Special Committee To Prevent The Abuse And Exploitation Of Children Through the Sex Trade

Hansard Verbatim Report

No. 39 — March 28, 2001

Regina

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-fourth Legislature

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PREVENT THE ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN THROUGH THE SEX TRADE
2001

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Published under the authority of The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker

The committee met at 19:00.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, I think we're call the meeting to order formally.

Good evening, everyone. We're really very pleased tonight to have with us Det./Cst. (Detective Constable) Oscar Ramos and Det./Cst. Raymond Payette from the Vancouver City Police. These are the two gentlemen that have developed the DISC (deter identify sex-trade consumers) program. It has a number of wonderful components to this program, and Oscar and Raymond will be revealing those to you as they go through their presentation.

But just before we get started with the presentation I want to, with Mr. Prebble, introduce to you other guests that we have with us tonight from police services in Saskatoon and Regina. Unfortunately the Prince Albert Police Service is unable to be here this evening.

So with also have with us from Regina, Det./Cpl. (Detective Corporal) Jeff Adams of vice. Welcome, Jeff, and we're happy to have you here and we'll be looking forward to some of your comments and ideas and suggestions later on.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — We also have with us, Deputy Chief Dan Wilks from the Saskatoon Police Service, and he's joined by Supt. (Superintendent) Brian Dueck and by Cst. Len Watkins. So it's very nice to have all of you here. I want to thank you for making the trip from Saskatoon.

We also have from the Children's Advocate office, Roxane Schury. Welcome, Roxane, it's great to have you here. And we have Murray Webb, of course, who often joins us at our meetings, from the Department of Social Services. And we also have media representatives from both *The Leader-Post* and CKME. We want to thank you very much for coming. And I think we're ready to launch into the presentation from our special guests from Vancouver.

Just a reminder to everybody that we're operating with a new microphone system tonight. This will be recorded by *Hansard*. And when your mike lights up in the way that mine is now — the red light — you're being recorded. And for those of our guests who don't have a microphone right in front of them, you might just want to, when you're speaking, try to move it over so that you can speak into it more clearly.

And we're going to suspend the regular rules tonight as it pertains to asking questions. Normally questions are limited to members of the special committee, members of the legislature. We're not going to do that tonight. We hope that all of you will feel free to ask questions and that we'll have a more . . . I know this is a somewhat formal proceeding but we're trying to make it as informal as we can. So I hope you'll all feel free to take part in the discussion and ask any questions that would be of interest to you. And we're looking forward to a very exciting evening.

So, Raymond and Oscar, thank you so much for coming. And we're looking forward to your presentation. And please feel free to proceed.

Mr. Payette: — I'm Det./Cst. Raymond Payette. Thank you very much for having us. We really appreciate it. I don't know if . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Excuse me, Raymond, I'm sorry to interject but we're going to have to you speak into the microphone. So if you'll just move it forward so that all of your comments will be recorded.

Mr. Payette: — Is that okay? Now I don't want to talk into it.

Again, thanks very much for having us out here to Regina. We're glad to make the trip. We're also really glad to see the province of Saskatchewan is joining, and on the same page as us in British Columbia, about fighting child exploitation — trying to deal with the sex trade in a positive, proactive manner. And we need more commitment from that, to that goal from all the provinces in Canada and the Government of Canada together to try and deal with the sex trade.

My partner, Oscar Ramos, he'll do the second part of the presentation.

We started DISC on January 6, 1998. We were approached by the senior management team of the Vancouver Police Department and our inspector, in particular, in district 2. Oscar and I were beat officers in an area that had a large issue with sexual exploitation of children and the sex trade in their area. So we were asked to come up with a solution or a partial solution to some of the issues in that community.

And what we developed was DISC. And what we think and what we've seen over the last three years that DISC brings to the policing community and community as a whole is, it brings the focus, the responsibility, and the accountability of the sex trade onto the two groups of people we feel most responsible — the consumers, johns, and the pimps. That's what we need to do is bring that focus and responsibility onto them and that's the way to battle the sex trade.

DISC provides, in its basic terms, DISC is an information management system that tracks five different groups, the five important groups of the sex trade — consumers or what's commonly called johns, sex-trade workers, juvenile sex-trade workers, pimps, and then people of special interest.

Most times for us people of special interest are men who are either doing certain things in an area of prostitution that draws our attention as police officers.

One of the commoner things that we'll see and that draws our attention to special interest is a man that's driving around a prostitution stroll with duct tape and nylons and rope in his car. There's nothing illegal about doing that but that's something that, as police officers, if you're continually driving around an area of prostitution with that in your vehicle, we have some concerns that that's probably a rape kit. And he's . . . I mean, that's what he's looking to do, therefore we're going to flag him, as we call it, special interest.

We also have people that will photograph and videotape children in parks. Again we want to keep an eye on that individual to see what he's doing, how often he returns to that park, or how often he goes to another park to do it. This provides . . . It's a proactive approach to deterring the sex trade by identifying the people in the sex trade.

What we found is if you identify the people that are involved . . . with a lot of these people you remove them from the sex trade — particularly the johns. A john is a john because he's anonymous. If you take his anonymity away from him, a lot of these men will not return.

This provides . . . When Oscar and I designed this, as I said earlier, we were beat officers. So we were patrol officers. We understood at that point the problems and the workload that a normal police constable has, in his car or walking the beat. So we designed a method that is very easy to access and very easy to use.

It's not paper-intensive; it's not a cumbersome way to do it. So it's an efficient, effective way for patrol officers to gather the information, which is important because patrol officers probably do 70 to 85 per cent of most of the work in a police department. So if you make a system that's not patrol-friendly, you're losing a lot of information.

And it's not — as Oscar's term is and he's right — it's not a silver bullet. It doesn't solve the sex trade. This just does not do that. But this does work well in conjunction with other things that vice units will do. It works really well in helping with pimp investigations. It works very well in helping with john stings. It works very well in helping to identify people that might be involved in a homicide or a sexual assault. So it works well with the other things we do as a police department.

We work on the basis that if a person has a reasonable explanation of why he's on a prostitution stroll and why he's been stopped by the police in that prostitution stroll, if he has a reasonable explanation why he's there, then that's taken and he's just asked to carry on and do his business. If he's looking for an address for business purposes or to visit someone, that's perfectly fine — that's why he's there; that's more than acceptable.

Otherwise what we're operating on are reasonable grounds that a crime is being committed, has been committed, or is about to be committed. When we form those reasonable grounds, and usually what we're doing, trying to form the reasonable grounds, is under section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada which is communication for the purpose of prostitution.

Occasionally, it can be under section 212(4), which is for a juvenile. If we think there's a juvenile on the street, we'll apprehend her right away and take her to social services. But that's basically the crime that we're looking at to develop — are reasonable grounds.

Examples of behaviour that we will look for as police officers to gain our reasonable grounds and they're really common — these are probably the three most common things we'll find — is picking up and being found in the company of sex-trade workers. That's, you see the person pick up a sex-trade worker, they drive three blocks, they go to the area where they're going to break or turn their date, as they call it.

Continually driving around an area frequented by sex-trade workers. We'll see this . . . you can have men that will spend, if you allow them, 95 minutes, two hours, just driving around a three-block area looking at sex-trade workers.

The other one you'll see a lot of is continually stopping and talking to sex-trade workers. They'll go from sex-trade worker to sex-trade worker to sex-trade worker.

So this is the stuff that we look for to gain our reasonable grounds to make the stop.

There's a lot of other activities that you can see. That activity will vary a bit from city to city. Some of the activity is more stuff that you develop expertise as vice officers, which some of the other vice officers here have the same expertise. There's certain stuff that you'll see that we as vice officers have the expertise to go, this is what the person's doing.

When we were asked by our senior management team to develop a way to approach the sex trade, because we were beat officers in the area called Grandview Woodlands in Vancouver, an area historically that's had problems socio-economically — it's one of the poorer neighbourhoods in Vancouver — it's an area that traditionally has been called crime ridden or it has a history of a lot of petty crime and a lot of crime involved in the neighbourhood.

We looked at it two different ways. We wanted to look at how is the community being affected by the sex trade. Not just how do we police the sex trade, but how is the community being affected.

So Oscar and I spent months going to every block-watch meeting we could, every parent advisory council we could at schools, all that stuff, and just talking to the people inside that neighbourhood to find out what they thought of the sex trade. Because we didn't want to impose a police solution on them that they didn't think was acceptable.

What we found was they talked about the liveability of their community being under attack. They used terms that we're . . . we're at war with the sex trade, we feel under siege, it's a cancer. It was basically a battle that they were fighting. And at the top of the list of what was affecting their community was of course the safety of their families.

They're concerned about needles in playgrounds. They're concerned about used condoms in playgrounds and in their backyard. We had one lady that told us that she won't stick her hand underneath a shrub in her front yard because she's worried about being pricked by a needle. That sort of stuff. They were concerned about the direct safety of their family.

The other thing that they talked about and was interesting to me was the indoctrination of their children. They were worried that their children were seeing or were being normalized into the sex trade as a possible lifestyle.

I had one mother come to me and said, my daughter's 12; she's walked passed — and I'll use her terms — she's walked passed the same prostitute for the last three years going to school and coming back from school. My concern is, my daughter's now 12, she's been asked numerous times how much for oral sex. That's not the term she used, but that's . . . And how much for this and how much for that.

At what point does my daughter, if she wants new clothes, if she wants to get me a gift for Christmas, goes, I've got all these guys asking, I've seen this person doing it for the last three years, maybe I could do this. That was her concern.

At that time I didn't have children. I thought the mother was overreacting, to be perfectly honest. I was polite; I said I'll do the best I can, but I thought that she was overreacting. But what happened later, about a year after that, really drove the point home to me. Oscar and I were in our office. We received a phone call to see if we could go to a school and talk to a little girl that had been flashed in the schoolyard. So we said fine. We started to drive over.

The school historically is in the poorest neighbourhood in Canada, or at least in Vancouver — historically it's one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Canada. It's an area that we had had issues with prostitutes not turning dates but picking up dates basically surrounding the school. They worked the sidewalk surrounding the school. In the last year we had worked really hard at that school to stop that activity. So the area had been cleaned up dramatically.

But as we're driving to the school, we're getting information about the little girl and about the crime. The basic information is the little girl is eight. She's a Native girl. She was flashed. She was never touched. And they're basically just waiting for us to talk to her.

We arrived at the school and we spoke to the principal. The principal said that she came from a single-parent family. There had been issues in the family until about a year ago and the father had left and most of the issues had disappeared. He described the mother as hardworking and he thought that she had two jobs yet she still volunteered at the school. She was still very active in the school. And the only way he could describe the little girl was she's a nice little girl, that's it. He said we've had no issues with her. She's a nice kid.

At that school, luckily, the principal had a small room off his office and it was a great set-up as police. It had a small couch and an easy chair and this sort of stuff and it's what we'll call in policing a soft room. It's a great place to interview a child.

So Oscar and I both went in. You know, you're trained as a police officer; when speaking with children, it's a difficult process. They're scared. There's a lot of other things going on there.

I got down on one knee. I said to the little girl, I said, you know, I know you're really scared but I need you to tell me what happened today. And she looked at me and said the guy walked up to me, he whipped out his dick, I told him to eff off and he ran away. I was shocked. Because there's no way, at eight years old, I ever would have known to say that, and that little girl was like that.

Then, interestingly, the next thing she said to me was: can I go back to my class, I did nothing wrong. And I said no, I know you did nothing wrong. I was still recovering from the shock of that girl being so blunt. I was like, oh man. Said we need more information, right; can you tell us what he looked like, can you tell us all this stuff?

The girl was amazing for eight years old. She gave height, weight, hair, all this stuff. She was an amazing victim which, at eight years old, was . . . I was stunned, partly because, at eight years old, there is no way I would have reacted that way, myself. I knew that.

The interesting thing for us is . . . Oscar and I commute in together. We don't live together, but we commute in together. No, not that there's anything wrong with that. On the way home, we were both really depressed. We talked a lot about the little girl. We didn't know why we were both really depressed, but we were.

About six months after that, we did a presentation to a group of nurses. We do some training for nurses in the province of British Columbia. And one of the nurses stuck her hand up when I told what had happened and she said, I think the reason that you're sad or depressed by the story is, or the events, is because that little girl had no childhood. At eight years old, she had to be an adult. And that nurse was bang on, right.

And then I went, that lady that talked to me about her children being indoctrinated into the sex trade — she's right. Right? Her daughter may not go, at 12 I could turn a date, but at 12 years old that girl knows enough that when a car slows beside her to either run away, to swear at him, to ignore him, to do something, and that's not right. That shouldn't have to happen. I know it's good that it does happen, but it shouldn't have to happen.

Health issues that surround the sex trade are numerous. Probably the most common one are needles; children being pricked by needles. We had a rash of that in Vancouver. That has stopped dramatically or it's very rare now in Vancouver.

The big reason for that, and all the credit to the Vancouver School Board, is they train the children or they have a class for the children. I believe it starts in grade 2, on how to deal with needles if they find them. So believe it or not, if I brought an eight-year-old into this room, they could probably tell you how to deal with a needle better than most of us in this room — which is a great thing. Again it's sad that those kids got to know that.

They also employ . . . the school where the little girl was at, the janitor there used to come in half an hour on his own time — and British Columbia is a very union province — but he still came in half an hour on his own time, and he used to walk around the schoolyards picking up condoms and needles. The school board now pays him if he has to do that. And what we did was worked really hard in those neighbourhoods so now he generally doesn't have to go in and do that any more; we've

cleaned up that area a lot. And not put it to another area, but that area is . . .

Condoms. The big concern with condoms is a used condom; children will often believe it's a balloon. And we've had a number of incidences where a small child, five or six years old, picks up the condom if he finds it in an alley, believes it's a balloon. He tries to blow it up. His lung capacity is not strong enough for that and what's ever in that condom; he'll often suck back into his body. We then have a parent that's irate, justifiably so, because you have a child that . . . you don't want that to . . . deal with your child, right. I now have a child. There's no way I'd ever want that to happen to my child.

The other interesting thing that I found amazing was traffic. Traffic drives people crazy in their neighbourhood. We had people saying, why do I live in a residential neighbourhood and at 3 o'clock in the morning, I have 60 vehicles up and down my street. That shouldn't happen. That affects my family. We can't sleep. My son can't sleep before he goes to school. My husband can't sleep before he goes to work. I can't sleep. That was a big effect.

And again with the traffic, the noise is kind of combined. It's also a matter of, if someone was getting attacked, they would scream for someone to call the police. Those people would phone. It just was disrupting their neighbourhood. It was . . . Their neighbourhoods were under attack. They felt it. I believe that that was the case; that was what was going on there.

