

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Quarterly Report: January – March 2010

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			
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 re-opened in Spring 2009 in recognition that the Upper Room Mission (URM) is in need of renovations in order to handle the number of homeless people accessing their services. ✚ By Fall 2009, potential partnerships for use of space had been identified and support had been given to the URM to apply for federal funding for renovations that would include a room for outreach health services. This meets another identified need for a nurses room in the downtown area for follow up care of people who are homeless. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ By November 2009, the URM had moved its thrift store and expanded the dining room area. ✚ By February 2010, the URM (in partnership with Social Planning Council) applied for federal funding and has made it through the first stage of the application process.
Harm Reduction Strategy	North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, RCMP Safe Communities Unit , Social Planning Council, Interior Health, Upper Room Mission,	✚ Action team formed in Fall 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.	✚ A community driven harm reduction strategy has been created and adopted by the Partners in Action Committee

	Restorative Justice Program, Downtown Primary Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ By Fall 2009, the community consultation process was completed and the harm reduction strategy created. ✚ Two action teams have been created to begin implementing the strategy (the COOL team and the Hospital Discharge Action Team). ✚ A communications strategy has been created to launch the Harm Reduction Strategy. 	
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
Analysis/ Strategy on Affordability in Housing in Greater Vernon	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Constructive Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team created in summer 2009 to research other models for affordable housing and create further strategies for Greater Vernon. ✚ By October 2009, research component had been completed. ✚ By March 2010, report was completed and presented to the Affordable Housing Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Further strategies in place for the Partners in Action Committee and Affordable Housing Committee to implement in order to increase affordable and attainable housing units.
Under One Roof Partnership	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"> ✚ 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. ✚ By March 2009, financing is secured and plans on schedule for construction to begin in April. ✚ By December of 2009, building is almost completed. ✚ By March 2010, families are living in the units. Action Team is closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Six affordable housing units have been added to the affordable housing stock. ✚ The <i>Under One Roof</i> model was presented at The BC Non-Profit Housing Society as a best practices project.

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. ✚ By March 2010, the school district announces it will not be selling the property. Partners in Action will meet with School District #22 to see if they are interested in creating a new partnership that will result in the building being used as a community centre. 	✚ Negotiations are still under way.
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
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.	✚ The action team is working with City of Vernon staff to ensure public toilets are included in any plans to revitalize the city center/downtown area. Please see attached Report.
Security Plan for Teen Night	RCMP, DVA, Community Policing, Upper Room Mission, Salvation Army, PAC's from Fulton and VSS, By-laws Department, NOYFSS, Social Planning, Owner of Lime Restaurant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action Team formed in January 2010 to address concerns about safety issues at the teen nights held at the Lime restaurant. ✚ A draft security plan has been created and will be presented to teen organizers for input. 	✚ Draft security plan for teen night events.

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"> ✚ Partner's coordinator and action team chairs engaged local media in their strategies and results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 5 newspaper articles, 6 radio interviews and 2 television interviews on various action team strategies.
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Presentation on the housing action teams was made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vision North Okanagan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Approximately 20 people from various businesses and agencies were present.
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 30 organizations, institutions and businesses have participated in Partners action teams in 2010.