# Messages from the hosts



Chief Dale McFee
Edmonton Police Service



## "Alone, we go fast. Together, we go far."

The landscape of community safety has shifted dramatically. We have to balance support and enforcement to apply the right tool at the right time.

The Safety of Our Cities conference explores how policing has evolved and what more can be done to restore balance and safety to our communities. Law enforcement and communities need to listen, engage, and innovate together.

As you read through this report, you'll find recommendations from the conference panelists and speakers on how you and your organizations can drive positive social change..

We are committed to finding solutions that work for our community and that make it safer and more equitable for everyone. This will take time, talent, and effort, but it's worth the investment.



Ashif Mawji
Edmonton Police Foundation



## "Policing is not just the police officers, it's the community."

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and organizers for allowing us to host the inaugural The Safety of Our Cities conference.

Safety is crucial for people to build a living and a future. By bringing together people from different backgrounds and perspectives, this conference will foster the kind of collaboration and innovation that is needed to address the complex issues that cities across the world face.

We all have a role and responsibility in developing solutions that will lead to safer cities for everyone. I hope that this conference and the conversations that begin here continue to inspire action and change.

I encourage you to always ask "just because you can, should you?" And if it ain't broken, BREAK it. We're in the age of disruption, so you might as well be the one to disrupt rather than the one who's disrupted.

# Thinking differently, together.

The Safety of Our Cities Conference brought together individuals from police agencies, public health, social agencies, corporations and government to:

- Explore how partnerships between law enforcement, social services, health, and other sectors are vital to tackling complex public health and safety issues.

- Highlight how research and innovation serve as critical tools in designing and delivering our collective responses.

- Operationalize new approaches to maximize impacts for your organization and the community.

# Thank you to our sponsors

# Conference by the numbers
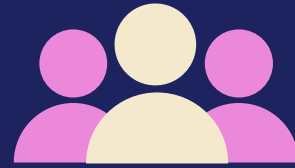
**600** attendees
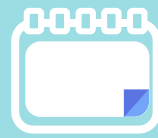
**26** conference sessions

**62** staff & volunteers

**94%** survey respondents were satisfied or strongly satisfied with the conference

**171** different agencies attended

**53%** survey respondents stated they discovered a potential solution to a challenge faced in their organization at the conference.

# Snapshot of the attendees
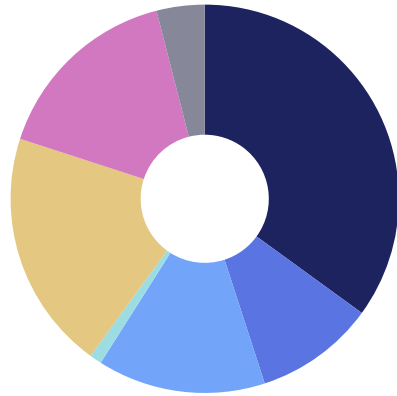


| Category | % |
|---|---|
| **Police Services** | **35%** |
| **Municipal Government** | **10%** |
| **Provincial Government** | **14%** |
| **Federal Government** | **1%** |
| **For Profit Companies** | **20%** |
| **Non-profit Agencies** | **5%** |
| **Academic Institutions** | **4%** |

# The Safety of Our Cities Playbook
## Summary of Recommendations and Actions

**SAFER CITIES**

**SAFE SPACES**

**Gang & gun violence reduction**
— Focus on prevention and intervention
— Address changing nature of gang and gun crimes
— Collaborate across sectors
— Strictly enforce existing laws

**Transit safety & security**
— Implement crime prevention measures
— Foster collaboration and partnerships
— Address vulnerable populations
— Encourage reporting and collect data

**Retail crime reduction**
— Collaborate across sectors
— Prioritize the victim
— Increase public awareness

**Housing & homelessness supports**
— Apply harm reduction strategies
— Data-driven approaches
— Promote community policing

**INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY WELL-BEING**

**Recovery communities**
— Involve community and family
— Embrace cultural practices
— Recognize individual strengths

**Brain science & trauma-informed approaches**
— Understand the brain's response
— Maintain continuity in services
— Actively listen to clients

**Alternative responses**
— Attract and develop qualified professionals
— Diversify funding
— Increase public awareness

**Supports for youth**
— Embrace subjectivity
— Respect privacy while ensuring safety
— Be relentless

**EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS**

**Equity**
— Cultural competency training
— Reflect community demographics
— Involve everyone in DEI work

**Governance**
— Continuous education and training
— Acknowledge and address systemic bias
— Multi-layered approach to accountability
— Collect race-based data

**Data & technology**
— Use aggregated, de-identified, and/or synthetic data for privacy
— Engage with multi-sector stakeholders and community
— Contribute to and support research
— Promote data governance
— Standardize data collection
— Consider local practices and rules

## Former Chief Cadmus Delorme

# What we inherited in the relationship between Canada and Indigenous People and our responsibility moving forward

Former Chief Delorme recounted a personal narrative about family, cultural resilience, and the historic signing of a child welfare agreement with Canadian officials. He urged us to acknowledge Canada's shared history and to embrace uncomfortable conversations as a pathway to a more inclusive and understanding future through:

**Redemption in Relationships:** It's never too late to make amends or improve relationships within a family.

**Personal Authenticity:** Speaking from the heart can create powerful connections.

**Value of Humor:** A light-hearted approach can be an effective way to connect with others and make impactful memories.

**Emotional Intelligence:** Understanding and managing emotions is crucial for navigating tough conversations.

**Lifelong Learning:** Always remain open to re-evaluating your beliefs, even if it's uncomfortable to face.

> " *"Emotional intelligence is going to get us to that tomorrow we all know we want and deserve."*

# Next Era Policing:
# What's on the Horizon

**Chief Dale McFee, Edmonton Police Service**
**Chief Bill Scott, San Francisco Police Department**
**Chief Harold Medina, Albuquerque Police Department**
**Chief Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department**
**Dr Michael Kempa, University of Ottawa**

The panel discussed collaborative strategies for community safety, focusing on the integration of services for policing, homelessness, and public health. Panelists advocated for:

**Data-Driven Decisions:** The emphasis on analytics over intuition in community and police work.

**Balance Over Extremes:** Calls for moderate, pragmatic approaches rather than extreme political positions.

**Enforcement and Rehabilitation**: Recognizing incarceration as a potential step towards recovery for some individuals.

**Proactive Prevention:** Importance of preventive measures to alleviate pressures on emergency and legal systems.

**Comprehensive Drug Policy:** Advocating for a harmonious approach to drug policy encompassing prevention, treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction.

