



University
of Regina



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November 2013

CSKA Overview

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce, in partnership with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, the development of the **Community Safety Knowledge Alliance** – a new centre of excellence devoted to research, education, training, and integrated learning in support of its continuing commitment to building safe and healthy communities.

CSKA represents a one-of-a-kind government-led mobilization of new and existing institutes and programs that have already made Saskatchewan a recognized leader in this field. CSKA reflects the government's continuing commitment to innovation and evidence based practice, and builds upon the province's proven success in advancing collaborative and multi-disciplinary approaches to community safety under the Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime (BPRC) strategy. Arising from these early and promising models is a recognized need for new forms of learning, new social science research, and ultimately new knowledge to shape continuing success and sustainable outcomes.

CSKA is not a bricks-and-mortar initiative, and infrastructure is expected to be minimal and mostly administrative in nature. Rather, the GOS and the two universities will form the core of an alliance that is expected to include a number of other contributing partners, including SIAST, the First Nations University of Canada (FNUC), the Saskatchewan Police College, and the RCMP Depot Division, to name a few.

The province's universities will bring innovative and high calibre capacity to the alliance through such well-established and noted facilities as the Collaborative Centre for Justice and Safety at the U of R, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies at the U of S, and the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School for Public Policy shared between them.

In addition, CSKA will tap the existing resources and infrastructures of multiple ministries, colleges and other service providers to mobilize a range of collaborative academic learning, career education, and competency-based training programs for professionals in such fields as policing, corrections, social services, health, mental health and addictions, education, and related community-based organizations.

The alliance will build upon work that is already underway through GOS investments in research initiatives at both major institutions. Under the new CSKA brand, the partners are currently working together with plans to introduce a series of collaborative learning programs and additional targeted research projects in Community Safety within the next year. As well, work is underway on the launch of an accompanying open access publication dedicated to peer-reviewed and practitioner-based literature on Community Safety topics and themes. The alliance hopes to publish the first issue of the **CSKA Journal** early in 2014.

Through the alignment of these new and existing capacities for learning and research, CSKA will institutionalize horizontal collaboration across government and its partner agencies at the earliest opportunity, and it will ensure the most efficient and effective application of our human services to the most pressing social priorities in the province.

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CSKA Core Partners



On behalf of the Ministry of Justice: Corrections and Policing, I am excited to support this new initiative towards the continued creation and application of leading edge knowledge in all aspects of community safety. Our ministry has a long history of evidence-based practice and innovation in all that we do, and our Saskatchewan Police College already stands alongside other academies across Canada in its delivery of high quality training and education for police officers. But, there is much more to do. We must continue to commission and support new research and we must expand the reach of our education and training capacities to support the professionals within our correctional system. As well, we have a unique opportunity to use the best science and create and apply the best knowledge to support the collaborative models of community safety for which our province has become a recognized leader. My staff and I look forward to working with all of our partners in building this unique alliance and to making it a world leader.

Deputy Minister Dale McFee



"... the University of Regina has a proven teaching and research track record in the areas of social justice, policing and public safety. In recent years, we have made significant investments to position the University at the forefront of these areas, including establishing both the Saskatchewan Justice Institute and the Canadian Centre for Public Safety and First Responders. In doing so, we have worked to create a critical mass of research and education expertise at our University in support of these important issues, and more closely align with the Government of Saskatchewan's priorities in the area of public safety. I believe that this expertise will be a great asset to CSKA.

I support this initiative in principle on behalf of our University, and very much look forward to seeing this important partnership become a reality."

Dr. Vianne Timmons, President



"This is a unique undertaking with extensive potential to address a fundamental principle of the U of S – to ensure that rigorous socially-relevant research is undertaken and that the outcomes are made available to inform best practice, policy and programs. In bringing together researchers, practitioners, educators, and policy-makers, CSKA will facilitate the adoption of new, innovative best practices and programs for the benefit of our communities.

There are few issues that are more important to our communities and to the individuals that form those communities than safety. The issues associated with community safety and health are complex and multi-faceted; they demand cross-disciplinary and multi-sectorial approaches. The U of S is well positioned to contribute to these discussions."

Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, President

The Case for CSKA

In the two years since the Government of Saskatchewan introduced the Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime (BPRC) strategy alongside its charter partners in policing, the province has rapidly become a recognized leader in advancing new models of community safety. Such innovations as the Prince Albert Hub, and the many replications of that process now underway in other communities around the province, are already proving successful in addressing local needs in new ways. But, they have also changed the very nature of the national conversation on sustainable community safety by showcasing the effectiveness of collaborative approaches to reducing the risk factors which lead to crime and victimization and which also strain our entire social system.

As a result, there is a growing need for improved cross disciplinary research to ensure that these methods continue to be based in solid scientific evidence, and to use the knowledge being created to generate new forms of collaborative career education and training for agencies and professionals involved in improving community safety in Saskatchewan, elsewhere in Canada and beyond.

Our province is fortunate to host two leading edge academic institutions, both of whom have built a strong commitment to the many fields of science and knowledge that intersect within the province's emerging concepts of community safety. However, each of these institutions presently places its mission emphasis on different areas of expertise, and resulting priorities are not always well connected with each other or necessarily aligned towards a common vision. As would be expected, each entity pursues a research agenda and academic programming driven by its own institutional goals.

The CSKA alliance will mobilize, integrate and facilitate research, career path education and training for professionals involved in all fields that have a role to play in building safe and healthy communities, and it will do so according to priorities determined under a government-led agenda.

Through this mobilizing role, CSKA will ensure that current and future learning and research investments will continue to meet the evolving needs for science and knowledge across all community safety partner agencies represented within the BPRC.

New Methods Demand New Science and Knowledge

The BPRC is a made in Saskatchewan approach that:

- Reduces crime and victimization and improves safety and general wellness in Saskatchewan communities.
- Is a collaborative, evidence-based and training based approach that is introducing new risk-driven models previously untried in Canada.
- Has led to all parts of the justice system and human services system contributing in deliberate, sustained and co-operative ways.

The Ministry of Justice: Corrections & Policing has restructured in order to put a greater emphasis on evidence- based programs and decision making in support of the BPRC strategy.

Crime, victimization, anti-social behavior, and overcrowding of our correctional centres are all significant challenges in Saskatchewan. Additional research is needed to find solutions to these issues.

We have leaders in Saskatchewan who are committed to finding long-term solutions and building on models that are working, but we presently have limited partnerships across academic institutions to provide the actionable research.

Phase two of the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Recontact Study involving police, corrections and courts data will take place solely in Saskatchewan in 2013-14 and it will bring with it greater academic attention on community safety practices within the province.

Community safety and violence reduction goals are identified within the Government of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, and new ways of understanding and measuring these connections are required.

CSKA Partners and Governance

The core partners in this initiative are the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. Both institutions have committed to the concept in principle and are working closely with Ministry staff towards an initial framework to be introduced in April 2014.

The Saskatchewan Police College currently operates under the direction of the Saskatchewan Police Commission and it also benefits from the guidance of a Police Learning Advisory Board. In cooperation with these governing bodies, the College is also expected to form a central part of a broader curriculum and to serve as a primary delivery site for collaborative education and training under the alliance.

Discussions are underway with additional partners, including SIAST, FNUC and the RCMP, to ensure that all elements of the existing education and training establishment in Saskatchewan have the opportunity to contribute to the goals of the alliance. In addition, strategic partnerships with agencies and service providers from outside the province are already underway and will continue to be an additional source of programming and delivery for the activities and products of CSKA.

The CSKA alliance will be staffed by a nucleus of highly specialized education and research experts, and it will require minimal administrative infrastructure only. Alliance staff will work to leverage existing expertise, resources and facilities within the combined government and academic research, educational and training establishment in the province to provide a more coordinated approach to community safety.

“With a focus on protecting the lives and livelihoods of Canadians, the vision of the Defence R&D Canada’s Centre for Security Science is a safe and secure Canada through science and technology leadership.

It is a priority of the DRDC Centre for Security Science to support public safety and security practitioners in their mission to protect Canadians and Canadian Institutions. We recognize that the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance will play an important role in achieving this goal and look forward to working on common goals that advance community safety in Saskatchewan and beyond.”

