



DISCUSSION PAPER

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A summary of key findings from the Safe City Mississauga/Brampton Safe City Community and Stakeholder Survey on Youth Gangs

March 6, 2013

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SECTION A

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Astwood Strategy Corporation, Safe City Mississauga (SCM) and Brampton Safe City (BSC), I am pleased to present our report of findings from the recent SCM/BSC community and stakeholder survey in support of the development of a comprehensive youth/street gang strategy for the Peel Region.

While this report contains an array of findings, the principal purpose of the document is to present the key implications from the research, and thus articulate the key issues to be addressed at the March 27/28, 2013 consultation, which will be facilitated by Astwood. Throughout this discussion paper, we have presented findings from each line of enquiry, and have provided our commentary and analysis. Descriptive statistics have been provided for questions that presented a Likert scale to respondents, and content analysis (text analysis, theme clustering, etc.) has been applied to qualitative commentary.

Using this information, Astwood has attempted to distill the key issues for consideration at the March 27/28 gathering. This is an essential task, to ensure the two-day event is productive and provides sufficient direction to SCM/BSC in terms of the development of a comprehensive gang strategy.

We believe this line of enquiry has been a fruitful exercise, as we have identified four key themes for in-depth analysis at the Consultation.

We wish to express our appreciation to the members of the Working Committee who have supported this important exercise. As well, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Safe City Mississauga team, who has worked tirelessly to ensure the survey instruments reached the broadest possible audience.

SECTION B

SURVEY RESPONSE AND ANALYSIS – COMMUNITY

The following is a summary of results from Community Survey. While there were a total of **540** respondents, there were variable levels of response to the questions posed, as the following chart demonstrates:

Response Level by Question		
Question	Total Respondents	Response %
1. How long have you resided in Peel Region?	536	99.3
2. Please check your gender.	537	99.4
3. Please check your age range.	534	98.9
4. Where do you live?	526	97.4
5. How would you describe your understanding of the youth gang situation in Peel?	538	99.6
6. Your perspectives on youth gangs.	469	86.9
7. Causes of the gang problem in Peel	467	86.5
8. Preventing youth involvement in gangs	468	86.7
9. What would you like community leaders and others to do about the youth gang situation in Peel?	304	56.3
10. In what ways, if at all, do you feel impacted by gang violence in Peel?	283	52.4
11. Final comments or thoughts.	219	40.6
<u>Discussion/Commentary:</u> Taking into account questions 1 through 8, we achieved a median response rate of 509. Based on census demographics, there are approximately 810,000 citizens in Peel over the age of 20, which represents fully 96.3% of this sample. At a 95% confidence level, this represents a confidence interval of 4.34% (or stated differently, +/- 4.34% 19 times out of 20). Of course, we caution the reader that the sample for this survey was not purposely selected and therefore we cannot guarantee that it is representative of the Peel Region as a whole. Notwithstanding this limitation, obtaining response from over 500 community members is an excellent result and will help frame discussion at the facilitated discussion.		

With respect to questions posed that included a Likert scale (e.g., Questions 6/7/8, “Strongly agree” ⇔ “Strong disagree”), this scale was converted to a numerical equivalent (e.g., “Strongly agree” = 5, “Strong disagree” = 1). Responses were then summed and divided by total

respondents (e.g., those answering question less than those who replied “Don’t Know”) to render an average score out of 5, with response choice results closest to 5 representing the strongest level of agreement within the sample.

Respondent commentary to open ended questions (items 9/10/11) was imported into the analytical application NVivo and analyzed to identify key themes. Respondent commentary in its entirety has been included in Appendices, which has only been edited for spelling, grammar and clarity.

1. How long have you resided in the Peel Region?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under one year	2.2%	12
1 to 3 years	3.5%	19
3 to 5 years	5.0%	27
5 to 10 years	13.4%	72
10+ years	78.7%	406
<i>answered question</i>		536
<u>Discussion/Implications:</u> As the data demonstrates, almost 80% of respondents are long-term (+ 10 year) residents of the Peel Region, and therefore we may conclude that they may be reasonably knowledgeable in respect to the issues that affect the region. Including those who have lived in Peel for greater than 5 years, 92% of the sample has lived in Peel for more than 5 years.		

2. Please check your gender		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Female	67.2%	361
Male	32.8%	176
<i>answered question</i>		537
<u>Discussion/Commentary:</u> As the data demonstrates, women are predominate in the sample. Since the demographics of Peel are roughly equivalent in terms of gender distribution, this result confirms again that the sample is not representative of the entire Peel community.		
<u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Additional efforts must be expended to gather opinion from men, as they are under-represented in the sample.</i> 		

3. Please check your age range.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 19	3.0%	16
20 to 30	12.0%	64
31 to 40	18.0%	96
41 to 50	39.1%	209
51 to 60	15.2%	81
60+	12.7%	68
answered question		534
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrates, the age profile is diverse with approximately 50% of the sample representing the age cohort of 31 to 50. While we do not know to what extent respondents in this age cohort have families, we can reasonably assume that the majority of our respondents likely have children and indeed, may potentially be the most affected or concerned by the youth/street gang situation in Peel.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Youth voice has not been heard, suggesting additional efforts to gather opinion from youth in the community.</i> 		

4. Where do you live?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Mississauga	71.3%	375
Brampton	26.4%	139
Caledon	2.3%	12
answered question		526
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrates, the majority of respondents live within the City of Mississauga, which is indeed the largest city within Peel (by population). Brampton is relatively well represented, but Caledon is not, which again confirms that the sample is not representative of the whole region.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Greater efforts must be expended to reach citizens of Caledon to ensure any policy direction takes into account their unique needs and circumstances.</i> 		

5. How would you describe your understanding of the youth gang situation in Peel?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	3.7%	20
Very Good	13.2%	71
OK	34.0%	183
Not Very Good	35.1%	189
Poor	7.4%	40
I Don't Know	6.5%	35
answered question		538
<p><u>Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, approximately 51% of the sample have “OK” to Excellent knowledge of the gang situation in Peel, with 49% indicating “Not Very Good”, “Poor” or “Don’t Know”.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We must take great caution in interpreting these results or using them to inform public policy, since approximately half of the sample has little to no knowledge on the youth/street gang situation.</i> <i>Additional efforts are warranted to help educate Peel residents about gang issues.</i> <i>For future surveying, we should consider a “two stream” survey, wherein those indicating that they have “OK” to “Excellent” knowledge of the gang issue are presented with a full panel of questions that pre-suppose a certain level of knowledge, and where those with “Not Very Good” to “Poor” knowledge being directed to a different set of questions that attempt to probe items such as the possible concern about gang issues, the extent to which they wish to learn more about gang issues, etc.</i> 		

6. Perspectives on Youth Gangs	Score
To respond to youth gangs, we need to increase our efforts to prevent youth from joining gangs.	4.49
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater reintegration (post-custody release support) response (e.g., housing, employment, coping skills, alternative school, etc.)	4.20
I am personally concerned about the youth gang situation in Peel.	4.04
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater diversion (e.g., refer you to programs rather than arrest and charge) and intervention response.	4.02

The youth gang situation in Peel is growing in size and severity.	3.93
Within the Peel Region, there is visible evidence of youth gang activity.	3.62
With respect to youth justice issues, youth gangs are the most pressing one in Peel.	3.54
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater police suppression (e.g., street checks, patrols) and enforcement response.	3.47
Community safety has been reduced in the past 10 years because of youth gangs operating in and around my community.	3.45
The Peel Regional Police Service/Caledon OPP are well equipped and prepared to deal with youth gangs and youth gang members.	3.06
In Peel, we do a good job educating youth about the dangers of youth gangs and gang violence.	2.70
There is sufficient money available in Peel to respond to youth gangs.	2.62
As a community, we have adequate programs services to address youth gangs in Peel.	2.46
I have been victimized, directly or indirectly, by youth gang violence or youth criminal activity.	2.38
Schools and educators are well equipped and prepared to deal with youth gangs and youth gang members.	2.29
Parents/caregivers of Peel youth have a good level of awareness about youth gang issues.	2.26

Commentary:

As the data demonstrate, respondents strongly agree that increased prevention and reintegration support are key to Peel's response to gangs, which respondents also agree is of concern to them. There is also agreement that more diversion approaches need to be employed, and that the gang situation is growing in size and severity. Only moderate levels of agreement are demonstrated in respect to the priority of youth gang issues (relative to other youth crime issues) and that more police suppression is required. Respondents are essentially undecided in respect to the readiness of local police agencies to respond to gangs. Moderate disagreement was expressed in related to the availability of money and programs to respond to gang issues, the extent to which schools/educators are equipped to handle gangs, and the extent of awareness of parents in regards to youth gang issues.

IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- *Emphasis of prevention and reintegration versus suppression*
- *Strong and visible response required to provide sense of confidence to community that community partners are responding appropriately to a perceived growing problem*
- *Improve manner in which police services articulate their gang response*
- *Conduct community inventory of program and services to determine capacity to address youth gang issues*

- *Create materials, resources and programming to better equip schools to address gang issues (e.g., police, procedures, integrated threat assessment, gang activity suppression with SROs, etc.)*
- *Create awareness materials and resources for parents*

7. Youth Gang Drivers	Score
Lack of family connection or family breakdown.	4.22
The illicit drug trade and other criminal markets.	4.17
Socioeconomic conditions.	4.08
Location (e.g., high-risk neighborhoods).	4.04
Lack of economic and employment prospects.	4.03
Desire of youth to belong to a group	4.02
Lack of school success.	3.99
Media portrayals of the gang lifestyle.	3.72
Lack of social, recreation and sports opportunities.	3.67
Challenges faced by new Canadian/racialized families in establishing themselves.	3.52
Urban sprawl from Toronto	3.48
Police gang suppression in Toronto and resulting “displacement effect” to Peel Region.	3.47
Racism	3.36
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, there is agreement that family, the illicit drug trade, socioeconomic conditions, location lack of economic/employment prospects and desire of youth to belong to a gang are primary drivers of the gang issue. Likewise, lack of school success has been identified as a driver, and to a lesser extent media portrayal of the gang lifestyle and lack of social, recreation and sports opportunities. The fact that scores are tightly clustered suggests that respondents have not differentiated clearly the primary drivers of gang issues (e.g., many respondents accord responsibility to many factors, not specific ones in particular). Slight to moderate agreement was expressed in regards to the challenges faced by new Canadians, urban sprawl from Toronto, the displacement effect from Toronto, with racism considerations representing the lowest level of agreement.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More time should be spent during the consultation to prioritize the key drivers, so that priorities can be established in terms of policy response.</i> 	

8. Preventing Gang Involvement	Score
Career or job training	4.40
Gang-exit programs for gang-involved or affiliated youth.	4.36
Long-term mentoring programs	4.34
Programs to create stronger bonds between children and parents	4.32
Life skills development programs	4.32
Group/one on one counseling for conduct disordered youth	4.29
Organized after-school sports, recreation and leisure activities	4.29
Gang awareness programs directed to youth	4.26
Programs to address early identified aggressive children	4.18
Alternative school programs	4.09
Supervised homework clubs	3.96
Tougher criminal justice sanctions for those convicted of a gang or gang-related crime	3.96
Enhanced English as a second language (ESL) training	3.44
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, there is agreement across the majority of items posed in the survey instrument, with the highest level of agreement being career or job training (4.40) to alternative school programs (4.09). Slight to moderate agreement expressed in regards to items including supervised homework clubs, tougher criminal justice sanctions and ESL training.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Again, scores are tightly clustered suggesting that more analysis needs to be done to prioritize prospective policy directions in respect to gang prevention.</i> • <i>Triangulating the results from the Gang Driver question (#7) with this one above, we see only slight to moderate agreement in respect to items that pertain essentially to New Canadians (e.g., lack of ESL, difficulties in transitioning, provision of enhanced ESL training). This issue requires further examination, as anecdotal evidence suggests that the principal cohort of gang involved youth in the Peel Region and indeed the entire GTA are young, racialized youth.</i> 	

Question #9

What would you like community leaders and others to do about the youth gang situation in Peel?

Full commentary is found in Appendix A. Content from this question of the survey was imported into both NVivo and Wordle for content analysis. With respect to NVivo analysis, we call the reader's attention to the following three graphics:

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%) [▽]
youth	5	158	3.24
community	9	93	1.91
programs	8	92	1.88
gangs	5	83	1.70
gang	4	81	1.66
need	4	46	0.94
activities	10	45	0.92
get	3	43	0.88
school	6	43	0.88
involved	8	37	0.76
police	6	37	0.76
like	4	33	0.68
peel	4	32	0.66
children	8	31	0.64
kids	4	31	0.64
leaders	7	31	0.64
parents	7	29	0.59
help	4	27	0.55
schools	7	27	0.55
support	7	27	0.55
work	4	27	0.55
awareness	9	26	0.53
provide	7	24	0.49
create	6	23	0.47
problem	7	23	0.47

This chart above displays the frequency of words in the respondent (community member) commentary. As the chart demonstrates, the three most frequent words used were youth, community and programs.

The following chart shows a “tree diagram” of the most frequently used words and concepts – for this chart, the larger the rectangle, the more frequent was the word usage within respondent commentary. Again, some key concepts emerge from our analysis of this NVivo output:

- Belief that more community programs are needed to address gang issue
- Respondents believe that we need to engage students in after-school activities.
- Respondents believe that many sectors of society must be engaged, including police, parents, the community, schools
- Education and awareness are judged as important in our response to gangs.
- More sports, social and employment programs need to be offered to enhance response to gang issues.

Word Frequency Query



activities activity address age also areas awareness become better causes
children come **community** create crime deal early educate
education encourage etc **feel** find free funding **gang gangs** get
getting go going good groups **help** high increase information involved involvement
issue **issues** job jobs just **keep kids know leaders** let life like look make
members must **need** needs offer one opportunities **parents** part **peel** people
police positive presence prevention **problem** **programs**
provide public rather related research resources risk root **school schools** see self
situation skills social sports stop students **support** system take think time violence want
youth
way well work young



IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- *What, specifically, are the types of programs that need to be created to address youth at-risk of gang involvement; what programs are required to address the needs of youth who are already gang-involved?*
- *What are the kinds of initiatives schools can undertake to support or address the needs of youth at-risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- *In what ways can police, parents and the broader community collaborate to address the issue of youth/street gangs?*
- *What are the kinds of education and awareness programs Peel Region can implement to ensure the community is better aware of gang issues?*

Question #10

In what ways, if at all, do you feel impacted by gang violence?

Full commentary is found in Appendix B. As with the previous question, content from this question was imported into both NVivo and Wordle for content analysis. With respect to NVivo analysis, we call the reader's attention to the following three graphics:

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)
gang	4	84	2.65
impacted	8	65	2.05
feel	4	64	2.02
violence	8	58	1.83
youth	5	45	1.42
peel	4	37	1.17
community	9	34	1.07
gangs	5	32	1.01
kids	4	30	0.95
safe	4	30	0.95
school	6	27	0.85
see	3	27	0.85
go	2	26	0.82
children	8	25	0.79
safety	6	25	0.79
young	5	25	0.79
home	4	22	0.69
graffiti	8	21	0.66
area	4	19	0.60
areas	5	18	0.57
fear	4	17	0.54
night	5	17	0.54
family	6	16	0.51
neighbourhood	13	16	0.51
people	6	16	0.51

Word Frequency Query

gang	youth	peel	community	gangs	kids	safe					
	school	home	graffiti	area	areas	fear	night				
		family	alone	certain	concerned	know	directly	living	police		
impacted	see	neighbourhood	aware	get	high	many	members	much	none		
		go	brampton	one	walk	walking	way	yet	activity	afraid	
	feel	people	break	also	around	house	ins	mississauga	need	never	
	children	personally	increase	car	drugs	sure	far	hanging	involved	life	
	safety	just	unsafe	impact	going	work	make	time	want	within	
		live	crime	like	group	affected	neighbour	activities	drug	especial	even
violence	young	may	feeling	seen	hear	bad	related	crimes	however	park	really

Visual examination of the word frequency chart and tree diagram does not render a compelling picture of the ways in which respondents feel impacted by gang issues, however, we can ascertain from these images several possible items worthy of further examination:

- Respondents feels less safe, especially at night, perhaps when they are walking in their community
- Respondents feel the impact of violence in their communities
- Respondents are witnessing more graffiti in their communities
- Respondents believe there is a more active drug trade in Peel
- Respondents believe that their children/youth see and experience violence at school, or believe that their safety has been diminished at school

The word frequency images below reinforce some of these notions highlighted above.

IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- *Are there strategies (education, awareness, policing, CPTED, etc.) that can be employed to enhance residents' feelings of safety outside their home, especially at night?*
- *What existing processes are in place to address the visible signs of gang activity, such as graffiti? Is this graffiti vandalism gang graffiti (rare) versus the ubiquitous "hip hop" graffiti such as tagging? Is there capacity available to improve the response to graffiti in the Peel Region?*
- *If gang and drug activity is present in schools as respondents believe, how can we best obtain the voice and opinion of youth in respect to the prevalence of this activity, their perceptions of this activity, the extent to which they feel unsafe as a result of this activity, etc?*
- *What are school boards/schools doing to address gang activity and the illicit drug trade within school settings?*
- *Do school boards employ any form of threat assessment protocol to judge the relative level of risk posed by gangs? Is there an emergency response plan in place to deal with prospective gang activity/crimes?*

Question #11

Do you have any final thoughts or comments in respect to the issues raised in this survey?

Full commentary is found in Appendix C. Content from this question of the survey was imported into both NVivo and Wordle for content analysis. With respect to NVivo analysis, we call the reader's attention to the following three graphics:

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)
youth	5	72	2.13
gang	4	54	1.60
need	4	52	1.54
gangs	5	47	1.39
community	9	46	1.36
programs	8	37	1.10
think	5	33	0.98
peel	4	29	0.86
children	8	28	0.83
problem	7	27	0.80
good	4	26	0.77
kids	4	25	0.74
police	6	24	0.71
schools	7	23	0.68
survey	6	23	0.68
violence	8	23	0.68
issue	5	22	0.65
people	6	22	0.65
needs	5	19	0.56
school	6	19	0.56
families	8	17	0.50
issues	6	17	0.50
know	4	16	0.47
like	4	16	0.47
parents	7	16	0.47

Word Frequency Query									
youth	programs	think	peel	children	problem	good			
	kids	people	needs	school	families	issues	know	like	
gang	police	parents	also	feel	great	see	young	involved	positive
		get	believe	social	stop	way	better	city	give
need	schools	hope	life	safe	skills	society	system	take	taught
	help	just	live	want	done	now	start	teach	time
	survey	work	action	many	area	important	together	activity	address
gangs	violence	family	money	areas	looking	future	look	made	may
	home	make	prevention	come	mississauga	glad	presence	something	well
community	issue	one	media	public	crime	must	group	results	activities
						impact	self	addressed	big
									brampton

Visual examination of the word frequency chart and diagram confirms some of the previous findings. We offer the following summary for consideration:

- Respondents believe that to deal with the gang situation, more community programs are required for children and youth.
- Schools have an active role to play.
- Addressing the gang issue requires addressing family issues.

The word frequency images below reinforce some of these notions highlighted above.

- *What, specifically, are the types of programs that need to be created to address youth at-risk of gang involvement; what programs are required to address the needs of youth who are already gang-involved?*
- *What are the kinds of initiatives schools can undertake to support or address the needs of youth at-risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- *In what way can family needs be addressed to deal with youth that are at risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- *Is there a way in which the views/perspectives/needs of families or parents be obtained? Should SCM/BSC consider the formation of a diverse parent's council or advisory board to inform response?*

SECTION C

SURVEY RESPONSE AND ANALYSIS – STAKEHOLDERS

The following is a summary of results from Stakeholder Survey. While there were a total of **116** respondents, there were variable levels of response to the questions posed, as the following chart demonstrates:

Response Level by Question		
Question	Total Respondents	Response %
1. Please check the box that best describes your employer	110	94.8
2. Please check your gender.	116	100
3. Where do you live?	116	100
4. Please check your age range.	115	99.1
5. How would you describe your understanding of the youth gang situation in Peel?	116	100
6. Incidence and Impacts	97	83.6
7. Community readiness and response	97	83.6
8. Potential barriers	97	83.6
9. Drivers of the youth gang problem	97	83.6
10. Preventing gang involvement	97	83.6
11. Key factors for success	49	42.2
12. Final thoughts and comments	27	23.3
<u>Discussion/Commentary:</u> Taking into account questions 1 through 8, we achieved a median response of rate of 106 respondents, which is beyond our initial expectations (n = 75).		