**Amplifying Community Voices:** The need to focus on moderate voices to guide community-centric policies.
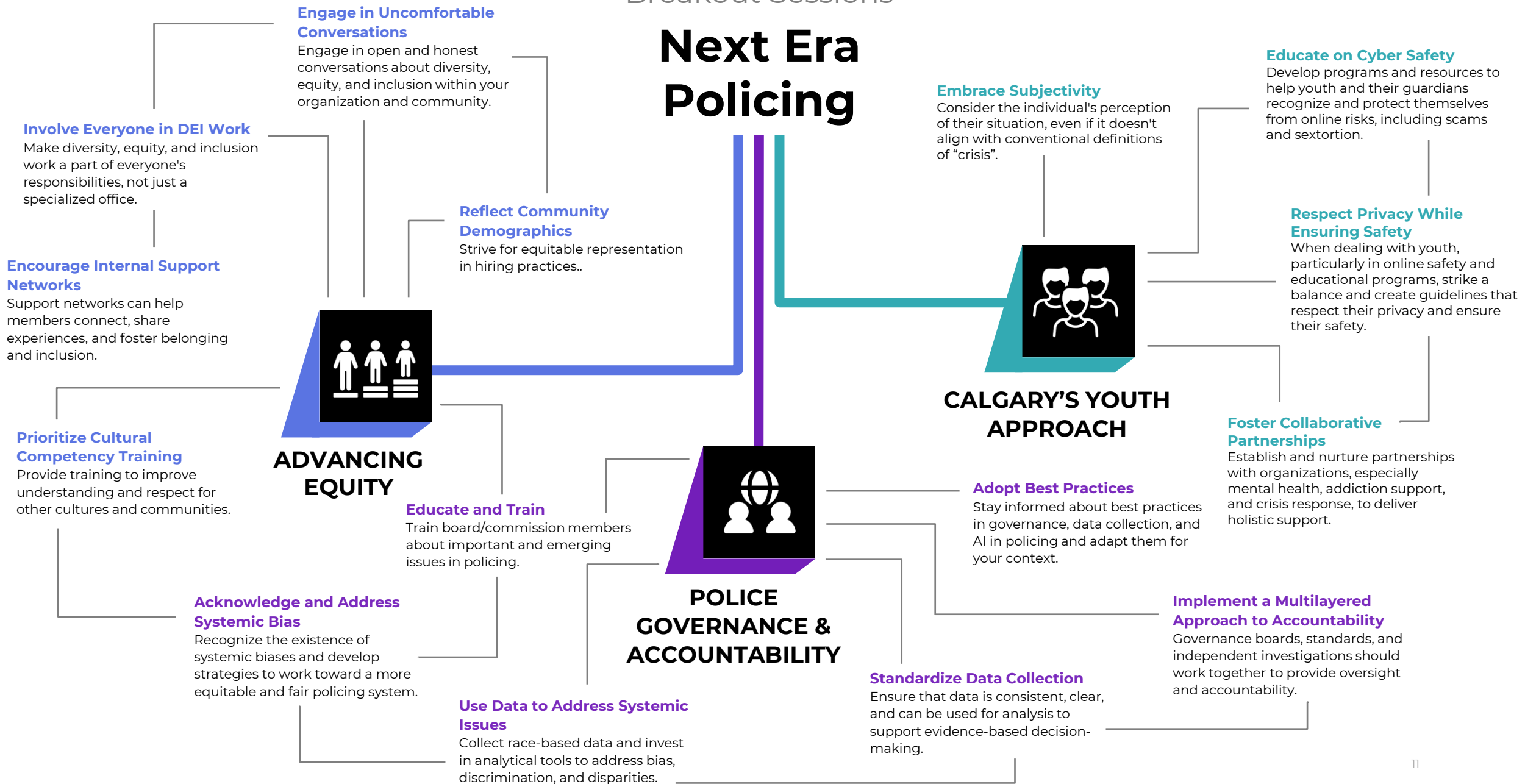
> *"You may lean one way or another, but in the middle is where the best discussions happen."* – Chief Palmer

# Next Era Policing

**Engage in Uncomfortable Conversations**
Engage in open and honest conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion within your organization and community.

**Involve Everyone in DEI Work**
Make diversity, equity, and inclusion work a part of everyone's responsibilities, not just a specialized office.

**Encourage Internal Support Networks**
Support networks can help members connect, share experiences, and foster belonging and inclusion.

**Reflect Community Demographics**
Strive for equitable representation in hiring practices..

**Prioritize Cultural Competency Training**
Provide training to improve understanding and respect for other cultures and communities.

## ADVANCING EQUITY

**Educate and Train**
Train board/commission members about important and emerging issues in policing.

**Acknowledge and Address Systemic Bias**
Recognize the existence of systemic biases and develop strategies to work toward a more equitable and fair policing system.

**Use Data to Address Systemic Issues**
Collect race-based data and invest in analytical tools to address bias, discrimination, and disparities.

## POLICE GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

**Standardize Data Collection**
Ensure that data is consistent, clear, and can be used for analysis to support evidence-based decision-making.

**Embrace Subjectivity**
Consider the individual's perception of their situation, even if it doesn't align with conventional definitions of "crisis".

**Educate on Cyber Safety**
Develop programs and resources to help youth and their guardians recognize and protect themselves from online risks, including scams and sextortion.

**Respect Privacy While Ensuring Safety**
When dealing with youth, particularly in online safety and educational programs, strike a balance and create guidelines that respect their privacy and ensure their safety.

## CALGARY'S YOUTH APPROACH

**Adopt Best Practices**
Stay informed about best practices in governance, data collection, and AI in policing and adapt them for your context.

