

YOUTH GANGS IN CANADA: A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Prepared for:

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

Submitted by:

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September 2005

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, or the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	v
Acknowledgements	xi
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Purpose of the Project	3
1.3 Research Methods.....	4
1.3.1 Limitations	4
2.0 Conceptual Framework of Youth Groups/Gangs	7
2.1 Conceptual Framework Model	7
2.2 Typology	11
3.0 Programs and Services	23
3.1 Overview	23
3.2 Program Descriptions	24
3.2.1 Primary Prevention Programs	24
3.2.2 Secondary Prevention Programs	42
3.2.3 Tertiary Prevention Programs	60
3.2.4 Primary/Secondary Prevention Programs	66
3.2.5 Secondary/Tertiary Prevention Programs	75
3.2.6 Primary/Secondary/Tertiary Prevention Programs	78
3.2.7 Other Initiatives	80
4.0 Summary and Conclusions.....	83
4.1 Summary of Model.....	83
4.2 Summary of Programs and Services	84
4.3 Discussion	85
4.4 Conclusions	86
4.5 Recommendations	87
References.....	89

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of the Project

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) was awarded a Crime Prevention Partnership Program grant by the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to collect and review information on youth gangs in Canada, as well as to identify programs and services aimed at addressing youth involvement in gang activity.

The main objectives of this research were to:

- (1) Develop a multidimensional conceptual framework of youth involvement in gangs, including gangs with connections to organized crime, in the *Canadian* context. Factors such as the motivations to join a youth gang, recruitment tactics, organization, activities, and exit strategies are considered in the development of a typology that can be utilized to better understand youth gang involvement.
- (2) Identify programs and services addressing issues relevant to youth gangs in Canada, such as risk factors, recruitment processes, links with organized crime, and exit strategies. Key program components sought include the geographic location of the program, the target group, the objectives and activities of the initiative, the organization facilitating the program, and its funder.
- (3) Categorize the program initiatives based on their level of prevention – primary (prevention, raising awareness), secondary (intervention) or tertiary (rehabilitation, exit strategies).

Research Methods

Published and unpublished materials relating to youth gangs in Canada were obtained via literature and internet searches, as well as through contact with key informants from federal and provincial/territorial governmental departments, police agencies, and non-governmental organizations. From these sources, information was collected on youth gang issues in various regions in an effort to identify patterns and, ultimately, a conceptual framework of the types of youth gangs that exist in Canada.

Summary of Model

The first objective of this report was to develop a conceptual framework that can be used to categorize youth gangs. The five-part multidimensional framework developed for this project highlights the different types of gangs that youth may be involved with in Canada. By addressing *Activity*, *Organization*, *Motivation to Join*, *Recruitment*, and *Exit Strategies*, this model allows for a general typology that can be applied and adapted to identify specific types of gang activity in any Canadian jurisdiction.

Since there is little empirical evidence to support it, this model does not assume that youth make transitions or progress from petty crime gangs to criminal organization-type gangs. However, as the *2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* indicates “functional linkages” appear to occur between youth gangs and Type E (Structured Criminal Organization) gangs particularly, regarding drug trafficking, extortion and theft of autos. This model provides five discrete group/gang categories that demonstrate an increasing level of criminal activity, organizational structure, and recruitment strategies as follows:

- Type A (Group of Friends) groups tend to be interest-based and usually do not involve criminal activity, thus pose no threat to a community’s well-being and, in many situations, should be promoted.
- Type B (Spontaneous Criminal Activity Group/Gang) groups/gangs are social in nature and derive their power and status from the size of their group. Criminal activity is situationally motivated and much of this type of gang/group activity can be categorized as gratuitous violence and bullying by misdirected and unsupervised youth. Many of the members of Type B groups/gangs have other options in life and are less committed to the gang or its culture than more serious type gangs.
- Type C (Purposive Group/Gang) gangs come together for a specific purpose. Whether stealing cars, engaging in vigilante-type violence or spontaneous mob activity, these groups/gangs can emerge from within existing larger groups/gangs or may come about for a specific purpose and are disbanded once the activity or plan has been carried out.
- Type D (Youth Street Gang) gangs are highly visible hardcore groups that come together primarily for profit-driven criminal activity. These street gangs identify themselves as such through the adoption of a gang name, common brands, styles, colours of clothing and/or jewellery, and tattoos to openly display gang membership to other gangs. These gangs do not seem to be part of a larger criminal organization and often have a definite territory or “turf” that they claim and defend as their own. Street gangs appear to be stand alone organizations that have little connection to other gangs.
- Type E (Structured Criminal Organization) gangs are highly structured criminal networks that tend to be led by criminally experienced adults for the purpose of economic or financial gain. The criminal activities of these types of gangs tend to be severe in nature and are generally premeditated. Youth are used for specific purposes to further the gang’s activities.

Summary of Programs and Services

In fulfillment of the second and third objectives stated previously, a total of 77 specific Canadian anti-youth gang programs have been identified, described, and categorized by their level of prevention in Section 3.0 of this report.

A summary of the findings of this section are as follows:

- Funding for programs largely comes from various public institutions – especially the National Crime Prevention Centre – which has funded 69% of the programs. A few programs are also privately funded through monetary and in-kind donations.
- The objectives of the programs vary depending on the intended level of prevention; however, a majority of the programs focus on awareness about gangs and/or education.
- Programs having a secondary level prevention approach tend to address risk factors that make youth more vulnerable to gang involvement, such as: drug addictions, poor family relationships, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), education and employment difficulties, etc. (Mathews, 2004).
- The majority of programs found focus on primary (31%) or secondary (35%) level prevention, with an additional 16% of programs incorporating both primary and secondary elements.
- Only 10% of programs focus exclusively on tertiary initiatives, with 5% incorporating both secondary and tertiary elements. These tend to focus on provisions of existing strategies for youth already involved with gangs.
- Roughly 3% of programs ambitiously pursue a tri-level anti-gang strategy.
- Nearly 60% of the programs identified were located in either urban or rural Quebec.
- Each of the Western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) had roughly 7-10% of the programs identified, totalling approximately 36%.
- Ontario had only 5% of programs found nationally.
- There were no programs found in the Maritimes; however, most contacts indicated that there were no youth gangs in the area.
- Only one program was identified in Northern Canada (located in the Northwest Territories), but similar to the Maritimes, gangs were not identified as an issue.

Although very few program evaluations have been conducted to discover what measures are effective in counteracting Canadian youth gangs, the program descriptions in Section 3.2 can be used as examples of the innovative and diverse projects that are currently being implemented.

Conclusions

There is a strong sense – especially in the western provinces – that both the number of gangs and gang-related activity is on the rise. Further, it is thought that youth at-risk provide a resource in the form of new recruits to what appears to be a quickly growing problem. Not only is the problem growing in size, it also seems to be evolving both in terms of the complexity of gang structures and the reasons why youth gangs exist. To some extent, the recent *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004* supports this increasing concern given the noticeable increase in homicides and drug incidents (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2005). Further, according to Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (2004), the number of marijuana grow operations continues to rise and is linked to organized crime. Given what appears to be an increasing involvement of organized crime in criminal incidents (i.e., extortion, homicide, drug trafficking), Statistics Canada has added new data elements for identifying organized crime and street gang activity to the latest version of the incident-based crime survey (UCR2) (Uniform Crime Reporting Survey) (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2005). As the *Results of the Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* suggests, current trends in certain Canadian jurisdictions seem to be consistent with Taylor's (1990) concept of the evolution of "gang imperialism" where linkages are made between gangs for financial gain.

Unfortunately, in some jurisdictions, gang-related activity seems to have out-paced current anti-gang programs. However, this review of programs designed to prevent Canadian youth from being involved with gangs that are criminally active provides a useful "starting point" in developing a national anti-youth gang strategy. Overall, the number of innovative programs and the commitment of those who developed and implemented them was impressive. Likewise, the role of NCPC in funding many of these initiatives should be noted.

While the review of programs in this report provides a broad selection of prevention strategies – especially for primary and secondary level prevention – very little is known about the effectiveness of these programs. The lack of evaluation information, to a certain extent, is due to the inherent difficulties associated with evaluating primary and secondary level prevention programs (e.g., the lack of control and the inability to prove that a youth did not join a gang because of his or her involvement with a particular program). Added to these inherent research design difficulties is the general lack of knowledge about gangs that youth are involved with and how they become involved. Despite these challenges, research concerning youth gangs is possible and essential.

Recommendations

A comprehensive and effective strategy for dealing with the problems of youth involved in criminal gangs can only be developed if we answer the following questions:

- What types of gangs involving youth exist across Canada and how do they vary by jurisdiction?¹
- How do youth become involved in gangs that perpetrate criminal activity?
 - Is it explained by risk factors, motivation, and opportunity?
 - Is active recruitment occurring?
 - What would the protective factors and deterrents be?
- Where does the opportunity and/or recruitment occur?
 - In the school system?
 - In provincial youth detention centres?
 - In provincial adult correctional facilities?
 - In federal adult correctional facilities?
 - On First Nation reserves?
- What types of contacts (i.e., inter-dependencies, linkages, and turf wars) occur among the different types of gangs discussed in the conceptual model?
- What overall strategies and best practice models have been effective in other countries and would they be appropriate in Canada?

The types of research studies that could provide information related to the above questions would include:

- community needs assessment studies;
- general surveys of youth in school;
- surveys of targeted high-risk youth in communities, youth detention centres, and provincial and federal correctional centres; and
- targeted evaluation studies at all levels, i.e., primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention.

As we learn more about the types of youth gangs and how and why youth become involved in criminal gangs, prevention programs can be designed to be more targeted and, in turn, evaluable. This will provide a solid knowledge-base to develop an effective, balanced strategy.

¹ The 2002 *Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* has provided basic information regarding this question.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of a number of individuals, agencies, and groups who made this report possible. First, we would like to thank Ms Sarah Nicolaiff and Ms Chantal Marion of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, the funder of this project. Their guidance and support for this project were essential to its successful completion, and is greatly appreciated.

We further extend our appreciation to the members of our project advisory committee, Mr. Lyle Stroeder of Saskatchewan Justice, and Dr. John McLennan of the University of Calgary, for their review of the draft report. Their expertise and guidance were invaluable resources to the final outcome of the research, and we greatly value their time and commitment to the project.

We would also like to express tremendous gratitude toward the many key informants who provided information on youth gang programs and the various issues related to youth gangs that they are facing in their communities. Numerous representatives from a range of police organizations, community agencies, non-profit organizations, various levels of government, and both provincial and federal correctional authorities contributed essential information to advance our understanding of youth gangs in Canada and the programs currently available for youth facing the challenges of youth gang involvement.

From the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, the authors extend thanks to Ms Joanne Paetsch, Administrator/Research Associate, Dr. Lorne Bertrand, Senior Research Associate, and Ms Linda Haggett, Receptionist/Typist. Their guidance, support, and assistance throughout all stages of the project were vital to its successful completion.

Finally, the authors acknowledge the Alberta Law Foundation for its ongoing funding of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In the past decade, media coverage of gang activity has increased considerably, as has the perception that youth gangs are becoming a more serious problem in various communities nationwide. Recent news articles suggest that youth gang activity is escalating in many areas, and specific concern has been expressed over speculated links to the drug trade, violence, and organized crime (Clark, 2005; Scott, 2005; McLaren, 2004; Woods, 2004). Further, recent reports published by the Correctional Service of Canada (Aboriginal Issues Branch, 2001; Nafekh, 2002; Correctional Service of Canada, 2003) have indicated that an increasing number of youth are becoming involved in gangs, particularly in the institutional setting. In response to community concerns, efforts are being made by various organizations and agencies to raise awareness and respond to social problems that both perpetuate and stem from youth gangs. However, these efforts are often complicated by a lack of coordination and sharing of information between agencies. Further, program development is often made difficult by the lack of knowledge specifically pertaining to youth gangs in Canada. The existing Canadian research literature is limited and fragmented; much of the available information about youth involvement in gang activity comes from other countries, particularly the United States and United Kingdom. However, given that the legal and social welfare structures of these countries, as well as the rates of criminal offences, differ significantly, research from the United States and United Kingdom is limited in its relevance to Canada.

The *definition* of a “youth gang” itself is problematic for police, policy makers, and the public. Communities and jurisdictions across Canada differ in their perception of what constitutes a “youth gang,” given that different regions have gang issues that are particular to that specific area. In addition, defining, recognizing, and identifying youth gangs is confounded by inappropriate labelling of youth social groups by outsiders (public, other gangs/groups, enforcement agencies, media) (Mathews, 1993; Gordon, 2000; Church Council on Justice and Corrections, 1995). Further, the formation and composition of youth gangs is influenced by such mediating factors as age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The degree of organization and the type of activities in which members engage also tends to distinguish certain types of youth gangs from others. Finally, there is a lack of knowledge concerning whether youth gangs are connected to adult organized crime in Canada.

The combination of these factors pose a tremendous challenge for Canadian authorities, community agencies and correctional services in recognizing, responding to, and dealing with the problems created by gang activity. However, it is unlikely that the solution lies in a wide-ranging, all-encompassing definition of “youth gang.” As Mathews identifies, it is difficult to develop a blanket model for Canada: “There is no single theory or definition that can account for the pluralistic or heterogeneous gang/group phenomenon in contemporary Canadian society” (1999:4). As evidenced by the complexity of issues surrounding youth gangs in this country and the differing

levels of gang activity in individual communities, a concentrated research effort is required to understand and develop appropriate solutions – specifically, one that considers the diverse context in which Canadian youth gangs exist. In order for programs and services to be successful, information from all regions must be synthesized and shared to assist agencies in their program development.

Being acutely aware of the limited information available on Canadian youth gangs, the Department of the Solicitor General Canada commissioned a national survey of police agencies to assess the extent and the characteristics of youth gangs in Canadian communities. The results of the survey are summarized in a report entitled *Results of the 2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs (Astwood Strategy corporation, 2003)*. While the study was limited somewhat by the lack of a common or generally accepted definition of a youth gang (as discussed above), and the data were largely perceptual in nature (which is an inherent limitation to this type of study), it was the first study of its kind in Canada, and provides a baseline of information that is relevant to the current research.

Some of the selected findings of this report are as follows:

- Nationally, approximately 59% of the population is served by law enforcement agencies reporting active youth gangs.
- Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia have the highest percentage of jurisdictions reporting active youth gangs.
- No youth gang activity was reported in the northern territories or the Maritimes, with the exception of Nova Scotia.
- Surrey and Vancouver, both in British Columbia, reported the earliest onset of youth gang activity in the country (1975 and 1979 respectively).
- Nationally, the vast majority of youth gang members are male (94%) and fall within the age range of 16 to 18 years (39%); almost half (48%) of all youth gang members are under the age of 18.
- The largest proportion of youth gang members in Canada are African Canadian/Black (25%), followed by First Nations (22%) and Caucasian/White (18%).
- 36% of youth gangs in Canada feature a mixture of two or more racial/ethnic groups. Youth gangs in Saskatchewan appear to be the most homogeneous (i.e., First Nations).
- Nationally, 40% of the respondents believe that the return of adult or youth gang-involved inmates from prison has affected youth gangs very much.

- Youth gang member collaboration with organized crime groups is highest with respect to drug trafficking (43%) and intimidation/extortion (23%), followed closely by theft of auto (19%).
- 44% of respondents in Canada indicated that youth gangs have established relationships with organized crime groups. The largest proportion of these relationships (40%) are with Aboriginal/First Nations organized crime groups, followed by Asian organized crime groups (22%) and Outlaw Motorcycle organized crime groups (22%).
- A majority of respondents across Canada (57%) believe the youth gang problem is getting worse, while only a small number (6%) believe it is getting better.

1.2 Purpose of the Project

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) was awarded a Crime Prevention Partnership Program grant by the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to collect and review information on youth gangs in Canada, as well as to identify programs and services aimed at addressing youth involvement in gang activity.

The main objectives of this research are to:

- (1) Develop a multidimensional conceptual framework of youth involvement in gangs, including gangs with connections to organized crime, in the *Canadian* context. Factors such as the motivations to join a youth gang, recruitment tactics, organization, activities, and exit strategies are considered in the development of a typology that can be utilized to better understand youth gang involvement.
- (2) Identify programs and services addressing issues relevant to youth gangs in Canada, such as risk factors, recruitment processes, links with organized crime, and exit strategies. Key program components sought include the geographic location of the program, the target group, the objectives and activities of the initiative, the organization facilitating the program, and its funder.
- (3) Categorize the program initiatives based on their level of prevention – primary (prevention, raising awareness), secondary (intervention) or tertiary (rehabilitation, exit strategies).

