



CITY OF KAMLOOPS
SUSTAINABLE KAMLOOPS PLAN



INFORMATION PACKAGE ON SOCIAL PLANNING

(Final Version – 2010 January 19)

Social planning issues are an important consideration in community sustainability and typically encompass a wide range of topics. Broadly, these include housing, health and wellness, education, and community safety. These issues are typically addressed by a number of different governmental, non-profit, and commercial agencies, including municipal government. In BC, the mandate of local governments is to manage infrastructure, land use and new development; but there is very little legislation requiring local governments to address social planning issues. Despite this, the City of Kamloops has committed to becoming an important player in addressing social issues in the community. In the early 1990s, the City of Kamloops became one of the first municipalities in BC to develop a social plan. In 2006, the City requested that the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) develop a new Social Plan for Kamloops. An updated plan was adopted in 2009 with the goal of enhancing the well-being of Kamloops residents.

Implementation of the plan will be led by City staff in conjunction with the Social Planning Council, which is an advisory committee composed of members of the public as well as representatives from the School District and the United Way. Since the City only has secondary or limited responsibility regarding key social issues, the City's main roles will involve communications, advocacy, and building partnerships with and between community agencies. For example, while the City can influence healthy living by promoting recreation programs, their responsibility is secondary to that of the Interior Health Authority. Another example is social housing. While the City may put in place policies that are supportive of social housing, other agencies and levels of government have greater responsibilities in terms of ensuring social housing is funded, constructed, and utilized.

While the City does not have the mandate or capacity to function as a front-line social service delivery agency, it does have an opportunity to engage with the community and agencies to identify needs and help ensure that the needs of community members are met.

Some of the overarching goals of the Social Plan include:

- Ensuring that staff capacity exists at the City to engage meaningfully on social issues;
- Bringing together social service agencies and facilitating collaboration, cooperation and problem solving;
- Developing and establishing processes for identifying and responding to emerging social issues;

- Ensuring the City retains the capacity to have a role in developing social policy for Kamloops residents;
- Participating in programs that enhance the understanding of what contributes to a good quality of life in similar sized municipalities; and
- Continuing to support the role of the Social Planning Council in a grass-roots approach to social planning.

Throughout the Plan there are several common themes including:

- Housing and Homelessness;
- Safe places, alternative transportation, and environmental health;
- Youth Issues;
- Aboriginal Community;
- Building Social Agencies and Community Capacity;
- Children and Families; and
- Health and Addictions.

A key goal of the Sustainability Plan will be to ensure that the City continues to reflect and implement the recommendations of the Social Plan, including addressing the priorities and actions set out in that Plan. In addition, directions for environmental and economic sustainability will embrace a social perspective as part of the evolution of the Sustainability Plan.