With respect to questions posed that included a Likert scale (e.g., Questions 6 through 10, “Strongly agree” ⇔ “Strong disagree”), this scale was converted to a numerical equivalent (e.g., “Strongly agree” = 5, “Strong disagree” = 1). Responses were then summed and divided by total respondents (e.g., those answering question less those who replied “Don’t Know”) to render an average score out of 5, with response choice results closest to 5 representing the strongest level of agreement within the sample.

Respondent commentary to open ended questions (items 11/12) was imported into the analytical application NVivo and thematically analyzed to identify key themes. Respondent commentary in its entirety has been included in Appendix B, which has only been edited for spelling, grammar and clarity.

1. Please check the box that best describes your employer		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Municipal government agency/department	27.3%	30
Social services agency	22.7%	25
Police Service	18.2%	20
Education	11.8%	13
Provincial government agency/department	6.4%	7
Community representative/leader	3.6%	4
Other Justice Service agency	2.7%	3
Health services	1.8%	2
Corporation/private sector/self-employed	1.8%	2
Advocacy group or association	1.8%	2
Federal government agency/department	0.9%	1
Elected official	0.9%	1
answered question		110
<p><u>Discussion/Implications:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrates, approximately 80% of the sample is composed of representatives of municipal government, social services, police and education, with the balance from a variety of sectors. While this cohort of respondents perhaps represents the majority of organizations that are exposed to the youth/street gang issue, a greater representation from other sectors of the community would have been helpful to information response.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional efforts may be advisable to consult with these other sectors to ensure a balanced response. 		

2. Please check your gender		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Female	61.2%	71
Male	38.8%	45
answered question		116
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>Data demonstrates that women predominate in the sample. Since the demographics of Peel are roughly equivalent in terms of gender distribution, this result confirms again that the sample is not representative of the entire Peel community.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional efforts must be expended to gather opinion from men, as they are under-represented in the sample. 		

3. Where do you live?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Mississauga	34.5%	40
Brampton	23.3%	27
Caledon	11.2%	13
Other	31.0%	36
answered question		116
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>Respondents are diverse in terms of their location and the data demonstrate representative distribution across the three principal Peel communities.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		

4. Please check your age range.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 19	0.0%	0
20 to 30	21.7%	25
31 to 40	32.2%	37
41 to 50	27.0%	31
51 to 60	16.5%	19
60+	2.6%	3
answered question		115
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrates, the age profile is diverse with approximately 60% of the sample representing the age cohort of 31 to 50. While we do not know to what extent respondents in this age cohort have families, we can reasonably assume that the majority of our respondents likely have children and indeed, may potentially be the most affected or concerned by the youth/street gang situation in Peel.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth voice has not been heard, suggesting additional efforts to gather opinion from youth in the community. 		

5. How would you describe your understanding of the youth gang situation in Peel?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	5.2%	6
Very Good	21.6%	25
OK	46.6%	54
Not Very Good	22.4%	26
Poor	4.3%	5
I Don't Know	0.0%	0
answered question		116
<p><u>Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, approximately 70% of the sample state reasonable to excellent knowledge of the gang situation in Peel, which enhances the probative value of our sample.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per community survey findings, for future surveying of stakeholders we should consider a “two stream” survey, wherein those indicating that they have “OK” to “Excellent” knowledge of the gang issue are presented with a full panel of questions that pre-suppose a certain level of knowledge, and where those with “Not Very Good” to “Poor” knowledge being directed to a different set of questions that attempt to probe items such as the possible concern about gang issues, the extent to which they wish to learn more about gang issues, what gang issues do they wish to learn more about, etc. 		

6. Incidents and Impacts	Score
Within the Peel Region, there is visible evidence of youth gang activity.	3.92
In the course of my work, I have dealt with young people involved with or affiliated with gangs.	3.92
I am personally concerned about the youth gang situation in Peel.	3.86
The youth gang situation in Peel is growing in size and severity.	3.86
Community safety has been diminished in the past 10 years because of youth gangs operating in and around Peel.	3.53
With respect to youth justice, youth gangs are the most pressing issue in Peel.	3.18
I have been victimized, directly or indirectly, by youth gang violence or youth criminal activity.	2.31
<p><u>Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, there is agreement that there is visible evidence of gang activity in</p>	

Peel and that many respondents both work with gang-involved youth and are concerned about the gang situation. Likewise, there is reasonable agreement that the youth gang situation in Peel is growing in size and severity, with only slight agreement that community safety, in general, has been diminished as a result of gang activity. There is little agreement that respondents have been victimized directly or indirectly as a result of gang violence or youth criminal activity.

IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- *What do people consider to be “visible gang activity”? Are there any policy prescriptions that flow from this visible activity (e.g., if there is a prevalence of gang graffiti, the creation/expansion of a region-wide graffiti removal program)*
- *What is the profile (age/gender/race/criminal history/etc.) of the gang-involved youth respondents work with?*
- *What concerns respondents most about the youth gang situation?*
- *In what ways is the youth gang situation growing in size and severity? Are there specific patterns or trends in terms of this growth? Is there support for the idea of determining “priority communities” in Peel so that social investments can be prioritized towards communities of greater need?*
- *What are other pressing priorities in respect to youth justice in Peel?*

7. Community Readiness and Response	Score
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater prevention response.	4.49
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater reintegration (post-custody release support) response (e.g., housing, employment, coping skills, alternative school, etc.)	4.28
We can learn a lot about the youth gang situation by talking to gang affiliated youth.	4.19
Front line service providers in Peel require training on youth gang issues.	4.15
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater diversion (e.g., refer you to programs rather than arrest and charge) and intervention response.	3.96
Myself and/or my organization has adequate knowledge of the risk and protective factors underlying gang affiliation.	3.38
Confidentiality concerns are a barrier to inter-agency collaboration and communication.	3.35
To respond to youth gangs, we need a greater police suppression (e.g., street checks, patrols) and enforcement response.	3.27
In Peel, there is sufficient inter-agency cooperation, goodwill and collaboration to create an effective coalition to address present and emerging youth gang issues.	3.09

There is sufficient political willingness in Peel to create an effective strategy to address youth gangs.	2.93
There is sufficient political willingness to address the root causes of gang formation in Peel.	2.67
Myself and/or my organization has adequate knowledge of international best practices in youth gang prevention.	2.63
In Peel, we do a good job educating youth about the dangers of youth gangs and gang violence.	2.51
There is sufficient money available in Peel to respond to youth gangs.	2.27
The social service sector and youth serving agencies in Peel have sufficient capacity (physical, financial and human resources) to meet the challenges posed by youth gangs.	2.20
As a community, we have adequate programs services to address youth gangs in Peel.	2.18
Schools and educators are well equipped and prepared to deal with youth gangs and youth gang members.	2.06
Our custody facilities are effective at reforming and rehabilitating youth involved with gang related or other crimes.	2.00
Parents/caregivers of Peel youth have a good level of awareness about youth gang issues.	1.85
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, there is strong agreement that to respond to youth gangs, prevention and reintegration should take priority. Strong agreement was also expressed in respect to learning from gang involved youth, as well as the need for front line agencies to receive additional training on youth gang issues. This is supported by the slight agreement expressed in respect to the extent to which front-line agencies have adequate knowledge of the risk and protective factors associated with gang involvement. Slight agreement was expressed in respect to the need for greater police suppression. A neutral position was expressed in respect to the extent of inter-agency cooperation, goodwill and collaboration to create an effective anti-gang coalition, as well as the political willingness to address the root causes of gang involvement. Disagreement was expressed again in respect to organization's knowledge level of best practices in youth gang prevention, as well as extent to which Peel educates youth about the dangers of gang involvement. The strongest disagreement was expressed in regards to the capacity of the social service sector in Peel to meet the challenges posed by youth gangs.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With respect to prevention, what kinds/types of programs do consultation delegates prefer or believe will be effective?</i> • <i>With respect to reintegration, what kinds/types of programs do consultation delegates prefer or believe will be effective?</i> 	

- *How do we engage gang-involved youth so that we can learn from them?*
- *What subjects should front line agencies learn about in respect to youth/street gang awareness?*
- *What can be done to enhance the level of inter-agency collaboration on the gang issue? What are the key barriers to such collaboration and goodwill?*
- *How do we best engage with youth to educate them on the dangers of gang involvement? What forms of education will make the greatest impact on youth?*

8. Potential Barriers	Score
Lack of knowledge/understanding of the youth gang issue.	3.96
Lack of resources.	3.96
Existence of other, more important competing priorities.	3.78
Fear and uncertainty in regards to confronting the youth gang issue.	3.70
Belief that it is the police service's job, as well as other criminal justice system stakeholders, to deal with this challenge.	3.53
A general lack of willingness to act or absence of community leadership.	3.32
Lack of cooperation between and amongst front-line agencies.	3.30

Discussion/Commentary:

As the data demonstrate, respondents agree that lack of knowledge of the youth gang issue as well as lack of resources is the two leading barriers in regards to responding to the youth gang issue. Similarly, there is agreement that there are other competing priorities that act as barriers to responding to youth gangs, with fear and uncertainty also representing barriers to response. Only slight agreement was expressed in respect to a lack of willingness amongst community leaders to act, as well as lack of cooperation between and amongst front-line agencies.

IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- In what format should training and education resources be delivered for those working at the front lines? (paper, web, video, stand-up training, etc.)?
- What resources do delegates believe are required to respond adequately to the gang issue?
- What are the other, competing priorities? Should these be addressed before or concurrently with the gang issue?
- In question 7, there was slight agreement that there was sufficient inter-agency collaboration and goodwill to address the gang situation (3.09), yet in question 8, there is slightly higher agreement (3.30) that there is a lack of cooperation between and amongst front-line agencies. What is therefore the consensus position, if any, on the level of cooperation/collaboration between front line agencies?

9. Drivers of the Youth Gang Problem	Score
Desire of youth to belong to a group	4.24
Lack of family connection or family breakdown.	4.22
The illicit drug trade and other criminal markets.	4.11
Location (e.g., high-risk neighborhoods).	4.08
Socioeconomic conditions.	4.05
Lack of school success.	4.03
Lack of economic and employment prospects.	4.00
Media portrayals of the gang lifestyle.	3.86
Police gang suppression in Toronto and resulting “displacement effect” to Peel Region.	3.66
Challenges faced by new Canadian/racialized families in establishing themselves.	3.65
Urban sprawl from Toronto	3.61
Lack of social, recreation and sports opportunities.	3.54
Racism	3.13
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, respondents allocated responsibility to the youth gang issues to a number of issues including desire of youth to belong to a group, family breakdown, drug trade/other illicit criminal markets, local, socioeconomic conditions, etc. Slight agreement was expressed in respect to a possible displacement effect from Toronto to Peel, as well as challenges faced by new Canadians when attempting to establish themselves in Canada.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Greater discussion required on principal drivers of the youth gang problem in Peel. Are there any regional variations in respect to these drivers?</i> • <i>Given this array of drivers, what are possible policy prescriptions to address them?</i> 	

10. Preventing Gang Involvement	Score
Long-term mentoring programs	4.41
Life skills development programs	4.38
Gang-exit programs for gang-involved or affiliated youth.	4.38
Career or job training	4.36
Group/one on one counseling for conduct disordered youth	4.30
Programs to create stronger bonds between children and parents	4.28
Organized after-school sports, recreation and leisure activities	4.24
Programs to address early identified aggressive children	4.20
Gang-awareness program directed to youth	4.19
Alternative school programs	4.15
Supervised homework clubs	3.87
Tougher criminal justice sanctions for those convicted of a gang or gang related crime	3.75
Enhanced English as a second language (ESL) training	3.24
<p><u>Discussion/Commentary:</u></p> <p>As the data demonstrate, findings are tightly clustered in terms of their level of agreement (agree to strongly agree) indicating that respondents believe that multiple strategies are required to prevent gang involvement. Additional analysis and consultation is necessary, however, to prioritize these prospective strategies, given that resources for our response may be constrained. Moderate agreement was also expressed in respect to tougher sentences for youth convicted of gang related crimes, with ESL programs demonstrating only slight agreement within the respondent sample.</p> <p><u>IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>More time should be spent during the consultation to prioritize the key drivers, so that priorities can be established in terms of policy response.</i> 	

Question #11

Please describe your thoughts in respect to the key factors for success underlying an effective strategy on youth gangs for Peel.

Full commentary is found in Appendix D. Content from this question of the survey was imported into both NVivo and Wordle for content analysis. With respect to NVivo analysis, we call the reader's attention to the following three graphics:

Word Frequency Query Result			
Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)
youth	5	66	4.24
programs	8	28	1.80
gang	4	25	1.60
peel	4	22	1.41
community	9	20	1.28
gangs	5	19	1.22
need	4	19	1.22
school	6	18	1.16
agencies	8	14	0.90
education	9	14	0.90
parents	7	12	0.77
success	7	12	0.77
family	6	9	0.58
key	3	9	0.58
risk	4	9	0.58
strategy	8	9	0.58
support	7	9	0.58
work	4	9	0.58
children	8	8	0.51
skills	6	8	0.51
students	8	8	0.51
employment	10	7	0.45
factors	7	7	0.45
focus	5	7	0.45
help	4	7	0.45
involvement	11	7	0.45

Word Frequency Query

youth	gangs	need		school		agencies		education					
	parents	work	children	skills	students	employment	factors	focus					
		help	social	well	age	areas	based	communities	development				
		success	involvement	get	resources	schools	training	agency	also	approach			
	programs	family	issues	kids	early	many	may	needs	provide	root			
key		just	life	effective	service	healthy	lack	marginaliz	must	part			
			long	feel	services	plan	relationships	specific	sports	staff			
	risk		members	one	good	activities	police	term	believe	caledon	collaborativ		
gang	strategy	positive	opportunities	intervention	affordable	prevent	understand	communic	comprehe	connected			
			support	region	prevention	issue	causes	rather	anti	criminal	develop	engage	respecia
peel													
community													

Visual examination of the word frequency chart and diagram suggests the following:

- Respondents (stakeholders) believe that to deal with the gang situation, more community programs are required for children and youth, including employment, life skills, etc.
- Schools and the education system have an important role to play.
- Support and services are required for parents and families
- Prevention and intervention should be keys to dealing with the gang issue

The word frequency images below reinforce some of these notions highlighted above.

well work **youth**



For this question, we conducted further cluster analysis to identify any additional key themes in the response that were not uncovered through visual representation. The following chart highlights the most frequent responses:

THEMES - KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS	FREQUENCY
More youth programs and services – mentorship, community volunteership, after-school programming, treatment, etc.	14
Systems change – need to engineer collaboration, cooperation, consultation, shared role in strategy development	12
Parent supports and services, family treatment and counseling	6
Youth voice and engagement in process	5
Awareness information, resources and programming	5
Deal with root causes	5
Stable and dedicated funding	4
Employment services, programs and support	4
Social and life skills development programs and services	4
Early intervention approach	4
Political involvement and willingness to act	2
Focus on prevention	2
Utilize evidence-based approaches	2
Involve the education system	2
Development of cultural competencies, anti-oppression approaches	2
Community engagement strategies	1
Monitoring of high risk communities	1
Tougher sentences	1
Restorative justice approaches	1
Improved youth outreach	1

IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- *As noted before, discuss in greater detail the kind of programs and services that need to be created to address gang situation.*
- *Has an analysis or inventorying of existing programs and services been conducted? Where are the principal gaps in service/program availability?*
- *To what extent is there support for evidence-based programs (evaluated best or promising practices)?*

- *What system changes are required to: increase collaboration; reduce duplication; improve service delivery and efficiencies? What are the key barriers to engineering these systemic changes?*
- *What specific programs/services for parents/families are required or feasible given the current funding environment?*
- *How do we best engage youth and obtain a representative view of their perspectives on gang issues?*
- *What are the preferred forms of education and awareness regarding gang issues?*
- *Are there sources of funds that can be accessed and deployed to ensure a comprehensive, community-based approach to youth/street gangs? Are we creating expectations we cannot meet in terms of a gang strategy if no funding can be secured? Can we engage alternative sources of funds (e.g., corporations, foundation) to facilitate the development and implementation of a comprehensive gang strategy for Peel Region?*
- *Is there sufficient political willingness (municipal, provincial, federal) to act? Can we find political “ambassadors” to champion the cause in Peel?*
- *What evidence-based approaches should be considered?*

Question #12

Do you have any final thoughts or comments in respect to the issues raised in this survey?

Full commentary is found in Appendix D. Content from this question of the survey was imported into both NVivo and Wordle for content analysis. With respect to NVivo analysis, we call the reader’s attention to the following three graphics:

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)
youth	5	28	4.46
gang	4	15	2.39
positive	8	9	1.43
gangs	5	7	1.11
need	4	7	1.11
school	6	7	1.11
issue	5	6	0.96
police	6	6	0.96
community	9	5	0.80
etc	3	5	0.80
peel	4	5	0.80
role	4	5	0.80
social	6	5	0.80
activities	10	4	0.64
many	4	4	0.64
serious	7	4	0.64
staff	5	4	0.64
supportive	10	4	0.64
activity	8	3	0.48
agencies	8	3	0.48
change	6	3	0.48
criminal	8	3	0.48
deal	4	3	0.48
develop	7	3	0.48
engaged	7	3	0.48

Word Frequency Query

youth	school	issue	police	community	etc	peel	role				
	social	agencies	change	criminal	deal	develop	engaged	important	involved		
		know	problem	programming	programs	rather	region	solution	strategies		
	activities										
	long	teachers	awareness	believe	boards	current	custody	daily	dealing		
gang	many			economic	forward	future	get	going	groups	health	
		love	term								
	serious			education	hold	large	learn	legitimate	lifestyle	look	
		members	think		hope	meaningfully	must	needs	negative	occur	
positive	staff		employer								
		models		human	measures	often	place	prevention	program		
		young	facility								
gangs	supportive	part		information	mentors	opinions					
			family								
need	activity	preventative	amount	keep	money	people					
			answer	feel	kids	much	physical	real			

Visual examination of the word frequency chart and diagram suggests the following:

- Respondents believe more programs and activities need to be provided to youth.
- Prevention should be a key feature of the Peel response.
- Awareness and education should be a part of the Peel gang strategy.

The word frequency images below reinforce some of these notions highlighted above.

facility family feel forward future **gang** gangs get going groups health hold hope
human important information involved **issue** keep kids know large learn legitimate lifestyle long
look love **many** meaningfully measures members mentors models money much must **need**
needs negative occur often opinions part **peel** people physical place **police** **positive**
preventative prevention problem program programming programs provide racism rather real
region resources **role** **school** self **serious** significant situations **social** solution staff

strategies **supportive** teachers term think young **youth**



We also conducted further cluster analysis to identify any additional key themes in the response that were not uncovered through visual representation. The following chart highlights the most frequent responses:

THEMES – FINAL THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS	FREQUENCY
More youth programming and focus on prevention	7
Need more information on gangs – location, criminal activity, drivers, best practices, etc.	6
Incarceration/criminalization of youth not the solution	2
Greater police presence not the solution	2
Pleased that this effort is underway	5
Deal with racism and discrimination	1
Need to hold youth accountable	1
Child Advocate not aware of significant challenges with youth in custody	1
More effort on the part of school boards	1
Focus on employment	1

IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- *What, specifically, are the types of programs that need to be created to address youth at-risk of gang involvement; what programs are required to address the needs of youth who are already gang-involved?*
- *What are the kinds of initiatives schools can undertake to support or address the needs of youth at-risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- *How can we obtain a more fulsome understanding of the gang situation in Peel? Are Police Service partners willing to share more information without compromising their intelligence/investigative activities?*
- *How does the Peel Region begin to address issues regarding racism and discrimination? Is there consensus that racism/discrimination is an issue that requires attention?*
- *Emphasis of prevention and reintegration versus suppression*

SECTION D

SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS/PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATION DISCUSSION ITEMS

Throughout this document, we have proposed a variety of implications or prospective consultation items for consideration. These have been reproduced in their entirety below:

- *Additional efforts must be expended to gather opinion from men, as they are under-represented in the sample.*
- *Emphasis of prevention and reintegration versus suppression*
- *We must take great caution in interpreting these results or using them to inform public policy, since approximately half of the sample has little to no knowledge on the youth/street gang situation.*
- *Additional efforts are warranted to help educate Peel residents about gang issues.*
- *For future surveying, we should consider a “two stream” survey, wherein those indicating that they have “OK” to “Excellent” knowledge of the gang issue are presented with a full panel of questions that pre-suppose a certain level of knowledge, and where those with “Not Very Good” to “Poor” knowledge being directed to a different set of questions that attempt to probe items such as the possible concern about gang issues, the extent to which they wish to learn more about gang issues, etc.*
- *Emphasis of prevention and reintegration versus suppression*
- *Strong and visible response required to provide sense of confidence to community that community partners are responding appropriately to a perceived growing problem*
- *Improve manner in which police services articulate their gang response*
- *Conduct community inventory of program and services to determine capacity to address youth gang issues*
- *Create materials, resources and programming to better equip schools to address gang issues (e.g., police, procedures, integrated threat assessment, gang activity suppression with SROs, etc.)*
- *Create awareness materials and resources for parents*
- *More time should be spent during the consultation to prioritize the key drivers, so that priorities can be established in terms of policy response.*
- *Again, scores are tightly clustered suggesting that more analysis needs to be done to prioritize prospective policy directions in respect to gang prevention.*
- *Triangulating the results from the Gang Driver question (#7) with this one above, we see only slight to moderate agreement in respect to items that pertain essentially to New Canadians (e.g., lack of ESL, difficulties in transitioning, provision of enhanced ESL training). This issue requires further examination, as anecdotal evidence suggests that*

the principal cohort of gang involved youth in the Peel Region and indeed the entire GTA are young, racialized youth.

