



*Ministry of Justice
Community Safety and
Crime Prevention Awards
2012*

*For Outstanding Contributions Towards
Crime Prevention and Community
Safety in British Columbia*

Presented By:

The Ministry of Justice and
the BC Crime Prevention Association

Friday, November 2, 2012

A Message from the Minister



I'd like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of the 2012 Ministry of Justice Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards. The recipients of these awards have demonstrated how commitment, perseverance, and innovation in crime prevention efforts can help make communities in British Columbia safer. Their dedicated efforts will, no doubt, inspire others to follow their example of service.

These awards remind us that we all have a role to play in helping to build safe communities where families can thrive. The diversity of recipients today also reminds us that concerned citizens of all ages who want to make a difference can and are making a difference in our communities.

On behalf of the Ministry of Justice and all British Columbians, thank you to the 2012 award recipients for your contributions to crime prevention and community safety in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister of Justice and Attorney General



The 2012 Ministry of Justice Community Safety & Crime Prevention Awards

Each year the Ministry of Justice hosts the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards to celebrate and recognize the individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention and community safety in British Columbia.

This year, the awards are part of Crime Prevention Week, which takes place from November 1 to 7. Crime Prevention Week provides an opportunity for people across British Columbia to organize and participate in events that promote the importance of community assessment, awareness, and action towards addressing and preventing crime and violence in their communities.

Nominations for the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards have been reviewed by representatives from the provincial Safe Communities Working Group (SCWG). The Working Group brings provincial partners together with the common goal of keeping the Province's communities safe. SCWG members include:

- B.C. Crime Prevention Association
- Block Watch Society of B.C.
- B.C. Crime Stoppers
- Children of the Street Society
- RCMP "E" Division
- National Crime Prevention Centre
- Ministry of Justice

This year's award nominees have demonstrated a high level of commitment to crime prevention in their communities. These awards are in honour of the time and effort given by individuals and groups across British Columbia in making our communities safe.



2012
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

The Award Categories

Anthony J. Hulme Award of Distinction -
Lifetime Contribution

Kenneth M. Lemckert Community Policing Award

Wael T. Audi Youth Policing Award

Crime Prevention and Community Safety Awards
- Community Group or Organization
- Individual

Children or Youth Leadership Award

Media Award

Corporate Award

Volunteer Award



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

*Anthony J. Hulme Award of Distinction -
Lifetime Contribution*

The Anthony J. Hulme Award of Distinction honours a crime prevention practitioner, volunteer, or group for their extraordinary lifetime contribution and commitment to crime prevention and community safety. This award was named in honour of Anthony J. Hulme for his role as a pioneer in crime prevention and community safety in British Columbia. Anthony was one of the original founders of the B.C. Crime Prevention Association.

Edwin Keeling – Sechelt B.C.

Mr. Edwin Keeling was a founding member of the Pender Harbour Community Police Office in 1995 and has been involved with Block Watch on the Sunshine Coast since 1994. He was responsible for setting up 30 block watch areas between Half Moon Bay and Garden Bay. At 88 years of age, he currently volunteers 200 hours annually plus additional time for special events.

Mr. Keeling has worked in crime prevention since the 1940s, when he first joined the Police Service in the United Kingdom after serving in the military. After two years he was promoted to detective and was selected to attend Hendon Police College, which is staffed by senior officers of New Scotland Yard.

In 1955, Mr. Keeling immigrated to Canada and joined a small, suburban police force west of Toronto. A year later he left to work for a petroleum company and was working in Ottawa in the 1970s when he was asked to sit on a crime prevention committee set up by the Mayor of Ottawa. He worked with the committee's neighbourhood Block Watch program, was responsible for a 12 city block area with nearly 100 homes, and had ten captains under his supervision.

In the late 1980s, Mr. Keeling moved to British Columbia and began volunteering with the New Westminster Community Policing Office. He spent three years working on the Business Watch Program and helped to staff the office.

Mr. Keeling's lifetime contributions to crime prevention efforts demonstrate his leadership and commitment to making communities safe.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Kenneth M. Lemckert Community Policing Award

The Kenneth M. Lemckert Community Policing Award recognizes an individual or community group that has provided exemplary leadership in the area of community policing. The award was named in honour of Kenneth M. Lemckert who played a key role in the Vancouver Police Department's community policing program. Ken recognized the importance of partnerships and the contributions we can make towards solving local problems.