Just a quick comment about the sex trade in general terms, in geographic dynamics of the sex trade. What we found about the sex trade is, the important thing about the sex trade is movement. We see perennially, no matter where we go, be it Saskatoon, which does DISC and has done a great job with it for the last year and a half or so that it's been on; Regina has now joined; all the movement is so vitally important.

We will have a girl — and I'm talking about a girl, a 14-year-old girl — that can be recruited out of a suburb in Vancouver like Coquitlam and will not be put to work in Vancouver but she will be moved to Kelowna, which is about four hours outside of Vancouver, and then moved to Calgary, and then moved to Seattle, and then maybe eight months after she's initially gone into the sex trade, she may come back into Vancouver.

But it's all a matter of movement. They constantly keep the people moving when they can. Because it's easier to control a sex-trade worker if you have her moving or him moving and they never settle.

The whole point in the sex trade, from a pimping perspective, is you want movement. Because you do not want them to get comfortable anywhere. You want the only connection for them to be you as the pimp, not the manager of the apartment where slowly they get to know the manager of the apartment that they're staying at. You want it movement as much as you possibly can.

Doesn't mean it's always like that. And we will have people that will live in the city of Vancouver for eight years and work in the sex trade that entire time. But you will see a lot of movement.

The other geographic dynamic we see a lot of is people from the suburbs in the Lower Mainland coming into Vancouver to feed on the sex trade and then go back to their homes in the suburbs where that doesn't exist.

So again it's movement. It's not . . . It's very, very rare for us to find in an area of prostitution a john from that area. So we rarely will see a man that lives, say in the Grandview-Woodland area, that's preying on prostitutes in the Grandview-Woodland area.

If that person's going to do that, which we rare . . . again we see less of that, places where there's an affliction of prostitution, those men tend not to prey on prostitutes as much. But they would go somewhere else, see a person from — and I don't want to pick on Coquitlam, but that's the one that keeps coming to mind — Coquitlam, will drive into Vancouver, into the poorer neighbourhood, deal with the sex trade there, and then go back to their home where it doesn't exist for them, in their mind.

Strolls and neighbourhoods, it's just a quick comment. A stroll is an area where prostitutes will work. That is, that's where they'll pick their customers up. Neighbourhoods are neighbourhoods, right.

Most of the strolls in Western Canada — and I'm not going to say it's always the case — but most of the strolls in Western Canada are in light industrial areas. Areas that no one would say is a neighbourhood; they'd say it's a light industrial area, just leave them there, right.

The problem is most sex-trade workers will not turn dates or turn tricks, do the sex act, on that stroll. Two reasons. One is, if you turn a lot of . . . the more sex acts that you turn there the more likely you are to have the police intercede — number one.

Number two and probably the more important thing if you're the sex-trade worker is, if you're behind a commercial building on a Friday night and you're performing a sex act on a man and something goes wrong, i.e., he assaults you or rapes you or stabs you, you might not see anybody till Monday morning, for somebody coming to work. They don't want that. They want to be beside someone's house or close to someone's house because if they're going to get murdered or stabbed, they're hoping even if the people don't come out and help, they'll phone the police.

So often we'll hear, why don't you just leave the strolls in the light industrial areas and don't deal with those . . . don't deal with them there? They're not staying in that area. They're going into the neighbourhoods and dropping the condoms, dropping the needles there.

Benefits of DISC. It's very proactive. Part of the reason it's very proactive and that we've had great success with it is when we go into a community — and I'll say Saskatoon because that was the last time we were in Saskatchewan — we held a major press conference there saying DISC was coming in. We let

everyone in that community know this is how the Saskatoon police department is going to deal with this issue of prostitution or this part of the sex trade in Saskatoon. So men that possibly were going to go down and prey on the sex trade now went — maybe I shouldn't because I know Saskatoon's doing this.

It's been highly effective. Our recidivism rate is under 2 per cent of people that have reoffended after being stopped. And it's been a great deterrent, again the recidivism rate. A lot of it is the average man who might go down there once every eight months or gets in a fight with his wife and decides to go down, now possibly looks and goes, I don't want to go on a system where if it happens in Saskatoon or if I'm on business in Vancouver, they're going to know who I am. It tends to be a great deterrent.

At this point I'll hand it over to my partner. Thank you very much.

Mr. Ramos: — My name is Det./Cst. Oscar Ramos. I'd like to thank everybody here for coming and like to thank the provincial government for inviting us. And thank you very much. Hopefully you'll find our presentation informative.

It's going to be very difficult for me just to stand here because I'm Portuguese, so I really need to move usually during these things. Been informed there's no mobile mike, so I'll do my best.

I just want to go back to one of the points that Raymond was talking about and that's the geographic dynamics. And the police officers in the room understand this, but sometimes we really have to get into details for other people.

And that's just the case not only of suburbs and major centres. But when we went to our — just because it's been operational for three years, the first year in Vancouver to prove the validity of the program, to work out the kinks — when we went to our chief, to our mayor, and eventually to our Attorney General, what we explained to them was, this is not neighbourhood issue within the city of Vancouver, it's not just a Vancouver issue, Lower Mainland or British Columbia; this is an issue throughout British Columbia, Western Canada, and the Western US (United States).

Because the geographic dynamics here are that there's young people being recruited out of British Columbia and they're being moved within British Columbia and moved within Canada and the US. We have pimps that are coming in from the States and across Canada into our province and recruiting. We have johns and sexual offenders; they are going across the country.

I mean for us, just flying out as we were talking about at dinner, flying out, coming in this afternoon and leaving tomorrow afternoon, we're here for 36 hours at the most, if we're that, or 24 hours, rent a car, there's lots of things we could do here. Somebody could drive from Saskatoon to Regina in a couple of hours, and Prince Albert. It's really important to understand that that's what's happening.

And in talking to the communities within our province and within Western Canada, people were saying, well you know what, that's not my issue; that's in that neighbourhood. Well just because the neighbourhood happens to be poor doesn't mean it needs to be crime ridden; that's number one. It is not a disposable neighbourhood.

Number two, it affects every single neighbourhood because pimps are not recruiting necessarily in that neighbourhood where there's prostitution. They're going out to the suburbs and it's easy pickings out there in the shopping malls and the community centres. Right? The johns are coming from those areas.

So just because you don't have an area of prostitution within your neighbourhood does not mean that you are not affected by the issue of prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children. It is very, very important to understand that.

The second point is that, as police and as an investigative tool, this has been a wonderful tool for us. And in police terms, in the last 12 months we've had five homicides that have been solved directly because of information sharing and information put onto DISC, which is wonderful. Traditionally, police do not share information from municipality to municipality. It's very difficult to do that. DISC is a tool that we can do that efficiently and the information is current and it's accurate, and you have photographs on there also. And pretty well everybody in this room that's had any contact with police, or as a police officer, can say this is what we've done.

Actually Len was telling us that he was looking for somebody, sex-trade worker from Regina, had been missing for a few months, wanted to know if she was alive, what was happening with some issues, goes onto DISC, and he finds her in Vancouver. Something that would have taken him two or three days to phone us, find if we're there, in order to do that. Right? It's very, very important to see that.

The other thing is that I think the people see police in certain ways. And maybe that goes back to the '60s and '50s, but it's not happening today. I think a lot of times we look at it and we go, well, that's a police issue or that's a social services issue. And it's not. It's a community issue.

When I went through my process 10 years ago of joining the police force, like everybody else here, in my interview and the reason I joined and chose policing as a career is because I wanted to help my community, I wanted to help people within my community, I wanted to be a role model — I wanted all those things. And every single person here that joined had that goal and that intention when they joined. Nobody goes into their interview and says, you know what, I really like handcuffing people, I like putting them in the wagon, and I like putting them in jail.

You know what? I like putting people in jail. I like putting pimps in jail. And we're very good at that job. But that's not the reason we joined. That's not the reason we're doing this. This is about communities. This is about partnerships within the communities and working together, not only police agencies but everybody. And I really want to make that perfectly clear.

What we have here is an evaluation of an offender. We got this off the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and we've used it, and it really gives you an idea for . . . we use it in our training for our officers in British Columbia is that when you stop somebody, these four points is what you're looking for. It is not a john stopping to pick up a prostitute. That's not what's happening. We want them to look at what is actually happening.

And usually an offender will have a focus. That focus, for example, could be children. It could be young Native girls, it could be young Native boys, it could be blonde 12-year-old girls. It could be all sorts of things but he has one focus, and that focus rarely changes. That stays constant.

From there, he develops a theme to that focus. So if he likes a young Native girl . . . (inaudible) . . . start to get images through the Internet, through catalogues, all sorts of different things, probably starts masturbating to that. And that's the escalation.

And when that's not enough, he'll probably go out into the community. And once he does that, then he approaches young girls where he sits in his vehicle and masturbates, or he'll go out and he'll videotape people. He'll do all sorts of different things. And that's the escalation.

What's important for us is to realize those three things when we're stopping somebody. But what's his response going to be to the police that have stopped him, or to the offence, and/or the victim.

And Raymond's example of the nine-year-old, or eight-year-old girl that had the flasher is a perfect example to this. That flasher had his fantasy that he was going to go — his focus was children — he was going to go, he was going to flash, his penis was going to be exposed. Within his fantasy, right, that girl was probably going to say that's very big, can I touch that, what is that. All that has been developed, and he's been masturbating to that probably at home, in his vehicle, and working up the courage to go out and do that.

What's interesting is what's his response going to be? He wasn't stopped by the police because we weren't able to identify him or find him, but I can guarantee you that within his fantasy, the response from the little girl was not eff off, right, I don't want to see your dick. That was not it. But what is he going to do? What's his response going to do?

And our fear is that he's going to go back . . . his focus isn't going to change. His fantasy is going to change slightly. It'll still be a little girl, still be coming out of the school ground, but his response is going to be, now, she's going to like it. Right. Excuse my language, that little bitch is going to like it. Right. I'm going to make her like it. She's going to touch it and she's going to like it. Right. So he'll probably grab her, put her in the van, put her in the car, take her home. Right. Because now it's changed. And we see that happening all the time.

So that flasher is important to put on DISC because he comes under the sexual offender roll, and he probably also, right . . . if he can't do that or if he has a response, what he might do is go to an area of prostitution and practice on sex-trade workers. He might try to grab somebody and do that.

We've done a lot of work with the geographic profilers in British Columbia and also the psychological profilers in British Columbia, and what they found and what we found is that people practice. So if they want to grab somebody, nobody knows how hard he'd have to hit somebody over the head, tape him up, and put him in the back of your car. They'll go out and practice on sex-trade workers.

So that guy that you stop with the duct tape in your vehicle, we want you to think, where is he in this evaluation of offender. Where is he, what's going on? And that's why we need to exchange information.

Back to geographic dynamics. He might be practising in Vancouver, stopped in Vancouver, and be on business from Saskatoon or Regina. Well I can guarantee you, where in Vancouver he feels anonymous, and he feels comfortable cause he's only there for a couple of days in a rented vehicle, back home in Regina or Saskatoon or Prince Albert, for that matter, he's still doing it. But he's being a little bit more careful about it.

And when you're doing an interview, or when you're investigating that for a police officer, it makes the process completely different. When you interview him and he says you know what, I'm a pillar of the community, my lawn is perfectly manicured, and I would never do anything like that at all. You know, well, sir, Mr. Smith, that's interesting because two months ago, in the city of New Westminster in British Columbia, you were stopped with a 14-year-old girl in your car who is a known child who works in prostitution.

And he'll go boom. His jaw drops because now everything changes. His, you know, his lawn is still manicured and perfect but it changes the interview completely. And that's what we didn't have before and that's where DISC comes in.

Within DISC, what it provides us is a searchable CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre) list. So you can go in there. You can search partial plates, partial vehicle description, partial person description — go in there and say person with a goatee driving a Volvo. And you can search all the cities or you can just search your individual city.

You can go in there and search tattoos, scars, anything along those lines. If your victim says, you know what, I was sexually assaulted in this vehicle. All I remember is he had a soccer ball hanging from the rear-view mirror and he had a velour interior. That's all I remember. My face was pushed down in the backseat.

Well you can go in there and punch in soccer ball, right under the comments, and velour interior, and see if any vehicle like that has been stopped, anywhere in Western Canada. And if it has been stopped, then you have a place to start your investigation.

It's consistent. And that's what's so, so important. That's what we were not doing as agencies before. It doesn't matter if it's Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Seattle, Thunder Bay — it doesn't matter. As police agencies we are all doing the same thing. We are all exchanging information that's

consistent. It doesn't matter where you go; the police are going to find you. Right? We are working together and that's the most important thing.

And non-displacement. You know, unfortunately in the city of Vancouver we were doing this. We were responding traditionally by saying, what we'll do is we'll run a sting here for two weeks and we'll clear this area out. Well sure enough as soon as we got our no goes and our red zones, well we've just moved the problem four blocks over, right?

So we'd get together and say well in the city of Vancouver, let's push it over to Burnaby. There are Mounties over there. We'll do that. And then the Mounties would get together in Burnaby and then push it to New Westminster and then to Surrey and then to Abbotsford and all the way back, and we had a whole circuit going.

With this, it doesn't matter, right? It's non-displacement and it's a consistent approach. It's made all the difference for us in BC (British Columbia), in Alberta, and in Saskatchewan.

And it's cost-effective. Patrol is going to these calls. As Raymond said, patrols are doing the bulk of the work. We have found — and I'm sure Saskatoon will say exactly the same thing — once we've given this proactive tool, something that works, that the patrol officer knows that this is going to work. You know my PIN (personal identification number) number, my regimental number is attached to this. I will go to court and this goes somewhere. And it's an investigative tool. Once you give them that tool — him or her that tool — they go out and they just go. You know, it's a wonderful tool. It gives them something to do and they love it.

And it's, again, cost-effective because patrols going to those calls, now they have something to do when they get to that call.

For the sexual exploitation of youth, it really helps, as Raymond said, in ongoing investigations because of the transient nature of the sex trade. Not only johns, pimps, and people being exploited, everybody's moving. Everybody's going from city to city to city and it really helps with our ongoing investigations.

Within DISC we now have FACES (Fight Against Child Exploitation), which is just a component of DISC, and any young person that has either run away from home or is being sexually exploited, the police agency can output their photograph and their information on there to share with other agencies. So it's built on modules that can expand as we need it — as we get more cities, as we get more ideas on how we can use the system more efficiently.

Inner police communication. Again people assume that we're talking to each other all the time. And we are — we're doing it through the fax and through the phone — but this allows somebody at 2 o'clock in the morning, in Calgary, to go and do their investigation right away, right. And it helps with the inner police communication, be it municipal or RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police). And again the sooner we get the information, the sooner we can get rolling, the better chance we have.