Following these objectives, this report will first discuss the methods by which this information was collected, and will subsequently detail the development of the conceptual framework, gang typologies, and finally, the details of available Canadian programs targeting youth involvement in gangs and how they correspond to the needs identified via the framework.

1.3 Research Methods

Published and unpublished materials relating to youth gangs in Canada were obtained via literature and internet searches, as well as through contact with key informants from federal and provincial/territorial governmental departments, police agencies, and non-governmental organizations. From these sources, information was collected on youth gang issues in various regions in an effort to identify patterns and, ultimately, a conceptual framework of the types of youth gangs that exist in Canada. The multidimensional nature of this framework required considering such factors as group membership, age, gender, ethnicity, size of the gang, geographic location, types of criminal activity, and connections to organized crime. Further, the term “youth gang” was broadened to consider “youth involvement in gangs,” given the possibility of youth membership in adult gangs. This approach was an attempt to address the previously mentioned difficulty of defining youth gangs in Canada, considering the vastness and diversity of its cities and regions (Mathews, 1990; Gordon, 2000), and to include *all* youth facing the difficulties posed by gang membership.

Internet searches and contact with key informants were also used to develop a list of programs, services and initiatives targeting youth gang involvement across Canada. The programs range in their purposes and objectives, but all contain components that address youth gang participation in some way. The list of programs obtained does not necessarily include all programs in Canada, but is a substantial representation of the initiatives and strategies adopted in communities where gang activity is present or where there is the potential to have a gang problem emerge.

Once contacts and sources were exhausted, the programs were assessed based on their level of prevention, target group, objectives, and activities. It must be noted that the programs themselves were not evaluated, as this was outside the scope of this research.

1.3.1 Limitations

As discussed in Section 1.2, the purpose of this project is to synthesize the relevant Canadian youth gang literature and to catalogue current programs and services available to youth and interested parties in order to counteract youth gangs. Given the data collection methods, the availability of Canadian literature, and the nature of the subject matter in general, there are several limitations worth noting.

Since the purpose of this project was to catalogue programs and services, information on specific gangs and the problems of specific communities are not discussed. Although one of the initial objectives of this study was to identify common factors associated with Canadian gangs, this endeavour proves difficult when examining youth gangs at a national level because of the diversity of issues that communities in various jurisdictions face (as documented above by the 2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs).

The lack of Canadian research literature also complicates an objective and comprehensive examination of youth gangs and, more specifically, the development of

the conceptual framework. Much of the research that has been conducted is anecdotal or preliminary in nature; very little explanatory analysis has been undertaken. This limits the foundation from which more thorough research can be conducted. Further, the sensitive nature of the topic and the exclusivity of membership make youth gangs difficult to research directly. The secretive organizational structure and character of their criminal activities make them difficult to infiltrate for the purposes of data collection. Fortunately, recent modifications to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2.2), which Canadian police agencies use to report criminal incidents to the Canadian Center for Justice Statistics (CCJS), added a number of questions concerning gang-related issues – the involvement of street gangs in criminal incidents, the age of offenders, the affiliation to organized crime, etc. To date, only a handful of police services have switched to the new version of the survey, but this number will be increasing on a regular basis. This will provide more reliable tracking and understanding of criminal youth gang activities.

This research is also limited by the lack of program evaluations, making it impossible to comment on the effectiveness of programs. Further, funding for projects is often not continuous, and the lack of continuity of these programs makes it difficult to evaluate the long-term effects of these anti-gang initiatives.

Given that the youth gang phenomenon is relatively new in many Canadian jurisdictions, anti-crime organizations are only at the preliminary stages of identifying that a gang problem is present within their community. All of the factors discussed above demonstrate the need for more rigorous research so that responses to youth gang activity may be developed more appropriately.

2.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF YOUTH GROUPS/GANGS

2.1 Conceptual Framework Model

A conceptual framework of youth groups/gangs is presented in Table 1. Developed from reviewing and synthesizing relevant Canadian literature, this conceptual framework supports and builds on previous exploratory models of youth gangs/groups (Mathews, 1990; Hébert, Hamel & Savoie, 1997; Gordon, 2000). Based on the unique situational factors of distinct regions, communities and individuals (Mathews, 1993: 72), the typographic categories are intended to provide a general description that highlights what appear to be the most prominent features of the various types of Canadian gangs. It should be pointed out that this conceptual framework is based for the most part on theoretical Canadian literature given the lack of rigorous empirical research.

The conceptual framework provides a five-part multidimensional model that highlights the different types of gangs that seem to exist in Canada. Although there can be progressions and movements between groups, this framework does not assume a gang model where youths progress from petty crime gangs to criminal organization-type gangs, since there is little evidence to support this. However, we do recognize that youth become more entrenched and committed within their individual gang types if their criminal activities go unchallenged (Mathews, 1999: 10). Being part of a youth gang does not necessarily mean that youth will progress into a life of serious organized crime as many media sources have purported (Woods, 2004; Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 2005). Instead, gangs often provide an immediate and direct source of power, income, identity, and/or sense of belonging that youth are not getting in other facets of their lives (Richter-White, 2003: 17).

It appears that the motivations for joining different types of gangs are varied, and as such, youth are drawn to gang membership for fulfillment of specific needs. For instance, adolescents who join gangs because they are looking for social recognition and a superior position within the social hierarchy of a school or community setting will be more likely to join an image-based gang (Type B, or C gang, see Table 1) rather than a gang with more discreet criminal objectives of profiteering from illegal activity (Type D or E gangs, see Table 1). An image-based gang generally produces less revenue for its members as compared to criminal business organizations (Richter-White, 2003: 18).

Table of Youth Groups/Gangs

Group/Gang Type	Description
Type A: Group of Friends	These peer groups consist of collections of youth who spend time together on a regular and on-going basis. They engage in little to no criminal activity as they build healthy and positive social relationships. Type A groups can vary by age, be made up of mixed gender or not, and may or may not consist of members from similar ethnic backgrounds. This type of the group tends to be involved in normal, healthy activities and should be distinguished from the more pathological types of groups and organizations listed below.
Type B: Spontaneous Criminal Activity Group/Gang	This group of youths is largely social in nature as they congregate to spend time together and “hang out.” The purpose of spending time together is generally not crime focused, although criminal activity sometimes occurs spontaneously and is situation-motivated. These groups may or may not have a defined group/gang name and do not generally define a territory or “turf” that they defend. Members are sometimes influenced by glamorized portrayals of gangs in news and entertainment media. These groups can be of any age, and of mixed or same gender. Type B groups/gangs are generally large in size because their power, popularity, and social image are based on the extent of their social or friendship networks. Many of the members of Type B groups/gangs have other options in life and are less committed to the gang or its culture than more serious type gangs. Also, much of this type of gang/group activity can be categorized as gratuitous violence and bullying by misdirected middle youth.
Type C: Purposive Group/Gang	Sometimes gang/group formation is planned with the purpose of carrying out specific criminal activity. These groups are often smaller in size than Type B gangs/groups, and the size is contingent on the type of activity that is being conducted or the purpose of the gang. Generally, these groups/gangs assume a lower (although still visible) profile in order to evade prosecution or police intervention. These groups/gangs can emerge from within existing larger groups/gangs or may come about for a specific purpose and may be disbanded once the activity or plan has been carried out.
Type D: Youth Street Gang	These groups of young adults come together as a semi-structured organization to engage in profit-driven criminal activity or organized violence against other gangs. Street gangs identify themselves as such through the adoption of a gang name; common brands, styles, colours of clothing, and/or jewellery; and tattoos to openly display gang membership to other gangs. These gangs are not part of a larger criminal organization and often have a definite territory or “turf” that they claim and defend as their own. Graffiti is often used as a form of marking a gang’s territory and as a means of communication.
Type E: Structured Criminal Organization	Organized Crime gangs are criminal business organizations that are higher structured and sophisticated. These groups tend to be led by criminally experienced adults for the purpose of economic or financial gain. Type E gangs are cohesive entities that maintain a low profile in order to conduct their criminal activity with little attention. Organized crime gangs have national and/or international connections and are often affiliated clubs within an overarching criminal organization. Minors may be used for specific purposes such as running drugs, scouting, and home invasion because (especially those under 12 years of age) are rarely prosecuted.

There is also some evidence that suggests that there are “functional linkages” between organized crime gangs and youth street gangs, for example the use of youth to distribute drugs. The data from the 2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs seem to support this. As well, Taylor’s (1989; 1990) study of Detroit gangs in the United States suggests that gangs have evolved into a form of “gang imperialism.” In other words, gangs have evolved into well organized, corporate-like structures where decisions are based on mutual financial benefit mainly related to the drug trade, as opposed to ethnicity, ideology, or territorial issues. Interestingly, this is consistent with Cloward and Ohlin’s (1960) classic theory of differential opportunity, where the illegitimate avenues for success (in this case financial gain through drug trafficking), may significantly outweigh the legitimate opportunities for youth at risk to make money.

The categories of the conceptual framework are meant to highlight the main components of each gang type. These components consist of the *Activity* gangs are involved in, the *Organization* of the gang, the *Motivation to Join*, *Recruitment*, and *Exit Strategies*. These identifiers build on past research that has used the same general categorizations to develop gang typologies (Edmonton Police Service, 2005; Hébert et al., 1997; Gordon, 2000; Mathews, 1990; Winnipeg Police Service, 2005; Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, 2005).

Due to related characteristics between the various gang categories, the categories, traits, and descriptions are not exhaustive or exclusive to each gang type. A great deal of overlap can occur, where some kinds of gangs are similar to others in most respects but differ in specific ways (Type D and E for instance). Despite these overlaps, the typology reflects the major differences between gang types as has been suggested by previous literature.

Activity

The *Activity* category includes the various actions in which the group or gang typically engages. These behaviours are motivated by multiple factors, ranging from spontaneous and impulsive conduct to carrying out highly structured and organized acts. Although not all group/gang activities are illegal in nature, the level of premeditation and severity of illegal acts is a major factor for determining where a gang should be categorized within our framework. The visibility of gang activity also varies between the different types of gangs, from highly visible behaviours to discreet and inconspicuous actions (Gordon, 2000).

It is important to recognize that not all collective group or gang activity is criminal in nature. Certain pro-social collective activities are healthy for adolescents to mature and develop their adult identities, independent from their families. For example, organized sports clubs or supervised extracurricular activities provide a structured and positive environment for youth to interact and develop positive life skills while reducing the opportunities for the involvement in delinquent and/or criminal behaviour.

Organization

The *Organization* component of the framework describes the way in which the makeup of the group or gang is structured. This category breaks down into multiple subsets which include: the structure and hierarchical nature of the gang; the gang's connection to larger, more serious (possibly adult-run) organized crime groups; the sophistication and permanence of the gang's organizational structure; the existence of a specific code of conduct or set of formal rules; initiation practices; and the level of integration, cohesion, and solidarity between the gang's members.

Motivation to Join

There is no simple answer as to why youth get involved in different types of gangs. The *Motivation to Join* component outlines factors that encourage youth to become involved or affiliated with gangs. One theoretical explanation distinguishes between "push" and "pull" factors that lead to youth involvement in gangs (Mathews, 1999: 2). "Push factors" are the reasons within the individual that draw them to become affiliated with gangs. For example, push factors include the desire for a sense of belonging or a heightened sense of power. In contrast, "pull factors" are those external motivators such as the offer of protection or the potential of making large sums of money by being involved in the gang.

Although we have identified a number of factors that motivate youth to become involved in gangs (e.g., opportunities for financial gain, access to drugs, etc.), the relative effect of these factors seems to vary across Canada. As the *2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* indicates, the type of gangs existing in Canada vary considerably by region and, in turn, it could be assumed that motivational factors and opportunities for youth to be involved in gangs also vary. Thus, a youth's motivation to join may vary depending on his or her geographic location in addition to individual socioeconomic, cultural or ethnic, age, and/or family factors.

Recruitment

The *Recruitment* category describes how youth are brought into a gang or how adolescents gain access to gangs. The recruitment process varies dramatically depending on the type of gang one joins. Recruitment practices range from friends coming together because of shared interests to formal recruitment through the sponsorship of youth by existing gang members or recruitment in correctional institutions.

In many cases youth have indicated that there was no formal recruitment, pressure, or coercion for them to join a gang by existing members. Instead, joining a gang is seen as a natural process whereby new members gradually increase their level of involvement as they are integrated into the gang by family members or friends who are already members. Mathews (1993: 23) refers to this process as "drifting," rather than a planned progression. "Drifting" can occur for a number of reasons: because of challenges from other groups of youth who see the assemblage as a gang; the perception of gang membership as a natural phenomenon where gang involvement is

part of a neighbourhood's culture; labelling by outsiders (e.g., police, media, etc.); or escalating levels of collective criminal behaviour and violence when the group/gang gets into altercations with other groups of youth. "Drifting" into gangs may also be more prevalent among youth who have no access to, or are not encouraged to join, pro-social, legitimate-type gangs such as sports teams or community groups (Gordon, 2000: 43).

In other instances, organized crime syndicates require youth recruits to perform specific tasks in order to carry out their criminal activity. In such cases, active recruitment takes place. Youth are required to prove themselves as worthy of being taken into the gang by committing criminal or sexual acts as directed by gang leaders. The recruitment tests can range from thefts, assaults, armed robberies, murders, drug dealing, and prostitution (Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, 2005: 4). In many cases there is an established protocol for being recruited and inducted into these types of gangs.

Exit Strategies

Exit Strategies is made up of two components: an indicator of the level of difficulty in disaffiliating one's self from a given type of gang, and a brief suggested plan of action for implementing measures for gang exit.

The level of difficulty, perseverance, and commitment that is required when exiting a gang cannot be overstated. Although less criminally-centered gangs have a rather fluid membership structure which makes them easy to join and abandon, the more criminally-centered gangs are extremely difficult and dangerous to exit. In both serious and non-serious criminal gangs, there involves a process of leaving behind a circle of friends who have provided substantial social and emotional support and friendship (Mathews, 1993: 36). For the criminally-centered gangs there is often the need for relocation, police protection for the ex-gang member as well as their family, and a multifaceted support network of police, community, and family support.

2.2 Typology

Type A: Group of Friends

Description

These peer groups consist of collections of youth who spend time together on a regular and on-going basis. They engage in little to no criminal activity as they build healthy and positive social relationships. It is also worth noting that group affiliation is a normal and essential part of child and adolescent development as they transition into adulthood. Type A groups can vary by age, be made up of mixed gender or not, and may or may not consist of members from similar ethnic backgrounds. These types of groups have little to no contact with other types of criminal gangs (Hébert et al., 1997). It is important to include this group in the framework however, because they are sometimes mislabelled as criminal gangs.

Activity

- Spending time together as a group while participating in organized and structured activities such as sports leagues, after school programs, and/or extra-curricular school activities. As well, these youth may be involved in unstructured activities of common interest, such as unsupervised sports or just hanging out together.

Organization

- Loose structure;
- No organized leadership;
- Mixed race or not;
- Mixed gender or not;
- Fluid membership where youths can be part of multiple groups of friends through social connections; and
- Absence of group level contact with other youth gangs or organized crime groups (although specific individuals may belong to both).

Motivation to Join

- Needs fulfillment where youth get recognition from peers, affirmation of their skills, and develop a sense of belonging;
- Companionship, company, and sharing of common interests and activities; and
- Help young people make the transition from adolescence to adulthood by satisfying their emotional, psychological, and/or social needs (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 1994: 6).

Recruitment

- Coming together because of common interests;
- Long-time neighbourhood friends, school peers, or childhood friends/long-time associates; and
- Acquaintances through mutual social connections.

Exit Strategies

- None – this is a positive collection of youth that should be encouraged.

