another group, although sometimes they used different words or language to express their issues.

Even though this report does reflect back to the 1995 Strategy and lists a synopsis of changes and interventions particular to the focus group communities of interest, it is not a true longitudinal study. There would be great benefits to setting up a proper research study that could take into account the research findings from the other Taking Stock research

2. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the Taking Stock project was launched to “take stock, and with community and government partners, put in place a plan to work together for community safety and well-being by addressing the root causes of crime.” The goal is to move towards a comprehensive community approach to crime prevention through social development in Prince Edward Island.

Taking Stock is a project sponsored by the Provincial Safer Communities Management Group and coordinated through an eight member Management Group comprised of community and government partners. It is funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre, Public Safety Canada. The focus group report is a piece of work that is one component of a larger project. The goal is to organize and host a series of six focus groups with communities of interest across Prince Edward Island. The focus groups brought participants together to ask their opinion of crime prevention and community safety from the perspective of their community of interest.

Researchers collected and analyzed qualitative information on the opinion of participants. The research was carried out on February 27, March 8, March 12, March 15 and March 16, 2007 by researchers Laurie Ann McCardle and Nishka Smith for those in English. The researchers for the French language focus group included Paula Gallant, Colette Arsenault and Laurie Ann McCardle. And, the researchers for the Aboriginal Youth focus group were Laurie Ann McCardle and Susan Hornby. The research was guided by the Management Group, and the Taking Stock Research Team of Julie Devon Dodd and Jill Lightwood.

The research findings will provide a basis for discussion and contribution to the provincial Comprehensive Framework and Action Plan that will be the guide for crime prevention and community safety work by community and government on PEI over the next number of years.

3. METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

In 1995, a report entitled “*Strategies for Safer Communities in Prince Edward Island*” was released. One part of the research that informed the Strategy was a series of focus groups conducted by the researcher and author, Julie Devon Dodd. The work of Taking Stock has built upon the 1995 Strategy and “*Working Together for Community Safety, A Prince Edward Island Approach for Safer Communities*” released in 2004.

In the Strategy, focus groups were conducted with communities of interest and geographic communities. It was decided that the approach to these focus groups would be to take a longitudinal look at the what was said by communities of interest in 1995, reference some of the pertinent research and activities that happened in the intervening years particular to these communities of interest, and conduct focus groups with those same groups to attempt to get a sense of how safe they feel in their communities at this point in time. This is not a true longitudinal study which would include pre-planning, monitoring and evaluation of work conducted over this time period. However, through a general comparison, we will have some idea of the sense participants have of safety in their communities and if it has changed over time.

Through discussions with the Management Group, it was decided not to pursue focus groups with geographic communities. Instead, these resources would be used at a later time in the project to validate and endorse the provincial comprehensive framework and action plan.

To attempt to line up with the communities of interest from 1995, focus groups were set up with the following communities: seniors, newcomers, gay men, francophone and acadienne people, Aboriginal youth and women. In 1995 some of the data was collected using different methods than we had available in this time period. For example, in 1995 senior were questioned as part of a survey conducted by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Youth were surveyed by teachers in classroom settings. And in 1995, a focus group was conducted with people with disabilities. The Management Group decided to do a focus group with francophone and acadienne participants instead. A limitation is that we would not have the same individuals present to express their opinions.

Participants were recruited to the focus groups through direct communication with the person at each center who coordinated their focus group. Therefore, participant selection was not random. Gender of the participants was a limitation. Obviously, the groups for gay men, and the

women's groups were of one gender. However, for three of the other four groups, participants were predominantly female and in the fourth focus group, all participants were women.

In recruiting, we asked for between six and eight participants per group. Our actual numbers were 9 in the seniors group, 3 in the newcomers group, 6 in the gay men's group, 5 in the francophone and acadienne group, 9 in the Aboriginal youth group and 9 in the women's group. A total of 41 people participated in the six groups. For the six groups, eight other individuals were absent due to last-minute changes in their schedules.

All the information gathered from the focus groups was collated and analyzed for common themes. The focus groups were not designed to be exhaustive. These were the opinions of a small group of participants by community of interest, currently living in PEI. As would be imagined, most the participants spoke quite freely, and others were quiet during the focus groups.

To ensure consent and confidentiality, forms were read aloud, signed and witnessed (see Appendix A for the consent form). For the Aboriginal youth group, parents signed their consent forms and the person who coordinated the group remained through part of the process. The oral questioning route is provided as Appendix B. For the francophone and acadienne group, the project information, the consent form, and the questioning route were translated. After the French session, the notes were reviewed and orally translated for the main researcher.

There are numerous limitations to this research. One is that for the six focus groups, there were several co-facilitators based on language and skill with the audience. A second limitation was in the translation. Even though we worked with a company that translated other documents for the project, wording needed to be adjusted to ensure continuity of the meaning of the questions. And, a third limitation was in timing. The original timeline for the focus groups from the project proposal was for December, 2006 and have the questioning route reflect findings from the other research components of Taking Stock. However, that research was late, and in the end, these focus groups went ahead in February and March, without being able to reflect on the other research findings.

The focus groups and literature highlight the main issues and the findings. It is hoped that this will be useful in providing discussion points for the Management Group, Planning Committee and those attending the Provincial Workshop in order to develop a provincial comprehensive

framework and action plan for crime prevention and community safety for PEI in the coming years.

4. BUILDING ON THE “STRATEGY FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES” (1995)

In 1995, the “*Strategy for Safer Communities in Prince Edward Island*” was released by Community and Correctional Services and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee. For this research, nearly 400 Islanders were consulted by survey or focus group including:

- Nearly 200 seniors interviewed about their safety concerns through the *Seniors Housing Survey*
- Nearly 100 students in grades 7 to 9 answered a questionnaire, and
- Over 80 people participated in the focus groups.²

The following is a short synopsis of the general findings by community of interest.

