



2004 ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN: SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

I. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

- According to Statistics Canada census data, the population of Toronto increased 4.0% between 1996 and 2001, from 2,385,421 to 2,481,494. The total population of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) grew by 9.8%, from 4,628,883 to 5,081,826.
- Within the GTA, Toronto was generally slightly older than the other GTA regions, with 83% of Toronto aged 15 years or older compared to 77%-80% in the regions.
- The proportion of the City's population 65 years and older is projected to increase (from 13.4% in 1996 to 16.5% in 2031); the proportion of the population under 25 years of age is projected to remain relatively stable around 30%.
- In 2001, 44% of the Toronto census metropolitan area's population was foreign-born – a higher proportion than other cities around the world known for their diversity (e.g. Miami, Vancouver, Sydney, Los Angeles, New York, Montréal).
- The primary sources for immigrants to Toronto have shifted in recent years to the Asian continent, including the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.
- The growth of the visible minority population has largely been due to the shift in sources of immigration to Canada. In 2001, visible minorities represented just over two-fifths (42.8%) of Toronto's population, up from 37.3% in 1996. In both years, Chinese, South Asians, and Blacks were the largest visible minority groups.
- The proportion of Toronto's population who said they spoke only a language other than English or French at home decreased to 18.8% in 2001, from 28.8% in 1996. The number of those in 2001 who said they spoke English and another non-official language at home increased over five times the number in 1996.
- Mirroring the growing diversity of Toronto's population was a growing diversity in the religious make up of the City. Much of the change in Toronto's religious profile was the result of the changing sources of immigration.
- According to 1995 income data collected in the 1996 census, the largest proportion of Toronto households (15.3%) were those with a household income of \$10,000 - \$19,999. Reflecting the increase in average and median household incomes, according to 2000 income data, the largest proportion of Toronto households (18.1%) were those with a household income of \$100,000 or more.
- According to data from the 2001 census, the income gap between richer and poorer neighbourhoods widened in the Toronto CMA between 1980 and 2000, but particularly between 1990 and 2000.



II. CRIME TRENDS

- In 2003, a total of 198,424 non-traffic Criminal Code offences occurred in Toronto, representing a 0.3% decrease from 2002.
- While overall crime showed a large decrease over the past ten years (-21.4%), the decrease was driven mainly by decreases in property crime (-32.8%). The number of violent crimes, in fact, decreased only 0.9% between 1994 and 2003.
- Between 2002 and 2003, decreases were noted for two major offence categories, violent crimes (-4.1%) and other Criminal Code offences (-3.4%), while an increase was noted for property offences (2.0%).
- Robberies increased 14.2% in 2003 compared with 2002, and increased 9.8% over the past ten years.
- The number of non-sexual assaults decreased 6.7% in 2003, and showed only a 0.3% increase over ten years ago.
- In 2003, an average of 75.1 non-traffic Criminal Code offences occurred for every 1,000 population, of which 12.8 were violent crimes, 45.4 were property crimes, and 16.9 were other Criminal Code offences. The overall crime rate was a slight 1.2% decrease from 2002, but a large 28.3% decrease from 1994.
- The trend of decrease in the overall crime rate (number of crimes per 1,000 population) appeared to level off in the past five years. The non-traffic Criminal Code crime rate remained around 75 to 78 occurrences per 1,000 population for the past five years.
- In 2003, about 40% of both sexual and non-sexual assaults involved a suspect known to the victim.
- The proportion of cases involving the use of weapons decreased for both robbery and non-sexual assaults over the past ten years, to 38.5% and 26.0%, respectively, in 2003. Fewer than 10% of sexual assaults involved the use of weapons in each of the past ten years, although the proportion increased in 2003. The proportion of robberies involving the use of firearms also decreased. However, the number of gun-related calls received by the police increased considerably.
- Despite the recent decrease in number of drug offences and arrests, primarily enforcement driven statistics, there is evidence that the number of marijuana grow-operations (MGOs) increased considerably, most of which were believed related to organised crime.
- Other new developments in criminal activities include the use of technology in committing crimes, such as identity theft, and the use of the stolen information for furthering other crimes, such as fraud.
- The number of persons arrested and charged for Criminal Code offences in 2003 was a 0.9% decrease from 2002. Over the past five years, the number of persons arrested/charged increased for all major Criminal Code offence categories, particularly property crime and traffic offences. Males in the younger age groups continued to have the highest arrest rates.