- What, specifically, are the types of programs that need to be created to address youth at-risk of gang involvement; what programs are required to address the needs of youth who are already gang-involved?*
- What are the kinds of initiatives schools can undertake to support or address the needs of youth at-risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- In what ways can police, parents and the broader community collaborate to address the issue of youth/street gangs?*
- What are the kinds of education and awareness programs Peel Region can implement to ensure the community is better aware of gang issues?*
- Are there strategies (education, awareness, policing, CPTED, etc.) that can be employed to enhance residents' feelings of safety outside their home, especially at night?*
- What existing processes are in place to address the visible signs of gang activity, such as graffiti? Is this graffiti vandalism gang graffiti (rare) versus the ubiquitous "hip hop" graffiti such as tagging? Is there capacity available to improve the response to graffiti in the Peel Region?*
- If gang and drug activity is present in schools as respondents believe, how can we best obtain the voice and opinion of youth in respect to the prevalence of this activity, their perceptions of this activity, the extent to which they feel unsafe as a result of this activity, etc.?*
- What are school boards/schools doing to address gang activity and the illicit drug trade within school settings?*
- Do school boards employ any form of threat assessment protocol to judge the relative level of risk posed by gangs? Is an emergency response plan in place to deal with prospective gang activity/crimes?*
- What, specifically, are the types of programs that need to be created to address youth at-risk of gang involvement; what programs are required to address the needs of youth who are already gang-involved?*
- What are the kinds of initiatives schools can undertake to support or address the needs of youth at-risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- In what way can family needs be addressed to deal with youth that are at risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- Is there a way in which the views/perspectives/needs of families or parents be obtained? Should SCM/BSC consider the formation of a diverse parent's council or advisory board to inform response?*
- Additional efforts must be expended to gather opinion from men, as they are under-represented in the sample.*
- Youth voice has not been heard, suggesting additional efforts to gather opinion from youth in the community.*

- As per community survey findings, for future surveying of stakeholders we should consider a “two stream” survey, wherein those indicating that they have “OK” to “Excellent” knowledge of the gang issue are presented with a full panel of questions that pre-suppose a certain level of knowledge, and where those with “Not Very Good” to “Poor” knowledge being directed to a different set of questions that attempt to probe items such as the possible concern about gang issues, the extent to which they wish to learn more about gang issues, what gang issues do they wish to learn more about, etc.
- *What do people consider to be “visible gang activity”? Are there any policy prescriptions that flow from this visible activity (e.g., if there is a prevalence of gang graffiti, the creation/expansion of a region-wide graffiti removal program)*
- *What is the profile (age/gender/race/criminal history/etc.) of the gang-involved youth respondents work with?*
- *What concerns respondents most about the youth gang situation?*
- *In what ways is the youth gang situation growing in size and severity? Are there specific patterns or trends in terms of this growth? Is there support for the idea of determining “priority communities” in Peel so that social investments can be prioritized towards communities of greater need?*
- *What are other pressing priorities in respect to youth justice in Peel?*
- *With respect to prevention, what kinds/types of programs do consultation delegates prefer or believe will be effective?*
- *With respect to reintegration, what kinds/types of programs do consultation delegates prefer or believe will be effective?*
- *How do we engage gang-involved youth so that we can learn from them?*
- *What subjects should front line agencies learn about in respect to youth/street gang awareness?*
- *What can be done to enhance the level of inter-agency collaboration on the gang issue? What are the key barriers to such collaboration and goodwill?*
- *How do we best engage with youth to educate them on the dangers of gang involvement? What forms of education will make the greatest impact on youth?*
- *Greater discussion required on principal drivers of the youth gang problem in Peel. Are there any regional variations in respect to these drivers?*
- *Given this array of drivers, what are possible policy prescriptions to address them?*
- *More time should be spent during the consultation to prioritize the key drivers, so that priorities can be established in terms of policy response.*
- *As noted before, discuss in greater detail the kind of programs and services that need to be created to address gang situation.*
- *Has an analysis or inventorying of exiting programs and services been conducted? Where are the principal gaps in service/program availability?*
- *To what extent is there support for evidence-based programs (evaluated best or promising practices)?*

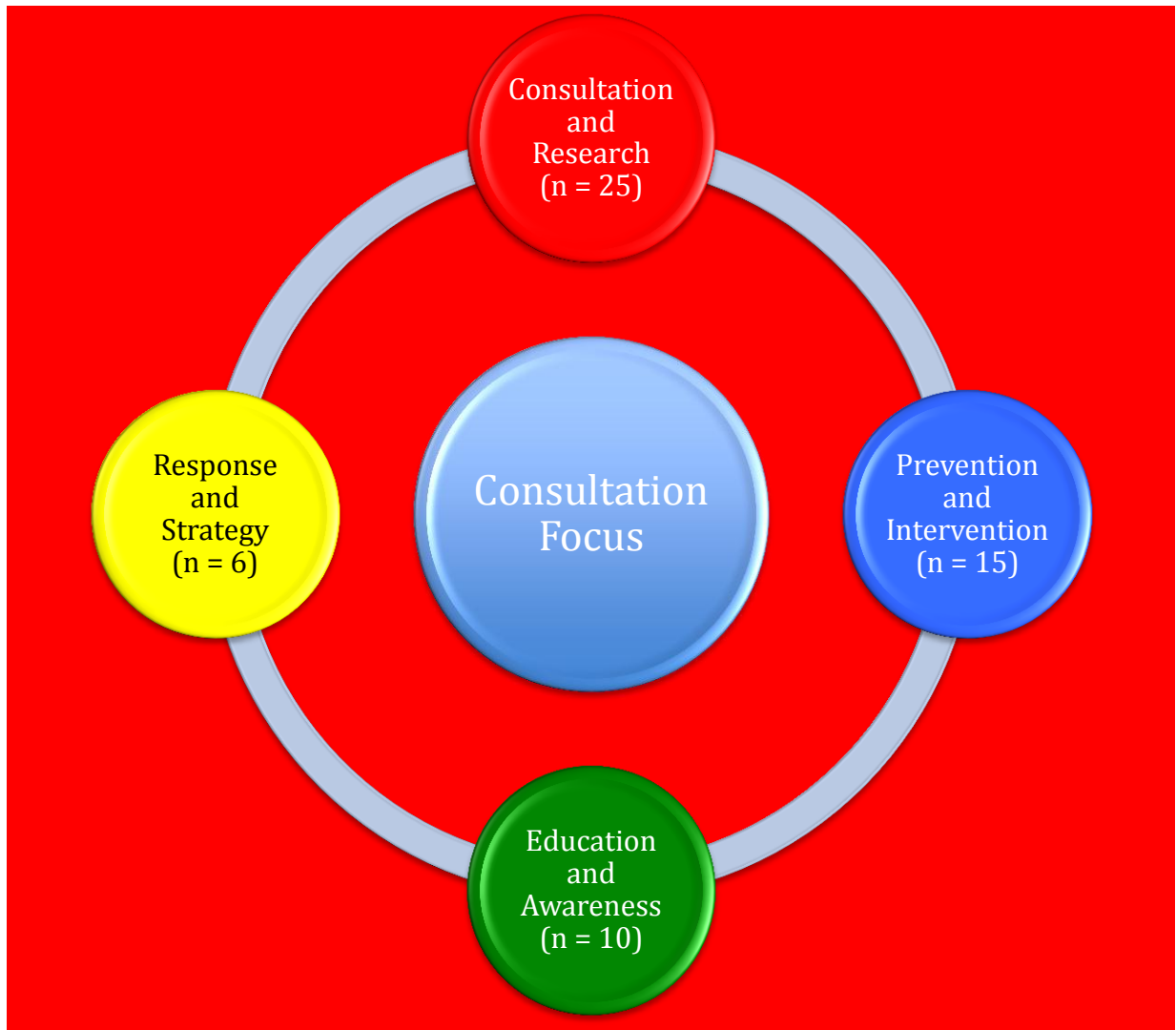
- *What system changes are required to: increase collaboration; reduce duplication; improve service delivery and efficiencies? What are the key barriers to engineering these systemic changes?*
- *What specific programs/services for parents/families are required or feasible given the current funding environment?*
- *How do we best engage youth and obtain a representative view of their perspectives on gang issues?*
- *What are the preferred forms of education and awareness regarding gang issues?*
- *Are there sources of funds that can be accessed and deployed to ensure a comprehensive, community-based approach to youth/street gangs? Are we creating expectations we cannot meet in terms of a gang strategy if no funding can be secured? Can we engage alternative sources of funds (e.g., corporations, foundation) to facilitate the development and implementation of a comprehensive gang strategy for Peel Region?*
- *Is there sufficient political willingness (municipal, provincial, federal) to act? Can we find political “ambassadors” to champion the cause in Peel?*
- *What evidence-based approaches should be considered?*
- *What, specifically, are the types of programs that need to be created to address youth at-risk of gang involvement; what programs are required to address the needs of youth who are already gang-involved?*
- *What are the kinds of initiatives schools can undertake to support or address the needs of youth at-risk of gang involvement or already gang-involved?*
- *How can we obtain a more fulsome understanding of the gang situation in Peel? Are Police Service partners willing to share more information without compromising their intelligence/investigative activities?*
- *How does the Peel Region begin to address issues regarding racism and discrimination? Is there consensus that racism/discrimination is an issue that requires attention?*
- *Emphasis of prevention and reintegration versus suppression*

These implications have been analyzed and clustered into key themes, which are summarized and colour-coded on the following page:

SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS	FREQUENCY	SUMMARY OF THEME
Need to gather opinion from men	2	Consultation and Research
Focus on prevention and reintegration	3	Prevention and Intervention
Careful interpretation of survey findings as may not be fully representative of community	1	Consultation and Research
Focus on education and awareness	1	Education and Awareness
Two streams of future surveying	2	Consultation and Research
Strong response required to deal with community concerns	1	Response and Strategy
Police need to better articulate gang response	1	Education and Awareness
Community inventory of existing programs, services, capacity	1	Consultation and Research
Awareness materials for schools	1	Education and Awareness
Awareness materials for parents	2	Education and Awareness
Prioritize key drivers	2	Consultation and Research
Focus on prevention v. suppression	1	Prevention and Intervention
Is race a factor in response?	2	Consultation and Research
What programs and services are required for youth at risk/gang-involved youth?	6	Prevention and Intervention
What can schools do/what are schools doing?	4	Prevention and Intervention
How can collaboration be engineered?	3	Response and Strategy
Awareness materials for Peel Region (government/front line agencies)	2	Education and Awareness
How improve perception of public safety/how improve public safety?	1	Education and Awareness
Dealing with visible signs of gang activity/are these signs truly indicative of gang activity?	2	Consultation and Research
Need to obtain voice of youth, including gang-involved	5	Consultation and Research
How support needs of parents/what are needs of parents/families?	3	Consultation and Research
What is profile of gang-involved youth?	1	Consultation and Research
What concerns community most about gangs?	1	Consultation and Research

How is gang activity changing/evolving?	2	Consultation and Research
What are the other pressing criminal justice issues?	1	Consultation and Research
What reintegration programs and services are required?	1	Prevention and Intervention
What should be the content of awareness materials?	2	Education and Awareness
Is there support for evidence-based approaches?	2	Consultation and Research
Availability of funding	1	Response and Strategy
Extent of political willingness to act	1	Response and Strategy

Our cluster analysis suggests the following four key themes for in-depth discussion at the March 27/28, 2013 consultation.



THEME	CORE CONSIDERATION(S)
A: Consultation and Research	<p>Summary: Additional research and consultation is required to ensure Peel Region Gang Strategy is representative of a diversity of opinion and reflects the needs and realities of the communities.</p> <p>Action: <i>Delegates should consider the manner in which we can continue to consult with the community and obtain a true representative sample of opinion, including youth. What strategies should be employed? How will we engage youth in this process, including youth who may be gang or criminally involved? How will we conduct an inventory of existing capacity? How do we determine the profile of gang involved youth as well as extent of gang issue in Peel Region?</i></p>
B: Prevention and Intervention	<p>Summary: Research to date has demonstrated a great emphasis on crime prevention, reintegration and intervention approaches, rather than enhanced police suppression or “get tough” approaches to dealing with criminally and gang-involved youth.</p> <p>Action: <i>Delegates should consider or research the kinds of programs and services they believe will be effective in gang prevention and intervention, including community-based/school-based and police-led approaches. How committed are delegates to evidence-based approaches, and the use of evaluation to determine program efficacy? What reintegration or rehabilitation programs should be created or offered to those who are gang-involved?</i></p>
C: Education and Awareness	<p>Summary: There is broad consensus that high-quality education and awareness resources must be developed, including communications materials that will inform community of Peel Region Gang Strategy.</p> <p>Action: <i>Delegates should consider the form or manner in which education and awareness should be delivered to youth, parents, educators, etc. What should the content be in these materials? Who should deliver them? What should be the mix of delivery channels (school v. police v. government v. youth led, etc.)? What should be the components of an overall communications strategy for Peel Region in respect to its ongoing efforts to develop and implement a region-wide Gang Strategy?</i></p>
D: Response and Strategy	<p>Summary: Community stakeholders must realistically assess extent of cooperation and collaboration and re-engineer systems to ensure optimal response, all in a manner that respects current constraints (budget, political willingness, existing capacity, etc.)</p> <p>Action: <i>Delegates should consider the ways in which collaborations can be developed or engineered to ensure success? Who should lead this effort? What should be the governance model? What expectations should be set within Peel Region in terms of next steps? What are the practical constraints that will limit progress on this file? What should be the next steps after this consultation?</i></p>

SECTION E

MORE INFORMATION

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APPENDIX A

What would you like community leaders and others to do about the youth gang situation in Peel?

What I would like is for community leaders to be transparent in their intentions to help. Gang culture is a real problem in North America. In America it is increasing at an alarming rate and this will also happen in Canada as well. Just look in the jail system at present, gangs are now forming in youth and adult jails. Gang culture is a culture like other social cultures. Who would have thought that Bloods and Crips exist in Toronto. Real Blood gangs from the States are on a campaign to convert the youth.

More resources connecting with our youth, supporting them during this really difficult and challenging life cycle-- positive intervention rather than the harsh justice system. They need support programs both in school and after school - clubs, social programs, organized sport programs for boys especially ... they need to feel connected with adults who care about them.

Greater community presence by the Police. Stiffer penalties if convicted of a crime.

Give a more specific understanding of the pros and cons! Also to explain how it is not right!

Recognize there is a problem and be proactive.

Stop it!!!!!! Get rid of it!!!!!! I have lived in Mississauga for over 20 years and I'm ready to move out of here. It is becoming like Scarborough. Too much gangs, crime and deaths.

Describe the situation in Peel, what is youth gang?

Find out why youth in Peel are turning to gangs

Work with the youth in programs just at training and developing skills such as leadership and offering them incentives. Also retreats and character building camps that will enable them to develop personal skills outside their environment and gain exposure and hope of other life possibilities.

Lobby/advocate for more programs that will connect youth to jobs as well as programs that integrate ex-offenders into society.

Set-up programs which entice youth to be creative and productive.

Residents of Peel need to be given the opportunity to hear from community leaders as to what is going on and how they can help.

Make information more readily available, perhaps a series on youth gangs in the Mississauga News.

Try to discourage it, with severe consequences.

This needs to be managed before they turn to gangs. We need to look at what is going on in their schools, at home ... address the situation before it becomes a problem. Everyone needs a family unit ... if they are not getting it at home then they seek it elsewhere. Let's not have gangs ... let's have scouts, guides, cadets, etc. Are these gangs (positive gangs?).

Be practical about the situational reality surrounding youth.

To increase the awareness of gang situation and to provide good job training and skill development programs.

Get to the root causes, prioritize solutions, and implement them.

Increase the education on gang situations for youth and for adults in Peel Region.

Help diminish it.

Free after-school activities.

Aggressive enforcement and making a public example of gang related crimes and those charged for gang related issues.

To deal with it not as something to punish and hide but to educate the community. To use resources to rebuild self-esteem, self-worth and a sense of belonging for youth.

To be more proactive and that the schools would work closely with community groups.

I think community leaders should find ways to engage more members of our community to be active participants. Our youth have so many needs and not enough people involved to help meet those needs.

Create more programs

More clubs and sports to keep youth busy after school

I think community leaders need to speak out about youth gangs in Peel. I feel as though no one wants to talk about it, and our community leaders want to pretend that it doesn't exist. This isn't going to change anything: we need to start talking about it so we can start making real changes and create more prevention programs.

Restorative practices.

Possibly remove privileges (ie. drivers license) hold families more accountable and involved in resolving, guiding, overlooking.

Bring more awareness of what the issues are to the public. We only read in the papers when there is a crime or gang activity, not about what is being done to address the issues.

Accept then get youth involved to fix problem.

Control all areas in Mississauga by having police patrolling in neighbourhoods at night times.

Increase in awareness of gang presence. Accepting that there is a problem with gangs and address the issues with strict measures.

Give awareness to the community about the severity of the issue. Community involvement in positive activities. Helping the government by coming into the discussions to resolve issues. Arrange positive programs within their groups.

Community leaders have to be involved more with after-hours activities including having parents involved.

Programs to fill the generational gap culturally and linguistically. Programs and services for the parents of youth. Programs and services for youth.

Give them a reason or hope that a good and fruitful life is better than crime and in some cases, death.

Be more open and forthcoming with information. Hold community forums for information purposes.

Bring forth more awareness that this is a huge issue that affects the whole community.

Look into the family situation (are there two parents?).

Community leaders need to put pressure on their superiors for a better management of resources (since MORE funding is generally very difficult to secure.) Intervening at the point of punishment is ineffective, and expensive for everyone involved. Instead of teaching kids "how to behave", we need to get them involved in activities that are more attractive than delinquency (because kids will always be kids).

Support and funding for community youth programs.

Address it in a positive manner and work toward solutions that assist young people to make advancement by finding suitable employment or recreation that proves to be constructive rather than destructive.

Get involved more in programs that are identified above ... sit in group situations to see why these gangs happen.

Create more opportunities for youth to make gang activity undesirable.

Try to get involved in this as much as they can and provide the required resources.

Simply. Stop it.

More police patrol in high risk neighbourhoods. Programs that link youth with police services at a young age. Increased education in schools.

Funding programs that help youth to prevent gangs.

Keep them busy with good activities, offer free programs with food, of course, and healthy entertainment.

Nothing, it is the family unit that needs to be strengthened. Gang lifestyle must not be glorified by the media.

Prevention. After-school programs. Tough consequences if caught to show example.

I think that there should be more patrols on our streets at night. My son says that the drug deals go down after midnight and has witnessed them. I personally have seen people selling from cars in the neighbourhood.

Provide programming and places for youth that are effective during the hours that they would be out and involving themselves in gang related activity. In order to do that, staff must be trained and there must be a sense of security. Also, funding towards some extracurricular activities that can intrigue the youth and provide them with opportunities that they would otherwise not have available.

Stronger laws and more publicly visible law enforcement programs. If these two are not linked in proportion, then all other measures will only affect a small percentage of at-risk use.

Look at the root causes for why youth become involved in gangs and develop programs to address these causes.

Be aware of the issues and causes that create gang affiliation.