Abeline Stewart – Gingolx Village Government – Gingolx, B.C.

Abeline (Abby) Stewart has been with the Gingolx Village Government as a social development administrator since February 2010. In 2010, concerned about the dangers of underage drinking in the community, and with the support of the Gingolx Village Government, Abby reinstated an evening foot patrol to keep an eye on the community, to assist intoxicated individuals return home safely, to help prevent vandalism, and to assist at-risk youth. In 2011, after consulting with local youth workers about underage drinking, Abby spearheaded a youth march in the community, which targeted at-risk youth with positive messages and provided guidance from elders. Abby also worked with the Gingolx Village Government to ensure funding and materials (including wood, paper, and paint for signs) for the march. As a result of Abby's efforts, a number of community members in Gingolx are receiving positive messages about treatment options for their addictions.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Kenneth M. Lemckert Community Policing Award

Constable Heather Brown and Constable Jose Abundo – Vancouver Police – Vancouver, B.C.

Constable Heather Brown and Constable Jose Abundo work from the Collingwood Community Policing Centre conducting community outreach, crime prevention, and beat enforcement. Constable Brown has been a neighbourhood police officer for seven years and Constable Abundo has been one for three. The duo has a strong commitment and dedication to public safety, innovative approaches, and encourages others to be involved in their communities. They coordinate and respond to 'hotspot' crime problems and locations that impact neighbourhood residents. They use a variety of approaches including bicycle patrols, school visits, community workshops on women's safety, crime prevention, child-proofing, gang deterrence, and domestic violence awareness. In addition to their community policing duties, Constables Brown and Abundo are responsible for recruiting, training, and mentoring over one-hundred community volunteers at the Collingwood Community Policing Centre. Their tireless dedication, sustained effort and long term commitment to their community is admirable.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Wael T. Audi Youth Policing Award

The Wael T. Audi Youth Policing Award honours police officers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to working with youth in their communities. The award is in memory of Constable Wael T. Audi, a young and enthusiastic member of the Squamish RCMP, who recognized the potential in youth and encouraged their participation in community safety and crime prevention.

Constable Carrie Durocher and Constable John Davidson – Abbotsford Police – Abbotsford, B.C.

Constable Carrie Durocher and Constable John Davidson were instrumental in bringing together their community to address the ecstasy issue through a documentary entitled "Operation X." With the invaluable aid of grieving families and friends and with grant funding from the Ministry of Justice, Cst. Durocher and Cst. Davidson created an 18 minute film that details the tragedies of the ecstasy-related deaths of two youth. Cst. Durocher and Cst. Davidson have worked tirelessly since March 2012 (often on their own time) to produce this film. Their work on the project included identifying a production company, creating a script/story board, identifying and coordinating volunteers, securing props/locations for filming, arranging interviews with experts, editing the film, and then screening it to 18 audiences at 15 different schools in the three weeks leading up to the end of the school year. Their work on the film has inspired hundreds of youth to take a stand against ecstasy abuse.

Staff Sergeant Grant MacDonald – Burns Lake RCMP, Burns Lake, B.C.

Since arriving in Burns Lake in August 2011, Staff Sergeant Grant MacDonald has demonstrated exemplary leadership. His volunteer service and continued focus on youth has resulted in a 200 percent increase in school visits by members of his detachment. He has been instrumental in bringing the Special Olympics to Burns Lake and in a short time the program has grown to a local executive board with community volunteers and offers winter and summer sports to athletes with disabilities. S/Sgt. MacDonald was also instrumental in bringing the Law Enforcement Torch Run in to Burns Lake in 2012. To bridge the gap between the police and the local First Nations youth, S/Sgt. MacDonald partnered with the Lake Babine Nation Youth Centre in 2012 to offer friendly competitive activities between the police and youth.



2012
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

*Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award
for a Community Organization*

This award recognizes exemplary leadership through developing innovative projects, key activities or initiatives to promote safe communities.

Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) – Vancouver, B.C.

Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) is a provincial, non-profit organization that serves as a resource for over 230 community-based services supporting survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, child abuse, and criminal harassment. In 2011, EVA BC launched a two year public and youth awareness campaign in partnership with the BC Lions Football Club, which focuses on the importance of people speaking up and breaking the silence surrounding violence against women. The “Be More Than A Bystander” program provides tools, language, and practical ideas to help individuals communicate that violence against women and girls is not acceptable. By creating this partnership, EVA BC and the BC Lions have made history – no other professional sports team in Canada has taken on the issue of violence against women.