Type B: Spontaneous Group/Gang Activity

Description

This group of youths is largely social in nature as they congregate to spend time together and “hang out.” The purpose of spending time together is generally not crime focused, although criminal activity sometimes occurs spontaneously and is situation-motivated (Gordon, 2000: 48). These groups may or may not have a defined group/gang name and do not generally define a territory or “turf” that they defend. Members are sometimes influenced by glamorized portrayals of gangs in news and entertainment media (Winnipeg Police Service, 2005). These groups can be of any age, and of mixed or same gender. Type B groups/gangs are generally large in size because their power, popularity, and social image are based on the extent of their social or friendship networks (Mathews, 1993: 72). Many of the members of Type B groups/gangs have other options in life and are less committed to the gang or its culture than more serious type gangs. Known examples of Type B Group/Gangs include the Authority Fuckers, the Notorious Brown Bitches, and the Blonde Mafia, all of Surrey, British Columbia.

Activity

- Spontaneous social activity and exciting, impulsive, criminal violence/activity (sometimes against other youths);
- Centrality of criminal activity is low, but activity sometimes involves (mostly) males “hanging out” and occasionally getting into trouble (Mathews, 1993: 72);
- Criminal acts generally include: shoplifting, thefts from vehicles, vandalism, occasional assault, loitering, mischief, bullying, swarming, intimidation, extortion, sexual/non-sexual harassment, and graffiti; and
- Importance is put on maintaining a highly visible profile within the community because the group/gang’s sense of power and identity comes from the acknowledgement of their presence by outsiders (Gordon, 2000: 49).

Organization

- Loose, fluid structure;
- No structured or permanent leadership or hierarchy;
- Youths can identify themselves as a gang/group or can be identified by community stakeholders as a gang;
- Individual members can be part of multiple groups/gangs through social connections without negative consequences;

- There are few or no connections to organized crime groups present (Hébert et al., 1997); and
- Weapons used generally include: knives, bats, some handguns, and homemade weapons.

Motivation to Join

- To develop a sense of belonging, and recognition from peers;
- Membership allows for social positioning within the greater social hierarchy of a school or community setting, which is accomplished by social posturing through visible gang membership;
- Protection from other youth;
- The presence of a neighbourhood gang culture (gang membership is normal);
- Development of a sense of power and control through intimidation or toughness;
- Youth are sometimes escaping distressing or dysfunctional family situations. However, in other situations, middle-class youths are coming from intact families and have access to material comforts, career pathways, part-time jobs, and other supports (Mathews, 1993: 13);
- Lack of structured activities;
- The peer group acts as a vehicle for maturing during the transition between adolescence and adulthood through pleasure/excitement/fear. This is accomplished by breaking social taboos, adventure seeking, limit-testing, challenging authority, and showing off or displaying toughness in front of peers; and
- Few or no alternatives such as sports leagues or structured extra-curricular activities are available to youth to join “legitimate” groups.

Recruitment

- “Drifting” (Mathews, 1993: 23), where a group of friends come together and are labelled as a gang;
- Youth are offered physical protection;
- The individuals share common interests; and
- These groups may come together because they are generally school peers, childhood friends/long-term associates, or neighbourhood friends or associates.

Exit Strategies

- This is the easiest type of gang to exit other than type A. This is accomplished by “growing up and growing out,” where youths mature and move on to other things, or make a conscious shift in their peer groups.

Type C: Purposive Group/Gang Activity

Description

Sometimes gang/group formation is planned with the purpose of carrying out specific criminal activity (Mathews, 1993: 73). These groups are often smaller in size than Type B gangs/groups, and the size is contingent on the type of activity that is being conducted or the purpose of the gang. Generally, these groups/gangs assume a lower (although still visible) profile in order to evade prosecution or police intervention. These groups/gangs can emerge from within existing larger groups/gangs or may come about for a specific purpose and be disbanded once the activity or plan has been carried out.

Activity

- The purpose of the gang’s activities is objective-specific, consisting of premeditated and planned activities;
- Centrality of criminal and/or violent activity is high;
- The purpose of the gang’s criminal activity may be economic, idealistic, and/or emotionally-based (Hébert et al., 1997; Mathews, 1999); and
- Criminal acts can include: robberies, drug trafficking, breaking and entering/home invasion, selling stolen property, procurement and trafficking of weapons, assault, hate crimes, vigilante-type assault, extortion, and use of graffiti or tagging.

Organization

- Can have more definite leadership structure than Type B gangs (as shown in interview excerpt from Mathews, 1993: 24) or can be loosely structured;
- Generally male-dominated groups;
- Membership is small in size and deliberate in makeup;
- Group comes together for a specific purpose and then may be disbanded once the group’s objectives are achieved; and
- Few or no links to criminal business organizations.

Motivation to Join

- Needs fulfillment, including basic survival needs (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, money), a means to achieve material possessions and success, recognition from peers, a sense of belonging, and affirmation of skills;
- Derivation of pleasure and excitement through adventure seeking, challenging authority, and limit testing;
- Alleviating boredom;
- Seeking a sense of justice or to “settle a score”; and
- Members are interested in crime.

Recruitment

- “Drifting,” where a group of friends comes together voluntarily for a common purpose or to achieve shared goals; and
- Recruitment most often occurs within friend or social groups; strangers are not generally invited due to the elevated level of risk because of the nature of the criminal activities.

Exit Strategies

- Police intervention by either arresting youth or involving adolescents in diversion programs.

Type D: Youth Street Gang

Description

These groups of young adults come together as a semi-structured organization to engage in profit-driven criminal activity or organized violence against other gangs (Gordon, 2000: 48). Street gangs identify themselves as such through the adoption of a gang name; common brands, styles, colours of clothing, and/or jewellery; and tattoos to openly display gang membership to other gangs. These gangs are not part of a larger criminal organization and often have a definite territory or “turf” that they claim and defend as their own (Hébert et al., 1997). Graffiti is often used as a form of marking a gang’s territory and as a means of communication. Known examples of Type D Gangs include the Jane-Finch Posse, the Asian Assassins, and the Black Dragons, all of Toronto, Ontario.

Activities

- Organized violence against other street gangs;

- Planned, organized and calculated criminal activity for the goals of profit and image;
- Centrality of criminal activity within the gang is high;
- Activity is generally economically or territorially driven;
- Use of intimidation and violence is moderate to high for the purposes of protecting economic and territorial interests; and
- Criminal activities include sexual and non-sexual harassment, prostitution, intimidation, extortion, robbery, murder, selling and/or procurement of weapons, vehicle thefts, assaults, defending of territory, "turf wars," drug trafficking, and the use of graffiti as a way of establishing territory and communicating with other gang members.

Organization

- Gang has moderately structured hierarchy;
- Gang may or may not have connections to organized crime groups (Type E), but acts as an independent group/gang without influence from other cells or a parent organization;
- Moderate levels of leadership are present where expectations are spelled out by the leaders (often older youth or adults);
- A code of conduct and/or a set of rules is present;
- There is a more permanent organizational structure than Type A, B, and C groups/gangs;
- High levels of integration, cohesion, and solidarity resulting from conflict and habitual criminal activity; and
- There exists multiple levels of involvement (Winnipeg Police Service, 2005; Public Safety Branch of Manitoba Justice, 2001):
 - Affiliate/associate members: These are people who hang out with the gang but are not fully initiated or considered as main or central members. They do not know about all gang activities, but receive some gang benefits, i.e., protection and access to drugs and weapons.
 - Hardcore/made members: These individuals have full membership in the gang and offer their complete loyalty and devotion. Their daily activities involve furthering the interests of the gang. They have significant influence within the gang and are privy to all information and benefits of the gang.

Motivation to Join

- Youth are motivated to join Type D gangs because of money, access to drugs, a heightened sense of power, protection, they are forced to join, especially for those who were recruited in correctional institutions, feelings of alienation and/or disenfranchisement from the outside community, a lack of legitimate alternatives or opportunities, a replacement family, social acceptance and sense of belonging, and identity development and peer recognition (Public Safety Branch of Manitoba Justice, 2001).

Recruitment

- Recruitment of disenfranchised or “at risk” youth looking for potential monetary payoffs or access to drugs. The types of young people that are most susceptible to joining because of these factors are: immigrant youth, Aboriginals, street youth, marginalized groups, abused youth, and youth from low-functioning families;
- Youth are exposed to gang activity by having parents or older siblings engaged in criminal and/or gang activity;
- Escalation in severity of criminal activity sometimes results in offers of further criminal affiliation and protection within other gang types;
- Recruitment of new members from correctional institutions (Dohla, 2003; Mercredi, 2000; Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, 2005);

Initiation

- Generally directed by the leaders of the gang;
- Entry tests involve selling drugs, prostitution, and tests of criminal acts;
- “Beating in,” where gang members will physically beat the new recruit as a test of their toughness and devotion. This can last for several minutes (Winnipeg Police Service, 2005; Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, 2005);
- “Banging/Sexing in,” where female recruits will gain entry to the gang by engaging in sexual acts with multiple male gang members (Winnipeg Police Service, 2005; Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, 2005);
- Sponsorship through friends or family connections; and
- “Presenting Papers”: showing police record with multiple offences.

Exit Strategies

- This type of gang is one of the most difficult and dangerous to exit. Removing oneself from these gangs will often require a multifaceted exit strategy with help from police, community groups, family support etc.; and
- Gang members may sometimes have the opportunity to choose to be “beaten out” or “jump out” of the gang. This involves being severely beaten by other members; exiting members may be assaulted to the point of severe injury or death (Edmonton Police Service, 2005).

Type E: Structured Criminal Organization

Description

Organized crime gangs are criminal business organizations that are highly structured and sophisticated. These groups tend to be led by criminally experienced adults for the purpose of economic or financial gain. Type E gangs are cohesive entities that maintain a low profile in order to conduct their criminal activity with little attention. Organized crime gangs have national and/or international connections and are often affiliated clubs within an overarching criminal organization. Canadian examples of “Type E” gangs include: The Indian Posse, a nation-wide Aboriginal organized crime syndicate; and The Hell’s Angels Motorcycle Gang.

Activities

- Planned, organized, and calculated criminal activity for profit;
- Centrality of criminal activity is extreme;
- Use of intimidation and violence is moderate to high for the purposes of protecting economic and territorial interests;
- Criminal activities include: national and international scale trafficking and smuggling of drugs, weapons, alcohol, cigarettes and humans; sexual and non-sexual harassment; intimidation; uttering threats; robbery; murder and contract killing; extortion; credit card theft and fraud; gambling; white collar crimes; vehicle theft; assault; defending of territory or “turf wars”; child exploitation; bribery; fraud; and graffiti as a way of establishing territory and communicating with other gang members;
- Youth under twelve are used extensively to spy, break in and enter homes, scout, run drugs, and produce child pornography (Mathews, 1993: 27); and
- Sophisticated and extensive weapon usage, including explosives, automatic weapons, handguns, and bats (Winnipeg Police Service, 2005).

Organization

- Highly structured with a hierarchical leadership system;
- Leadership positions are generally held by adults (Gordon, 2000);
- Expectations and objectives of members are clear;
- Gangs maintain a low profile so as not to draw attention to the organization's activities;
- High levels of integration, solidarity, and secrecy resulting from the nature and extent of habitual criminal activity;
- There are often elaborate networks of multiple gang cells that carry out criminal activity in various communities on behalf of the parent organization; and
- Multiple levels of involvement:
 - Affiliate/associate members are not really initiated, nor do they know about all gang activities. They receive some benefits (i.e., protection and access to drugs and weapons) and mostly “hang out” with the gang.
 - Hardcore/made members hold full membership in the gang and offer their complete loyalty. Their daily activities largely involve furthering the interests of the gang. These individuals have significant influence within the gang and are privy to all its information and benefits.

Motivation to Join

- Youth are motivated to join Type E gangs because of money, access to drugs, a heightened sense of power, protection, they are forced to join, especially for those who were recruited in correctional institutions, feelings of alienation and/or disenfranchisement from the outside community, a lack of legitimate alternatives or opportunities, a replacement family, social acceptance and sense of belonging, and identity development and peer recognition (Public Safety Branch of Manitoba Justice, 2001).

Recruitment

- Recruitment most often occurs through a sponsorship process by existing gang members. Sponsorship can often be obtained through family connections, through friends or social/business contacts. Youth are also brought into the gang in correctional institutions for protection and affiliation. Youth involved in Type E gangs are most often habitual criminal offenders, where escalation in severity of criminal activity sometimes results in offers of further criminal affiliation and protection within Type E gangs;

- Recruitment of disenfranchised or “at risk” youth looking for potential monetary payoffs or access to drugs. The types of young people that are most susceptible to joining because of these factors are: immigrant youth, Aboriginals, street youth, marginalized groups, abused youth, and youth from dysfunctional families;
- Youth are exposed to gang activity by having parents or older siblings engaged in criminal and/or gang activity;
- Recruitment of new members from correctional institutions (Dohla, 2003; Mercredi, 2000; Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, 2005); and
- Youth at risk and or youth involved in street gangs may also be “hired or contracted” to perform specific functional tasks for the organized crime group, such as distribution of drugs. This type of functional relationship may or may not result in the youth becoming a full member of the gang.

Initiation

- Entry tests include selling drugs, prostitution, and tests of criminal acts;
- “Beating in” is often an initiation rite where gang members physically beat the new recruit as a test of their toughness and devotion. This can last for several minutes (Public Safety Branch of Manitoba Justice, 2001);
- “Banging/sexing in”: female recruits will gain entry to the gang by engaging in sexual acts with multiple male gang members;
- Sponsorship through friends or family connections; and
- “Presenting Papers” involves showing police record with multiple offences.

Exit Strategies

- Most difficult and dangerous of all types of gangs to exit, where disaffiliation will often require a multifaceted exit strategy with help from police, community groups, family support etc. in order to assure protection for exiting members and their families; and
- Gang members may sometimes have the opportunity to choose to be “beaten out” or “jump out” of the gang. This involves being severely beaten by other members of the gang, where exiting members may be assaulted to the point of severe injury or death (Edmonton Police Service, 2005).

3.0 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

3.1 Overview

Information on current Canadian programs targeting youth involvement in gangs was obtained via internet searches and contact with various law enforcement, correctional, and community agency personnel. The programs included in this section of the report are diverse in their objectives and mandates, and target youth affiliated with gangs, youth at risk of gang involvement, and the community at large. In fulfillment of Objective 3 of this report, these programs were categorized according to the medical model of prevention, which uses three basic levels as follows:

- (1) **Primary Prevention:** At the most basic level of prevention, these programs link crime and victimization to broader social and cultural factors. These programs tend to be focused on entire populations rather than being targeted to specific individuals or groups within a community. Their focus is most often prevention through education and awareness. These approaches are also sometimes called universal interventions.
- (2) **Secondary Prevention:** This level of prevention assumes that violent crime and persistent offenders are not random phenomena. Secondary prevention programs focus on at-risk people and situations in an attempt to target interventions more effectively before an incident occurs. These types of approaches are also sometimes called targeted interventions.
- (3) **Tertiary Prevention:** These programs involve the full range of responses that occur after a crime has been committed and/or an individual becomes a member of a gang. The objective is to rehabilitate or incapacitate the offender (prevent recidivism), repair some of the damage done to the victim, and provide exit strategies for those who decide to leave a gang.

These levels of prevention cut across all group/gang types discussed in Section 2.2. Gang prevention and intervention programs vary considerably in how they address the motivations and objectives that are at the root of why young people join gangs. Many prevention programs developed for the general population focus on education and resiliency training so that young people can recognize the dangers associated with gang activities. It is thought that if youth develop a capacity to recognize these types of situations, then they may be better equipped to resist engaging in gang-related activity. For high-risk youth, primary prevention measures may be less effective because social, behavioural, family, and community factors increase the challenges that these youth face in maintaining healthy, pro-social behaviour. In order to be successful with these high-risk youth, the level of focus and targeting of an initiative should also take into consideration any factors that are held in common by a target group which increase the likelihood of their engagement in gang-specific behaviour. These secondary prevention programs should focus on risk factors that are modifiable, as opposed to focussing on “Markers,” or variables which are associated with risk outcomes that are not changeable (Offord & Bennett, 2002).

Tertiary level programs aim at providing exit strategies and support in order to increase opportunities for youth gang members to leave and remain out of gangs. The effectiveness of tertiary programs is contingent on the participants' voluntary willingness and desire to exit their gang situation; the effort and commitment required by those involved in tertiary programs is higher than at any other prevention level.