**Foster Collaborative Partnerships**
Establish and nurture partnerships with organizations, especially mental health, addiction support, and crisis response, to deliver holistic support.

**Implement a Multilayered Approach to Accountability**
Governance boards, standards, and independent investigations should work together to provide oversight and accountability.

11

## Chief Statistician Anil Arora

# Making a significant difference with numbers

Chief Statistician Arora addressed the alarming rise in opioid poisonings and the exacerbating issue of homelessness; emphasizing the intricate links between socio-economic factors, crime rates, and the justice system. He emphasizes that addressing safety and crime requires data-driven, collaborative, and multidisciplinary efforts to adapt to changing demographics, socioeconomic factors, and environmental challenges. To accomplish this, he recommends:

**Tailor Intervention Programs:** Leverage data on high-cost justice system users to create targeted programs and policies.

**Use Data-Driven Strategies for Crime Reduction:** Based on demographic, socioeconomic, and land use characteristics of different regions.

**Collaborate Across Governments:** Work collaboratively to address and fill in critical data gaps that exist.

**Prioritize Data Integration and Accessibility:** Focus on integrating and making local level data accessible and transferable, ensuring the trust of citizens in this process.

**Empower Local-Level Data Use:** Ensure local-level data is accessible and transferable to inform and enable proactive measures in community policing and public safety initiatives.

> "A safe community is more than just a place with low crime rates. It's an environment that promotes individual well-being, a sense of belonging, social cohesion, economic growth, inclusion, and an overall better quality of life."

# Using data to reduce crime and increase safety

**CITO Ron Anderson, Edmonton Police Service**
**Chief Statistician Anil Arora, Statistics Canada**
**Dr Alina Turner, HelpSeeker Technologies**
**Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik, Royal Canadian Mounted Police**
**Deputy Chief Warren Driechel, Edmonton Police Service**
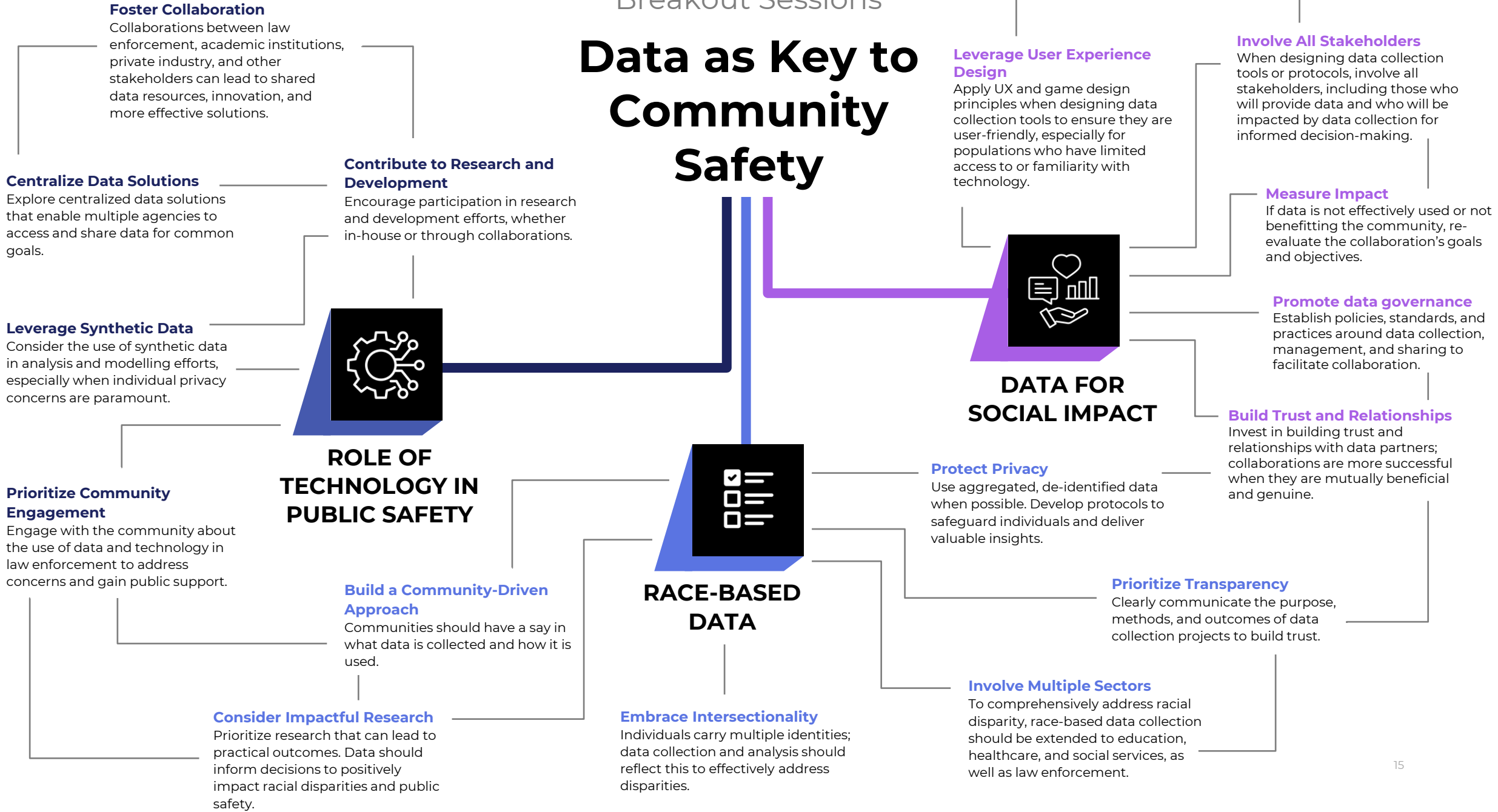**Chief Nishan Duraiappah, Peel Regional Police**

Law enforcement organizations are transforming, particularly in relation to their transparency and responsiveness to public scrutiny. The speakers highlighted the need for law enforcement to evolve with societal changes, technological advancements, and the increasing expectations for data-driven accountability. Adopting a collaborative, transparent, and ethically guided approach to harness the power of data for public good is crucial, which requires buy-in from all stakeholders, including government bodies, law enforcement, technology providers, and the community at large. The panelists recommend:

**Strengthen Transparency:** Develop robust data governance frameworks to ensure quality, accuracy, and ethical usage of data. Communicate these openly to the public.

