

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Final Report 2008

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)

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, North Okanagan Childcare Society, Pathway to Diversity

ACTION TEAM RESULTS:

OBJECTIVES	ACTION TEAM MEMBERS	ACTIONS/TIMELINES	MEASURABLE RESULTS
ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS			
Communication and Security Strategy for Shelter and Neighbouring Business	Downtown Vernon Association, Social Planning Council, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Vernon Women's Centre, John Howard Society, Salvation Army, Upper Room Mission, International Trendsetters, REAL Canadian Wholesale, Dodd's Auction, Canadian Medical Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in February of 2008 to address concerns of neighbouring businesses to the planned location of the Gateway Shelter. ✚ By end of March 2008, a security plan and communications strategy had been developed by the shelter and businesses. ✚ By end of June 2008, a community consultation had been hosted by the action team. ✚ By October 2008, the Gateway Shelter had opened its doors with the action team assisting in the celebration. ✚ Action team ongoing to continue to implement security and communications strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 100 people attend the community consultation in June. ✚ Gateway installs numerous security cameras, increases lighting around building and initiates security patrols; businesses undertake CPTED changes to their landscaping and lighting. ✚ At least three neighbouring businesses endorse the Gateway Shelter publicly through local media.

Supporting Upper Room Mission	Upper Room Mission, RCMP Safe Communities, Social Planning Council, John Howard Society, Vernon Women's Centre, Downtown Primary Care Centre, Interior Health Authority, NOEES, CMHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in February 2008 in recognition that the Upper Room Mission (URM) is in need of financial and programming support in order to handle the number of homeless people accessing their services. ✚ By March 2008, a meeting was held with various service providers to brainstorm ways to support the URM. Short and long term solutions were identified and subsequent meetings were held to implement solutions. ✚ Action team closed in December 2008. Potential plans for IHA services to be located at URM are being incorporated under the Harm Reduction Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ By September 2008, a contract was signed for URM to be part of the Gateway Shelter services and receive funding for providing meals to shelter clients. ✚ During 2008, a number of outreach workers were linked with the URM including the Income Assistance Worker, Alcohol and Drug Counsellor, Housing Outreach Worker and Street Nurse.
Harm Reduction Strategy	North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, RCMP Safe Communities Unit , Social Planning Council, Interior Health, Upper Room Mission, Restorative Justice Program, Downtown Primary Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in May 2008 to create a harm reduction strategy that supports efforts for dealing effectively with addictions in our community. In addition, the team will support the Street Clinic during its transition to an outreach model. ✚ By October 2008, a work plan had been created for the strategy development and an initial community consultation had been hosted by the action team. ✚ By December 2008, the URM and IHA had met to discuss co-locating services at the URM facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 80 people attended meeting to provide feedback to the Harm Reduction Strategy. ✚ URM Board President meets with IHA and non-profits to discuss potential partnership regarding location of services.
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
Memo of Understanding between BC Housing and City of Vernon	Social Planning Council, City of Vernon, BC Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in summer of 2008. The MOU is an opportunity for the City of Vernon to partner with BC Housing to build supported housing for people at risk of homelessness. Vernon would be eligible for up to 3 projects of at least 30 units each. ✚ By October 2008, Social Planning Council had presented the MOU concept to City Council. BC Housing attended to be able to answer questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A draft MOU has been forwarded to BC Housing for their input and response.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By December of 2008, Social Planning Council and the staff of the City Planning Department had created a draft MOU (approved by City Council) to be forwarded to BC Housing. 	
Non Profit Housing Business Plans	Social Planning Council, Howard House, Transition House, Vernon Women's Centre, Native Housing Society, First Nations Friendship Centre, Kindale Developmental Association, Vernon and District Land Trust, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, IHA, BC Housing, Upper Room Mission, Salvation Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team created in April 2008 in order to provide business planning support to local non profit housing agencies. By June of 2008, funding was secured to hire Allan Neilson Welch. By September of 2008, Allan had met with the housing non-profits and formed three teams to develop three business plans for supported housing for men, women and youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business plans are currently being developed for three separate housing projects targeted at those at risk of homelessness. Networking between the agencies resulted in the development of the <i>Under One Roof</i> partnership (see below for details).
Affordable Housing Newspaper Insert	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Vancouver Foundation, Members of Affordable Housing Committee, Morning Star Newspaper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed in summer 2008 in recognition that education was needed to combat the NIMBY (not in my backyard) reaction to affordable housing. By November 2008, a four page insert on affordable housing was printed in the Morning Star newspaper. The Morning Star provided 2000 extra copies free of charge to be used as an educational tool at presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 30,000 homes received the newspaper insert with information on affordable housing.
Under One Roof Partnership	Vernon and District Community Land Trust, Habitat for Humanity, Kindale Developmental Association, Community Futures, Social Planning Council, Okanagan College, Heartwood Homes, MQN Architects, Prestige Inn and Forsters Restaurant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed summer of 2008. By September 2008, the City had purchased the property of 4100 25th Ave. for the purpose of affordable housing. By December 2008, the Land Trust had formed a partnership with Kindale, Habitat for Humanity and Okanagan College to develop the property into a six-plex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans are underway to begin building 6 units of affordable housing in April 2009.

