

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Final Report 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
ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS			
Communication and Security Strategy for Shelter and Neighbouring Business	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"> ✚ Action team formed in February of 2008 to address concerns of neighbouring businesses to the planned location of the Gateway Shelter. ✚ By end of March 2008, a security plan and communications strategy had been developed by the shelter and businesses. ✚ By October 2008, the Gateway Shelter had opened its doors with the action team assisting in the celebration. ✚ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Gateway installs numerous security cameras, increases lighting around building and initiates security patrols; businesses undertake CPTED changes to their landscaping and lighting. ✚ At least three neighbouring businesses endorse the Gateway Shelter publicly through local media.

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 December 2009, the URM (in partnership with Social Planning Council) applied for federal funding for renovations.
Harm Reduction Strategy	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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. ✚ By Fall 2009, the community consultation process was completed and the harm reduction strategy created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A community driven harm reduction strategy has been created and adopted by the Partners in Action Committee ✚ Two action teams have been created to begin implementing the strategy (the COOL team and the Hospital Discharge Action Team)
COOL Team	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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. ✚ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Protocol in place for By-law Department and Social Service Outreach workers ✚ In June, the COOL team found 28 camps while in September the number of camps had dropped to 11. This drop was unexpected but good news for the COOL team participants.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COOL team did an outreach exercise in June 2009 so the community has baseline data on the number and location of camps in the Vernon area. This process was repeated in September 2009. 	
Hospital Discharge Action Team	Interior Health (including Hospital ER, Social Workers, ICC, Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions), RCMP Safe Communities Unit, City of Vernon (By-laws), Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Social Planning Council, Howard House and Gateway Shelter, Upper Room Mission, Salvation Army, Vernon Women's Centre, Métis Society Outreach, Vernon Transition House, First Nations Friendship Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hospital Discharge Action Team was created in October 2009 to work with the hospital and outreach workers to ensure homeless individuals receive proper care after being discharged from the hospital. By December 2009, a protocol /resource list was created. The group was creative with the limited resources available to them but succeeded in coming up with solutions for better follow up care for homeless individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group now has a resource list and protocol in place. The team will meet again in the Spring of 2010 to evaluate the success of the protocol.
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
Memo of Understanding between BC Housing and City of Vernon	Social Planning Council, City of Vernon, BC Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. By January 2009, the City of Vernon received a response from BC Housing that there was no more funding available for the MOU agreement. Vernon will be considered again when more funding is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft MOU has been created by the City of Vernon. Once provincial funding becomes available the City of Vernon and BC Housing will ratify the MOU.

Non Profit Housing Business Plans	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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. ✚ 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. ✚ By June 2009, business plans had been completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Business are in place and the community prepared for when funding opportunities present themselves with BC Housing. ✚ Networking between the agencies resulted in the development of the <i>Under One Roof</i> partnership (see below for details).
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. Families are expected to move into their new homes by February/March 2009 	<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. ✚ The <i>Under One Roof</i> business plan was adapted to apply for the federal stimulus funding for 18 units of affordable family housing
INCREASE ACCESS TO RECREATION			
A 75% discount for seniors on guaranteed income supplement at the Recreation Centre	Greater Vernon Services, Recreation Centre, Social Planning Council, Brain Trust Canada, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in January 2008 to target people on a disability pension. ✚ By March 2009, the discount was expanded from the original target group (people with disabilities) to now include seniors on guaranteed income supplement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Approximately 200 people accessed the discount in 2009, the majority being new users.

INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE			
Creating Accessible Playgrounds	North Okanagan Child Care City, City of Vernon, Greater Vernon Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in September 2008. ✚ 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. ✚ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Application will be made for 2010.
BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
Expanding the Global Education Program	School District #22, Social Planning, Okanagan College, Pathway to Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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. ✚ By December of 2008, Social Planning Council had connected the Global Ed Coordinator with Okanagan College. ✚ 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. ✚ Action Team closed as plans are underway to expand the program and partnership development is progressing with Okanagan College. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Partnership between the Global Ed program and Okanagan College established. ✚ School District #22 has plans to expand the program as of 2009/10.
Cleaning Up Becker Park	City of Vernon, Restorative Justice Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in October 2008 to address the problems of garbage, discarded needles and noxious weeds in Becker Park. ✚ By December 2008, a funding source had been identified and a possible partnership with School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Clean up day competed at Becker Park.