IRAYL Outreach Program – Surrey, B.C.

IRAYL is a youth outreach program providing support and resources to youth who gather together on and around the Skytrain stations in the Lower Mainland. Youth outreach workers identify and connect with youth ages 10 – 15 and build relationships. Youth are provided with resources, food, and other items as part of a cross-regional crime reduction initiative. In its four years of existence, IRAYL has developed into an efficient, proactive response for youth in need of a continuum of assistance. IRAYL’s involvement in youth issues on Metro Vancouver’s multi-modal transit system has provided solutions for at-risk youth. Their ability to provide one-on-one interaction with youth in a non-threatening manner, allows IRAYL workers to identify the specific needs of each individual and follow up with an action plan that is uniquely geared to meet the needs of the youth.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

*Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award
for a Community Group or Organization*

The John Howard Society of North Island – Campbell River, B.C.

The John Howard Society of North Island is a charitable non-profit agency with more than 25 years of experience delivering community-based youth services. Their mission is to promote and foster safer and healthier communities by providing appropriate programs of rehabilitation, education, prevention and healing for those who need an opportunity to achieve, maintain, or regain a balance within their communities. The organization primarily serves vulnerable youth and their families, has offices in Campbell River and Courtenay, and additional staff in Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, and Gold River. They also run a number of programs that contribute to crime prevention and community safety, including the Delaware Youth Internet Café and the KidStart Mentoring Program.

SisterWatch Project Committee (SWPC) – Vancouver, B.C.

The SisterWatch Project Committee (SWPC) is a multifaceted partnership designed to combat violence against women and create a safe community for residents of the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver. SisterWatch was created in 2010 following the outpouring of anger and grief by the Downtown Eastside community following the death of Ashley Machiskinic. In September 2010, Ashley fell to her death from the fifth floor of the Regent Hotel in the Downtown Eastside. SisterWatch initiatives include the installation of ruggedized “911-only” phones in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside neighborhood, town hall meetings, a speakers’ bureau, a SisterWatch telephone tip line, a SisterWatch website, a reward for information about the death of Ashley Machiskinic, and several major proactive investigations targeting predators in the Downtown Eastside that proved highly successful, resulting in numerous arrests and serious charges.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

*Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award
for an Individual*

This award honours exemplary leadership in the area of crime prevention and community safety and contributions to the development of innovative projects, key activities or initiatives to promote safe communities.

Sergeant Donovan Tait – New Aiyansh, B.C.

Since joining the Nass Valley Detachment in December 2011, Sergeant Donovan Tait has forged a model relationship between citizens of the Nisga'a Nation and the RCMP members stationed around the valley. After a number of young adults in the community were charged with drug trafficking and other offences, Sgt. Tait worked with community and justice partners to establish alternative justice forums. Youth were given the opportunity to share their experiences and help repair the harm they had caused to the community. The outcome of those sessions was an improvement in relations between youth and the community and the entrenchment of alternative justice forums in New Aiyansh as an effective approach to youth justice. In addition to his work in New Aiyash, Sgt. Tait continues to work with neighbouring villages to assist at-risk youth.

Constable Kimberly Delwisch – Smithers B.C.

Fifteen year veteran police officer Constable Kimberly Delwisch has been working as the First Nations Community Police officer in the Smithers Detachment for the last three years, serving the communities of Smithers, Wet'suwet'en and Lake Babine Nations. As part of her outreach activities in the community, she delivers presentations at local schools on topics such as bullying, drugs and alcohol awareness, and internet safety. As well, she assists with a parents' support group, and frequently goes door to door speaking with residents to discuss any concerns they may have about the community. In an effort to address the issue of women's safety, due in part to dangers associated with the Highway of Tears and the high rate of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities, she started a girls group for young teens called "Girls in Forward Motion/T'et aku Nis hed ilh" (Wet'swuet'en). With the generous assistance of local volunteers and limited funding, the program focuses on career development, education, cultural activities, self awareness, and other factors to help provide girls with tools to protect themselves and stop the cycle of abuse.