*Dr Mark Williamson
Director General
DRDC Centre for Security Science*

CSKA Anticipated Lines of Business

Five streams of programming are expected to form the core focus for the alliance, as follows:

Community Safety and Related **Research Agendas and Projects**

The alliance partners will work together to develop and maintain research agendas for all related disciplines with a role in Community Safety and promote opportunities, secure funding sources, and put into action specific research projects to advance the provincial knowledge base.

Accredited and Practicum-based Leadership Education for Community Safety and Related Executives and Managers

The alliance will identify needs and develop specific degree programming at the Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral levels to meet the learning needs of middle and senior executives, utilizing a variety of delivery modes and locations, and connecting active learners to related research and practicum opportunities.

Accredited and Practicum-based Career-track Education for Community Safety and Related Professionals

The alliance will identify needs and develop specific degree programming at the Diploma/Certificate, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral levels to meet the life-long learning needs of professionals at all levels and across multiple disciplines, utilizing a variety of delivery modes and locations, and connecting active learners to related research and practicum opportunities where appropriate.

Collaborative In-Service Training for Community Safety and Related Professionals

The alliance will identify needs, opportunities and new delivery models to engage professionals from multiple related disciplines in collaborative in-service learning opportunities wherever practical and appropriate. (For example; police officers and mental health professionals learning together about crisis response strategies and tactics; or, teachers, addiction counselors, child protection workers and police officers learning together about drug and alcohol interventions).

Sector-specific **Foundations Education and Basic Training Programs** for Front-line Practitioners in Community Safety Disciplines

*More opportunities exist to build upon **foundations education** models that already have been employed in Saskatchewan and elsewhere in Canada for the development of career-ready recruits in policing, corrections, social work and other fields. In addition, opportunities exist to build upon the proven success of police **recruit basic training** programming for the benefit of other disciplines, such as corrections workers. The alliance will examine and pursue these opportunities with a view to mobilizing the capacities of the various partner institutions and service providers.*

CSKA Anticipated Market Groups

Alliance programming is expected to serve the needs of a wide range of interests within Saskatchewan, from across Canada, and globally, including:

- Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministries and Crown Agencies
- Police Services and Governing Authorities
- Municipal and First Nations Administrations
- School Boards
- Regional Health Authorities
- Community Based and Non-Governmental Organizations (CBO/NGO)
- Fire, Emergency Medical and Emergency Management Administrators and Related First Response Policy Makers
- Social Science Academics and Research Scholars in Multiple Disciplines
- Professional Associations and Labour Bodies
- Post-Secondary Students
- Private Industry

CSKA – Multi-Sector Outcomes

The alliance is specifically directed towards community safety, but it is expected to contribute a much wider range of deliverables and outcomes for the province. The following are just some samples, by sector, of the contributions that can be anticipated from this collaborative and multi-disciplinary alignment of research, education and training.

For Policing, Courts and Correctional Practices

- research-based validation of low risk to harm, high priority policing models to guide sound and secure investments
- enhanced professionalism and recruitment practices in corrections
- evidence-based solutions for serious high-risk offender management
- collaborative studies to support criminal justice reform and courtroom efficiencies
- common learning to support internal and general investigative practices across all sectors
- more integrated intelligence practices across multiple agencies
- expanded economic analysis of all investments in community safety and criminal justice

For Children and Families at Risk

- multi-sector learning programs to support effective Hub/COR practices in all communities
- continuing research on systemic change opportunities
- continuing evaluation and outcome measurement on risk-driven community safety strategies
- enhanced learning and practices for child protection professionals

For Health Care, Mental Health and Wellness

- collaborative crisis intervention for persons with mental illness
- collective responses to addictions, alcohol and substance abuse
- reduced demands on emergency rooms and EMS
- preventive medicine and public health and wellness solutions

For Pre-schools and K-12 Education

- research-based solutions for truancy and chronic absenteeism
- more effective Hub/COR-based interventions and solutions for students-at-risk
- collaborative planning and training for safer schools
- enhanced health and social programming for early childhood development and school preparedness

