
NATIONAL STRATEGY ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION
STRATÉGIE NATIONALE SUR LA SÉCURITÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE ET LA PRÉVENTION DU CRIME

Community Mobilization Program Project Report/Evaluation

1. Project Identification

Project File #: 3310-I20

Project Title: Law in a Fearful Society Symposium

Project Sponsors:

Symposium Secretariat: International Centre for Criminal Justice Reform and Criminal Justice Policy

Symposium Partners:

- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Department of Justice Canada
- Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy
- Law Commission of Canada
- Law Foundation of British Columbia Small Project Grants to the Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
- Ministry of Attorney General of British Columbia
- School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University
- University College of the Fraser Valley

Project Location:

Law Courts Inn
800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, British Columbia

Project Duration:

September 30 – October 7, 2004

Project End Date:

October 7, 2004

2. Project History

Initial discussions between representatives of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and the Law Commission of Canada began in the fall of 2003. These two organizations were interested in taking some of the current research and policy questions being explored to discussion in a larger community context in Canada. In research and policy circles there was much discussion of the decline in the crime rate, yet the public perception that crime was increasing. The media was seen to be playing a significant role in creating a culture of fear of crime, which was leading for greater demand for crime control. The purpose of this community discussion was to bring actors from various perspectives including scholars, the media, criminal justice professionals and the community into this dialogue.

3. Project Objectives

- Bring together a diverse group of scholars, policymakers, community and non-governmental organizations, and the public to examine the relationship between fear of crime and contemporary crime control strategies.
- Raise questions and foster dialogue concerning fear and crime control in the community.
- Explore the reliance on formal legal tactics to deal with unwanted behavior in a society characterized by a fear of crime and growing insecurity
- Examine impact of fear on our perceptions of crime and the implications of choosing various intervention strategies.

Actual Results

The symposium attracted participants from diverse backgrounds including law and criminology professors and students, lawyer, prosecutors, judges, police, the media, and community organizations.

Participant feedback provided through dialogue and evaluation forms indicated that the objectives of the workshop were achieved. Excerpts of the presentations and dialogue at the symposium were broadcast on the CBC Radio program *Ideas* on October 7, 2004 at 9:00 PM. Paul Kennedy the host of *Ideas* acted as moderator of the initial key note panel and participated in all the sessions throughout the symposium. Through this radio broadcast, the issues were presented nationally in Canada and are now accessible through the *Ideas* website at http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/calendar/2004/10_october.html

B) If there were any differences between objectives and results, what were the reasons for those differences?

Overall the results were achieved and there was very positive feedback in this regard from participants. Many were encouraging more events like this, further dialogue with the presenters and participants.

C) If there were any differences between planned and actual activities, what were the reasons for those differences?

The symposium was planned to give time for health breaks and lunch to facilitate continuing dialogue among participants and the presenters. These opportunities were greatly appreciated by participants.

4. Meeting Challenges

Problems and Solutions

A) Were there any unexpected successes and/or challenges?

Successes

Each team of panelists met in person or by teleconference to plan their presentations. This planning structure provided opportunities for some creative interaction between panelists that was greatly appreciated by participants. Panelists asked questions of each other, as well as responding to questions from participants. Members of particular panels that came from different professions and sectors were asked to role-play being in another position, and the actions they would take. This successful collaboration resulted in stimulating, informative, and thought-provoking presentations. The sessions tied together various aspects of growing insecurity in the world and how it continues to reshape crime prevention and anti-terrorism strategies.

Challenges

The planning and organization of a number of panels, moderators and presenters coming from different cities and agencies presented a number of communication challenges. It was difficult to engage a diverse audience in all of the sessions of the symposium. Some were more interested in terrorism or community policing for example. Attendance at some of the sessions fluctuated; based on participant interest but most participants took advantage of opportunities to learn from people from different sectors or agencies. The evening session had 140 participants, approximately 20 more than had registered. Having the day session on a Friday, a working day, meant that some participants could not attend, nonetheless, we were pleased to have 90 active and engaged participants for the day session.

The very positive responses of participants to the event (See Appendix I Summary of Participant Evaluations) has prompted one of the project partners the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice to consider planning another similar event to bring justice system representatives together to discuss similar topics.