- In 2003, 41, 42, and 52 Divisions were the busiest stations in terms of number of crimes occurred and dispatched calls serviced.
- Relative to 18 other Canadian cities of ‘comparable’ population size, in 2002, the crime rate in Toronto ranked below middle (eleventh) in overall crimes, and ranked sixth and thirteenth in violent crimes and property crimes, respectively. Between 1998 and 2002, Toronto had the seventh largest rate of decrease for the overall crime rate and the tenth largest drop in the property crime rate, while there was no change for the violent crime rate. Among the 17 cities having an increase in the per capita cost, Toronto had a relatively small increase, the seventh smallest.

III. YOUTH CRIME

- The enumeration of youth crime is different from the enumeration of crimes in general. While crimes in general are counted in terms of number of criminal incidents that occurred, youth crimes are compiled on the basis of arrests, when the age of the suspect can be ascertained. For this reason and a number of other factors, the number of youth crimes recorded is likely lower than the actual number of crimes committed by youth.
- To put the problem of youth crime in perspective, three issues must be noted. First, a very small proportion of youths (aged 12 to 17 years) are involved in criminal activity, and even fewer are involved in violent crimes. Second, youth crime statistics reflect the number of youths arrested for criminal offences, not the actual level of crime involving young offenders. Third, it is believed that only a small portion of youth crime is actually reported to police.
- National youth crime statistics showed that, in 2002, the overall youth charge rate (that is, the number of youths charged per 1,000 population) was 39.6, of whom 17.3 were charged for property crimes, 12.9 for other Criminal Code offences, and 9.3 for violent crimes. Between 1992 and 2002, the youth charge rates dropped for overall crime (32.6%) and property crime (52.2%), but increased for violent crime (7.4%).
- In 2003, 8,678 young persons (aged 12 to 17 years) in Toronto were charged for all types of Criminal Code offences, up 9.4% from 2002 and 10.1% from 1999.
- Increases were noted in number of youths arrested/charged in all major offence categories over the past five years, except violent crime.
- The participation of young females in crimes increased and the gender gap has narrowed, but the proportion of young females of total youths charged remained low (26.3%).
- In 2003, an average 56.8 of every 1,000 young persons were charged with a Criminal Code offence in Toronto, including 14.9 charged for violent crime, 25.0 for property crime, and 16.5 for other Criminal Code offences. The overall charge rate for youths was more than double that for adults. Increase in the charge rate for youths was noted for all major Criminal Code offence categories between 2002 and 2003, while over the past five years, youths charged with violent crime decreased and those charged with property crime increased.



- Male youths had a charge rate about 3 times that of female youths. Changes in the charge rate differed between males and females over the past five years. While male youths had decreases for their charge rates under property crime and overall crime, female youths had increases for the same charge rates. Charge rates for violent crime decreased for both male and female youths.
- The total number of crimes occurring on school premises decreased 5.1% in 2003. Over the past five years, crimes occurring on school premises decreased by 19.4%. Theft, non-sexual assault, harassment/uttering threats, mischief, and break and enters were generally the most frequently reported crimes.
- In 2003, a total of 453 youths were charged with drug-related offences, a large decrease from 2002 (789) and 1999 (680). In terms of number charged per 1,000 youths, the 2003 rate of 2.5 persons was again a decrease from 2002 (4.4) and 1999 (4.0).

IV. VICTIMISATION

- According to the General Social Survey (GSS) conducted in Canada in 1999, 25% of Canadians 15 years of age and older said they were the victims of at least one crime in the previous year.
- For the 8 crime types covered by the GSS in 1999, only 37% were reported to the police, down from 42% in 1993.
- Toronto Police Service data indicate that the number of victims of selected violent crimes increased 0.8% from 1994 to 2003, from 33,328 to 33,586 victims.¹ However, when changes in population were controlled by examining the rate of victimisation, it was found that overall victimisation by these violent crimes decreased 8.0% from 1994 to 2003, from 13.8 victims per 1,000 population to 12.7 per 1,000 in 2003. Between 2002 and 2003, the rate of victimisation decreased 3.8%.
- Except for 1994, men were victims of the selected crimes of violence more often than women. Over the ten years, the proportion of women in the total number of victims decreased while the proportion of men increased.
- Between 1994 and 2003, the rate of victimisation for women decreased 18.7%, from 13.9 per 1,000 women to 11.3, and decreased 8.9% between 2002 (12.4) and 2003. The rate of victimisation for men was the same in 1994 as in 2003 (14.3 per 1,000 men), but decreased 3.4% from 2002 (14.8) to 2003.
- Rates of victimisation for both men and women were lower in 2003 than in 1994 for assault and sexual assault. While the rate of victimisation for women for robbery was also lower in 2003 than in 1994, for men, this rate was higher in 2003 than it was ten years earlier. Men were 2 to 4 times more likely than women each year to be victims of homicide.