For Advanced Education and Employment Training

- enhanced reputations and broader markets for our major institutions
- higher demand for innovative academic programming from outside Saskatchewan
- leading edge research and publications in community safety
- increased knowledge transfer and commercialization of technologies

CSKA – Multi-Sector Outcomes (continued)

For Community Resilience and Emergency Management

- leadership education for all emergency responders and planners
- enhanced interoperability across all systems
- targeted research to support local and provincial needs and opportunities in safe and affordable housing

For Safer Highways and Streets, Transportation, and the Environment

- research to support progressive policies in road and environmental safety
- enhanced training and new methods for traffic, liquor, transportation and conservation enforcement

To Support and Advance Our Growing Economy

- reduced crime and violence in our cities, towns and rural communities
- a better prepared workforce
- increased participation levels in employment and education
- global recognition and enhanced opportunities for our scientific community

Leveraging Saskatchewan's Existing Research, Education and Training Capacities



CSKA – Immediate Opportunities and Outcomes in Corrections and Policing

There are currently many pressing needs and opportunities right across the business of community safety in Saskatchewan, and the alliance is expected to contribute immediate solutions and improved outcomes in several areas, including:

- **Enhanced professionalism and recruitment practices in corrections** will be achieved through increased standards, training and evidence-based practices, following on proven policing models as well as already demonstrated successes within corrections. This will reduce liability risks to the GOS and will reduce the significant costs in payouts that we are currently facing for past deficiencies in practice and diligence.
- The research and evaluation capacities of the alliance partners will ensure proper validation of the most suitable **low risk to harm, high priority policing** models. A new learning framework will be developed to train to standards and ensure accountability, enabling municipalities to decide upon and make sound and secure investments in new solutions.
- The alliance will advance new solutions to identified **Criminal Intelligence** gaps that currently exist across the system. New cross-system training will ensure the deployment of policing, corrections, criminal prosecution, and other partner energies in all situations at the earliest opportunity.
- Improved **internal investigations** will be achieved within corrections and other sectors through proper curriculum and training to be designed and provided under the alliance. Current practices are costly, not executed consistently and often expose significant financial liability.
- Many ministries and partner agencies have ongoing requirements to conduct **effective general investigations** for a variety of regulatory and forensic matters. The alliance will design and deliver standardized training to acceptable and consistent standards. This service will generate revenue for alliance partners while ensuring that all of our investigative services within Saskatchewan are conducted at a professional and defensible level.

CSKA – Immediate Opportunities and Outcomes in Corrections and Policing (continued)

- **Standardized tactical deployment training** will be designed and delivered across the corrections system, achieving a consistent standard of effectiveness and safety for all concerned while reducing liability and risk.
- **Horizontal training** will be developed and deployed through a variety of methods on several key aspects of collaborative community safety (one immediate example will be improving interactions with and supports for persons with mental illness). Closer alignment of learning and practice will work towards the right outcomes being achieved through the most appropriate expertise and resources, with significant implications for efficiency across the system.
- The province will continue to follow the ‘franchise model’ with respect to **Hub and COR training**, ensuring that new programs are undertaken with due quality, program integrity and reliability. As the Saskatchewan models of community safety continue to evolve, and as new people join their respective teams, methods and practices will remain current and consistent across all sectors involved.
- The alliance will develop and deploy new training to support new models for alleviating **prisoner transport situations in isolated communities**. This will increase efficiencies by ensuring that current police resources are available to perform the duties that are most in need their level of training and response capabilities.
- All GOS, Policing and related agencies across the province and across the system will gain more access to leading edge and collaborative **Leadership Development** programming, custom suited to Saskatchewan’s needs and made available by leveraging our existing academic institutions through the alliance.
- The alliance will allow for a closer connection between community safety decision makers and the **economists and other financial experts** who can help to ensure that our current methods and practices are not only correct in practice but are also conceived and executed in the most cost effective ways.

CSKA Anticipated Flagship Products

Saskatchewan Corrections – Recruit and In-Service Education and Training

Work is underway to launch early under the CSKA brand a broad-based multi-institute curriculum in support of the continued professionalization of the provincial corrections system. It is anticipated that this curriculum will extend from pre-recruit foundations learning, through intake recruit training, and on to a variety of career education programming for correctional workers and leaders at every level of the system. It is expected that multiple delivery sources from among the alliance partners will be involved in the design and delivery of this curriculum, and that multiple learning modes will be applied, including e-learning, classroom workshops, practical and scenario-based exercises, and traditional academic programs.