B) What were the reasons for these unexpected outcomes? How did you address them?

Presenters and participants alike enjoyed the discussion with people outside the usual boundaries of particular agencies or professions.

Lessons Learned

C) What worked well in this project?

- Partnerships between international, national, provincial and local agencies
- Diversity of perspectives on very current and relevant topics
- Adequate time for networking and dialogue opportunities between sessions
- Planning and organization of presentation panels well in advance with presenters directly involved
- A venue that was easily accessible

D) What didn't work?

- challenges to administer small contributions of funds from many sources

E) What would you change if you were starting over?

- Invite a variety of media to present including editors, publishers, etc. We only had reporters and columnists involved
- Encourage media sponsorship for event publicity in advance to engage the public more broadly
- Ensure adequate time during the breaks to foster dialogue, networking and meeting new people
- Consider offering parallel sessions, small group discussions as well as plenary sessions
- Invite more women, people of colour and younger people to participate in presentations
- Consider film or video tape for future broadcast
- Search for sufficient funds to publish symposium papers and proceedings to have broader impact

5. Project Impact

Developing Partnerships

A) How has your project developed and/or strengthened broad, community-based partnerships that can deal with local crime prevention issues?

- Dialogue has begun, participants stated in evaluations that they would continue to discuss these issues with people they had met through the symposium and with others in their communities
- Good links have been made between "town (the community) and gown (university researchers)"
- Reporters attending the symposium have asked the International Centre for publications and contact information for researchers working in criminal justice since the event
- The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and the Law Commission of Canada have agreed to explore sponsoring future events together in Canada of international, national and local relevance

Public Awareness

B) How has your project increased public awareness about effective approaches to crime prevention?

- CBC Radio broadcast on *Ideas*
- September 30 evening session was open to the public without registration fees and 130 people attended

Building capacity in the community

C) How has the project increased the community's capacity to deal with crime and victimization?

The symposium raised awareness of the role of fear in shaping local, national and international policy. It provided a forum for key decision-makers in the justice system and the media to discuss issues in a cross-disciplinary manner.

Particular current issues such as the Safe Streets act was addressed by Chief Constable Jamie Graham of the Vancouver Police Department, Ian Mulgrew the Legal Affairs Columnist with the Vancouver Sun and John Russell, President of BC Civil Liberties Association. Examples of various forms of victimization within the community were discussed and options for addressing this problem by those victimized the community, the police and the criminal justice system were discussed.

The symposium addressed the newly introduced Terrorism Legislation and questioned whether societies fears were indeed permitting human rights and civil liberties to be eroded in the interests of fighting terrorism and responding to US demands for greater controls on the Canada - US border.

Priority Groups/Issues

D) What kind of impact did the project have on the priorities of the National Strategy?

Children: During discussion of the role of the media in contributing to a fearful society, the priority of educating children and youth to have critical analytical skills when reading, viewing or listening to media reports was identified.

Youth: Discussion of the Safe Streets Act and the needs of youth as well as business and other members of the community were addressed. Of 140 participants attending the symposium, 41 were students.

Aboriginal people and communities: Mark Stevenson, a Métis lawyer practicing in aboriginal law and treaty negotiations for First Nations and aboriginal communities and one of the

Commissioners of the Law Commission of Canada gave the official welcome to all participants of the symposium.

Women's personal security: Professor Maureen Maloney presented the case for hidden terrors and fears for women, including domestic violence how these concerns have been overshadowed by fear of imagined crime committed by strangers in contemporary society. Jonathon Manthorpe of the Vancouver Sun address the challenges of reporting the fears of the "stranger" versus the crime perpetrated by persons women already know, which reports and statistics indicate are more prevalent.

6. Networking and Partnerships

Participants

A) Who were the participants and how were they involved in the project?

There were 140 participants including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, community members, teachers, academics, college instructors and non-profit organizations. More than 40 participants were college or university students. Four university student volunteers assisted the Symposium Secretariat with registration and symposium preparations.

New Players

B) How has your project encouraged broader community Participation in safety and crime prevention issues?

