



St. Leonard's Society of Canada
Société St-Léonard du Canada

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2011-2012



Fostering safer communities.
Contribuer à des collectivités plus sûres.

MISSION

The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities. It:

- i) endorses evidence-based approaches to criminal and social justice;*
- ii) conducts research and develops policy;*
- iii) supports its member affiliates; and*
- iv) advances collaborative relationships and communication among individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice.*

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



In the past year St. Leonard's Society of Canada has worked closely with Correctional Service of Canada through the award-winning LifeLine project to move life-sentenced prisoners through the very challenging process of getting ready to rejoin their communities. Projects were also undertaken with Canadian Association of Residential Options for Criminalized Women and with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada toward developing policies to help address homelessness among mentally ill and otherwise challenged offenders. This latter work is part of the Society's ongoing efforts to help reduce crime by finding the right solutions to help individual offenders live more safely in the community.

Doug Caldwell, President

BETTER TOGETHER

On February 24, SLSC and the Canadian Association of Residential Options for Criminalized Women (CAROW) organized and facilitated "Better Together: Improving Working Relationships Across the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Sectors". This forum brought together more than 60 stakeholders including all levels of government, as well as health, justice and housing social service representatives. Shown in the photo above are (L-R) Marg Welch, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Services, Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services; Jennifer Gravelle, Regional Co-ordinator, Community Mental Health Initiative, Correctional Service of Canada; Chris Higgins, Team Lead, Forensic Mental Health, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; and Elizabeth White, Executive Director, SLSC. For commentary on material connected to this forum, see p. 2. SLSC and CAROW would like to sincerely thank all those who participated in the "Better Together" forum to make it such a huge success, especially our host St. Leonard's Place Peel and their fantastic License to Cook team. A special thank you to all our panelists who gave insightful presentations and initiated thoughtful discussion—we wish you continued success in your work. Finally, SLSC would like to thank the Correctional Service of Canada for their contribution towards producing this event.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012



SLSC's *Homes for the 'Hard to House'* project is nearing completion. The national survey closed which closed in August has revealed some important considerations about the housing needs of people leaving an institution or Community-based Residential Facility, including the following findings:

Housing was ranked as the most important need for clients following their discharge from a CBRF, followed by mental health support, substance abuse support, and employment; however, many respondents noted that these are integrated needs and success in one of these areas often cannot succeed without the others in place.

80% of respondents collaborate with community housing services to find stable homes for their residents however, it is clear that a lack of available housing is a contributing factor when trying to connect people to long term homes.

The H2H Model which will be available in Fall 2012 will include the following themes: common values/objective in second stage housing; factors to consider for all model types; structural/physical considerations; support component considerations; and lessons learned.

Anita Desai, Research and Policy Advisor

DAY REPORTING CENTRES: A PROMISING PRACTICE

At our AGM workshop in Ottawa in May 2011, we profiled the promising practices in day reporting centres. Anchored by a presentation by Sonya Spencer of SLS Toronto and Dave Pisapio of Correctional Service of Canada about their national review of existing programs, with lively discussions about the findings and about the particulars of other presentations including one on the long standing John Howard Ottawa program, the session increased awareness and understanding of the issues to be tackled when designing these options.

SLSC wishes to thank the many donors who supported our work through the past year.

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