**Prioritize Ethical Frameworks:** Establish ethical guidelines for the use of AI and machine learning to ensure these technologies are used in a way that respects individual rights and public trust.

**Enhance Data Literacy:** Invest in continuous training for law enforcement personnel to improve their understanding of data and analytics and provide accessible information to the public to facilitate a better understanding of how data is used in policing.

# Data as Key to Community Safety

**Foster Collaboration**
Collaborations between law enforcement, academic institutions, private industry, and other stakeholders can lead to shared data resources, innovation, and more effective solutions.

**Contribute to Research and Development**
Encourage participation in research and development efforts, whether in-house or through collaborations.

**Centralize Data Solutions**
Explore centralized data solutions that enable multiple agencies to access and share data for common goals.

**Leverage Synthetic Data**
Consider the use of synthetic data in analysis and modelling efforts, especially when individual privacy concerns are paramount.

**Prioritize Community Engagement**
Engage with the community about the use of data and technology in law enforcement to address concerns and gain public support.

**Build a Community-Driven Approach**
Communities should have a say in what data is collected and how it is used.

**Consider Impactful Research**
Prioritize research that can lead to practical outcomes. Data should inform decisions to positively impact racial disparities and public safety.

## ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PUBLIC SAFETY

## RACE-BASED DATA

**Embrace Intersectionality**
Individuals carry multiple identities; data collection and analysis should reflect this to effectively address disparities.

**Protect Privacy**
Use aggregated, de-identified data when possible. Develop protocols to safeguard individuals and deliver valuable insights.

**Prioritize Transparency**
Clearly communicate the purpose, methods, and outcomes of data collection projects to build trust.

**Involve Multiple Sectors**
To comprehensively address racial disparity, race-based data collection should be extended to education, healthcare, and social services, as well as law enforcement.

**Leverage User Experience Design**
Apply UX and game design principles when designing data collection tools to ensure they are user-friendly, especially for populations who have limited access to or familiarity with technology.

**Involve All Stakeholders**
When designing data collection tools or protocols, involve all stakeholders, including those who will provide data and who will be impacted by data collection for informed decision-making.

**Measure Impact**
If data is not effectively used or not benefitting the community, re-evaluate the collaboration's goals and objectives.

**Promote data governance**
Establish policies, standards, and practices around data collection, management, and sharing to facilitate collaboration.

## DATA FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

**Build Trust and Relationships**
Invest in building trust and relationships with data partners; collaborations are more successful when they are mutually beneficial and genuine.

15

PRESENTED BY:

Alberta

Guns and Gangs

## Chief Eddie Garcia

# Innovative approaches to community safety

Chief Garcia presented the complex nature of violent crime as a societal issue, not just a policing problem. He underscored the importance of addressing root causes of violence like poverty, education deficits, and family structures, in addition to intervention and suppression by law enforcement. His plan includes evidence-based and community-focused strategies, rather than reactive enforcement, which include:

**Adopt Schools in High-Crime Areas:** Create direct positive influences in communities by integrating police with the education system, helping to nurture children away from crime (e.g., Dallas's Bryan Elementary School).

**Implement Community Co-Policing Models:** Encourage community involvement in cooperative policing efforts to strengthen community-police relations and reveal new preventative measures.

**Invest in Data-Driven Interventions:** Utilize crime and socioeconomic data to identify and directly address the underlying conditions of crime using evidence-based strategies.

**Shift Focus to Victim and Community Services:** Advocate for policies that balance the attention given to suspects with support and services for victims.

**Consider Multi-Generational Community Centers:** Develop community centers that offer services for all ages, which can contribute to a sense of community and belonging.

**Reinvest in Neglected Neighborhoods:** Invest in infrastructure, public spaces, and economic development in traditionally underfunded areas.

*"We want to be that cog in the wheel that never lets our community down."*

# Guns and gangs

**Deputy Chief Devin Laforce, Edmonton Police Service**
**Attaché Chris Taylor, ATF (US Department of Justice)**
**Executive Assistant Chief Sean Connolly, Phoenix Police Department**
**Staff Superintendent Pauline Gray, Toronto Police Service**
**Inspector Phil Heard, Vancouver Police Department**

The discussion emphasized the need for law enforcement to adapt to emerging challenges, leverage technology, and work collaboratively with communities to address firearm-related crimes and other complex issues in an evolving and increasingly global landscape.

**Monitor Advancements in Crime:** Monitor technological advancements in crime, e.g., 3D printed firearms, and invest in strategies to detect and address these emerging threats.

**Adapt to Changing Drug Threats:** Enhance intelligence gathering and response capabilities to keep pace with changing drug threats, e.g., synthetic drugs and increasingly toxic drug supplies.

**Focus on Radicalized Youth:** Leverage community outreach programs and early intervention to prevent youth from becoming involved in criminal activity.

**Champion Innovation in Law Enforcement Tactics:** From AI in call centers to drones in tactical operations, new technologies can improve efficiency, safety, and effectiveness in policing.

**Engage Nontraditional Stakeholders**: Expand partnerships to include tech companies and educational institutions, who can bring innovative solutions to the table.

> *"We have to be vulnerable as leaders. We have not been open enough to say we weren't doing a great job." - Staff Superintendent Pauline Gray*

# Guns & Gangs

## TRANSIT SAFETY & SECURITY

**Foster Collaboration and Partnerships**
Collaborative efforts between law enforcement, transit agencies, social services, and community organizations are essential. Create multi-jurisdictional teams.

**Implement Crime Prevention Measures**
Use visible crime prevention measures, like placards to encourage reporting, so that the community knows their concerns

**Utilize Data and Reporting**
Invest in data collection and reporting systems to track safety incidents and trends. Encourage crime reporting to gain a comprehensive view of safety issues. Use technology, such as mobile apps and online reporting, to make reporting accessible.

**Address Homelessness and Vulnerable Populations**
Coordinate with local governments and social services to provide appropriate supports for persons in need.