¹ This chapter focuses on victimisation related to selected crimes of violence only – homicide, sexual assault (including sexual offences), assault, and robbery.



- When the size of the population at each age was taken into account, those 12-17 years of age were found most likely to be victims of the selected crimes of violence in each of the past ten years.
- Between 1994 and 2003, 18-24 year olds typically had the highest victimisation rates for assault, while 12-17 year olds were the most likely victims of sexual assault and robbery. Since 1994, over 4 in 10 robberies of 12-17 year olds have involved swarming.
- In each of the ten years under review, of all of the selected violent victimisations against children and youth, most were physical assaults. Similarly, of all of the selected violent victimisations against older adults, most were physical assaults.
- In Toronto, the number of child abuse offences reported to the police decreased 5.3% from 1994 to 2003, and 15.7% from 2002 to 2003. Assault and sexual assault together generally formed at least half of the reported child abuse offences each year, although the individual proportions of these offences changed over the ten year period.
- According to the Service's I/CAD database, the number of calls for domestics attended by officers in 2003 decreased 9.3% over five years ago in 1999, and decreased 13.6% over 2002. However, even though the number of domestics attended decreased, the average time spent by officers at these types of calls increased 45.3%, from 149.8 minutes (2.5 hours) in 1999 to 217.6 minutes (3.6 hours) in 2003. The average time spent on these calls changed little between 2002 and 2003, increasing only 1.4%, from 214.6 minutes (3.6 hours) in 2002.
- In Toronto, according to the Hate Crime unit of TPS Detective Services, there were a total of 149 hate crimes reported in 2003, representing a 40.2% decrease from the 249 such crimes reported in 1994 and a 32.0% decrease over the 219 occurrences in 2002. In each of the past ten years, hate offences have typically focused most frequently on race and religion.
- Assaults, mischief, threats, and wilful promotion of hatred were typically the most common types of hate-motivated offences over the past ten years. However, the proportion of the total hate offences represented by each of these specific offences has changed.
- Requests to the Victim Services Program for support, information, and intervention increased by 84.4% from 1994 to 2003, and 10.6% from 2002 to 2003. The proportion of requests handled by going out to the scene have decreased from 11.7% in 1994 to 6.4% in 2003.

V. TRAFFIC

- The City of Toronto covers an area of 632 square kilometres and has 1,159,000 motor vehicles registered in the City.
- According to the 2001 Census, 1,500,000 million people drive, 504,000 people take public transit, and 102,680 people walk or bike to work everyday in the Greater Toronto Area.
- The City of Toronto Official Plan has a vision to reduce car dependence in the City of Toronto by implementing strategies such as integrated land use and urban design that lead to fewer and shorter trips, providing public transit service that is more competitive with the



private automobile, and providing traffic engineering and street design that encourages walking and cycling.