3.2 Program Descriptions

3.2.1 Primary Prevention Programs

Program Title:	Protecting Surrey Schools Together (PSST)	
Organization:	The Surrey School District in Partnership with the Surrey RCMP	
Geographic Location:	Surrey, British Columbia	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	Fall 2006 (not yet officially launched)	End Date:
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey School District • Surrey RCMP 	
Target Group:	Surrey, British Columbia, Youth	
Project Description:	<p>The Surrey School District, in partnership with the Surrey RCMP, have created an interactive website (www.psst-bc.ca) for youth to participate in the promotion of a safe school environment. This site gives youth the opportunity to post questions to experts in school safety, and to give crime tips in a confidential and anonymous manner. There are also links to quality sites with information about drugs, safety in schools, and other related topics. Other subject matter on the site include media and movie critiques, contests, polls, and youth-focused articles. Although the website has not yet been officially launched, multiple tips have been reported, with some leading to criminal arrests.</p>	

Program Title:	Five Core Curriculum	
Organization:	Toronto Police Service, 33 Division	
Geographic Location:	North Central Toronto, Ontario	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2003	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Toronto Police Service	
Target Group:	Grade 8 and 9 students	
Project Description:	Part of a five component crime prevention curriculum, a school liaison officer conducts a one-hour lecture series to educate young people about gangs. The topics of the discussion address the history of gangs in the United States and Canada, how to identify gangs, the realities of female involvement in gangs, and the legal implications of gang affiliation. This aggressive educational campaign conducts four to five lectures daily, reaching over 2000 students from 80 classes in 2003 alone.	

Program Title:	Empowering Indo Canadian Youth to Lead a Healthy, Productive and Crime Free Life	
Organization:	Richmond Alcohol and Drug Action Team	
Geographic Location:	Richmond, British Columbia	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	October, 2004	End Date: June, 2005
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Centre, Community Mobilization Program	
Target Group:	Indo-Canadian Youth in Richmond	
Project Description:	This project uses print and audio/visual materials to inform youth on bullying, intercultural conflict and resistance building. The objective is to empower Indo-Canadian youth living in Richmond with knowledge, tools, and skills to make healthy choices and deter them from abuse, violence, gang involvement and criminal activity. Youth mentoring and capacity-building exercises are also key components. Workshops for parents are currently being developed.	

Program Title:	“e-race”	
Organization:	Miscellaneous Productions Society	
Geographic Location:	Vancouver, British Columbia	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	January, 2005	End Date: March, 2006
Funder:	Community Mobilization Program, National Crime Prevention Centre	
Target Group:	Youth, community members	
Project Description:	In-depth research on substance abuse, fast cars, street racing and gang activity will be used to develop a written script for an educational video. The research will include youth focus groups, harm-reduction and crime prevention workshops for youth, and anti-racism/diversity workshops for youth <i>and</i> community members.	

Program Title:	“Gangs: Breaking News” Youth Gang Prevention Video and Accompanying Facilitator’s Guide for Youth	
Organization:	British Columbia Safe Schools and Safe Communities	
Geographic Location:	Abbotsford, British Columbia	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	April 1, 2003	End Date: Nearing completion
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Centre	
Target Group:	Youth	
Project Description:	The purpose of this project is to develop a video and facilitator’s guide to teach youth how to avoid becoming involved in gang activity. These materials will provide prevention and intervention strategies for youth, challenge myths and stereotypes surrounding gangs, and highlight existing resources that youth may access to resist gang recruitment and victimization.	

Program Title:	Lighthouses	
Organization:	Manitoba Justice	
Geographic Location:	Manitoba	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2001	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Manitoba Government; Local Funding	
Target Group:	Youth at risk, age 8-21	
Project Description:	<p>Part of the Manitoba Justice Neighbourhoods Alive initiative, <i>Lighthouses</i> is a fund designed to support recreational, educational and pro-social programs after hours for youth in various communities across Manitoba. <i>Lighthouses</i> makes use of schools, recreation facilities, etc. to provide sports, art, music and other activities for local youth. The program is community based, developing partnerships with youth, police, justice workers and other stakeholders in the community. The objective is to provide activities for youth to prevent them from becoming involved in criminal activity, gangs, drugs, etc. Activities may include sports tournaments, skills workshops, art, crafts cooking, computer clubs, homework clubs, drama, video productions, field trips, etc. In the second year of each project, youth participate in fundraising or community clean-ups as a way to give back to the community.</p>	

Program Title:	Operation Target	
Organization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Albert Parkland Health Region (Addiction Services, Sexual Health Clinic) • Prince Albert Police Service • RCMP • Saskatchewan Justice – Corrections • Youth Outreach Program 	
Geographic Location:	Central and Northern Saskatchewan	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2001	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Albert Grand Council • Prince Albert Métis Local • Saskatchewan Learning • Saskatchewan Provincial Government 	
Target Group:	School students grades 7-12	
Project Description:	<p>Operation Target is a multi-agency team of professionals (e.g., Prince Albert Police Service, RCMP, Correctional Service of Canada) from Prince Albert, SK whose aim is to help youth make healthy choices. This is accomplished by delivering consistent, factual information about the issues they face daily and to increase the awareness of other professionals who work with youth so that needs may be detected early and referrals can be made. A day-long series of interactive, 45-minute topical presentations include: drugs, addiction, gangs/bullying, sexual health and sexual exploitation. The “gangs/bullying” presentation discusses: the history of gangs in North America; the known gangs in Northern Saskatchewan; the characteristics of youth vulnerable to gang recruitment; the false sense of community provided by the gang and the romantic notions of gang involvement; and bullying.</p>	

Program Title:	Prévention de l'adhésion aux gangs de rues (Prevention of adhesion to youth street gangs)	
Organization:	Forum-Jeunesse Charlexvoix-Ouest	
Geographic Location:	Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Primary and secondary school students, aged 9-17	
Project Description:	Although there is not currently a gang problem in their region, Forum-Jeunesse Charlevoix-Ouest is implementing a community education project to raise the awareness of youth and community members about youth gangs. Education sessions are held in primary and secondary schools about violence (e.g., types of violence, its manifestations, effects on the community, and alternatives to violence), the dangers of youth gangs, and the alternatives to youth gang involvement. Youth are also encouraged to become involved in the development of anti-gang initiatives. In addition, community partners are being mobilized to create a community safety net that can be put in place when youth gangs attempt to infiltrate the community.	

Program Title:	Prévention de l'adhésion des jeunes aux groupes ou gangs criminels (Prevention of youth adhesion to criminal groups and gangs)	
Organization:	Centre de prévention de la violence familiale Generations	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	General Population	
Project Description:	With the objective of disseminating information about gangs to the youth and adult public, this project aims at developing an educational violence/gang information website. This web page will be created within the existing Tel-Jeunes internet site. The contents and subject matter will include a definition of a youth gang, adhesion to gang life, membership, the roles of male and female gang members, and exit strategies.	

Program Title:	Prévenir le phénomène de gang en gang (Prevention of gangs in gangs)	
Organization:	Maison des jeunes de Mascouche	
Geographic Location:	Mascouche, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth and adults in the Mascouche community	
Project Description:	With agency and youth collaboration, this program assesses the realities of the gang situation within the municipality and produces a community-specific gang prevention video. Research is being conducted by synthesizing the existing literature on the subject of youth gangs in terms of socio-demographic, regional, criminal activity, and gang warning sign factors, and the administration of a census of schools and youth organizations in order to find out what types of social programs are needed. Finally, presentations for committees, youth centres, schools, regional organizations, parents, and action groups will be orchestrated.	

Program Title:	Ma gang au service de ma communauté	
Organization:	Relais des jeunes Gatinois	
Geographic Location:	Gatineau, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Parents, youth, and community organizations	
Project Description:	This program involves the implementation of a series of activities and programs that will allow for the prevention, education, and understanding of gang issues among youth. The project's major activities involve disseminating information to parents by means of newspaper articles and flyers, organizing meetings with community organizations, holding educational workshops and discussion groups in schools and/or community centres with adolescents about gangs, designing and painting an anti-gang mural, running after-school programs for primary school children, and implementing a pro-social activity pilot project for youth centre attendees.	

Program Title:	La gang... Expose tes couleurs! (The gang... Expose your colours!)	
Organization:	Le comité régional de prévention du crime – Saguenay-Lac St-Jean (district 2)	
Geographic Location:	Chicoutimi, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Grade 7 students	
Project Description:	<p>The organization will hold twelve one-hour meetings in grade 7 classes. These meetings address issues of violence, vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, intimidation, theft, etc. Above educating and creating awareness of the issues for these students, the meetings also allow for the establishment of positive contacts between youth and outreach workers. These youth will be subsequently invited to participate in the program by organizing an art exposition to display art that they have created to express their opinions concerning criminality. Additional activities include: the conception and distribution of a local resource information brochure for youth, the creation of works of art and the staging of a multidisciplinary art exposition, and holding a press conference that will allow youth to make their opinions known about their positions regarding criminal activity.</p>	

Program Title:	Prévention de l'adhésion aux gangs de rue (Prevention of youth adhesion to gangs)	
Organization:	Forum Jeunesse Charlevoix-Ouest	
Geographic Location:	Baie-St-Paul, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	6 th grade students, community partners	
Project Description:	<p>With the goal of keeping youth out of criminal gangs, the organization wishes to inform youth about the issues regarding gangs and recruitment processes. The actions of the program focus on developing partnerships and the dissemination of information that will allow local players to be better informed and up-to-date about the local gang situation. The problem of youth violence will be treated in the same manner, given that violence is central in gang activity and is also a noted problem in certain elementary schools. Specific activities include: holding information meetings about youth gangs, launching a project on verbal and physical abuse and violence, establishing the program "The Ambassadors of Peace" for 6th grade students, running a publicity campaign about the prevention of youth adhesion to criminal groups/gangs, and forming a youth committee to develop programs on the theme of violence.</p>	

Program Title:	Project Gang Proof	
Organization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba RCMP • Winnipeg Police Service • Manitoba Justice 	
Geographic Location:	Manitoba	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2001	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Manitoba Justice	
Target Group:	Families/communities attempting to prevent youth involvement in gangs	
Project Description:	<p>"Project Gang Proof" is a handbook for families and communities who are attempting to prevent youth from becoming involved in street gangs. The handbook raises awareness about gangs in Manitoba, and addresses the circumstances surrounding gang recruitment, risk factors, identifying gang activity in communities, gang prevention strategies, information about drugs, and provincial and federal gang laws.</p>	

Program Title:	Connaitre, comprendre et agir (Knowing, understanding, and acting)	
Organization:	Justice alternative et médiation	
Geographic Location:	Cowansville, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Cowansville community	
Project Description:	<p>Action research is to be conducted in order to better understand the local gang situation and to attain a better grasp on the realities of youth in the community. The research will also be useful in giving the general public a more realistic view of the youth gang situation. Three information collection sessions with local youth workers (focus groups and questionnaires) will be followed by a review of the documentation and services/programs that are currently in place. Lastly, there will be a reporting of findings through oral presentations and written reports that will be produced by youth reporters.</p>	

Program Title:	Rexdale Youth Community Violence Prevention Alliance	
Organization:	Leave Out Violence	
Geographic Location:	Greater Toronto Area, Ontario	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	January, 2005	End Date: December, 2006
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mobilization Program • Whitecastle Investments • Toronto Police Service • Toronto District School Board • North Etobicoke Revitalization Project • Councilor Suzan Hall • Thistletown Community Centre • Private donation • Community fundraising 	
Target Group:	Grade 6 Youth in 3 Rexdale-area public schools	
Project Description:	<p>This project builds on an existing Grade 6 crime prevention program operated by the Toronto police service. The new curriculum will include drug awareness, youth influences and decision making, as well as youth-empowerment, leadership involvement and community engagement. The program focuses on generating positive relationships between local youth and police, encourages avoidance of the punitive system by encouraging self-regulation of behaviour, and increases the knowledge and capacities of children/youth at risk to positively address violence and crime. The objectives of the program are met via group-based discussions and debates, and writing and artistic exercises. This initiative also involves lunch-time anti-violence committees whose purpose is to develop anti-violence public outreach materials and tools, and school-based anti-violence strategies. <i>(planned evaluation)</i></p>	

Program Title:	Street Gangs Presentation	
Organization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatoon Police Service Community Liaison Unit • Saskatoon Police Service Organized Crime Investigative Unit 	
Geographic Location:	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	August, 2004	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Saskatoon Police Service	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Community organizations • Parent groups 	
Project Description:	<p>A presentation developed by the Saskatoon Police Service Organized Crime Investigative Unit that raises awareness about gang activity in Saskatoon. The presentation specifically discusses what street gangs are, the different types of street gangs in Saskatoon, and gang activities, recruitment and identifiers (e.g., signs/gestures, tattoos, colours, graffiti, etc.). It also suggests how parents and schools might recognize, and respond to, youth involvement in gangs.</p>	

Program Title:	Take Action: Street Gang Awareness	
Organization:	Winnipeg Police Service	
Geographic Location:	Winnipeg, Manitoba	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	Unknown	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Winnipeg Police Service	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students grades 4-12 • Parents • Teachers 	
Project Description:	<p>Take Action increases youth awareness about the dangers of street gang involvement at an age appropriate level, while promoting positive alternative choices. The program also provides general information about street gangs to parents and teachers so that they might effectively recognize gang-related issues on an individual and community level.</p> <p>Take Action: Street Gang Awareness uses three different presentations, conducted in schools by Winnipeg Police Service:</p> <p>Level 1: Grades 4-6 – Discusses how positive groups differ from gangs, what gangs do, the myths and realities about why youth join gangs, information on gang structure and lifestyle, positive alternatives to gang involvement.</p> <p>Level 2: Grades 7-12 – Discusses more detailed information on gang structures, the myths and realities of why youth join gangs, positive alternatives to gang involvement, how neighbourhoods are affected by gangs, and facts/reasons surrounding gang violence.</p> <p>Level 3: Adults (parents, teachers) Discusses the types of gangs, the warning signs of gang involvement, information specific to Winnipeg gangs, community prevention strategies, tips for teachers, criminal organization legislation, risk factors for joining, gang graffiti and identifiers, tips for parents, school prevention strategies, safety tips.</p>	

Program Title:	Youth Gang Prevention Video and Accompanying Facilitator's Guide for Parents, Educators, Police & Community Agencies	
Organization:	British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils	
Geographic Location:	Vancouver, British Columbia	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	November, 2002	End Date: November, 2002
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Centre	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents • Community members • Police • Media 	
Project Description:	The purpose of the project is to develop a video and facilitator's guide to educate parents, community members, the police and media about youth gang involvement.	

Program Title:	Je chois ma gang (I choose my gang)	
Organization:	Fondation Carrefour Enfance Famille	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partners • Primary school children • Youth from grades 7 to 9 	
Project Description:	The program aims to inform, raise awareness, and to mobilize community partners (parents, youth, and aid workers) against youth gangs. Cataloguing and publishing a directory of local programs and services and develop resiliency skills to prevent youth from being recruited by gangs will be another focus. Multiple initiatives will be conducted, including information and awareness raising sessions with parents, local social service workers, and primary school children and youth from grades 7 to 9, the creation of a directory of programs and services available to aid parents and social workers to access relevant services for youth, and the promotion of local programs. A group of youth reporters will also be organized to present information on gangs through written and oral means.	