Participant evaluations indicated that they appreciated the active involvement of members of the media from newspapers and radio in the event. It was also found valuable to have members of different justice-related agencies in direct contact with researchers and academics studying crime, safety and prevention strategies, as indicated in Appendix I Summary of Participant Evaluations.

Community Relationships

C) Have you improved relations with provincial, territorial, and/or regional organizations that deal with safety and crime prevention issues?

This event is an excellent example of international, national, provincial and local organizations working together. Through these successful partnerships and the relationships introduced during the symposium, avenues for future collaboration will continue to be explored.

7. Revenues and Expenditures

A) Did the project receive financial and in-kind contributions as planned?

Please see Appendix II Financial Report.

B) If there were any differences between planned and actual revenues, what were the reasons for those differences?

The contribution of the Law Commission of Canada was increased, as the contributions required for speakers' travel were not as high as originally planned. The Law Foundation of BC grant through the Law Faculty of UBC has not been received as of December 20, 2004.

C) Did you spend the monies as planned?

Expenditures were made according to plan. Advertising through websites and e-mail reduced the planned costs for advertising and communications. As catering costs were reduced to avoid high registration fees, the costs of the room rental were higher than planned. Costs of co-ordination and financial processing were slightly higher than anticipated, as registration fees had to be processed in order to make up the shortfall in planned revenues.

The Law Commission of Canada will contribute an additional \$500.00 to make up most of the shortfall between revenues and expenditures.

8. Sustainability

Next Steps

A) Now that your project is over, what are the next steps? How will the results of this project be applied?

Symposium Financial and Narrative Reports on the Symposium are being circulated to all partners and sponsors. Communication with respective partners will continue. Planning for future events will be considered within resources constraints of each agency.

Future Funding

B) Have you identified alternative sources of funding (financial or in-kind contributions) to continue the work of the project and/or to develop future projects?

Partners were able to identify several sources of funds for this event. In the development of future projects, it would be beneficial to in partnership with a small number of relevant sponsors and agencies to support future events. Having lead-time of approximately one-year in advance of an event is crucial to ensuring the participation of senior academics and criminal justice officials.

9. Sharing Results

A) How did you and/or do you plan to communicate results within your community? (e.g. conferences and meetings; local and national media, etc.)

Financial and Narrative Reports on the Symposium will be shared with all partners and sponsors. Communication with respective partners will continue.

Links to the CBC Radio *Ideas* website have been added relevant symposium partners websites. Participants will be encouraged to write to CBC Radio and purchase the CD of excerpts of presentations at the Symposium for use in their community or organization.

B) Using the checklist below, identify documentation that supports the findings of this report/evaluation, and attach copies.

Summary of Participation evaluations forms

Radio coverage: http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/calendar/2004/10_october.html

Financial Statement

Prepared By: Mary Lindsay

Date: December 20, 2004.

Accepted By (Office Use Only):

Date:

Appendix I Summary of Participant Evaluations

1. Venue:

- Bright, airy and good sound
- It was excellent to have all of the services (lunch and presentation) in the same room
- Lovely setting on a sunny day
- Well suited to the size of the gathering and opportunity to step outside a bonus
- Transit-accessible, bright room
- Was extremely pleased with availability and affordability for students

2. Presenters:

- It's invaluable to have such diversity of profession – media, public service, judiciary, academia
- Humour and facts – a great combo and in dept knowledge
- All presenters know their subjects very well – good choice
- An impressive gathering of subject matter experts – both engaged and engaging stewards and leaders
- Fantastic mix of academia and others
- Broad range/diversity reflecting different experiences
- Articulate positions, ability argued and supported, questions well answered
- Wonderful range of backgrounds and I loved that they freely expressed conflicting view points
- Good mix of style, experience, expertise and substance. Maureen Maloney central to putting feminist analysis up front – without her, this would have been weakness. Might think of how to address the “white-man-ness” of panel and of framing of issues. Not intended as a criticism, but an encouragement to extend this work
- A very good cross section from academies to people on the front lines
- Very informative, brilliant speakers – controversial topics that need to be discussed

