

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Quarterly Report: April - June 2009

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			
Supported Housing for Women with Addictions	Vernon and District Women's Centre, Social Planning Council, IHA – Mental Health and Addictions, John Howard Society, Vernon Transition House, First Nations Friendship Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action Team formed in June 2009. The goal is to support the Women's Centre in their goal of creating a 10-12 bed house for addictions treatment/recovery for women who are street involved. The group has met and is in the midst of research and planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A business plan has been created that includes a protocol with the Vernon Women's Transition House.
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. ✚ By October 2008, a work plan had been created for the strategy development. ✚ By June 2009, a needs assessment was conducted and a community strategy session completed. The final document will be released in September 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Over 100 people and 40 organizations took part in the process to develop the Harm Reduction Strategy ✚ The Partners in Action Committee will house the strategy and begin focussing on implementation

COOL Team	RCMP Safe Communities Unit, City of Vernon (By-laws), Ministry of Housing and Social Development, IHA, Social Planning Council, Howard House and Gateway Shelter, Upper Room Mission, Salvation Army, Junction Literacy Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action Team formed in January 2009 to create a protocol between the By-laws Department and the social services outreach workers to better deal with homeless camps within municipal parks and property. ✚ By March 2009, a protocol had been written and agreed upon along with supporting documents, an new outreach team (the COOL team) was created that includes by-law officers, and a database system has been set up to monitor camps in the areas. The goals of the protocol include: engaging with campers and preventing problems before they occur, linking campers to services, minimizing stress when camps are decommissioned and increasing safety for the wider public using the parks. ✚ The COOL team did an outreach exercise in June 2009 so the community has baseline data on the number and location of camps in the Vernon area. This will be repeated in September 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Protocol in place for By-law Department and Social Service Outreach workers ✚ In June, the COOL team visited known camps and connected with 14 different campers ✚ The protocol was used at least three times over the summer months and campers were connected to Gateway Shelter
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
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. ✚ By June 2009, business plans had been completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Business are in place and the community prepared for when funding opportunities present themselves with BC Housing. ✚ Networking between the agencies resulted in the development of the <i>Under One Roof</i> partnership (see below for details).
Under One Roof Partnership	City of Vernon, BC Housing, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Vernon	✚ Action team formed summer of 2008. By September 2008, the City had purchased the property of 4100 25 th Ave. for the purpose of affordable housing.	✚ The Okanagan College Residential Construction Program has completed

	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"> ✚ 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. ✚ By March 2009, financing is secured and plans on schedule for construction to begin in April. ✚ By Summer of 2009, building is completed to lock up and project is on time and on budget. 	<p>their portion of the construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The BC Non-Profit Housing Society has asked that <i>Under One Roof</i> be presented at their provincial conference. ✚ The <i>Under One Roof</i> business plan was adapted to apply for the federal stimulus funding for 18 units of affordable family housing
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 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"> ✚ School District in discussions with potential partners.
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
Public Toilets	Social Planning Council, DVA, Okanagan Regional Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action Team formed in December 2008 to research the need, accessibility, security and potential funding sources for more public toilets. ✚ By March 2009, action team had researched a number of models and are putting together a discussion paper to present to other stakeholders including the City of Vernon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Discussion paper is in development.

CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS' INITIATIVES			
Community Presentations/ Outreach	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partners in Action Committee makes a concerted effort to inform the community of the action team activities. In addition, the committee is willing to share information and resources with other communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 20 newspaper articles and radio interviews on various action teams (Under One Roof, Recreation Discount etc) during the second quarter Requests for presentations at the BC Non Profit Housing Association Conference and the Community Futures Partners in Action Conference
Wide Community Representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the quarter, 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 action teams in the second quarter of 2009.