



The Regional Municipality of Peel
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Connect2endviolence a Highlight of Peel's 5-Point Plan to Combat Violence

(BRAMPTON) – The connect2endviolence initiative is the unforeseen highlight of the comprehensive five-point plan announced approximately one year ago by the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board to combat the increase in serious crime in the Region of Peel, says Emil Kolb, Chair, Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board. The plan was put in place in October, 2008, in response to public concern over the increase in serious crime, including a record number of homicides in 2008, a total of 27.

“A year ago, the Board said an important component of our plan was to engage the community in keeping our community safe,” says Mr. Kolb. “We had originally planned a one-time community summit that at most would have involved several hundred individuals. That concept turned into the connect2endviolence initiative, the centerpiece of which is a website, operational in April, 2009, that has allowed us to connect people to each other, to ideas and to the community at large. To date, I’m very pleased to say we’ve had over 4,000 individuals take the time to get involved and to make a difference.”

Mr. Kolb says the success of www.connect2endviolence.ca has led the Board to extend funding for the initiative until at least January, 2011.

“I’m convinced connect2endviolence is just getting started,” says Mr. Kolb. “Under the leadership of Councillor Frank Dale of Mississauga and Councillor Gael Miles of Brampton, I see www.connect2endviolence.ca becoming a centerpiece in our work with the community to reduce the levels of crime in our Region.”

Mr. Kolb says the Board has also made progress on the other components of the plan. He says while it would be premature to report on the overall long term success of the strategy, the Board believes a year later it is time to provide an assessment to the public on progress to date.

- 1) The first component of the plan was to hire additional police officers. With the support of Regional Council and by accessing the \$400 million federal funding provided for new police officers, the Board authorized the hire of an additional 46 police officers. All 46 have now received their training and are working as front line patrol officers
- 2) The second prong of the plan was a request from the Board to Chief M. Metcalf to undertake an operational review to determine whether additional officers could be freed up for either preventative or front line duties. Mr. Kolb says both the Board and the Chief felt it was important not just to rely on new funding but to ensure that all resources were used to maximum potential. After carefully reviewing areas of the organization that could be re-deployed to better serve the community, it was determined that six of the PRP's 14 community stations will be closed. This will allow the re-assignment of 18 officers and six support staff to front line duties. Mr. Kolb says further details on the community station program will be released by the Peel Regional Police.
- 3) The third part of the plan was to hold a Community Summit on Safety and Security which developed into the connect2endviolence initiative.
- 4) The fourth prong was to seek provincial assistance for targeted needs. With the assistance of area members of provincial parliament, the Board was able to secure funds for two important programs. The provincial government is providing renewed funding under its Provincial Anti-Violence Integrated Strategy in the amount of \$1,360,000 from April, 2009 to March, 2011. This allows the police service to target criminal activity involving gangs. The province has also committed \$340,970 for the Peel Regional Police to fight the abuse and exploitation of children on the Internet.
- 5) The final part of the plan was to seek federal funding to offset areas where the Peel Regional Police provide services directly related to federal policing responsibilities. Despite numerous attempts to secure direct federal assistance based on specific needs, such as providing security for the court proceedings involving the alleged terrorists, efforts to date have been unsuccessful.

“Overall, I’m pleased with our progress to date,” says Mr. Kolb. “However, this is not to say the job is done, and certainly our efforts to secure additional federal funding will continue. But, with the community’s help and involvement, and with the engagement of the dedicated women and men of the Peel Regional Police, I do believe we are making a difference.”

The Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board is the governing body for the Peel Regional Police, the second largest municipal police service in Ontario. The Board is comprised of seven individuals, three members of Regional Council, namely Chair Emil Kolb, Councillor Frank Dale of Mississauga and Mayor Susan Fennell of the City of Brampton. There are three provincial appointees, Vice-Chair Jim Murray, Ms. Cheryl Jamieson, and Mr. Satwinder Gosal. There is one appointee of a citizen by Regional Council who is Ms. Preet Kang.