



Resolutions adopted at the 117th CACP Annual General Meeting

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

*Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive
police leadership to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.*

300 Terry Fox Drive, Unit 100, Kanata, Ontario K2K 0E3

p: 613-595-1101 f: 613-383-0372

e: cacp@cacp.ca w: www.cacp.ca

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Resolution 2022-01

SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Submitted by the Crime Prevention, Community Safety and Well-being Committee

- WHEREAS** the mandate of the Crime Prevention, Community Safety and Well-being Committee is to "provide leadership in adopting and promoting a comprehensive, inclusive approach addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder", and
- WHEREAS** it is reported that intimate partner violence (IPV) accounts for approximately one quarter of all police-reported violent crimes, and 57% of all violent crime cases prosecuted in adult criminal courts¹, and
- WHEREAS** on average, 85 victims are murdered each year by their intimate partners², and
- WHEREAS** coercive control is central in intimate partner violence situations, and
- WHEREAS** more effective risk assessments are needed to better address IPV, and especially coercive control, and
- WHEREAS** the exchange of information is a key component to moving forward to achieve effective change, and
- WHEREAS** the establishment of a community of practice with a broad understanding of IPV is essential to generating knowledge mobilization and transfer as well as to assessing coercive controlling behaviours, and
- WHEREAS** it is crucial to engage in a dialogue about policy changes and improvement with policy makers, based on research, to inform policy decisions about police response to intimate partner violence, and
- WHEREAS** conveying a broader understanding of IPV can impact the work and training of police officers, influence CACP priorities, as well as initiate and encourage a reflection at all levels of the criminal justice system on the issue, and
- WHEREAS** a better coordination of policing IPV in Canada necessitates significant knowledge to support policy and practices, and

¹ *Cases in Adult Criminal Courts Involving Intimate Partner Violence*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14203-eng.pdf>

² *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2018*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00018-eng.pdf>

WHEREAS national best practice standards may need to recognize and address differences between jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS the CACP is partnering on a research project with the University of New Brunswick, bringing together academics, community agencies, policy makers, and police agencies across Canada to acquire a better understanding of the issue of IPV, with a particular emphasis on coercive controlling behaviours, the interpretation of the continual and repeated pattern of IPV, trauma-informed response, and the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the federal government to support the creation of a Canadian Centre for Policing Intimate Partner Violence, which will emphasize a unified police response to intimate partner violence in Canada, a shared understanding of the issue of coercive control, and a consistent application of the law. It will be a place for the development and coordination of innovative awareness campaigns, evidence-based research initiatives, and cutting-edge training opportunities. It will also facilitate the establishment of a community of practice comprised of subject matter experts and strategic partners involved in the prevention of intimate partner violence.

Resolution 2022-02

MANDATORY WEAR OF LIFEJACKETS OR PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES (PFDs) WHILE IN VESSELS UNDER 6 METERS

Submitted by the Traffic Safety Committee

- WHEREAS** keeping Canadians safe on our waterways involves the reduction of preventable drownings through the mandatory use of lifejackets or personal floatation devices (PFD), and
- WHEREAS** the *Canada Shipping Act 2001 (CSA 2001)* is the principal federal legislation governing safety of marine transportation and recreational boating in Canada, under the regulation of Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and
- WHEREAS** the Small Vessel Regulations section of the *CSA 2001* manages the safety equipment, carriage, and construction requirements for small vessels – which include all recreational vessels (pleasure crafts) and small work and passenger carrying commercial vessels (non-pleasure crafts), and
- WHEREAS** in Canada, all motorized and non-motorized pleasure crafts are required to have lifejackets or PFDs on board their vessel when underway; there is currently no requirement to wear a lifejacket or PFD, and
- WHEREAS** the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) struck a Lifejacket/PFD Taskforce to review and develop options concerning increased wear rates amongst recreational boaters in 2002 and continues to advocate for standards for PFD wear, and
- WHEREAS** capsizing and falling overboard are the main contributing factors to recreational boating fatalities in Canada, and
- WHEREAS** 50% to 85% of boating-related deaths could be prevented if all boaters wore a lifejacket or PFD, and the expected number of victims per vessel decreased by about 80% when the boat operator wears a lifejacket or PFD³, and
- WHEREAS** In Victoria, Australia, where mandatory lifejacket/PFD wearing regulations were enacted back in December 2005, PFD use increased from 22% to 63% and fatal drownings were reduced by 67%⁴, and

