

# Community Safety and Well-Being

## ISSUE

This report outlines a proposed approach to creating a comprehensive Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB Plan). The City's focus over the past several years in social development has primarily been in:

- 1) Addressing cost as a barrier to participation in recreation programming;
- 2) Affordable housing;
- 3) Anti-racism education;
- 4) Indigenous leadership initiatives;
- 5) Immigration; and
- 6) Crime prevention through environmental design.

## BACKGROUND

Municipalities in Canada are increasingly engaging provincial and federal jurisdictions in socioeconomic planning and information sharing to address community safety and social wellbeing. These interconnections, between community and all levels of government, are pivotal in providing inclusive practices related to the design, implementation and evaluation of social policies and services.

Nationally, community safety and well-being initiatives, including social planning tables, have been advantageous in addressing social inequality. The City of Saskatoon (City) has addressed some of these priorities through the 2018 to 2021 Strategic Plan's Quality of Life outcomes. Some of the priorities highlighted in the Strategic Plan include:

1. Reducing and preventing crime and providing protective services in the Downtown core and neighbourhoods;
2. Increasing the supply and range of affordable housing options;
3. Ensuring existing and future leisure centres, and other recreational facilities are accessible, physically and financially, as well as meet community needs;
4. Developing partnerships and programs with Indigenous organizations, which will assist in enhancing economic and employment opportunities; and
5. Developing age-friendly initiatives to enhance the quality of life as people age.

At their June 29, 2020 meeting, City Council requested a report be brought forward by Administration which outlines:

1. What resources would be required to develop a community-wide Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy for Saskatoon.
2. What opportunities exist to develop this work in partnership with community and key stakeholders recognizing the social planning work already being undertaken by multiple agencies and partnerships.

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3. What are some potential options for the ongoing stewardship and resourcing of the plan.

### **CURRENT STATUS**

Other levels of government as well as community social serving agencies are calling on the City to be part of the process for finding solutions. The City's current social development and planning focus is on advancing three of City Council's priority areas:

- Community Safety and Well-Being;
- Recreation, Culture, and Leisure; and
- Reconciliation, Inclusion and Diversity.

Role clarity on the City's involvement in community deliberations needs to be explored further before any further commitments (especially long-term) can be made.

The City presently participates in the following initiatives:

- 1) YXE Connects;
- 2) Safe Community Action Alliance;
- 3) Graffiti Reduction Task Force;
- 4) Immigration Partnership Saskatoon;
- 5) Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19;
- 6) Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership;
- 7) Saskatoon Indigenous Community Action Partnership;
- 8) Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention;
- 9) Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership;
- 10) Saskatoon Homelessness Action Plan;
- 11) Saskatoon Food Council;
- 12) Strengthening Families Program; and
- 13) Reconciliation Saskatoon.

No one level of government nor any single human service agency can successfully address social issues solely. Success at the local and community level requires collective action from both federal and provincial governments, human services, social sector agencies and municipal government. Saskatoon, like other Canadian municipalities, must carefully measure and identify its relative resources and capacities before determining where and how it can have the most significant and relevant impact on addressing social issues in our community.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

While many of the social complexities of our community are not within municipal jurisdiction, those in the community look to the City to provide relief and direction in creating a vibrant and healthy city. It is because of this reason a robust CSWB Plan should be considered for Saskatoon.

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The cost to develop a CSWB Plan is estimated in the range from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Given the magnitude of the undertaking, Administration recommends the resources and funding for this work, and thus the development of the CSWB Plan itself, be phased-in over three years.

Recreation and Community Development Department (RCD) could administer and facilitate the process. The CSWB Plan would be developed cooperatively and in conjunction with individuals and organizations, advisory committees and other public and community service providers.

The proposed process would involve a consultant being contracted to do the following:

### Phase One:

In consultation with RCD and with input from internal stakeholders and representatives of the social sector, would establish a framework for the development of the CSWB Plan. The framework will identify a vision and project charter and will set out guiding principles upon which the work would be based. The consultant will also create a terms-of-reference, which outlines the key deliverables of the planning process. This would include an overall scope, a work plan and timelines.

### Phase Two:

The consultant will undertake detailed research and extensive community consultation, which would include a detailed analysis of the data and community input. The consultant would then draft strategic direction with an associated action plan.

### Phase Three:

The consultant's report would identify an overall vision, key directions and specific strategies, recommendations, action plan and amended support policies to be delivered to City Council in a future report.

For the development of a CSWB Plan, Administration is recommending a proposed annual operating budget increase of \$25,000. The first three years of incremental increases would be allocated to fund the development of the CSWB Plan. This incremental funding would provide \$25,000 for the first year, \$50,000 for the second year and \$75,000 for the third year to cover the total estimated cost of \$150,000 required for the development of the CSWB Plan. If adopted by City Council, the proposed base operating dollars would then be used to implement the action items and strategies of the CSWB Plan.

In addition, RCD in preparing this report has been in consultation with the City of Regina which is also undertaking similar work and there is an opportunity to work with the second largest urban centre in Saskatchewan. The City of Regina's administration is also currently working on the development of a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. There is an opportunity to collaborate, share information, and leverage resources efficiently between Saskatoon and Regina in the development of a CSWB Plan.

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### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Currently, there is no allotted funding identified for the development of a CSWB Plan. Phasing-in of funds through the operating budget could commence in 2022.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **NEXT STEPS**

Administration will continue to provide support to local social serving agencies, remain in close contact with the City of Regina regarding progress of their plan and convene internal civic departments to identify areas for closer collaboration.

### **REPORT APPROVAL**

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SP/2021/RCD/PDCS/Community Safety and Well-Being/pg