**Collaborate and Build Data Sharing Agreements**
Collaborate with other agencies. Create data sharing agreements allowing information exchange between first responders.

## ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS

**Advocate for Comprehensive Crisis Response Programs**
Develop crisis response programs that include a spectrum of professionals (mental health experts, social workers, law enforcement).

**Ensure Sustainable Funding**
Prioritize sustainable funding models and allocate budgets equitably among first responder services.

**Leverage Real-Life Success Stories**
Share real-life success stories and case studies to build awareness and gain support for these initiatives.

**Educate and Train**
Ensure that responders receive ongoing training on crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques, and trauma-informed care.

**Monitor and Adapt Programs**
Evaluate the performance of programs. Adapt them based on lessons learned and changing community needs.

## THE CHANGING STREETS

**Focus on Prevention and Intervention**
Adopt proactive measures to prevent youth from becoming involved in gangs. Consider gang exit programs to help individuals exit gang life.

**Address the Changing Nature of Gangs**
Gang dynamics are evolving; financial motivations often trump traditional loyalties.

**Strictly Enforce Existing Laws**
Enhance enforcement for persons involved in gun-related crimes. Raise awareness about the certainty of punishment for those with unlawful firearms.

**Look at Regulations for Technology**
Advocate for and establish regulations addressing new technological challenges, like 3D-printed firearms.

**Embrace Innovation**
Foster collaboration between law enforcement, academia, and industry to stay ahead of technological challenges and adopt innovative solutions.

**Invest in Leadership and Future Generations**
Encourage the next generation of leaders in law enforcement to advance strategic and community-focused approaches.

19

PRESENTED BY:

EDMONTON'S *Best* HOTELS

# Effective Partnerships

# Dr Keith Humphreys

## Swift, certain, and fair models of reducing substance use in people who threaten public safety

Dr Humphreys offered a comprehensive discussion on addiction, behavior change, and the role of contingency management in treatment and the criminal justice system. He offered two promising strategies for addressing addiction: "Contingency Management", which offers immediate and predictable rewards for abstaining from substance use, and "24/7 Sobriety" in the criminal justice system, which mandates sobriety with swift and certain consequences.

**Swift and Certain Consequences:** Have simple and understandable rules to improve compliance. Enforce immediate and guaranteed consequences for substance-related offenses to enhance deterrence.

**Behaviour Change Over Mandatory Treatment:** Encourage personal responsibility instead of merely imposing mandatory treatment programs.

**Contingency Management:** Use behavioural principles to offer predictable and prompt rewards for desired behavior changes, in both addiction treatment and criminal justice settings.

**Tailored Interventions:** Design interventions that align with the unique challenges faced by individuals struggling with addiction (e.g., controlling behavior and considering long-term consequences).

**Balancing Public Health and Public Safety:** Adopt strategies like 24/7 Sobriety which aim to protect the public while helping individuals positively change their behaviour.

**Public Health and Criminal Justice Collaboration:** Use strategies and interventions that are backed by solid evidence to ensure the effectiveness of substance misuse policies.

> "Addicted people are people, and changing behavior is just hard for everybody."

# Partnering for recovery

**Dr Alina Turner, HelpSeeker Technologies**
**Dr Nathaniel Day, Alberta Health Services**
**Chief Dale McFee, Edmonton Police Service**
**Blair Gibbs, The Policy Works**
**Chief Neil Dubord, Delta Police Department**

Public health, safety, and community wellbeing are interconnected. We require innovative, collaborative, and, sometimes, bold changes to improve outcomes for individuals and society as a whole. The startling reality of overdose deaths is deeply concerning, and the panel stressed the need for immediate and effective action through:

**Use Reverse Engineering:** Law enforcement could work backward from incidents to identify and address root causes, potentially preventing crime.

**Shift Focus from Response Time to Recurrence Prevention:** Emphasis on long-term solutions and sustainable outcomes.

**Change Structures to Disrupt the Status Quo:** Systemic change, rather than mere incremental improvements, might be necessary to address deep-rooted issues.

**Joint Accountability Across Sectors:** Call for the creation of inter-agency teams that support one another in addressing common goals.
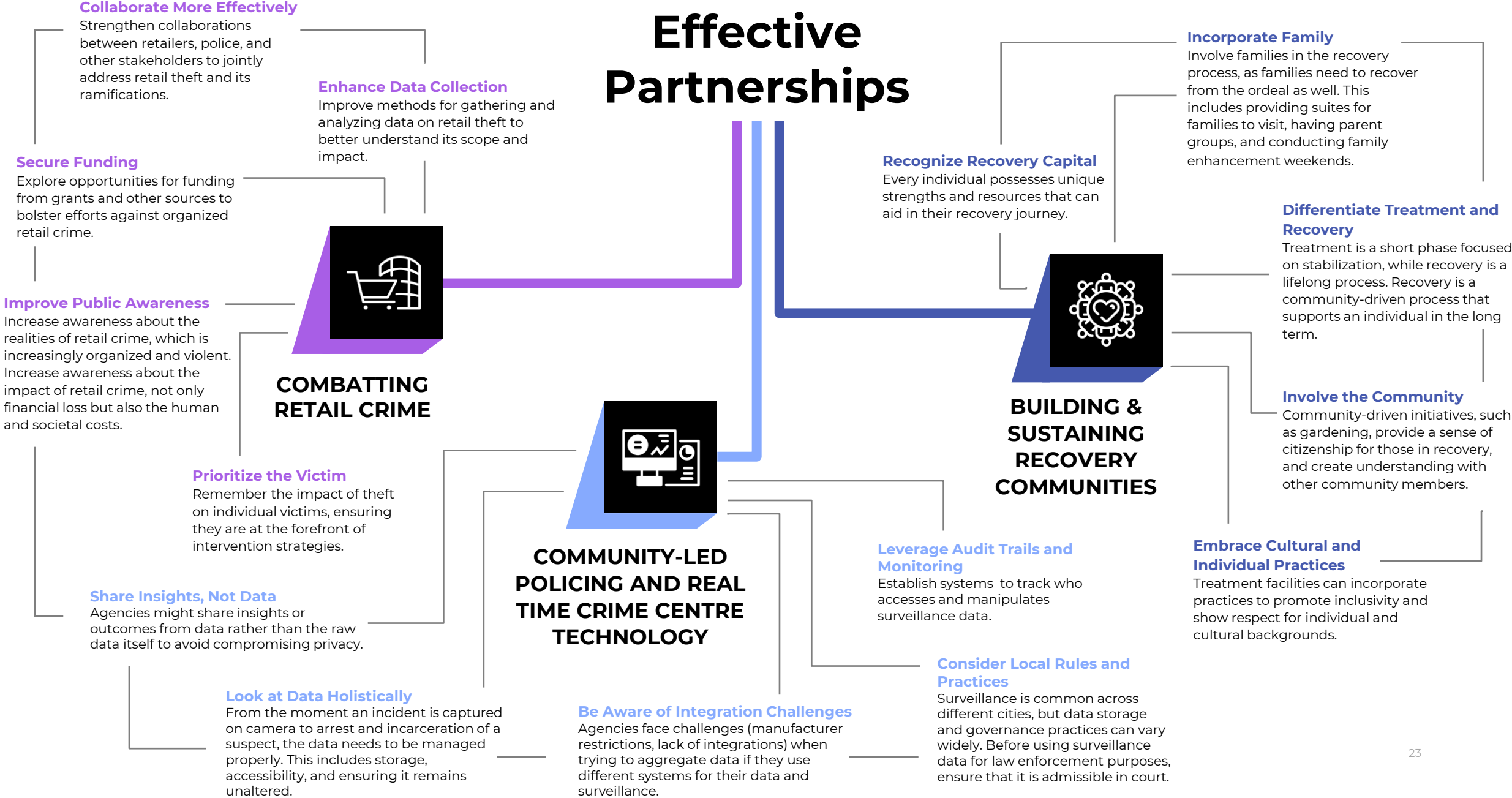
**Community-Centric Approaches:** Emphasis on tailored community responses where local needs drive the strategies and interventions.