3. Were the topics treated in ways that raised your awareness about criminal justice law and policy?

- I appreciate the frank manner in which topics were addressed, which enable many provocative questions to be asked.
- I enjoyed the new-perspective session
- All topics different and yet all equally very interesting
- The variety of viewpoints and thoughtful analyses were stimulating and thought-provoking
- I teach this stuff – and still saw new angles I'd missed
- Enjoyed the interactivensess of the morning panels – especially the second morning session (Discretionary Decision-making)
- Diverse perspectives brought to discussion
- Excellent variety of topics and speakers
- Although my work (research) is primarily in the same areas presented, I did learn new information
- Very useful – I am challenged to see the connections and translations, but inspired to do so by the symposium and the excellence of the discussion
- The topic was well addressed at various levels – local, political and international

4. Was the event useful to you in increasing your capacity to deal with crime and victimization?

- Students will have a broader understanding of the issues because of this symposium
- The networking and opportunities for open discussion with peers were excellent
- Yes – provided some thoughtful considerations
- Potentially a good model for courts! Efforts to inform the public were beneficial
- I am a student so it heightened my awareness of the issues which I can take back to class discussions and papers

5. Has the symposium encouraged a discussion on safety and criminal justice in the community?

- This has certainly encouraged me to take questions away and promote discussion elsewhere in the community
- Depth and breadth of discussions challenging due to scope of subject – a great start!
- Thought-provoking ideas were expressed by speakers and audiences
- I would say it has fostered better understanding between those who attended. Not sure about how much the

larger community will be touched though, certainly CBC broadcast will help that. Also each participant who leaves here will be that much better informed and will inform others in the broader community

- Raised several significant questions and emphasized importance of not ignoring them
- The opinions covered the spectrum and that encouraged seasoned conversation rather than mindless rhetoric

6. Did the event provide you with ideas or contacts that will be relevant and helpful to you or your organization?

- I found this an excellent opportunity to discuss issues with students with shared interests
- Met wonderful people – will be continuing conversation with people I met here
- Am currently reading and want to present some of these ideas for discussion

7. Did you find this event a stimulating way for members of the criminal justice system and the public to exchange ideas and increase understanding of the issues discussed?

- Use questions to engage the audience as opposed to the talking head approach used in most sessions
- The organizers should be complimented for trying to increase public discourse. There should be more symposiums like this
- The diversity of presenters' background made the exchanges very interesting
- I really enjoyed the "interface" of media/police/academia/lawyers
- Discussion of fear and realities of that perception
- Well set-up for audience interaction, everyone listened to each other's perspective (especially liked the third panel on Friday morning)

8. What would you do if anything, to make future events more useful to you or your organization?

- every event of this type/format with interesting presentation and provocative speakers runs overtime
- If even more people know about such events, they'd also attend – public hunger for events like this one
- Much broader publicity – generate media controversy to get attention if necessary! Video tape proceedings so it can be spread more widely
- It would be good to have speaker notes afterward. That way our message out to the community is consistent
- More presentation in scripts, papers available to attendees
- Build or engaging more members of the publics and students. Community building and citizenship/steward opportunities
- Nothing comes to mind at this point – I really enjoyed the symposium
- I think this was an excellent exchange of ideas and I would like to see more similar sessions

Appendix II Final Financial Report

Law in a Fearful Society Symposium		
Total Project Budget vs Actual	Revised Budget	Actual
Contributions		
Law Commission of Canada	\$4,000.00	\$3,500.00
Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Law Foundation of B.C.	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Attorney General of B.C.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
National Crime Prevention Centre	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Registration fees: 65 @ \$55.00/person & 25@ \$15.00/student	\$3,950.00	\$2,645.00
Total	\$18,450.00	\$15,145.00
Expenditures		
Speakers -airfare, hotel,per diem & incidentals	\$1,800.00	\$1,530.59
Catering	\$3,950.00	\$3,404.57
Room Rental	\$150.00	\$430.68
Facilitation	\$500.00	\$500.00
Student Co-ordinator	\$1,500.00	\$1,230.00
Conference Co-ordinator	\$5,050.00	\$5,388.00
Equipment Rental	\$1,500.00	\$1,029.20
Printing - Conference Programs	\$1,000.00	\$1,020.36
Communication costs	\$1,000.00	\$39.87
Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$82.50
Financial reporting	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total	\$18,450.00	\$15,655.77
Net	0.00	<\$510.80>