Program Title:	Je choisis ma gang! (I choose my gang!)	
Organization:	Table de concertation-jeunesse Bordeaux-Cartierville	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Bordeaux-Cartierville community	
Project Description:	<p>The goal of the project is to start up group programs that encourage positive socialization and respect for others, thereby developing a sense of belonging and connectedness to one's community by having the presence of a community worker. Organizers also hope to create a positive environment and a series of preventative actions for youths regularly attending high school. Activities include the implementation of thematic programs (Improv competition, multicultural dinner, theatre troop, student newspaper), offering support for a student council, promotion of socially constructive projects (theatre, newspaper, and performances), providing welcome activities to integrate people who have recently moved to the neighbourhood, holding three meetings (information and identification of the issues regarding gang membership, information sharing, and a needs assessment of aid workers).</p>	

Program Title:	Youth Options: Crime Prevention for Youth Forums	
Organization:	Beverly Towne Community Development Society	
Geographic Location:	Northeast Edmonton, Alberta, with a primary focus on the community of Beverly	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	April 1, 2005	End Date: April 30, 2006
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current year: National Crime Prevention Strategy • Wild Rose Foundation (pending) • A fundraising event: casino 	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary group: youth ages 12-21 years • Secondary group: children ages 6-12 years 	
Project Description:	<p>Youth Options is an umbrella program that has facilitated a number of projects over the past 7 years. The overall objective of the initiative is to identify the needs of youth who may be at risk of becoming involved in gangs and other negative activities and assist them in developing meaningful activities that are of interest to them, while helping address the underlying factors that put them at risk. Youth Options does this in partnership with the community, providing effective programs that support youth in making positive choices and improving the quality of their lives.</p> <p>The newest program, Youth Forums, allows youth to be involved in researching information on crime and drug/alcohol use and their impact on the community. Youth work with police to gather data and statistics, develop and conduct focus groups with other children and youth, develop presentations for area schools, and assist other community children and youth to implement change strategies.</p>	

Program Title:	The Community Solution to Gang Violence	
Organization:	Organized around community-based Working Groups that are supported by a Steering Committee, a Project Manager, and an Evaluation Team. The initiative is comprised of people from a diverse array of community organizations, all levels of government, and community members.	
Geographic Location:	The greater Edmonton area, Alberta	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	2003	End Date: 2008 (tentative)
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada • Alberta Ministry of Gaming • Edmonton Police Foundation • Edmonton Police Service (in-kind) • NCSA (in-kind) • Edmonton Community Services (in-kind) • Various community organizations 	
Target Group:	The greater Edmonton community	
Project Description:	<p>The Community Solution to Gang Violence takes a community-wide approach to addressing the issue of gang violence. Agencies and community members have the opportunity to come together to discuss and develop action plans and strategies directed toward the prevention, intervention, and suppression of gang violence. The initiative is organized around community-based working groups that develop and implement action plans in five theme areas: Community Awareness; Early Intervention; Values and Education; Youth Programming; and Government and Policy. The overall goal of the program is to create and sustain a collaborative process to engage and support citizens, agencies, institutions, and government to take collective and individual responsibility for working toward a community free of gang violence.</p>	

Program Title:	Clean Scene	
Organization:	Clean Scene Network for Youth Society	
Geographic Location:	Alberta, Northwest Territories	
Prevention Level:	Primary	
Start Date:	November, 2002	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Clean Scene has a number of corporate sponsors and also fundraises to support the program. Health Canada contributed funds for a new program called Clean Scene Peer Clubs.	
Target Group:	Students in grades 7-12	
Project Description:	<p>An experimental drug prevention program which uses presentations, school forums, and web communications to engage students and reinforce the program messages. Preventing gang involvement is an indirect goal and outcome of Clean Scene, as the CEO/Program Director is a former unit gang member from prison and uses much of his real life experience in his presentations. The overall mission of Clean Scene is “to inspire the youth of Alberta to embrace a drug and crime free lifestyle.” Clean Scene also provides information for parents and teachers.</p> <p>Clean Scene Peer Clubs is a new program for Clean Scene. This program facilitates peer support clubs where students help students stay drug and crime free.</p>	

3.2.2 Secondary Prevention Programs

Program Title:	Choices Youth Program	
Organization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winnipeg School Division • Community and Youth Corrections • Winnipeg Police Service 	
Geographic Location:	Winnipeg, Manitoba	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	1995	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winnipeg Development Agreement • Manitoba Education and Training • Manitoba Justice • Community Agencies and Businesses 	
Target Group:	Students in grades 6-8 at specific schools within the Winnipeg School Division who are at risk of gang involvement, dropping out of school, and/or substance abuse.	
Project Description:	<p>The goal of CHOICES is to reduce substance abuse, academic failure, juvenile delinquency and gang activity by youth. The objectives of the program are to reduce/buffer risk factors for gang involvement and alcohol/tobacco/drug use and to increase resiliency within peer groups and families to reduce the likelihood that youth will become involved with gangs/alcohol/tobacco/drug use. The program focuses on acquisition of basic cognitive skills, social and life skills training to promote social competency and resistance to peer pressure. Activities include personal and social skills training, wilderness experience, academic enhancement (tutor mentors), parent and family skills training, and a follow up club that maintains and encourages student contact with community clubs and organizations, and reinforces lessons taught during the program. <i>(Evaluation conducted by the Winnipeg School Division)</i></p>	

Program Title:	Community Cadet Corps Program	
Organization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Community Cadet Corps • Royal Canadian Mounted Police 	
Geographic Location:	National	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	1996	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Locally funded	
Target Group:	Youth aged 12-18	
Project Description:	<p>The Community Cadet Corps Program was developed specifically for First Nations and Métis children, but can be used by any community. RCMP members facilitate the development of the program in their community, but it is often initiated by community need and/or interest. The goal of the program is to provide youth with knowledge and strength to overcome daily obstacles, and to form partnerships between youth and police, business and service organizations. Specifically, youth are provided with alternative activities to prevent them from becoming involved in gangs/drugs/crime, improve their academic achievement and build self-esteem. Various activities are used to teach the youth lessons and skills: drill marching (structure, self-discipline); organized sports (entertainment, fitness); competition shooting (bb guns) (firearm safety); guest speakers from various professions (career planning); educational and entertaining field trips; Canada fitness; drugs and alcohol education; language and culture education; community awareness; dog masters (entertainment and personal development skills). Student accomplishments are rewarded with awards and uniform pins.</p>	

Program Title:	Needs Assessment on Young South Asian Women	
Organization:	South Asian Interactive Society	
Geographic Location:	Abbotsford, British Columbia	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	March, 2004	End Date: July 2004
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Crime Prevention Centre • Community Mobilization Program 	
Target Group:	South Asian women aged 12-19 living in the Fraser Valley	
Project Description:	<p>The purpose of the project was to conduct a needs assessment of young South Asian women in the Fraser Valley. Focus groups and one-to-one interviews were used to examine the issues affecting these girls: bullying, violence, gang related behaviour, and victimization. Community needs, assets and capacities were also examined in order to facilitate the development of community-based preventative and intervention programs. An action plan was developed based on the findings of this research.</p>	

Program Title:	Spirit Builders: A Community Response to Gang Recruitment	
Organization:	Community Youth Task Force	
Geographic Location:	Regina, Balcarres, Abernathy, Little Black Bear, Okanese, Starblanket, and Peepeekisis, Saskatchewan	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	August, 2004 (originally funded in 2002)	End Date: August 2005
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth aged 8-11 who are at risk of gang recruitment because of poverty, family dysfunction, antisocial behaviour, or poor school performance.	
Project Description:	<p>Started in the fall of 2002, Spirit Builders was formed in response to gang recruitment by Regina gangs in small First Nations communities. The objective is to prevent youth involvement in gangs by providing them with skills and alternative activities (i.e., basketball, cooking, guitar, drama, quilting, weight lifting, soccer, floor hockey, art explorations). The program uses a universal approach and includes youth from supportive families in mentoring roles. The project utilizes community networks, including First Nations Leaders and community members, to respond to the needs of children and youth living on-reserve. The program is free (includes supplies, transportation, activities, food), and involves 10 sessions of one hour per week for 10 weeks, during which children must learn 10 skills and receive 10 credits/badges after they learn the skill. <i>(evaluation pending)</i></p>	

Program Title:	Youth Emergency Crisis Stabilization System	
Organization:	MacDonald Youth Services	
Geographic Location:	Winnipeg, Manitoba	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	January 1998	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba Family Services & Housing • Winnipeg Regional Health Authority • Manitoba Education 	
Target Group:	Children and youth experiencing psychosocial emergencies	
Project Description:	<p>The Youth Emergency Crisis Stabilization System provides community-based emergency and crisis services to children and youth experiencing crisis situations, including gang related activity, recruitment, or threats. Parents and/or clients may call for support and direction. The Brief Treatment Team, a multidisciplinary group, is available to provide a time-limited, solution focused intervention that focuses on the origins of the crisis. A Mobile Crisis Team may be dispatched between 0700 and 0300 to stabilize crisis, provide onsite services, and make referrals to therapists and/or the Crisis Stabilization Unit (secure facility). Home-Based Crisis Intervention is provided to help youth and their families avoid the “pull” of the streets. Youth Emergency Education Services are also available to re-establish positive connections to schools. Treatment strategies for ongoing interventions are developed.</p>	

Program Title:	Jeunesse et la Rue (Youth and the Street)	
Organization:	Association des Jeunes de la Petite Bourgogne	
Geographic Location:	Montreal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	May 2005	End Date: May 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	12-17 year old youths from the Little Burgundy (Petite Bourgogne) neighbourhood	
Project Description:	<p>A call for youth diversion programs was prompted by five murders of youth by youth aged 12-17 in the Petite Bourgogne neighbourhood in Montréal, QC. Programs aimed at teaching, informing, and sensitizing youth and parents about gangs and youth violence are put in place in order to diminish or eliminate the involvement of youth as well as their parents in criminal street gangs. In order to accomplish this task, a community prevention plan and workshops are being developed to increase youth resiliency so that they can identify and exit potentially dangerous situations of violence and/or delinquency.</p> <p>The activities being implemented include peer mediation and anger management skills workshops, the development and administration of a questionnaire to better understand the gang situation in the area as perceived by youth, testimonial lectures by ex-gang members, basketball and soccer tournaments as well as field trips to allow youth to see other opportunities available outside their community. Guest speakers from the justice sector (judges, lawyers and police officers) will be brought in to educate adolescents about their legal rights as well as the consequences of delinquency.</p>	

Program Title:	Je change de gang! (I'm changing gangs!)	
Organization:	Maison des jeunes St-Elzéar	
Geographic Location:	Gaspésie Saint-Elzéar de Bonaventure, Quebec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	March 7, 2005	End Date: July 2, 2005
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction des affaires policières et de la prévention de la criminalité, Sécurité Publique Québec • Municipalité de St-Elzéar • Centre d'accès Communautaire Informatique (CACI) • Le Comité de Développement Artistique (CDA) • L'épicerie Maltais 	
Target Group:	Youth aged 12-17	
Project Description:	<p>The goals of the program were to prevent youth from engaging in gang activity while developing their interest in sports. The program also aimed at developing a positive dialogue between the youth centre and the community at large in order to improve adult-adolescent relations. In order to discourage gang involvement, four measures were in place. First, workshops were conducted by ex-gang members to discuss the realities of gang life and the difficulties of exiting gangs. Second, youth were engaged to prepare skits that reflect the information that they collected on gangs from the internet. Third, in order to keep youth off the streets, sporting equipment was acquired to give young people the opportunity to train and get in shape while focusing their energies on constructive physical activity. Lastly, newsletters were distributed throughout the community to educate and inform the population about the program in order to show that youth were engaging in positive and supervised activities.</p>	

Program Title:	Toi, pis ta gang! (You, and your gang!)	
Organization:	La Maison des jeunes de Boischatel	
Geographic Location:	Région of Côte de Baupré, Boischatel, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2004	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Crime Prevention Strategy • La Maison des jeunes Boischatel • Centre local de Services Communautaire • La Municipalité de Boischatel 	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local youth aged 12-17, specifically at risk youth • Latch key kids • Youth who have been expelled from school • Youth engaged in anti-social behaviours 	
Project Description:	<p>The primary objective of this program is to offer aid, training, information, counselling, and support for youth living with either gang-related (or non-related) difficulties. This project also aims at preventing youths from affiliating with gangs by developing self esteem and resiliency. These objectives are being tackled by hiring an intervention worker; conducting workshops and conferences to educate and promote awareness for youth aged 12-17 about alcohol and drug abuse, violence, sexuality, and gangs; and organizing weekend outdoor social skills camps to raise the self esteem of the campers. It is worth noting that this program was changed and adapted half way through the project to cater to the needs of the youth because the young people were not responding to the primary strategy of the action plan. A formal evaluation is pending following the completion of the program.</p>	

Program Title:	Gagne sans ta gang! (Win without your gang!)		
Organization:	Centre des jeunes L'escale 13-17 de Montréal-Nord inc.		
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec		
Prevention Level:	Secondary		
Start Date:	September 2005	End Date:	September 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy		
Target Group:	Youth aged 13-17, including at risk youth and adolescents who require extra social support		
Project Description:	With the goal of preventing the recruitment of youths into gangs, the project is built on the principle of peer helpers, whereby fifteen young people are responsible for helping their peers through difficult times. The principle objectives are to teach youth how to listen and understand while not being judgemental, and to listen while practicing confidentiality. These youth will be instrumental in organizing various activities (such as leisure, sporting, and/or cultural activities) for other youth, thus creating supervised pro-social activities that can prevent youth engagement in criminal activity.		

Program Title:	Newton Area Drop-in Basketball		
Organization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey RCMP • VERSA Youth Centre 		
Geographic Location:	Newton area, Surrey, British Columbia		
Prevention Level:	Secondary		
Start Date:	2005	End Date:	Ongoing
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VERSA • Surrey RCMP 		
Target Group:	Newton area youth		
Project Description:	This drop-in basketball program offers youth a venue where they can play basketball every Saturday night. The goal of the program is to give you a positive alternative to delinquent or gang-related behaviour. Approximately fifty youth participate each week, and parents are also dropping in to observe and find out more about the goings on. The program also gives police officers an opportunity to connect and develop ties with local youth, and to maintain a community-level presence within the area.		

Program Title:	Le Projet X – periode Scolaire (Project X – the school year)	
Organization:	Comité Jeunesse La Presqu' Île	
Geographic Location:	Vaudreil, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	Summer 2004	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community youth in general • Youth at risk 	
Project Description:	<p>This program is a continuation of “Projet X” that began during the summer of 2004. Focusing on providing structured prevention-based activities designed to respond to specific community needs, this program attempts to reintegrate youth back into the community, most notably with programs run after school hours. Activities include a video creation project in Île Perrot, the writing and presentation of a theatrical play in Vaudreil-Dorion, and sports and outdoor activities in Île Perrot and Vaudreil-Dorion.</p>	

Program Title:	C'est qui ma gang? (Who is my gang?)	
Organization:	Maison des jeunes de Varennes	
Geographic Location:	Varennes, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	<p>The goals of this program are to run group activities that create similar, but more positive gang/group relationships, situations and environments, all while educating and sensitizing youths to gang issues while engaging at risk youth in an exciting and thrilling positive group lifestyle and connecting them to community resources. This will be accomplished by holding an awareness and capacity building conference at Le Carrefour high school, an evening of improvisation about alternative lifestyles than gang involvement, production of educational visual aids, and writing of a musical. A one-week camping trip led by two intervention leaders will also be organized.</p>	

Program Title:	Gang de rue et jeunes vulnérables, état de la situation dans notre communauté (Street gangs and at risk youth, the state of the situation in our community)	
Organization:	Réfuge La Piaule du centre du Québec inc.	
Geographic Location:	Drummondville, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Street youth in the community	
Project Description:	This program is conducting a needs assessment of the community's gang situation and hiring a street youth worker to engage at risk street youth. This person will help prevent adolescents aged 14-18 from affiliating with gangs by getting up-to-date information on the progression of gang activity within the community, meeting and interviewing at risk youth, developing an action plan, and recruiting youth and integrating them into diversion programs.	

Program Title:	Patro de rue	
Organization:	Patro Laval inc.	
Geographic Location:	Québec, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention strategy	
Target Group:	At risk and/or unsupervised youth	
Project Description:	The goal of the program is to offer supervised activities to youth who would not otherwise be engaged in organized programs and sports leagues within the area. The specialized activities include: a hockey tournament, maintaining a presence of significant adult role models, and coordinating team-based programs that offer activities for personal improvement. Emphasis is put on developing an understanding of youth gangs with the participants of the program and a sharing of gang-related experiences by other young people as well as parents. Activities that promote personal growth and development, as well as team activities for neighbourhood youth are considered paramount (i.e., park programs, after school and professional development day programs).	

