

# PARTNERS IN ACTION

## Quarterly Report: July – September 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

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Community Futures North Okanagan, Interior Health Authority, Service Canada, City of Vernon, Transition House, Women’s Centre, 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
<b>ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS</b>			
<b>Supporting Upper Room Mission</b>	Upper Room Mission, RCMP Safe Communities, Social Planning Council, John Howard Society, Vernon Women’s Centre, Downtown Primary Care Centre, Interior Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ By April 2010, URM secured federal funding for the renovations to the facility, including more washrooms and the creation of a nurse’s room. URM is working through building code requirements in order to move forward with the renovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Renovations to be completed by December 2010. Results will be more washroom and shower facilities for the homeless population and a fully equipped nurse’s room for medical outreach.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Planning: Charitable Food System</b>	Trinity United Church, Upper Room Mission, Food Action Coalition, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Formed in June 2010, the focus of the action team is to organize a community strategic planning session for charitable food organizations. Trinity United is spearheading the action team as they see an opportunity for more partnerships to address gaps. The action team will meet on September 20<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for the session.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Partnerships that result in a more efficient community approach to charitable food distribution. Increase in access to charitable food services for marginalized populations.</li> </ul>

<b>Evaluation and Update of Homelessness Strategy</b>	Upper Room Mission, Social Planning Council, Partners in Action Coordinating Committee	✚ A consultant has been hired (Ted Treller, Lochaven Management) to undertake the evaluation. Ted has met with the Partners in Action Coordinating Committee and is currently conducting interviews with stakeholders. Focus groups and surveys will be conducted in the fall of 2010 as well as a strategic planning session to update the strategy.	✚ An updated Homelessness Strategy based on a quantitative and qualitative evaluation.
<b>INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS</b>			
<b>Second Stage Housing for Women</b>	Transition House, John Howard Society, First Nations Friendship Centre, Women's Centre, IHA, Social Planning Council	✚ This project was on hold due to lack of funding opportunities at BC Housing. Due to the need for this type of housing, the action team has been re-opened. Members met in July to begin work on the program development and business plan. This August, the group took a trip to Kelowna to tour two different women's housing programs.	✚ Women with addictions will have access to housing with appropriate programming.
<b>INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION</b>			
<b>Create a Council for Children in Vernon</b>	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. It was recommended that a Council for Children be created that includes the business sector in promoting early childhood development and education. The action team met in June and decided to research other community councils and charters.	✚ A community Charter and/or Council for Children.
<b>BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY</b>			
<b>Using Lakers Clubhouse for non-profit and/or continuing education programs</b>	People Place, Okanagan College, North Okanagan ECD Coalition, Social Planning Council	✚ Action team formed April 2010. People Place is interested in leasing the property and renting the space for non-profit programming (including family/child programs and activities).  ✚ People Place presented their business concept to council in late June. City Council requested a staff report for further information before making a decision.	✚ Still in early development stage.

<p><b>Create a “Living in Vernon” brochure/dvd in multiple languages.</b></p>	<p>Vision North Okanagan Action Team: Social Planning Council, Vernon Tourism, Economic Development Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 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.</li> <li>✚ 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. A draft of the brochure has been created and will be finalized in September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Marketing/ tools to help attract skilled workers from a variety of cultures/backgrounds to our community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN</b></p>			
<p><b>Public Toilets</b></p>	<p>Social Planning Council, DVA, Okanagan Regional Library</p>	<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. The action team is working with City of Vernon staff to ensure public toilets are included in the city center/ downtown area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Needle drop boxes located in the library public washrooms have significantly reduced the maintenance costs</li> <li>✚ The DVA worked with the City of Vernon to ensure BC transit bus drivers have access to business washrooms when needed</li> <li>✚ Public washrooms will be included in planning for future civic buildings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Security Plan for Teen Night</b></p>	<p>RCMP, DVA, Community Policing, Upper Room Mission, Salvation Army, PAC’s from Fulton and VSS, By-laws Department, NOYFSS, Social Planning,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Action team formed in January 2010 to address concerns about safety issues at the teen nights held at the Lime restaurant.</li> <li>✚ A draft security plan was created and then presented to event organizer for input. The DJ who hosts the event has already implemented some of the recommendations and is willing to work more closely with the action team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Organizers of the event have agreed to implement some of the recommendations. Another teen night has not been hosted since this meeting so we have been unable to evaluate the success of the security plan.</li> </ul>

CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
<b>Community Presentations</b>	Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Presentation on the Harm Reduction Strategy and the Partners in Action model were made to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drug Task Force for the Central Okanagan Regional District</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ The CORD Drug Task Force is undergoing a change in structure. They are interested in adapting components of the Partners in Action model for their new direction.</li> </ul>
<b>Wide Community Representation on Action Teams</b>	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Throughout the quarter, the Partners Committee made an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Approximately 80 organizations, institutions, community champions and businesses have participated in action teams in 2010.</li> </ul>