



SPEAKING NOTES FOR

KERRY-LYNNE FINDLAY

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

FOR THE

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE
PRESENTATION OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE
POLICING AWARD

WINDSOR, ONTARIO
AUGUST 21, 2011

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Chief [William] Blair, for your kind introduction. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Bonsoir, mesdames et messieurs.

I am pleased to join you here in Windsor, on behalf of the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. I have an enormous amount of respect for the police chiefs and officers across this country. You are responsible for overseeing the protection of our communities. On behalf of the Government and all Canadians, I would like to thank you for the hard work and dedication you put forth in keeping our families and fellow citizens safe.

C'est un honneur tout particulier de reconnaître ceux parmi vous qui travaillent auprès des jeunes et qui ont un effet positif sur eux et, par le fait même, sur nos collectivités.

The officers we honour are to be commended for the way they work with young people – reaching out to those who have just entered the criminal justice system, which is a critical time in determining their path in life. These officers have devoted countless hours of their personal time to ensure that kids have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and ultimately make better choices in the future.

Comme pour votre organisation, il est prioritaire pour notre gouvernement d'assurer la sécurité des familles et des concitoyens. Nous continuons de remplir nos promesses de lutter contre le crime et de protéger les personnes les plus vulnérables de la société.

Our Government has pledged to give law enforcement officials, courts and victims the legal tools they need to fight crime. We also vowed to help at-risk youth avoid gangs and criminal activities. In March, we renewed the Youth Gang Prevention Fund, as a means to fund community prevention programs. These programs offer kids alternative activities to gangs, making them better able to resist peer pressure and the lure of a lifestyle that can ultimately prove destructive.

As we continue to implement these initiatives, our Government values your opinions, support and contributions toward improving the criminal justice system. That is why we appreciate having the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police as a valuable partner in the Minister of Justice National Youth Justice Policing Award for the past twelve years.

As you know, this award was established in conjunction with the CACP to celebrate innovative policing and creative approaches to youth crime. Youth must be held accountable for their actions, certainly, but they also need guidance and support, and it is sometimes necessary to go beyond the formal court system to provide that. This year's recipients exemplify the notion of

bringing about positive change by reaching out to youth through new and innovative tools and techniques.

Ce prix souligne le travail des agents qui mettent en œuvre des approches créatives et efficaces pour aider les jeunes qui ont des démêlés avec la justice. Ces agents réussissent à appuyer et à orienter les jeunes qui, par conséquent, sont en mesure de comprendre les répercussions de leurs comportements négatifs et de faire de meilleurs choix dans l'avenir.

We are celebrating more than the mere implementation of these youth justice alternatives – we are also paying tribute to the spirit of dedication that this year's recipients have put forth in their efforts. They have shown an outstanding level of personal dedication and commitment that makes them stand out above the rest.

It is my pleasure to announce that this year's winner is the Vancouver Police Department's Diversity and Aboriginal Policing Section for their Eastside Aboriginal Space for Youth – the EASY program – and more specifically the following recipients:

- Inspector Mario Giardini,
- Sergeant Malcolm Cox,
- Constable Cheryl Leggett,
- Constable Ara Pehlivanian,
- Constable Rick Lavallee,
- Ms. Lori Beckstead and
- Ms. Beth McArthur

The EASY program provides youth with resources and alternatives to gang involvement. It aims to build a more positive and trusting relationship between police officers and Aboriginal youth in the Vancouver area. Those in charge of the program provide mentoring, recreational outings, workshops, one-to-one counselling and a late night resources centre for Aboriginal youth. These positive activities aim to rehabilitate and reintegrate youth.

Because of the EASY program, and the work of the Diversity and Aboriginal Policing Section in general, youth involvement in crime has dropped substantially. Negative behaviours that lead to criminal involvement or recidivism such as drug use have declined by 25% for youth involved in the program.

It is also my pleasure to award the Certificate of Distinction to Constable Perry Mason of the Hamilton Police Service. With more than 32 years of policing experience, Constable Mason has become a leader in his community on bullying and youth justice issues. He is often called upon to speak or provide information on his experiences, both personally and professionally.

Constable Mason has also been an advocate of the use of restorative justice practices and healing circles as a means to engage with youth and their families. He was pivotal in starting the Hamilton Police Service Restorative Justice Committee, which aims to find new ways to use restorative justice to address a variety of criminal issues. The youth come away with a better understanding of the consequences of their actions, along with mended relationships and a more positive involvement in their community.

La courte vidéo qui suit démontre le dévouement et l'excellence de nos lauréats pour ce qui est d'améliorer les relations entre les jeunes et la police et d'accroître la sécurité de nos collectivités.

(VIDEO SCREENING)

I will invite Constable Mason to the stage to receive the Certificate of Distinction.

(PRESENTATION OF AWARD AND PHOTO OP)

(CONSTABLE MASON WILL SPEAK)

I will now invite the members of the Vancouver Police Department EASY program to the stage receive their award.

(PRESENTATION OF AWARD AND PHOTO OP)

(MEMBER OF VanPD WILL SPEAK)

Félicitations aux lauréats. Congratulations to our recipients, and now Chief Blair will say a few words in conclusion.

Thank you. Merci.