

# QUARTERLY REPORT JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2024

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for the North Okanagan

## PARTNERS IN ACTION: QUARTERLY UPDATES

### COOL Team

The Social Planning Council facilitated two COOL Team meetings this quarter, and continued to provide updates, resources and notifications as needed, between the bimonthly meetings. The focus for this quarter was on updating existing plans and developing new protocols, as requested by the team.

#### Monitoring the *Extreme Weather Response: Summer 2024:*

The plan was updated in June, and COOL Team members were provided with the latest version of the protocol, as well as sample posters and resources to hand out to clients in the event of an extreme weather event. These resources were used by COOL Team partners during the heat wave in early to mid July. As more services and programs were added (including a Cooling Bus), the Social Planning Council updated the resources and ensured COOL Team partners had the latest information to share with clients.

#### Developing a *Wildfire Evacuation Plan for the Unhoused:*

At the June meeting, COOL Team members discussed how their organizations could support people who are unhoused in the case of a wildfire evacuation. Social Planning Council then organized a meeting between the City of Vernon, BC Housing, Turning Points Collaborative (TPC) and the Upper Room Mission (URM). There was agreement that the TPC and the URM would act as the muster points for people who are unhoused in the event of a wildfire evacuation. This information was shared with the COOL Team, and a draft poster was created, so that communications tools were ready in the event of a wildfire evacuation.

#### Developing a Protocol for *Notification of Client Death and Memorial:*

The COOL Team requested a protocol for notifying community partners of the deaths and/or memorials of clients. Social Planning Council developed a trauma informed procedure for communicating these deaths to the team. The protocol was activated twice this quarter, acknowledging the losses and providing updates on memorial logistics.

#### Updating the *Extreme Weather Response - Winter 2024/25:*

The COOL Team was provided a draft of the updated plan and partner organizations had an opportunity to give their feedback at the September meeting. In addition, the Social Planning Council organized a meeting between Turning Points Collaborative, the Upper Room Mission and the Okanagan Regional Library to review the plan in more detail. The Community Safety Office updated the Vernon Survival Guide to include winter resources.

The Social Planning Council also developed a resource list of organizations accepting cold weather supplies, to be promoted in the community to encourage community donations.

Please see the attached:

- Extreme Weather Response - Winter 2024/25
- Vernon Survival Guide - Winter Edition 2024/25

### **Housing Action Team**

The Social Planning Council facilitated a team meeting in September, for partner organizations to connect and share resources. The Social Planning Council also worked closely with city planners this quarter to gather data on the housing non-profit sector, to be included in the municipality's housing needs report. Partner organizations were incredibly helpful and quick to provide additional information and details about their housing inventory. This information was then forwarded to the consultants developing Vernon's Housing Needs Report.

### **Building Safer Communities Advisory Committee**

Although the Social Planning Council is not leading the project, we are a member of the Building Safer Communities Advisory Committee. During this quarter, Social Planning Council assisted with grant management and attended an Advisory Committee meeting to connect with the partner agencies. Social Planning Council also followed up with NOYFSS and OKIB to connect with newly hired project staff regarding the various community committees and networks relevant to their programs.

### **HART Committee**

The HART Committee's quarterly meeting took place on October 2, 2024. The focus for this quarter was on events and training opportunities.

#### International Overdose Awareness Day Event:

"Together We Can", a ceremony to honor and remember lost loved ones, took place at Civic Memorial Park on August 29, 2024. Leading up to the event, the HART Committee delivered cookies to a variety of first responders, as a personal invitation to the event, and to acknowledge the numerous lives saved by their actions. Social Planning Council was a member of the project planning team and sourced additional funding for the event.

#### Strategies for Wellbeing Training:

Social Planning Council has secured funding to offer a free webinar series called "Strategies for Wellbeing" for first responders and front-line workers, particularly those responding to the toxic drug crisis. The series (consisting of four sessions each) will be offered to 48 participants, in cohorts of 12 people per series. The Social Planning Council will promote the webinars and coordinate the registration for each cohort. The first series will begin in November and is already full, speaking to the need for this type of training.

#### Story Walks Project:

Members of the HART Committee, including Interior Health, the Community Safety Office and Social Planning Council also took part in an introductory session for a project called Story Walks. The concept was developed in Courtney/Comox, where people with lived experience of substance use recorded their stories and reflected on their thoughts about the toxic drug crisis. The purpose of the project is to build bridges and reduce stigma by engaging local peers, front line workers and community leaders. The HART Committee is researching funding sources so that Story Walks can be experienced in Vernon.

### **Local Immigration Partnership Council**

As the host organization for the Local Immigration Partnership Council, the Social Planning Council assisted with the original partnership development for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) and was an active member of the RNIP Advisory Committee. Although the RNIP program ended in August 2024, Community Futures North Okanagan has applied for the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP).

RCIP aims to ensure that RNIP communities continue to have the ability to access programs that address labour shortages and help local businesses find the workers they need. Social Planning Council will work closely with RCIP to continue to initiate projects and events that welcome and support newcomers to Vernon.

This quarter, the Local immigration Partnership Council hosted a Welcome Week Film Series on September 14, 2024. The event was dedicated to celebrating immigrant talent and stories and featured a small resource fair as well as documentary screenings. The event included opportunities to engage with the directors of the films, both newcomers who have made Vernon their home.

**OVERVIEW OF PARTNERS IN ACTION MODEL (FOR REFERENCE)**

**VISION STATEMENT: A safe, healthy and inclusive community in which to live, work and grow**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Areas of Focus</b>	<b>Mandate</b>	<b># of Partner Organizations</b>	<b>Alignment with City of Vernon 2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan</b>
COOL Team	Homelessness	The COOL team meets bimonthly and is a partnership between bylaw officers, outreach workers, and the RCMP. The team uses a collaborative approach to address homelessness and monitor the health and safety of people sleeping in public spaces.	23	Community Safety  Housing
Housing Action Team	Affordable Housing	The Housing Action Team meets bimonthly to review the housing inventory, identify gaps and explore funding opportunities. This provides the non-profit housing sector a chance to network, brainstorm and be strategic with plans for future affordable units.	17	Reconciliation
HART Committee	Mental Health and Substance Use  Toxic Drug Crisis	The HART Committee meets five times per year and oversees the implementation of the Harm Reduction and Opioid Overdose Response Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to reduce and prevent overdose deaths in Vernon.	28	External Relationships  Community Participation and Togetherness
Local Immigration Partnership Council	Immigration and Settlement  Welcoming Communities and Anti-racism	The Local Immigration Partnership Council (LIPC) implements and monitors Vernon’s Settlement and Immigration Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to build a welcoming community while attracting and retaining Immigrants.	24	Economic Prosperity