Prevent and stop it. Brampton should NOT become the new Jane & Finch.

Help to remove the Young Offenders Act and educate the youth to realize that if they are old enough to do a crime, they are old enough to take the consequences.

Put them in jail.

Pay more attention to it, provide free activities.

Focus on prevention instead of using the 'band-aid' effect.

Awareness and have those that were in gangs speak to schools and let them know that they do not have to be in one.

Community leaders should sit together and bridge the gap between different communities and come up with ways to address this issue.

Have more police to tackle this growing problem. Have gang tags removed from buildings and fixtures.

Hold meetings with parents to create awareness that their children may be involved and find solutions.

More programs and info WHILE IN SCHOOL. Learning about life skills in school. Practical learning - such as how to manage your money, how to be positive about life, how to BE A FRIEND, how to accept people and value people as they are, that being different is okay. I think children spend the most time in school and getting children to bond with friends and mentor the younger children would make such a difference and allow children to be stronger in their positive belief about life and themselves. Parent participation would be good, too. Parents need to change how they deal with children as well and actually spend quality time with them.

Peel (more specifically Brampton) seems to be mirroring Toronto in that there are pockets/neighborhoods which are considered high risk. We are at a critical juncture as without swift and focused action, the next generation is significantly at risk. There are a number of programs like Start2Finish (www.start2finishonline.org) that focus at a very early age on addressing child poverty and literacy to encourage and motivate children - building their self-esteem and increasing their engagement in school. It is time to begin to think outside the typical box with regard to programs to begin to get to the roots.

There needs to be free accessible after-school programs led by mentors/ paid or volunteer. Safe places for them to go to socialize in a constructive environment, sports, games, movies. Most parents work till 7 or work two jobs in our economy. Kids just hang around with nothing to do. They get picked up or recruited by gang members who promise them things that they don't have at home - a sense of belonging to a group.

I would like to see the police have more training and programs to help keep guns off our streets. I feel this is the job of the police, and the government's job is to find out where the guns are being purchased.

Offer more support to at-risk children.

Implement some of the above suggestions sooner rather than later.

Encourage youth to finish school, join mentorship programs, and offer recreational activities in the evenings to keep kids off the streets with nothing to do.

Create more after-school activities.

I would like elementary schools to hold education for parents and children on youth gangs so that children can see what is wrong at an early age, possibly grade 7 and grade 8. This way they will stay away from this when they get into high school and later years. If parents become aware, they can also keep a close eye on their children, especially if they know what to watch out for.

More effective and swift laws to tackle their activities.

Take action.

Stop portraying gang members as bad people. In my opinion, a lot of them are trying to find their place in society. Further portrayal of being a "bad" youth will only isolate them rather than support their growth to get out of the gang.

Let the community become welcoming to care for these youth before they get themselves involved in a serious crime.

Programs to create stronger bonds between children, parents and the community.

Educate us. It does seem like crime rates are rising in our neighbourhood and city, but I'm not sure what the cause is. Your survey is making me think there is more going on than I had any inkling of. I would love to see the Peel Police have more funding to be able to do their jobs effectively. It is really important that we have a community presence of police to keep everyone safe and have a community feeling that the police are community helpers.

Devise programs that will eradicate and prevent youth gangs in Peel. Educate the general public about the state of youth gangs in Peel.

Talk more.

Actively work to resolve it. Gun controls are a good start!

Break up the gangs. Stop the spread of youth gangs.

Get youth more involved in finding solutions. Value the opinions and solicit input from teens and pre-teens.

Address it. Create programs to get youth off the streets. Job/employment programs.

Proactive measures, rather than reactive ones.

Do not be quick to judge, go out into the community and learn about their needs; prepare people who have been here longer and who have been successful in Canada to help as mentors for those who come from other countries, they need to relate to their own people or background.

More support for mental health concerns of youth which may co-relate to youth getting involved in gang activity (self-medicating, looking to belong etc.).

Create programs and provide facilities to engage youth in other activities; provide opportunities for community members and youth to interact in positive ways through mentorship. Make meaningful job training and opportunities available to at-risk youth to help steer children away from gang leaders. It's going to require that parents are supported in their role, with adequate resources to help them help their kids succeed. If a parent doesn't have enough money, or is addicted, has mental health issues or is absent, how will their kids function in society? These issues lead to alienation from the community.

Free after-school program for youth, raising awareness to parents and teachers within the community.

Acknowledge and help youth with more programs and funding,
hold public events like the Kennedy Road group did this past summer.

Community leaders should see to it that schools don't suspend kids, but give them some kind of life skills program to keep them in school.

Lower the adult age to 16...maybe this will deter kids from crime!

I would like to see more organizations having programs targeted for at-risk youth in Mississauga. Funding is not directed towards the youth gangs in Peel but mostly in Toronto. We also need to know the various gangs that exist in our community from the ACG boys, the Latino boys, etc. I would like community leaders to encourage youth to be part of a trusted religious group. I would like to see the community leaders show a better example in their own lives and step down when obviously exposed and/or convicted.

Push for tougher laws and change the Young Offenders Act.

Better education of parents in both high and low risk areas.

It is time to get tougher laws in place and not allow the responsible parties to get away with just a proverbial "slap on the wrist". Let them know that if they do the crime, then they pay the price, both in jail time (if necessary) and in paying back any monetary damages to property. If it is a person they hurt/impact then they should have to apologize and pay them back with some method that is mutually agreed upon. By showing them our inaction to their crimes, we are indicating to them that we are condoning their behaviour.

Get rid of it somehow, it will only increase if a stop is not put on it now.

Zero tolerance for youth gangs - parents need to be more involved with their children. It is the parents' responsibility for their children's behaviour - punish both. Get them both into counseling and fix the issues before they become totally broken. The youth need to find an outlet – after-school activities. Keep them busy, whether it is a part-time job, or some sports activities, get them involved so they feel they have a purpose and belong to something. The children/youth need to go to school - that should be mandatory and get their high school diploma. Set up programs to get them to the next level - whether to get some sort of trade or even college. They need to get a job to survive into today's society, and not be left behind and become a burden on society.

See how we can encourage more young leaders and mentors in areas of need.

Stop it.

Reduce crime.

Find methods to decrease gang activities in Peel.

More active roles in youth gang education to prevent youth from joining gangs.

More support programs for youth trying to exit gangs. Greater community resources and programs youth can join to keep them active and out of gangs.

Speak with the youth, show them that they have a choice in shaping their future without being in a gang.

First off, Peel has to admit that there is gang activity. I have been told that gang activities happen outside

Brampton. I have heard that "the gang members" leave Brampton to commit the crime, that they do not commit the crime in their own neighbourhoods. We need to educate the police on how to deal with gang members if they are arrested. Instead of turning them into "informants" and placing their life in jeopardy, they should be educated on the resources available in the community to help them exit gangs. In Toronto, they have "Breaking the Cycle". We need something similar here in Peel.

We need to ensure the creation of safe diversified communities. There is power in numbers, and those who do not necessarily want to be involved in gangs join due to their geographic establishment, and as a way to protect themselves against the gangs themselves. Ensuring that the quality of lifestyles is the same across the community will help reduce the problem. Once an area is "old", it calls for lower rent, which brings about youth who see their parents struggling to put food on the table and just want to feel empowered and know that they can break free of poverty. This makes them turn to violence, as it is a quick-fix for that feeling of power. We need kids to get involved in activities. Force them if need be. It is proven that children with extracurricular activities stay out of trouble more than those without. Don't let children get 'bored' as that is cause for mischief. There also need to be tools in schools to help children see the light in regard to their employable futures. There should be classes on personal finances, and classes that explore career paths, and take trips to multiple workplaces to explore their options.

Peel presence should be increased and specific areas where gang related activities occur should be targeted.

More free educational methods of teaching the community at large about gangs such as conferences or information sessions.

I would like to see more outreach. Also, it is difficult for a 14 year old who is accustomed to large amounts of cash at his/her disposal to leave the gangs when there is no real opportunity for him/her to make money. Employers will not hire someone so young under normal circumstances let alone when they have a youth record, gang tattoos, etc. Paid programs might help, as well as places that would assist with financial cost of removing gang tattoos.

Support youth, support teachers, support law authorities. Have community supports and activities to keep them out of trouble. Have enough money coming into these homes to buy food and shelter for all members of the household. Encourage part-time work for these individuals without taking all resources away

Invest further funding to help strengthen support groups (within schools, community centers, etc.). Add further supports to transition youth from institutions and community. Look into other deterrents or incentives for those youth involved to turn around their lifestyle or to deter the young from getting involved.

There also needs to be some education and pieces around addressing "snitching" and intimidation tactics used to deter reporting on those involved in gang related activities or those associated with gangs; this is true for both youth, concerned citizens of Peel and those who work/come into contact with these youth through various programs.

Explore; conduct more research and possible drivers' analysis to understand what is driving youth gang involvement. Develop concrete recommendations regarding next steps resulting from this research. If such research already exists, piggy-back on it, but compare the research to Peel's situation. Tap into already existing data and collect new data where required. Create a plan on how to move forward based on data and research rather than pre-conceived notions about youth gangs and youth violence. Increase

awareness of youth gangs and youth violence. I am a resident of Peel, a parent (admittedly of a toddler), and a Regional employee. Yet, I have never heard anything about youth gangs.

Perhaps, you have awareness campaigns within schools, but younger parents should be made aware of the risk as well. Highlight need for parental involvement/strong family connections to reduce gang violence. Get parents involved.

Stop pretending that it doesn't exist or that it is going to go away. It is getting worse.

I would like to see an end to youth gangs everywhere.

Peer pressure is a strong motivator to join a gang. We need a strong message from within the racial community involved to move kids away from gang involvement.

Address the issues openly and honestly. Start by identifying steps on how improvements are going to be made. Keep issues and tactics focused with key success indicators. In areas where crime is rising, increase outreach immediately, including returning community policing stations in neighbourhoods and increasing presence in communities through schools and social groups.

Address the root; family!!! It starts with family breakdown, single moms, economical and lack of job opportunities.

In order for communities to be truly successful, there must be a sense of inclusion. That's not to say, "you guys are criminals who continually break the law, and that's okay." It is to say, we recognize the problems and we are willing and want to work with you to help re-direct your life path. There is no question that this is an incredible task. Because the task at hand is so daunting, people choose to look the other way and hope the problem goes away or at least doesn't directly affect them. And because we are turning our backs on this problem and these people, we are only increasing the likelihood and future growth of more youth gangs. In short, exclusion only magnifies the problem.

Quit blaming the police. Community leaders need to take some responsibility, and not deflect the blame to issues like policing or racism.

Start to recognize the problem.

My initial reaction is to arrest them all and put them in jail. However, I think you need to begin with the youngest and teach them there is a better, more productive way of life. I do believe Peel makes available all kinds of social programs and options OTHER than gangs. My neighbours' kids are enrolled in sports programs so I don't quite know where these undesirable people come from. Having subsidized housing on the other side of the park is our primary suspect. However, kids often pull up in expensive late model cars. Where are they getting the money from to purchase them? So teaching them when young, followed with some kind of rehabilitation for those who are initially caught, followed with serious action with consequences (jail time?) - however - is being in a gang a criminal offence? No - catching them in a criminal act - good luck! They have a GREAT ability to scatter when anyone of authority is present. Also, I bet you will get lots of responses to this survey like: "What gangs? We don't have gangs in Peel!" Raising the awareness worries me, because if the kids don't know there are gangs, they won't join or form them? Romanticizing gangs will only result in LA or New Jersey type - or Jane/Finch gangs - with gang wars and guns. We aren't there yet (I don't think). I think these roaming gangs we have now are more focused on

terrorizing people and property, or selling/buying drugs. More police presence is required. Subsequent to some of the more serious issues on my street, the police started cruising by, which I think has helped. The drug deals are still going down - LOTS!! - but the personal intimidation has diminished - for which I am extremely thankful.

I don't know, but something has to be done to get rid of the problem.

Have more knowledge – there is not enough awareness. Be more involved.

Engage in dialogue with the community and fully educate the community so that we are dealing with facts rather than supposition.

Increased social skills programming.

Monitor park areas and open spaces especially in the evening and at night for drug activity/gang hangouts. This must be done every night and at random times. Limit the areas these gangs can meet up.

Be very tough on youth crime, especially gang related crimes.

Implement program to better address the issue. Create employment opportunities and easier ways for youth to begin earning so that they are not tempted to engage in illegal activities as a means to earn income. Begin educating youth from a young age, begin engaging them before it's too late. When they are teenagers it is way too late. At that point, their minds are stubborn and they already feel like they know everything there is to know.

I would like them to invest in more recreation activities and mentorship programs.

Avoid entering youth, who have made detrimental decisions, into the criminal justice system. The youth gang situation won't improve by locking up those involved. Leaders can use positive reinforcement and preventative measures such as creating no-cost after-school programs so youth have other options from which to choose. These types of programs do not have to be affiliated with schools either (ie. Drop-in centers in recreation facilities; free sports leagues; peer mentoring).

Address the situation hands-on and try maybe harsher punishments to avoid re-occurrence.

Take a stand, too many random drive-bys and innocent kids getting hit in the crossfire. Figure out a way to deal with gun control.

Find good role models to inspire and help youth see alternatives.

We must find outside activities such as sports and/or clubs in which the less fortunate, or the children of the working poor, can join and participate in sports organizations and clubs. We have to find a way to make these activities affordable. As the saying goes "Idle hands are the work of the devil". Let's come up with programs that interest the youth and keep them busy with goals in mind.

More cameras! Cameras in parks and school areas would deter or eliminate crime and vandalism.

Increase service providers to engage and mentor youth into positive pro-social activities.

Undecided.

More awareness and communication as to what gang related activities are going on in my neighbourhood (ie., social media). Malls such as Square One should ban loitering with more police/and or more security presence.

Reinforce that it is not acceptable.

Better awareness for our community, particularly the older resident's seminars, bulletins, increased patrols of areas known for gangs. Keep on their policies and efforts, and take this issue seriously and make it a priority.

Be aware of the rising problem and have government funded programs to get youth involved in programs.

Take positive action to curtail the violence, keep on top of it and follow the trend closely, compile statistics.

Better protection in our community.

Create more recreational in parks for older kids (parks are designed mostly for toddlers). In Paris they have the concrete (unbreakable, with wire metal net) ping pong tables in parks and older kids enjoy playing it. Or space for local kids to play soccer freely, not only for organized groups.

Aim at improving the justice system as the most effective way to reduce youth involvement in gangs.

Raise awareness through ad campaigns, similar to those in place for mental health awareness in recent years.

Prevention and rehabilitation programs are IMPORTANT!

I'd like the media to report where the gang activities are most prevalent and see more police visible in these areas. It's like pulling teeth to find the phone numbers to call to report graffiti and when you get a number you're passed onto someone else. Post these numbers for easy access!

More activities to take guns off the street. Police to target and charge known gang leaders.

There must be more discussion and community involvement. In Peel, especially in Mississauga, individualism persists. There is no community connection. You don't know your neighbors. No effort to integrate.

Reduce it and promote ways of stopping crimes such as bullying.

Implement programs that have strong community support.

Tougher laws/sentences.

Find out from the youth what they need. Don't just have the "adults" decide what is needed. Youth involvement from those likely to move to gang culture needs to be heard.

Increase awareness of community members about the reality of youth gang activity in Peel.

I don't know.

Reach out to the families that have a gang member living there, support these youth one-on-one and allow them to become active with a job or education program. If they are able to live properly back in this society, provide them with protection if they fear for their life.

Engage with the community members and youth involved in gangs to get their perspectives and build on their strengths.

I think parents and guardians should be allowed to instill discipline more to their children including smacking.

I would like to see the community leaders and others dismantle all of the youth gangs in Peel so our region is a safe place to live for all, including the youth that were in gangs.

Provide more positive mentoring and alternative school programs.

Educate the community on how to deal with this issue.

Provide jobs and training support. Tougher laws on guns. Mass education and involvement of parents in youth development even if they reach the adult age.

Youth need to feel that they are an important and valuable part of Peel.

More awareness and information to youth in the community. Done without telling youth what not to do but in a way that they will be receptive to.

I might be slightly sheltered but I only know of the statistics, I have not experienced any of it.

We need to create jobs for all youth. They generally won't get into trouble if they are working and have hope for their futures.

Post in newspapers what signs to look out for within the community concerning gangs` objectives and work on this, but also be accountable with clear, measurable objectives followed by follow-up on progress and outcomes (not just political blathering and ad-hoc committees, projects that are just thrown together, the results of which never see the light of day). Everything has to be purposeful and directed.

Help the children and youth impacted by it as early as possible.

I am not knowledgeable about the youth gang situation in Peel.

Get schools involved in discussing the gang situation and get schools to offer more after school programs.

Inform the residents of the localities of potential and already established gangs.

Provide more counseling and programs at the early prevention level.

I don't know enough about the gangs in Peel. The schools should have counselors who talk to the students about the effect that gangs have on their life and their families.

Involve those very same kids/youths who are at-risk in the entire process.

Increased awareness among teachers of gang activity and bullying in public schools. Determining which students may be at greatest risk, and developing a plan that best assures their safety and creates for them a good learning environment.

Take control, if need be, work with the gang to understand why they continue that route and negotiate a way out for them.

I feel this survey and the work being proposed is a good starting point.

Form a committee and research best practice options for dealing with gang issues. More social programs in the community after school hours (basketball courts, baseball diamonds, youth employment skill programs, etc.). Find out more information on how gangs operate and what it entails to be a part of a gang. Implement more community agencies that offer youth a voice and space - more early identification of problematic behaviours/presenting factors in children/youth who may move to gang involvement.

Continue to research solutions (and causes). Be proactive and establish interactive programs (usually sports programs).

I'd like to know more about it.

More co-operation between police, community, schools and social agencies, so that troubled youth do not fall through the cracks.

My impression is that police work hard to apprehend gang members but very often suspects are simply released back on the streets without any further action. I think that's a waste of money. If individuals are identified and apprehended there needs to be a major investment in rehabilitation and/or punishment rather than spending decades chasing, apprehending and releasing the same people repeatedly.

Offer alternative activities after school and on the weekends.

Give kids somewhere to go after school and something to do. Make it cool that they want to be there. Hold parents accountable for their kids not being in school and getting in trouble.

Provide education for teachers on PD days so they can try to connect with at-risk youths and offer them alternative programs at school. I am a newly graduated teacher and feel I know absolutely nothing about how to deal with anything gang-related. Not sure whether educating the kids directly in something like an assembly would work because some youth just shut off and don't listen, even in assemblies that affect them like anti-bullying assemblies. There must be a way of reaching the kids in smaller groups, get them to connect with something positive, hope for the future.

Create more extra-curricular activities for reasonable (and I mean reasonable) prices. Bring Toastmasters

for children.

Stop migration of criminals from other areas to Peel.

Initiate programs and activities to keep kids out of gangs.

Enabling disadvantaged youth to participate in sports programs such as hockey.

Try to focus on the youth and deter them from joining gangs. Try to find alternatives to joining a gang.

More and regular police presence, more neighbourhood support and watching for kids making a mess, and support from police to call in and report them.

Form more neighbourhood watches. More parental involvement in sporting activities. There must be programs for single parent households as I feel that this is the area where gang members are mostly recruited.

Gain control over situation - stronger police presence and tougher punishments.

Make gang members repay the victims.

Admit there is a problem and begin looking at a multi-pronged co-ordinated solution.

There should be programs for the youth to make them more useful for the community. Teach them through action, the feeling of self-worth. The programs actually need to start at elementary Levels. The idea of self-worth, hard work. Kids need to be given a reality check, when they think they can do and say what they want, it's not so. Freedom does come with a great responsibility. Civic sense is something missing, as kids have lots of options, and opinions, they are important but it is also important for them to know they can't always get what they want. Parents need to reinforce these ideas at home, and sadly this does not happen.

Lobby to eliminate the Young Offenders Act.

To make it more public that it is in our areas and for people to be more watchful.

I feel community awareness along with a much better police response time to the small incidents will help quite a bit.

Treat them as Adults and don't allow them to operate under "being a minor".

There have to be serious consequences or it will happen again. I do not think they really care about how their criminal actions affect others so I really don't see those that create these crimes being treated as "special".

Community leaders are there to lead those interested in progress and improving themselves and the community. Parents and gang member should be disciplined and be responsible for damages to property; tougher sentencing - house arrest and community services.

First identify the community gangism; I mean which nationalities have more gangs, approach their

leaders, give warning to their parents. BE TOUGH.

