



Creating a better place to live and work.



 **October 2005 to June 2006**

Progress Review



No Community Left Behind.



South East Ottawa Centre for a
Healthy Community

 **October 2005 to June 2006**



Since July 2005, *No Community Left Behind* has been a collaborative effort of community policing professionals, community development specialists and neighborhood activists to address crime-related problems and undertake social development activities in Ledbury and Banff Community.

No community Left Behind is foremost a strategy—rather than a project—that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods. The program is funded by National Crime Prevention Centre. *No Community Left Behind* helps communities help themselves, enabling them to reduce violent and drug crime, strengthen community capacity to increase the quality of life, and promote long-term community health and resilience.

INTERM PROGRESS REVIEW



No community Left Behind

PROGRESS REVIEW

Nov 2005 to June 2006

Program activities were regularly held as planned during this period. Most important of all the project related activities are Steering Committee meetings, Community Dinners, Youth Homework Club activity, Women Exercise Club and Youth Drop in. Ottawa Police Service was engaged both in social mobilization as well as law enforcement. Although the rest of the activities were limited to Banff Avenue Community, but the two police officers assigned to this project worked in four communities to which the project will expand in the proposed expansion phase of *No Community Left Behind* (NCLB).

Activities related to social mobilization

Community Dinners: This has been one of the most productive of all activities. Parents drop in regularly and the number of participants gradually increases. So far 30 community dinners have been arranged and participants from 37 households in the community have participated in it.

Community Dinners are part of the Social Mobilization component of the project. The objective of this activity is to mobilise the community and bring it around the table for information sharing and action with service providers and partner organizations.

This activity has been in place since November 2005. Participation of representatives from the partner

organizations covers the most required element of these meetings: The dialogue and exchange of ideas and winning confidence of the community.

These weekly dinners provide an excellent opportunity to Ottawa Police Service in particular to join and share ideas, personal experiences and suggestions. The meetings help in clarifying the prevailing misconceptions about the police service. Experience of the past 8 months shows that there is no feeling of “us”—the community—and “them”—the police. A candid exchange of questions, ideas and information on a variety of subjects related to safety and security in the community takes place.

This is a great improvement when seen from the perspective that the same community members were reluctant even to come out to the Tenants Association meetings even if there was no participation from the OPS. Fear of retaliation and intimidation from the negative elements in the community was one of the main reasons. Initially there was some inhibition but gradually the community opened up and developed rapport with OPS staff and other partners.

For a detailed description of how these meetings proceed and what kind of issues are discussed, please refer to URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/socialguidance.html>.

Women Exercise Club Activity: This activity was identified to be helpful in mobilizing the community. The activity continued for four months. Participation level was good. However, it was not possible to engage the participants in informal dialogue and discussion with partner organizations

during this activity. In the Steering Committee meeting in March, it was decided to reallocate funds from women exercise club activity to Youth Drop-ins. The women exercise club activity, nevertheless, provided opportunity for the local women to come out of the isolation and discuss problem of common concern. It was also a good forum for inviting new tenants to join the weekly multi-cultural dinners.

Outcome:

1. As a result of informal discussions in the above mentioned social mobilization related activities, various issues of interest were identified. Community had many questions for which it required answers from experts in the concerned agencies. For instance, they raised issues with regard to their rights and responsibilities and the approaches to disciplining kids within the bounds of the law and local culture. Many questions and concerns were noted from the community meetings. An information session was then held to let the community have the right information from the resource persons on those issues.

Information Session^[1] for the community members was held on February 9, 2006 to address all the questions and concerns^[2] raised with regard to their rights and responsibilities and on ways to disciplining kids. Louise Logue of Ottawa Police Service Race Relations & Diversity team, Mark Carthwright from Cedarwood Community and Mike PRANTCSHE from Children Aid Society were some of the resource persons at this occasion.

2. Tenants got organized for the first time in many years. In January 2006, elections^[3] were held in the community

and a new Tenants Association (TA) was elected. Since then the TA members are responsible for holding the social mobilization activities. The TA members meet regularly. They went through a series of training with Ottawa Community Housing. They have prepared a plan for community activities which will be implemented during the course of 2006 with the funding which the TA has received from the Ottawa Community Housing.