Seniors:

Most of the 200 seniors who responded to the *Seniors Housing Survey* were female. Many of the themes of community safety included the need for architectural changes. Some suggestions included addressing issues of easy access to their building, inadequate locks and poor exterior lighting.³

Youth:

96 students from two schools completed a survey questionnaire. Issues of safety at school focused on smoking and drinking in the school yard, bullying and fighting, and guys comments to girls. Issues of safety in their community focused on drinking and driving, drugs, fear of walking alone at night, rape, theft and break-ins, vicious dogs and living far from their neighbors. Students offered a series of suggestions of things that could be done to make them safer including keeping their schools neat and clean, more family supports, knowing their neighbors, responsive policing, discussions in church about family violence and government making laws to ban firearms.⁴

Women:

Twelve women from the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women participated in the focus group. Most relayed personal stories and direct experiences of being a victim of crime.

Contributing factors included violence in the media, lack of self-respect, transient communities where you don't know your neighbors and youth who are bored. Ideas expressed to create safer communities included the justice system holding people accountable for their actions, increasing self-respect in our youth, educating parents on the need for positive discipline, hosting events where we get to know our neighbors and target hardening of our environment (better lighting and home security systems).⁵

Immigrants:

Seven men and women who were members of the PEI Newcomers Association participated in a focus group. None had direct experience with crime. However, they were afraid of crimes such as theft and vandalism based in racism and the effects of alcohol and drinking. They talked about the lack of respect for those who are different and for the elderly. They spoke of the need for anti-racism and cultural awareness education, educating children in schools and adults about anti-discrimination, building communities to be more inclusive, and having a justice system that enforced the law.⁶

Gay Men:

Six gay men participated through the Gay and Lesbian Support Line. All men experienced harassment in PEI, although none had been physically abused. Feeling unsafe was a daily concern and had experienced threats in many aspects of their life (social, housing, employment). Four key factors to their lack of safety included the influence of religion, double-standards created by closeted gay men in positions of authority, lack of human rights protection and the myths of gay men as pedophiles. To create a safer community, they suggested changing laws related to consensual sex, upholding human rights legislation, educating children and adults to understand distinct communities with concerns and dispel myths, build communities to be more inclusive and provide services to meet the needs of gays and lesbians who experience violence.⁷

People with Disabilities:

Eight people with disabilities, having children with disabilities or from the PEI Council of the Disabled participated in the focus group. Many felt vulnerable to crime because of their disability. Factors that contributed to their feeling of being less safe included transients in their neighborhood, violence in the media, fear of youth in groups or gangs, and communities being more segregated by economic conditions. Ideas they put forward to improve their sense of a safer community included a greater presence of the police in their community, people with disabilities

being empowered and educated about what exists in their community as well as assertiveness training, and communities that are built barrier-free.⁸

The research in 1994-1995 led to the Strategy and from that, a vision statement of safer communities was developed:

“Visions of safer communities in Prince Edward Island are similar for people from Souris to Tignish. The qualities of a safer community are the same for men, women, disabled, youth, gay or immigrants. A safe community is one where people know their neighbors, respect themselves and each other, where everyone is valued and included in decisions and activities of the community. There is an absence of alcohol and drug abuse, violence and fear.”

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5. SYNOPSIS OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

For this report to have a longitudinal flavour, it is important to capture a short synopsis of government and community interventions since the 1995 Strategy before examining the comments made by focus group participants. There seem to be more examples of changes in community safety when there are more organizations working together, in partnership, for change. This increases the ground-swell, and government and community both put more focus in these areas.

Seniors:

Over the ten year period, there have been many changes focusing on seniors. The federal government has made changes to its funding in communities, moving away from supporting groups that provided social and recreation opportunities. This funding loss meant many small community groups had to find other ways to meet their mandate. Over this time, the provincial government has taken a focus on seniors by changes to the structure of the Department of Health and Social Services. Now PEI has a Department of Social Services and Seniors, bringing greater

profile to this community of interest and recognizing their specific issues. At the community level, changes have included the formation of a new provincial organization, the Seniors United Network (SUN).

The most prominent program to help seniors in relation to safety is the “*PEI Seniors Safety Program: Safety for Island Seniors.*” This program has 4 specific areas of focus: home security; Vial of Life; video identification; and frauds and scams. The PEI Seniors Safety Program is a non-profit charitable organization incorporated in 2003. The PEI Seniors Safety Program is managed and marketed by a volunteer Board of Directors and a part-time paid Coordinator. The Program is networked with RCMP offices, police departments, senior organizations, church and social organizations across the province. The mission of the PEI Seniors Safety Program is to provide accurate and timely personal and home safety information to isolated, vulnerable, and community-dwelling seniors: in their own homes, in group and public presentations, and through partnerships with the police, other like minded organizations, and local businesses.⁹

Youth:

Many changes affecting youth have occurred in this time including the continued impact of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Provincially, two and a half years ago, Youth Justice Services Teams were established. Several events were instrumental in the evolution of the Youth Justice section, specifically the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the transfer of Tyne Valley Youth Centre to Health and Social Services, and the closure of Georgetown Youth Centre. In June 2004 the Youth Justice Services Teams were established with the aim of specializing interventions for youth at all levels of the continuum including crime prevention, early intervention, diversion, support and rehabilitation, reintegration, community engagement, and mandated enforcement of court orders. The success of the Youth Justice Teams is attributable to the passion and dedication of those doing the work coupled with the strong partnerships and collaboration with community stakeholders, both formal and non-traditional. These community partnerships are seen as the foundation of the work.

