

# Role of the City in Social Development



Quality of Life

Community Safety and Well-Being



# Social Development Defined

- working **to improve the well-being** of the individuals in society so they can reach their full potential.
- **Requires investing in people** and the removal of barriers; and
- helping people so they can move forward on their **path to self-sufficiency**.



# Addressing Social Issues

**Federal Government** – immigration, employment insurance, health, justice, indigenous affairs

**Provincial Government** – health, education, social assistance

**Municipal Government** – affordable housing, poverty reduction, immigration & refugee settlement

**Social Serving Agencies** – front line provision of programs and services.



# Historical Overview

**In 1999** City Council officially defined the City's role in social development/social planning

## **City's Areas of Involvement**

- housing, transportation, recreation, culture, physical health and wellness, accessibility, prostitution, and safety and security



# Historical Overview

**In 2008**, City established Social Development Section within Community Development

## **City's focus**

- Social planning tables on housing, poverty, graffiti reduction.
- Work in recreation, culture, wellness, accessibility and safety and security



# The City's expanding mandate

1. Low-cost & no cost access to leisure centres
2. Graffiti reduction education
3. Grants/tax abatements for social agencies
4. Anti-racism awareness & education
5. Immigration action plan
6. Supporting community collective action initiatives
7. Facilitating Supportive housing developments



# Current Initiatives

- Social planning initiatives grouped into four categories:
  - i. access to civic and partner programs and services,
  - ii. social issues,
  - iii. equity/diversity and social inclusion, and
  - iv. community safety.
- Initiatives involve multiple divisions and departments
- Within the categories, the City's role ranges from direct service delivery, to funder, partner, or facilitator.

# Current Initiatives

- Smart Cities Challenge;
- Safe Community Action Alliance;
- Graffiti Reduction Task Force;
- Immigration Partnership Saskatoon;
- Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership;
- Saskatoon Aboriginal Community Action Partnership;
- Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention;
- Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership;
- Saskatoon Homelessness Action Plan;
- Saskatoon Food Council;
- Strengthening Families Program.





# Plans for the Future

1. Form an Interdepartmental Social Planning Team to:
  - to provide support for ongoing social development initiatives.
  - to ensure corporate initiatives are strategically aligned and coordinated for effective and efficient use of resources.



# Plans for the Future

2. Develop a set of principles to assist in the review and prioritization of new and existing initiatives.

Principles could include:

- i. aligns with City vision, plans, provincial, federal, community and other priorities;
- ii. engages the community and partners in the work;
- iii. focuses on a broader community based collective action approach;
- iv. enhances social cohesion/sustainability; and
- v. clearly articulates the role of the City in the initiative.



# Plans for the Future

3. Assist in informing the mandate and terms of reference for the proposed Advisory Committee on Community Safety and Wellbeing.



# Thank You