

PARTNERS IN ACTION
Second Quarterly Report: July – September 2008

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, Brain Trust Canada, North Okanagan Childcare Society, Pathway to Diversity

ACTION TEAM RESULTS:

OBJECTIVES	ACTION TEAM MEMBERS	ACTIONS/TIMELINES	MEASURABLE RESULTS
ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS:			
Businesses/ Shelter Action Team	DVA, International Trendsetters, Dodd’s Auction, Real Canadian Wholesale, Canadian Medical Supplies, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Social Planning Council, Vernon Women’s Centre, John Howard Society, Salvation Army, People Place, Upper Room Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in January of 2008 to address security concerns of businesses in the area regarding the upcoming shelter By end of September 2008, the Gateway Shelter opens its doors. The group will continue to meet to monitor and problem solve neighbourhood issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security Plan and Communications Plan in place Shelter Services for 13 men and 12 women.
Supporting Upper Room Mission	Upper Room Mission, Social Planning Council, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, CMHA, Howard House, Women’s Centre, Salvation Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in February 2008, to work with the Upper Room Mission to develop partnerships to strengthen and stabilize their existing services. As part of the Gateway Shelter services, URM is receiving funding from BC Housing to feed shelter clients. This provides much needed financial support to the URM for the services they provide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three meals a day provided to Shelter clients.

ADDRESS ADDICTIONS ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY			
Implementing Harm Reduction	Social Planning Council, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Interior Health, City of Vernon, Upper Room Mission, Downtown Primary Care Centre, NOYFSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in May 2008 By June 2008, IH Alcohol and Drug services and IH Public Health developed a communications strategy for service providers and the wider community on harm reduction initiatives; the action team created a short term and long term strategy for location of the needle exchange; the action team will take on the task of initiating a harm reduction strategy for the community. By September 2008, a consultation has been organized as the first step to creating the community strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
Non Profit Affordable Housing Plan	Women's Centre, Social Planning Council, CMHA, Howard House, Transition House, Upper Room Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in December 2007 to apply for federal funding in order to hire a consultant to create business plans for 200 units of non market housing in the next 3 years. The Women's Centre and the Social Planning Council are the host agencies but the Partners Committee will facilitate the process. A meeting of all the non-profit housing agencies was held and three action teams created for three housing projects focusing on women, youth and families, men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business plan development is underway for three major supported housing projects.
Affordable Housing Newspaper Insert	Affordable Housing Committee of City of Vernon, Land Trust Society, non-profit agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in Summer of 2008 to create an educational tool for the community regarding affordable housing. It was decided that a newspaper insert was the best way to reach the wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four page newspaper insert that reaches over 35,000 people in the North Okanagan
Vernon and District Community Land Trust	Board of Directors of the Land Trust, Community Futures, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vernon and District Community Land Trust is currently working with the city on three projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary plans for multifamily affordable 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 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 • Action team ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Vernon in contact with the School District
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
Removing dumpsters from the downtown core	DVA, City of Vernon, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Vernon adopted a by-law that states that dumpsters that are on city property have to be removed from downtown. The DVA and the City are working with NORD to include recycling in the pick up service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
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"> • Partners coordinator and action team chairs engage local media in their strategies and results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper and radio continue to cover action team results, in particular, the opening of the Gateway Shelter.
Wide community representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the year, the Partners Committee makes an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date over 100 different agencies and/or businesses have taken part in action teams