If we have a family that comes into our office and says, my 15-year-old girl has a new boyfriend, I think his name's JD, he drives a red Mustang, she's now gone to Calgary for the weekend, we have some really serious concerns, right, we think this is what's happening. It's 11 o'clock; I'm not going to get anybody in Calgary at this hour, right. But at least I can go onto DISC, I can run the nickname, I can run the vehicle, I can the description, and I can say: you know what, this is who he is and he likes to stop in Kelowna first and that's where he puts them out and then from there he goes to Calgary, right.

So I got a better idea of what's happening. I can notify those agencies that this girl's probably there. Her photograph's already on there so that won't be an issue, they have that information. And the key is, if they don't find her, they might find — because she might be in a hotel room and he's still trying to convince her, right, through, you know, physical assaults or just emotional abuse and physical abuse — he might stop the car, right. And if he stops JD driving a red Mustang, he knows she's in Kelowna or she's in Calgary. Again then you start . . . you search through the motels to try to find her. We never had that capability before.

And just going back to that, the sooner we can get her, the better chance we have to get, you know, social services and ourselves and support structure around that young girl to try to get her out. If she's in three, four, five, six months it becomes much more difficult.

In our agency support we've had tremendous, tremendous support within British Columbia, within Alberta, within Saskatchewan, and in the States. And it's been wonderful. I mean Saskatoon's been on board about a year, they have a ton of entries in there; they've been doing it. Regina's now doing it since Christmas. We're hoping Prince Albert comes on board also. And again for those three major cities in Saskatchewan, it's very, very important to exchange information not only within the province but within Western Canada.

This is — every slide's extremely important — this is super, super important for us — and that's working partnerships. And that's again something that people assume that's happening that isn't always happening.

Within Vancouver we're lucky enough that we have one vehicle that's a police officer and a social worker. And they're out in the daytime and at night. So we have two, two vehicles like that. We have one with a mental health worker. We have another one with a probation officer and a police officer in the vehicle. So for us, we also have identified people within immigration and probation that we work with that have been briefed on the sexual exploitation of youth, people that we can contact that know exactly what we're doing and that we can work with in partnership.

So in British Columbia, if somebody is under the age of 18 and we find them at risk and they're on the street, we will apprehend them. We will take charge of that youth because that youth is at risk. We articulate that by saying that person is in a known area of prostitution, she's working as a prostitute, she's being exploited. And we take them to social services, our ministry of families and children.

We have a 24-hour office, that's open 24 hours, and we can take them there after midnight. Before that we have a mobile unit that we can contact. It's called the Adolescent Street Unit and they come out either to us or we go to them with the youth.

And what we do is we've taken charge of this young girl. We sit down with her. She's not under arrest. She's been taken charge of for her safety. Sit down with social services, the social worker who, again, has been trained and knows what we're doing as police and we know what she's doing as a social worker. Together we try to find the right environment to help this young girl.

The support and structure is key. She's not handcuffed. She's not put in the back of the police wagon. She's taken there. She understands that she's taken charge of by the police and we work with the social worker, right. It goes beyond what is my police mandate, what is my mandate as a social worker. Our mandates are to help this young girl and that's what we're trying to do.

We don't have secure-care legislation yet in British Columbia; it's on the books and about to be passed. Alberta does. She can walk out and, often they do walk out. And often, they say, you know what, I really need some help. I want to get out and I want to go to a safe house, I want to get into detox, I have to have these things. And then we work with that social worker and social services to get that person there, right.

Or she says, you know what, I want to go back home to Regina, right, or I want to back home to Toronto, right. And our social services will buy her a plane ticket from Vancouver to Toronto, right. And we will sit at the airport with her for the next eight hours because the next flight is at 7 o'clock in the morning, right, and put her on that plane. Contact Ontario social services, she's coming, this is the situation, and we want her to be safe. That's really important, right.

We need to have those working relationships. We need those positions to be funded. I mean, it's tough for a municipality to do it. We need those positions to be funded provincially, if not federally. I mean, it's tough for a police department to say we are going to get three new positions here where it's going to be a police officer and social worker on the street and a probation officer and a social worker.

So often, what ends up happening for us is we'll apprehend a 17-year-old girl. We've apprehended her. We take charge of her, but we . . . she has an infant. We just had a very recent case, three weeks ago, like this. She has an infant, right. Where's your baby? I don't know. Well, what's happening, right.

We've taken her to the social service office. They have a good soft room there. We're talking to her. She goes, he's holding my infant as leverage and making me work. I don't know. Well when are you supposed to meet this guy? I'm supposed to phone in at 1 o'clock and at 3 o'clock in the morning, tell him how much money I've made. If I made enough then I'm allowed to come home and I'm allowed to see my baby.

So right away we contact social services. They have the mobile unit and we say this is the situation, we need your help, come on out with us. We set up; she makes the phone calls. Sure enough, it ends up being in Surrey, two municipalities away. We go out there, immobilize, we have a unit, about 10 members, set up surveillance. We get going. It's all done that night. He shows up to the spot where he's supposed to pick her up. We have the cab there; we arrest him. During the arrest, where's the child? He gives up the child. We go to that location. The child's taken charge of; social services is there right away.

Our victim, the original 17-year-old girl, is not in fear, you know, this child is going to be taken away from me, because the child isn't going to be taken away from her, right. She found herself in a very difficult situation. She made a poor choice but she's under duress. Right? The child might be taken away for a couple of days until they do an assessment of the home, but she realizes that they're there as a support structure, right, not to take the child away. And she is a child. She's 17.

And if you're 17 years old — think about that, right. You've gone through that whole experience. Your child's being basically held hostage. What do you do? Who do you trust? And this guy's telling you: you know what? Wherever you go, I will hunt you down, right. Very, very difficult circumstances.

But the partnership issue is key because then we can phone up the vehicle that has a police officer and a social worker in it and say, we need your help. If it's a probation matter we can phone them right away and they're on the road ready to go. It makes a huge, huge difference than saying, you know what, it's Friday; we can deal with it Monday morning. Huge, huge difference.

Right now . . . It's more than 24, isn't it . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Oh, okay. Well it's actually 30 agencies because Victoria region is the capital region of British Columbia. So it's 24 agencies that are now participating within DISC as police agencies throughout Western Canada and the Western States. It's a shared information system. That's the key for us.

It exchanges information in real time. And again the information, when it comes to this, because of the transient nature, it has to be accurate and current, right. It can't be from five months ago. Sometimes it is from five months ago but, if you're doing a case right now, you need information right now. If she's been abducted, if she's been taken, you need it today.

And we've talked about FACES already. Within British Columbia and the Yukon region, ViCLAS (Violent Crime Linkage Analysis) has access and they log-on. With ViCLAS, those are . . . Is everyone familiar with ViCLAS?

Basically what ViCLAS is, is it's a federal program where sexual offences are catalogued and offenders are catalogued and they can go with the MO (modus operandi) of that offence and try to find out. So if someone's been convicted of a series of sexual offences and they have a certain method in which they do that, that's catalogued. If we have any future crimes, they can go in there and search for that.

They use our system all the time because, unless he's been arrested, they don't know about him, right, so they can go in

there and use it. The other thing is we have in British Columbia is the geographic profilers and the psychological profilers of the RCMP and within our police department also have access and they want to actually have a page on there because they find the information really useful.

Within British Columbia we have now is E-Comm, which is a communications centre for police within British Columbia. It's a non-profit organization or funds of . . . government-funded, non-profit corporation, and that's where the DISC program is housed. So it has all the security necessary, all the police agencies in British Columbia have their information within E-Comm. It's called the prime BC information-sharing project. We were one of the first things that they got involved with. And again, it's the amalgamation of agencies and their information in order to solve crimes.

And especially when it comes to the sexual exploitation of children and when it comes to this kind of sexual offences, we need to exchange information — not only within British Columbia, but across Canada and across the US. It is vital, vital, vital.

This is an example of somebody of special interest, and this is actually a file that Raymond and I did. Call him Mr. Smith — that's not his name. But he's a 49-year-old White male. He was stopped the first time by Raymond and I, and his focus is young Native girls. Stopped him, pull him out of the vehicle, pull the young girl out of the vehicle. I interview him; Raymond interviews the young girl.

He tells me he's a mining engineer, travels throughout the world, does a lot of work within Thailand, and we do not understand that he has a personal relationship with this 14-year-old girl and that we are judging him because around the world it would not be an issue. I inform him that it is an issue within Canada and that he's not in Thailand and he can't be doing this kind of thing.

So we go through the entire DISC process. We tell him we're going to take this information — all this kind of stuff. He says fine, no problem. We apprehend the young girl. Raymond interviews her. She goes . . . (inaudible) . . . the guy; she doesn't know who he is. Take her to social services, do the interview. She walks out. He knows where the 24-hour Social Services is. He's set up two blocks away waiting for her to walk out, right. Luckily enough, we're another two blocks away waiting for him.

As soon as she comes out, he approaches her. She gets in his truck again. We stop, take the girl out, go up to social services and explain what happened. So you know what? We need a safe house far, far away because we need to deal with this guy.

What's interesting about Mr. Smith is this, is that he lives in the city, or he used to live, but at the time he lived in the city of Vancouver. Lived off a trust fund, a family trust fund, didn't work. Very well off. What he did is he rented a vehicle to go out to an area of prostitution to try to find young Native girls. He's actually . . . we worked with immigration and our contacts in immigration — he's never been to Thailand. He's not a mining engineer. But that's his fantasy. Right?

So we put him on DISC. We do all those things. We get a phone call about two months later from the UBC (University of British Columbia) RCMP detachment, that has a reserve right off of that. Mr. Smith has been stopped there talking to young Native girls. So it's just outside the city of Vancouver; it's by UBC. So it's actually technically inside Vancouver. They do the DISC stop, take all the information down, send him on his way.

And again, it goes back to the evaluation of the offender. What do you think Mr. Smith does? Get a phone call two months after that from White Rock. And those that are familiar with British Columbia, White Rock is another — I don't know — an hour and a half from downtown Vancouver. That's where he lived so he was very upset about it.

Mr. Smith has now sold his house in Vancouver and bought a home in White Rock, which is an RCMP detachment — it's far; right on the border, right on the border — to try to get away from us. White Rock RCMP stop him again approaching young Native girls walking to school.

Mr. Smith believes that the police are watching him. We're not. What we're doing is exchanging information.

But as police I have absolutely no doubt that Mr. Smith will rent his vehicle, right, and he'll go out to Prince George or Quenelle, or hop on a plane that costs $150 one way to Saskatchewan, to find a young Native girl. Because he needs to find a young Native girl.

He has no criminal record that we know of. But if we have a young Native girl that goes missing, be it in British Columbia, Alberta, or Saskatchewan, we'll be looking at Mr. Smith and where he was.

We search the vehicle the first time. We find a little knapsack that young girls like to wear in the back, a little sort of purse thing, has some panties in it, some condoms. Never able to identify who that purse belongs to — didn't belong to the girl that we took out of the vehicle.

So for a 49-year-old White male, if he's doing this, he's been doing it for a long time. And who knows how many sexual assaults, homicides, or whatever else, Mr. Smith has been up to throughout British Columbia or Western Canada. Give you an idea of what one police stop can do.

Anything to add to Mr. Smith? And again, it's not his name.

Mr. Payette: — No. When we do this presentation to police we show his . . . (inaudible) . . . We show his photo.

If we were able to show his photo, and we can't, but if we were able to, you would think nothing of having this guy live next door to you because he's a 49-year-old White male who is fairly well off and just seems like a nice enough guy. You would have no issue at all. He does not have a tattoo on his head that says sex offender. He's an average guy.

Mr. Ramos: — And just talking about interagency support, is when we went back to social services and explained the situation, there was no problem finding a safe house for our

victim two hours away, right.

And I know that Arlene Julé came out with us and we had, a prime example, something just like that where she stuck it out right until 4 o'clock in the morning and I know when Brian Dueck came out also. . . You know we need to have that co-operation. Because there's nothing worse than walking into another agency and they say well, there's nothing we can do here, right; that's a police issue. It isn't. It's everybody's issue.

These are some stats for the year of '98, mostly stats for just Raymond and I, just sort of give you an idea of what can happen, again, from a police standpoint. We had 300 DISC entries in 1998. Out of those we had 56 juvenile apprehensions, 6 of those were repeats, girls that we had apprehended before. So a total of 50.

Out of those 300 stops, we arrested 26 people on warrants; we arrested 14 people directly related to information from DISC on those 300 stops; and we identified 25 special interest. And in policing terms not bad for a priority three call. Right? Not bad for our members that are in-between B and E (breaking and entering) calls that got half an hour, hey, let's go do this. You're getting good results.

The benefits, you know, it's a comprehensive approach and it addresses community concerns. You know, we're repeating ourselves but it is very, very important to understand that. And again, the accurate and current information about pimps and special interest in recruiting. Pimps are mobile, they use nicknames, they use other people's names, they use false identification all the time, right. And it's good ID (identification).

So unless, you know, your member has the time, right from the top, from the chief and deputy chief down to say, you know what, if you're going to go do this take the half-hour it takes to find out who this guy is and let's find out which girls are out there and let's do it because in the long run it's going to save us time, right? So it's huge and we need to have that. And again, it's consistent and we need that across all agencies and not just police agencies.

And it increases our information sharing. And again it goes back to that, you know, we need to do that. And people assume that we are doing that. And we are doing that through CPIC and through a lot of other things. But in reality we need to be doing more of this, and we are.

Just some stats from '98 to just March 22 of this year. We have 1,531 johns entered on DISC, 110 pimps, and 104 special interests — that's for Vancouver? — that's everybody, that's everybody on DISC. We did traffic study within the city of Vancouver last year in areas of prostitution between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m., and the average decrease in traffic was 35 per cent; in some areas it was close to 45 per cent.

Which again when you go back to the stats is huge, because if you've cut off half, those other people that are coming down there are the guys we really want to keep an eye on, because for them they've got to go down there, right. They got to be there. He's like Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith goes down Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays, no matter what.

You know our stated goal about the street-level sex trade leaves a negative impact on businesses, schools, parks, and families, and inflicted neighbourhoods. And again, because a neighbourhood's poor does not mean that it has to be crime ridden.

You know, and we've stopped numerous johns that go, well, what do people expect, right, that's what this neighbourhood's about. Well you know, that's not what this neighbourhood's about.

The people in this park, they have to come here with their kids before they play soccer, got to get together, hold hands, and go across the soccer field and look for condoms and needles, right. That doesn't happen as much now in Vancouver as it did, right.

That child is probably, you know, of a working family, one parent, mom or dad is holding down two jobs, the kid's going to school, they're doing all the right things that we're asking them to do. But if you put them in that situation, you're looking for a no win situation. And again as police we're responding to that through all sorts of different programs, right, but we need support from everybody.