Collaborative Training on Offender Engagement to Reduce Recidivism

To support the province's targeted crime reduction strategies involving municipal police services and the RCMP, the ministry has introduced joint police/probation training based on effective engagement skills that can reduce the likelihood of offending. The research work of the ministry has already demonstrated solid science behind the effectiveness of this training. However, it has been noted that while some officers recognize that the training and skills are in alignment with how they perceive their role, many others may currently see their role as more anchored in investigation and charging offenders. If we are to advance the concepts of community safety we must also advance the skills that support this overall objective, which in turn impacts on cultural change and role expectations. It is not enough to achieve this goal by having only corrections staff complete this type of training. It also needs to be an integral part of police training.

To this end, discussions are underway and advancing with the Canadian Police College towards establishing a CSKA branded course in this subject area to be jointly delivered. What is anticipated is a competency-based model of training similar to medical training, wherein candidates are supervised and evaluated on demonstration of the skills in actual engagements with offenders. A Level 1 course will be for front-line officers, and a Level 2 will be for their supervisors who will have also demonstrated their ability to train their officers at Level 1. These training programs will position Saskatchewan's combined policing and corrections system as a national leader in this area.

Hub Practices and Disciplines – A Multi-Mode Training Series for Community Leaders, Police and Human Service Professionals

As more and more communities embrace the Prince Albert Hub as a model to build upon and adapt to their local needs, there is a growing need for a series of policy and procedural education and practical skills training modules to support all aspects of this collaborative risk-driven methodology. To broaden access to the training, the use of e-learning will form a major component of this series, and these online modules will be combined with periodic classroom sessions for those in some specific roles as well. The Hub Series is currently planned for introduction early in 2014. Expected to be included in the initial modules will be a video-based simulation of the Hub process, with emphasis on proper application of the Information Sharing Guidelines, and a practical demonstration module to instruct Hub coordinators on the use of the provincial CRM-based risk factor tracking system.

CSKA Anticipated Flagship Products (continued)

Research Project # 1 –Intervention Opportunities in Police and Corrections Data

The Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime strategy and initiatives such as the Hub model provide the opportunity to prevent crime and victimization by intervening with those at risk of offending before the crime happens. Additional information regarding the acute risk factors that bring individuals into contact with the justice system could greatly increase the impact of these initiatives by more accurately identifying who is most at risk of offending and what interventions are most effective in reducing that imminent risk. The Ministry of Justice: Corrections & Policing, in association with police agencies, is planning a study to conduct research and analysis into the untapped information in police dispatched calls linked with corrections risk assessment data. This analysis intends to identify pre-charge intervention points and behavior patterns where services may be employed to interrupt criminal involvement and victimization.

Research Project # 2 – Improving Community Resilience through the BPRC

The University of Regina's Collaborative Centre for Justice and Safety will build on current work and partnerships in Saskatchewan, nationally and internationally to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Saskatchewan approach to community safety and to assist the communities and people involved in the management and delivery of these programs. The project will assess the effectiveness and identify opportunities for: continuous improvement to community safety; achieving broad and continuous improvements to community resilience; reducing anti-social behaviour, crime and community dysfunction in urban, rural settings and First Nations communities; and, introducing and applying technological innovations within the BPRC framework. Community-related strengths and weaknesses that facilitate and/or potentially hinder the BPRC model's use throughout the nation will be identified and potential solutions offered. The development of metrics and economic assessment will provide evidence to assist governments to select and implement practices most appropriate to their environments.

Research Project # 3 – CMPA Knowledge Translation and Transfer

At the University of Saskatchewan, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies (CFBSJS) has worked closely with staff at CMPA and BPRC to build a scholarly understanding of the community mobilization process. Building on this work, the Centre is well placed to lead a knowledge translation study focusing on how effectively the CMPA model is transferred to and implemented in other Saskatchewan communities. Such a study would seek to identify the components of the model that are most transferrable to other settings, and the extent to which the model may require modification to accommodate other local contexts, priorities and available resources. This work could then potentially contribute to the development of a global implementation model for use in applying the key principles of BPRC and the CMPA Hub in jurisdictions elsewhere in Canada and beyond.