To have more awareness of the subject.

Address it - for all I know, leaders already are. This questionnaire is evidence that the issue is being addressed. I have low knowledge of the issues and no idea what I can do personally to help. I would like to be better educated.

State that we WILL combat gangs where they hang out and gather information. Detect leaders and disassemble. Contact other cities like L.A. and learn from their successes and failures. Establish exit programs and "former gang" programs.

Have a prevention program- if a teacher/parent suspects youth gang involvement, create a HOTLINE to assist the youth in removing themselves from involving themselves. Perhaps there is pressure to join a gang although one doesn't really want to join.

As I had no idea we had a serious youth gang issue in Peel, I believe the first thing would be to educate the public. If I knew there was a youth gang situation I would be more likely to keep an eye on my neighborhood and make sure that out of place behaviour is brought to the attention of my neighborhood watch association and the police.

Provide more education and support to at-risk youth. Assistance, employment opportunities and mentoring program by the ex-gang members for youth presently involved in gang activities.

It's only going to get worse if this issue is ignored. With socio-economic factors at play, more funding needs to be injected into this area. More opportunities available for children affected can create inclusion and hope for a brighter future. Regardless of where they come from, they need to feel that they are going to be a part of and contribute to the future of this city.

Utilize accurate information of those who are former gang memberd and have cleaned themselves up from the gang life. They are the best experts, and have first-hand knowledge of what lures youth into gangs and criminal lifestyles. Also, share data between law enforcement and the community, and utilize a joint effort to eradicate the gang problem and share the funding which is directed in the majority to the black community.

Prevention.

Educate children at a young age and also help support parents who are financially not able to be at home to spend time with their children because they need to work as they may be working two jobs or are on the poverty line.

I feel like they should approach gangs with a more understanding view.

Use relevant resources in a more effective, co-ordinated, preventative manner. (Education, housing, police, counseling, health care, etc).

Inform more people about the situation and enforce greater consequences on offenders.

Stronger charges from the police.

School should be from 9 to 4:30 pm. Most kids' parent(s) work. Kids go home to an empty house or more often end up hanging out at the malls or in donut shop parking lots in groups/gangs, often getting into trouble. Some high schools get out at 2:30 pm leaving high school kids with a lot of time between getting out of school and when their parent(s) come home. There should be mandatory supervised study halls with no free periods and opportunities to play sports and learn various craft skills in free time. In the evenings the schools should be open for students to play organized games of basketball, badminton, floor hockey etc. Game rooms to play foosball, air hockey, pool etc. It should be called Community School and have students pay a nominal amount per year to be a member and have access to all of the after school activities. Encourage students to help organize the activities, teach sports skills to others, organize and run tournaments. Allow students to develop their self esteem and organizational skills and self confidence by playing a large role in assisting with the running and setting up of the programs. The cost of this would not be much, as you'd only need supervisors and community mentors to make sure programs run smoothly. You could have job skills workshops, job search workshops and look into a coordinator to assist students with seeking out co-op work opportunities.

You could offer life skill workshops such as cooking classes, writing workshops.

Stop the gangs by figuring out the root problem.

I think focusing on programs that will prevent or help youth to not be involved or to get out of gangs.

Most kids want to belong to a group. If appropriate group activities can be developed, hopefully kids will gravitate to these rather than to destructive gangs.

I want them to provide more opportunities for teens to be involved in that are more affordable.

I think a good first step would be to acknowledge that these youth gangs exist and to provide citizens with some tips on how to protect against being victimized. As well, I think it would be helpful to learn what steps are currently being taken to bring the situation under control and what further steps are planned.

Own the problem and address issue instead of bouncing it back and forth from one agency/organization to the other.

Create awareness with more specific statistical information and the root causes.

Engage faith groups and faith leaders.

Share how to identify early stage symptoms.

I would like the sentencing for gang related events to be much more severe; not simply probation where they often re-offend.

The judicial system is too lax. The punishment does not fit the crime. Must be more accountability of the parents and children.

I feel the community as a whole has to be kept informed of any criminal activity in their area so they are

not living in a false feeling of safety. So that as a community they can come together to keep a eye out for anything that is going on and be sure to report it to the police so they can act upon it.

Community participation should be increased.

Become more aware of the societal effects and causes of youth gangs, and also establish more programs as a way to prevent further more gangs.

I would like community leaders to have more in school presentations in communities with high levels of youth gangs about the risks of youth gangs and to introduce alternatives, such as after school programs.

Try to control it!

Take more time to understand the youth they are serving.

More funding is needed by the government for youth related programs, not cuts to funding.

Have more positive role models for youth, have the police officers and other leaders be more involved with the youth gangs so they are not viewing authority figures as mean or negative. Encourage good behaviour and promote positive youth behaviour rather than focusing on the negative.

Create/encourage social enterprise opportunities in partnership with private businesses/organizations. Involve multi-faith groups in decision making and finding solutions to youth violence.

Create awareness in the community of the impact of youth gangs.

Educate/provide tools to help parents to identify early if their child/ren has aggressive and/or bullying behavior.

Be accessible to youth experiencing issues with gang violence and peer pressure. Be physically available to support and inspire this age group.

We need more awareness of how present it is in the community. Provide education for students and individuals on how to deal with gang members in their communities.

Create more job opportunities for youth, and encourage parents to supervise their children.

Find out the root of the problem. Prevention not reaction.

Drop all fees for teenagers to attend organized and drop-in sports and recreation, or make it easier to get special funding. More police presence in parks and deserted parking lots to dissuade drug deals. More police curfew checks for youth with court-ordered curfew. Educate teachers on better identifying youth with learning difficulties, or youth who tend to be followers, and increase in-school programs such as peer-mentoring, social groups for marginalized youth, etc. Offer frequent presentations at schools or in the community to educate parents on the signs of gang-involved youth and signs of drug dealing and offer accessible, affordable parenting classes or support groups for parents of difficult teens. Provide funding for Attendance Counselors at all schools to complement the social workers. They would become involved specifically in locating and engaging truant youth and helping them find out the underlying

reasons for their truancy to address it. There are many programs focused on counseling for substance use, and yet none that I know of for counseling to prevent/address becoming involved in the distribution and selling of drugs.

Inform others about the youth gang situation and ask the community to respond collectively to support the younger generation.

Focus on prevention and re-integration.

Other than speeches, community leaders should be involved more in terms of commitment to counter this issue. And the City should involve all ethnic groups as well. Reach out to those pockets which are unheard, unnoticed and never participate in any activities.

Do research to confirm the causes. Involve youth in the process of creating solutions and identifying the issues.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. SOCIAL SECTOR COLLABORATION WITH POLICE.

More community awareness, programs to reflect the diverse population (through specific language needs), more after school programs, more entry-level jobs for students, community policing.

Continue and enhance existing programs in the schools.

Get to the root causes. Working with at-risk youth is the answer. Asking police to arrest and charge and enforce is reactive and does not work in preventing the problem from growing. It only deals with current gang members, not future gang members. We need social agencies and others not related to law enforcement to step up and be more proactive. I realize that may mean more money is needed.

I'm strongly opposed to tougher laws as a way of combating the problem. I believe that community leaders need to work with this marginalized group at an early age.

Community leaders need to take the time to assess each neighbourhood at risk in the Peel communities and really see what programs and services are needed in these areas.

Address the issue from a root causes perspective.

Address the root causes – POVERTY, RACISM.

Provide more after school, meaningful programs and activities. More jobs for youth year round, especially during the summer holidays (keeps them off the street). Schools need to have meaningful activities such as marching bands as seen in high schools and post secondary institutions in the USA. Get teenagers involved in making decisions and give ideas on what activities should be introduced in schools; give them ownership of specific projects.

We must determine what causes this situation and draws youth into gangs. I believe this can only be achieved through respectful and open communication with youth both in and outside of gangs.

Acknowledge that it exists as well as its severity. Plan and explain to the community what they are doing

to deal with this issue.

Youth who feel marginalized or struggle in the school system and can't get sufficient access to supports will find other means of engagement, even negative ones. Also important to look at the role systemic discrimination/racism plays in moving youth into gangs.

Endorse, support and help fund to all for a proactive approach implementing mentor, one/one council, activities and promotion of training/education.

Lobby for much more severe penalties with the law. Monitor the success of any youth programs funded by the public. Keep only the ones that work.

Here it is in order: 1. Education 2. Family Integration 3. Jobs 4. Extra-curricular activities beyond school

The community and political leaders are doing their part but we need more ordinary community members to take part in youth projects.

When a youth is under house arrest, they should have a system in place for the youth to go to the youth program provided by the community WHERE IT WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL than sitting at home.

Facilities exist. Advertise them more. Up to them to use them.

First be proactive and not wait until murders increase in the Region. It is only the end of January and we've had 6 violent incidents. How many more do we need before we become reactive. As a community worker we know the signs, the conditions in which gangs/youth violence thrive....let's start now!! Involve all stakeholders in discussions, planning, implementation, evaluation from the beginning. Advocate for culturally appropriate services and programming; think outside the box ie. alternative modalities of addressing the problem. Creation of a "Community Safety Plan" for the Region that includes the thoughts expressed above and as many partners as possible.

Community leaders need to reach out to schools and families to build programs and provide services for these young people. The waitlists for all programs are very long in Peel and more \$ needs to be poured into existing programs and to create new ones. Families need the financial support to be able to involve their children in after-school activities and programs to build their self-esteem and self-confidence and provide them with opportunities to connect with same-age peers and mentors so that they may not feel that belonging in a gang is their only option to feel connected.

More funding for youth programs and after school programs in high risk neighbourhoods ie. Boys and Girls Club of Peel.

More awareness via media.

I would like for them to research the reasons youth have for joining gangs. If gang members joined all willy-nilly, then they would have no reason to want to leave so bad. I do not believe that all of them CHOOSE that lifestyle.

Provide funding for after school programs and have police officers present in schools.

More visible programs to redirect youth interests to provide an alternative to gangs.

More stringent punishments for those convicted of gang related crimes.

Pay their taxes.

More positive relations with Police and youth. Police used to be role models, now the youths just fear and hate them!

Form control groups with counseling by young volunteers.

Learn to educate everyone and not just themselves! Work together as a community.

The behaviour that leads youth into the gang environment must be recognized and understood in each case at the earliest possible time after starting school, so a focus in the training of new teachers might include how the behaviour is recognized and how it can be mitigated, which means the teacher has to understand the individual environments of their students, and refer them appropriately within the human resources.

Acknowledge it and go around to schools speaking about it.

Create more options to keep the youth active. Free access to sports and fitness.

Support programs that work with youth in both prevention and reintegration.

Prevention and rehabilitation is always better than jail.

Study the issue like they are now and involve various community leaders in a cohesive, comprehensive plan.

I wish I knew!

I would like community leaders to recognize that there is increased youth gangs in Peel. I think some councillors are naive to think that their wards are immune to youth gangs. These gangs don't stop at the borders. If it hasn't hit all wards - it will.

1. Preventative social programs. 2. Intervention (social justice with little police involvement, if any). 3. Support programs for those wishing to come out of gangs. 4. Support programs for those affected by any violence, gang related or not.

Accept it as a reality that must be addressed.

Make the community aware of the problem and how big and close to us that it is. Promote community youth programs like THE DAM.

Where I live, "gang" activity is really just down to graffiti. I'm not aware of overt violence or criminal activity such as thefts and drugs. I'd love to see a fine in line with the cost to bring the defaced property back to its original state. When I take the GO train through Long Branch (where I used to live) the

buildings that line the tracks make the area look like a ghetto - as though no one cares. We can't let our neighbourhoods get to that state.

Understand it and work together to develop initiatives to combat the problem.

Use sports such as hockey and soccer to engage youth in activities. Raise money through private and government contributions. Work with government to set up a program where the government will match contributions made by people and businesses.

More job opportunities for youth. More support for single parents with children and youth.

Talk about it more and share specific knowledge with the public.

Reward for good behavior. Encourage youth to take part in events and provide them with responsibility and recognition in the society.

Understand that gangs gain influence in a community when youth feel they have no opportunities or anyone who cares for them.

I think they are doing the best they can with limited resources (both personnel and funding). Need more of both from all levels of government.

Collaborate and work together to address the issues. A multi-dimensional response is needed because youth committing crime is often multi-dimensional as well.

There needs to be a concerted and coordinated effort on behalf of the police, the Region of Peel, the area municipalities, the education system, the public health system, and key agencies that play a role in justice/reintegration/treatment and support.

APPENDIX B

In what ways, if at all, do you feel impacted by gang violence in Peel?

Would not go to a bank machine alone at night; careful when out walking in the dark, winter or summer.

I am impacted because I have children and I have to educate them that the tattoos, sagging pants, colours and violent actions are not the way to live. The media doesn't help, that's why I took cable out of my house, plus I control their internet usage as well. As a father it is my duty to educate my kids on a constant basis, because the gang culture is everywhere. If you deny it, you're living in a dream. So as a parent we must protect our children by leading as an example in our own homes.

I live in a nice neighbourhood in Mississauga. Low income neighbourhoods are within walking distance. My kids are no longer in high school but they did talk openly about gangs in other schools (not their school?) so they were aware of it. We are white, and they characterized it as black and brown students who were involved, hence involvement was by race. I can't verify but if this is true we need to reach out to those kids and integrate them into something community based. I personally don't feel impacted myself but I care about my community (hence why I am doing this survey) and am concerned about poverty and availability of excellent high quality social housing, which I would like to see our resources be dedicated to, and perhaps with increased social connections the gang problem would be manageable.

There has been graffiti in the neighbourhood. There are outside gang members hanging around and selling drugs to the secondary schools in my community.

I see much gang violence around but not too sure if they are just a group of friends calling themselves a "gang"!

Increased violence in schools.

I'm always looking over my shoulder to see who is around. I'm afraid for myself and family members when we are out at night. This is no way to live.

The three recently killings in January 2013, senseless and sad.

The effects that it takes hearing about the violence on resident safety including my own. Fear within the community and feeling sometimes hopeless and helpless when I hear of gang violence and tragedies stemming from that.

My neighbourhood suffers acts of vandalism.

As a senior I am afraid to go out alone to a store or mall after dark. Feel very concerned when I see a large group of older teenagers hanging out in my neighbourhood. And home invasions are very disconcerting.

I do not go to the areas in Peel where there is gang violence.

To date, I am not personally impacted by gang violence. However, as a community volunteer who is very much interested in youth and their success - this subject is very important to me, and we need to manage our youth before they have a need to form gangs.

The fear of the unknown.

My younger brother has been involved with youth gangs in Brampton, he was selling drugs, which was causing many family problems.

Not feeling safe to go out into my neighborhood parks after dark.

As a parent, my concern is for my child and other children in our community who are impacted by the violence in our region. It saddens me that my child has to live with a sense of fear in her own neighbourhood that at any given moment, she could be attacked or bullied or worse by kids who have no regard for how they are affecting others.

Community is becoming increasingly unsafe. Scared of stray bullets.

Afraid to go out solo at night.

I have never been personally impacted by youth gang violence, but I remember hearing people within my high school as well as friends who went to other schools talking about it.

Fear for the safety of my own kids.

I have seen gang members around Lake Aquitane often and it disturbs my sense of safety. Also have seen graffiti in the underpasses along the bike paths.

It's getting very bad and worse by unemployment. There are no jobs that people can find.

Increase in graffiti , vandalism and small petty crimes in the community.

Insecure neighbourhoods as kids might walk home alone.

It is a growing concern for the people in Peel and showing a bad influence on other kids.

Yelled at by youth, scared by a group of youth, inappropriate remarks by a group of youth. I personally experienced it. I picked up pizza and came out of the store. A group of youth was standing beside a jeep, all smoking, one youth asked me to come and join them and another one said 'she is an old aunty', they all started laughing loud and I was scared and rushed towards my car.

No personal experience in our area that I know of.

Tagging throughout Brampton and especially in our neighbourhoods. Not feeling safe going to places, parks alone, at a certain time of day.

Observing inappropriate activity between youth after dark.

So far just by the graffiti that has been in our neighbourhood which I cannot stand.

I am 26. Though me/my friends/family have never been directly influenced by gangs, my younger sister (now 19) has experienced some bullying. I feel very safe in Peel, but I am concerned for young children who may not be as fortunate as I have been.

Not feeling safe in the community.

Increased break-ins in my neighbourhood and I was a victim of this intrusive behaviour.

Peer pressures at school.

It is not safe to play outside anymore. It is not safe to walk alone to school anymore. It is not safe to go for a walk anymore. Something needs to be done for sure.

We are becoming prisoners in our own homes and feel unsafe to walk in our neighborhood. The saying is "your home is your castle" not your fortress.

If a person lives in Peel they are directly or indirectly impacted by gang violence in Peel. A gang of youth jumped by brother and robbed him of his possessions.

Security, violence.

Bad atmosphere.

Our home was broken into and thousands of dollars worth of jewellery was stolen. The police officer that responded said that he had been to 2 break-ins in our neighbourhood that week. The young gang members do it and if they are caught they get a slap on the wrist and are let go. We felt that Peel police did little to solve the crime. They could increase patrols or have an unmarked car target the areas with high break-in rates.

I'm afraid to go anywhere alone and I do not feel safe anywhere after dark.

Gang violence affects everyone.

More situational awareness, particularly in certain geographic areas of Peel.

There has been an increase in crime in Peel and not enough resources are available to assist with this issue. I work within the criminal justice system and see an increase in the level and severity of crimes being committed. A lot of these crimes are crimes of necessity and could have been prevented by resources and programs that assist youth.

Fear of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

We were mugged by a 'gang'.

Feel unsafe at night.

I often feel unsafe at night.

I am worried about my kids going to schools affected by youth gangs.

When I hear and see drunken youth in front of my home making noises and there is no sign of a police presence.

Nothing directly, I just feel concerned for my children's safety.

There are many shootings, drug deals gone bad that impact innocent citizens living in Peel - just going about their business. There are areas my kids won't go to - for fear of getting mugged or jumped. We should be able to freely go anywhere in Brampton and feel safe- but we don't.

I live at Kennedy and Vodden, too close to Orenda where Kesian was murdered. My daughter was robbed for her phone walking down Vodden from Centry Gardens.

The attraction to gang lifestyle.

As a parent myself, I fear the negative influences in the school system and the media. It appears the "image" of youth gangs is idolized by the younger ones and the media exploits this.

There are certain areas in Brampton where I do not feel safe. If I have to go to those areas, I prefer not to go alone.

I feel it is sad that young kids are drawn in to gangs just to feel they are popular.

Sad when I hear the news.

I see many racial groups forming and not sure if youth gangs are organized by new immigrants into Canada advising their kids to keep each other safe by forming these gangs which are dangerous to the Canadian Peel residents. That's why educating the young and the parents is crucial. I don't want new immigrants who are feeling threatened to form these destructive gangs.

Confusing question: if I understand correctly, I do not feel impacted by gang violence. I feel gang violence is kept within the gang lifestyle, aside from the vandalism of tagging and "markings" of their territories.

Just that it seems like every week there are robberies and break-in. It starts to make you feel like your neighbourhood isn't safe anymore.

Don't know as I am not aware what the situation is with gangs in Peel; need to be educated.

I do not feel safe being in Peel.

Hearing about it in the news and surprised that it is in the neighbourhood.

House and car break-ins.

I see little to no impact in my life, save for perhaps some graffiti in my neighbourhood.

I am aware that there are neighbourhoods in Peel that I would not want to wander into.

I feel that my kids are at risk of being labeled by police, just because of their parents: me and my husband come from another country, they do not look anglo but they were born and raised in Canada, people always ask them "where are you from"; I am ok with that as long as other do not assume things about them, stereotypes are wrong.

As a parent, I get concerned about my high school children being victims of gang violence.

Thus far, I have not been personally impacted by gang violence and I feel my neighbourhood is generally safe. However, the recent shooting of the young boy in his home near my place of work concerns me greatly. There have been incidents in Brampton recently that point to a breakdown in the safety of the community. We have an opportunity to be proactive and help curb these activities before things get out of control. The cost of inaction (for policing, court systems and jails) is much higher than the cost of social services; the cost to the community in terms of losing the feeling of safety is immeasurable.

In my area, drug usage is very high.

Have nieces and nephews who go to school and always fear for safety and influence.

I've had bicycles stolen off my front porch and backyard, and from the school. Our car has been broken into (but that may have been an adult). But these are little things. My children don't like going to school due to all the behaviour problems of kids in the class. But the biggest impact was yesterday - my daughter cried as we drove by the stuffed animals & memorial tributes laid out for the little boy who was shot through his living room window in Brampton. This is big...this is sad...this impacts my community!