- Traffic volume based on cordon counts for the City of Toronto is about 1.273 million inbound vehicles/day and about 1.268 million outbound vehicles/day.
- There were 66,667 reportable collisions in 2003, a 7.1% decrease from the 71,760 reportable collisions in 2002.
- There were a total of 23,014 property damage collision events attended in 2003, a decrease of 2.1% from 23,514 property damage collisions attended in 2002. In 2003, the average time spent at a property damage collision event was 101.1 minutes, a 4.1% decrease from the 105.4 minutes spent in 2002.
- There were 15,368 personal injury collisions attended in 2003, up 7.0% from the 14,370 personal injury collisions attended in 2002. The average time spent on personal injury collision events attended was 237.5 minutes in 2003, an increase of 3.1% from the 230.3 minutes spent in 2002.
- In 2003, there were 74 people killed in traffic collisions, a decrease of 23.7% over the 97 killed in 2002.
- The number of charges laid under the *Highway Traffic Act* increased by 10.1% from 2002 to 2003.
- Recent research into ‘road rage’, found that half of Ontario’s drivers said they have shouted or cursed at other drivers. Almost one-third admitted to making threatening or rude gestures while driving. The report also found that the problem was worse in Toronto than in the rest of the Province. Drivers who are well educated and well paid were more likely to be both victims and aggressors on the City’s streets or highways.
- Drivers ‘high’ on over-the-counter, prescription, or illegal drugs could be forced to give police saliva, urine, or blood samples on demand under a proposed change to the Criminal Code introduced in April 2004.
- According to Transportation Canada, between 1988 and 1998 fatal crashes involving drivers aged 65 and older increased by 6.3%, while injury crashes increased by 10.7%.
- A recent report released by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation found that 3.4 million Canadians continue to drink and drive.
- There has been some support for reducing the level of blood alcohol concentration at which drivers could be charged to 50 milligrams of alcohol for every 100 millilitres of blood or .05 milligrams per millilitre (mg/ml). The Criminal Code currently draws the line at .08 mg/ml. It was estimated that between 185 and 555 deaths per year could be prevented on Canadian roads by reducing the legal limit to the suggested level.
- According to a recent study, there was a 35% reduction in risk of being in a fatal motor vehicle crash after a driver received a driving conviction.



VI. CALLS FOR SERVICE

- A trend of increase in calls for service was noted over the past six years, after decreases between 1994 and 1997. A total of 1.96 million calls were received in 2003, 1.9% more than in 2002 and 10.1% than in 1999. However, the number of calls received in 2003 was 15.8% less than the number of calls received 10 years ago in 1994.
- Over the past five years, between 1999 and 2003, calls received through the emergency line showed a large increase (16.8%), while the number of calls received through the non-emergency line showed a smaller increase (3.2%). Between 1994 and 2003, calls received through the emergency line decreased 7.5%, while calls through the non-emergency line decreased 23.6%.
- In 2003, more than half of the calls (53.8%) were received through the emergency line and the rest (46.2%) were received via the non-emergency line. This compared to 49.0% through the emergency line and 51.0% through the non-emergency line in 1994.
- Slightly less than half (47.4%) of the calls received were dispatched for police response, which was an increase from 1999 (45.1%) and 1994 (34.3%).
- The number of dispatched calls in 2003 was a 5.3% and a 16.3% increase over 2002 and 1994, respectively.
- Response times for both emergency and non-emergency calls have increased in recent years, with a diminished proportion of calls meeting the recommended service standards.
- The average time required to service a call has increased significantly over the years.

VII. URBAN TRENDS

- The Official Plan for Toronto has identified that 75% of the City will mature and evolve, experiencing limited physical change; the remaining 25% will experience much growth and change. This growth will be significant enough that 22 areas require secondary plans to guide the growth and 230 areas will require site and area specific policies to harness the growth potential.
- It has been forecast that an extra 2.6 million people will live in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) by the year 2031.
- The Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) recorded 6,060 sales in February 2004, up 2% from February 2003. This was the second best total for the month ever recorded.
- The booming economy of the late 1990s produced much wealth for many Torontonians, but the benefits were not shared equitably. Income disparities in Toronto are growing.
- Toronto's middle class is fading as the income gap widens. Median income in Toronto's 12 poorest neighbourhoods declined by more than 15% during the 1990s, while the 12 wealthiest neighbourhoods saw an increase of close to 10%.



- Cost of rental housing has been rapidly outpacing inflation: the cost of a one-bedroom apartment in Toronto has shown an annual increase of more than 6% in the years since 1997.
- In 1998, commercial and industrial building permits in Toronto accounted for 28% of the activity in the GTA; in 2001, the City's activity fell to 14%. The state of Toronto's infrastructure has been cited as a top competitive disadvantage, just ahead of taxes.
- According to the 2001 Census, nearly 1.5 million people in the GTA drive to work every day, about 504,000 take transit, and 120,650 walk or ride bikes to work. This has resulted in congestion on 70% of the region's roadways during peak periods.
- Ridership on Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) vehicles (surface and subway) decreased 2.4% between 2002 and 2003, from 415,539,000 to 405,413,000 riders.
- Reduced airline capacity, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, continuous terrorism alerts, the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), etc., together with a weak economic environment in Toronto's source markets, contributed to a 4.6% decrease in passengers travelling through Pearson Airport in between 2002 and 2003.
- Since 2000, tourism in Toronto has declined steadily, worsening with the impact of SARS in 2003. It is expected that the tourism and convention industry will continue to be fragile due to factors beyond the control of Tourism Toronto, such as the value of the Canadian dollar, as well as medical, environmental, and geo-political influences.
- Between 2002 and 2003, there was a 10.1% increase in hazardous events attended by the Police Service. These events included natural gas leaks, explosions, and chemical hazards.