Many community challenges reflected in the faces of the youth work, including:

- abuse of drugs and alcohol are having devastating impacts on our youth and families, reflected as increased violence, stealing, break and enters, and much more
- family's struggle to function in the face of barriers such as financial limitations, lack of support, being a single parent with competing demands, mental health challenges, addiction and domestic violence issues
- many of our youth are becoming disconnected from family and community as a result of abuse and neglect issues, lack of support and supervision from parents, lack of housing, and they have greater and more complex issues
- peer violence continues to cause concern from bullying to harassment to physical violence, and
- poverty and unemployment which causes stress.

In schools we offer many programs including Life Skills and Relationship Awareness, Anger Management, Healthy Choices Program, Economics of Staying in School, Roots of Empathy, PARTY (Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth), ECLIPSE Program (a judo and self esteem program for victims of bullying), Crime Prevention Drama Skits, Weight Lifting and self esteem Program, S.A.P. (Student Assistance Program) and Stoplifting.¹⁰

We also have an Aboriginal Justice Program operating through the Mi'Kmaq Confederacy of PEI. The Aboriginal Justice Program (AJP) is an initiative focused on providing aboriginal people and their communities with a greater role, and voice in the administration of Justice on PEI. The program is joint-funded through Justice Canada's Aboriginal Justice Strategy, in partnership with PEI's Office of the Attorney General.

The main goals of the program are to:

- Support Aboriginal communities as they take greater responsibility for the administration of justice;

- Help reduce crime and incarceration rates; and
- To make Canada's justice system more responsive to the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people.

The AJP works with communities and service organizations to create a system that provides offenders access to traditional justice methods, such as sentencing circles. AJP also facilitates understanding between Aboriginal people and the mainstream Canadian legal system through the sharing of information. The AJP on PEI, and subsequent justice work will set an example for all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the country.¹¹

Women:

Women have been the focus of numerous changes. Over the past year and a half, the federal government has dismantled many of the supports and funding previously available through Status of Women Canada. The impact of these decisions has been felt throughout equality-seeking women's organizations across the province. This has led to staff turnover, and many organizations struggling for survival.

The Provincial government supports efforts such as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Transition House Association and the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre. They also provide indirect support to other women's organization.

Before these very significant changes, many community groups worked in a wide variety of ways to address women's safety, both in their family and in the community at large. Many organizations also worked on the broader root causes of crime including addressing women's economic equality. Women's Network PEI has conducted a three-phase project to support safer communities for women with disabilities. Generally, their findings showed that efforts to make communities safer for women with disabilities, made the community safer for all its members. At the same time, they conducted projects on the root causes of crime including: Developing Actions towards Meaningful Employment

(DAME); Addressing Women's Economic Equality; and Looking Beyond the Surface: An Indepth Review of Parental Benefits.¹²

The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention conducted a social marketing campaign placing family violence information on sticker in the washroom stall doors in public facilities. There is ongoing work on family violence through the Circle of Prevention, the Justice Options for Women, Justice Protocols, and establishing a Domestic Violence court option. The public's focus is brought to ongoing issues and work through events such as the December 6th Memorial and International Women's Day.

Some of the latest efforts focused on women's safety include a partnership that lead to a social marketing campaign to inform women about the use of date rape drugs in alcoholic drinks at bars, and information on how to protect them. A court case in PEI in 2003, involving girls ages 12 and 13 providing oral sex to an 18 year-old male drew international attention and left no doubt that the practice of "hooking up" is a reality on the Island.¹³

Immigrants:

PEI Association of Newcomers to Canada is funded by 4 federal government departments and the government of PEI. They bring focus to the many issues newcomers and immigrants face in moving to PEI. Many of their programs focus on the broader root causes of crime and safety, including supports to employment, housing, education and English as a second language. "The Employment Assistance Service helps newcomers to Canada overcome barriers in their search for work. The service helps newcomers learn the skills to find employment. Our Employment Counsellor works with newcomers individually to determine their employment related strengths and goals. The newcomer and counsellor decide upon an action plan for finding work."¹⁴

CUSO is another community-based organization that works to support the broader root causes of crime in the community. Together with Cooper Institute, they are founding members of The PEI Working Group for a Livable Income. This work is particularly important to the root causes of crime affecting newcomers who often work in low-paying, part-time jobs with limited benefits.

“The PEI Working Group for a Livable Income brings together numerous groups from across Prince Edward Island to address the province-wide problem of low wages for workers. The Working Group challenges governments and communities to move beyond talking about minimum wage and instead to look towards truly livable incomes. The Working Group asserts that for the health of all Islanders and of our Province’s economy, we need collective action to overcome the social and economic effects of low income.” Their work contains 8 recommendations connecting to most of the groups our focus groups report on: the need for statistics related to low wages on PEI, effects on youth people, seniors, women, Aboriginal, people with disabilities, part-time and seasonal workers who are often newcomers or immigrants.¹⁵

Gay Men:

This is one community where very significant changes have occurred over the past ten years, many of them mentioned in the 1995 report. Changes have been made to legislation that upholds the Charter of Rights and Freedoms including same-sex marriage in both Canadian and Provincial legislation.

At a local level, there are more organizations working to support gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgendered, two-spirited individuals. The Gay and Lesbian Support Line has grown into the Abegweit Rainbow Collective (ARC), and they also offer more supports to youth. Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) has also emerged on PEI and has lead many community based projects that has lead to inroads in many areas including schools and municipalities.