And again, this is goals to transfer the responsibility of issues surrounding the sex trade on to the sex-trade consumer. He's the one that fuels all of this, right. It's all about money. He's going down there, he's spending the money. The pimp's recruiting because it's going to make money. So if we can really attack that, and we tracked five categories, but again if we can really attack the consumer there, it's going to cut down the money supply and you're going to get better information.

We passed out our cards and we've passed out information, a booklet, to the committee and the police members here. Feel free to call us any time. That's our phone number and that's our e-mail address. We do our best to contact everybody and work together.

Open up to questions.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you Oscar, thank you Raymond. We will do just that very . . . (inaudible) . . . right now. If you would like to ask questions or exchange thoughts with Oscar and Raymond, just give us an indication either to Mr. Prebble or myself by just raising your hand and we'll try to keep some order to this.

So who would like to start? Okay, I would like to start then.

Oscar you have certainly pointed out that the responsibility for this issue lies with the johns. And you're obviously pointing out a number of things that the DISC program does in fact, that places the responsibility on the johns. The one mention that you, I think Raymond, made of anonymity being an issue with johns, I think is clearly obvious that they want to remain anonymous, they don't want to be known. And obviously the DISC program is something that will deter these people from that activity.

I was also interested in just talking with you a little bit more about the need for interagency and interdepartmental co-operation as far as making sure that this work is effective.

And when I was in Vancouver, I had the opportunity while I was with you to go through the whole gambit, from the time that you apprehended a 17-year-old girl on the streets, and in that apprehension, I could watch clearly how you not only looked out for her safety, but also made a determination that she had a child, a baby in fact, that was in danger. And due to that, social services kicked in; you could say your work with social services became quite obvious and the importance of that work became quite obvious to me.

Is the funding for the entire DISC program — you mentioned it, I think, on one of the slides, but I missed it, and I'd just like some clarification — is the funding for DISC given by the province or is it by the city of Vancouver?

Mr. Payette: — The city of Vancouver funds, at this point, Oscar and my position. So our salaries are paid by the city of Vancouver, the city of Vancouver police department. We were given $75,000 seed money by the Attorney General's ministry of British Columbia, which allowed us to buy computer equipment to run the program or to set the program up at E-Comm; some security measures; this equipment here so we could do presentations; and that sort of stuff.

At this point, that's our funding. To be honest, we would like more funding. You know, we have been approached by some contacts in the federal government. We would like federal funding; we would like any funding.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, that's good. And the reason that I asked that is because, you know, in my thoughts of how important it is that social services work with the police, and immigration work with the police, and all of these different service providers work together, I'm just trying to understand what kind of cost might be associated with this transformation you've had, of having social workers come on board with you. It's obviously an effort that was worth making and worth taking because it is working out.

Have you been able to gather any information from the department of social services there whether or not it has cost them a great deal to sort of reconstruct the way they're doing things?

Mr. Ramos: — We don't have any costs, any hard figures for you. What we can tell you is the vehicle that has a police officer and a social worker, the city of Vancouver funds that one position and social services funds the other position and they work in conjunction.

For our purpose, we view DISC as a vehicle to bring different agencies together and to bring information together. And as Raymond said usually when we are training, it's not the Super Bowl, it's not going to solve anything, but what it does is it brings people together and agencies together in one common goal. And you have great information there to share.

So, as Raymond said, we're funded by the city of Vancouver and also by the provincial government, but both governments were able to look at the situation and say yes, we agree with you. We need to fund this but if Saskatchewan wants to come on board, that's fine. Right?

And you know in the future we're obviously going to be looking for more funding, probably federally, to help us along the way. But those positions for the social worker and the police officer is a partnership between the province and the city.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — When I was in Vancouver and I had the opportunity also to speak with a social worker that was driving along with the police, there seemed to me to be a great deal of relief and satisfaction on the part of the social worker that I spoke to that in fact things were being done in an expedient manner. There was success to this and I think it made everybody feel like gee whiz, we're really able to do things we never did before in helping children and youth.

And so, I think that it's very, very important that obviously that that step takes place. It's one of the major benefits, I would think, of developing the whole program, is that it took all the agencies, all the people working in different ways. It took all those people and sort of showed them that in working together you can get things done.

Mr. Ramos: — You know and we have to give credit to the management of those different agencies, that when we approached them or when they heard about us that they came forward and said, you know what? Let's get together and have a training day. When are you guys coming to do a presentation? We'll identify people within our social services that want to work with police and let's set up a protocol of how things are going to run.

And that's so very important that when you go in that they know it's going to be Oscar and Raymond or another officer from patrol, but these are the steps that are going to happen and the social workers there know exactly what's going to happen.

And we've been very lucky in being able to access those managers and being able to do training and share information with different agencies.

Mr. Payette: — And the other thing that's important, I think, strictly from a social services perspective, is often what you'd see in Vancouver is a social worker would want to visit a family with an issue. It was an issue with the child or whatever. So they would drive and they would stop two blocks away and, because the issue involving that family may be violence, spousal assault, that sort of stuff, the social worker is not going to go in there by his or herself. So they would go. They'd park two blocks away and they'd phone the police to have a car attend.

So depending on the call load of that night — and often these issues arise on Friday night, Saturday nights, which the police in this room can tell you are horrendous nights for call load — they would wait an hour, an hour and a half, two hours, because the police just couldn't get the people to go with them and they're not going to go in by themselves. And I agree, they shouldn't go in by themselves.

But now car 86, which is the car that has a social worker and a police officer, when they start, the social worker will say, I have to visit these four homes. They have a police officer with them, so they're going to feel far more comfortable to go in right now and go.

Then if an issue develops inside that home where the police officer comes on and goes, I as a police officer am calling for cover because I feel I can't handle this myself, that's a higher priority call. They're going to get more attention. So cost-effective-wise, I think, in the end it's cheaper . . . don't have those people sitting, waiting.

Mr. Ramos: — I'd like to add something to what Raymond was saying, and that's we have found, especially over the last year and a half in dealing with other cities — Calgary especially and in Saskatoon — is that once they've implemented DISC and they . . . (inaudible) . . . down that road, it really becomes a vehicle that opens up doors to other agencies.

I know that Calgary now has a much better working relationship with different agencies, including social services and outreach programs, than it did before. And it wasn't a case that they didn't want to have that communication, but DISC has provided that vehicle where the other agencies go, well you know what, let's work together. This isn't just a policing issue. It's not just a social services issue.

I know Saskatoon has had similar experiences of opening up doors, as has Calgary and Vancouver.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — In reference to that comment . . . (inaudible) . . . I wonder if I could ask Brian Dueck whether or not you found that it is working that well in Saskatoon. Are you able to have maybe piloted a situation where social workers are out with the police officer in a car and where you recognized that that is effective and efficient and moving things along?

Mr. Dueck: — Well our experience there is that we don't have social workers working with our vice people. That would be lovely . . . (inaudible) . . . sitting here. Hopefully he's taking notes for the funding of that.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — . . . on happening in your . . .

Mr. Dueck: — Well I mean it's a very novel idea. We have a couple of other situations going in Saskatoon though, where we are working with Social Services. One is our SHOCAP (serious and habitual youth offender comprehensive action program) program, if you're aware of that — the serious habitual offender program. There's still a few things to be ironed out there. Any time you develop a partnership, everybody has to be on the same page as has been said here many times tonight.

SHOCAP, we're just working through some of that trying to get Social Services to commit one or two people permanently to that. And it's a matter of . . . and SHOCAP, I can add, has become a model. It started in Calgary. We've taken it on. Regina's running with SHOCAP. They're using it. You go to any other part of the country right now, we're getting enquiries from Peel regional, all over, that this is a really good program.

We also have the Centre for Children's Justice, where we have victim services and our . . . the child sexual abuse centre. We have social workers assigned to there that work with our morality . . . child sexual assault investigators. So we have those programs going. I mean certainly working with other agencies isn't foreign, but if you can convince someone that social workers . . .

And we can add Operation Help, which we're trying to get launched and should be coming up shortly, which our vice people have developed together with Egadz. And I think we've talked about it to some of you. Again Social Services is involved in that particular program. And that program is aimed directly at trying to get street sex-trade workers off of the street, get them rehabbed, you know drug rehab, etc., and get them straightened out.

So certainly we're doing it but I mean it's a novel idea. I mean my ears perked when I heard you say that you had a car out with a social worker all night. It's nice, but again it's funding. And we have good relations with Social Services in Saskatoon. We have lots to do with them. We coffee regularly with the director up there, Ron Pollock, and it becomes a money issue.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Brian, when you say it's a money issue, it's funding, are you referring to the fact that you would need to have specific officers and specific social workers working . . . designated specifically for this area of work?

Mr. Dueck: — Well I think that's ideal. The same as SHOCAP; I mean that's what we're trying to develop with SHOCAP, is that we partner police officers with social workers, with the interim release people, the jural people, or the intensive supervision people. And I'm straying a little bit here from the street sex-trade worker but not a lot. And I think it's ideal that you'd have a social worker and a policeman partnered and working together because they all know the same people. They're dealing with these same individuals. No different than our vice people. I'm sure they . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. And, Brian, to your knowledge who funds SHOCAP?

Mr. Dueck: — It's funded by the provincial government.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay. So that is a designated program basically with provincial funding.

Mr. Dueck: — Absolutely.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — As this could very well be too if there was, if there was a will.

Mr. Dueck: — Right, sure. And of course we're waiting for two days hence to see whether there's any additional positions for that.

We really feel a need to put some more people into SHOCAP for instance. We think it's been a tremendous program in dealing with serious, young offenders — the serious ones.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Thank you.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — . . . some other members have questions that I think we should go to, but Don, you had a comment you wanted to make?

Mr. Wilks: — I just wanted to add a little bit to what Brian's saying. What we've done in Saskatoon is recently we've implemented an outreach program in conjunction with our absentee assessment team. And what we've done is coordinated a or accessed a youth worker out of our community services from city hall.

So what we've done is we've created a team there that will be out working on the streets, not necessarily only speaking with or talking to sex-trade workers but kids that aren't connected with schools. But again we're finding that kids who are not connected with schools are — some of them at least — are in the sex trade.

So we have created that connection. But I can assure you that we would welcome the opportunity to work with our Department of Social Services people in an outreach capacity no different than Vancouver's doing if those resources were to come knocking at our doors.

I can tell you that we've had discussions with Mr. Pollock up in Saskatoon about that, but to date those resources haven't been able to be freed up to actually do that. But I can certainly tell you that if that were to happen we could, we could make every attempt to team up very quickly.

That project — with the resources and the knowledge that the Social Services people have in Saskatoon that we may not even know about — there's this crossover that we could look after these children very quickly. And I think it's very important that we don't wait until Monday morning before we attend to these people.

Mr. Dueck: — I'm going to answer that if I could. We've had the experience in the past — and this is no criticism of Social Services . . . (inaudible) . . . but we've had, we've had police officers who at 2 . . . (inaudible) . . . or 1 o'clock in the morning have picked a 15-year-old off the street in the stroll area and taken them to our mobile crisis intervention. And when you go in there alone, as a policeman, as you guys mentioned, it's pretty difficult to get some action.

Where we paired . . . where policemen paired with a social worker, and now we're going into their home, I can see where it would be tremendously advantageous to . . . it would get things working. I mean this particular policeman has since retired. I believe he was ahead of his time because, I mean, he said it way back when: this is a child protection issue; we can pull these kids off the street and this is where they need to go. He wasn't . . . he didn't meet with a lot of success. And maybe our whole department is a little more in tune to dealing with those sorts of . . . (inaudible) . . . now than they were 10 years ago.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Oscar, I think, if you don't mind, I'm just going to . . . Well why don't we make this the last comment, and then I'm going to move to Kevin Yates. I'm going to move to June, I'm going to move to Carolyn, Ron. Don, do you have any questions right now?

Okay, so that's the order. And I have some questions of my own that I'd like to ask as well. But Oscar and then Kevin.

Mr. Ramos: — Great. I appreciate that. Since I have really young kids, I forget things really quickly now or I fall asleep — one of the two.

What I was going to say in references to Saskatoon, not every file that we do in vice involves social services. But sometimes we'll have somebody that's 22 or 23, they want to get off the street, they want to get into detox, they want to do these other things, and they go: well, what am I going to do with my child? At least I can say or Raymond can say: listen, you know, we can call this mobile unit that we work with all the time or we can take you to the 24-hour . . . after hours and we can sit down and talk about that.

And even though she's 24, we can go there and sit down and say: okay, there's a child here, she wants to go into detox for three weeks, she doesn't want to lose her child, what can we do? And the important thing is not only having those services from a police standpoint and not waiting until Monday morning, but when you have that window of opportunity, when you have somebody that says to you: you know what, I want out, and I want out now, and you go: well, Monday we'll come talk to you or somebody will on Monday, you've lost that person. You've lost that opportunity. You need it now.

And when you go there, you need to have the support and structure beyond that. And we're . . . I mean BC is not by any means, way, way ahead of everybody else, but you need to have that. When she goes I want to go into detox; you need to have that detox bed, right, and you have to have services available for that child for the next three weeks. You need to have that. If you don't have that, again, you're going to lose that person. That's really important to have.

And again, the partnerships between police and other agencies. And again, we only have wonderful things to say about Saskatoon and Regina, but Saskatoon has been doing it for a year and half, and you know, for them to come forward and say we want to do DISC and we want to do it now. They flew us out to Saskatoon; we did the training. Working together with Saskatoon, Calgary and Vancouver has made a world of difference for all of us.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you, Oscar.

Mr. Yates: — Thanks very much. I have a number of questions, some of them are fairly straightforward. But do you have in Vancouver . . . You've set this whole system up in place and now it's being used by 24 other agencies, the cost paid for by, largely by the Vancouver police I'd say, because the larger portion would be your salaries over the last three years. Is your intent as this continues to expand because you're adding modules to put a user fee in for those agencies that use it? Or fund . . .

Mr. Payette: — Right now, if you're an agency outside of the province of British Columbia that joins DISC, we will charge you $150 for security features to access DISC. In time we hope that we don't have to charge user fees. In time we may have to

if we don't get more kind of blanket funding, I'd guess you'd call it.

Right now our goal would be that . . . and what we try to do is make it as inexpensive as possible to be on the system and stay on the system because if it comes down to a matter of costing and people are making this decision based on costing, that's not good for our department because Vancouver loses information. But just generally, it's not good overall because, as I was saying earlier when I was talking to someone else, you develop kind of holes and those people will fall into that hole.

If you have an area that's not going to join DISC and not going to access the information and share the information, there's a great communication system inside the sex trade and you will have the sex trade move people into an area that they know there's not communicating with other areas. And that's the really, you know, scary thing — it truly is — that they will move into that.

We've had comments made where people in Calgary, vice detectives in Calgary have been told: oh, you guys are doing the same thing as Vancouver, I'm leaving Calgary, I'm going to Toronto.