		<p>District #22 was being explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ By April 2009, community partnerships had been established and a clean up of the park had been completed. 	
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 is ongoing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Negotiations are still under way.
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
Changes to Dumpster Program	DVA, RCMP Safe Communities Unit, City of Vernon, NORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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. ✚ There were a number of unforeseen obstacles but the end result is that all dumpsters on city owned property will be eliminated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Program currently under way with businesses moving to daily pick up of garbage.
Public Toilets	Social Planning Council, DVA, Okanagan Regional Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action Team formed in December 2008 to research the need, accessibility, security and potential funding sources for more public toilets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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.

CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
Media Coverage	Social Planning Council Morning Star, Sun FM, Kiss FM, CHBC, Shaw Cable, Global TV, Okanagan Homes Magazine	<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"> ✚ 20 newspaper articles, 10 radio interviews and 3 television interviews on various action team strategies.
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, RCMP Safe Communities Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Presentations on various Partners in Action initiatives were made to the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Futures Provincial Conference ○ BC Non-profit Housing Association Provincial Conference ○ Rotary Clubs ○ Okanagan College Social Work Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Approximately 300 different people were audience members for various action team presentations.
Wide Community Representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Throughout the year, 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 70 organizations, institutions and businesses have participated in Partners action teams in 2009.

**PARTNERS IN ACTION COMMITTEE/COMMUNITY DEVELOPER POSITION
SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE NORTH OKANAGAN
Financial Impact of Project/Partnership Development 2008-2009**

Overview:

Capital Funding: \$2,300,000

Project Funding: \$182,500

Annual Operational Funding for Programs: \$1,000,000

Number of Permanent Full-time Positions: 14

Details:

Project/Program	Partnership Development	Proposal Writing/Business Plan Development	Best Practices Model for Province	Funding Secured/Economic Impact
Shelter Services	Leadership Role	Developed initial partnership agreement Wrote grant for temporary shelter services	Recognized by BC Housing as a best practices model for community collaboration and addressing business concerns	\$1,100,000 – BC Housing - Capital Costs \$1,000,000 – BC Housing - Annual Operating Costs Permanent Job Creation – equivalent of 14 full-time positions
City of Vernon's Attainable Housing Strategy	Co-sponsor with City of Vernon	Wrote and administered the grant		\$35,000 – UBCM
Report: Seniors Housing in Greater Vernon	Co-sponsor with City of Vernon	Wrote and administered the grant		\$5000 – UBCM
Regional Food Systems Plan	Co-sponsor with Regional District of North Okanagan	Wrote and administered the grant		\$35,000 – UBCM

Multiculturalism Projects	Leadership Role	Wrote and administered a series of grants		\$10,000 – Province of BC - Multiculturalism Dialogue \$10,000 – Province of BC - Welcoming Community Action Plan for Greater Vernon
Harm Reduction Strategy	Leadership Role	Facilitated community consultation Wrote and administered the grant	First community in BC to develop a community based strategy	\$1500 – Interior Health
Community Land Trust Society	Leadership Role	Wrote and administered a series of grants for the creation and development of the society		\$10,000 – Community Foundation of the North Okanagan \$10,000 – Community Futures – North Okanagan
Community Land Trust Society – Under One Roof	Leadership Role	Developed initial partnership agreement Wrote the BC Housing and Real Estate Foundation grants on behalf of the Land Trust	Both a provincial and national model Shortest completion time of any BC Housing project	\$600,000 – BC Housing \$63,000 – Province of BC \$25,000 – Real Estate Foundation \$25,000 – Habitat Housing Endowment Fund \$5000 – Kal Rotary \$482,000 – Fundraising events and in kind donations
City of Vernon Affordable Housing Committee - Newspaper Insert on Affordable Housing	Co-sponsor with City of Vernon	Wrote and administered the grant		\$6000 – Tula Foundation
Creation of Non-profit Affordable Housing Business Plans	Leadership Role	Wrote and administered the grant		\$60,000 – Vancouver Foundation