VIII. TECHNOLOGY & POLICING

- The Service's Technological Crime Unit, temporarily funded by a grant from the Provincial government, is increasingly being called upon to provide support to other units. The Unit has provided 4,502 hours of support in the investigation of child exploitation cases and 981 hours of support in other areas.
- Child pornography continues to present a complex problem for law enforcement agencies and continues to be a threat to children. The explosion in technology and the Internet have made handling the increase in child pornography a monumental task.
- In October 2003, the Child Exploitation section of the Toronto Police Service's Sex Crimes Unit held a one-day seminar with invited guests from within the Service and from the Children's Aid community. The purpose of the seminar was to provide an overview of child pornography, to discuss the extent of the problem globally and locally, to identify trends, and to highlight some the strategies used by the Service.
- The Toronto Police Service's Child Exploitation section and Microsoft have begun a joint initiative to develop software that will make it easier for police to investigate the dissemination of child pornography on the Internet. The 'Child Exploitation Linkage Tracking System' (CELTS) will connect police service across Canada to a database of known offenders.



- On-line luring – the on-line setting up of a meeting with a child for sexual purposes – is being addressed in a variety of ways, including officers are posing as children in chat rooms and Microsoft Canada requiring a paid subscription to its chat rooms.
- Technological advances have created – and continue to create – new opportunities for identity thieves. For example, on-line banking in Canada has doubled, from 8% of financial transactions in 2000 to 16% in 2002.
- The Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service has called identity theft the organised crime of the new millennium.
- In addition to using the Internet to conduct criminal activities, it is believed that organised crime groups may be using viruses, trojans, and phishing for financial gain.

IX. POLICE RESOURCES

- As of December 31st, 2003, the total strength of Toronto Police Service was 7,098 members, up only 0.4% from the 7,073 members in 2002, but up 1.8% from the 6,975 members in 1994.
- Between 2002 and 2003, uniform strength increased 0.7%, while civilian strength decreased 0.6%.² Both uniform and civilian strength were higher in 2003 than in 1994, increasing 1.7% and 2.0%, respectively.
- Over the past decade, the number of police officers per 100,000 population in Toronto decreased 7.3% from 219 officers in 1994 to 203 officers in 2003.
- During 2003, 52.3 non-traffic Criminal Code offences were reported per constable, a 0.4% decrease from the 52.5 reported in 2002 and a 17.0% decrease from the 63.0 reported in 1994.
- The median age of uniform officers in December 2003 was 39.8 years, slightly less than 40 years in 2002, but up from the median age of 34 years in December 1981.
- In 2003, 39.9% of uniform members had 20 or more years of service; one-quarter of uniform members (24.8%) had between 0 and 4 years service.
- The average age of primary response constables was 34.0 years as compared to 38.5 years for all constables. In 2003, the average years of service for primary response constables were 7.7 years as compared to 13.5 years for all constables.
- In 2003, there were 143 separations – 78 retirements and 65 resignations, a 55.6% decrease from the 322 separations in 2002, and a 4.7% decrease from the 150 separations in 1994.

² Uniform strength includes police officers and cadets-in training. Civilian strength includes all permanent, full-time civilian members with the exception of cadets-in-training and parking enforcement personnel. (As of December 31st, 2003, the Human Resources Directorate reported 350 parking enforcement Personnel, 460 part-time or temporary personnel, and 692 school crossing guards; none are included in the total civilian strength.)