The CSKA Journal

It is not enough to conduct the best research studies, produce the best reports, and document the best practices in any field – somehow, the resulting knowledge must influence policy, advance better decision-making, and ultimately make it to front lines of practice. This is a continuing challenge in the field of Community Safety right across Canada and one that has received considerable attention in recent years.

Through our innovative and widely recognized breakthroughs, Saskatchewan is already uniquely situated to contribute in this area. And, through the alliance, we can anticipate a continuing flow of new ideas, rigorous evaluations, academic studies and practitioner based literature on new methods.

The CSKA Journal is envisioned as a periodic, open-access online publication that will feature a mix of peer reviewed scholarly literature and other carefully selected reports and papers on a variety of multi-disciplinary topics related to the broadest field of community safety practices. Content for the journal will be sourced from within the province, and both nationally and globally as well.

With its editorial emphasis anchored in our emerging Saskatchewan models of collaboration and risk reduction, and guided by the already functioning Deputy Minister's Expert Advisory Council, the journal will quickly become a unique and recognizable voice in Canadian social science and practice.

CSKA Potential Future Developments

Looking ahead, there is potential for the alliance to benefit the province and others in several areas, including:

Expanded Markets for our Institutions

With its unique government-led agenda and strong partnerships, the alliance will quickly become a recognized Centre of Excellence elsewhere in Canada and beyond. The province has already been approached by many others who are asking our human services system to serve as both a showcase and as a learning laboratory for some of the most vital, current and emerging practices and studies. Our academic partners will continue to benefit from this enhanced profile as professionals and students alike look to Saskatchewan's leading edge institutions as their first choice in career-long education and research.

Expanded Research Capacity

As more and more diverse and collaborative graduate level programming is expected to come on stream under the alliance, a broader cohort of scholars will become available to our institutions and to our human services for the purpose of advancing the necessary evaluations, case studies and experimental projects in support of new knowledge in the broad field of Community Safety.

Expanded Research Opportunities

There are currently a limited number of sources for research funding in Canada, and often these are disparate in their focus and complex in their criteria, making access a difficult and often labour intensive task for scholars. The multi-disciplinary focus of the alliance, its clear emphasis on collaboration, and its uniquely direct connection to government policy can be expected to attract funding from the widest range of current sources and potentially to stimulate new forms of interest within the provincial and national private sector to support the broad aims of the alliance and its related agencies and professionals.

Enhanced Collaboration across the Human Services

As more and more opportunities are recognized and tapped for aligning and articulating career education and training across disciplines and across institutions and service providers, the alliance will contribute to a culture of collaboration that will shape the attitudes and practices of a wide range of professionals with roles to play in building safe and healthy communities.

CSKA Potential Future Developments (continued)

Efficiencies across Government, Policing and Community Based Organizations

Breaking down 'silos' is a complex task that will require continuous attention in the years ahead. Through the commitment to whole-system thinking that will be reflected within all of the alliance's programming, new opportunities can be expected to emerge for re-thinking the way government and all of its service delivery partners do business. The close connection between the research and learning environments and senior policy makers and their evolving agendas for change will ensure the most rapid application of these insights and opportunities.

Enhanced Outcomes in Community Safety and Wellness with Continued Benefit to the Provincial Growth Agenda

Ultimately, the alliance will support positive change and develop new capacities that are urgently needed in many communities in Saskatchewan. It will advance our culture of collaboration and it will equip our professionals with the most leading edge social science and knowledge to support them in their work. CSKA will ensure that the best possible practices and innovations are conceived, proven and applied across our province to benefit all of our citizens. In turn, improved outcomes at the individual, family and community levels, across a wide range of social indicators, will improve our health and wellness, our educational attainment levels and our labour force qualifications, and our ability to attract and sustain solid investments in our economy.