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*Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award
for an Individual*

Ron Shonk – Keremeos B.C

Ron Shonk has served as the Keremeos RCMP Victim Services Coordinator since January 2009. In 2009, Ron was instrumental in the development of the “Proactive Violence Prevention Project” (PVPP), which was a community-wide, grassroots effort to raise awareness, and to educate and take preventative action on domestic violence, bullying, sexual assault, date rape, and elder abuse. During the nearly two and a half years the project has been in operation, Ron has researched, written and submitted over 16 press releases and letters to the local weekly newspaper. Based on his work with abused and assaulted spouses, Ron developed the “Men Together: Saying NO to Violence Against Women and Children Initiative”, which strives to capture the attention of abusers, to challenge their behaviour, and to offer them resources for change. The program currently serves over 100 of the Valley’s male residents and workers ages 16 and over. As a natural follow-up to “Men Together”, working through the larger South Okanagan-Similkameen’s Violence in Relationships Committee (VIR), Ron helped to develop and find start-up funding for the “Change for Good” Program (CFG), which counsels abusers in four locations throughout the South Okanagan-Similkameen.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Children or Youth Leadership Award

This award honours positive role models for children or youth in their community and encourages their active participation in crime prevention and community safety projects.

Josh Eisner – Coquitlam, B.C.

In 2010, eight year old, grade-four student Josh Eisner spearheaded an anti-bullying initiative at Porter Street Elementary school where he organized the production and sale of custom t-shirts during Pink Shirt Day. In 2011 for Pink Shirt day, Josh designed a logo, contacted companies for quotes, and marketed pink shirts for sale at his school. He also led an art project with the approval of a teacher and the school principal to develop cut-out wooden t-shirts that would be painted pink to raise awareness about bullying. Over 350 shirts were hung on school fencing as a visual reminder that bullying at Porter Elementary School will not be tolerated. Through his persistence, Josh was able to find a corporate sponsor to cover the costs of the wood and a local business stepped up to supply materials. In 2012, Josh organized and implemented a plan for each student in the school to have the opportunity to create custom pink buttons, which were worn during Pink Shirt Day. Josh's outstanding leadership skills and involvement in the community are rare for someone his age.

Sowchea Elementary School – Fort St. James, B.C.

After the tragic death of Nolan Alexis on November 4th, 2011 in Fort St. James as a result of a motor vehicle accident, grade 6 and 7 students at Sowchea Elementary School organized the "Be Seen Be Safe" project to distribute reflective bracelets to every child in Fort St. James, and in the Nak'azdli, Tl'azten and Yekoochee First Nations. This initiative aims to educate and promote traffic safety in honour of Nolan's memory. Through community support the youth were able to get 2000 bracelets and posters printed and laminated. Presentations were conducted in all schools in the area on traffic safety. Students proudly wear reflectors on their boots, ankles, wrists, arms, hats and backpacks. In February 2012, BC MLA John Rustad commended the students for their efforts and spoke about the project in the BC Legislature.



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Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Children or Youth Leadership Award

Squamish Community Policing Student Volunteers – Squamish, B.C.

The Squamish RCMP Detachment supports a small yet very active Youth Community Policing and Crime Prevention Unit. Avinash Bharti, Tarjoyt Bisla and Harpreet Minhas are dedicated and energetic Youth Community Policing Volunteers. These three volunteers regularly lend their time to various crime prevention programs including Speed Watch, Cell Phone Watch, Business Link, and special events. In fall 2011, they enthusiastically accepted the challenge of initiating a new community safety project on distracted driving. With limited resources and zero budget, they were also instrumental in planning, creating, and implementing an educational awareness video and oral presentation that was delivered in March 2012 at their local high school.

Charlene Smith – Roberts Creek, B.C.

When Charlene Smith was in grade 9, she witnessed a grade 12 student overdose on drugs in the middle of the street. She stepped in and administered CPR, which ultimately saved the youth's life. Through this and other experiences, Charlene realized that drinking, drugs, and sexual exploitation are serious issues in her community and she brainstormed what she could do to make a difference. When she was in grade 12, Charlene created a crime prevention program designed to reach every student in elementary and high school across the Sunshine Coast. Charlene organized presentations by Odd Squad Productions on drug prevention and by Children of the Street Society on sexual exploitation. She also liaised with over 15 schools and canvassed her community to help raise the funds to cover the cost of travel for workshop facilitators, and she promoted the workshops to several media outlets.



2012
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Media Award

This award honours an individual's commitment to actively promoting crime prevention and community safety programs either by audio, visual, and/or written methods.

Constable Jagmeet Dandiwal and Constable Harbir Sangha – Richmond, B.C.