The Homophobia Task Force has brought together many groups interested in gay and lesbian rights. Through their work, they developed their definitions of “Diversity” “Inclusion”. Working Group members wanted to insure that the terms “diversity” and “inclusion” didn’t water down the meaning of our common work. Members identified what they meant by the terms. For example:

- Valuing and Respecting Difference
- Celebrating our Differences
- Accommodating Differences and Identifying Barriers
- Equity Policy

During the Homophobia Task Force roundtable discussions on inclusion and barriers, the following statements were made:

- The “Community Promise” is a statement about inclusion developed in PEI, signed by people to show their support, and posted in offices and meeting rooms
- Allow visibility (to be seen) and openness (not having to hide your difference)
- Participation and access to services
- Sometimes we hide who we are to fit in (example: a non-visible physical disability, or being a lesbian)
- It is society’s job to remove these barriers to inclusion

The Task Force identified the important barrier that when a person is already a member of a group identified by ability, race or ethnic characteristics and experiencing some degree of discrimination, it is very difficult and sometimes dangerous to be visible in one’s homosexuality. We identified the support of addressing diversity in more inclusive ways and expanding our understanding of many different types of diversity.¹⁶

Francophone and Acadienne:

Federally, some financial assistance is offered through the Department of State. There are many organizations that work to create inclusive communities for francophone and acadienne people on PEI. Jeunesse Acadienne, l’association des femme acadienne et francophone de l’IPE, La Voix Acadienne, Parents for French, the Saint Thomas Aquinos

Society, and so many others all work in many ways to address the broader root causes of crime.

Jeunesse Acadienne provides francophone youth with activities in their own language along with education and economic development opportunities.¹⁷ L'association des femmes acadienne et francophone de L'IPE promotes women's equality, and specifically works on health, economics and preventing violence. They are also a founding member of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income and work in partnership with many organizations to meet their organizations goals.¹⁸

6. FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

To understand the perspective of six communities of interest in relation to community safety, a set of three questions were asked: what makes a community safe; when don't you feel safe; and, what are the root causes of crime? The comments reflect common themes across the groups as well as point out any differences by community.

6.1 What makes a community safe?

For this question, most focus group participants named a short listed of concepts that answered the question for them. This question didn't seem to elicit as much open discussion as the questions that followed it.

Looking out for each other:

Every group started the discussion with the fact that they feel safe when they know the people in their community. They recognize the need for people to take the time to stop and talk to each other. They all reflected the need to get to know each other, especially our neighbors, and to be willing to look out for each other. One participant summed it up as, "*You need to be able to look each other in the eye.*" People also talked about

concepts like trust and freedom, being non-judgmental, having connections, and an appreciation for diversity.

People explained this sense of personal safety as one where you walk alone after dark, to go about your day, to go shopping. You trust people living around you, that no one's going to cheat you, or that nothing bad will happen to you. You feel safe that nothing will happen to you.

“In big cities, people worry about conflict and terrorism, but that's not so important here on PEI.”

Newcomers focus group

Almost every group had participants that live in rural areas of the province who spoke about always feeling safe and never locking their doors or the cars. However, some did say this sense of safety was being lost. Few relayed personal experiences with thief, but all discussed the possibilities and the changes to their habits after incidents were reported in the media or experienced by their neighbors, including break and enters. People also spoke of feeling safer in their smaller, “home” communities than they did when they moved to the larger centers on PEI. They liked being closer to their home where you feel like you know somebody when things happen. Several participants stated, *“It was important to have a sense that people will rally around you if anything goes wrong.”*

Even at young ages, people recognize the importance of belonging to a community. At the Aboriginal youth focus group, the question was asked, “What is the best thing about living on Lennox Island?” Every youth answered family, friends, and that Lennox Island is a small place and you know everyone. They talked about long family traditions and wanting to be like the elders when they grow up. The elders are seen as a good influence and positive role models. They said an example of what makes their community strong is how everyone is supportive of a family who loses someone, or if someone has to go to the hospital. They do community fundraisers to support each other.

Police and other services:

Even though many groups acknowledged that police presence isn't really what makes you feel safe, they all did say that they saw police as a deterrent to crime and that made them feel safer. They felt more secure when they saw police on the streets, on foot patrol and on their bikes in the summer. Community policing made an impact for security, versus providing a service after a crime had happened. In one group, a participant spoke of having a very supportive relationship with the local RCMP. They proactively work together to put safety plans in place to deter issues (specifically in relationship to vandalism at Halloween).

Beyond police, people who were familiar with who to call or where to get help and know what's available thought they might feel safer in their communities. The focus group with the Advisory Council on the Status of Women spoke of having others in the community there to protect you, including the role of the volunteer fire departments on PEI. When you call, they show up on mass, often able to respond quicker than other emergency services in the area.

Inclusion:

This concept was raised in every group, although not in this language specifically. It was framed as a community that has a variety of community supports to offer. This lets you know that your concerns are important, are heard and acted on. Diversity in the community builds security, and they spoke of diversity in language, religion and culture in particular. Having diversity is seen as important for a community to breed tolerance and acceptance.

“On PEI, we don't have big communities of ethnic groups, so there's not much problem of safety. I have lived here for three years, and not seen any crime.”

Newcomers focus group

The Aboriginal youth talked about being proud of their heritage and wanting to learn more about their culture and language. They petitioned their school for these classes. The

petition required 200 signatures for the school to support their request. They worked hard and got over 400 signatures. So far, this has left them disappointed because they don't have these classes yet. They also talked about being part of an Aboriginal drumming group and liked doing cultural exchanges and the opportunity to travel off-Island.