- The actual number of uniform officers assigned to front-line uniform duties in Policing Operations Command units and specific Operational Support units (e.g. Traffic Services, Marine Unit, etc.), including supervisors, increased about 3.9% from 3,188 in 2002 to 3,313 in 2003, but decreased 8.0% from the 3,600 in 1994.
- Ten years ago in 1994, racial minority officers comprised only 6.4% of uniform police officers, with a consistent though slow rise, that percentage increased to 11.7% in 2003.
- In 1994, female officers accounted for 9.9% of the total uniform strength; the proportion increased to 14.4% in 2003.
- Female minority officers accounted for 6.9% of all female officers in 1994, increasing to 7.8% of all female officers in 2003. In 1994, 6.3% of all male police officers were classified as minorities; this percentage almost doubled to 12.4% in 2003.
- In 1994, there was a hiring freeze and no officers were hired. Hiring resumed in 1995. In 1995, 20 of the 91 officers hired were racial minorities, representing 22.0% of the total officers hired. In 2003, 53 of the 187 officers hired were racial minorities, representing 28.3% of the total officers hired.

X. PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

- According to the results of the Service's 2003 community survey, feelings of safety in neighbourhoods generally increased from 2002, though fewer respondents felt Toronto in general was safe.
- The 2003 survey found that concern with issues related to disorder in their neighbourhoods (e.g. vandalism, graffiti, etc.) generally increased.
- Most high school students and school administrators in all years surveyed said they felt safe in and around the school at any time of the day.
- When asked about the level of violence at their school, roughly two-thirds of high school students in all years said that, generally, their school and school grounds were not violent, although the proportion was lower in 2003 and 2002 than in 2001. In all years, school administrators were more likely than students to say their school and grounds were not violent.
- The Toronto Police Service survey of Toronto residents in December 2003 found that 88% said they were satisfied with the delivery of police service to their neighbourhood, down from 90% in 2002, but up from the proportions seen in previous years.
- The 2003 community survey identified some concerns about police and minority/ethnic groups (i.e. relations between police and members of minority/ethnic communities generally rated 'fair' or 'poor'; one-third or fewer thought police did a 'good' job of providing services to ethnic/racial groups; and an increased proportion believed Toronto police targeted members of minority/ethnic groups for enforcement).
- Almost all respondents in the past two years (93% in both 2002 and 2003) said they agreed with the statement: I believe that Toronto police officers carry out their jobs to the best of their



abilities. This proportion was an increase from the 84% in 2000 and 89% in 2001. Similarly, 89% of respondents in 2003 said they believe that Toronto police are trustworthy, compared to 79% in 2002.

- The Service's 2003 community survey found that, for those who'd had contact with police during the previous year, there was an increase in satisfaction with police during that contact: 83% said they were satisfied in 2003, up from 71% in 2002, 80% in 2001, and 79% in 2000.
- While more high school students in 2003 than in 2002 said they would feel comfortable talking to police about crime or other problems at their school, roughly two-thirds of students in all years said they felt the relationship between students and police was fair or poor.
- Most high school students and school administrators in all years surveyed said they were satisfied with the delivery of police services to their school.
- Fewer administrators said they were consulted by police when determining what issues should be addressed at the school (49% in 2003, 64% in 2002, 67% in 2001). Fewer also felt part of a problem-solving team (68% in 2003, 78% in 2002, 83% in 2001).
- The total number of public complaints against the police decreased 5.1% between 2001 and 2002, from 742 complaints in 2001 to 704 in 2002, but increased again 2.7% to 723 in 2003.
- Of the community survey respondents who said they'd had experience with the police complaints process, fewer in 2003 than in previous years were satisfied with the process and the outcome.

XI. LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS

- The *Sex Offender Information Registration Act*, legislation respecting the establishment of a national sex offender registry, received Royal Assent on April 1, 2004.
- Bill C-12, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (protection of children and other vulnerable persons) and the Canada Evidence Act*, proposes amendments intended to help safeguard children and other vulnerable persons from sexual exploitation, abuse and neglect. Further, the Act also proposes to better protect victims and witnesses in criminal justice proceedings.
- Proposed amendments to the *Contraventions Act* and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* sets out new maximum penalties for certain of the offences in relation to cannabis. The Act also designates offences in relation to possession or production of small amounts of cannabis, as contraventions under the *Contraventions Act*.
- Various amendments to the Criminal Code included in Bill C-14 include establishing more serious offences for deliberately setting traps likely to injure or kill law enforcement personnel and new requirements for warrant applications for weapons search and seizure.
- Amendments to the Criminal Code relating to the criminal liability of organisations, expand the circumstances in which organisations may be held criminally liable.
- The hate propaganda section of the Criminal Code now includes as an "identifiable group", any section of the public distinguished by sexual orientation.