Program Title:	Libre Expression (Free Expression)	
Organization:	Action Jeunesse St-Pie X de Longueuil inc. (Maison de jeunes Kekpart)	
Geographic Location:	Longueuil, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	<p>The goal of the project is to allow youth to develop a multitude of personal and social skills. This group wishes to increase the number of initiatives that are set in motion and run by youth for their peers and the general public. In addition, they wish to integrate youth into the social network and the community at large in order to reduce the amount of delinquent activities. In so doing, youth will have opportunities to acquire personal and social skills and tools that promote their development, all while exploring alternative activities other than delinquency. This will be accomplished by conducting a needs assessment through the distribution of a questionnaire, program and activity development for prevention and education for schools, the media, peers, parents, and youth service workers, holding workshops for developing youth resiliency and their ability to identify risky or dangerous situations, holding information sessions to demystify the gang phenomenon, and putting in place an interagency youth and peer support network.</p>	

Program Title:	C'est qui ma gang (Who's my gang)	
Organization:	Maison des jeunes de St-Léonard	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	<p>An intervention worker will be hired to coordinate and evaluate the carrying out of this project. Because of the volition of the community, motivating and viable alternatives to youth gangs are offered to youth at risk. Overall, the organization wishes to satisfy the objective of raising the awareness level of at risk youth about the consequences and implications of either being part of a youth gang or adopting gang-related behaviours. Workshops and classes will be taught at the youth centre that focus on: awareness and consciousness raising of the risks associated with youth gangs and the available support systems that are available at school and within the community, and education for school staff and parent-child conferences to support the creation of strategies for youth who want to exit their gangs. A student café for youth at risk will also be opened, where opportunities for artistic expression will be available. Activities for extending the amount of hours spent in structured activities for students will also be organized.</p>	

Program Title:	Prévention des gangs de rue	
Organization:	Centre d'amitié autochtone de Québec inc.	
Geographic Location:	Lorretteville, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Aboriginal youth	
Project Description:	<p>In the spirit of preventing youth gangs, youth violence, and promoting situations favouring opportunities to develop positive experiential memories and knowledge, a judo course is offered in the hope of giving youth a taste of physical activity. Two lessons and two practices will be held each week. Extreme sports activities will also be organized to aid youth in discovering positive ways of living and respecting one's limits while maximizing pleasure and fun while minimizing suffering, pain, and sorrow. Personal development education and prevention workshops will also be facilitated (topics include anger management, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, communication, and conflict resolution). Parents will be involved in the sporting activities and in the planning of events.</p>	

Program Title:	GangNions a se rassembler (Success by coming together)	
Organization:	Maison des jeunes l'Atome	
Geographic Location:	Stoneham, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	<p>A youth support worker is hired to carry out gang prevention in areas where gangs are present, as well as in the youth centre. This person is also responsible for designing and implementing activities that will be accessed by targeted youth. The staff member will present workshops on the youth gang phenomenon at the youth centre as well as at schools and will carry out a series of activities/projects/tools chosen by youth (e.g., theatrical presentations, comic books, websites, weekly sports leagues, thematic activities, cultural events, etc.). Additional initiatives include the creation of a local service directory and bringing together a youth committee to address gang and violence issues.</p>	

Program Title:	Une gang, c'est du sport! (A gang, it's about sports!)	
Organization:	Centre Option Avenir inc.	
Geographic Location:	St-Hyacinthe, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	<p>The goal of this recreation-based initiative is to offer youth an alternative to criminal group/gang adhesion. Youths will participate in awareness workshops and develop pro-social life skills while engaging in activities that they are interested in, in venues where they can express themselves. Intervention workers and parents will be brought together to form a support network. Parents will also be invited to attend an information session about criminal youth gangs.</p>	

Program Title:	Prévenir l'adhésion des jeunes a des gangs criminals (Preventing the adhesion of youth into criminal gangs)	
Organization:	Unité d'information et d'action en toxicomanie des Moulins (U.N.I.A.T.O.X.) (Information and Action unit for drug addiction of Les Moulins)	
Geographic Location:	Terrebonne, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	The organization wishes to diminish the amount of incidences of at risk youth involvement with criminal gang organizations. To make this happen, the organization proposes to run activities and programs that link at risk youth with their teachers, guardians, principals, community police officers, crime prevention workers, specialists, etc. in an effort to develop a sense of belonging, acceptance, and integration in their respective neighbourhoods. Meetings, activities, and discussion groups are proposed. A needs assessment and youth opinion polling is under way, which will be followed by workshops for youth and adults as well as the organization of various sports, artistic, and science-related activities.	

Program Title:	Ma gang, ma ville (My gang, my town)	
Organization:	Maison de jeunes « Laser » Roberval	
Geographic Location:	Chicoutimi, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth • The general public 	
Project Description:	This research-based project consists of developing a realistic picture of the gang situation and to educate and promote awareness of youth who are in danger of getting involved in gangs. Interviews are being conducted with 500 secondary school youth, 1000 citizens, and storekeepers in order to get a representative sample of the region's opinion on youth gangs. Also, a partnership is being proposed and encouraged between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals by organizing activities aimed at youth from the youth centre and from the youth café of Mashteuiash. It is equally desired to augment Aboriginals' feelings of belonging within the greater community. Youth will also be offered an area for legitimate graffiti art, and have access to weekly sports and cultural programs.	

Program Title:	Intersection	
Organization:	Carrefour Jeunesse employ Saint-Laurent	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth	
Project Description:	<p>The project consists of building on the creativity of youth to act against the gang phenomenon through the use of awareness building, information sharing, and offering support for encouraging the integration of youth into a structured program and the larger community. To do this, youth, under the supervision of a support worker, will act against the gang phenomenon by creating a newsletter as well as putting new projects into place. A music and dance show with an anti-gang theme, called "Show-Chaud," will be organized. A song writing contest with an anti-gang theme will be orchestrated, and there will be a pairing of youth with other youth from "Solidarité jeunesse & Pavillion St-Germain" for the production of works of art and literature.</p>	

Program Title:	Projet travail de rue « PIBAMADZI » au rythme de l'environnement (Street work project "PIBAMADZI" to the rhythm of the environment)	
Organization:	Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val d'Or	
Geographic Location:	Val-D'Or, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Marginalized or disillusioned Aboriginal youth	
Project Description:	<p>With an approach of street outreach work with the desire to reduce delinquency, the project aims at meeting up and interacting with marginalized or disillusioned Aboriginal youth in an effort to make a significant intervention in the local community. The outreach worker will develop their expertise over the course of the first year as they integrate themselves into at risk neighbourhoods in the hope of creating significant ties with youth. The main objectives of the outreach worker are to review relevant resources and organizations in the area and identify their practices, conduct outreach work in identified neighbourhoods, form a "committee from the street" and develop a prevention/education workshop series for racism and potential runaways for youth at risk.</p>	

Program Title:	Jeunesse en jeux (Youth at play)	
Organization:	Mise au jeu	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Urban youth	
Project Description:	<p>The main objective is to offer youth a democratic participation experience, while acting from their current positions in the community. The project is contingent on teaching citizenship through experiencing clear concise communication and addressing the needs of other community actors. In order to accomplish the stated objective, consultations with youth of various ethnicities in urban neighbourhoods will precede rounds of legislative-style interventions. The involvement of youth at all stages of the program's development is of primary importance. Documentation, evaluation, and dissemination of the program's success will follow its completion.</p>	

Program Title:	Les jeunes solidaires (Youth in solidarity)	
Organization:	Trans-Art 2000	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Local youth	
Project Description:	<p>In collaboration with neighbourhood youth, a theatrical presentation will be written. This play will focus on the life of an adolescent from a family entangled in poverty and violence. In preparation for the production, research will be conducted on the status and issues of the gang situation in the neighbourhood. The issues concerning family and the social lives of youth will also be considered.</p>	

Program Title:	Baskagang	
Organization:	Association sportive et communautaire du Centre-Sud inc.	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Urban Montreal youth	
Project Description:	<p>The project will offer an alternative to gang involvement for youth. As such, the program will tender an opportunity for young people from the neighbourhood to belong to a basketball team as a way of increasing their sense of worth and belonging, while at the same time attempting to alter the negative perceptions of certain residents toward the youth (especially the attitudes of senior citizens). Parents will also be taught about gang issues so that they will be able to better intervene if they see warning signs of gang involvement by their child. The central thrust of the program is the implementation of a basketball league, but additional initiatives will be implemented. These efforts include: developing a questionnaire about youth perceptions and knowledge about youth gangs, and the development of a questionnaire about parents' perceptions and insecurities about gangs, and a promotional campaign aimed at senior citizens to alter their perceptions of neighbourhood youth.</p>	

Program Title:	Racisme et gains de rue: Actions vers une meilleure prévention de la criminalité – Phase II (2005-2006) (Racism and youth gangs: Actions toward better crime prevention – Phase II (2005-2006))	
Organization:	La Fédération des Communautés de l’Estrie (FCCE)	
Geographic Location:	Sherbrooke, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary	
Start Date:	2005 (phase II)	End Date: 2006
Funder:	Unknown	
Target Group:	Parents of immigrant youth	
Project Description:	<p>During its first phase, the organization realized that they had underestimated the severity of the issues relating to gangs, violence, and racism in their area. As such, they felt that the best way to prevent anti-social behaviour among youth was to intervene with the parents of immigrant youth in order to promote positive socialization among young people. Along with recruiting 60 12-18 year old Québécois and immigrant youth, 30 parents of immigrant children are being taught about parental responsibilities in Canada regarding their role in their child’s education, school dropouts, and issues relating to gangs and racism. Also, this program intends on stimulating parental support and supervision for their children’s educational activities as well as their after school activities. By the end of the project, the organization hopes that the youth involved will be more conscious of the issues relating to racism, violence, and gang activity.</p> <p>In order to accomplish these goals, the organization is in the process of organizing workshops that address the rights of children in Canada, communication skills, conflict resolution, child supervision, youth aid and support services, the structure of the Québec school system, and the importance of parental involvement in a child’s educational progression and success. Once parents are brought into action, there will be discussion groups organized to prevent and react against social problems to prevent and react against social problems while also reducing risk factors that push youth toward anti-social behaviours.</p>	

3.2.3 Tertiary Prevention Programs

Program Title:	Consolidation and Activation of a sociocommunity network designed and implemented for youth in the process of gang exit	
Organization:	Fondation Québécoise pour les jeunes contrevenants	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth involved in street gangs	
Project Description:	The goal of this project is to aid 20 youth involved in street gangs to exit the gang lifestyle by mobilizing a network of community organizations that work directly with these young people for support. This will be accomplished by mobilizing key community partners for the purposes of detection/identification of gang members, information sharing and intervention/support, locating and bringing in 20 youth who are in the process of gang exit, the coordination, development, and implementation of an intensive intervention strategy (100 hours for each participant), and evaluating, counselling, and monitoring participants through the exit process. An evaluation of the program will be conducted once the project has reached completion.	

Program Title:	Adopt an Offender Program	
Organization:	Prince Albert Police Service	
Geographic Location:	Prince Albert, Saskatchewan	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary	
Start Date:	Unknown	End Date: Current and ongoing
Funder:	N/A	
Target Group:	Young offenders who have had contact with the criminal justice system	
Project Description:	Members of the police force are encouraged to adopt a young offender, most of whom are in gangs or are “at risk” of gang involvement or continued criminal activity. Officers develop mentoring relationships with youth (e.g., support, encourage, discipline), monitor their court orders, activities and contact with police, and provide options to deter and discourage them from crime and gang involvement. This is achieved by regular contact and check-ins with youth. Officers also support parents by providing information and resources, and by keeping in constant contact concerning their youth’s activities.	

Program Title:	Bimosewin (Aboriginal Gang) Initiative (“Taking Responsibility for Your Path in Life”)	
Organization:	Correctional Service of Canada	
Geographic Location:	Prairie Region	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary	
Start Date:	<i>Info. Pending</i>	End Date: <i>Info. Pending</i>
Funder:	Correctional Service of Canada	
Target Group:	Incarcerated Aboriginal gang members	
Project Description:	<p>The mandate of “Bimosewin” is to disengage Aboriginal gang members from criminal activities and to assist in their successful reintegration into the community. The purpose of the program is to provide practical guidance and support away from criminal activity using Aboriginal teachings and cultural activities. Elders assist inmates in developing a positive outlook, and in changing attitudes and beliefs away from crime and violence. Opportunities for personal change, training, education and employment are provided.</p>	

Program Title:	Breaking the Cycle: Youth Gang Exit & Ambassador Leadership Program	
Organization:	Canadian Training Institute	
Geographic Location:	Etobicoke, Greater Toronto Area, Ontario	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary (with Primary Component)	
Start Date:	2002	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	
Target Group:	Males and females aged 15-23 who: are involved or have been involved in a youth gang; are currently unemployed or not attending school; have committed to participating in the project; and, accept cooperative group norms and agreements.	
Project Description:	<p>“Breaking the Cycle” is a gang exiting initiative designed to provide youth with an opportunity to adopt healthy life skills and employment strategies that enable them to leave youth gangs and be reintegrated into schools and communities. Youth are referred from corrections and parole officers, families, community agencies, or may be self-referred. The objectives of the program are to help the youth live in a pro-social lifestyle, to help them set and reach positive goals, to manage actions and feelings, to understand how to stop the cycle of violence, to have healthy, positive relationships with others, to make positive contributions to their community, and to gain skills to assist them in employment/career goals. The program is divided into two phases:</p> <p>Phase 1: Gang Exit Strategy An intensive, two-week training program, followed by one week of case management. Youth are provided with educational and job training opportunities, and learn to develop supportive relationships with peers, parents, and employers. Conflict, anger management, communication and interpersonal skills training are a major focus. The case management process provides support guidance in developing future plans of action, ongoing group meetings, and life skills assistance (e.g., housing, family relationships, court attendance, financial matters, etc.).</p> <p>Phase 2: Youth Ambassador Leadership and Employment Program Recruits, trains and employs youth with leadership potential to become community advocates against youth gang involvement and violence. Youth participate in community awareness presentations which deglamorize the gang image and suggest pro-social alternatives to gang involvement. Case management, leadership skills development, community contact and outreach are also involved.</p>	

Program Title:	Gang and Teen Violence Program	
Organization:	St. Leonard's Home, Young Offenders' Residential Services	
Geographic Location:	Trenton, Ontario	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary	
Start Date:	Unknown	End Date: Unknown
Funder:	Ministry of Children and Youth Services of Ontario	
Target Group:	Young offenders	
Project Description:	A life skills program developed to inform young offenders about gang life and violence, gang association and the effects of gangs and violence, and gang lifestyles. The program consists of four one-hour modules, and provides youth with the tools to set and reach positive goals, empowers them with the knowledge that they have a choice, and facilitates sharing of thoughts, feelings and opinions. Youth that successfully complete the program are awarded ¼ school credit.	

Program Title:	Ototema	
Organization:	Brandon Friendship Centre	
Geographic Location:	Brandon, Manitoba	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary	
Start Date:	2002	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Manitoba Justice	
Target Group:	Young female offenders in conflict with the law	
Project Description:	<p>Ototema is a mentorship program that matches young women in conflict with the law (at risk of gang involvement) with adult First Nation and Métis women in the community. The main objectives are to open doors that wouldn't otherwise be available to these young women, to break the cycle of crime and victimization, and to empower them by raising self esteem and developing positive skills. There is an important cultural element to the program that incorporates Aboriginal spirituality into activities (Ojibway, Dakota, Cree). Mentors are encouraged to use intellectual, spiritual, physical and emotional activities guided by the "Circle of Life" concept. Specific cultural activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dakota/Ojibway feasts • Wiping of the Tears ceremony (Dakota) • Sundance (Dakota) • Young women's teachings (Ojibway) • Traditional story-telling • Dream-catchers • Sand art • Sewing • Moccasin making • Beading • Traditional Aboriginal games <p>There is also an emphasis on literacy, with free books by Aboriginal authors being provided to the young women.</p>	

Program Title:	Prévention de l'adhésion des jeunes aux groupes ou gangs criminels (Prevention of youth adhesion to criminal gangs or groups)	
Organizations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projet Ado-Communautaire en Travail de rue (PACT de rue) • Rue Action Prévention Jeunesse (RAP Jeunesse) • Travail de rue/Action Communautaire • Movement Jeunesse Montréal-Nord (Program Title: Café-Jeunesse muliculturel) • Plein Milieu (Program Title : Prévention de l'adhésion des jeunes aux groupes ou gangs criminels) 	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Street youth and gang members	
Project Description:	<p>Each of the five organizations will hire an outreach worker to work locally and directly with youth connected to gangs and who have indicated that they want to exit the gang lifestyle. The worker will also be responsible for analyzing and evaluating the success of the project. As part of their daily activities, the outreach workers will maintain a habitual presence in the community in order to make contact with youth and keep ties with youth/street gang members. These workers will also run pro-social group programs (outdoor, sports, and cultural activities) and develop programs to support youth in gang exit.</p>	

Program Title:	Le Projet LOVE: C'est qui ma gang (Project LOVE: Who's my gang)	
Organization:	Projet Love	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Tertiary, with a Primary component	
Start Date:	May 2005	End Date: March 2006
Funder:	Unknown	
Target Group:	Girls aged 13-18 who are either affiliated with or who are in the process of being affiliated with a youth gang	
Project Description:	A group of 15 to 30 girls who are being taught how a gang functions, how girls are recruited into gangs, how exiting a gang is done, and how these girls can have a positive and constructive influence on their community by being positive role models for other girls. A sense of worth, belonging, protection, and resiliency will be promoted and nurtured within these girls so that they can refuse gang affiliation while at the same time being positive role models for others. These girls will also have the opportunity to give testimonial-type presentations on female gang life in order to educate others. A gang prevention video for girls will also be written and produced by the young women.	