Safety within a Family:

People spoke of safety within a family unit when it is free of all forms of family violence. They also spoke of parents playing active roles in the lives of their children and knowing where their kids are. They all had examples of youth out late at night, without their parents, at quite young ages, with no one to answer to. They talked about this creating safety issues for both the youth and others in the community.

Absence of drug and alcohol abuse:

Almost every group spoke of feeling safe, except when drugs (both prescription and street) and alcohol were abused. There were specific examples of break and enter crimes by people looking for drugs or looking for things to steal to get money for drugs. There was an example from one participant about feeling unsafe in her neighborhood due to a "drug smuggler" in an apartment close by creating lots of trouble which led to a "drug squad raid" and became a big drama on television. But, she also recognized that she has friends with kids involved with drugs that have gone through rehabilitation programs and used addiction services and are doing very well now.

"Feel very safe here, had lots of experiences with lots of crime and saw problems every day – in comparison, here there is no stress, no problem, no crime. Just hear lots about youth and drugs."

Newcomers focus group

Prosperity:

Participants recognized that having economic resources gives you a sense of security. They also noted that with finances you are often treated with more respect. There was also discussion on the flip side, with participants in the Newcomers focus group in

particular stating that it is hard to get a good job on PEI and hard to get needed supports. For some, English as a second language is a barrier to employment. They talked about their children school not offering much for after-school programs for music or cooking, and just have a few sports for the kids. This participant was really feeling the effects of government cuts to sport and recreation for her children, and not having the economic base to provide more for her children herself.

Even though this was said “tongue in cheek”, and accompanied by laughter, several groups mentioned feeling safe when you are the one with a big dog, or a “Beware of Dog” sign, or a “yappy” dog.

6.2 When you don’t feel safe? Activities you don’t do because you don’t feel safe?

Opening the discussion to this question led to other questions from some group members. In one group, there was a discussion about the difference between being “uncomfortable” and “being afraid”. The former may make you wary, but not stop you from doing an activity. The later would stop you from doing things you want to do. There was also a discussion of “community” and we agreed that everyone would define that for themselves, but generally, we were asking from their community of interest. It was hard to keep some groups focused on this question because they wanted to jump ahead to talk about how to fix the problems.

Personal safety and stranger violence:

Just as this was talked about as a measure of feeling safe in your community, it was also the starting point for every group in talking about what makes them not feel safe, or activities they won’t do. Walking alone after dark was almost always the opening statement. Statements included that they don’t feel safe to walk after dark, and feel limited in activities they can participate in if I don’t have a car. They find it intimidating and won’t let their children, especially their daughters, walk alone at night. Generally, nothing had happened, but there is a generalized fear that it will. *“Especially after the murder of Crystal Bearisto on the Confederation Trail, we all need to be careful.”*

Participants also noted that even an incident in Charlottetown impacts their decisions in other parts of the Island. Some talked about feeling safe, but its constant messages from family and friends that have stopped them from walking at night or using the trails.

“Used to be that I only felt unsafe walking alone at night or I had a fear of neighborhood dogs that were unchained. But now you couldn’t pay me to walk at night, even though nothing has happened, but I’m overwhelmed with fear to walk at night. As a senior, you get these messages from your kids.”

Senior’s focus group

Generally, men did not express this same fear or concern. However, the gay men focus group did mention other specific locations that are known as dangerous for people “fitting certain stereotypes”.

People also talked about driving alone at night and the fear of having car problems and not knowing who might stop to help them and what their intentions might be. Again, people reported examples of very nice people stopping to help, but their level of fear being quite high. There was also discussion about living rural, and people coming to your door to use the phone to call for assistance. Everyone is quite willing to open their doors, but then worry that “being neighborly” might put them at risk of someone there to look for things to steal, or going through their bathroom vanity for prescription drugs.

Harassing phone call in the night was also mentioned as a cause of concern by several groups. Sometimes there’s no one on the line, sometimes they are harassing, and one person mentioned religious slurs. In some cases, people spoke of RCMP or Aliant help to put an end to the calls, or tracing the calls themselves and calling the caller and confronting them. Telephone frauds and scams calls were also noted by the senior’s focus group. You never know if they are scams, or just trying to find out if anyone is home.

Personal safety and family violence:

Even though there was a great deal of discussion of stranger violence, there was also discussion of many forms of family violence. There were comments that it seems to be getting a lot more public recognition, through the media, and in communities. This has been a source of support for victims. One discussion was about the “purple women’s bathroom stall stickers” posted by the Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. It was noted that these were very positive, but something things like this that happen in Charlottetown aren’t always distributed and posted widely across the province and not everyone who needs the information can get it. There was also a note that sometimes projects are started in the community, but it only lasts for one year before the funding is dropped, regardless of whether the community thought it was important or not.

Youth:

Participants told stories about teenagers having house parties and the situation gets out of hand with lots of uninvited youth dropping in. Parents put in a position of calling in the police. Some felt that teenagers showing their independence and externalizing their personality with tattoos and piercing their body can look intimidating instead of cool.

There was also talk that communities would be safer if there were more young people out with things to do.

“Youth need to be seen in our community in a positive light. What is there for them to do? We need to ask them what they want and work with them to set it up.”

Francophone and acadienne focus groups

In the Aboriginal youth group, they said they have no place to hang out, their schools are not open during evenings or weekends, there are few sports for them to play, and most need money to play. They would like to fill their time by playing more sports including soccer. They liked the thought of having a place to watch movies with a screen and seats (not necessarily a full theatre). They were also interested in clubs that offer other things like crafts, music, or hip-hop classes. They are interested in having a “Boys and Girls

Club” like Summerside, where they have computers, a place to hang out, an arcade, dances, and you can play sports in a safe environment.

