



CCTV: tool or tattler?

**Session 6 Panel B:
Smile, but don't scratch!**

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CACP



- ▶ advocating legislative reform
 - resource allocation
 - policy improvements
 - innovative solutions
 - community partnerships
 - highest professional, ethical standards
- ▶ preserving and respecting
 - Rule of Law
 - *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

“leading progressive change in policing”

Purpose of presentation

Overview of CCTV surveillance

- ▶ private sector
 - retail, financial security
 - private security industry
- ▶ governments
 - police

CCTV use by police

Attitudes

Impact and implications



Prevalence of use

- 2002 annual sales of 2m CCTV cameras in US
- 2007 4.2m cameras in UK (New York Times)
- Canada?

pattern of CCTV adoption:

- private sector
- institutional use in public realm
- public spaces of city centres and streets
- large-scale integrated systems with central monitoring

CCTV private surveillance



retailers-customers



caregivers-babies



passengers-drivers

CCTV surveillance by government



CCTV use by police

- 1947 proposed by police in UK for Royal Wedding
- 1960 Trafalgar Square for State Visit to Parliament
- 1985 Conservative Party Conference: IRA threat
- 1993 Jamie Bulger abduction a watershed

- police today use footage from
 - ▶ private sector
 - ▶ public sector

(Editorial. The Growth of CCTV: a global perspective on the international diffusion of video surveillance in publicly accessible space by Clive Norris, Mike McCahill and David Wood, *Surveillance & Society*, 2004)

The power of the video clip



Victoria BC 2005

London subway 2005



Attitudes towards use of CCTV

- ▶ post 9-11 attitude shift toward public acceptance
- ▶ personal security in public, quasi-public spaces

CCTV “not an invasion of personal privacy”

- ▶ growing market for “intelligent video monitoring”
- ▶ widespread police and LE support

80% of LE agencies in US use CCTV

CCTV works best

- for specific purposes
- in conjunction with other measures
- with adequate monitoring and system quality



Considerations

- privacy advocates
 - ▶ international
 - ▶ national
- media role in CCTV awareness
- “significant body of research” (RCMP 2003)
- need more evaluations of effects, cost-benefit
- government role
 - ▶ privacy legislation
 - public use
 - private use
 - ▶ privacy guidelines on use of video surveillance
 - ▶ policy discussions, learning events

Impact of CCTV surveillance

- provides visual evidence
 - effective crime solving tool
 - accountability
- can lessen fear of crime
- open discussion on trade-offs and due process
- stimulates debate on public safety issues

focus on privacy-security balance for a safe and healthy society