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ATLANTIC CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Statement by:

The Honourable Catherine S. Callbeck

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

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Hon. Catherine S. Callbeck: Honourable senators, I would like to tell you about an important event that began earlier today in my home province of Prince Edward Island: the twenty-sixth Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference. This annual conference is a venture of the Atlantic Community Safety Association, while the local planning committee includes representatives of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island, Summerside Police Department, Community Legal Information Association: Prince Edward Island and the PEI Department of Environment, Labour and Justice.

The conference brings together more than 100 crime prevention stakeholders, including police officers and community leaders, health professionals and social workers, educators and academics, and business people and community builders — all those who have an interest in crime prevention. For the next two days, participants will attend workshops with a focus on youth engagement, community safety, and front-line workers. They will share promising practices, personal experiences and lessons learned under the theme of “Safer Communities, Better Tomorrow.”

We all know the importance of crime prevention. Research shows that well-designed interventions reduce the social and

economic costs of criminal activities as well as the costs related to the criminal justice system. Crime prevention translates into healthier families and safer communities — ultimately a better quality of life for everyone.

In her opening remarks, the Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice for Prince Edward Island, the Honourable Janice Sherry, said:

Justice is not simply a system of rules and punishments — of catching and punishing wrongdoers.... Our approach to justice reflects our beliefs about what is right and wrong, about fairness and compassion, and about how people can live together in peace and safety.

Honourable senators, lives are changed through crime prevention, but it takes many people working together to achieve this. These annual conferences are an invaluable resource for anyone interested in making Atlantic Canada a safer place to live. I would like to congratulate the Atlantic Community Safety Association, as well as the tireless members of the local planning committee. I offer my very best wishes to all this year's participants for building safer communities across our region.