In 2011, Constable Dandiwal and Constable Sangha undertook an initiative to engage the Punjabi and South Asian Community by making regular appearances on Radio 1550 AM to discuss their policing careers and talk about youth gangs, bullying, identity theft, pedestrian safety, and various other crime prevention-related topics. The radio show is conducted in Punjabi and is broadcast live to thousands of listeners in BC and parts of the United States. The program has been very well received by the Punjabi community and helps to build partnerships, generate community safety awareness, and dispel police stereotypes.



2012
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Corporate Award

This award honours an organization for outstanding contributions towards crime prevention and community safety strategies.

BC Lions Football Club – Surrey, B.C.

For the last three years, the Lions Pride program, coordinated by the BC Lions Football Club, has inspired youth to be active, make positive choices and excel in their lives. This outreach program targets at-risk youth and helps them to make positive choices in their lives and steer clear of gang involvement. Through mentorship, school presentations and recreational activities, BC Lions players share their life stories and challenges with youth throughout BC.

The program runs each spring with star Lions players visiting grades 8 through 12 students in the lower mainland, as well as visiting communities across the province such as Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James. Players visit schools, share their personal stories on how football helped them steer clear of criminal activity, and lead the youth in a 45 minute activity that highlights the importance of teamwork, commitment, and hard work.

As part of the Lions Pride Initiative, a four-team flag football league for at-risk youth holds practice sessions throughout the month of April with select BC Lions players. Players are able to provide one-on-one mentoring for at-risk youth during these sessions. A tournament is then held in May that engages police, parents, and other community members. All youth selected to participate in the flag football program are provided tickets to the football season.



2012
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Volunteer Award

This award honours an individual's commitment to their community through outstanding contribution towards crime prevention and community safety.

Margo Banks – Parksville, B.C.

Margo is the president of the District 69 Citizens on Patrol Society (COPS), which is a well organized and highly motivated group comprised of more than 100 volunteers split over five regions on Vancouver Island (NanOOSE Bay, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Arrowsmith, and Bowser). COPS works closely with the Oceanside RCMP and patrols areas and 'hot spots' identified by the RCMP. Margo is instrumental in motivating volunteers, organizing schedules, planning meetings, is a zone director, and maintains a regular patrol route of her own. Although these duties take many hours a month, she is always available by phone and e-mail to liaise with ICBC and the RCMP. Prior to joining COPS, Margo was instrumental in outfitting five mid-island RCMP Police Service Dogs with protective Kevlar vests, a project close to her heart.

Karen Bowman – Surrey, B.C.

Karen Bowman founded "Drop it And Drive" in 2010, to help end distracted driving by making it as socially unacceptable as drinking and driving. Three months following the program's launch, her young daughter was injured by a distracted driver, making the cause all the more personal. Karen is a hardworking advocate and an exceptional spokeswoman. Karen volunteers at least five days a week promoting "Drop it And Drive", delivering high school presentations and corporate risk management workshops, creating and maintaining relationships, writing press releases, responding to inquiries from media and others, researching information for presentations, and maintaining a website. The partnerships she has developed with the Surrey Fire Service, the Surrey RCMP, Young Drivers of Canada, and Klein Lyons, along with support from community sponsors like the Canadian Automobile Association, play a substantial role in the success of her national education program. Her commitment, perseverance, and innovation are demonstrated by the many diverse ways that she gets the message out that distracted driving is a significant risk to all on our roadways.



2012
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Volunteer Award

William Brand – Surrey, B.C.

William (Bill) Brand has been volunteering at the Surrey RCMP since June 1994, and has logged more than 10,865 volunteer hours. Bill volunteers his time on the Speed Watch Program and acts as the District #1 Supervisor. He has dedicated himself to this program and volunteers Monday to Friday, often going out twice a day in order to assist in school zones when asked by parents, school officials, or police officers. Bill is the driving force behind the initiative and even when he is on holiday he always makes sure there is someone trained to cover for him.

Donna Ensor – Victoria, B.C.

Donna Ensor has been volunteering with the West Shore RCMP Community Policing Section for over 10 years. She is responsible for the Keeping in Touch (KIT) Program, volunteers with Speed Watch, and is a regular supporter of RCMP Community events. Donna currently oversees 18 volunteers by coordinating their training and scheduling, and works hard to make sure the program runs efficiently. She is a volunteer who never stops giving no matter which task she is working on.