I feel impacted by gang violence in Peel not for myself but for my son.

My young kids can't be kids. Youth like to pick on the young ones.

I live and work in Peel with youths who are stigmatized as being in a gang because they are black and they hang out in groups of 3. They have in the past got into conflict with the law individually and sometimes on their own but I would not classify them as a gang. If three white guys are hanging out and they smoke weed and they steal a car, it is not perceived so much for them to be in a gang.

I am not comfortable being out at night in some neighbourhoods in Brampton and Mississauga.

Not safe to walk around neighbourhoods or local shopping centres by yourself. I don't even feel safe walking through our parts in broad daylight.

I feel impacted by gang violence because I do not want my children to be exposed to this kind of violence which is unnecessary. I don't want to live in this kind of an environment, where safety is a concern for everyone. There are more things to worry about without having to deal with this issue.

You become aware of which areas of the city you don't go in. If you see a group of individuals either at the mall or wherever, I make a point to avoid them totally. I see it in the newspapers, hear it on the

radio, or see it on TV - youth are involved in crime, home invasions, gang violence, drugs - there is no need for them to waste their lives on this. We are all being impacted in one way or another - we are weary of strangers, we lock our doors, walk away from situations.

I have young kids and family kids that could easily join gangs. I have a concern that kids not involved with gangs can get hurt.

My son was assaulted by four youth - never caught.

Avoid certain areas.

Do not feel safe on the streets or at home.

When you learn that one of your co-workers children was killed because of his involvement with gangs.

I am not impacted by gang violence, I am more impacted by teens who have low self esteem and confidence, who lack support and guidance, these are the ones who become misfits. They are not necessarily gang affiliated.

I do not feel impacted as of yet, but I am noticing trends in certain areas of my community that raise caution. Hurontario and Dundas is for me an unsafe location, and there are others rising up.

I have moved from Brampton to Caledon to try to distance myself from the increasing crime in Brampton and also ensure my children do not attend specific schools in Brampton.

As I stated, my son became involved in youth gangs in Peel at the age of 12. Almost 6 years later, we are still impacted. It affected my other children, myself, my job - every aspect of my and his life.

Walking in the community, theft, desperation by really poor people especially immigrants or single parent families or marginal people.

I have three young daughters, two in high school and one in elementary school. They are being exposed to so much at school, on TV and games that it worries me.

I have been witness to a gang related act of violence and several events in which there was heightened activity. As a worker who comes into contact with these youth, and sentiments shared by other youth workers, we have experienced both intimidation tactics from the community as well as harassment from the Police.

Fear for safety at malls / bus terminals.

I don't feel safe in my neighbourhood at night....know there is rampant drug dealing and other criminal activities going on late at night.

I don't feel impacted but the tags are everywhere and it costs us taxpayers money to remove them.

A family member works in the education sector and the children that she teaches are noticing the

violence in the community increase. There seems to be a concern about what is happening but people don't know who to turn to to make improvements.

Since I don't go out often in the evening, I've had no direct impact with gang violence.

So far, I don't believe our family has been directly impacted by this issue.

I grew up in Mississauga. Gangs should be dealt with ruthlessly by the police and the community.

Not impacted yet. Have a young son who I'm worried about.

Living next to a park there are drug deals going down all hours of the day and night. I've been terrorized by the gangs, starting initially with egging, then verbal abuse, they sit on the electrical box at the end of my property and intimidate me. They drink openly, smoke dope, and god knows what else. Cars pull up and exchanges are made. SWAT team has been here a couple of times. There was a stabbing on my street. I thought living by a park in a nice area was my dream, but these "gangs" have turned it into a bullied nightmare. I've become reclusive when they are around. Cars will park outside my house and 4 guys get out, go into the park, come back 30 minutes later, after doing ... what? This repeats itself often. My neighbours have commented on it. We are all contemplating moving. Long weekends are especially concerning. I've been "torched" with fireworks. "Guys" (some of them in their 20's) play ball type games on my garage door - at night - the banging nearly drove me crazy, and saying anything to them only resulted in more intimidation. I also feel VERY concerned for the young innocent kids that are being impacted by this type of behaviour; if I'm scared, I wonder how they feel? Or do they aspire to be part of it?

I will not walk outside at night alone and rarely at all even with someone. I rarely visit my father at his home anymore as it is in Malton, which has been a problem area for MANY years now.

Sense of feeling unsafe or watched, especially if your home is being targeted.

Indirectly with the sense of safety being threatened.

More gun violent crimes with innocent bystanders getting hurt. People driving vehicles under the influence of drugs or alcohol - they meet at the parks and then get in their cars and drive away!

Graffiti, assaults and robberies.

Certain areas and time of day will not go out in.

I just don't like to see young people who have so much potential, wasting their time and talents. Lives have been lost for senseless reasons and it's not only the person who was murdered that lost their life but also the person who committed the crime and I just think-how could this have been prevented?

Less freedom to go to certain areas out of fear you may be negatively impacted. The fear that family friends or yourself can be robbed, threatened or seriously hurt either intentionally or by accident.

I have friends who have been impacted by gang violence; I have been impacted indirectly. For example, I know where NOT to go at night and I don't always feel safe in my own home. This may not be the result

of youth violence but just the threat of violence in general (not specifically age-oriented) .

My area is generally safe, but I'm sure property value is not the best for areas that are gaining gang presence.

I just worry about the effect on tomorrow's youth.

We back and side onto a park and am always concerned when I see a group of teens loitering.

Youths hanging out in malls because they have nothing better to do, possible violent outbursts and being in the wrong place.

Graffiti, fear of groups of youths, and damaged public property.

General safety in public places.

As I age I am more nervous in my home then I was before.

School does not teach ethics or even basic respect. Problem in families that parents are struggling to make a living and no time to do their part to teach their kids. Also, the school system that teach kids to report any hitting (even just a hit on the butt) by parents, gives some kids an excuse to threaten their own parents if the kids don't get what they want.

Don't feel safe in our neighbourhood. Always watching where I am and the surroundings.

Graffiti on structures, car theft, house break-ins, stabbings and shootings at clubs.

In my area I don't really feel it. Also Neighbours Watch helps, looking after each other.

Potential for violating my family's safety/security, and generally to feel safe in the neighborhood.

The youth that go to school with the Army Cadets I supervise and train have an effect on their safety.

I have had neither contact with nor knowledge of youth gang related activities.

The amount of graffiti showing up around our neighbourhoods. Where there's graffiti there's crime! Remove the graffiti asap!!!!!! Have a graffiti patrol unit.

Drugs and gang participation generate violence and crime. We are all impacted, some in more ways than others.

The future of our children are being diminished by gang involvement. Gang violence has a social and economic impact as well.

It is very serious as crime rates are increasing and I feel unsafe in certain areas of the Peel Region.

The co-op housing always have youth gangs, you are afraid to go near the area.

Property damage.

I see media reports of criminal activity and I feel saddened for those impacted, and concerned for kids who may believe that gang participation increases their safety.

I think we are all impacted by gang violence if they are living in our home town and we do not know, until you hear someone got killed, or started a fight. They may be in our sons school.

Graffiti.

Well we know that organized crime and gangs work hand in hand. And I feel impacted by gang violence in Peel in many ways but one important way is my sense of safety and security. I see gang tags written on walls and so I know the issue exists. I want to be able to feel safe and secure walking at night in my community.

I haven't really felt impacted by gang violence other than hearing/seeing it on the news and then I felt very sorry for the families of the victims whether they reside in Peel or not.

I do not personally feel impacted by gang violence in Peel.

Wasted tax dollars for the clean up required for graffiti.

Living in fear not knowing when and where a tragedy can happen.

Fearful of youth gangs and dangerous situations while in the community. Especially after dinner when out with my toddler.

I see the graffiti.

I fear for my safety as a young woman living alone in a new city.

Luckily for me, to date I personally have not experienced gang violence in Peel. However, I am aware of graffiti on Canada Post boxes, house and car B&E's, groups of teenagers hanging out at malls. Cyclists defying the rules of the road are a threat to me (especially on the Lakeshore in Lakeview and Port Credit).

Petty robbery/house break-ins.

House break-ins.

Thankfully I am not impacted by gang violence in Peel.

Scared to be in certain areas of a city at certain times. Worried about students I work with being hurt by gang members. Worried about potential students becoming 'gang members' and what this process entails. Barriers to helping youth/students who are already submerged in gang culture.

I have children who will be entering high school in a few years and I'm concerned about their safety at school and whether they will be exposed to dangerous youth who may pose a negative influence on them.

More vigilant when walking near groups of kids. I'm aware of doors of malls or community centres I may not use as there may be groups gathered.

As a teacher I know I may be in a position in a school to be impacted, though I've had no experience (thankfully) yet.

Robbery and drugs.

Mainly by vandalism.

Afraid to go to certain areas. Volunteer my time to help disadvantaged youth.

There is an increased presence of youth gangs in my area - Brampton North West and it makes me feel unsafe.

Graffiti.

Fear for my safety and the safety of my children.

Have not noticed it in my community.

An awareness that walking alone at night is no longer as safe as it once was, and evidence of gang symbols and "tags".

Luckily, our family has not really faced any dire situation, except once when my nephew was held up at a Timmys at a gas station on Derry and Mavis, sometime in 2005. It was not a gang, as per the definition set for the survey, I think there were 2 people. They took the 20 bucks and went off.

Graffiti/vandalism in local parks and on Hydro towers (and not removed by OPG).

I worry for my children when walking alone. Late night concerns with minimal police presence in our area.

It causes a lot of heartbreak and also a lot of money to deal with the issues.

Increase costs in every aspect of our community; security systems for safety (in homes/business/community etc), compensation for damages (theft increases cost for coverage), fear for safety to enjoyment.

I have a child.

I have not been affected. I live in a neighbourhood where I feel secure. I travel by public transit during the day and early evening, but I've never felt unsafe there either. Perhaps I'm ignorant of where the

danger lurks.

Drugs, car robberies, vandalism, small robberies, shoplifting. Influence vulnerable youth with bad example of quick money and peer support of illegal activities.

Many home robberies in my community (usually happen in early afternoon -before 3pm). Gun shots were heard (a few summers ago) within Huron Heights park.

The whole community is impacted.

Feeling the loss when we hear stories on the news.

I have never been personally affiliated or victimized in any way by gang violence thus far, so I have no recollections to relay.

Not safe going out at any time by myself, being aware of everyone and not trusting any more.

There are certain areas in Peel that I avoid due to safety concerns. I have a young child who I am very concerned about. He is not in school yet, but I am very concerned about what I have heard from friends and through my work and from clients.

Unsafe for the public, can't go out without the fear of gang violence.

I don't feel personally affected by gang violence, though I think it is an important issue in Peel.

After living in the community for almost 30 years and feeling relatively safe, I was recently compelled to install a home security system in order for my family to currently feel safe in their own home. In the last 6 weeks there have been 2 instances of criminal activity within 200 yards of my home involving firearms.

Right now there is not much impact in our area, but I feel in the future this may change, based in population increase and trends. The main trend is lack of respect for others and themselves. Also, I feel that the media is one of the most damaging contributors to the gang culture.

I am saddened by the number of youth who lose their chance at living healthy lifestyles in Peel.

I feel impacted by the fact that we have had two recent serious gun-related occurrences in this area; both perpetrated by groups of young adults. It is very upsetting to live in an area so long with basically not much happening, and then it becomes a very active area for violence.

Square One, since living in Mississauga for 34 years has a phenomenal increase of gangs. I try to avoid that location completely.

No longer feel safe in my own neighborhood to go for a walk in case someone wants to rob you at gun point.

Difficult to walk on the footpaths.

They give out a negative feeling in the community, and also make me feel unsafe. Additionally, I see them as an example of what not to do to avoid their situation, and essentially learn from their mistakes.

Noticing the graffiti or items that those in gangs have violated make me feel impacted by gang violence in Peel.

My family had to move because of gang related issues and I have young kids I don't want to see them in the gang or victimized by the gang.

I don't feel impacted. Most gang related activities start in low socio-economic neighbourhoods.

I am sometimes uneasy when alone in my home, due to the increase in home invasions.

I don't feel impacted in the Town of Caledon. Although there has been an increase in violence in the community, I'm sure it exists but it is not visible.

To be honest I am not quite sure. I feel though that young people who are of colour or visible minorities do get treated similarly by individuals who think everyone from that group is bad or from a gang. A young person will get discriminated against whether they are 'good' or 'bad' due to the fact that members of their community are signified as being 'ghetto'.

It has given me a job as I work in corrections.

There are lots of drug houses around the area that I live - youth selling drugs.

Now more and more incidents are happening in Peel area.

I am not aware of gang violence in Peel, however violence in one home impacts us all.

Bored adolescents that need something to do after school. Lack of school performance that inhibits the ability to look forward to the future. Lack of parental education of what their children are up to.

I can't say that up until this point, I have been personally impacted by gang violence in Peel however, that isn't to say that I or my members of my immediate family ever will.

I think that it impacts the way that children and youth view society and the community in which they live - kids are becoming scared to go to school and malls.

I don't feel impacted by youth gangs -- and haven't seen evidence of it. Maybe I'm 'blind' to the signs.

I feel impacted because I see and hear "the powers that be" make their decisions on assumptions, and endorsement of culturally inappropriate programs that further disenfranchise youth and communities of colour with instituted policies and procedure that continue to oppress. Funds are poured into law enforcement. This is a frustration and disappointment.

Not directly impacted but I'm afraid of the increase in gangs which can spread to other communities.

I feel most impacted by the way Police enforcement treat an average youth. The higher the youth crime rate, the higher the chance any individual will view you as a possible criminal.

I work in a job that directly interacts with gang members and gang violence. It's everywhere, boiling under the surface.

We do not have many hidden areas where young people can gather, we promote youth groups with local churches. As a result our community is pretty quiet with very little tagging as evidence. We are located in the Mississauga South Clarkson area.

My son who is 30 years old was followed by a gang of youth from Tim Hortons on his way home. Thankfully, nothing violent happened.

Not much now but if left unchecked it will be troubling.

I am not as yet, but as someone who lives and works in Peel and in particular in the human services sector, I strongly believe that we have an opportunity to learn from Toronto and put in place strategies and mechanisms to prevent Peel from falling into the same position. We see it happening....while we research and discuss the community is being impacted, strategies/activities to address these issues must happen simultaneously as we research and plan.

As a Counselor, it is devastating to see how many young people become involved in the wrong crowds and then feel as though they can't get out because the resources and supports are not available. It is frustrating that programs exist in Toronto but the Peel region has not expanded their services to focus on these young people who desperately need the help.

Break-ins. Robberies.

I do not feel that my life has been severely or even moderately impacted by gang activity. But I have met gang members, I went to high school with them, and I have seen initiations take place before my eyes. Mind you, I do not believe I live in a 'high-risk' area. This needs to stop. I understand that we may never stop gang activity from occurring, but this is an issue we need to tackle, and do so as fast as we can.

I know drug dealers in my neighbourhood and have seen them doing deals. I described these events an officer at my local police station, and was told that the house address "was not known to police", though I have seen police come to this address. I even gave this officer a list of license plates I had seen involved in deals, only to be told that none of the plates "were known to police". Immediately after my reporting, the visible activity stopped for a couple months.

As a woman of a "certain age", I do not feel safe going out alone at night.

As a youth worker, it goes and effects with my everyday life.

Not directly, but since we are advised that much if not all of the 'street art' we see is done by gang members, setting down their personal markers and statements, this we all see every day. Defaced structures are an eyesore to any responsible citizen.

I see a lot of graffiti in Meadowvale when out for nature walks.

Theft from car when inadvertently left unlocked one night. Probably local kids vs gangs. Have seen tagging in the area.

At age 59 (That age was not an option I could choose at the start of this survey so I had to choose 60+), with adult children who live in Toronto, I am somewhat insulated personally from the direct effects of gangs. However as a Realtor in Mississauga, it troubles me greatly as it impacts so many of my clients, particularly those with younger families.

I have children in high school - and I am concerned about their welfare. Gang violence hasn't directly impacted my family yet, but as seen in Toronto a stray bullet can claim victims from anywhere.

Gang violence decreases the safety of everyone in the community. It decreases the development of our children in society, as they might be afraid to go out.

I have 2 sons and a daughter who are teenagers and while I don't worry about them joining a gang, I am concerned that they may become victims of gang violence.

As above, simply by viewing graffiti that damages public areas - murals, buildings.

The youth gangs are intimidating and impact retail life by scare tactics or street level crimes being committed.

Occasionally, once or twice a year, people in my street experience break-ins to houses and cars. The nature of these intrusions appear unprofessional and casual or opportunist acts of youths.

I'm not impacted. But I feel sorry to see many youths hanging out aimlessly at the Meadowvale bus stand.

Gangs are intimidating, relationships break down, the intimidation caused by a gang of youth hanging out in large numbers whether they are actually a gang or not.

Not personally impacted but sit on fundraising committee of Safe City Mississauga and hear about it constantly as well as attended Town Hall meetings put on by my son Brad Butt, who is the Member of Parliament for the Federal Riding of Mississauga-Streetsville.

I feel like it is a bad area for kids to grow up, thus, I have already decided that once I have kids I will not raise them in Peel.

It impacts me when I see acts of violence that are gang related occur close to home. While there is a disconnect in that myself and my family are not a part of that world and would never be the target of such violence, there have been a number of incidents in Peel and Toronto of late whereby innocent people are "caught in the crossfire". As a mother of two young children not old enough to be aware of or exposed to violence, I would like to keep it that way. Young children in elementary school should not have to be aware of the fact that a young boy was shot dead last week. This is just something that young children should never be aware of. So overall, it impacts my feelings of safety in the community and the safety and innocence of my children.

APPENDIX C

Do you have any final thoughts or comments in respect to the issues raised in this survey?

Crime is down in Peel because gangs are shooting each other. It's bad for business when there is a lot of gang violence. These gangs have guns to cause major problems. Look at Regent Park for an example. Regent Park is revitalizing its community. That means the ones that they move out end up in Peel - one of the reasons why there shootings in the last years was because of this move. Safe City is doing a great job, but in my humble opinion they are out of touch with real hard core issues in the community.

Thank you for looking into this. For some reason (reading the newspapers??) I sense there is a bigger problem in Brampton than Mississauga and not sure why I think this. Also having read about two young teenagers shot and killed in Toronto recently says we need to be proactive on this. We can't follow the steps of not being effective as in the U.S. Teenagers are our future and we need to invest in them now. The justice system is very expensive and does not help people live better lives.

This issue is on the rise and it is good to see that you are addressing it.

Nope! Just try to make more understanding about what the cons of being a part of gangs are.

Give parents back their right to discipline their children. Teachers should be taught to be more cultural sensitive. Teachers and parents should work together on child's interest and well being. Police should be more culturally sensitive, and should be seen to be more of a 'friend' than a biased and prejudiced adversary.

My final thought is we don't need a survey on gang violence in Peel. We need action, we need to feel safe in our homes and schools.

Youth turn to gangs because of difficulties they face. We should find out why youth choose to join gangs and provide a nurturing environment for them.

Need more positive male role models, other leaders and stakeholders even within the political and business sector willing to contribute and not isolate but engage in change. Also more sports programs; opportunities for the youth such as a learning centre; training centre and recreational centre. More funding and collaborative investment in long-term solutions.

There needs to be research done surveying gang members in Peel/in the jails.

Parents need to spend more time with their children, watch what their children are playing (computer games that are rated just for adults, but parents don't care, they just want their children not to bother them, and that's it). Also I think as parents we have to set up a good example for our children (even for the little ones). How can you teach them not litter, if you are walking with your child and throwing candy wrap on the ground (even when sometimes the garbage can is right close to you?). Those families with gang children always blame the system, but they have to start from the inside of their family.

Most things have been covered.

Good idea. Should help community leaders to get some input as to how our community feels on this issue.

This topic has gotten a lot of play in the past two years or so ... let's identify the so-called gangs and deal with them. However, let's find a positive outlet for our youth. Larger jail is not it.

Look forward to the deliberation.

Think out of the box.

Something needs to be done about youth gangs, we should start by educating youth in the high schools.

I am a victim of assault during robbery at my work and when after that I applied for police as I have the feeling and army/police family background. I realize there should be more local language people in police as we have Urdu in Mississauga and Punjabi in Brampton after English. So select and train more people with language so that youth can communicate and understand police without hesitation. At home discussions with parent also big issue with police. I did not receive any compensation from criminal injury compensation board also WSIB just stopped paying. So this thing also creates stress and violence in young people also give criminal and gang youth more encouragement. They feel they are successful in their movie like heroism life.