Mr. Yates: — The reason I'm asking the question is I'm looking at what the costs would be to have a national network like this so there aren't just what you talk about, the areas where there is no coverage and the criminal information system seems to be faster than any legal information system for sure.

Mr. Ramos: — Our goal . . . (inaudible) . . . would not be to have user fees. We've had opportunities in the past, you know, where people have approached us, the private sector, and that's not our goal. Our goal is to make it accessible to everybody.

Mr. Yates: — Okay. My second question has to do with convictions of johns. Have you seen an increase in the number of convictions you've been able to obtain regarding johns prior to the implementation of DISC and after? Or is it more a deterrent from the point of view of the recognition that harassment . . .

Mr. Ramos: — We still do a 213, which is the Criminal Code for communication; we still do those things on johns. We now run a prostitution offender program, a john school, which DISC is a part of. So we still do that process.

What we have found has increased dramatically is our information about pimps and our pimp convictions, and also our ability to find youth at risk and bring support and structure around them. That's the big thing.

And again we're talking about that earlier, this is not just about the sex trade. Sometimes when you are dealing with a 13- or 14-year-old person that's not going to school, that's on the street, eventually she's going to turn and be sexually exploited. And it's important to be proactive and be there earlier with a car, with a social worker that has contact with vice and say hey, this is what is happening, so we're thinking what's happening so then vice knows what's happening.

Mr. Yates: — My next question I have: do you have any other specific legislation other than the Criminal Code that you have access to, to help you? As an example, do you have enhanced child protection legislation or any other pieces of legislation that help you do your job in the province of British Columbia?

Mr. Payette: — I know in British Columbia a social worker can enter a home without a warrant if they believe a child is at risk or needs attention. I don't know if that exists in Saskatchewan; I assume it probably does.

Mr. Yates: — Yes it does.

Mr. Payette: — Other than that I don't know of, and again going back to that whole having a social worker in a car and having a police officer in a car, often the social worker's ability to get in that house is greater than the police officer's ability to get in that house. So if you have a child at risk and a social worker can get into that house, and the police officer is there to make sure that that social worker is safe, that's a bonus.

I mean it's just a great thing because as police officers we may not be able to enter that house unless we can hear or articulate that we know that child's in imminent danger and often that's not the case. We just don't hear that or we don't have direct enough information where that social worker can go, we're going in because this is so.

Mr. Ramos: — Correct me if I'm wrong. I believe in British Columbia it is a person under the age of 19 that we can apprehend and take charge of; I believe Saskatchewan is 16. So that's a huge difference for us. Because 17-year-olds in British Columbia we can still apprehend and take charge of and even an 18-year-old.

The other issue and I'm not sure perhaps the . . . Murray from Social Services can help me here. Within British Columbia if we've apprehended somebody — and we've had this situation happen a few times over the last few months — where a child, our victim doesn't know where the child is or won't tell us where the child is because of the pimp, that they have a specific warrant that we can hold her indefinitely until we find that child. I don't know if you have that here in Saskatchewan but we've used that warrant on three or four different occasions in the past year. It's been very successful.

Mr. Webb: — Not specifically like that, but I mean we've had situations with children, like 16 and under, that might have children that . . . (inaudible) . . . I'm not supposed to be talking. I'm an observer.

But yes, I mean our legislation enables us to do some things like that. The age difference is a bit different for us than it is for BC though.

Mr. Ramos: — That age difference makes a huge difference for us in BC, dealing under 19 years in age. And also the warrant, again it's about partnerships and, you know, social workers knowing what we're looking for, and we know what social workers are looking for. And if they want to find that child and we can't find that child, then we work together and say, okay, let's get this warrant together in the next couple of

hours and we go with the social worker before a JP (Justice of the Peace) to get that warrant. And we can hold her indefinitely until she produces the child or she tells us who the pimp is who has the child.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Oscar, in reference to your question, the age is 16 here. However, there are provisions in The Child and Family Services Act for children 17 and up to 18 to be apprehended if it is deemed that it's a very grievous situation — I can't remember the wording, but that their life is in danger.

Mr. Ramos: — For us in British Columbia, being out and being sexually exploited, that's enough for us to take charge of that child and she would be in danger, immediate danger, and we would apprehend her and take charge of her. I don't know if that's the same here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Yates: — I just want to clarify again. Other than those changes in your child protection Act or family assistance Act or child and family services Act, you have no special legislation, secure custody hold Act, or anything else?

Mr. Ramos: — The books.

Mr. Payette: — . . . the books they're writing the regulations now or there's a committee out to get the regulations set for the Secure Care Act. I don't believe we have any other special powers — none that we routinely use, anyways.

Mr. Yates: — Okay, thank you.

Ms. Draude: — I'm trying to keep my number of questions down as well, thank you. My first question is that you said that there was a decrease in traffic — the number of johns had gone down by 35, 45 per cent. So does this mean they're just not doing it any more or are the girls going into trick-pads, or what's happening?

Mr. Payette: — What we found is that we're just . . . we've lessened the amount of johns in the city of Vancouver. So we have not seen the . . . we've seen a decrease in the amount of sex trade workers also, and we've not seen a rise in trick-pads. Or what's commonly said, the girls will go inside, or the women will go inside. We've not seen a corresponding rise in that.

What we've seen is a general decrease in the amount of johns and in the amount of sex trade workers.

Ms. Draude: — Can I ask, Brian, you said you've been on DISC now for about a year. Have you noticed any difference yet in Saskatoon?

Mr. Dueck: — I think Leonard's probably a better person to ask that question of. He works the street with the vice units.

Mr. Watkins: — Yes, I would say that there is a decrease . . . (inaudible) . . . from the last two months to constables on patrol there. And they've been out on the . . . (inaudible) . . . and they noticed a lot less traffic out there, and it does have an effect.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you. I know that we often are struggling on this committee. We use the word john and then we use the word pedophile. And I notice when you talked about the five different groups that you were identifying on DISC, that you identified street workers and then juvenile street workers. But I haven't noticed that you talk about johns and then pedophiles meaning people who deal with young children. Do you try and keep them separate? Is there anything in your mind that keeps a difference between being a john and a pedophile?

Mr. Ramos: — I mean there's a huge difference. If we deem somebody to be a pedophile, we put them in a special interest. Just as if we found somebody in their vehicle that had duct tape and nylons and stockings and a whole bunch of other stuff, he'd go down to special interest. So we would identify him as special interest.

What we found also is we'd like to divide up . . . don't like to divide, but what we found is that we have hard-core people and soft-core people. And a lot of the traffic that's gone away are people that probably would go down to an area of prostitution once or twice a year or like to drive around that area and thought it was fine to do that. And they have too much to lose to go down there.

And the other 40 or 50 per cent that are still going to those areas, they're still doing the same thing but it cuts down our police calls, and also gives us an ability to focus in on those 50 per cent that are probably doing other crimes.

Mr. Payette: — Just to add, sorry, we use the term a lot, consumers, for the johns. And it was said to me one time that that's a very politically correct term to use for them. I look at it as they actually consume, they're consuming on the sex trade. They're eating the sex trade. They're not . . . they're dealing with people's lives; they're eating away at people's lives. So I look at it as a very . . . as the hardest term I could, or we could, come up. I wanted a different acronym for DISC, but politically correct-wise I couldn't use what I wanted to use. Oscar said we won't be allowed to do it, but anyways.

So I mean one of the things that we say and we think it's important to remember is, you know, there is a multitude of names for women that are in the sex trade and they're all derogatory — all of them. There tends to be one name for the men that's in the sex trade and that's a john. It's not derogatory. It's kind of yes, yes, whatever, it's just a guy — all that kind of stuff. We're trying to change that with the word, consumer. We want people to look at it and go, this guy's consuming, he's eating, he's destroying, he's — whatever term you want to use — he's the root of the problem. And as I said before, I wanted to change the name, but . . .

Mr. Ramos: — The thing that we need to stay in focus here and we haven't touched on enough tonight is that the average age of recruitment into prostitution is 14 to 16 years of age. You do not get somebody that's 22 years of age to finish their university degree, going, what am I going to do now — computer science, or am I going to stand on the corner? It just doesn't happen very often, right.

So that 22- or 25-year-old young lady that you see standing on

that corner was that 14- or 16-year-old girl. But now 10 years later, probably recruited by a pimp, a family member, all sorts of different issues, when she's not making enough money or now she's really using a lot of drugs, if there's substance abuse issues, she's out on her own. She gets a boyfriend that does B and Es . . . (inaudible) . . . and they both have heroin and crack addictions, right.

How do we deal with that 24-year-old girl now? She was that 14- and 16-year-old girl. And people like to drive by and go, well she's just standing there; why doesn't she ask for help. They don't understand the dynamics that are keeping her out there, right. The pimp, the boyfriend, the drugs — that's what's happening.

And again that's why early intervention at the 14 to 16 years of age, and even younger, right, when people are starting to miss school, when they're starting to run away, and all those issues, that's where we have to be really proactive. And for that 24-year-old, have the detox available to her to get out.

Ms. Draude: — Okay. My last question then will be directed to Brian or Len.

Oscar and Raymond talked about a 17-year-old with a baby and what they would do if they came across this young person. What would you do in Saskatoon if you came across the same issue?

And I know that we talked about stats and the number of children and the ages of them, and I'm just wondering if you have any of that kind of information.

Mr. Watkins: — In answer to your first question, we follow the same procedure as what these two officers do out there in BC. We get a hold of Social Services and go through that procedure.

Ms. Draude: — During the night too?

Mr. Watkins: — Yes, Mobile Crisis and that.

And in answer to your second question regarding stats, in the year 2000 Saskatoon vice unit charged 68 female, well, sex-trade workers. And out of those 68, 61 of them were laid on the actual stroll, 7 were up at the Husky House located at Circle Drive and Idylwyld Drive, if you're familiar with Saskatoon.

And I broke down the age and percentage of the sex-trade workers at the time of the arrest. And over 18 years of age there's 49 out of the 68, which makes it 72 per cent; 18 years of age at time of arrest, there is 4, which is 6 per cent; 17 years of age there is 2 — 3 per cent; 16 years of age there is 8 at 12 per cent; 15 years of age there is 2 at 3 per cent; and 14 years of age there's 3 at 4 per cent.

Ms. Draude: — So you never found any younger than 14?

Mr. Watkins: — Not when you're involved in any of the sting operations that we did for the year 2000.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Now we had questions. I want to invite our guests to ask questions. Brian, I don't know if you or Dan or . . . why don't we go to Dan and then to Carolyn. Yes, we'll try to go back and forwards a little bit here.

Mr. Wilks: — What I wanted to do is ask the guys from Vancouver about their media strategy. Obviously public awareness is very important. And as you alluded to, Saskatoon had a kickoff a year, a year and a half ago, when you people were in Saskatoon.

I'm wondering, in Vancouver, do you have an annual type of awareness program that you would be involved in regarding DISC? People have a tendency of not remembering what happened a year or a year and a half ago. I'm just wondering if you have an ongoing policy of reminding people that this does exist.

Mr. Ramos: — We have sort of a two-pronged approach. And that's whenever we get a serious file . . . We just had one in Vancouver where we had an 11-year-old girl from Portland. We had one previous to that where a pimp had gone into Surrey, recruited a 17-year-old girl, and was holding the infant hostage. So when we have that we give that to our media person and we do a press release on it right away so people are aware of what we're doing.

Within the province of British Columbia we also have designated five days which we call the sexual exploitation week, where we hold forums around the province. And we just talk about DISC and we just talk about how to identify certain signs of pimping/recruiting within schools, within families, what parents should be looking for, that kind of stuff.

So we do that once a year where we go out into the community and remind everybody that this is still happening. You know, we've come a long way but this is still happening, be aware of that. So we do that. Anything to add to that, Raymond?

Mr. Payette: — And we have been, Oscar and I, we've had a number of media ride-alongs. And we're . . . (inaudible) . . . it's a good thing for us to take the media at this point on ride-alongs. That's what we've had. It's screened through our media department so that our media department will contact us and say, you know, take this person out if you guys don't mind.

What we found is, you know, we've not had negative press. We've had really nothing but positive press on it, and that's been big for us. That's been really important to the point where we, you know . . . interestingly, you're talking with a john and he goes oh, I read about you guys in the paper; it's a good program you have. And you look and go, hello, you're in the program now.

Mr. Ramos: — Essentially . . . (inaudible) . . . was that again we've been very lucky with the press in the case that we really go out of our way, explain the dynamics of recruitment. So a lot of people have the image it's the *Pretty Woman* movie, and it isn't.

So we really go out of our way just to show people, listen, this is what's really happening. This is how recruitment happens; this is where it's happening. This is our 17-year-old girl we've

just apprehended, and show them the behind the scenes. And it really opens up a lot of the eyes, not only of the media but of the general public, where they go, we had no idea.

Mr. Wilks: — I have just one follow-up to that, and that has to do with the consumers. And I'm wondering, are you or had you given any consideration to having the media publicize the names of the consumers that you've charged?

Mr. Payette: — The media in Vancouver will not publicize men charged under section 213. That information is available to them if they wish, through just . . . it's a public document. They've decided not to publish that. I believe there's one paper in Abbottsford, which is a suburb, farming suburb of Vancouver. They will do it. Other than that, no media does it.

Mr. Wilks: — No. And have you had any feedback with regards to Abbottsford doing that? In other words, does that create any public interest as to who you people are charging, etc., and does it cause some sort of decrease as a result of it?

Mr. Payette: — I think it creates public interest, yes. I mean, Abbotsford is on DISC and they've seen a decrease in prostitution since they've started DISC. Have they seen it since they've been naming people? I'm not sure about that. I can't comment. I don't know.

Mr. Ramos: — Yes. In Vancouver, we send out . . . anybody that's stopped, we send out a letter informing them that they have been stopped and we're asking for their help. It's a non-accusatory letter directly mailed to that person, where we ask them not to go back into that area and that area is . . . (inaudible) . . . to the prostitution and we also give them some health concerns.

Ms. Jones: — I'll try to keep it as brief as possible. I have many questions. Thank you very much for the presentation. I enjoyed it and the information that you shared.

A little comment to begin with. I think that the deputy chief and I kind of raised our eyebrows at each other on the part when you indicated that the strolls are not usually in neighbourhoods because here they are. They're very definitely in neighbourhoods and it's part of the dynamic . . . part of the problem that we have with neighbourhood residents who want to push it back out of their neighbourhood. And so it's quite a different situation that we find ourselves in here. And the activity is going on, if not in, very, very close to the neighbourhood, within a few blocks I would say.

And I think one of the other striking differences is perhaps in the recruiting. I don't believe, and our local service can help me with this, but I don't think that we have the same degree of recruitment by the traditional what you think of as pimp in our area, as you do or as your presentation would make me believe that you do. Many times the pimps are, you know, a member of the family, older cousin, younger cousin. So it's a little bit different, although I would not go so far as to say that we don't have recruitment here. And I think sometimes the recruiters are from out of our area.

