



Name of Policy: Crime Prevention

Revised Policy Adoption Date: *SLSC Annual General Meeting, Belleville, ON, June 2, 2018.*

Historical Policy Adoption Date: *SLSC Annual General Meeting, Halifax, NS, June 17, 2001.*

Mission and Mandate: St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a membership-based, charitable organization dedicated to community safety. The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities. It:

- a. Endorses evidence-based approaches to criminal and social justice;
- b. Conducts research and develops policy;
- c. Supports its member affiliates; and
- d. Advances collaborative relationships and communication among individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice.

Purpose of SLSC Policies: Policies of SLSC are developed in collaboration with affiliate agencies, SLSC's Board of Directors and members, and are ratified at the Annual General Meeting with the express purposes of:

- Identifying criminal justice and related issues relevant to its membership;
- Reflecting SLSC organizational values and social justice goals;
- Articulating SLSC approaches, practices and standards to achieve these goals; and
- Ensuring the good governance of SLSC on matters of legal, administrative and organizational relevance.

Background:

When the Crime Prevention policy was adopted in 2001, SLSC and its affiliates had over forty years of history providing services to persons who have been in, or might come into, conflict with the law. The practices of SLSC and its affiliates increasingly indicated toward the need to support the development of a comprehensive crime prevention strategy. SLSC's membership recognized the importance of supporting and promoting a range of crime prevention legislation, policies, programs and services. Many affiliates provide programs that have a primary or secondary prevention focus in addition to tertiary services. It was decided that this aspect of the Society's mission merited formal policy support and consideration. Also at that time, The Government of Canada recognized the importance of strengthening its awareness and support for effective crime prevention, subsequently developing a National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC). The work of the NCPC founded the National Crime Prevention Centre, mandated to promote prevention across the country. SLSC was challenged to examine and expand its response to these efforts. It was determined that clients of SLSC affiliates and Canadian communities needed, and should expect, appropriate prevention programs and strategies.

Issues/Scope:

- Primary prevention initiatives promote or enhance activities that contribute to the overall health and well-being of communities. Safer communities with lower crime rates is one of the many desired outcomes. Such initiatives generally take the broadest view of crime prevention and employ long-range strategies and policies.

- Secondary prevention addresses targeted sub-groups of the population who are considered to be at higher risk of criminal behaviour. Many of the anti-violence programs delivered to youth in the education system exemplify secondary prevention principles.
- Tertiary prevention encompasses strategies, programs and services directed towards individuals who have been incarcerated. The goal of measures taken with this group of people is to avoid future offending. To a large extent, success relies on the provision of effective interventions in the context of validated research and evidence-informed policy.

SLSC and its affiliates presently focus the majority of activities on tertiary crime prevention in relation to their respective missions and mandates to promote community safety and effectively integrate former prisoners into the community.

Resolutions:

Be it resolved that the St. Leonard's Society of Canada actively supports the development and implementation of informed legislation, policies, programs, and services that promote crime prevention by:

- Contributing to safe and healthy communities;
- Highlighting tertiary crime prevention as a critical component of overall crime prevention strategies;¹
- Strengthening resiliency in high risk or vulnerable groups; and,
- Reducing/avoiding re-offending.

Additional information

SLSC Reports/Publications:

- St. Leonard's Society of Canada (2001). [*Background Paper: Why Crime Prevention?*](#) Ottawa, ON: St. Leonard's Society of Canada.
- Desai, A. (2010). [*Community Connections: The Key to Community Corrections for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders*](#). Ottawa, ON: St. Leonard's Society of Canada.
- Desai, A. (2013). [*Towards an Integrated Network: Working Together to Avoid Criminalization of People with Mental Health Problems, Second Edition*](#). Ottawa, ON: St. Leonard's Society of Canada.
- Tremblay, J. (2008). [*Towards an Integrated Network: Working Together to Avoid Criminalization of People with Mental Health Problems*](#). Ottawa, ON: St. Leonard's Society of Canada.

External Reports/Publications:

- *National Crime Prevention Centre*. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/ntnl-crm-prvntn-cntr-en.aspx>

¹ It is noted that there has been an emphasis on primary and secondary prevention initiatives, programs, and services. SLSC and its affiliates stress the key role of tertiary prevention and the importance of government supporting fiscally, and with policy and programs, tertiary prevention.