



## Resolution 2016-02

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### **Definitions of Words and Concepts that are Important in Safety Promotion**

**Approved at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Preamble:** Over the past eight years, the OACP Community Safety & Crime Prevention Committee has worked with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services in the development of the Province's Strategy for a Safer Ontario. During this time, the committee, along with the Ontario Working Group, has created and released a variety of resource materials to support police agencies in this work. This work has continued over the past year with the creation of the glossary of terms (included with this resolution) that are important in safety promotion.

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) passed a resolution in 2014 that called on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to develop complementary community safety planning tools to support communities as they implement their local community safety plan; and

**WHEREAS** the OACP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee is committed to promoting the *Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework* as a means to better respond to crime, increase crime prevention strategies, and promote emerging evidence-based approaches to improve community safety and well-being; and

**WHEREAS** the OACP passed a resolution in 2015 to support the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' efforts to revise the *Police Services Act* to:

- Emphasize the key roles of police in community safety promotion and the development of community safety planning;
- Define police roles and duties in light of a shift in emphasis from crime prevention to safety promotion;
- Mandate police agencies to collaborate transparently, equitably and respectfully with local agencies, organizations, offices and citizens in the community of safety promotion and community safety planning; and
- Enable police agencies to share private and confidential information with appropriate community partners in the interest of personal and public safety and well-being, and within the parameters of consistent purpose and implied consent, and

**WHEREAS** the OACP passed a resolution in 2015 to support and partner with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to develop and promote tools that support local safety promotion initiatives; and

**WHEREAS** the OACP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee, in partnership with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, developed a *Definitions of words and Concepts that are Important in Safety Promotion* document to help guide police agencies and community partners in the development of community safety and well-being plans through the use of common and consistent language and terminology.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police endorses the *Definitions of Words and Concepts that are Important in Safety Promotion* document and calls on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to also adopt this document.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to include the *Definitions of Words and Concepts that are Important in Safety Promotion* document in future publications and releases of its community safety and well-being literature and circulate the document by way of an *All Chiefs* bulletin.

**Definitions of Words and Concepts that are Important  
in Safety Promotion (December 18, 2015)**

Word or Phrase	Proposed Definition
Acutely elevated risk	A situation affecting an individual, family, group, or place where there is a high probability of risk of imminent and significant harm to self or others (e.g. offending or being victimized, lapsing on a treatment plan, overt mental health crisis situation, etc.). The factors contributing to the risk cut across multiple human service disciplines.
Anti-social behaviour	Actions by an individual or group which result in alarm, distress, or social disorder for others.
Collaboration	People and organizations from different sectors, working together for a common purpose; acknowledging shared responsibility for reaching consensus in the interest of mutual outcomes; contributing complementary capabilities; desirous of learning from each other; and benefiting from diverse perspectives, methods and approaches to common problems.
Collective Impact	The positive impact resulting from the combined efforts of a group of like-minded stakeholders in addressing an issue of common concern.
Community engagement	The process of inviting, encouraging and supporting individuals, human services agencies, community-based

	organizations and government offices and services to collaborate in achieving community safety and well-being.
Community mobilization	The process of identifying, motivating and supporting local assets to collaborate with community-based organizations and social and human services in making better decisions and taking actions to increase their own and their neighbours' safety and well-being.
Community safety and well-being	A variety of social, neighbourhood and community indicators that are the goals of social development strategies including, but not limited to, health and economic status, quality of housing and education, sense of safety, and comfort.
Harms and victimization	Short or long-term negative and hurtful effects on individuals, families, groups or locations resulting from risk factors, social disorder or crime.
Health promotion	Developing public policy that addresses the prerequisites of health such as income, housing, food security, employment, and quality working conditions that will increase people's control over their health and its determinants, and thereby improve their overall well-being.
Imminent risk	Impending harms or victimization stemming from the rapid increase in a single risk factor, or a combination of multiple risk factors.
Local assets	Neighbourhood residents, individuals, groups, associations, facilities, or clubs, that have the capabilities, and can and will do things to make their neighbourhoods safer and more secure on conditions that: 1) it is safe for them to do so; 2) they can be identified and encouraged to do so; and 3) they are adequately supported to do so.
Partners	Agencies, organizations, individuals from all sectors, and government which agree to a common association toward mutual goals of betterment through shared responsibilities, complementary capabilities, transparent relationships, and joint decision-making.
Community safety and well-being planning	Multi-sector, collaborative efforts to identify community risk factors, plan and implement strategies to increase protective factors that will make the community safer and healthier for all.
Prevention	The application of situational measures, policies, programmes or other social development supports needed to reduce specific, known risks to safety and well-being.

Protective factors	Positive characteristics or conditions that can moderate the negative effects of risk factors and foster healthier individuals, families and communities, thereby increasing personal and/or community safety and well-being.
Risk factors	Negative characteristics or conditions in individuals, families, communities or society that may increase social disorder, crime or fear of crime, or the likelihood of harms or victimization to persons or property.
Risk mitigation	Efforts to identify persons, families, or locations at imminent risk of harm or victimization and customize interventions, which reduce those risks before an emergency response is required.
Safety promotion	Developing public policy that addresses the prerequisites of safety and well-being such as income, housing, food security, employment, and quality working conditions.
Situation tables	A regular meeting of frontline workers, from a variety of human service agencies, whose purpose is to identify persons/families/groups or locations that are at an acutely elevated risk of harms, and customize a multi-disciplinary intervention which mitigates those risks.
Social determinants of health	Protective factors such as access to income, education, employment and job security, safe and healthy working conditions, early childhood development, food security, quality housing, social inclusion, cohesive social safety network, health services, which ensure equal access to all of the qualities, conditions, and benefits of life without regard to any socio-demographic differences.
Social development	Long-term, multi-disciplinary efforts and investments to improve the social determinants of health and thereby reduce the probability of harms and victimization.
Social disorder	A condition in which the behaviour and activities of people within a specific location lack sufficient control or order, deviating significantly from what would be considered by most to be comfortable, reasonable or safe.