3.2.4 Primary/Secondary Prevention Programs

Program Title:	Gagner avec ta gang! Phase 1: état de la situation (Win with your gang! Phase 1: status of the situation)	
Organization:	Prévention Sud-Ouest	
Geographic Location:	Sud-Ouest Region, Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	April 2005	End Date: April 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth aged 10-14	
Project Description:	This project aims to develop an action plan to prevent, intervene, and minimize the level of gang activity in the Sud-Ouest region of Montréal. Phase 1 of the project aspires to develop a global understanding of the youth gang situation and its threat on the public in the Sud-Ouest area. This will be accomplished by conducting a study to compare the public opinion of the severity of the gang situation to police crime statistics. Other activities of this program include the formation of a touch football league, the facilitation of programs to encourage positive and pro-social group activities, and the mobilization of community partners in order to provide better services geared at minimizing youth gang activity.	

Program Title:	Comprendre les facteurs reliés aux phénomènes de gangs par une concertation sociale et une volonté collective (Understanding the factors connected to the phenomenon of gangs through a public consultation and collective will)	
Organization:	Maison des jeunes Alaxion	
Geographic Location:	Falardeau, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	January 2005	End Date: January 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth and the general community	
Project Description:	<p>With the goal of diminishing regional gang activity, a round table discussion composed of citizens and community partners is organized to plan anti-gang programming. Planned efforts for the committee include the orchestration of information sessions and an awareness campaign; the creation of a directory of anti-gang community resources; and the development of a prevention campaign aimed at the general population. The program will also have a youth outreach component where multiple initiatives will be put in place. These activities include: the distribution of a questionnaire to better understand the risk factors of youth; awareness workshops; a youth anti-violence committee; and resource referrals for youth at risk. At risk youth over 18 years of age requiring intervention and reintegration back into the community and away from potential gang involvement will also be attended to.</p>	

Program Title:	La Gang, NON MERCI! (Gangs, NO THANKS!)	
Organization:	Maison de jeunes de St-Prime	
Geographic Location:	St-Prime, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth and parents	
Project Description:	<p>The organization wishes to diminish the local gang phenomenon by reducing the pressures on youth that push them toward gang involvement, as well as criminal activity in general. As a result, the project focuses on education and promotion of youth and parents' awareness regarding the issues related to gangs, the social pressures related to gangs, the types of criminal acts that often lead to gang activity, and the severity of the gang situation in the community. These objectives will be accomplished by conducting six one-hour workshops followed by youth-led discussions, the development of a poster and pamphlet that will be distributed to youth, community police, and parents, and orchestrating information sessions for parents.</p>	

Program Title:	Le phénomène des gangs dans Portneuf (The gang phenomenon in Portneuf)	
Organization:	L'Autre Avenue, Organisme de justice alternative	
Geographic Location:	Portneuf, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General municipality • At risk youth 	
Project Description:	<p>This program focuses on education and the development of a realistic understanding of the youth gang problem in Portneuf, QC. A questionnaire will be administered to the general public, and community partners will be interviewed to measure the public opinion of youth gangs in the area. With the use of a gang manual designed for this program, staff from the local school board and youth centres will be taught about the issues related to youth gangs (i.e., recruitment methods, warning signs of gang affiliation, prevention measures etc.) in order to develop a more profound understanding of the situation for youth intervention workers. Information sessions will also be held for secondary school students as to the consequences and repercussions of youth gang involvement. Project development will also occur for the purposes of diverting youth away from gangs and criminal activity.</p>	

Program Title:	Projet Alternative Gang (P.A.G.) (Project Alternative Gang)	
Organization:	Motivation Jeunesse	
Geographic Location:	Québec, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At risk youth • The adolescent and adult public 	
Project Description:	<p>The goal of this project is to mobilize the community, educate young people and adults, and offer alternative activities for youth so that they do not engage in gang activity. This program is creating partnerships between various social agencies, facilitating workshops and information booths about youth gangs at local high schools, and running sports, outdoor, socio-cultural, and extracurricular activities for youth aged 11-18.</p>	

Program Title:	Amène pas ta gang! (Don't bring your gang!)	
Organization:	Défi-Jeunesse du Haut St-Maurice inc.	
Geographic Location:	La Tuque, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Aboriginal Youth and the general La Tuque youth population	
Project Description:	<p>This program focuses on educating youth in order to increase their resiliency against youth gang affiliation. Six culturally-specific workshops will be conducted in order to best teach Aboriginal youth about the causes of the gang phenomenon. Six additional gang-related workshops will be organized for the overall La Tuque youth population. Other activities that are being undertaken include the creation of a gang-themed webpage, the holding of a consciousness/awareness raising camp, the administration of eight anti-gang themed projects (video-clips, photo-story telling, comic book creation, etc.), and the organization of a committee for preventing youth violence.</p>	

Program Title:	Intégration des jeunes a risque de Rivière-des-Prairies (Intregation of at-risk youth of Rivière-des-Prairies)	
Organization:	Équipe R.D.P.	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At risk youth • General Rivière-des-Prairie population 	
Project Description:	<p>This program consists of integrating youth from the Rivière-des-Prairie neighbourhood by adopting and developing an intervention program in local schools and community organizations, and by mobilizing community initiatives to meet the needs of adolescents in order to keep them out of criminal youth/street gangs. This will be accomplished by embedding an intervention worker in community programs that are open to the public (pickup basketball, basketball league, hockey league, pickup soccer, etc.), offering support and counselling, conflict resolution and mediation, and educating the public about criminal youth activity in the region through the integration of the intervention worker in all local workgroups and councils.</p>	

Program Title:	S'appartenir et agir pour mieux grandir! (Belonging and acting to better grow up!)	
Organization:	Le Journal de la Rue	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Youth and the general population	
Project Description:	<p>Street workers and group moderators work toward the prevention of youth gangs in the region as well as the prevention of criminal wrongdoings of street gangs by means of making contact with neighbourhood youth. The sustainability of positive gatherings and groups while leading youth to positive and pro-social activities are essential for limiting and preventing the gang situation from increasing. It is imperative to combine education, action, and information sharing in order to give youth the opportunity to live positive and healthy lives. The activities of the program include implementing a promotional campaign for the positive engagement, adherence, and interaction with and by youth, outreach work and promotion of pro-social group activities, orchestrating extracurricular after-school programs, printing gang-themed articles that are to be printed in the magazine "Refllet de Societé," producing and distributing an information brochure on the wrongdoings and consequences of gang activities, and designating authorized and sanctioned graffiti wall areas.</p>	

Program Title:	Gangs de rue (Street gangs)	
Organization:	Les Œuvres de la Maison Dauphine inc.	
Geographic Location:	Québec, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Community partners, local youth	
Project Description:	The initial goal is to bring together key community actors to discuss the problem of youth gangs in the region in order to come up with a synthesized view of the issues. From there, the committee will come up with a strategy that will be effective in counteracting the local gang situation. An action plan will then be put together, and a youth committee will be assembled to come up with effective prevention tools that will be diffused throughout the school board. Finally, a network of sociocultural and recreational contacts will be organized. Other activities include putting in place a spiritual group, holding street hockey games, and producing documents and a video about the realities and issues of youth gangs that will be presented in high schools.	

Program Title:	Inter-organizational collaboration to promote the development of “Best practice prevention approaches” to reduce gang related activities amongst Black youth	
Organization:	Côte-des-Neige Black Community Association	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	2003	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First year funding was raised by community partners • National Crime Prevention Strategy • Health Canada (\$300,000 for a three year grant for a substance abuse program) • City of Montreal (financial and in-kind donations) • Concordia University (in-kind donations) 	
Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black families with children aged 6-13 • Community organizations • Youth at risk 	
Project Description:	This project is based on a holistic approach to strengthening the values and culture of families in the Black community of Montréal. This project attempts to retighten the inter-organizational bonds between Montréal social services organizations that offer frontline services to the Montréal Black community. The link between community groups unifies and strengthens the social support infrastructure and collective identity between organizations in order to provide a unified	

	<p>culturally-specific prevention response to the breakdown of family values family structure. This initiative takes a proactive stance with a value-based vision in order to mobilize the community geared at improving family relationships, parenting skills, and improving youths' social and life skills. The project started three years ago when community members from the Côte-des-Neige burrow came together as a committee and came up with a long-term community vision instead of a fragmented project. The holistic approach links the family to a network or social, community, cultural, and educational supports (mentoring, employment counselling and return to work support services, life skills training, recreation programs for youth, church support, after-school programs, teen leadership, cultural programs). Social intervention efforts by street outreach workers will be combined with other existing resources to develop a healthy and integrated community.</p> <p>The myriad of activities includes: the Train the Trainers Program where community members are trained by experts in order to build and sustain lasting human resources within the community so that these new experts can then teach others in the community the skills that they have acquired. The Parent Skills Training involves a 14-week training course with linkages to community support services that is aimed at decreasing family conflict while increasing parenting confidence and sociability. In this program parents learn communication, problem solving skills, and how to encourage positive behaviours from their children. A concurrent child training course focusing on communication, leadership development, and drug and alcohol prevention is offered to children. Other after school programs, recreational opportunities, and parent support groups are also established. Some evaluations are available.</p>
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Program Title:	Gang Intervention and Prevention Workshops	
Organization:	Spirit Keeper Youth Society	
Geographic Location:	Edmonton, Alberta	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	May 2003	End Date: Ongoing
Funder:	Fees charged for workshops	
Target Group:	Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth and adults (parents)	
Project Description:	<p>Spirit Keeper works with the community (public, civic and corporate) to slow down the gang recruitment process and provide an escape mechanism for gang members to extricate themselves from the gang environment and redirect their energies to becoming productive, positive additions to society. Intervention and prevention workshops for adults and youth are conducted by ex-gang members. The adult programs include: Why do Youth Join Gangs; Recognizing Gang Activities and Characteristics; Warning Signs for Parents; Color, Codes and Recruitment Methods; and, Working Solutions for Parents, Schools and Communities. The youth focus includes: Understanding Gang Culture; The Realities of Gang Life; Gang Member's Perspective; and, Making Positive Life Choices.</p>	

Program Title:	Cambodian Youth Initiative	
Organization:	Multicultural Health Brokers' Co-op	
Geographic Location:	Edmonton, Alberta	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary	
Start Date:	January 2005	End Date: December 2005
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mobilization Program • National Crime Prevention Program 	
Target Group:	Youth and parents from the Cambodian community.	
Project Description:	<p>A youth driven, multi-partner project that provides social and recreational opportunities and creates a nurturing, supportive environment for Cambodian youth. There are various programs within this initiative. As more and more Cambodian youth are being recruited into gangs, some of the programs specifically address this issue. The Youth Mentoring Program connects youth-at-risk with young adults in the community who have made positive choices and succeeded in school and employment (for example, those who have successfully left youth gangs). Another program, Youth Research Workshops, brings resources together for youth to gain a deeper understanding of the struggles of other minority youth who, like Cambodian youth, are fighting gang issues.</p>	

3.2.5 Secondary/Tertiary Prevention Programs

Program Title:	Briser le silence (Breaking the Silence)	
Organization:	Le Bon Dieu dans la rue	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary, Tertiary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Adolescent girls with affiliations to gangs	
Project Description:	<p>This program is aimed at equipping support workers and intervention leaders with the skills to cope with and counteract the adhesion of young girls to gangs, while at the same time attempting to reduce or eliminate sexual abuse and exploitation of girls by gangs. A combined effort will be made between youth workers and the girls recruited into the project in order to promote education and awareness of female issues about gangs. Organizers will meet with leaders from the six burrows of Montréal to open a dialogue and share preliminary information. Following this, 25 two-day sessions and fifty projects designed to build awareness will be put in place. A program handbook (“Silence en Cendrillon”) and an educational video about youth gangs (“Cul de Sac”) will be distributed, and 150 activities will also be put into action.</p>	

Program Title:	Élément HIP HOP N.D.G. – G.D.N. (The HIP HOP Element N.D.G. – G.D.N.)	
Organization:	Prévention Notre Dame-de-Grace	
Geographic Location:	Montréal, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary, Tertiary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	At risk youth or youth who recently been recruited into a gang	
Project Description:	<p>The organization wishes to offer at risk youth or youth who have recently been recruited into a gang an alternative social group to belong to other than delinquent-type gangs. The central theme of the project centres on HIP HOP culture, which is a current fashion and lifestyle trend that is present among youth in the community. Youth will be helped to refocus their energies and needs to belong to a group in creative, productive, and constructive ways by participating in the organization of HIP HOP shows and events, all while creating their own positive crew. Multiple efforts will be implemented, including: organizing an event to feature artists in different facets of HIP HOP, involving youth in the organization and carrying out of bimesterly HIP HOP shows, facilitating four workshops to teach different HIP HOP skills, preparing and producing of a compilation CD featuring local rappers and turntablists, and organizing and putting on a final event/competition that will showcase artists and chose the best performers.</p>	

Program Title:	Gagne sans ta gang! (Win without your gang!)	
Organization:	La maison des jeunes La Parenthèse	
Geographic Location:	Québec, Québec	
Prevention Level:	Secondary, Tertiary	
Start Date:	2005	End Date: 2006
Funder:	National Crime Prevention Strategy	
Target Group:	Adolescents attending youth centres	
Project Description:	<p>The primary activity within this project's mandate is to synthesize existing information on youth/street gangs and collect information on what youth know about gangs. The main objective from that point will be to engage youth to create a "history through photography": a sketch of the knowledge about gangs. Topics that will be brought out will include different tactics gangs use to recruit youth, and to show the different courses of action that can be taken to exit gangs. Conception of an activity guide will accompany the "history through photos." The materials produced will be circulated to youth centres in the area.</p>	

Program Title:	Gang Intervention and Prevention Workshops	
Organization:	Gang Awareness Intervention Network (G.A.I.N.)	
Geographic Location:	Edmonton and surrounding area, Alberta reserves	
Prevention Level:	Secondary, Tertiary	
Start Date:	Unknown	End Date: Unknown
Funder:	Fees charged for workshops. Also producing a video funded by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.	
Target Group:	Aboriginal adults and youth	
Project Description:	<p>Adult and youth focused workshops conducted by ex-gang members. Facilitators use their past and current experience to help those in need of letting go of the gang lifestyle. Adult focus includes: Why Youth/Adults Join Gangs; Recognizing Gang Activities and Characteristics; Warning Signs for Parents; Difference Between Wannabe Gangs and Real Gangs; Recruitment Methods; Working Solutions; Aboriginal Gangs in Canada; and, Effects of the Residential School Pertaining to Aboriginal Gangs. Youth focus includes: Former Gang Member's Testimonies; How Gangs Control Prison Life; Realities of Aboriginal Street Gang Life; The Roles of Girls; Prostitution; Alcohol/Drug Addiction; Gang Mentality; Getting Out; Cultural Awareness; and, Relapse Prevention Techniques.</p> <p>With Native Counselling Services of Alberta, G.A.I.N. is also producing a video funded by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The documentary, which features both male and female gang associates, is being filmed in and around Edmonton and shows the struggle of gang members trying to find an identity within their own world, and via traditional native ways.</p>	

