

## City Administration Support in the Community During the Pandemic Response

### ISSUE

Since the onset of the pandemic planning and community response to the COVID-19 crisis, over the course of the past six weeks, City Administration has been reaching out in various ways to support the community and undertaking some non-traditional activities to support the COVID-19 response. This report provides a brief overview of various activities being supported.

### BACKGROUND

Since the onset of the pandemic response in Saskatoon, a number of City staff have been asked to undertake various non-traditional kinds of activities and approaches. All of these initiatives and approaches have been aimed at ensuring the best levels of supports and response to the COVID-19 situation possible.

### CURRENT STATUS

An overview of various staff, supports and initiatives are listed in the chart below.

Department	Division	Work Item (Details of what is being done)
Saskatoon Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Management</li> <li>• Fire Prevention</li> <li>• Community Relations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up and coordination of the Incident Command Structure for the vulnerable sector strategy group</li> <li>- Working in EOC on the services that are available for the older adult community. Connecting with many older adult organizations to identify needs.</li> <li>- Needle Safe Saskatoon, to assist SHA during this spring, Fire will be taking over the coordination of the spring needle clean-up.</li> </ul>
Solicitors	Solicitor's Clerical	Clerical support person provided to assist vulnerable sector group
Transportation and Construction (T & C)	Saskatoon Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of signage/posters in bus shelters to provide vulnerable persons with services information</li> <li>- Delivery of Food Hampers in partnership with the Saskatoon Food Bank</li> </ul>
T & C  Strategy & Transformation (ST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation</li> <li>- Roadways</li> <li>- Communications</li> </ul>	Undertaking the planning and implementation of directional signage, additional snow and ice clearing was undertaken to widen Meewasin trail walking area, posting signs – social media campaign to remind residents of physical distancing protocols on sidewalks, pathways and bridge walkways.

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<b>Department</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Work Item (Details of what is being done)</b>
T & C  ST	Transportation  Communications	An initiative undertaken to adjust all traffic signals to eliminate the need to push the pedestrian crossing button to activate the crossing signal, including installation of signage at the pedestrian crossing buttons to advise residents of the change.
Community Services (CY)	Recreation and Community Development (RCD)	Social Development staff involved in supporting the Saskatoon Community Action Alliance Community response team through the Vulnerable Sector group, addressing vulnerable populations: homeless, families and youth, and newcomers.
	RCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Development staff connecting with the newcomer community to ensure their needs are also considered with the planning work of the Vulnerable Sector team.</li> <li>- Assisting with plain language review of key documents and information flowing through and from this team to the community and the agencies.</li> </ul>
CY	RCD	<p>Community Connections: Community Consultants distributing to Community Associations (CA) a weekly “home activity bulletin” for their circulation and posting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be adding to this another bulletin that provides organizational help/advice and tips to running and sustaining their community associations in this time. As one example working with ISC at the province around virtual AGMs and other protocols to ensure adherence to the non-profits act.</li> <li>- Also looking to set up a support platform for CAs to connect to one another.</li> </ul>
CY	RCD	<p>Programs and Program Planning: Community Development team is looking at community garden safety protocols and options to continue to offer the program at existing gardens this season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewing other possible CA programs that could be offer sooner than later in alternate ways including programs to check-in with and connect to vulnerable neighbours and to what programs and activities might look like for COVID-19 phase-out and post-COVID-19.</li> </ul>

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<b>Department</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Work Item (Details of what is being done)</b>
CY	RCD	Logistical support - Vulnerable Sector EOC
CY	RCD	Encouraging all community associations to regularly check the City's website/twitter feed/Instagram/Facebook page for the most up to date information related to COVID-19 and have asked them to follow and share information from our own social media sites, which are a great source of information.
CY	RCD	Connecting with Saskatoon Council on Aging to see if there are any supports the team could provide, or connections to possible volunteers
CY	RCD	Park and Sport Field Ambassador Program getting underway to ensure patrons of the parks are complying with public health guidelines.
ST	Indigenous Initiative	Support of the Vulnerable Sector group and Elder's
<b>Multiple Departments</b> - CY  - T & C  - Utilities and Environment (U & E) - ST	<b>Multiple Divisions</b> - RCD - Parks - Transportation (Sign Shop) - Facilities  Communications	Project -- creating signage and plans for the notifications and "closures" of all play structures in City owned parks. Also reached out to Saskatoon Public, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and the French School Divisions to offer to secure the play structures on School properties. Well over 300 play structures secured with over 1250 signs and reams of warning tape
<b>Multiple Departments</b> - CY  - City Solicitors - T & C - U & E - ST - Fire	<b>Multiple Divisions</b> - RCD - Building Standards - Solicitor - Transportation - Facilities - Information Technology - Public Relations and Community Risk Reduction - Saskatoon EMO	Assisting with Field Hospital Planning. This includes support for the Merlis Belsher and potential Saskatoon Field House locations.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no incremental financial implications of staff being deployed to assist in these various situations, as they are staff already accounted for within the budget and have just been redeployed to undertake different duties.

There are however some incremental financial implications related to additional signage required to close play structures and supplies related to PPE, hi-visibility vests, sanitization supplies for staff. Total costs of these have not yet been summarized, but will be reported out at a future meeting.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no privacy, legal, social or environmental implications as a result of this support.

**NEXT STEPS**

Administration will continue to provide supports to the community agencies and non-typical kinds of activities until such time as these staff are required to be fully engaged with their home position, as we transition back to full levels of services and regular levels of business.

**Report Approval**

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