I think we need to invest in programs that focus on mental health, substance use, disconnection to family, community and school. Parent workshops and youth mentoring is key.

I disagree with the definition that targets small groups of youth and labels them as gangs.

I like your ideas about life skills training, job training and long term mentorship programs. I think big changes such as these will need to be made to have an impact. It may cost a lot to create and implement these new prevention services but in the long run we will end up saving a lot of money.

It would be nice to know more about what the issues are and how deep the problem is. I feel we are shielded.

Not really. Growing up in England it was same.

Have police patrol neighbourhood area houses all around in Mississauga in late nights.

Great idea that a forum has been opened to the residents of Peel to speak up and address the issues. Too bad that there wasn't communication extended for residents to join this committee or task force. I would have volunteered.

I think government should help families affected by gang violence. If a family is lacking a male role model, good models should come up and help the community, government and school in decreasing the gangs and their negative impact on the society. Families should be told that one of the root causes of gangs is weak relationships.

Our Federal and provincial government should show more interest and provide funds for the after-schools program.

Now is the time to come up with a plan in consultation to address this growing problem. In my experience, it is getting worse. Streets are not safe. A system needs to be created where there are services for youth and their parents. Immigrant parents with lack of English language skills are bullied and abused by their own children. I am one of them. Please do something about it. Now please.

I wish anyone involved in trying to engage the youth of today, a big go luck.

Parenting skills is a big issue, it all starts at home.

I hope some adequate and tangible efforts will be drawn from this survey to engage youth in positive programming.

Yes, we need to get rid of our Young Offenders Act. Kids know what is wrong and right. Maybe they will think twice if jail is the only option.

An ounce of prevention is worth pounds of cure.

I hope the results are shared with stakeholders, politicians, and educators.

Gang violence has excelled tremendously and our children or young adults are the victims of ridiculous deaths. Stricter laws and educated programs for guilty parties who have fallen into the web of gang violence should be concentrated on for most.

Today's youth is our future tomorrow, we are not looking forward to seeing this kind of future. We want healthy, safe and good communities for our children.

Until the recent events in our neighborhood, I thought little about gang violence. Now I think about it and talk with my neighbors about this. All of us are very concerned. Is it too late to correct this problem, is my question.

I think that we as a community should come together like in the "old days" have town hall meetings in our communities to discuss the challenges we face as citizens so that we can work together with community leaders and law enforcement.

I am glad you did the survey. The population of Brampton is changing in light of the influx of residents from the Jane/Finch area of Toronto to the north end of Brampton. A greater police presence is needed and programs to divert gang activity and maintain community safety. We do not need any other 9 year old boys to be shot in their living rooms.

Social programs have been the focus for decades. But Young Offender laws are shielding perpetrators and encourages membership in gangs since there is no perceived cost to anti-social behaviour. Public shaming ... and naming ... combined with severe penalties and tight post-correctional restrictions will go a long way to discouraging gang membership. And it will reassure law-abiding public. Hug-a-thug is an outdated concept that perpetuates the problem ... perceived and in reality.

I hope the information gathered helps to address the issues.

Prevention should be the key but programs that help persons involved in gangs should be readily available. Families, schools, and the community should all work together to address and tackle the issues.

We need more police presence in our community and more literature so that we are aware how we can protect ourselves and the community.

I truly feel that we need to re-vamp the school system. They could do so much better in regard to bullying and peer pressure. The kids are there more than at home. Good values need to be taught at school and at home. But it is not the child's fault if their home life is not good. So, let's give them a good school environment that is supportive and fun and give them good mentors.

I think they can do all the surveys they want - and the top bureaucrats can sit and come up with all kinds of ideas - but unless it actually transpires into action, there is no use. Schools are trying in these neighborhoods, but need monetary support and people to run the programs after school. You need to target the kids already involved in them also.

Just that police needs to concentrate on the real crime and stop focusing on traffic patrol.

The timing of this survey is excellent. We need action now in our community before it worsens.

Education is primary here and wanted to confirm that if children are educated at the onset on the negative impact of these gangs, they would not think of joining them at a later stage.

Yes. Let's teach our kids how to be considerate, that they have a second chance. That our entire community begins to see them as people and not as objects. To become aware of the downfalls to getting involved in a gang and it's not "badass", it's not cool. Teach our kids manners and to stop looking for recognition when doing something good for someone, but rather learn to feel good by the ACT of a good gesture. Learn to take responsibility and for authorities to see these kids as someone who wants to be part of a movement- but change their thought from provoking criminal activity to positive growth and awareness.

Stay on top of the situation.

Issue is more prevalent than people are aware. Many individuals feel intimidated in their own community.

Intervention, alternatives and support are important. The problem will not go away without direct action.

Yes, if you need mentors please look in the community; advertise opportunities to get involved and motive everyone to participate! Make big announcements in community papers, radios and thru some that might be already leaders. I am at the point that I can volunteer some time, hopefully you consider all opinions. Thanks.

I don't think we can afford to pretend that there isn't a problem in Peel. It may not be evident in every neighbourhood, but certainly there are areas that I know I don't want to live in.

We have to work as a community to address this and give youth chances and also condemn media glamour of gangs and high life styles of quick money.

Do the best we can with what we have - the group QKNT is a good example of working together - <http://myqueenkennedy.ca/about.html> - just needs more buy-in from the street level - and more advertising/marketing internet/newspaper/ billboard/school/face-to-face contact. Keep up the great work.

The community leaders should do more for kids, like programs, leisure activities, jobs, and less criminal justice sanction. Jail is not the thing. It is not working out for these kids. In the black community they need more Alternative Programs, and Job Training. Racism need to be out of the mind of Peel Police. When you talk to some of these kids they will tell you that Peel police are racist.

I would hope to see more community programs that are focused on at-risk/immigrant youth run by people who look like them and could relate to them.

We need schools to be teaching more subjects that emphasize how humans interact, respect, and honor each other. Also youth need to be taught in schools the proper way to handle money in daily living and prohibit banks from turning youth into slaves by loading them with debt. More emphasis by politicians on keeping jobs in our country so youth can have a prosperous future.

Adapt a more personal touch. Adopt the KISS philosophy and a less bureaucratic approach.

I think it is great that this is being studied and hopefully something positive will come out of the study to help keep our kids out of gangs.

This survey is very one sided and doesn't bring to the service what is really required. It is time to toughen up the law and not allow a person under age to hide behind that curtain.

None, I am happy to see this survey so improvements can be made.

We need to do more and find out why youth gangs are created and how to stop at the source - the parents need to be involved. These youth need to be nurtured by feeling they are part of society and they are making a difference in their own lives but around them too. They need mentoring, give them a helping hand to start in the start direction.

Good starting point with this survey.

Satisfied that there is more attention being paid to this issue.

I believe that this is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. With the social breakdown of the family unit and family values I believe that youth join gangs to have a sense of community and family that they are lacking in their home lives so greater time and effort put into restoring values and morals and self esteem in these youths will go a long way to solving the problem.

More money should be made available to youth services. After all, they are the future of this country.

We (community) needs to step up and take responsibility, and stop passing the buck and turning a blind eye. Our children are in crises, We need to target the elementary schools, find the children that are at-risk and develop social programs for them. We have to provide assistance and guidance to families with children who may become at-risk, instead of financial supports. We offer life skills, mentoring for families, some families are lacking structure. Schools are a great resource - they can identify and support families. We need to access schools and communities to collaborate and support each other.

It is a critical issue to focus on our youth. They are all good at heart and are just trying to cry out for help and attention.

The crime rate in Brampton has increased significantly. I am very concerned about the future for my young children and may move outside Peel altogether because of this.

I think the media plays a major role in how youth/gangs are seen by the younger members of our society. It is glamorized by the media. The youth lack discernment and need to be educated to look at media with a critical view. This could be taught in the schools. Life skills need to be taught in the schools. Relationship building needs to be taught in a structured way, make it part of the curriculum. As long as the media has control I think our efforts will be challenged.

There are limited programs in Peel and most programs in the GTA are available only for those age 14 and older. I think there needs to be more available for younger age groups. From my experience the police were more part of the problem than part of the solution. Their response to me was to recommend charges and custody which only seemed to make the problem worse.

Thank you. Keep up the great work.

Once the completed survey results have been achieved, will this be shared amongst the community in Peel publicly? What will be done with the survey results, ie. next steps?

Zero tolerance at schools....no gang colours.... no gang tags.....better information to classroom teachers about possible gang activity within the school.

Again, I believe that the biggest issue affecting youth and gang situation is family. That's the area that needs to be addressed; have programs for young families, young married couples to be responsible and to teach life skills.

That my knowledge of gangs and gang-related activity is lacking.

Keeping kids out of gangs starts with a strong network of family and friends.

I believe there needs to be more after school programs that are affordable. There also needs to be particular access to mentorship programs in the skilled trades. The Peel District School Board should strongly consider rebranding, renovating and expanding their vocational schools like West Credit so that they are more attractive for youth to attend.

I'm encouraged to see that there is a realization that there is a problem. And hopeful that potentially this

will incite some corrective action.

The main problem is the Young Offenders Act. These kids know they will get a slap on the hand. The age needs to be lowered substantially. This should have been done years ago. If it had, the problems may not have escalated to the point they are at today.

There needs to be more positive programs for youth.

This survey appears to be slanted toward increased policing and criminal justice sanctions as the primary responses to dealing with gangs. Has research actually shown that to be the most successful method of driving change among those already involved?

The Peel region is very close to the Toronto region which we know is highly affected by gang violence. It is important to start impacting children and directing them on the right path.

I think youth crime and especially gangs are extremely important to stay on top of.

I am willing to participate in any way that I can to assist with putting a stop to gang violence in Peel. Count me in.

The programs must be open and honest about the issues concerning the most impacted community (black communities). The main issues contributing to youth violence are the following: lack of a father figure, single parenting, lower socio-economic status, racism, lack of opportunity. This all has a direct impact on gang and youth violence. It's important that the program put in to place address some of these main factors. Perhaps the administrators of the program can research other successful programs that may have worked in other cities whether they be inside or outside of Canada. I believe the best way is through programs and mentoring. We must teach young people the importance of family.

People have to take responsibility for their actions. Everyone in society should be impacted by this issue no matter where they live because violence seems to be growing and their area in which they live continue to grow and expand. It not just "that groups issue". Gang and youth violence has the potential to impact everyone because everyone has an opportunity to be directly impacted by gang violence. This can happen in malls, stores, parks, invasion of home, mistaken identity, the list goes on.

Thank you for doing this.

The police force has to create a much stronger presence and beef up patrols in the areas of the city where known gang activity and crime is being committed as a deterrent to this problem. Glad that city officials are taking the problem seriously, and trying to make a difference.

I think many young people today have lost respect for other people and their rights. Littering and vandalism are examples of this.

I was unaware the problem was that vast. We have a safe neighbourhood in Orchard heights.

Good to see initiative to both understand and to address it.

I really don't know too many details of gangs within Peel. I am making many assumptions from media.

None. I did find the questions and answers helped me be more aware of my surroundings more cautious in regard to my home and safety in my home.

Most kids nowadays are very individualistic. They should be taught to be more respectful, considerate to others. These values should be taught both in school and at home. One reinforces the other.

I think Peel is doing a good job in preventing youth gang related violence in the region. It should just continue doing the good work.

As a person born in Toronto I have seen Toronto change from a safe city to a city with areas where no one would want to live. If Mississauga is not careful, Mississauga will have areas that nobody will want to live in.

Money is hard to spare, but I would say these concrete ping pong tables somehow works. This would be a good investment.

I encourage the effort of increasing the effort of increasing the awareness on the youth gang and hope that this will help.

More funding needs to be put into youth programs. Cadets is an excellent program to help teach young people self-discipline, teamwork, leadership, and provide meaningful, engaging activity for youth.

The media should be pressured to stop all the violent programs in favour of putting the emphasis on films and programs focusing on the importance of helpfulness in the community and of personal satisfaction of honesty, kindness and consideration for others. I know that most teachers are trying to get these thoughts across to the students, unfortunately other influences quite often are stronger.

I'm very pleased to receive this survey and applaud you for taking this matter seriously. Many answers I entered undecided. I'd like to know more about these young people who are involved in gangs. I don't believe they all come from poor families.

We need to crack down on the hardcore offenders with stiffer punishments but at the same time work to change the attitudes of youth on the fence before they make a decision to participate fully in gangs.

We have to think harder as a community to help our kids. Gang involvement is a cry for help. The children are telling the society that we are not doing our best to raise children who care.

Today most parents are away from their children working. They return home and are more than likely stressed and very tired from their activities, and the children in some cases are left to look after themselves.

I think that the public should know if there is a gang member in their community, or let the outreach workers warn the people, therefore I think they need their own community.

I definitely think an anti-oppression and anti-racism framework is needed as a lens to view this issue through. There are many factors that contribute to gang violence in Peel and we need to take a comprehensive approach. I also think we need to take into consideration the Social Determinants of

Health to help with the approach and to root out this problem that plague our youth in Peel.

Educate both the community and youth.

We need more of grassroots community involvement activities not all are used to online survey and computers.

I would like to learn more.

There are several areas of concern with today's youth. Focus should be done prior to high school, before they are looking to belong to a group. Better self esteem and self worth would maybe benefit when making judgments with others (better morals). Bullying issues also result in increased gang acceptance.

I feel Mississauga is still a safe place to live but has to be kept in check.

The emphasis should be on prevention and rehabilitation, as well as alternative methods of support and recreation, not just on crime and punishment. Many variables contribute to youth joining gangs and our community should try to understand and respond to all of them.

More money used in early prevention through home and schools/community programs.

I have read about gangs in Peel, fortunately I have not had contact with them.

Education, education, education then jobs, and of course growth. Drug control for sure but if educated youth will know better not to get into trouble. Families education is important as well.

As a member of the community I feel very unaware of gang violence in Peel. I question why?

Twenty years ago we had in our area a youth problem. I started a floor hockey league at our local school. The problem evaporated as the kids burned off their energy and saw that the people in the area had contributed to their activities. They connected with the people here.

More communication to residents about gang issues.

If school after hours activities were made part of the curriculum instead of at the discretion of teacher unions.

I live in a safe area (I believe) in Mississauga. There does not seem to be a presence of gangs in my ward so my answers could be somewhat naive because of this.

It's a great initiative and I hope you get figure out a solution to some of the gang-related issues. As a parent, I've been lucky that my 17 and 20 year-old never got involved in a gang, but the fear was always there.

Good to conduct these types of surveys, but if they stay on paper nothing is going to improve. Politicians created this, they need to work towards a solution fast.

Kids need to know there is a community supporting them, looking out for them, caring for them.

Very good survey. Hopefully the results and recommendations will be followed through.

It all begins in the schools - no respect shown to peers or teachers - schools seem powerless to deal with insubordinate children who will go on to escalate their behavior from being rude and disrespectful to feeling as if there are no consequences to their actions...leads to gang mentality - "we can do whatever we like and no one will stop us.

Nice to see some form of positive action get underway.

I am very pleased that this is being addressed before it gets out of control and becomes an issue of suppression only.

There has to be a way to nip the problem in the bud. Lots of factors lead to youth feeling insecure and left out, and so like minded youth, with low self esteem, and wanting quick money without hard work get together to pick on those who they feel are better off than them. Parents are responsible to a large extent, the society here. Freedom is misused or used to your own convenience.

While I agree with adding additional services/programs/education for those families affected by gang members, it is not entirely feasible financially or time wise for these families to involve themselves. Firstly they have to want to correct the problem in order to go forward with positive intervention. Sometimes the status quo is what they want. The gang youth themselves have to want to get ahead in life and make the first step towards rehabilitation. All the programs and money and police presence can't change this.

I am glad to see this coming to the forefront and understanding it is a major growing issue in our area. It needs to be addressed before it's too deep.

This is not an easy task and we wish everyone well in doing the best they can.

Parent courses and training for parents on raising children to be involved in community/sports/church and other events to keep them occupied and feel loved. If one is loved they don't go looking for attention for the police and the system or community.

I appreciate your concern. During the summer I watched big groups of boys with cars in front of Tim Hortons. You should think about it. Mostly evenings.

Good survey.

I think there a lot of people whose main feeling about "gangs" is fear or disdain. There is little actual knowledge of how or why kids get into gangs. I think the media is a good source of information dissemination. I would like to see educational programs (e.g. Fifth Estate, Doc Zone) on this subject, or be able to go to YouTube or somewhere on the web where I could see personal stories profiled, or experts in the field explaining the issues and possible social solutions.

Publish results. Consult police and politicians and create awareness in concert with programs to help exit, and stem gang opportunities before offered to youth.

Prevention and early detection in gang involvement is important. I would like to see more awareness raised /discussions held and presentation made from Police to teens and elementary school children. I would like to see these presentations made within secondary and elementary schools - helping to raise awareness about gangs - who they are/what they do and how they operate, what to do if you are approached or pressured to join a gang.

Again, I would suggest that the public be educated on what is a youth gang, where they are from, why they are in Peel and what can I, a Peel resident, do to help kids who feel that a gang is the only option.

It's very to the point and needed.

Gang violence is becoming more common and something really needs to be done.

I hope that youth gang members soon realize the negative impact that effects themselves and everyone around them, and that the gang violence issue is resolved quickly, or lessened by a great deal.

We in Peel need to stay ahead of the issues you've raised. Funding is constrained. We need to use resources in a more effective, holistic manner.

Please do something NOW.

The AG for Ontario came to Peel a few years ago to meet with various community stakeholders (ie. the chief of police, the head of EMS, Executive Directors of various agencies), with various suggestions/comments provided in regard to the ongoing guns and gangs problem in Peel with nothing to my knowledge being done by the Provincial government in regard to same. Very disappointing. This is a serious problem in Peel which needs to be addressed by more than just adding a larger police presence in or around schools or by putting metal detectors at the front door of schools. We need to put programs and provide youth with better options and choices to avoid or get rid of the gangs and gun problems plaguing our community.

What studies are there to explain why gangs are mostly male.

I would like to know when the results of this survey will be formally published; together with an action plan for implementation of any recommendations arising from the survey assessment.

The Police and other authorities need to be taught how to deal with youth-state conflict because their negative interaction often exacerbates the issues.

I hope that we can work together as a community to solve this ongoing problem.

The court system must be changed , in order to re-educate the minors and make them accountable. Both the parents and children must get daily living skills. I believe the crimes committed in Mississauga must be readily available for the public.

I think security patrolling should be increased.

It has raised my awareness of such in my community, and I am glad that society is making an effort to

prevent more gangs and help those participating in them.

This survey made me question what our city is doing as preventative measures for youth gangs, as well as how well the city is advertising these measures.

Involve the community in gang related issues. Some parents don't even know what their kids are involved in.

Offer more opportunities to those who are financially restricted (free programs, walk in, youth cafe that are run by youth volunteers) .

Families need to take responsibility for their children, give curfews and make sure their kid is attending schools. Teachers cannot and will not do it alone. It takes community spirit.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

It is very important as it can be intergenerational - stop youth so they can stop their children.

Looking forward to join the consultation.

Prevention is better than the cure.

Great initiative for the Region.

Hopefully this survey will provide guidance for those charged with the responsibility to curb youth gangs.

Community based approaches from all lenses must be employed.

Something has to be done NOW or we will end up like Chicago, Los Angeles.

We can't fix this problem by only addressing the symptom of crime. The most important question is 'Why do gangs exist in a city with such a great standard of living?'

More public awareness. If I didn't receive this survey I would have to ask are there areas predominately related to gangs?

The police know the gangs and their members. They should spend the time required to let them know that they are watched, and if they get out of line they will be legally dealt with.

I think youth gangs primarily forms mostly due to a reason to belong and it appears they do not identify themselves with parents or siblings, which is the story of North America. Parents guidance and to some degree the school system as well as lack of opportunities to be meaningfully employed are all great reasons for gang formation and violence.

More youth program needed.

Quite a few but I have another meeting now. I am glad the survey is out and hope is being shared

broadly across the community and at all levels ie. municipal government, cities, organizations both front line, middle and senior staff.

I'm glad this issue is finally being addressed. I really hope that the focus will not be on toughening the criminal justice system but on strengthening and developing preventative programs and services.

I am glad that people are becoming aware of this challenging situation with youth gangs. I hope by this survey the right action will be taken.

