



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Ottawa on Right Track to be the Safest Place in Canada to Live, Learn, Work and Play**

**OTTAWA** – Ottawa shows promising results in today's release of Safe Communities Canada's first National Report Card, which measures the progress of communities across Canada in promoting safety and reducing avoidable accidents.

Across the country today, designated members of Safe Communities Canada will be celebrating Canada's first Safe Communities Canada Day with various ceremonies and activities including releasing individual community report card results, announcing the recipients of volunteer and business safety ambassador awards and numerous workshops, symposiums and displays, all celebrating the significant achievements the network has made in ten years.

Safe Communities Ottawa will be celebrating their achievements by announcing the recipient of Ottawa's Ambassador for Safety Business Award.

"Safe Communities Ottawa is very proud of its accomplishments since becoming a designated member of Safe Communities Canada," said Sandra Lawson, Safe Communities Ottawa Chair. "Our volunteers, community partners and residents of Ottawa are a significant part of this success and we thank them for their time, effort and expertise. These are the people who we celebrate today as we join communities across Canada to celebrate the first Safe Communities Canada Day."

After only three years as a designated safe community, Ottawa is already scoring top marks in two of the four areas the World Health Organization recognizes when designating a safe community; setting safety priorities and engaging the community in these priorities.

"As we move forward, Safe Communities Ottawa will be looking to the City of Ottawa and community leaders to support our efforts to improve our score card and become a World Health Organization designated safe community," said Lawson.

Through Ottawa's Safe Communities Incentive Plan, more than 300 local businesses have received workplace health and safety training and received rebates in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums totaling more than \$405,000. Another Safe Communities Program, *Passport to Safety*, provides an online training course designed to equip young people with a basic understanding of what they need to know before embarking on a career. More than 3300 students in Ottawa have taken up this



challenge since the program was first introduced in 2005. Success is also being realized with the recruitment of local Ottawa businesses as Passport to Safety Employers. These companies recognize a *Passport to Safety* transcript as an important asset when hiring new and often young employees.

Safe Communities Canada founder Paul Kells released the National Report Card in Toronto today. "The national results demonstrate that Canadian communities remain international leaders in the implementation and growth of effective programs, products and services allowing our children, grandparents, co-workers and neighbours to live in safer environments", Mr. Kells said. "The overall results paint a very positive picture of the designated safe communities across the country. They are pragmatically engaged and they have a sense of pride and accomplishment", he added.

Safe Communities Ottawa is a designated member of Safe Communities Canada and is a charitable organization dedicated to making Ottawa the safest city in which to live, learn, work and play. In association with Safe Communities Canada our purpose is to eliminate injuries while promoting a culture of safety through partnerships, programs and education. SCO is proud to be one of the 48 designated 'Safe Communities' across Canada.

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For Information:

Sandra Lawson  
Safe Communities Ottawa  
613-288-3832  
Sandra.Lawson@ontario.ca  
www.ottawasafecommunities.org

Rod Kelly  
Safe Communities Canada  
Phone 416-964-3959  
Cell 416-201-1430  
rkelly@safecommunities.ca  
www.safecommunities.ca