Youth Mobilization

Work is in progress with youth. Homework club activities are regularly taking place. These activities are becoming a source for parent mobilization as well. In the March 21, 2006 Steering Committee meetings funds were re-allocated so as to make Youth Drop in as an integral component of the program.

It is usually an encouraging sign to see parents, youth workers and police officers engaged in discussions, information sharing and planning activities until late in the evening.

A kind of integration and synthesis of youth and adult activities is now taking place. Adults are now more aware of what is happening under the youth mobilization component of NCLB. They have a say in planning youth activities. At the same time, mutual discussion and feedback from the police and youth workers gives them confidence to allow their kids to attend local activities for youth without the fear of their being bullied, harassed or influenced by negative role models.

Some parents had the misconception that participation in any activity in the community will have negative effects on their kids. The solution to their understanding was either to keep kids locked at home or take them away from the community for different activities outside. Feedback from the police and youth workers is changing this perception and building

trust of the parents. Police officers are joining youth in the trust building sessions. At Youth Drop ins discussion on local issues of mutual concern and information sharing takes place. A pizza night was also arranged for youth so that they could come out and interact with the police officers assigned to this program.

Recognition

The *No Community Left Behind* is now a recognized crime prevention initiative in Ottawa.

- Project Coordinator and a police officer assigned to this initiative made a [presentation](#)[4] on this model to the Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-being on February 22, 2006. This is a [coalition](#)[5] of influential national organizations which have chosen to collaborate with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in promoting a vision and “best practices” for the practical realization of community safety, health and well-being.
- The *NCLB* model was one of the few selected for display at the Crime Prevention Forum on April 7, 2006. It was a good opportunity for connection and introduction of the initiative.[6] Participants took keen interest in the approach, process and different phases of this model. Professor Irvin Waller from the University of Ottawa was really impressed. Participants made references to the *NCLB* approach in the breakout sessions.
- Project coordinator and the two police officers assigned to this project participated in [CPMP 2006](#) training course at the Ontario Police college from May 27-31, 2006. [7]

- Coordinator of the *NCLB* attended Law Enforcement, Aboriginal and Diversity Conference in Toronto from April 30 to May 03, 2006. It was an excellent opportunity in terms of connecting to the concerned OPS and OPP staff. The occasion also helped in describing the *NCLB* initiative to Chief Vince Bevan and Deputy Chief Larry Hill in an informal way. Chief Vince Bevan strongly believes in the approach of community engagement and building trust. At the Crime Prevention Ottawa level, Chief Bevan is advocating the same approach of tackling crime on the community to community, rather than doing so on crime to crime basis.
- Project Co-coordinators is delivering a workshop on *No Community Left Behind* model for crime prevention at the United Way annual Sharing our Strengths Conference on June 15, 2006. This is one of the ways in which the lessons learned from the progress so far are shared with others interested in doing crime prevention through social development and community policing.

Regular Community safety Newsletter

Community Safety Newsletter is now part of the overall crime prevention effort. The Community House takes initiative in collecting and editing stories and material for the newsletter. Safety and security tips for tenants of all age groups is a regular feature of these newsletters. The Newsletter is distributed to every household in the community. Previous issues of these newsletters can be viewed at the following links.

- First Community Newsletter January 2006. URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/newsletter1.pdf>
- Community Newsletter February 2006. URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/newsletter2.pdf>
- Community newsletter March/April 2006. <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/newsletter3.pdf>

supports to the Tenants Association capacity building. The community House provides space for meetings and support the TA in planning and implementing various activities.

Maria McRae, a local Councillor, is actively involved and provides both moral and financial support to the initiative.

Partners' Commitment.

So far seven Steering Committee meetings have been held since the beginning of the initiative in August 2005. The first meeting was held on August 3, 2005 and the next (eighth) meeting is due on June 27, 2006. Regular participation of the members from 11 different agencies and their input in the program activities is a sign of success of the initiative. [8]

Ottawa Police Services has specifically assigned two police officers who regularly participate in the community meetings and are engaged in law enforcement as well.

Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) provided a series of training to the elected members of the Tenants' Association (TA). OCH also provided funding for community activities to the TA.

Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa provides its input in the youth activities and is presently involved in planning the youth component of the NCLB with the rest of the partners for the expansion phase.

South Ottawa Legal Clinic provides

Conclusion

The strategic plan and subsequent work plan that was approved by the Steering Committee proved very effective in the implementation phase that started in November 2005.