People need to start speaking to youth! Send them a survey and figure out what it is that drives one to join! Go into schools, youth drop-in centres, recreational facilities, anywhere that they hang out. Find out what the issue/the lure is. TALK TO THEM! You don't ask a business man how to do a carpenter's work. YOU ASK THE CARPENTER! We cannot continue to "talk at" youth and call it "guidance". We need to start listening to them. Finding out what their fears or concerns are. What they face daily at home, at school, on their way home, while they're out with friends, at parties. WE NEED TO CREATE AN OPEN LINE OF COMMUNICATION. If you think about it, parents that have a great relationship with their children have one because of good communication, not because they teach them how to act and who to be. Lastly, one may assume that the police carry a lot of authority, however, they are not entirely respected by youth, especially because of some of the racial profiling issues and over-exertion of power. They cannot be the sole force used to combat this issue, unless they too are prepared to start listening, which I HIGHLY doubt.

Open the schools for after school activities that are FREE.

There will always be gangs. We must work to control them but not necessarily disband them.

I think this is a good idea and needs immediate action.

This task is monumental in scope and complexity, and if we believe it to be resolvable, or even controllable, then every single public resource will be needed fully engaged for success to be achieved, including all levels of government, all levels of public service, all youth agencies, the church, social media particularly must be brought into the process, sports governing bodies, essentially then anyone and everyone that is engaged in our entire social fabric. Belonging to a group (gang) can and should be a positive experience for the participants and for the societies in which they function, our society encourages group engagement, so it's not the group mentality that is the problem, it is the individual purposes of the groups (gangs), so changing the societal structures at all levels in a positive way should produce the desired results.

Are there any public seminars or Peel programs on TV which deal with this subject?

We have to create preventive programs to keep kids away from joining or forming gangs. Teach about self respect and peer pressure and making right choices.

I wish you great success in making a positive impact.

It's up to the families in our neighbourhoods to raise their children properly. Many of these kids in gangs come from one parent families - and they have no direction. The families of these children in the gangs need to take some responsibility and quit blaming the system.

Police support is needed at a minimal, as I believe more in prevention than cure of a problem.

This issue is a complex one but I do believe that if you give kids a good alternative to gang culture then you're halfway there to solving the problem. Unfortunately like everything else in Canada it all comes down to money and many gang members belong to a lower economic group with lower social and educational expectations. I suppose gang culture gives them the perceived respect that they would otherwise be unable to achieve.

We need to get the kids involved in other things at an early age so that they can focus and develop skills ie. sports early in their life, so that they are not diverted to groups and so that they can build their self esteem. .

I sit on the review committee for the United Way of Peel Region and have seen the number of applications that come through from areas in the Malton/Brampton corridors for assistance with after-school youth programs. I really do think that keeping kids busy is the route to take. Give them a future they can look forward to and the skills/mentorship to make them feel they can do it.

Youth are often misled or misguided in looking for their place to belong in the world. Often the media/pop culture dramatizes the allure of belonging to a gang or the proceeds of crime that can be achieved from being with one. Little do they know that it often leads to prison or death. Greater emphasis should be placed on mentorship programs and providing viable options for misguided or displaced youth from low income areas.

Tackling youth issues represent a fraction of cost to society to the eventual maturation of these youth issues to a wider social context.

Need more funds to take action, and less talk.

Programs don't solve problems, people do. Youth need to have a voice and they need people who will listen and be a positive presence in their lives.

I think that as a whole, the gang issue is a subset of the larger issue of youth violence in Peel. There are far more kids exposed to other types of violence than gang involvement. We need to not stop at gang activity, and broaden our perspective on violence prevention in the community. It is a fundamental need of residents to feel safe and secure in the city they live.

APPENDIX D

Please describe your thoughts in respect to the key factors for success underlying youth gangs for Peel.

Consider the youth overall systems that are indirectly and directly affecting youth.

Schools need to keep children/teenagers busier after school hours. If necessary, school hours should be extended and incentives in place for teenagers to join after school programs. Key problems arise in the time between when kids are let out of school and when parents get home from work. Those two to three idle hours need to be addressed.

More political involvement, dedicated resources and funding agencies who work with youth in particular to provide information sessions and programs to create more awareness. Involving communities at various levels.

I believe strong collaboration between sectors to ensure a sound effective plan that all sectors agree to work towards. Consultation with each sector to determine best practices and policies within school boards, social services and youth justice. Ensure the voice of youth is at the forefront of decision making and that they are involved at all levels of consultation.

Gang issues affecting Peel Region are not just a policing issue but a community issue. Programs need to be implemented in the earlier grades (4, 5, 6) to create the social skills in youth who are prone to falling into this lifestyle. Addressing late teens (17, 18) will have little impact. This age group has already chosen a lifestyle and mindset and is very hard to change. Social programs in school and affordable extracurricular programs (ie., sports) that encourage not just the children but the parents participation is a must if the Region is going to see any long term changes. The Region of Peel is doing essentially nothing for the youth and neighbourhoods that need the help and again it needs to start at an early age.

Communication between youth at-risk and stakeholders both on how to prevent and how to manage aftercare. Prevention is key in this communication. If needed, increased resources for stakeholders to monitor at risk areas in Peel region and to deal with known gangs immediately before they have created a stronghold in an area.

Youth engagement and evidence key to success.

I am a Child and Youth Worker in the guidance office of a secondary school in Mississauga. I work with those students who are the most vulnerable; low self esteem, poor family support, financial stress in the family, single parents, low academic ability... I could go on and on. These are the students who want to belong somewhere and sometimes get involved in gang activity to the point where it's very difficult to get out. There have to be more programs in the Peel region to provide students with counseling and support in the community which could prevent gang involvement. Early intervention is key. Families need support and the waiting lists for outside agencies is long for students as well. Mental health is also becoming a huge concern for adolescents. We need more support for these kids to feel good about themselves and make good decisions regardless of what their background is. We also need more PR in terms of presentations to students about gangs. The school can only do so much for these vulnerable youth.

Prevention and root causes must be dealt with through the education system.

I believe that treatment (family, group, and individual) and early intervention/prevention is essential to youth's success - as well as secure treatment instead of incarceration.

Priority for council to address issues, lots of \$ spent on subsidized housing (reactive approach) but not enough spent on preventing people from needing subsidized housing (ie. education, training, counseling and other supports) In the long run it's cheaper to invest in someone's education and in turn become employable and reinvest into the community. More programs in schools (joint programs with community agencies that work with marginalized youth), not just police presence but full time social workers running programs (life skills, anger management, anti-bullying, substance use/mental health counseling) . These should NOT be school guidance counselors, as they are also teachers and many students will not approach them for help in fear of punishment, a neutral third party agency to provide supports. There should be more collaboration with probation officers in the development of a youth's plan. I have called P.O's many times to discuss a client's plan and not one has ever called me back! Not very collaborative.

Equity instead of equality approach. Understanding the diverse issues as well as similarities of barriers. Building trust among our youth to bridge the generational gaps through programs and services with inter-generational approach Developing the cultural competency of our agency/front line staff Involving faith based organizations/leaders to be part of the strategy and service planning process.

Adequately funded for the long haul (base budget rather than a short term grant) prevention focused programs. Multiple partners, adequate training and staffing will work to enhance protective factors including social skills training for children, youth and parents.

One-on-one workers who can forge long term relationships to build trust are needed.

Provide youth awareness and after-school resources. Service providers are in need of more education on best practice with respect to intervention.

Having worked in the Regent Park Community and in the Jane and Finch community, the gang issue in Peel region is not at the same level as those other neighbourhoods. However, there is an issue with this in Peel. The different areas in Peel have quite different characteristics. Malton is very different from Brampton, although many group them as the same. There needs to be more opportunities and education for youth, and for parents. Many parents, both newcomers and Canadian born, are struggling financially and with their life and family. They may not have the time or the skills on how to deal with their kids. In addition, newcomers are such easy targets for severe bullying that they become the aggressor and/or join for safety. Here are some of my suggestions for a successful strategy. After-school programs for youth, starting from 10 years old and maintained as the youth gets older (not just sports, but youth employment programs, mentoring in an engaging way, female participation in gangs, positive alternative programs). Education and awareness to all members of the community on gangs and provide some reasons on why they began. Schools (most teachers in Peel do not represent their students nor do they understand the issues they are dealing with), parents (make it language and ethno-specific), community agencies (especially those serving newcomers who may not typically talk openly or admit there is a gang issue in their "communities"). Education on anti-racism and anti-oppression for all community stakeholders. More government funds for priority Peel communities for these programs and education. "Gang-specialists" (experts) education series: both ex-gang members from Peel, as well as from Toronto and/or other similar communities to Peel. However we need a Peel-specific solution - more specialized programs for youth and parents that are ethno and language specific, with staff that represent the gang

members and that speak their language.

Education for both parents and children; development of a scared straight program for youth to be proactive instead of reactive; get to know the youth as youth and not just as gang members.

More opportunities for employment, a greater interest in the youth from school educators and other professionals.

Taking the emphasis away from this actually being a "gang" problem. The challenge is that Peel needs a community safety initiative that has clearly defined outcomes for youth success. One indicator would then be youth not joining gangs. If the focus is on trying to get youth to leave gangs or stay out of it, the true focus of resiliency development will be lost. Peel should set out on a Youth Development strategy, driven by the fundamentals of Positive Youth Development.

Education need to start early... in the schools for parents and students.

Voice of youth should be accounted for as they are more attuned to youth gang issues than your average adult - research the causation behind gang issues.

Agencies working together with police to prevent youth from becoming members of gangs.

Working together and funding are needed.

Support the family unit to help them with troubled children. Don't kick kids out of school. Spend money at earlier age rather than incarcerating them later. Recruit, teach and help men and women mentors to engage youth.

It would be great to see tougher sentences for youth who commit criminal offences. All too often, youth are just getting cautioned by the courts.

Would be good to have better communication between Peel Regional Police and Caledon OPP on players and gangs - sharing gang related info, what's happening. Should be a street gang meeting of Peel Divisions and OPP to update each division/Caledon on trends, issues with gangs, hot spots, retaliations.

Cross-agency coordination and co-operation model. Info-sharing between agencies. Programs that help challenged communities break the cycle of violence. Training, education, and trades-based programs for youth. Community engagement and shared accountability for challenges. Direct intervention models in hi-risk areas.

Developing an effective strategy on youth gangs in Peel requires political willingness, adequate resources, comprehensive research from an international perspective, and a thorough understanding of the root causes of youth gang involvement. It requires a systemic approach that will address the underlying root causes (ie. Socio-economic factors, drugs, family breakdown, poor employment prospects).

I think the big factors for success have been outlined in the survey.

Let's get our youth engaged in positive activities where they and the community will benefit from in the

long term ... sports, cadets, after school programs, music, civic programs, volunteerism, mentoring.

Only focusing on youth and children who display aggression is too narrow a focus. Root causes like violence in the home and poverty need to be addressed and an effective prevention strategy for both needs to be implemented. We need non-formal, non-mandated programs where the youth learn to be part of a healthy community where they experience love and someone to believe in them! Restorative justice shows that most offenders show low-self esteem (don't know their actions can negatively affect others) and a diminished capacity for healthy relationships (abusive or negative patterns of relationships in family or childhood) therefore, a focus on increased self-esteem, increased capacity for healthy relationships along with developing life skills and community engagement will absolutely have a preventative effect on gang involvement and youth crime in general.

Schools must develop mandatory classes in every school that educate all youth in regard to the problems with gang life, as well as tools to help youth avoid being groomed for gang admissions. Communities must focus on activities outside of school for at-risk youth beginning at age 10 that are affordable or free for marginalized families and neighbourhoods.

I know of no gangs operating in the Caledon area. In other words, formalize factions of persuasive pressure are not prevalent. Copy-cats kids maybe, but real core gang bangers, no.

Effective collaboration and information-sharing between agencies and service providers is key to the success of a strategy for youth gangs in Peel. Fragmentation of resources and lack of sustainability for programs/services will undermine the success of the strategy. Rather than having one agency/service provider trying to be all things to all youth and failing to deliver on promised services, collaborate so that a number of agencies collectively plan and implement a comprehensive program that includes the elements outlined in question 10 above, based on their areas of specialization. Thus, while each agency may only focus on one or two elements, together the collective provides a comprehensive roster of program and services in an organized and inter-connected manner that effectively supports all areas of need.

I feel that the most important factors for a successful Peel youth gang strategy do include making sure that agencies that support at-risk youth are well-connected. I feel that having the necessary funding in order to dedicate specific staff to being a part of the solution is important. While everyone who works in our respective agencies can be a part of the solution, we all already have prior commitments and work priorities. To have someone who can completely commit to being in contact with the youth and liaising with the community agencies would be largely beneficial.

Education success, employment success and positive leisure in supporting youth at risk would strongly assist youth to resist the draw of a youth gang. These types of program interventions also require transportation support which would assist in minimizing youth contact with other gang members while going to and from programming and work. The programs and support need to be sustainable.

Key factors to be considered when implementing strategies to deal with youth gangs is to understand that most of the individuals in these gangs are the marginalized individuals in society. They may be marginalized socially, economically, and racially. As a result of this marginalization, they turn to gangs who they identify with and then engage in criminal activities. We in the Peel Region should implement strategies that focus on the root cause rather than using the criminal justice system to criminalize these youths.

Kids (boys especially) need a good 'sense of belonging'. Strengthening the family bonds and/or having

youth groups that are play-based learning, and builds the skills (FINANCIAL LITERACY, banking, determining a budget, social etiquette skills, volunteer opportunities, resume/interview skills, youth employment experiences) that will help them in the regular community.

Outreach – public awareness - safe houses - more accessible and affordable recreation activities - more training for staff of social service agencies, and teachers – police response needs to be appropriate and not using techniques of racial profiling.

Positive educational experiences and active community involvement for children from an early age. Community involvement maybe a barrier based on finances (sports) or lack of knowledge. Education regarding positive life choices. Easier access to opportunities for trade training, career development, or mentorship regardless of background. Reduce barriers that prevent agencies invested in this work from working collaboratively due to confidentiality.

Young people need to feel connected and valued. Opportunities for employment and productive healthy, affordable options for alternative means to engage themselves is critical.

The key factor for success of a strategy is to not paint all groups with the same brush. While in some cases the family life/dynamic is not ideal in many situations it is. The onus should be placed more on the parent(s) of at risk youth. Parenting programs may be more effective than gang programs. Parents/children cannot blame behaviour based on their situation growing up or their current living conditions. These are excuses. There is no such thing as an at-risk community, but there are only at-risk individuals living in a community.

You need the voice of the youth to combat this, otherwise this will fail. Too. While good ideas and intentions, we just don't think like them and never will understand unless we listen to them.

Existing resources and agencies need to collaborate better and measurements of their success should be evaluated as a whole, how well they collaborated.

Support to parents.

I think exposure to positive role models and mentors is a key factor to success, especially in areas where parent involvement is lacking.

We need to stop investing in intervention programs and invest more in prevention programs.

Youth affiliated with gangs have repeatedly told us it is out of economics and lack of job opportunities. Underlying factors contributing to lack of youth employment is the real question. Gang affiliated youth have also told us that they feel pressure from families to have a job and contribute. Underlying factors contributing to poverty is the other real question.

A key factor for success is to understand what we are currently dealing with - a baseline. What is the make-up of youth gangs in Peel? For example, if we assume all youth gangs are males between the ages of 16 and 18 and we develop programs for high schools then we would not be successful if the Peel demographics on gangs shows that most young gang members were recruited at age 12 while still attending elementary school and had dropped out of school by the 9th grade.

APPENDIX E

Do you have any final thoughts or comments in respect to the issues raised in this survey?

Try to connect with grassroots programming in GTA cities, if you want real change.

No amount of police suppressing is going to stop the growing gang issue. Every year police arrest more gang members, and seize more guns and drugs, but the problem continues to grow. Police target the youth that are heavily entrenched in the gang and criminal lifestyle and are a serious problem to the community. These targeted few require a serious life change to create the leverage required to pry them out of that lifestyle. Incarceration is not the long term answer but a short term solution. I suggest talking with police officers that conduct gang investigations to get a better understanding of this issue.

As a youth group leader offering a FREE program to youth aged 12-18, there are things for youth to do and a place to belong to that creates a positive change in youth. I don't know if agencies dealing with youth even know about this program. Additionally, I would love to learn more about youth gangs in Peel and what resources and strategies are already in place and how that impacts my area and the youth I specifically deal with.

Need more evidence on drivers and successful outcomes before strategies can be contemplated.

No. Good luck with this important project.

Glad this is happening.

It appears that the government is focusing on tougher laws and zero policies rather than looking at taking preventative measures for our youth. We need more programs for preventative measures then after the fact. Overall, more money would be saved if more money was spend in preventative strategies then custody.

I would love to contribute as a credible, concerned partner in the community during any and all strategic planning. Please contact me at: sfarina@gmail.com.

I believe the agencies in Peel are very collaborative because they have had to be as a result of chronic underfunding.

I feel that there is a great deal of racism and discrimination in Peel compared to the areas I have worked before. Many of the community "leaders" (ED's, principals, teachers, police etc.) do not reflect the community nor understand the kids' background, culture, socio-economic status so this is a significant barrier to this issue.

Greater police presence is not the answer.

Perhaps stakeholders should have been asked more about their opinions as opposed to the opinions they feel that others hold.

Gang membership results in many different type of criminal activities, most notably drug trafficking and violence. In order to reduce this, it must be tackled at a youth level.

Thank you for requesting my feedback on this important issue, and I look forward to receiving more information from you on the issue of youth/street gangs in Peel Region.

I think youth need something meaningful and positive to be engaged with, that provides them with supportive mentors (whether that is family, teachers, friends, instructors), hope, and allows them to develop their individual skills in a fun environment. Being meaningfully engaged in something positive that can provide hope and positive role models to young people is critical - especially for those that do not have positive school experiences or supportive family situations. The actual activity at the end of the day - whether it is physical activity, special interest groups, arts, tutoring, etc, does not matter as much, as long as they are meaningfully engaged and can develop bonds with peers/mentors, bolster their self awareness and self esteem, interact with and learn from positive role models, and develop a social support network to build on for other important developmental needs (education, employment, future career ideas, etc etc). That is my opinion anyway - and a large reason why young people become involved with criminal or gang related activities - when they have few social supports or positive role models, are stigmatized through any number of mechanisms (poverty, racism, etc), and see few avenues for legitimate future economic prospects. The social support a person (young or old) can get from fellow gang members is part of a fundamental human need (i.e., Maslow's hierarchy of human needs) everyone has for love and belonging. If it cannot be obtained through mainstream legitimate means, it is sought out elsewhere.

I look forward to participating... and would like to know how significant a problem it is in Ward 5, Mississauga. Are there any stats? Which gangs exist? Where do they operate? How many members?

At least as much effort and resources must be dedicated to true prevention rather than response and suppressive tactics, if not more, if we want to be serious about a long-term influence on decreasing youth gang-involvement and youth crime.

I am a Manager at Roy McMurtry Youth Centre. Most of our youth are in custody for extremely serious crimes. I witness daily gang activities in my job. This endangers youth who are not involved and staff injuries often occur when opposing gangs and/or neighbourhoods fight. Often, our hands are tied as a facility to effectively deal with gang involved youth due to some of the current legislation. I also believe that outside agencies such as the Office of the Child Advocate have no recognition of the dangerous situations that occur daily when dealing with gang activity within the facility. On many occasions staff have been attacked when large groups of youth band together against staff when they are attempting to hold youth accountable to an appropriate standard. We provide an enormous amount of programming for our youth but realistic accountability is sometimes difficult.

I think that School Boards could be doing more to be part of the solution with regard to curbing youth gang development and proliferation. School Board teachers and administrators have been underutilized in terms of the role that they could have in identifying at risk youth, developing specialized on-site educational and supportive programming that will keep more kids in School and providing physical space for youth to engage in other programs/services/activities that will keep them connected to their community in a positive and pro-social manner. School Boards and their staff need to play a bigger role in being part of the solution. Kids should not have to come to jail to have a positive, individualized and supportive school experience.

Youth gangs cannot be stopped by criminalization.

More education and awareness is needed.

Negative terminology "anti-gang", "gang prevention" drive attention to a negative and feeds the gang persona. Funding should be going into health, recreation, mental health programs and into opening up the schools during the after school hours rather than putting the lens directly on gangs.

I think as a Region, social service providers need more information about the current status of youth gangs in Peel Region and ways we can work together to alleviate the issue.

Youth employment is key - these youth need real options in their lives.