

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Quarterly Report: January - March 2011

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

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Community Futures North Okanagan, Interior Health Authority, Kindale Developmental Association, City of Vernon, Transition House, Independent Living Vernon, Downtown Vernon Association, Restorative Justice Program, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, North Okanagan ECD Coalition, John Howard Society, Upper Room Mission,

ACTION TEAM RESULTS:

OBJECTIVES	ACTION TEAM MEMBERS	ACTIONS/TIMELINES	MEASURABLE RESULTS
ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS/POVERTY			
Strategic Planning: Charitable Food System	Trinity United Church, Upper Room Mission, Food Action Society, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Formed in June 2010, the focus of the action team is to organize a community strategic planning session for charitable food organizations. ✚ By the Fall of 2010, a background paper had been completed. ✚ By February 2011, a community consultation had been conducted, three projects had been identified for follow up and a new network had been created (see attached for results). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Three projects were identified and work has begun to move the projects forward (Breakfast for Learning in the Schools, Low Budget Cookbook, and Therapeutic Farm). ✚ A new network has been created with stakeholders agreeing to meet on a bi-annual basis.

Creating a Therapeutic Farm	BC Schizophrenic Society (BCSS), Social Planning Council, Kindale, Food Action Society, CMHA, interested citizens	✚ In March 2011, an action team was created to support the partnership development needed to create a therapeutic farm in Vernon. The team hosted a presentation in March by Providence Farms (a therapeutic farm in Duncan) that was attended by over 50 community members. A \$15000 grant has been secured for a business plan for the project.	✚ A therapeutic farm that develops employment skills for people with mental health issues, addictions and/or disabilities.
Protocol for Coordinating Services for FASD Clients	FASD Committee, Kindale, Social Planning, Ministry of Social Development, First Nations Friendship Centre, IH, Community Policing	✚ Action team created in the Fall of 2010 at the request of the FASD Committee. Members have created an FASD “toolkit” for frontline workers and are hosting a meeting in June 2011. Participants will give feedback on the toolkit and begin creating informal protocols within/between agencies to better support people with FASD.	✚ A protocol that improves coordination between service providers for people with FASD.
IMPLEMENTING HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY			
Brochure to Promote Sharps Containers in Private/Public Washrooms	North Okanagan Youth and Family Services (NOYFSS), UBCO	✚ NOYFSS and UBCO Nursing Students have completed a brochure for businesses that explains the benefits of installing used needle (sharps) containers in washrooms with public access (both for staff and the wider community).	✚ Businesses are made aware of the safety benefits to installing sharps containers in the washrooms.
Little Black Book for Youth	Community Futures, Social Planning Council, Community Based Youth Committee, Global Education Class	✚ Formed in December 2010, this action team focussed on securing funding to print and produce an on-line resource book for youth called “the Little Black Book”. Out of print since 2005, this resource book was identified by service providers as an extremely useful tool. Funding has been secured and the book will be available in print and on-line by May 2011.	✚ Resource guide for youth available in print and on-line.
Responsible Gambling Project	Social Planning Council, John Howard Society, Kindale, Lake City Casino, interested citizens	✚ City of Vernon is able to access \$50,000 from BCLC for a responsible gambling initiative. The Partners in Action hosted a community consultation on March 16 th to assess the best use of this funding for a community project. Based on this input, a draft proposal and work plan have been developed and will be presented to City Council for approval in April/May.	✚ A responsible gambling pilot project in Vernon.

INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
City Centre Neighbourhood Plan – Affordable Housing	Vision North Okanagan (VNO), City of Vernon, Social Planning Council, Land Trust	Social Planning Council took a lead role in coordinating the VNO input sessions that took place from January – March 2011. As a result of the consultation, Social Planning Council has agreed to chair an additional action team that will focus on developing case models within the city centre for affordable housing projects.	✚ Case models that outline the partnerships and funding needed to develop affordable housing in the city centre.
INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION			
Create a Council for Children in Vernon	North Okanagan ECD Coalition Coordinator, Social Planning Council, Chamber of Commerce	✚ Action team created in April 2010 as a result of a speaker event hosted by the ECD Coalition. After a presentation to City Council in November, Council agreed to assign a representative from the City on the ECD Coalition. The next focus is to organize a Champion for Children’s Forum in May 2011.	✚ City of Vernon representative on the Early Childhood Development Coalition. ✚ A community Charter and/or Council for Children.
BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
Create a “Living in Vernon” brochure/dvd in multiple languages.	Social Planning Council, Vernon Tourism, Economic Development Office, Vernon Immigrant Services	✚ Action team formed in April 2010 as a result of the Social Planning Council successfully securing a \$30,000 grant from the BC Welcoming Communities Fund. ✚ The brochure/dvd will be used to attract businesses/families/individuals by highlighting the advantages of living in Vernon. Having the material in multiple languages ensures that immigrant entrepreneurs/skilled workers feel welcome and valued. ✚ The brochure has been completed and is posted on the City of Vernon website. The dvd is completed and will be posted on the City of Vernon website by end of June.	✚ Marketing/ tools to help attract skilled workers from a variety of cultures/backgrounds to our community.

INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
City Centre Neighbourhood Plan – Green Space Audit	City of Vernon, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the city centre neighbourhood plan consultation, Social Planning Council and the City of Vernon have agreed to conduct a green space audit in the summer of 2011. The focus will be to assess how age friendly and accessible existing and/or planned green space is in the city centre. The audit will also include analysis from a CPTED perspective (crime prevention through environmental design). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green space in the city centre that is safe, accessible and attractive to a variety of users.
CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council, Land Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation to Nelson Anti-Poverty Committee on affordable housing strategies and in particular, information on the land trust model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nelson Anti-Poverty Committee is interested in setting up a community land trust for their region.
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 120 organizations, institutions, community champions and businesses have participated in action teams in this quarter.