**Put Egos Aside:** A call to put aside egos and titles to solve real problems.

> *"The partnership agenda has not been clear enough for the police. People have not been clear about what they need the police to do: those things that only the police can do." – Blair Gibbs*

22

# Effective Partnerships



**Collaborate More Effectively**
Strengthen collaborations between retailers, police, and other stakeholders to jointly address retail theft and its ramifications.

**Enhance Data Collection**
Improve methods for gathering and analyzing data on retail theft to better understand its scope and impact.

**Secure Funding**
Explore opportunities for funding from grants and other sources to bolster efforts against organized retail crime.

**Improve Public Awareness**
Increase awareness about the realities of retail crime, which is increasingly organized and violent. Increase awareness about the impact of retail crime, not only financial loss but also the human and societal costs.

**COMBATTING RETAIL CRIME**

**Prioritize the Victim**
Remember the impact of theft on individual victims, ensuring they are at the forefront of intervention strategies.

**Share Insights, Not Data**
Agencies might share insights or outcomes from data rather than the raw data itself to avoid compromising privacy.

**Look at Data Holistically**
From the moment an incident is captured on camera to arrest and incarceration of a suspect, the data needs to be managed properly. This includes storage, accessibility, and ensuring it remains unaltered.

**COMMUNITY-LED POLICING AND REAL TIME CRIME CENTRE TECHNOLOGY**

**Be Aware of Integration Challenges**
Agencies face challenges (manufacturer restrictions, lack of integrations) when trying to aggregate data if they use different systems for their data and surveillance.

**Leverage Audit Trails and Monitoring**
Establish systems to track who accesses and manipulates surveillance data.

**Consider Local Rules and Practices**
Surveillance is common across different cities, but data storage and governance practices can vary widely. Before using surveillance data for law enforcement purposes, ensure that it is admissible in court.

**Recognize Recovery Capital**
Every individual possesses unique strengths and resources that can aid in their recovery journey.

**Incorporate Family**
Involve families in the recovery process, as families need to recover from the ordeal as well. This includes providing suites for families to visit, having parent groups, and conducting family enhancement weekends.

**Differentiate Treatment and Recovery**
Treatment is a short phase focused on stabilization, while recovery is a lifelong process. Recovery is a community-driven process that supports an individual in the long term.

**BUILDING & SUSTAINING RECOVERY COMMUNITIES**

**Involve the Community**
Community-driven initiatives, such as gardening, provide a sense of citizenship for those in recovery, and create understanding with other community members.

**Embrace Cultural and Individual Practices**
Treatment facilities can incorporate practices to promote inclusivity and show respect for individual and cultural backgrounds.

23

Paul Brandt

# From concept to combatting trafficking

Paul Brandt spoke about his work with #NotInMyCity combatting human trafficking with a strategic, sustained, and heartfelt commitment to his work and community. He described the significant scale and costs of human trafficking, and he reinforced that it was occurring in Alberta. Recognizing the lack of coordination and frameworks for a coordinate law enforcement response to trafficking, #NotInMyCity in partnership with the Government of Alberta introduced The Madison Sessions, the first Canadian human trafficking frontline investigator summit.

**Adopt a Multifaceted Strategy:** Addressing sex, labor, and organ trafficking involves political support and law enforcement collaboration for effective action.

**Embrace a Philosophy of Dynamic Tensions:** Balance protection with prosecution. Find the middle ground between confrontation and comfort, compassion, and justice. Create a trauma-informed and survivor-centric strategy that can be effectively measured.

**Commit to the 'Infinite Game':** Informed by Simon Sinek, maintain a focus on continuous improvement rather than a finite 'win or lose' mentality. Prioritize the long-term mission over short-term victories or setbacks.

**Keep Focus on the Core Mission:** There are many approaches to addressing and suppressing human trafficking; look for ways to bring organizations together, regardless of approach, around the needs of victims and survivors.

**Strengthen Connections to Your Community:** Use cultural and historical references to foster a collective identity and pride in efforts to combat trafficking.

