

**PARTNERS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY
Final Report 2007**

VISION STATEMENT: A safe, healthy and crime-free environment in which to live, work and grow

MISSION STATEMENT: To identify and implement manageable solutions to the root causes of crime in our community by coordinating and mobilizing community based action teams

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR: Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan

FUNDING SOURCES: City of Vernon (RCMP Safe Communities Unit), Community Futures, United Way

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Community Futures North Okanagan, Interior Health Authority, Service Canada, City of Vernon, PIN Crisis Line, Transition House, Women's Centre, Downtown Vernon Association, Restorative Justice Program, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, Brain Trust Canada, North Okanagan Childcare Society, Pathway to Diversity

ACTION TEAM RESULTS:

OBJECTIVES	ACTION TEAM MEMBERS	ACTIONS/TIMELINES	MEASURABLE RESULTS
ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS:			
<p>Secure Shelter Services in Downtown Core</p>	<p>Social Planning Council Vernon Women's Centre John Howard Society Salvation Army CMHA Transition House Upper Room Mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Team formed in January of 2007 • By end of May 2007, a partnership was reached between the John Howard Society and the Vernon Women's Centre and negotiations began with BC Housing • By November 2007, temporary shelters were opened for men and women and a commitment was received from BC Housing to provide ongoing permanent funding for 24 hour shelter services • By January 2008, BC Housing purchased the "Chinese free masons" building in downtown Vernon and contracted to the John Howard Society and the Vernon Women's Centre to run a men's and women's program respectively • Action Team completed by January 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 individual homeless women access the temporary Women's Shelter between October 31/07 – December 31/07 • Waiting for statistics for temporary Men's Shelter • A 25 bed permanent Shelter facility is secured for both men and women in the downtown core

<p>Create a Downtown Primary Care Centre</p>	<p>Interior Health Authority, RCMP Safe Communities, Social Planning Council, NOYFSS, John Howard Society, Upper Room Mission, CMHA,, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, Friendship Centre, Women's Centre, Downtown Vernon Association, Transition House, Family Resource Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Team formed in May 2007 • Between June – Aug 2007, Social Planning Council facilitated three stakeholder sessions for the proposed Downtown Primary Care Centre; service providers agreed to collaborate on an integrated service deliver approach • By November 2007, the Downtown Primary Care Centre opened its doors with a mandate to provide health care and a link to services (addictions counselling, income assistance, housing etc) to the marginalized street population • Action Team completed by November 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Downtown Primary Care Centre has had 194 visits from a total of 88 patients who are street involved or marginalized.
<p>Ensuring continuation of Street Nurse/Street Clinic Program</p>	<p>North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, Social Planning Council, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, First Nations Friendship Centre, Interior Health, Vernon Women's Centre, PIN Crisis Line, Upper Room Mission, John Howard Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action team formed in November 2007 • By December 2007, the action team provided community support for the continuation of the street nurse outreach position; NOYFSS applied to the funding source with the street nurse outreach position included • Action Team ongoing to plan for funding changes that could eliminate street nurse position by January 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOYFSS is still waiting for a response to their proposal but are hopeful it will go through with the nursing outreach position included
<p>INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS</p>			
<p>Affordable Housing Strategy</p>	<p>City of Vernon, Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Okanagan Hills Development, MQN Architects, Focus Consulting, Urban Pacific Real Estate, Urban Development Institute, Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board, Okanagan Landlord's Society, CMHC, Constructive Concepts, Re-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Team formed in October 2006 • By January 2007, funding had been provided by UBCM to hire a consultant to develop the strategy • Between May and November 2007, three strategy sessions and a public Open House were completed in order to gain wider community input into the strategy and recommendations. • By December 2007, a strategy was completed that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three major developments are currently in the process of applying for permits to build a combined total of 100 affordable units in 2008. • Forty stakeholders including politicians, developers, realtors and

	max Realty, MacDonald Realty, Century 21, Valley First, Interior Savings, Vantage One, Kal Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Vernon Association, CLBC, Habitat for Humanity Kindale, Native Housing Society, Interior Health, BC Housing	<p>included targets for housing stock; policy recommendations for City of Vernon; and an outline for community initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By January 2008, City Council adopted the strategy unanimously. • Action Team completed by January 2008; 	<p>bankers took part in the strategy sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Affordable Housing Committee of the City of Vernon will take responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy
Community Land Trust	Community Futures, Social Planning Council, City of Vernon, Interior health, Kalamalka Rotary, Transition House, Habitat for Humanity, Kindale, Vernon Native Housing Society, NOCCS, Community Living BC, CMHA, First Nations Friendship Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Team formed on October 2006 • By September 2007, a land trust society was created with board members recruited from the business community • Action Team completed by September 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Vernon agreed to donate a piece of land and a partnership was struck between the Land Trust and Transition House • Plans are underway to build 12 units of affordable housing for seniors and families
INCREASE ACCESS TO RECREATION			
A 75% discount for people with disabilities at the Recreation Centre	Greater Vernon Services, Recreation Centre, Social Planning Council, Brain Trust Canada, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, Vernon Disability Resource Centre, Service Canada, NOCLS, Family Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action team formed in September 2006 • By January 2007, the action team had presented to Greater Vernon Services who had agreed to the discount • By March 2007, in conjunction with the Recreation Centre, the action team created a user friendly system for administering the discount and users began accessing the discount • Action team completed by March 2007; re-opened in January 2008 to expand the discount to all recipients of income assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 116 people with disabilities accessed the discount, the majority being new users • No increase in staff was required and the Recreation Centre nets \$3100 (after discount)

INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE			
Develop flexible childcare space for marginalized families	Junction Child Care Center, North Okanagan Childcare Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By April 2007, the NOCCS childcare centre located at the Junction opened its doors; provided immediate referrals to at risk parents Action team completed by April 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional 12 childcare spaces are available to at risk families
Increase Childcare Programs in the Schools	North Okanagan Childcare Society, ECD Coalition, Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Interior Health, Tolko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in January 2007 By February 2007, the action team had presented to the School Board requesting that they offer childcare space in existing schools to NOCCS for additional child care programs By April 2007, NOCCS received the news that they will be evicted from Bearisto School By May 2007, the School District offers space in the West Vernon facility Action team completed by May 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rather than increasing the number of childcare spaces the action team had to push to maintain the same number NOCCS continues to offer same level of programming at West Vernon School as they did while located in Bearisto
Plan a community forum to engage business sector in planning for childcare	NOCCS, ECD Coalition, Community Futures, Social Planning Council, Interior Health, Tolko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in January 2007 By May 2007, a community forum was organized with speakers from the Coalition of Childcare Advocates Action team completed by May 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 40 participants from the business community and non-profit sector attended the forum The ECD Coalition has taken responsibility for action items identified in the forum
Childcare Facility at Okanagan College	Okanagan College, North Okanagan Childcare Society, Community Futures, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed in Summer 2007 By October 2007, a partnership has been secured between Okanagan College and NOCCS to build a childcare facility for students, staff and the wider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting results of the funding proposal; if accepted, the facility would offer spaces for 12 infant/toddler and 25

		<p>community at the Kalamalka Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2007, a proposal was submitted to the Province of BC by Okanagan College for capital funding to build the facility • Action team completed in November 2007 	preschool aged children
BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
Dealing with Neighbourhood Crime Generators	RCMP Safe Communities Unit, City of Vernon, concerned citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By March 2007, a draft was created for the Rental Premises By-Law and a “to do” handout was created for citizens who are experiencing problems in their neighbourhood • By December 2007, the bylaw was passed by the City of Vernon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics will be maintained in 2008 regarding the use of this by-law
Using West Vernon School as a Community Centre	City of Vernon, People Place, Greater Vernon Services, Dorothy Alexander Centre, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action team formed in January 2007 • By February 2007, People Place had formally expressed interest in owning/managing the building and media had been engaged • By September 2007, a partnership had been established between the City of Vernon (and GVS), People Place and the Dorothy Alexander Centre and a proposal submitted to the School District • Action team ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still waiting for a response from the School District
Complete an assessment of community re: access for people with disabilities	Vernon Disability Resource Centre, Brain Trust Canada, City of Vernon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By September 2007, “Measuring Up” funding through <i>Legacy Now</i> had been secured by the Vernon Disability Resource Centre to hire a Coordinator to complete the assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Coordinator has been hired to complete the assessment • Our committee will follow up with recommendations
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			

Implementing Safety Audit	DVA, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, City of Vernon – Public Works, Seniors Information and Resource Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed in Summer of 2006 During 2007, action team focussed on implementation of safety audit Action team completed by September 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on audit feedback, the City of Vernon Public Works made physical changes to the downtown including fixing sidewalks and expanding some curbs
Changes to Dumpster Program	DVA, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in Summer of 2006 During 2007 a task force was formed that included the City and the DVA Action team is ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still in negotiations with waste disposal companies
Creating mechanism for safe disposal of discarded needles	RCMP Safe Communities Unit, DVA, Chamber of Commerce, Recreation Centre, People Place, Interior Health, City of Vernon, Vernon Fire Rescue, Upper Room mission, Downtown Primary Care Centre, School District, NOYFSS, Restorative Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in October 2007 By December 2007, a safe disposal kit had been designed and education plan developed Action team is ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will track number of needles collected when program is up and running
CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
Media Coverage	Social Planning Council Morning Star, Sun FM, Kiss FM, CHBC Shaw Cable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners coordinator and action team chairs engage local media in their strategies and results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 newspaper articles on action team strategies Over 50 radio interviews on action team strategies
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Brain Trust Canada, NOCCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations on various Partners action team initiatives were made to the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kal Rotary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 500 different people were audience members for various action team

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Silver Star Rotary ○ Vernon Rotary ○ Tri-Lakes Rotary ○ School District # 22 – School Board ○ Greater Vernon Services ○ Vernon City Council 	presentations including the Land Trust, Childcare in the Schools, Shelter Services and Recreation Discount
Wide community representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the year, the Partners Committee made an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 60 organizations, institutions and businesses have participated in Partners Committee action teams.