3.2.6 Primary/Secondary/Tertiary Prevention Programs

Program Title:	Alter-Natives to Non-Violence (AN2NV)	
Organization:	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	
Geographic Location:	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and neighbouring communities	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	
Start Date:	November 2004	End Date: June 2005 (overall project to end March 2006)
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada • National Crime Prevention Centre 	
Target Group:	Aboriginal children and youth	
Project Description:	<p>The goal of Alter-Natives to non-Violence is to promote a comprehensive approach to increase youth inclusion and decrease gang exploitation of youth. Gang awareness presentations to communities, schools, youths, and parents, youth leadership, and the Alter-Native philosophy will facilitate this initiative. Project will seek collaborative partnerships with various agencies to equip youth at risk with gang proofing methods. Project components will include legal education and information on the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>, social and cultural identify information and experience, trained adult allies and community based strategies for exiting youths, and peer education and support. <i>(planned future evaluation)</i></p>	

Program Title:	Warrior Spirit Walking	
Organization:	Prince Albert Outreach Program Inc.	
Geographic Location:	Prince Albert Region, Saskatchewan	
Prevention Level:	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	
Start Date:	September 2004	End Date: August 2005
Funder:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Crime Prevention Centre • PA Outreach Program Inc • City of Prince Albert; PA Youth Council • Heritage Canada -UMAYC 	
Target Group:	Aboriginal youth aged 9 to 19	
Project Description:	<p>Warrior Spirit Walking is a community initiative that directly involves Aboriginal youth in gang awareness. The program provides primary, secondary and tertiary services to meet several objectives: decrease the number of youth involved in gangs; create positive alternatives to joining gangs; educate youth and community members on the dangers and dynamics of youth gang involvement; provide support; and, encourage positive behaviour and community service as an example (role model) for younger children and youth at risk. Specific components include: exiting strategies for gang members; recruiting resistance strategies through education and support for youth at risk; and, workshops and presentations (drama, art, personal stories, video) by ex-gang members to educate youth and the community on the dangers of gang involvement and to deglamorize gangs. Further, the program provides a safe place for youth to experience success and self-esteem, using cultural teaching, recreational activities, education, arts and crafts, employment, nurturing, skill development, job training, community focused, pride projects, etc. Peer support and mediation in schools, an elder-cultural program to assist youth with self-identity and healing, and street outreach (van, resource/community centre) is also available.</p>	

3.2.7 Other Initiatives

Blood Tribe Police Service, Blood Tribe Reserve, Standoff, Alberta

- The Blood Tribe Police Service has developed a unique model to address the issue of youth gangs on the Blood Tribe Reserve. A network of police, corrections, families, schools, and other community agencies has been created with the purpose of profiling youth gang members and involving their parents/families. The goals of the initiative are tracking, prevention and education.

Calgary Young Offender Centre (CYOC), Calgary, Alberta

- CYOC has established an informal joint committee between the police and the correctional system. The committee works to gather and share information, identifying gang members as they enter or exit the prison system (also includes the adult system). Information is used for planning and case management.

RCMP “D” Division Gang Awareness Unit

- The “D” Division Gang Awareness Unit (GAU) was created in September 2000 to develop and promote anti-gang initiatives within the Province of Manitoba. The unit works with various partners including community groups, provincial and federal government bodies, schools, parents, youth, aboriginal and civic leaders to accomplish this objective. Services provided by the GAU include: school presentations, lectures to community groups, developing community gang response plans/programs, and training on gang issues to private and public groups, agencies, etc.

British Columbia Inter-Ministry Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violence and Crime

- The Inter-Ministry Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violence and Crime, provides a Provincial forum for Ministries and other organizations to cooperatively address the prevention of youth violence, crime and victimization. The IMC is comprised of an inter-disciplinary membership which includes provincial ministries, federal departments, police, school districts, parent groups and professional associations. The IMC has recently established an anti-gang subcommittee that is in the preliminary planning stages of youth gang prevention through strategic program and initiative development.

Montreal Police Service Multidisciplinary Team Strategy on Street Gangs

- This multidisciplinary police response to street gangs is based on a theoretical approach that consists of Research, Communication, Intervention, and Prevention. The objectives of this initiative are to reduce street gang activity through integrated prevention and intervention, foster internal and external information exchange for a cohesive approach, encourage police officers and

partners to network in order to develop tangible alternatives for victims and aggressors, and develop information and training tools for stakeholders, victims and aggressors. Multiple strategies are being initiated to achieve these objectives, including: mobilizing the community by involving stakeholders and supporting secondary prevention projects obtaining a common vision of the Montreal gang phenomenon through internal and external research; developing communication plans; ensuring basic and continuous training, better enforcement of the law for regional teams through victim protection, organized crime charges, in-house counsel, the decompartmentalization of information, and the development of a provincial information gathering tool; and finally, the creation of five multidisciplinary teams in order to meet the needs expressed by community stations and a coordinating committee that deploys resources in order to meet expectations.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Summary of Model

The first objective of this report was to develop a conceptual framework that can be used to categorize youth gangs. The five-part multidimensional framework developed for this project highlights the different types of gangs that youth may be involved with in Canada. By addressing *Activity, Organization, Motivation to Join, Recruitment, and Exit Strategies*, this model allows for a general typology that can be applied and adapted to identify specific types of gang activity in any Canadian jurisdiction. This approach addresses the inherent difficulty in attempting to identify one global definition for youth gangs which applies across Canada. Given the diversity of the population among various Canadian cities and jurisdictions and the associated social problems, one overarching definition cannot reflect the reality of all youth facing the difficulties posed by involvement with criminally active gangs (Mathews, 1990; Gordon, 2000).

Since there is little empirical evidence to support it, this model does not assume that youth make transitions or progress from petty crime gangs to criminal organization-type gangs. However, as the *2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* indicates, “functional linkages” appear to occur between youth gangs and Type E (Structured Criminal Organization) gangs particularly regarding drug trafficking, extortion and theft of autos. This model provides five discrete group/gang categories that demonstrate an increasing level of criminal activity, organizational structure, and recruitment strategies as follows:

- Type A (Group of Friends) groups tend to be interest-based and usually do not involve criminal activity, thus pose no threat to a community’s well-being and, in many situations, should be promoted.
- Type B (Spontaneous Criminal Activity Group/Gang) groups/gangs are social in nature and derive their power and status from the size of their group. Criminal activity is situationally motivated and much of this type of gang/group activity can be categorized as gratuitous violence and bullying by misdirected and unsupervised youth. Many of the members of Type B groups/gangs have other options in life and are less committed to the gang or its culture than more serious type gangs.
- Type C (Purposive Group/Gang) gangs come together for a specific purpose. Whether stealing cars, engaging in vigilante-type violence or spontaneous mob activity, these groups/gangs can emerge from within existing larger groups/gangs or may come about for a specific purpose and are disbanded once the activity or plan has been carried out.
- Type D (Youth Street Gang) gangs are highly visible hardcore groups that come together primarily for profit-driven criminal activity. These street gangs identify themselves as such through the adoption of a gang name, common brands,

styles, colours of clothing and/or jewellery, and tattoos to openly display gang membership to other gangs. These gangs do not seem to be part of a larger criminal organization and often have a definite territory or “turf” that they claim and defend as their own. Street gangs appear to be stand alone organizations that have little connection to other gangs.

- Type E (Structured Criminal Organization) gangs are highly structured criminal networks that tend to be led by criminally experienced adults for the purpose of economic or financial gain. The criminal activities of these types of gangs tend to be severe in nature and are generally premeditated. Youth are used for specific purposes to further the gang’s activities.

This typology fulfills the first objective of the research report by providing a tool that can be used to categorize youth gang involvement. This should be helpful to police agencies, municipalities, and community organizations, as well as policy makers and funders, for identifying specific types of gangs that are a problem in specific areas. It also provides a starting point where interested parties can use the framework in conjunction with the corresponding catalogue of programs to strategize and initiate an appropriate anti-gang response. It should be noted that this model is, for the most part, theoretically based. The process of validation of the model should parallel ongoing research regarding youth gangs in Canada.

4.2 Summary of Programs and Services

In fulfillment of the second and third objectives stated previously, a total of 77 specific Canadian anti-youth gang programs have been identified, described, and categorized by their level of prevention in Section 3.0 of this report. Although the list of programs is not exhaustive, the distribution of programs both by level of prevention and province indicates some patterns.

In general, these programs and services are largely community-based, involving many partners – police, corrections, outreach workers, community health professionals, former gang members, etc. This type of strategy is supported by a growing body of literature (Brochet, 2005; Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2002; Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 1994; Public Safety Branch of Manitoba Justice, 2001; Wormith, 2004). Given that each community’s gang problem is unique, it is vital for various bodies to collectively identify the gang issues that threaten the well-being of the community, especially its youth. A summary of the findings of this section are as follows:

- Funding for programs largely comes from various public institutions – especially the National Crime Prevention Centre – which has funded 69% of the programs. A few programs are also privately funded through monetary and in-kind donations.
- The objectives of the programs vary depending on the intended level of prevention; however, a majority of the programs focus on awareness about gangs and/or education.

- Programs having a secondary level prevention approach tend to address risk factors that make youth more vulnerable to gang involvement, such as: drug addictions, poor family relationships, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), education and employment difficulties, etc. (Mathews, 2004).
- The majority of programs found focus on primary (31%) or secondary (35%) level prevention, with an additional 16% of programs incorporating both primary and secondary elements.
- Only 10% of programs focus exclusively on tertiary initiatives, with 5% incorporating both secondary and tertiary elements. These tend to focus on provisions of existing strategies for youth already involved with gangs.
- Roughly 3% of programs ambitiously pursue a tri-level anti-gang strategy.
- Nearly 60% of the programs identified were located in either urban or rural Quebec.
- Each of the Western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) had roughly 7-10% of the programs identified, totalling approximately 36%.
- Ontario had only 5% of programs found nationally.
- There were no programs found in the Maritimes; however, most contacts indicated that there were no youth gangs in the area.
- Only one program was identified in Northern Canada (located in the Northwest Territories), but similar to the Maritimes, gangs were not identified as an issue.

Although very few program evaluations have been conducted to discover what measures are effective in counteracting Canadian youth gangs, the program descriptions in Section 3.2 can be used as examples of the innovative and diverse projects that are currently being implemented.

4.3 Discussion

Generally speaking, anti-gang prevention and intervention programs vary in how they address the motivations and objectives that are at the root of why young people join gangs. It appears, however, that the two most common methods of preventing gang activity among young people are to minimize risk factors and reduce the opportunities for entering youth gangs for youth who are not affiliated with gangs. Increasing the avenues for exit among youth already engaged in criminal gangs is less common.

While there was not enough information on gangs targeted by the programs (Section 3.2) to analyze and categorize them by theoretical typology (Section 2.2), it is

apparent that primary and secondary level prevention programs are directed at reducing the opportunities for youth to become engaged in gang activity. Primary prevention programs, which are often administered to a general population (i.e., schools, community youth groups, etc.), are likely to be more effective for keeping youth from joining Type B (Spontaneous Criminal Activity Group/Gang), and (to a lesser extent) Type C (Purposive Group/Gang) gangs. Youth in Type D (Youth Street Gang) and E (Structured Criminal Organization) gangs may be exposed to such programs, but they are likely in need of more focussed and intense interventions due to their high-risk level, strong motivation for gang involvement, and the availability of illegitimate opportunities (e.g., financial gain).

Secondary level prevention programs are often designed to reduce the influence of risk factors, which may include a lack of supervision and activity, and minimize the time that at-risk youth have to engage in behaviours that lead to gang affiliation. Consequently, secondary prevention programs often target youth who are members of Type B or C groups – youth who are at risk for serious gang involvement, but are not affiliated with Type D or E gangs.

The tertiary level programs identified aim at providing exit strategies and support in order to increase the opportunities for youth to leave and remain out of gangs. These programs are largely designed for youth who are members of Type D, E, and (to a certain extent) Type C gangs. Youth in Type C gangs are actively involved in gang activity and require intervention, exit strategies, a safe space and a strong social support network in order to escape gang threats or involvement. However, the effectiveness of tertiary programs is contingent on the participants' voluntary willingness and desire to exit their gang situation. Aside from the exit strategy programs, there seems to be a lack of tertiary prevention program models for dealing with youth gangs. To a large extent, this is due to the nature of gang activities such as homicides, drug dealing and turf wars, which require reactive responses by police. While our focus in this study was not to identify reactive/enforcement models for dealing with youth gang activities, we did find that numerous police agencies had special units and/or strategies for dealing reactively with crimes committed by youth gangs. This finding is further verified by the *2002 Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs*, which identified that almost half of the respondents (46%) employed some form of computerized gang intelligence database and/or had dedicated gang units (35%). Few of the special units, however, appear to be part of a broader, comprehensive preventative strategy for dealing with youth gangs.

4.4 Conclusions

There is a strong sense – especially in the western provinces – that both the number of gangs and gang-related activity is on the rise. Further, it is thought that youth at-risk provide a resource in the form of new recruits to what appears to be a quickly growing problem. Not only is the problem growing in size, it also seems to be evolving both in terms of the complexity of gang structures and the reasons why youth gangs exist. To some extent, the recent *Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004* supports this increasing concern given the noticeable increase in homicides and drug incidents (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2005). Further, according to Criminal

Intelligence Service Canada (2004), the number of marijuana grow operations continues to rise and is linked to organized crime. Given what appears to be an increasing involvement of organized crime in criminal incidents (i.e., extortion, homicide, drug trafficking), Statistics Canada has added new data elements for identifying organized crime and street gang activity to the latest version of the incident-based crime survey (UCR2) (Uniform Crime Reporting Survey) (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2005). As the *Results of the Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* suggests, current trends in certain Canadian jurisdictions seem to be consistent with Taylor's (1989; 1990) concept of the evolution of "gang imperialism," where linkages are made between gangs for financial gain.

Unfortunately, in some jurisdictions, gang-related activity seems to have out-paced current anti-gang programs. However, this review of programs designed to prevent Canadian youth from being involved with gangs that are criminally active provides a useful "starting point" in developing a national anti-youth gang strategy. Overall, the number of innovative programs and the commitment of those who developed and implemented them was impressive. Likewise, the role of NCPC in funding many of these initiatives should be noted.

While the review of programs in this report provides a broad selection of prevention strategies – especially for primary and secondary level prevention – very little is known about the effectiveness of these programs. The lack of evaluation information, to a certain extent, is due to the inherent difficulties associated with evaluating primary and secondary level prevention programs (e.g., the lack of control and the inability to prove that a youth did not join a gang because of his or her involvement with a particular program). Added to these inherent research design difficulties is the general lack of knowledge about gangs that youth are involved with and how they become involved. Despite these challenges, research concerning youth gangs is possible and essential.

4.5 Recommendations

A comprehensive and effective strategy for dealing with the problems of youth involved in criminal gangs can only be developed if we answer the following questions:

- What types of gangs involving youth exist across Canada and how do they vary by jurisdiction?²
- How do youth become involved in gangs that perpetrate criminal activity?
 - Is it explained by risk factors, motivation, and opportunity?
 - Is active recruitment occurring?
 - What would the protective factors and deterrents be?
- Where does the opportunity and/or recruitment occur?
 - In the school system?

² The 2002 *Canadian Police Survey on Youth Gangs* has provided basic information regarding this question.

- In provincial youth detention centres?
 - In provincial adult correctional facilities?
 - In federal adult correctional facilities?
 - On First Nation reserves?
- What types of contacts (i.e., inter-dependencies, linkages, and turf wars) occur among the different types of gangs discussed in the conceptual model?
 - What overall strategies and best practice models have been effective in other countries and would they be appropriate in Canada?

The types of research studies that could provide information related to the above questions would include:

- community needs assessment studies;
- general surveys of youth in school;
- surveys of targeted high-risk youth in communities, youth detention centres, and provincial and federal correctional centres; and
- targeted evaluation studies at all levels, i.e., primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention.

As we learn more about the types of youth gangs and how and why youth become involved in criminal gangs, prevention programs can be designed to be more targeted and, in turn, evaluable. This will provide a solid knowledge-base to develop an effective, balanced strategy.

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