" *"Survivors must be the compass that guides our actions."*

## Anu George Canjanthoppil
# Canada's unique role in ending slavery

Human trafficking is a global issue that needs international collaboration, law enforcement, technology companies, financial institutions, and community efforts working together to combat these crimes. There is a call to action to not be overwhelmed by the data but to move towards action to help end this form of modern-day slavery. She encourages audience members to work to combat human trafficking, advocate for legislative changes, and to engage with the corporate sector to meet resource needs.

**Corporate Responsibility and Involvement:** Companies should partner with non-profits to tackle modern slavery.

**Justice System Strengthening:** The work of organizations like the International Justice Mission (IJM) makes the crime of slavery more difficult to commit.

**Immediate Action Needed:** Ongoing crises and wars create environments that traffickers can exploit.

**Protection Against Trafficking:** The speaker calls for protective measures for vulnerable groups, especially women and children, before traffickers can reach them.

**Collective Effort Across Borders:** Global responses that transcend municipal and national borders are needed.

**Storytelling and Legacy:** Stories that can be passed down to future generations play a role in the fight for and promotion of justice.

**Technology and Prevention:** Technology companies are urged to incorporate safeguards and preventive measures into their platforms to disrupt live-streamed child sexual abuse and exploitation.

" *For every single person who's waiting for help, who's waiting for someone to show up, the time is now.* "

# Responses for Vulnerable Populations

**Advocate for Systemic Change**
Join or support advocacy groups and movements focused on homelessness issues. Be open to creative and innovative approaches, such as tiny home communities and mobile health clinics.

**Use Data-Driven Approaches**
Invest in data collection and analytical tools to better understand local homelessness trends and to inform decisions.

**Address the Complexity of Homelessness**
Recognize that homelessness often results from a combination of factors; advocate for holistic approaches that address the root causes.

**Establish Collaborative Partnerships**
Build relationships and partnerships with different services and professionals, including mental health, law enforcement, social services.

**Support Community Navigation**
Establish systems to help individuals navigate available services effectively.

**Diversify Funding**
Consider allocating funding to grassroots organizations that often have more direct connections to the communities they serve.

**Implement Harm Reduction Strategies**
Advocate for programs that provide support and resources to homeless individuals with substance use disorders. Encourage officers to prioritize safety and well-being over punishment.

## ALTERNATIVE RESPONSES FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

**Engage with Community**
Establish outreach programs that engage with the community.

**Educate the Public**
Raise awareness about alternative response options and non-emergency channels.

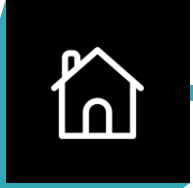## ALTERNATIVE RESPONSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

**Prioritize Cultural Competence and Inclusion**
Tailor responses to the unique needs of marginalized and underserved communities by involving users and community members in the design and implementation.

**Promote Community Policing**
Prioritize building trust and relationships with homeless individuals. Train law enforcement in de-escalation and trauma-informed care.

**Listen Actively**
Listening to youth without judgment and giving them a platform to express themselves can be therapeutic in and of itself.

## LEVERAGING BRAIN SCIENCE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES

**Be Relentless**
Stop at nothing — within reasonable measures — to reach out to youth and empower them.

**Build Capacity**
Invest in workforce development and wage parity to attract and retain qualified professionals. Provide specialized training for professionals, such as de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention, and cultural sensitivity.

**Understand the Brain's Response**
Understanding of the fight, flight, freeze, and fawn responses can guide more empathetic and effective interventions with distressed youth.

**Foster a Supportive Work Environment**
Create a work environment where professionals feel united in their mission and support each other.

**Maintain Continuity in Services**
When possible, ensure continuity in staff or caregivers working with youth. Familiarity supports in building trust.

27

PRESENTED BY:

pwc

Innovating for Community Safety

Ashif Mawji

# Creating a Culture of Innovation and Embracing Failure

Celebrating failure and embracing disruption can drive innovation. Creating a safe space for experimentation and risk-taking is invaluable, such as through the creation of the Community Solutions Accelerator and the Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator. Working with diverse partners allows you to leverage the collective expertise, resources, and networks to develop creative solutions. Failure and innovation go hand-in-hand in pursuing transformative change in public safety and wellness. Together, they foster a culture of experimentation and collaboration that can lead to breakthrough solutions.

**Promote a Culture of Innovation:** Embrace failure as an opportunity to learn. Without taking risks, we can't learn and grow.

**Invest in Technology and Data Analysis:** Data can help identify trends and patterns, enabling more targeted and effective interventions.

**Foster Cross-sector Partnerships:** Diverse partnerships with community organizations, non-profits, and other government agencies lead to new ideas and solutions.

**Invest in Preventative Measures:** Proactive, rather than reactive, strategies can help reduce the need for emergency responses.

**Prioritize Community Engagement and Input:** Communities are at the heart of public safety and wellness initiatives. Encourage participation and buy-in from all stakeholders, including the public.

**Continuously Evaluate and Adapt:** Evaluation and continuous improvement are key to ensuring the effectiveness of interventions. Be transparent about results.

**Be Realistic:** Focus on incremental improvements, rather than expecting immediate transformations.

29

*"Failure helped me understand what success looks like."*

# Innovation Challenge

How do we leverage data, technology, and artificial intelligence to improve the safety and livability of our cities?

Innovators from around the world were invited to submit proposals for solutions that utilize data, technology, and AI to enhance city safety and livability. The top entries were showcased in a Pitch Contest at the conference and scored on ability to impact urban safety and livability, deployment readiness, and cost.