So there's always differences between any situation, even though the similarities far outweigh them.

I'm wondering a little bit . . . your Secure Care Act, can you compare it to anything that you're familiar with? I mean, one of the things that we talk about here is PCHIP (Protection of Children Involved in Prostitution Act) which is the Alberta law . . . that you're waiting for regulations. Is it similar to that? Or what is a Secure Care Act?

Mr. Payette: — I believe once the regulations are written, the . . . my understanding of the issue or the court challenge involving PCHIP was that they deemed it to be more arbitrary. The British Columbia model, from my understanding, is there's more representation and there's more . . . there's more of a process there to deem if the child's at risk. That's my understanding.

Where the people will be placed and all that kind of stuff to this point, my understanding is, really up in the air.

Ms. Jones: — Still worked on in the regulations.

Mr. Payette: — Still being worked on. The other thing I'd like to say is, and part of the reason why when I stood there I was looking and going, oh, I remember in Saskatoon when we got toured around that they have certain issues in certain neighbourhoods where people are working . . . (inaudible) . . . This can still work in that neighbourhood. It's a different dynamic, but it's still is an effective tool to go who are the people that are down here?

And if we can or Saskatoon — we, because we're all police — if we can lessen by 30 percent the amount of consumers that are going into that neighbourhood and consuming on that neighbourhood, then I think we're going to drop some of the people in that neighbourhood.

And I think what I found interesting in speaking with different neighbourhood groups in Vancouver and New Westminster and Surrey and Prince George is they're not looking for a silver bullet. These are intelligent people that go, yes, if we had our choice we wish the sex trade would leave tomorrow. But I think what they are hopeful is to see that it's going away, that you're doing something positive, that it's not just the status quo, and that we as the police or we as social services or we as the government aren't going, you know, it's always been in that neighbourhood, what do you guys expect.

And I think that's the big key is that we're looking and going, yes, we're working with you to try and lessen this problem.

Mr. Ramos: — A couple things that we probably need to clarify. Dynamics are different from city to city. In Vancouver, when Raymond was referring to a light industrial area that's two blocks away from a neighbourhood. So the sex trade worker will be picked up there, but she will go into that neighbourhood. Or it will be a major thorough way where you have shops that have closed for the evening, but two blocks in are all neighbourhoods. So it isn't right on a neighbourhood where it's residential, but it's two blocks away and they go into the residential area.

And we do have, you know, all throughout British Columbia different . . . we talk about the sort of traditional pimping, but we have families of pimps, we have families of pimps that put out their daughters and their nieces. There's all sorts of issues like that that are similar to Prince George to Vancouver to Saskatoon.

What we'd like to see . . . we don't know what the legislation is going to look like in British Columbia. If we could do it, what we would like to see is some real geographic displacement where if you have an area of prostitution and you're going to have a safe house for somebody, right, have it outside the city limits. Have it so, you know, the person can hop on a bus, can hop in a cab, and the pimp knows or the uncle knows or the cousin knows exactly where that girl is. Get it out of town a little bit.

Also have the different variations. You don't want to house 10 people together. If she's been involved in the sex trade or being sexually exploited recently, you don't want to put her in a situation in a safe house with somebody who's been in the trade for 10 years because now what you're going to do is have recruitment.

And within that facility, you want to have social services, you want to have the ability for the police to go in and to do interviews. You want to have the community nurses. Raymond mentioned earlier that we do presentations to nursing students that are going to be out and doing community nursing. So they know what to look for, and they're going to be community nurses in schools, in neighbourhoods, and so forth.

So it's important . . . We don't know what it's going to look like but if we could, that's what we'd like to see is a facility that would have two or three beds, would have that capability where we could go in and do an interview, have the nursing staff, and you would have, you know, the people that are in there, the victims, that are sort of in the same situation.

You don't want to have something where you're going to have a hundred beds and everybody's warehoused. That's not going to work.

Ms. Jones: — Okay, thank you for that. I'm wondering again — our laws are a little bit different as they exist — and I'm wondering when you pick up girls under 18 — mostly girls, obviously we know there's some boys — in the 15- to 18-year range how long can you hold them and how much resistance do you get? I mean do they want you to save them, or do they want you to leave them alone and this is my life and I've run away from home and I'm going to be on the street, just leave me alone.

Mr. Payette: — I think it's funny. Each case is a little . . . is individual. But I think what always strikes me as interesting is when you're dealing with a 15- or a 16- or a 17- or an 18-year-old girl, but particularly a 15- and 16-year-old girl, on the street there's a lot of bravado. And there's a lot of, I made this choice, you guys can't do anything to me — all this stuff, etc., etc., etc.

So when we apprehend them on the street they are in our care until we present them to social services. At that point, they can leave because social services does — because there's no secure care — does not have the ability to hold them.

But going back to my other point about the bravado on the street, what you see is, what I've seen and what I find interesting, is as soon as you get them off the street — and probably 60 per cent of the time we'll transport them in our car to social services so that we have the time to talk to them — that bravado wears off. And it's replaced by . . . Do they want to be saved? I don't know if that's the case but there is that sense of, you know, this isn't my fault. Right? I can go back if I leave. Right? Or if I go back with my pimp.

And often we'll have to deal with the girl four or five times before she wants to get out of the trade. She can go back and go, I didn't make money today because these guys picked me off the street; it's not my fault, it's their fault — blame Oscar and Raymond, blame the police; don't blame me.

So it's a sense of relief. And when you get that sense of relief which — you know I don't know for sure, I would say 70 per cent of the time out of that 60 per cent where you really get the drop of bravado or the people in our car — that's when you really work at them hard to say this is what we can do for you, this is what we want for you, this is what we're trying to do for you.

And Oscar has a good line and it's a great line. He goes, you know, myself and Raymond are the only two men you're going to meet tonight that don't want anything from you. We just want to help. Right? We don't care if you give us a statement on your pimp. We don't care if you want to turn on your pimp and give us so we have charges. Our issue is to try and get you safe.

So oftentimes that 20-minute ride to social services, because sometimes we take a longer route if the conversation's going well, it doesn't work that time. But the second time you deal with it, it might work. And the third time you deal with her, it might work. And that's the whole point, is I think these girls want to be saved but they put up a lot of barriers and you've got to break through those barriers.

It's not a matter of as soon as you apprehend them, they go, oh God, save me. That happens occasionally. I think a lot of times what they want to see is how much are you going to work. Because they know if you're only going to do this half-hearted and it's not going to work, if you're not going to complete it, they're the ones at risk. But if they can look and go, I believe these guys are going to work hard at it, then they have the trust in you and then they'll get out.

Ms. Jones: — . . . want to be saved on their own terms.

Mr. Ramos: — Well we do a couple of things. It's not only our vice unit that'll take charge and apprehend anybody under the age of 18. It's any patrol member. And when we do our training of our new recruits and of our patrol members on ongoing training, we hammer at that — you know what, if she's out there, if you think she's under 18, she has no ID, you apprehend her, you're working in good faith.

So that's again a huge, you know, a huge approach that happens throughout the city of Vancouver, throughout the Lower Mainland. And again, under the age of 18 makes a huge difference, right, as opposed to the under the age of 16.

What we'll do if we've apprehended somebody, as a police department, four or five times, you know, and we know that she has a pimp because she has a pimp if she's 16, or family member or somebody else, we will go out and we'll target her. We call it hard targeting. And we'll set up for a reverse sting on her.

And then when we charge her, we'll ask for certain conditions — no cell, no pager, no go certain areas, must attend school, set the whole structure for her. Right? And we'll ask for a conditional discharge. We don't want to revictimize her through a criminal charge.

But what we find in a lot of cases is that once we have that, she'll turn and say, you know what, it's not my fault any more. I can't go out. I've got a curfew. I can't be involved. Right? And she tells the pimp to go away.

Another one we just had recently was a young lady who was 18. She was from Connecticut, met a guy, he recruited her, they went out to Sacramento, Sacramento is where he put her out and then they came up to Vancouver. We stopped her in the city of Vancouver. We're talking to her, and again, it's developing the trust.

And again, it's a subculture. It has its own language and its own rules. And once they understand that you know that and that you talk the same language and she can say till, you know, hell freezes over, I don't have a pimp. But I know you have a pimp. Right? So talking to her about that, she goes, you know what? I just want to go home. And her dynamics were how do I get home without my mom knowing what's going on?

So we sat down with her, social services. Social services says, we'll get you a plane ticket back to Connecticut; you'll leave first thing in the morning. Right? We told her, you know, we don't need the statement on the pimp. We'd like to have some information on who he is and what's going on, but we want you to go home.

And she goes, well, what are you going to tell my mom? And I say, you know what? I'll get on the phone and I'll tell your mom that you made some bad choices; there's no criminal charges and you just want to go home, and you've done nothing wrong.

So she takes a leap of faith, gives me the phone number. I phone up the mom in Connecticut and say is this your daughter? She says, yes, yes, I'm very worried, she'd been gone for three weeks; what's going on? I'd say exactly what I said I was going to say. She's not charged criminally. She got in over her head; her boyfriend that brought her out here is not acting appropriately. She just wants to go home, we'll pay for her to go home. Right? I want to make sure that you're going to meet her at the airport, this is the flight, and everything else.

At the same time social services has connected with Connecticut and made sure that that's a safe environment for her to go back to. So that's all in line. And she goes fine, great, thank you. Right? And then she goes, my pimp is at this nightclub. This is his name and he's dealing coke. Right?

So we don't get the pimping charge, the procuring, living off the avails. What we do get is an immigration rescue because he's American, and we get the nip charge for possession for the purpose of trafficking. So it's a win, win, win. But we didn't get the vice charge.

And again it's taking that process of being at social services, working everything in conjunction, and saying hey, we won this one. And she's back home and she just wanted a way out. But she wanted to see if it's going to work.

Ms. Jones: — Peter, just one more little one?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'm looking at the clock, Carolyn, and yes, go for it.

Ms. Jones: — Okay. I want to ask Len. You gave us some . . . (inaudible) . . . charged, do you have any stats on the number of consumers charged in the same time period?

Mr. Watkins: — In the year 2000, we charged 15, and I believe it was four of those charges were up at the Husky. So it's 15 male consumers.

Ms. Jones: — And charges?

Mr. Watkins: — Yes, charges. Some of them got as much as a thousand dollar fine and probation, no-go clause and that; so we're quite pleased with that.

Mr. Dueck: — I think I want to say something in defence of our vice unit. And that was that last year in Saskatoon we had a tremendous amount of retirees that we hadn't planned on and when we run vice stings and what have you, we often draw people from patrol as support. And last year our vice unit didn't do very many operations. They were just unable to. Undercover operators would come out of our uniform sections, that sort of thing.

And so that looks like a small number. We're often accused of going after the workers more than the johns — that certainly isn't the case. It's what kind of an operation we're able to run with the resources that we have available to us.

And I should also mention — I mean Oscar talked about it — we're just working right now with the Salvation Army in Saskatoon. They're going to be the community group. They're very interested in starting a johns school in Saskatoon for us. So between the johns school and operation help, I think we're going to make some big strides.

And if I can just continue, you made the comment about the recruiting and family. I still think that's recruiting, whether it's the dad, I'm . . . There's an old sex trade worker from Saskatoon is up in P.A. now, and back and forth, and we had a good, long talk here at a conference a couple of years ago, and the first person that put her on the street to make money was her

dad. But he still recruited her, he still conditioned her, and did that, so . . .

Ms. Jones: — Absolutely, there's a different kind.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I think we need to roll on with questions. I'm thinking we don't go past 10; it's 9 right now. I'm . . .

Mr. Ramos: — . . . couple of things . . . (inaudible) . . . the johns school.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — We've got a lot of people who still want to ask questions. We've got easily an hour of questions to go, I'm sure. And I want to give our guests a chance to ask questions, so let's . . . I'm going to suggest — sorry, Oscar — I'm going to suggest we go to Brian who has a question . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Fine, okay, well in that case let's hear from Oscar and then go to Jeff.

Mr. Ramos: — . . . johns school, just as an integral part of that, and we present there. When we do those operations, again it's resource based and we have hit and misses with that. So is that . . . you're only eligible to go to the school if you have no criminal record, right. If you've been stopped on DISC before, you're not eligible. So if you have any criminal record — be it domestic violence, be it anything along those lines, or stopped on a DISC stop — you're not eligible. You go to court.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — That's very helpful.

Mr. Adams: — Of all the agencies that are now set up with DISC, what's the best model that you've seen as far as . . . or what's the ideal model with regards to the number of terminals and access by patrol members, and the actual working specifics like that with regards t DISC?

Mr. Ramos: — I don't think there's one specific model. I probably take Vancouver, Calgary, and Saskatoon and put them all together. I think that Calgary and Saskatoon have a wonderful program for training officers. We're trying to do as much of that as possible.

What we've done in Vancouver is we have one basic terminal in our vice unit, and all our vice officers have access to that. We have one clerk that helps us input information in there, and that's important so we're not being paid, you know, a wage to input information. So we have that. And again it's the patrol members going out there and doing a lot of the stops and bringing back information for us. We're talking about inter-police communication between like Vancouver, Calgary, and Saskatoon; it's opened up inter-police communication within our department. We didn't have patrol officers coming up to the DO (detective office) office at all, right.

And now, you know, our big line, and it's true, we don't take credit, we give credit. We say you know what? It's your PIN number. You're going to court. If this is something in Saskatoon, you're the one that's going to Saskatoon for four days to court. It's not going to be me with all that overtime. Right?

So it makes a huge difference. You know, it makes a huge difference. So that's . . . You know I would take all three models but I mean we have one basic terminal that has a direct line to E-Comm to do that, we have a clerk that helps us with the inputting of that, and access to all patrol members.

What we find is that they really don't need to have all access to all patrol members because if it becomes a follow-up investigation then they can always come back to the vice unit and find that out. At the moment they're doing a DISC stop anyways. If they have an arrest, they're going to arrest them anyways. If they have a pimp file, then we're going to get called out anyways.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Jeff, did you have any other questions? Now I know Ron has a question. Don has a question. Brian, did you have a question? Okay. And, Len, you've got questions right?

Mr. Watkins: — I just wanted to add some stuff.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Okay, good. Do you want to add that now then?

Mr. Watkins: — Yes, it's regarding the . . . (inaudible) . . . and I think Supt. Dueck touched on it, but I just wanted to let you know when we do these john stings . . . basically we did just about as many of them as what we did for the female sex-trade workers. But the johns, they go through a screening process and they're much harder to catch — much harder. And we have to take the safety issue of the officer that's involved, working undercover, position there. And there's other issues but we do do just as many almost as the girls.