Another component for youth is the environment at school. We would all think this should be a safe place, but many participants across focus groups relayed stories of not feeling safe at school. Several gay men spoke about experiences of teasing, bullying, and fear for their personal safety. They couldn't count on teachers, because they just couldn't be constantly present. . Aboriginal youth spoke of bullying. They felt it was not racially motivated because most is from other Aboriginal youth and generally the incidents are happening on the school bus.

Alcohol and street/prescription drugs:

Drug and alcohol abuse was seen to be the leading cause of fighting. There was also discussion of bars and restaurants as places that can be intimidating by the people who work there or frequent there (bouncers, people who might be disrespectful of your personal space). Alcohol was seen as a factor in many actual incidents of personal attacks. Some of the attacks were verbal, and some were physical. Many participants spoke of leaving places when drugs were suddenly present (examples: dances, house parties). People also talked about feeling safer in smaller clubs where you know who's standing beside you. There was also a bit of discussion about date rape drugs being put into your drink when you're not watching it.

There are certain places in every community where people stated they exercise heightened vigilance.

“Main-stream bars are seen as being particularly dangerous when you mix alcohol, drugs, testosterone, being young and stupid, and thinking you have something to prove. Any place with there's three or four young males aged 15 - 25 can become a dangerous place, quickly. They are just unpredictable and explosive.”

Gay men's focus group

Bootleggers are still seen as an issue. Participants noted that there has been a crack down, but the problem has not been eliminated. Bootleggers are seen to make their neighborhoods unsafe.

“Addictions to prescription drugs led to a police raid down the road. We always knew it was ‘out there’ but now realize, it is right next door. You think addicts are breaking into houses to get prescription drugs, or steal from you to get money for drugs.”

Seniors focus group

Little police presence in our community:

People spoke of police presence as a deterrent to crime and wanted to see more foot patrols in the summer months.

“Need more visibility. Never see a car in their development. Think it would be a deterrent to slow down the B&E’s.”

Seniors focus group

In particular, seniors stated that they don’t want to call the police and get the answering machine. They want to talk to an officer. One senior reported that it took over one week for an officer to respond to a call about a telephone scam, and that left the participant feeling like the were being let down. One senior stated that, “There had been lots of home invasions, so seniors asked police for a presentation of making their homes safe, and police said no, because they didn’t want to scare the seniors, therefore, we are left to believe that police don’t do anything.” Across the groups, the statement was made that there was a fear of retribution from criminals for calling the police.

Several groups also talked about the police being proactive. For example, knowing the areas of town, time of day, etc. and having more presence in those areas at those times (specific references were to be present when the bars let out). They were also interested in the police being part of a service to escort people home who might not feel safe, or can’t afford a taxi (like at the university).

The Francophone and acadienne focus group talked about the need for more RCMP in West Prince. They stated that there are only two vehicles and they are usually in Tignish. On the positive side, they did say RCMP in their area are part of programs that support youth such as weight-lifting at a gym. These youth are now more interested in their health, are not using drugs or alcohol, and they go to competitions together.

Police presence was also thought to be deterrent to vandalism. Vandalism increases costs. Some people are working to make the community better and others destroy it.

“It’s disappointing, there’s no respect, you don’t want to walk up the street. We need to take care of things. Feeling safe increases self-respect.”

Aboriginal youth group

Youth Criminal Justice Act:

Some groups talked about the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* as letting youth off after the police do their job. Many expressed concern that youth in conflict with the law were not being held responsible by either their parents or the system. They were interested in stricter enforcement of the law. One participant stated, “There are too many “bleeding hearts”. Most groups gave examples of youth committing crime, being caught, and the parents protecting their children and insisting that their child would never have been involved. Parental accountability was seen as a real issue, with comments that parents just want to be friends with their children.

There was also discussion of convicted offenders who have served their sentence, being released from custody and returning to the community where they committed their offence. When this happens, fear escalates, doors are locked, curtains are closed, and a general sense of panic sets into the community members.

Architectural security:

This concept was a lively part of the discussion in the senior's focus group in particular but would also affect other groups living in specialized housing (such as people with disabilities). Many seniors live in secure building with locked front doors with buzzer systems. Seniors talked about other seniors who are being neighborly, but let strangers into the buildings which endangers everyone. It was stated that, "outsiders use lots of tricks to get into building". When you live in seniors housing, you often find youth hanging about in our community room, lounging around and they won't leave. Someone even stole a piano from our senior's unit. Lots of buildings don't have any security systems. And, lots of seniors don't hear the buzzer, or just let anyone in because they can't hear who's talking on the intercom. Young people accumulate in front of seniors building creating fear. Some participants felt unsafe in parking garages because often there is no one around to help if there is trouble. Garages look like a good place for people to hide and snatch purse because of poor lighting. One participant had witnessed a stabbing in a parking garage and now avoids them all together.

Employers:

Business and workforce should be a safe place, but some employers still don't want you working for them if you are perceived to be different from them. They will find lots of reasons to let you go that just skirt the human rights legislation or labour codes. This was particularly mentioned by the gay men focus group where they talked about being shy to being open in their professional environment. They need more supports to be comfortable and know they will be accepted if they are open about their sexual orientation.

Personal safety in employment situations was also talked about in the francophone group. Bilingualism can be an asset for summer employment to serve the tourist population. However, tourists are an unknown entity and a participant spoke of feeling uncomfortable being the only female in a remote and isolated tourist destination.