Continued Leadership within the National and Global Dialogue on Community Safety

First and foremost, CSKA is about improving outcomes in our own province. At the same time, our government, our educational establishment, and our industrial sectors will all benefit from the strong Saskatchewan reputation for leadership and innovation that the alliance will continue to build upon across the multiple disciplines that contribute to the field of Community Safety.

CSKA Next Steps

To be developed by the Ministry of Justice: Corrections and Policing executive team in consultation with representatives from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, and representatives from other partner institutions.

August 19, 2013

Mr. Dale McFee
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Corrections and Policing
1200 – 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3

Dear Mr. McFee

It was a pleasure meeting with you in late July to discuss the possibility of the University of Regina's collaboration with the Government of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan to establish the Saskatchewan Alliance for Science and Knowledge in Community Safety (Sask-CS). I support this initiative in principle on behalf of our University, and very much look forward to seeing this important partnership become a reality.

As you are aware, the University of Regina has a proven teaching and research track record in the areas of social justice, policing and public safety. In recent years, we have made significant investments to position the University at the forefront of these areas, including establishing both the Saskatchewan Justice Institute and the Canadian Centre for Public Safety and First Responders. In doing so, we have worked to create a critical mass of research and education expertise at our University in support of these important issues, and more closely align with the Government of Saskatchewan's priorities in the area of public safety. I believe that this expertise will be a great asset to Sask-CS.

In recent weeks, the University has taken further steps that would be of benefit to Sask-CS. We have carefully examined the possibility of amalgamating the Saskatchewan Justice Institute and the Canadian Centre for Public Safety and First Responders, and our Board will discuss and decide upon this in early September. Should the amalgamation of the two centres be approved, the resulting centre would work across all schools and faculties at the University and with our external partners in a multi-disciplinary manner that would be well-suited to the challenges being addressed by the Government of Saskatchewan in its continuing efforts to build partnerships and reduce crime.

In short, I anticipate that in the coming months the University of Regina will have even more to offer Sask-CS in terms of research, education and professional development. As a key partner in the Sask-CS initiative, we look forward to working with you and the University of Saskatchewan to plan and implement the centre, and I have asked Steve Palmer at the University of Regina to continue working with you in that regard.

Thank you for your confidence in our University and its programs, and for your continuing efforts to enhance public safety in our province.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor

cc: Dr. David Malloy, Vice-President (Research)
Steve Palmer, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Public Safety and First Responders

September 3, 2013

Mr. Dale McFee
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Corrections and Policing
1200 – 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3

Dear Mr. McFee,

I am pleased to accept your invitation for the University of Saskatchewan to participate in the development of the Saskatchewan Alliance for Science and Knowledge in Community Safety (Sask-CS). This is a unique undertaking with extensive potential to address a fundamental principle of the U of S – to ensure that rigorous, socially-relevant research is undertaken and that the outcomes are made available to inform best practice, policy and programs. In bringing together researchers, practitioners, educators, and policy-makers, Sask-CS will facilitate the adoption of new, innovative best practices and programs for the benefit of our communities.

There are few issues that are more important to our communities and to the individuals who form those communities than safety. The issues associated with community safety and health are complex, and multi-faceted; they demand cross-disciplinary and multi-sectorial approaches. The U of S is well positioned to contribute to these discussions. For example, the *Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Justice Studies* has a growing reputation for facilitating research that crosses the boundaries of the social sciences, health sciences, management, and law. These cross-disciplinary discussions result in excellent research related to crime, justice and corrections. In addition, the U of S – through initiatives like the *Native Law Centre* and the *Aboriginal Justice and Criminology Program* – has extensive experience working with Aboriginal communities on both training and research initiatives related to community health and safety. I am excited by the possibility of contributing our existing expertise to the proposed partnership and anticipate that the collaboration will result in benefits for the U of S, our partners and our communities.

I look forward to this partnership becoming a reality, and to Saskatchewan emerging as a world leader in training, research, and implementation of research results in order to achieve safer communities. We are delighted to be able to once again partner effectively with sister academic institutions in the province, as well as government, not-for-profit and professional associations.

Sincerely yours,



Ilene Busch-Vishniac

c: Karen Chad, VP Research
Steven Wormith