And I just wanted to go back to June . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Len, could you just explain why the case — just while you're on that point — why are they much harder?

Mr. Watkins: — The screening?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Yes. Why are the johns much harder to catch?

Mr. Watkins: — Okay. I don't want to reveal any . . .

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — You're talking about an underage child? Why are they tougher to catch?

Mr. Watkins: — Well first of all, we haven't got . . .

(The Co-Chair) Mr. Prebble: — What's that?

Ms. Jones: — Might we go in camera for that? I think that some sensitivity . . .

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Right. We have a suggestion for this part of the discussion. Are all the committee members in agreement?

Ms. Jones: — Or we could leave it until the end?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Or we could just leave it to the end so our . . . I don't want to chase you out because we're going in camera. Have you? Okay, sure. Thank you so much for being here.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Would the committee members like to do that now, or according to Mr. Prebble's suggestion we could wait until the end?

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Let's just do it at the end so that our guests don't have to leave. Yes, yes, yes.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right, make note of that.

Ms. Jones: — Yes, don't let us forget.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Len, you were in the middle of another comment.

Mr. Watkins: — I just want to get back to June on this. Regarding those figures, that is for the year 2000. And I've been in vice since October 30, 1998 and I did another report up for another superintendent that time to February 1. And he wanted to know how many sex-trade workers that we actually checked. Okay, these aren't charges, they're checks.

And from October 30, 1998 to January 2000, 261 sex-trade workers were checked; 61 of those were under the age of 18 years; and eight of those persons were under the age of 14 years of age. So I just wanted to get that in because it basically coincides with that other report, the 2000 figures.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Thank you very much.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Excuse me, just before we go on, do we have any figures for Regina in regards to the checks?

Mr. Adams: — I guess I have some. In the year 2000 we laid approximately 180 charges, and approximately 65 per cent of those were against females. And the year before, I believe it was either '98 or '99 was one of the years when we laid the most. We laid 300 charges of soliciting. And that varies hugely with the size of the vice section.

Like you were talking about you guys were hammered last year, well this year we've been hammered. And I suspect that we're just going to be able to accomplish a fraction of what we did last year. And so those are hugely important factors in those kind of statistics.

And one thing I might add is it's the education basically, before we get into the other details of why johns are so hard to charge. They are becoming more educated because of documentary television programs that you see. They know that if you don't . . . if an undercover policewoman doesn't get into the car, that's the first sign. And so that's greatly hampered the success of prosecuting male consumers in the sex trade.

But I don't have any statistics with regards to the number of ages just offhand. But I would say that they're similar and consistent with the statistics that Len gave with regards to young persons. And that varies from year to year or on any given month. All kinds of factors like whether school's in, whether school's out, whether you conduct an operation during the summer holidays or whether it's a school week — those kind of things impact those kind of statistics.

Mr. Ramos: — I just have a quick question for Raymond and I. In practical terms, in Saskatchewan, for Regina and Saskatoon, if you stop a 17-year-old girl in a known prostitution area and she's working, do you guys apprehend and take charge of her and take her to the mobile service, or because she's 17 and over the age of 16, you leave her? In practical terms.

I know that there's specific legislation if she's in immediate danger and so forth, but sometimes that's hard to articulate and get that passed.

Mr. Adams: — In Regina what we do is we try to get the evidence for a charge, and if we do then the person is arrested and taken to mobile family services in Regina and turned over to them. And whether they agree to participate in any of the help, the follow-up programs or anything like that, is entirely up to the 17-year-old.

And the reason that we try to collect enough evidence for a charge to make the arrest is so that we can be certain of determining who the young person is. And we find that if we don't go that route, we're often given a false name and, you know, a completely fictitious family history and the person slips through the cracks that way.

Mr. Ramos: — What we do is we'll apprehend her and take charge of her three or four times and then once we have that information, because we've apprehended her, then we'll go out and charge her.

Mr. Adams: — We commonly, as a rule of thumb, we will not charge the person unless the person has got other warrants or is a very hardened street professional. But if the person is new out there, seems to be a little green, is vulnerable, is naive, we will only charge them under extreme conditions. If they're a real, hard-nosed, street veteran out there and they've been charged several times before.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Peter. And some of my questions have already been answered so I won't re-ask them.

But my question is for Oscar and Raymond. You have mentioned that you have, in your experience, whether it be in Vancouver or in BC as a whole, you do have the situations where families operate as the pimps. I believe that's much the case that we have here in Saskatchewan.

My question then is when you pick up a street worker who you would take charge of, I believe is your term, and during that period of time, that street worker decides that yes, they want to break from the street, you know, they want the assistance required to change their life and get on the right track, what happens then? I mean, you take them to social services, but what happens then?

Mr. Payette: — We'll talk as . . . you know, I think a lot of what's coming down here is we have great communication with

social services in Vancouver and in British Columbia.

But I mean, a lot of it is, is if we believe the father put the girl out or the mother or the uncle — and we see that also — what we do is, you know, we have a sit-down with the person at social services and say this is what we believe is going on, right. At this point, the young woman or whoever it is, she does not want to give us enough information or go through the process to lay a charge, but she wants out, right. So how can we set up housing for her so that she doesn't have to rely on her family because her family is putting her out, right.

So a lot of it is us articulating to social services, this is what we want and this is what she wants and, therefore this is what we need you guys to supply. We don't just go, she's 15 years old, she's got to go back to her mom. Because if we have concerns that the mother . . . you know, a common thing we'll see, the mother's boyfriend sexually assaults her for a while, then puts her out. Why are you going to send that kid back into that situation? Because then that child has no respect for you as the police, has no respect for social services, and goes, why am I ever going to talk again. Right?

So the big thing is, is we have to — and we do — have great lines of communication with social services saying, you know, it's not acceptable she goes back to her mom, right.

Mr. Harper: — Okay. Now if this child needed detoxing for alcohol or drugs, whatever it is, would there be a mandatory program that they would be taken charge of and have to complete in a certain period of time within that program?

Mr. Ramos: — No, not mandatory.

Mr. Harper: — Not mandatory.

Mr. Ramos: — No. With the secure Act coming in, I'm not sure how that's going to . . . (inaudible) . . . that's going to happen or if she's charged with a particular offence. I mean the judge can come down with one of the conditions that she go to detox.

Mr. Harper: — Now my next question is: is there support for that person beyond the immediate 21 days or whatever that social services is involved in? Does social services stay there as long as that person needs support?

Mr. Payette: — What we found is social services in BC gives good support for the long term. They do the best they can. And, you know, I think anybody can get stories of one fell between the cracks and, you know, that's unfortunate. But I mean, I have a lot of respect for the work social services does in British Columbia.

They do really good work. They have a lot of dedicated people there. And I see most times, my experience is we have success stories. Yes, we have kids that fall through the cracks.

You know, I'll give you a quick example of how social services in BC will work. Oscar dealt with a young woman who . . . at the time he dealt with her she was 18 — she was like four days short of her 19th birthday. She turns 19 and two days later, after her 19th birthday, she gets assaulted by her pimp. She then comes to the police station and asks for help. She specifically asked for Oscar.

We were off. Oscar got called and couldn't attend for personal reasons. I got called in. So for me it's overtime; it's a good deal. I go in . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes. I go in. So we have a 19-year-old girl, no longer social services per se's mandate, correct. She's from Ontario, right. She says I want to go home, right. I can't afford to go and I don't want to turn on my pimp.

So I call social services, get a guy that we work with all the time, Iner — does great work. Talk with Iner, tell him the situation and Iner says, oh okay, when was her birthday? I go, three days ago. He goes: oh Jeez, look at that, I've just entered in the computer I had dealings with her one day before her birthday; that means I dealt with her as a child; that means get her to the airport, there will be a plane ticket there.

So in that situation we had someone at social services that went. The issue here is helping this person get out, right. So he possibly circumvented how it was supposed to work, but in the end, you know, we . . . that girl's not returned.

Mr. Harper: — And I understand that and I appreciate it. But the ease there was the fact that you were able to move her halfways across the country from the atmosphere which would draw her back in to the cycle.

My question is: what do you do with those people who live there, who are being pimped by their family? They live in that atmosphere. How do you take that — whether it be a 15-year-old, 18-year-old, or 19- or 21-year-old — how do you take them out of that atmosphere? What program, what mechanism do you have to support them through the long haul so they don't have to fall back . . .

Mr. Payette: — Oftentimes you're going to have to set them up on what's called in British Columbia, independent living, and set them up in a community that's not their community any more but allow them to live in either by themselves or in foster care. Fund them so they can get schooling. All that kind of stuff so that they can develop into the citizen that we want them to develop to so that they can, you know, add to our society. And that's what you have to do.

And again, we've had good success with our social services in their ability to go, you know, this child's at risk if we send her back to Prince George so let's send her to wherever — Salmon Arm. And you know we have abilities there to set her up so that she can get on with her life.

Mr. Ramos: — Mr. Harper, I'd just like to add something to that. And that's it's twofold. We need better resources long-term — absolutely. Everybody does, right? And that becomes a resource issue.

What we like to focus in on is that immediate 24 hours. Right? And the ability not only of our managers — I mean Saskatoon's a perfect example of that and Regina now also — of understanding the situation and allowing their hands-on personnel to do their jobs.

So for us, and we've made a joke about the overtime and it does come in handy sometimes, but the issue is that once we go to the after-hours social worker we don't leave her there. We don't walk in and go, here she is. We're out of here. Right? We'll stay for the entire process. Arlene was with us until 4 in the morning. We'll stay all night if we have to. And all we have to do is phone up our inspector or superintendent and say, this is what we're doing. No problem because in the long-term it's going to save us money. Right?

And when the social worker goes you know what? We don't have the resources to go with you to the airport, can you guys go? No problem, we'll go. Right? So the social worker can come — that's great. If she can't come, then we'll go. Or if they say, we need her driven to the safe house two hours out of town, we'll drive her out. Because we've made that connection with her. And to pass her off to somebody after two hours, that trust is gone. Right? She has to know that that ability is going to be there.

The example Raymond gave is somebody that I talked to on the street. I gave her my card and I said, you know, when this happens to you, you go to the police department. You ask for me or my partner and somebody will come out. Because I know . . . you know, resources are strapped, but I know that Raymond and I will get called out and we'll get her home safe. And that's the big thing.

We have all sorts of resources across British Columbia. We have some on the Gulf Islands. We have detoxes all over the place. The big thing for us is having that geographic displacement, as Raymond said, putting her in a different community. Six months from now she might have a relapse, but those first 24 hours are the crucial 24 hours.

Mr. Harper: — Just a couple of more short questions, Peter. I really like the concept of the social worker being with the police officer. I really like that.

But which came first, DISC or the program of having a social worker with the police officer?

Mr. Payette: — The program with the social worker and the police officer.

Mr. Harper: — Okay.

Mr. Payette: — That was a . . .

Mr. Ramos: — And we also have a police officer with a probation officer.

And what happens with our files, and Len will attest to this, is that again it's taking the global perspective. Just because you have a vice file doesn't mean that we're not going to involve the social worker and the police worker, because again there might be a child there, or she's a child and we have to deal with the family.

So we all have to work together, right, and that's the big thing. It's just not doing compartmentalized things and saying, well this is vice, this is social work, and this is the vehicle with a social worker and the police officer.

And they do a lot of child advocacy issues and they go into homes and they do all sorts of different things like that.

Mr. Harper: — My last question, Peter, is from the witnesses we've heard so far, there's a pretty clear indication that the high percentage of the children on the street, working the streets, are of First Nations background.

In Vancouver, what percentage of the people working the streets, the children working the streets, would be non-White?

Mr. Payette: — Well I can't give you a percentage. We don't have the same issue with First Nation percentages that you do in Saskatchewan.

We don't have . . . like, the majority of our sex trade workers are not First Nations people. The majority of the youth that are being sexually exploited by prostitution in Vancouver and in British Columbia, mainly, are not First Nations people.

You know, we will get . . . again, you know, as Carolyn said, there's differences in every place you go. So there are cities in British Columbia — Prince George is one of them — where you'll see a higher level of First Nations people involved. But as a general rule in British Columbia from the time —well we were in Saskatoon last year — that issue is different in British Columbia from, I assume, Saskatchewan. I'm basing it on what I saw in Saskatoon.

Mr. Watkins: — Maybe add onto that? In Saskatoon, it's roughly 89 per cent.

Mr. Ramos: — One thing it does is . . . (inaudible) . . . the comprehensive . . . (inaudible) . . . we're just not dealing with children that are being sexually exploited. Before that, they're youth at risk.

So the police officer or the probation officer does a lot of work with us. They do a lot of work with car 86, which is a social worker.

And again it's having those three or four mechanisms working together that help be proactive in dealing with that 12-year-old or 11-year-old that is now "a youth at risk." But a year from now she's going to be out on the street, right. And instead of just passing the dollar every time to unit to unit to unit, you go, no, listen, we have four units and we're going to work this right now. Because she probably has an older sister that's out working.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Now, Don, you haven't had a chance to ask questions.

Mr. Toth: — A couple of quick questions here. First of all, Manitoba brought in confiscation of vehicles. What does BC do?

Mr. Payette: — BC does not have that.

Mr. Toth: — Can I ask you what do you think of that policy?

Do you think it's something that would work?

Mr. Payette: — I like that policy. I don't know exactly how it works in Manitoba. In speaking with a vice officer that we know in Winnipeg, they've had pretty good success with it. And it would be interesting to try it in British Columbia.

Mr. Toth: — Well I guess the one thing, the one thing that I think has come out very clearly about it is versus DISC, if you haven't had your vehicle seized, someone's going to know pretty quick — namely your spouse or whatever. There's going to be . . . That and maybe that's one of the areas that there's some concern that you may create some uneasiness at home but . . .

The other thing though, regarding DISC, did I understand you to say that of every person that you've got on file there's a picture? There's a picture of everyone on, in the DISC program?

Mr. Payette: — No.

Mr. Toth: — The reason, the reason I ask that is would it make it somewhat simpler for other jurisdictions when they're pulling up a file if there was a picture . . . because you say like . . . to make sure you've got the person you're really looking for, or that you believe you have versus just information on the screen.

Mr. Payette: — There are some people . . . (inaudible) . . . have photos on and, as Oscar was explaining, faces. The juveniles that go on there that are being sexually exploited by prostitution, their pictures are on that. They're available so . . .

Mr. Ramos: — . . . their photographs on there . . . (inaudible) . . . a recent photograph and putting it on there. But DISC has the capability of doing that.

