

**PARTNERS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY
First Quarterly Report: January – March 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), 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:			
Businesses/ Shelter Action Team	DVA, International Trendsetters, Dodd’s Auction, Real Canadian Wholesale, Canadian Medical Supplies, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Social Planning Council, Vernon Women’s Centre, John Howard Society, Salvation Army, People Place, Upper Room Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in January of 2008 to address security concerns of businesses in the area regarding the upcoming shelter By end of March 2008, a security plan had been created and implemented and a communications plan approved by the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security Plan and Communications Plan in place Agreement by the stakeholders to address the safety issues of the neighbourhood together
Supporting Upper Room Mission	Upper Room Mission, Social Planning Council, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, CMHA, Howard House, Women’s Centre, Salvation Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in February 2008, to work with the Upper Room Mission to develop partnerships to strengthen and stabilize their existing services. To date, two local service providers are interested in providing programming to support and complement the URM work with our homeless population. The next step is to secure support from funders; an initial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial agreement for partnership development between the URM and two local service providers

		meeting is being organized for early May.	
Ensuring continuation of Street Nurse/Street Clinic Program	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed in November 2007 By March 2008, funding was confirmed for an outreach street nurse position. This means some changes to the Street Clinic model from on site services to outreach services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOYFSS and the Partners group will monitor the number of needles being exchanged and assist in the transition of services.
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
Non Profit Affordable Housing Plan	Women's Centre, Social Planning Council, CMHA, Howard House, Transition House, Upper Room Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in December 2007 to apply for federal funding in order to hire a consultant to create business plans for 200 units of non market housing in the next 3 years. The Women's Centre and the Social Planning Council are the host agencies but the Partners Committee will facilitate the process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was confirmed by Service Canada in mid April
Vernon and District Community Land Trust	Board of Directors of the Land Trust, Community Futures, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vernon and District Community Land Trust is currently working with the Transition House to meet requirements for applying for funding to BC Housing 	<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
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, in conjunction with the Recreation Centre, it was agreed to expand the discount (starting in May 2008) from just people with a disability to include anyone currently on income assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of new users to the program will be monitored over the next six months

INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE			
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 community at the Kalamalka Campus By November 2007, a proposal was submitted to the Province of BC by Okanagan College for capital funding to build the facility 	<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 preschool aged children
BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
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"> City of Vernon in contact with the School District
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
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 March 2008, a safe disposal kit had been designed and education plan developed; local businesses (as well as the RCMP Safe Communities Unit and the Recreation Centre) have agreed to host the kits. 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"> The Morning Star is interested in a monthly column on the Partners group; the Coordinator will follow up
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council	<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"> Interior Health Osoyoos/Oliver Housing Committee Salmon Arm Social Issues Committee and wider Salmon Arm community group regarding housing issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 400 different people attended the presentations; the Partners group is gaining recognition in the region.
Wide community representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the year, the Partners Committee makes an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most noticeably, the business community is becoming more engaged in action teams. They bring a valuable perspective to the table and are ensuring that the wider community is involved in addressing social issues.