6.3 The Root Causes of Crime

Drugs and Alcohol:

All groups stated drugs and alcohol first in listing and discussing the root causes of crime. They all talked about increased availability of alcohol to under-aged youth, increased potency of drugs that are available now, and addiction to prescription medications. Crack cocaine and crystal meth can be made in home laboratories. Many street drugs now have increased addictive properties; therefore users are more desperate to get a fix. Many addicts go through about \$200 per day in drugs, therefore, need to do “break and enters” to get that much cash on a regular basis. One participant stated that, “80% of all crime on PEI relates back to drugs and alcohol.” There was discussion on how the “War on Drugs” has created an economic base for criminal lawlessness. Drug dealer aren’t protected by the law for getting “stiffed”. They take the law in their own hands to get money owed to them. By engaging in a fantasy to stamp out drugs, we make the problem worse.

Prescription drugs are becoming a larger problem. Doctors are responsible to prescribe pain killers, but also to ensure there is no double-doctoring. There was discussion of the new computer system designed to put a stop to this practice. There was discussion of sell prescriptions drugs for cash, pill-by-pill. They are worth a lot of money on the streets. Even friends are likely to steal them from you. Issues of personal safety with prescription drugs in the house were mentioned by almost every group.

Poverty and lack of good paying jobs:

Poverty was also mentioned by every group as they quickly listed out the root causes of crime. In discussion, they talked about being disenfranchised, when you don’t have resources for basics, you feel like you have to rob to live. What else can you do when you are powerless? The poor are treated wrong, they are victimized. Participants stated that they felt people would work if they could. One participant stated, “The welfare system needs to be over-hauled.” Our children are feeling the brunt of it when families don’t have resources. The system is seen to penalize you as you try to help yourself. The

system needs to give you more time to get on your feet financially before removing resources. People don't want to be poor by choice. Stigmatizing the poor is a real way of life on PEI: Food banks, Christmas turkey drive, and baskets for delivery – we use charitable models to make ourselves feel good.

There was also discussion on the patchwork of services available to support those with low incomes. There was discussion on the need for more recreation opportunities for youth, especially options that don't require a lot of money. It was also noted that there are few resources for coaches to work with and that schools should play a bigger role since kids are with them for a larger part of their day.

We need to change regulations for immigrants to work in their trained profession. No one accommodates you to get accredited.

“We can't afford to take our tests on our low wage. I've given up my life; I made that sacrifice for my children. I need help to get accredited. I'm a neurologist and I make \$7.00 per hour to deliver pizza.”

Newcomers focus group

Most immigrants have already been through so much, that Canada and PEI are very safe. For some newcomers to Canada, they have lived through revolution, with machine guns, political changes, riots and street fights. After all that, it's hard not to feel safe here. But that can over-shadow financial and emotional conflicts within a family. They are not facing life and death situations every day, but still need to cope with not being able to work in your field of study, family breakdown, and they don't want to live on public money. Now they are fighting for dignity and self-respect. Without a job and resources, they can't raise their kids properly. They want them to be well-educated.

“As a parent, I'm a potential danger to my children because I can't even provide them with the basics things in life. If I need to put all my time and effort into finding work, how can I be emotionally invested in my family, how do I have energy for them?”

Newcomers focus group

Youth and Parental Responsibility:

Most people recognized that youth and parental responsibility also links back to poverty issues. In our economy, it seems to be more of a necessity for both parents to work leaving their children unsupervised, with no structure or governance. Some youth are troubled, bored, don't like school, get into drugs or gangs, aren't engaged in their community.

“I live downtown [Charlottetown] where I see very young people drunk and fighting, they have no parental supervision. As parents, we are responsible for our children. Parents want to have fun and are not looking after their children.”

Newcomers focus group

There is a need for family unit support and guidance so we can avoid our youth becoming involved with drugs and gangs.

“In other countries, we have other problems, but everyone raises your kids. We have a culture where youth are taught to give up their seat on a bus for an elder. In this area, we can't leave everything up to the government.”

Newcomers focus group

Our community needs to play a role in taking care of everyone, including youth and seniors, and all who are marginalized. We need more affordable, accessible, choice of recreation and creative opportunities. Youth need to see positive social norms. We need to be vigilant with follow-through. We need to respect for our youth and we need to hear their opinion.

Stranger and family violence:

“The disrespect or disregard of women by the federal government could be a reason for the increased number of attacks against women recently. Maybe because policy things are happening that say that women's equality doesn't

matter, therefore, I can attack women. Women are seen as more vulnerable. There is an underlying attitude of loathing or misogyny.”

Women’s focus group participant

Family violence is a big problem on PEI. Sometimes it too, links back to poverty or involves drugs or alcohol.

Inclusion:

As with this concept earlier, the ways that this was reported came from a variety of perspectives and reflected back to other issues including poverty.

“In small communities, newcomers are strangers and everyone wants to know everything about us, but they don’t want to help or support us, or really include us. So, move closer to a bigger town but that’s just noisy and didn’t feel safe. So, move into town. Now, kids are in conflict with other kids because of our heritage. Our kids don’t belong in our old country, but they don’t belong in our new country either – they don’t know where they fit it. Hard for parents to be a support because spend so much time working for slave wages. Have to work long hours for low wages, so I don’t know what my kids are doing. I live in poverty- how can I be a good parent with no resources. We brought something very precious here from other countries, and now we feel like slaves. Minimum wage is a crime.”

Newcomers Focus Group

In the Aboriginal youth focus group, they spoke of the misperception of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal youth from Lennox Island. They used to have a reputation as a bad place “with guns and knives and violence”. Now, parents of their school friends are too scared to let them hang out on Lennox Island.