The plan was reviewed and evaluated in March 2006. The findings of the evaluation were shared with the Steering Committee for necessary course corrections and approval.

The results of the initiative so far are quite encouraging. The Ottawa Police Service in particular has found a niche in the heart of the community. A trust relationship has built up and the concerned officers are welcomed in the community whenever they are around.

Community perception has also changed due to drop in unwanted incidents in the community. According to reports of the security officers from the Ottawa Community Housing service for community security, there are almost no negative incidents reported from Banff Avenue community over the past few months.

Police Services is compiling its statistics and SEOCHC is undertaking a second community perception survey these days. Reports of these evaluation reports will be available by the end of June 2006. This will give us a clear picture of the overall improvement in the situation since the project was launched in 2005.

The community does not seem overly concerned with safety and security issues of

late. Nevertheless, the project staff personally witnessed some suspicious activities during their outreach visits to the community. Concerned police officers were informed about the developments. Tire on the car of one staff member was slashed in the first week of April 2006. On the occasion of Youth Pizza Day, door lock of the portable, where youth were scheduled to meet, was vandalized.

Such incidents show that some trouble-making elements are still around, for sure. These minor incidents and the lack of readiness on the part of the community to take charge for establishing a Neighborhood Watch shows that the community still needs assistance. On the youth front in particular, building bridges with Ottawa Police Service is underway.

If we look at the [recommendations](#)^[9] of the sub-committee to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police at the end of Community Safety Round Table (February 2006), or if we look at the [key presentation](#)^[10] at the same occasion by Daniel Sansfaçon, Deputy Director General, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, we realize that *No community left Behind* is a timely initiative that is going in the right direction.

The portions where Mr. Sansfaçon's recommendations almost exactly match with NCLB approach and work are [highlighted](#) in his presentation.^[11] Without the collaborative approach of the partners organizations working differently together, *NCLB* would not have reached where it stands today in the Banff Avenue community.

The Phase-II of *NCLB* — the expansion phase — will further consolidate this work. However, this is the time that partner organizations need to look at the progress they have made so far and try to build on it.

Social mobilization is the over-arching component. From the record number of community members participating in the

program activities, it can be safely conclude that adult population has reached level 7 on a 10 point scale in terms of mobilization and building trust with Ottawa Police Service and other partners. However, as stated earlier, youth participation level is good, but they still seem to be stuck at level 2 in terms of opening communication channels and building trust with the OPS.

The partners engaged in implementing the *NCLB* initiative have made good progress in the right direction. Ground realities in the community, feedback from the law enforcement officials, crime prevention experts in academia and community development specialists suggest that this is a sound model in terms of its approach. The partners on the Steering Committee have great potential to make this initiative unique. They are already undertaking many activities which are – or may be – contributing to crime prevention any way.

The partner organizations and individuals now need to strategically think of building on the momentum they have gained so far to make the initiative more integrated by effectively involving all partners in multiple interventions in an interconnected way. Strategic planning meetings are scheduled to come up with comprehensive planes for the expansion phase of *NCLB* to three neighbouring communities.

NOTES:

[1] Information Session for the community: URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/infosession.htm>

[2] Community's questions and concerns. URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/infosession.pdf>

[3] TA elections: URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/taelections.html>

[4] Presentation to CACP. URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/presentation.htm>

[5] The Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-

being. URL: http://www.cacp.ca/CSHW_SSBC/

[6] NCLB Display at Crime Prevention Forum: URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/display.html>

[7] CPMP 2006: URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/cmp.html>

[8] Minutes of the Steering Committee meetings are available at URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/scmeetings.html>

[9] Recommendations of CACP Community Roundtable: URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/CACPkeymessages.pdf>

[10] Key presentations. URL: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/sansfacon-speech.pdf>

[11] See: <http://nocommunityleftbehind.ca/sansfacon-speech.pdf> .

<http://www.nocommunityleftbehind.ca>



Banff Ave. community



The *No Community Left Behind* strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies cooperate in removing criminal elements and development agencies and community-based organizations collaborate to invest in human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges these two prongs of the approach.

The purpose of NCLB is to implement a comprehensive approach towards social development and crime prevention. This approach addresses the roots of the problems in the partner community and improve community members' overall quality of life.