INCREASE ACCESS TO RECREATION			
A 75% discount for people on income assistance at the Recreation Centre	Greater Vernon Services, Recreation Centre, Social Planning Council, Brain Trust Canada, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in January 2008. ✚ By March 2008, the discount was expanded from the original target group of people with disabilities to now include anyone on income assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Approximately 200 people on income assistance accessed the discount, the majority being new users. ✚ No increase in staff was required and the Recreation Centre receives \$21,000 in revenue (after discount).
INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE			
Including Childcare in the City of Vernon's Official Community Plan	City of Vernon, North Okanagan Child Care Society (NOCCS) , Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ NOCCS and Social Planning Council consulted with the City Planning Department on ways to include childcare within the OCP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The OCP includes a section on childcare that recognizes the social and economic impacts of lack of safe, affordable childcare in the community.
Creating Accessible Playgrounds	North Okanagan Child Care City, City of Vernon, Greater Vernon Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in September 2008. ✚ By November 2008, plans had been made to apply for funding to the Rick Hansen Foundation to build at least one accessible playground in the Vernon area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Application for funding is underway.
BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
Expanding the Global Education Program	School District #22, Social Planning, Okanagan College, Pathway to Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in September 2008 to support the plans to expand the Global Ed Grade 11 class at Fulton School to include grades 9 – 11. The long term vision is for a Global Community School within the district. ✚ By December of 2008, Social Planning Council had connected the Global Ed Coordinator with Okanagan College. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Potential partnership between the Global Ed program and Okanagan College.

Cleaning Up Becker Park	City of Vernon, Restorative Justice Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in October 2008 to address the problems of garbage, discarded needles and noxious weeds in Becker Park. ✚ By December 2008, a funding source had been identified and a possible partnership with School District #22 was being explored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Plans to pursue funding and partnerships in time for spring clean up of park.
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 is ongoing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Still waiting for a response from the School District.
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
Changes to Dumpster Program	DVA, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ In 2007, a task force was formed that included the City and the DVA to create changes to the current dumpster program and move to daily pick up of garbage instead. This increases the security in alleyways by creating open spaces and limiting criminal activity behind dumpsters. ✚ 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, IHA, 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 to create a safe disposal kit and education plan on use of the kits. ✚ By March 2008, the kits had been distributed to local businesses, the recreation centre and community policing. A brochure with information on the kits was included in one of the City of Vernon's utility bills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ There are currently eight locations for the disposal kits in the community. Community policing acts as the coordinating body.

Public Toilets	Social Planning Council, DVA, Okanagan Regional Library	✚ Action Team formed in December 2008 to research the need, accessibility, security and potential funding sources for more public toilets.	✚ Initial research is underway.
CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
Media Coverage	Social Planning Council Morning Star, Sun FM, Kiss FM, CHBC, Shaw Cable, Global TV, Okanagan Homes Magazine	✚ Partner's coordinator and action team chairs engaged local media in their strategies and results.	✚ 35 newspaper articles, 25 radio interviews and 10 television interviews on various action team strategies.
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	✚ Presentations on various Partners in Action initiatives were made to the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salmon Arm Social Issues Committee ○ Salmon Arm Community Consultation on Housing ○ Oliver/Osoyoos Housing Committee ○ Silver Star Rotary ○ Society for Open Learning ○ UBCM Southern Interior Conference ○ Interior Health Authority – Population Health 	✚ Approximately 500 different people were audience members for various action team presentations.
Wide Community Representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	✚ Throughout the year, the Partners Committee made an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams.	✚ Approximately 55 organizations, institutions and businesses have participated in Partners action teams in 2008.