**Finalists:**

- SpectraCann: *Fastest & most accurate drug breathalyzer*
- Rubicon: *Reimagining Be On the Look Out (BOLO) Alerts*
- Languages in Motion: *24/7 Interpreter App for Police Officers*
- Cloudastructure: *Smart Cities Get Smarter*
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association: *The Future of Social Work: Fear to Flourishing*
- Bluejarvis Technologies: *EmpowerHer: The Resource for New Beginnings*
- Punchcard Systems

## Winner: Languages in Motion Ltd
### 24/7 Interpreter App for Police officers

*Police frequently interact with the public in situations ranging from minor complaints to life-threatening emergencies. Learning in Motion (LiM) recognizes the crucial need for clear communication. Traditional methods like using bilingual officers or family translators can be expensive, distressing, or legally problematic. LiM's technology allows officers to instantly connect with qualified interpreters in over 200 languages, including American Sign Language, via a simple smartphone tap or MDT click.*

# The Safety of Our Cities Call to Action
## We came, we listened, we learned. Now it's time to do.

I will start a podcast to educate the public about policing

I will lobby the province to create homeless shelter standards

I'm going to become a youth mentor

I'm going to apply to law school so I can help improve court processes

I'm going to follow up with one of the innovation companies to see if we can collaborate

I will use data and stories to challenge myths about crime

I will use more data-driven approaches to lobby the government for funding and resources

I will learn about the various cultures and people in my city

I commit to better understanding the police perspective

I will get a naloxone kit and get trained how to use it

I will my business contacts to advocate for downtown safety

I'm going to apply for a grant to ask for social workers for our unit

I'm going to consider how to empower learning across all levels of my organization

I will create realistic and measurable goals for frontline officers

I will advocate for more ideas from Indigenous voices

I'm going to implement a real-time dashboard for crime hotspots

I will review and update my company's data policy

I commit to amplifying the voices of diverse and marginalized populations

I'm going to implement a real-time dashboard for crime hotspots

I'm going to visit other police services in Canada to learn about

I will only buy organic cotton so I don't support child forced labour

## What will *you* do?

Visit **www.safetycitiesconference.ca/** to join an action committee and strengthen our collective impact.

# Acknowledgements

The Safety of Our Cities Conference would not have been possible without the hard work from members of the Edmonton Police Foundation and the Edmonton Police Service, as well as our many students and volunteers. We would like to acknowledge the key roles of::

- Wijaya Dassanayake
- Stephanie Gazzola
- Robinder Gill
- Julie Hallonquist
- Katherine Hancock

- Alicia Harpell
- Elisha Jackson
- Rebeccah Marsh
- Patricia Misutka
- J'lyn Nye

- Tannis Nygren
- Gregg Scott
- Caylyn Wolansky
- Lauren Wozny
- Aubrey Zalaski

We also thank our event planner Suzanne Bielert from Next Step Events.
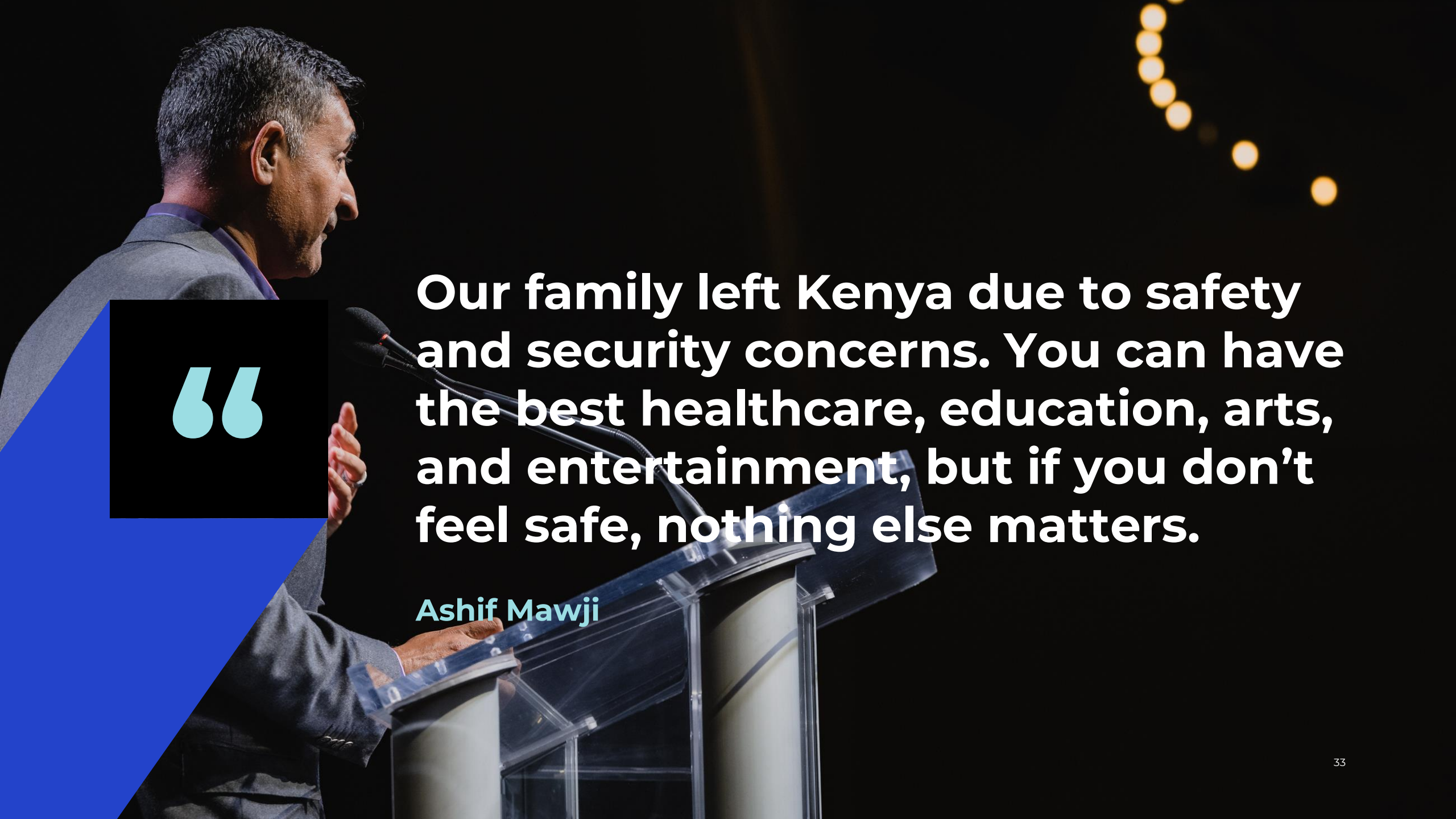
> "Our family left Kenya due to safety and security concerns. You can have the best healthcare, education, arts, and entertainment, but if you don't feel safe, nothing else matters.

Ashif Mawji