³ Canadian Red Cross report at www.redcross.ca/crc/documents/What-We-Do/Swimming-Water-Safety/2016_Flotation_Report_E_May30.pdf <https://doi.org/10.1136/ip.2010.028688>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2014-041170> and <https://doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2014-041169>

WHEREAS most vessels involved in recreational boating fatalities are under 6 meters in length, and

WHEREAS lifejacket and PFD wear has typically been hard to promote due to the bulkiness and lack of comfort of the item, today's technology and design permits the boater to wear a lifejacket or PFD securely and comfortably for a long period, and

WHEREAS lifejacket/PFD wear campaigns, as well as strong social media messaging continues to educate the public about the benefits of wearing a lifejacket or PFD as well as floatation/hypothermia gear (where appropriate), it has not translated into a significant behaviour change – particularly with adult age groups.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Canada to amend the *Canada Shipping Act 2001* legislation to make it mandatory to wear a lifejacket or PFD (and floatation/hypothermia gear, where appropriate) for all operators and passengers in all sizes and types of recreational vessels that are self-propelled by human power and all other powered vessels that are under 6 meters in length while underway.

Resolution 2022-03

DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAUMA-INFORMED FRAMEWORK FOR POLICE SERVICES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME

Submitted by the Victims of Crime Committee

- WHEREAS** it is estimated that more than seventy percent (70%) of Canadians have been exposed to at least one traumatic event in their lifetime⁵ and
- WHEREAS** trauma occurs when people experience an overwhelmingly negative event or series of events, including violence that can take many different forms and can be experienced once or many times⁶, and
- WHEREAS** trauma can cause neurobiological changes which impact health and behaviour across the lifespan⁷, and
- WHEREAS** victimization and trauma can be more effectively and efficiently addressed by applying a trauma-informed lens in all police interactions, and achieving collaboration among police and non-police sectors, (education, prevention, intervention, response, support, evaluation), and
- WHEREAS** an effective trauma-informed police response involves promoting trauma awareness in all police response, training, protocols, and memorandums of understanding⁸, and
- WHEREAS** the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls includes Calls for Justice 9.2.iv which calls for the police to “undertake training and education of all staff and officers so that they understand and implement culturally appropriate and trauma-informed practices, especially when dealing with families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people”⁹, and

⁵ Dr. Angelica Staniloiu and Dr. Anthony Feinstein, [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\) in Canada](#), the Canadian Encyclopedia (last edited on February 5, 2021)

⁶ Government of Canada, [Trauma and violence-informed approached to policy and practice](#), Section on ‘How trauma and violence are connected’

⁷ Government of Canada, [Trauma and violence-informed approached to policy and practice](#), Section on ‘How trauma and violence are connected’

⁸ Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, [National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence](#)

⁹ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, [Calls for Justice](#), page 24

- WHEREAS** trauma- and violence-informed approaches require fundamental changes in how practitioners engage with people, how organizations function, and how systems are designed¹⁰, and
- WHEREAS** integrating a victim-centred approach into a police response is not a choice but rather a moral, ethical, and legal obligation which is necessary to support trust and transparency in our criminal justice system¹¹, and that a victim-centred approach includes a trauma-informed approach, and
- WHEREAS** the CACP has already developed the [National Framework for Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence](#) (2017) and the [Canadian Framework for Collaborative Police Response on Sexual Violence](#) (2019) which both promote a trauma-informed approach to policing, a Trauma-informed Framework for police services to support victims of crime would complement these national standards by expanding the scope of the framework to focus on violent crimes more generally which can involve trauma for both victims and the police officers who handle the investigations, and
- WHEREAS** a national framework can help achieve a unified police model in Canada to create shared understanding, consistent terminology, and common police practices, interventions, and responses, and
- WHEREAS** a national framework is more likely to be adopted and implemented by police and public safety agencies across the country if it is developed with, endorsed by, and promoted by the federal government.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police requests that Public Safety Canada and Justice Canada endorse, participate in, and promote the development of a Trauma-Informed Framework for Canadian police services in support of victims of crime. This may include providing advice, creating linkages with existing partners, and identifying resources.

