

# PARTNERS IN ACTION

## Quarterly Report: January – March 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   |
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| <b>ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS</b>  |  |   |  |
| <b>Communication and Security Strategy for Shelter and Neighbouring Business</b> | 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"> <li>✚ Action team formed in February of 2008 to address concerns of neighbouring businesses to the planned location of the Gateway Shelter.</li> <li>✚ By end of March 2008, a security plan and communications strategy had been developed by the shelter and businesses.</li> <li>✚ By October 2008, the Gateway Shelter had opened its doors with the action team assisting in the celebration.</li> <li>✚ By February 2009, action team closed. Communication strategy is working and concerns are addressed right away. The group will continue to meet quarterly as a neighbourhood council rather than an action team.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Gateway installs numerous security cameras, increases lighting around building and initiates security patrols; businesses undertake CPTED changes to their landscaping and lighting.</li> <li>✚ At least three neighbouring businesses endorse the Gateway Shelter publicly through local media.</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>Harm Reduction Strategy</b></p>     | <p>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</p>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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 Primary Care Downtown Health Service pursue co-locating at the Upper Room Mission.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By December 2008, the URM and IHA had met to discuss co-locating services at the URM facilities. This is on hold until new Executive Director of URM is on board.</li> <li>✚ By March 2009, a needs assessment was initiated and a focus group planned for early April.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 80 people attended meeting to provide feedback to the Harm Reduction Strategy.</li> <li>✚ Needs Assessment initiated to inform the strategy process.</li> <li>✚ URM Board President met with IHA and non-profits to discuss potential partnership regarding location of services.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Protocol for Homeless Camps</b></p> | <p>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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ The group plans to meet again in May to evaluate protocol and make any changes that may be needed. The COOL team also plans to do a homeless census in June 2009 so the community has baseline data on the number of people sleeping outside.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Protocol in place for By-law Department and Social Service Outreach workers</li> </ul>   |

INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

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| <p><b>Memo of Understanding between BC Housing and City of Vernon</b></p> | <p>Social Planning Council, City of Vernon, BC Housing</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By October 2008, Social Planning Council had presented the MOU concept to City Council. BC Housing attended to be able to answer questions.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ In March 2009, BC Housing met with the City Planning Department and Social Planning Council. BC Housing indicated that they were interested in the terms offered by the municipality but would be unable to sign the document for this fiscal year as funding is not available due to the economic downturn. The City of Vernon is a strong candidate for the next round of funding.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ A framework exists that is agreed upon by both parties. The City of Vernon is next in line for the MOU agreement with BC Housing when funds become available.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Non Profit Housing Business Plans</b></p>                           | <p>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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By March, draft business plans are in place with the final versions due for release at the end of April 2009</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Business plans will be in place and the community prepared for when funding opportunities present themselves with BC Housing.</li> <li>✚ Networking between the agencies resulted in the development of the <i>Under One Roof</i> partnership (see below for details).</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Under One Roof Partnership</b>  | City of Vernon, BC Housing, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, 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"> <li>✚ Action team formed summer of 2008. By September 2008, the City had purchased the property of 4100 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. for the purpose of affordable housing.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By March 2009, financing is secured and plans on schedule for construction to begin in April.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Financing is secured to begin construction of 6 units of affordable housing in April 2009.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>INCREASE ACCESS TO RECREATION</b>   |  |  |   |
| <b>A 75% discount for seniors on guaranteed income supplement at the Recreation Centre</b> | Greater Vernon Services, Recreation Centre, Social Planning Council, Brain Trust Canada, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Action team formed in January 2008.</li> <li>✚ By March 2009, the discount was expanded from the original target group (people with disabilities) to now include seniors on guaranteed income supplement.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Approximately 200 people accessed the discount in 2008, the majority being new users.</li> <li>✚ No increase in staff was required and the Recreation Centre receives \$21,000 in revenue (after discount).</li> </ul> |
| <b>INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE</b>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Creating Accessible Playgrounds</b>   | North Okanagan Child Care City, City of Vernon, Greater Vernon Services  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Action team formed in September 2008.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By January 2009, it was decided to wait for next year's funding once NOCCS knows if they will be located at West Vernon or looking for a new location.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Application will be made for 2010.</li> </ul>  |

**BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

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| <p><b>Expanding the Global Education Program</b></p>         | <p>School District #22, Social Planning, Okanagan College, Pathway to Diversity</p>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By December of 2008, Social Planning Council had connected the Global Ed Coordinator with Okanagan College.</li> <li>✚ By March 2009, Social Planning Council had been part of a presentation to the School Board outlining the integration of the program into the community.</li> <li>✚ Action Team closed as plans are underway to expand the program and partnership development is progressing with Okanagan College.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Partnership between the Global Ed program and Okanagan College established.</li> <li>✚ School District #22 has plans to expand the program as of 2009/10.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Cleaning Up Becker Park</b></p>                        | <p>City of Vernon, Restorative Justice Program</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Action team formed in October 2008 to address the problems of garbage, discarded needles and noxious weeds in Becker Park.</li> <li>✚ By December 2008, a funding source had been identified and a possible partnership with School District #22 was being explored.</li> <li>✚ By Mach 2009, community partnerships had been established and plans to clean up the park made to coincide with Earth Day – April 22, 2009.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Clean up day planned for April 22, 2009.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Using West Vernon School as a Community Centre</b></p> | <p>City of Vernon, People Place, Greater Vernon Services, Dorothy Alexander Centre, Social Planning Council</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Action team formed in January 2007.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ Action team is ongoing.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ School District in discussions with potential partners.</li> </ul>   |

| <b>INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN</b>                 |  |   |  |
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| <b>Changes to Dumpster Program</b>                         | DVA, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, City of Vernon, NORD                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ There have been a number of unforeseen obstacles and the partners are currently working through the issues.</li> <li>✚ Action team is ongoing.</li> </ul> | ✚ Program under development and delayed until at least June 2009.  |
| <b>Public Toilets</b>                                      | Social Planning Council, DVA, Okanagan Regional Library                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Action Team formed in December 2008 to research the need, accessibility, security and potential funding sources for more public toilets.</li> <li>✚ 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.</li> </ul>   | ✚ Discussion paper is in development.  |
| <b>CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS' INITIATIVES</b> |  |   |  |
| <b>Community Presentations/ Outreach</b>                   | Social Planning Council, Community Futures, RCMP Safe Communities Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Presentations and/or materials were provided to the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cranbrook</li> <li>○ Merritt Community Policing Office</li> <li>○ Municipal Leaders from Russia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | ✚ Both Cranbrook and Merritt have plans to develop community committees based on the Partners in Action model.                         |
| <b>Wide Community Representation on Action Teams</b>       | Coordinating Committee   | ✚ Throughout the quarter, the Partners Committee made an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams.  | ✚ Approximately 40 organizations, institutions and businesses have participated in Partners action teams in the first quarter of 2009. |