“Those parents think we all do drugs. All our community is blamed instead of the bad individuals. I don’t think they are racist. I think they just remember the bad reputation we used to have. They don’t see that everything is so much is better”

Aboriginal youth focus group

Seniors talked about inclusion from a different perspective. They see age as something that gives people permission to take things from you. They see you as, “on your way out, you have lots, and give it to me now because the government will get it later.” Need to get past messages that seniors are the demise of the health care system or the Canadian Pension Plan. These are myths that seniors are not a drain on society.

Literacy and Education/Consolidated schools:

There was discussion that consolidated schools are just too large, leaving youth with no sense of community, and increased opportunities for bullying and peer-pressure.

Vulnerable youth can easily be lead astray. At school, kids know how to access cigarettes and alcohol. Homophobia in schools is an ongoing issue. Educated people are seen to be more enlightened to sexual orientation and general tolerance. We need to work together to build self-worth and feeling valued.

Architecture:

The question was posed, “Why do we have signage outside of senior’s residences?” They are big targets so burglars know where to go. These buildings need signage to say “under RCMP surveillance, or no soliciting”. Signage just makes seniors more vulnerable. An answer that was suggested is a “door man” at the front door, paid to provide security, like a commissionaire or a caretaker for the building that lives on site. Seniors have asked government, but they refuse to pay for this service. Other architecture that leads to crime that was noted included poor lighting and parking garages.

7. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

To summarize, it can be noted that repetition of themes across the questions and over time. Concepts that participants described as factors that make their communities safe, were then reiterated as issues for community safety from other perspectives. They all continued to come back around in the discussion on the root causes of crime.

There was general agreement across the focus groups as to the key things that made their communities safe: belonging, knowing your neighbors, feeling included, having a place in the community for our youth and all groups that could become marginalized or vulnerable, having financial resources, and a police presence as a deterrent to crime. The concept of “community inclusion” has been the focus of a great deal of research and community-based projects including the “*Community Promise*”. The participants’ comments reflect on the need to encourage neighborhood level events.

There was also general agreement across the focus groups as to the key things that made their communities unsafe: stranger and family violence, youth not feeling connected in their community, the abuse of drugs and alcohol, a lack of police presence, and the perceived lack of follow-through with the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

There was also general agreement across the focus groups as to the key things that are the root causes of crime: drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, lack of youth and parental responsibility, stranger and family violence and a lack of inclusion.

There were very few discussions that were particular to just one group. Almost everything mentioned by any one group, was reflected in another group, although sometimes they used different words or language to express their issues.

Even though this report does reflect back to the 1995 Strategy and lists a synopsis of changes and interventions particular to the focus group communities of interest, it is not a true longitudinal study. There would be great benefits to setting up a proper research study that could take into account the research findings from the other Taking Stock research that was completed by the IRIS Group. This type of a pre-planned study could track the effects community-government partnerships in supporting the complex issues of

crime prevention and community safety as laid out in Research #1. It would allow us to track and monitor indicators of crime prevention and community safety as laid out in Research #2. And, it would allow us to do more in depth work with geographic communities as laid out in research #3, as well as the communities of interest reflected in this focus group report. If the study was set up to look at the effects of interventions over a five or ten year period, track and monitor the activities, policies and programs in the intervening years, we may get a better idea of what truly impacts crime prevention and community safety on PEI. The concept was raised this way in one of the focus groups, *“We need to understand what we want, what is a community without crime, what would it look like? What is the opposite of “crime”? What do we want? What do we value?”*

As focus groups answered the questions, there were many times when the conversation and discussion got off track as participants were interested in problem solving and making suggestions to ways their communities could be safer. Programs such as, “Eyes and Ears”, “Neighborhood Watch” or “Block Parent” were all discussed. With more families with both parents working, this would be ways to support communities. There would be a need for resources, screening, training, signage, and police sessions on reporting. They noted that this works best when all residents are involved. There are a lot of seniors who are aware of what’s happening in their neighborhood and they could play a role in being a deterrent to crime. Others said that everyone needs to participate, not just seniors. Francophone participants were very interested in ways to protect their children. They are aware of messages everywhere to watch out for them and this takes away our sense of security and a loss of innocence. Many also felt the business community has a role to play in community safety. This conversation reinforced the fact that while crime prevention through social development is the anchor, we need a balanced approach that also considers architecture and environmental design.

8. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Taking Stock Participant Consent Form

You have been invited to take part in a research project looking at crime prevention and community safety on PEI. The project is sponsored by The Provincial Safer Communities Management Group and funded by the National Crime Prevention Strategy. Your participation in the project will help us to understand what people need to be safe and to feel safe in their community. The information you provide will be put together with information from other groups we talk to around the province. A report will be written and it will be used to help us plan for the future.

Your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate at any time. Even if you sign this consent form you are free to change your mind about participating at a later date. Anything you say or any information shared is strictly confidential – the researcher will not record any identifying information such as your name or address. You will not be identified in any reports that are written in regard to the research. Any information you share will be used only for the purpose of this research project. Only the researcher and research assistant will have access to the original information provided during the interview process.

Your signature indicates your consent to participate in the interview.

I, _____, consent to participate in the interview for the

(Print Name)

Taking Stock Project, with the understanding that any information about me will be kept strictly confidential and that I will not be identified in any reports.

Participant signature

Date

Witness

Appendix B: Taking Stock Focus Groups Questioning Route

Questioning Route:

1. What makes a community safe for you?

2. Is there ever a time or situation when you don't feel safe?

Are there some activities you would not do because you don't feel safe?

What would make you, or help you to feel safer?

3. What do you think is underneath the problem of crime?

What do you think causes crime?

9. REFERENCES

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