



## 11. Rural communities are “perceived” as safe communities

There is a perception that violent crime is increasing (crime rates are actually decreasing). Rural communities are ‘perceived’ as a relatively safe place to live.

**Implications:** Being viewed as a safe community is a community asset.

### Strategies to consider:

- a) Emphasize to potential returning youth, immigrants and other potential in-migrants that your community is a safe community
- b) Establish and maintain neighbourhood watch groups
- c) Develop emergency plans

- d) Maintain local activities for all ages and types of people.
- e) Develop physical infrastructure reducing risks.

### Questions to ask:

- a) What are the highest risks for residents of your community?
- b) Who are the people and groups most at risk?
- c) How might these risks be reduced?
- d) What services and resources are available for preparing and dealing with those risks?
- e) What emergency plans are proposed by other communities and by the region?