Mr. Toth: — One final quick question is — and Dan mentioned — public awareness. Now I'm not sure . . . I had to walk out for a minute when he was talking about it. But the thought that came to me if Saskatoon is now on the DISC program . . . You travel through the province of Saskatchewan, you have all these little notices that this is, say, Rural Crime Watch area or this is a crime watch area within a community. Have you given any thought to possibly — for the public awareness and this actually . . . well even for the customer out there — all of a sudden they're going to be driving along and they see a big billboard that says this city subscribes to the DISC program and the sexual awareness. Is there any thought been given to that?

Mr. Payette: — Great idea.

Mr. Ramos: — Again, it's resources and who's going to pay for that.

Mr. Payette: — You could put a picture of Oscar and I on there too.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Now, I'm just wondering if any of our guests from the Regina and Saskatoon Police Service have other questions that they would like to raise or points they'd like to raise.

Mr. Dueck: — Well, Ron's gone, but I was going to comment before . . . (inaudible) . . . he asked whether DISC had been in place first or whether the partnering was. And they told him the partnering was. We wouldn't be offended though with having DISC in place already if the partnering starting. I just wanted to add that little . . . just a little levity for you, Peter.

Mr. Wilks: — Yes. Or with respect to the Department of Social Services and police officers working together, as a matter of fact, our past chief knew about this partnering effort that was going on in Vancouver because his daughter actually was one of the social workers that were working with the police officers. This was in the early '90s. We attempted to, or at least I think we've had, those conversations as early as the early '90s with respect to having that partnership occur.

And again, it all stems back to resources, and I'm not suggesting anybody is stonewalling that effort. It again, it's resources; that's what it boils down to and it's just that simple. I can tell you that we liaise back and forth with our Department of Social Services on an ongoing basis on several issues.

I just wanted to ask the guys from Vancouver, with regards to the courts. After you've . . . okay, so it sounds like you have as much success as we do in Saskatchewan with the court. But I'm wondering do you have any discussions with the judges? Do you meet with the judges on these types of issues and attempt to educate them on how serious this issue is, and possibly what is actually happening out on the streets?

Mr. Ramos: — We've done that through Crown. We haven't actually had an opportunity yet to sit down on a training day for judges, and sit down and talk to them, but we've done that through Crown. What I can tell you where we've had success is with our youth court.

And when we, you know, as Jeff was saying, when we have a hard core person that's 17-years of age, and she's out, we've apprehended her three or four times, the pimp has a stronghold on her or the family member who's a pimp has a stronghold on her, and we target her and we do a reverse sting on her.

We've been very successful with our youth courts about . . . we ask for area restrictions or no goes, or red zones from Vancouver to Abbotsford, right. If she's from outside of British Columbia, no go British Columbia, except for court, if she's from Edmonton. No pagers, no cellphones, not to be in contact or in any vehicle with anybody that has those particular items. Curfews, must attend school, if she's from Kamloops, all those conditions, a huge list of conditions, we ask for and we usually get 99 per cent of those.

So from youth court perspective and dealing with youth at risk, we've had success.

Mr. Payette: — Well, just part of that is, you know, we make it perfectly honest in that Crown that we write — you know, the report to Crown counsel — that, you know, we feel this child's at risk, right. This is not a normal Crown counsel. This is a Crown counsel in which we're forced to lay charges against this

girl to save her — this girl or boy — to basically save her. And if you don't give us these conditions, you know, that we're saying she's at imminent danger.

And I think that's been a lot of our success there, is our ability to articulate in our Crown and in talking with Crown counsel that, you know, the police are doing their job. They're saying that this person's at risk and if you don't give us these conditions, you know, you're going to put that girl back at risk.

Mr. Ramos: — Social services has done . . . (inaudible) . . . we've apprehended her three or four times, we've done all the things that we were supposed to do, social services has done that. We've done everything. And this is our only choice right now.

Mr. Wilks: — Just to the Chair. I make the connection that . . . Or there has to be a connection right from the police, right with the Department of Social Services, and right throughout the whole gamut. Everybody has to be aware of what's going on out there. And it's important . . . obviously the end product here . . . or the people who are last involved with these people on occasion is the courts.

And this is no reflection on the Crown counsel, but if there was that connection between the police and the judges there would be some merit in meeting with them and letting them actually know first-hand, no differently than these gentlemen here telling us first-hand what is actually going on.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I know Arlene has another question so I'm just going to pass it over to her.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Actually, now there's two after he spoke. Okay. Len, I wanted to just talk with you a little bit about your comments about when you were asked the question, I believe by Oscar, about what you might do if a 17-year-old girl was out there, basically, and if you apprehend her if you believe she's in danger, and you'd apprehend her, and you mentioned that you would then turn her over to Mobile Services. I think this whole question surrounded the 24-hour services that are out there for young people.

So what, to your knowledge . . . If a child, or anybody under 16 even, was turned over to Mobile Services, do you know what ability they have to have immediate access to social services' files? Do they have that? What do they do with the girl? How do they proceed in order to assist her?

Mr. Watkins: — Okay what we'd do, we'd pick her up, apprehended her . . . or apprehend her, pardon me, and take her to Social Services and they would have the mechanisms in place to look up her record if she has been previously dealt with.

And maybe Murray can correct me on this, but I believe what they would do after we left this individual with them is they do a home safety check, see if there's any danger at the residence of this young person, and if there wasn't, they'd leave the individual there and that would be the end of it. I don't know, there may be some follow-up but again that young individual can go out the back door and be out on the street quite easily.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, thank you.

Mr. Wilks: — I just want to add to that. Again Murray may be able to correct me if I'm wrong, but if we're talking about 2 o'clock in the morning and we contact Mobile Crisis. In Saskatoon at least, all these people are, are triage officers. They are triage people. They find a very quick place to put these people until Monday and then they're turned back over to their workers again.

So as Oscar had indicated, the first 24 hours is very important. We pick up these people up on Saturday morning at 2 a.m., they got the weekend to think about things, and in all likelihood they will probably run from wherever they've been placed if it's a foster home or if they've been taken home.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — Okay, thank you. And you know we've struggled with the whole idea of . . . the committee has struggled with the whole question of why can't police officers apprehend children if they have reasonable grounds to believe that they're in danger? So tonight we've heard from particularly Saskatoon and from you that in fact you do apprehend children if you believe that they're in immediate danger, or you believe they're in danger, or if there's reasonable grounds to believe that.

And if that is the case that that is happening, then you know, why do we hear from other people that that's not happening?

Mr. Watkins: — It's not happening in Saskatoon. Since '98 October, since I've been in there, it has crossed my mind. I've talked to senior members that have been in vice before and they explain the circumstances which I previously explained here.

And I did drop over to Mobile Crisis and say, look what can you do to help us get these young people off the street? And they told me what I told you people here tonight. They do that home safety check and if everything's fine at home, there's no danger within that environment, they can't do anything else; or they may take them down to the YWCA. But it's usually a home environment check and everything's fine there, that's it.

Mr. Dueck: — . . . Saskatoon Tribal Council safe house and I know that our members try and get a lot of the young people into there. A lot of our vice unit members, uniform members will, if they find someone on the street, will try and get them down there. And I think that safe home is doing a good job. I think they're very dedicated people there.

But again we have a little bit of an issue with that. I don't think it's all their fault. I think they placed it in the area they did to make it available for young people to walk into. The other problem with that is that if you have a young person who's in a little more crisis, it's a block away or two blocks away from the stroll. And that's just too darn close. I mean we've heard that all along.

And we talked at supper about some of the facilities out of town that might be available as safe houses. But again, that's Saskatoon Tribal Council who funds that and runs it and for good reason they put it where they have. And as I say, I think they do a good job at what they're trying to do there.

Mr. Watkins: — If I could add on to that. We have taken girls there to the safe house. It would have been May 3, 2000, we were doing a street sweep and we came across this girl that is working. And we took her over to the safe house, sat down and talked to her for three-quarters of an hour to an hour, and left her there. And I told the staff there that I'd be phoning her back . . . or phoning them back in approximately two hours. And I did, and approximately 45 minutes after we left she was gone out of the safe house.

So there's reason for her to stay, and the safe house had no authority to keep her in there, to get her on the right track, to get rehabilitated. So she just left. And we've had numerous ones do that.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — It's deemed a voluntary safe house, and of course there is some dispute as to whether youth would be better served with sort of a secure safe house facility in order to do some lengthy assessment and to provide alternatives for the girl to move into a direction of healing, so.

Mr. Adams: — If I could say something about that. Our percentage of the young persons are rarely deemed to be at the kind of risk that I think you're thinking of, where drastic action needs to be taken immediately. I think most of the cases, the assessment that Len mentioned is done and it's a safe home environment. Most of the situations aren't as immediately dangerous as perhaps is commonly thought.

A lot of the young street workers that are out there will tell us they're just out there for cigarette and beer money on a Friday night. We just want to do one trick. And their home environment is fine.

And so before they're placed elsewhere in a safe house or perhaps a temporary foster home situation, that home environment is looked at. And you know, oftentimes there's other issues that are causing the young people to be out there, and it's not necessarily that they're in imminent danger. Oftentimes they are, absolutely, but not in all the cases.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — We've had a number of people presented to our committee who have had different interpretations of what constitutes a person in danger. The very fact is that many people that came to the table say that the child is always in danger every time she goes onto the streets, or he goes onto the streets — in danger of all kinds of things.

Mr. Adams: — Absolutely. But once they're in the police car and over to Social Services, there's a different assessment made. It's now a placement issue, and where is their danger. And if there's no danger at home, that's where they're placed.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I hear what you're saying.

Mr. Adams: — And so it's a revolving door. But absolutely, no one would disagree that while they're standing on the corner they're the victims of all . . . potential victims of all kinds of harm.

Mr. Ramos: — . . . something to what the superintendent was saying — we mentioned it earlier — and that's about the geographic displacement. If you don't have secure care, what we like to do in Vancouver is we like to get a safe house that's far away from the stroll, or somewhere where she just can't walk out the back door, where you have the opportunities for the social workers or the health nurse or for us to sit down and actually talk to her.

I'm not familiar with your Mobile Services here. But from what you guys are talking about, do they have a 24-hour office? Because what's nice in Vancouver and, Arlene, where it's a nice big office, there's two or three soft rooms in there, and they can stay there pretty well all night until we find a place for them to go.

And there's no hurry up and let's get her a place within the hour. It's more of let's find the right place, and if it takes us 5 hours, it takes us 5 hours. And that again comes down to personal communication between . . . you know, it starts off with just a police officer and a social worker, but as soon as people within that office understand that we'll be there for the next four hours if we have to, right, then that's what we'll do.

You know, and I'm not saying that that's happening in Saskatchewan at all. But I know that was happening in Vancouver was, okay, we have her here, let's just find a place, right, instead of finding the right place.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — I find a very big difference, from my knowledge of Mobile Services in Saskatchewan as compared to the 24-hour office that I saw in Vancouver.

The very fact is that office was staffed with, it looked to me, at least about 10 or 12 people at 4 o'clock in the morning. And they were taking in various calls of all kinds of problems out there, and there were personnel who were professionally dealing with different issues.

For instance, when the girl that you guys brought in came there, there was someone there for her for some counselling almost immediately, to settle her down, to help her out at the moment. There was also another staff member who got on the telephone, made the calls to other jurisdictions that needed to give information and receive information in order to help her. There was just, like, staffing being done.

So all of those people were in one place at one time in order to help this young woman and her child. And within a matter of — it was 4 o'clock in the morning — but I would say within a matter of two hours in total, things were done. Her baby was safe. And, like, that was miraculous, because when we went in there with her, that child was not safe. That child was being babysat by the pimp.

So all of those things happened within a couple of hours. And I don't know if Mobile Services has got the capability here of doing those things, especially in the wee hours of the morning. So . . .

Mr. Ramos: — . . . it's resources.

I mean, we're lucky enough to have a 24-hour place that we can go that has two soft rooms, and we know that we can be there

for the next four hours — it's not going to be an issue. And there's 10 to 12 staff there dealing with phone calls, dealing with whoever comes in. We're lucky in that way.

And again it comes back to what the deputy chief was saying, and that's, those are resources that come from the provincial government to help us out in the municipality.

Mr. Payette: — But just to add one quick thing. We . . . (inaudible) . . . deal with the same frustration Regina does, because we will have days where we take that young woman in, and she doesn't have a child, she's out there.

And if she's 17 and she just goes, I don't want your help, I don't want anything . . . You know, they'll phone the mother. They'll check the home life. She has a home she could go to, etc., etc. There is a point at which social services goes, what can we offer you or what can we do? And she goes, I don't want anything. And we don't have secure care, so she can walk out. We deal with that frustration too.

I mean, you know, we have a good working relationship with social services, so I'm getting the sense we might deal with that frustration less than Saskatchewan does. But there are still days where you go, you know, that kid's going to walk right out, and they do.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — I'd like to ask a series of questions. I feel we've had a very good discussion tonight. And I know that everybody here has very much appreciated the contribution that you've both made, and we've also had a very valuable contribution from our local police service personnel who are here. It's been an excellent discussion.

So I'm feeling that we've covered a lot of ground, and my questions really just relate to one area and that is there's no question in my mind, as a result of what you've said, that the DISC program is a very valuable strategy in terms of deterring johns. And anything that we can do in Saskatchewan to help advance that program would seem to me to make a lot of sense.

What I'd like to focus on is using the DISC program as a vehicle for getting charges against johns. You've talked about the fact that you're able to reduce the johns' presence in your neighbourhood by 30 per cent, which is a very significant accomplishment. I think the question then is that we all ask ourselves is how are we going to take the john presence, and I'm talking now in terms of johns who are looking for sexual contact with children under 18, or in your case you're saying under 19, which I think is something we should look at.

But if that's what we're trying to do, the question ultimately becomes, in addition to DISC, what can we do to actually lay charges not against, you know, the odd john but against 50, 100, 150, 200 johns which, frankly, in Saskatchewan we haven't been able to do.

I don't know. Maybe our local police service reps can give us some sense about how many charges we've had in the last year or two about — there's no rush on this — about charges against johns for sexual contact with kids under 18.

But I'm wondering in your own experience in Vancouver and with your own work, how successful have you been in getting charges against johns seeking sexual contact with children, either under the Criminal Code or under some other statute?

Mr. Ramos: — We'd like to answer that question with our colleagues from the police department but we'd like to answer that question in camera. Because there's issues regarding that.

The Co-Chair (Mr. Prebble): — Okay, well, should we go in camera at this point then . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, absolutely. We really appreciate you being here and we will definitely make sure that you have access too.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — We were wondering whether or not you would feel comfortable with having what you say regarding this part of the conversation recorded in *Hansard*, recorded at all. Or if you would . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Not recorded?

Mr. Wilks: — I think what we will be talking about here are some operational issues that I don't think should be made public. It's in the best interests of policing, I think, and the community at large that we don't talk about those things.

The Co-Chair (Ms. Julé): — All right. We shall certainly respect your wishes on that.

The committee continued in camera.

The committee adjourned at 22:44.