¹⁰ Government of Canada, [Trauma and violence-informed approached to policy and practice](#), Section on ‘How to implement trauma and violence-informed approaches’

¹¹ [Canadian Victims Bill of Rights](#) and [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)

Resolution 2022-04

MANDATORY TRACING OF CRIME GUNS ACROSS CANADA

Submitted by the Special Purpose Committee on Firearms

- WHEREAS** there has been a notable increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Canada¹² in recent years, and
- WHEREAS** about one-quarter of all homicides are gang-related and almost nine in ten (87%) gang-related homicides in Canada were committed with a firearm¹³, and
- WHEREAS** the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics introduced changes to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey in 2021 to include a new definition of “crime gun” and new variables for shootings, as well as seized, stolen, and recovered firearms, and
- WHEREAS** only 6-10% of crime guns are traced in Canada (excluding figures for the province of Ontario)¹⁴, and
- WHEREAS** Ontario is the only province that has made it mandatory to submit all crime guns for firearm tracing, and
- WHEREAS** 68% of Ontario-based crime guns have been sourced to the United States¹⁵, and
- WHEREAS** there is an absence of solid data for other regions of Canada to help understand the pathways crime guns take (whether they were stolen, illegally purchased, or smuggled into the country) before they are seized as part of a criminal investigation, and
- WHEREAS** the effectiveness of firearms tracing as a law enforcement intelligence tool depends on the quantity and quality of information collected¹⁶ and on the appropriate follow-up investigations conducted by the police, and
- WHEREAS** the analysis of American firearm tracing data in the aggregate has been proven to support investigations by providing valuable intelligence about local, regional, and national patterns relating to the movement and sources of guns used in the commission of crimes in the United States¹⁷, and

¹² [Trends in firearm-related violence crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020](#), Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

¹³ Firearm-related crime in Canada presentation by Yvan Clermont, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada to the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence, February 18, 2019

¹⁴ Royal Canadian Mounted Police [2019 Commissioner of Firearms Report](#)

¹⁵ 2021 Firearms Analysis and Tracing Enforcement Report, page 9

¹⁶ [Memorandum on Tracing of Firearms in Connection With Criminal Investigations](#), Administration of US President Barack Obama, January 16, 2013

¹⁷ [Memorandum on Tracing of Firearms in Connection With Criminal Investigations](#), Administration of US President Barack Obama, January 16, 2013

WHEREAS the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario's Firearms Analysis and Tracing Enforcement (FATE) Program and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre already exist in Canada to complete the firearms tracing process, and

WHEREAS the 2021 federal budget provided more than \$312 million in new funding to increase firearms tracing capacity and implement stronger border control measures to fight gun smuggling and trafficking¹⁸,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) urges Public Safety Canada to make it mandatory for all crime guns recovered in the course of criminal investigations in Canada to be submitted for firearms tracing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CACP urges the government of Canada to provide sufficient human and financial resources to sustain the timely operations of existing Canadian firearm tracing centres on an ongoing basis to meet the demand that would be created by a mandatory crime gun tracing law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CACP urges the government of Canada to mandate the Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre to serve as the Canadian agency responsible for managing a national database of statistics related to crime gun tracing in Canada.

¹⁸ [Further strengthening our gun control laws](#), Message from the office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, May 30, 2022