

# **Select Committee on a Clean, Safe and Inclusive Community**

## **Report for Council Consideration**

**January 2021**

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**CITY OF  
PRINCE GEORGE**

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## Select Committee on a Safe, Clean and Inclusive Community

### Formation:

On December 2, 2019, Prince George City Council hosted a public consultation to allow representatives of the business community and members of the public to share their concerns and suggestions on a variety of community social issues. The meeting concluded with a motion, unanimously supported by Council, to establish a Select Committee on a Safe, Clean and Inclusive Community.

### Purpose and Mandate:

The Committee was formed to advise Council and City staff on priorities and strategies related to key issues and work required to be done to address social issues throughout Prince George, with a focus on the downtown core.

### Membership:

The Committee was comprised of the following members:

- **Mayor Lyn Hall, Chair**
- Connie Abe, Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC)
- Lynne Brown, Council Appointed Community Member
- Barb Ward-Burkitt, Prince George Native Friendship Centre (PGNFC)
- Paul Burry, Council Appointed Community Member
- Todd Corrigan, Prince George Chamber of Commerce
- Eoin Foley, Downtown Prince George (DPG)
- Graham Hall, Northern Health
- Dawn Matte, Gateway Business Improvement Association
- David McMullen, Council Appointed Community Member
- Daniel Roy, Council Appointed Community Member
- Bernie Schneider, Prince George Business Owners Advocacy Group
- Malachy Tohill, BC Housing
- Superintendent Shaun Wright, Prince George RCMP

### Process:

The Committee met three times prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. At its third meeting, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to engage a meeting facilitator to assist the Committee to fulfill its Terms of Reference. Urban Matters was engaged but due to COVID-19 Public Health Office orders and guidelines, further Committee meetings were suspended. This required the development of an adapted approach. As such, telephone interviews with members of the Committee were conducted to explore experiences, roles, and opportunities to support the Committee's mandate.

Urban Matters identified three consistent themes that emerged from the interview process including the need for advocacy, service coordination and integration, and improved communication. Recommendations regarding the City's role in addressing these themes were incorporated in a draft strategy document that was prepared to guide discussion during a half-day workshop attended by all Committee members.

The workshop, conducted on September 15, 2020, included a panel presentation with representatives from Northern Health, BC Housing, the RCMP, the City of Prince George, and the business community who provided an overview of response efforts to date. Following the panel presentation, workshop participants engaged in a series of activities to consider the proposed recommendations and determine actions that would need to be undertaken to support advocacy, service coordination and integration, and improved communication. Appendix 3 is a compilation of all data collected during the workshop.

A follow-up virtual workshop was held on December 8, 2020 to review the proposed strategy prepared by Urban Matters, and to identify commitments that all partners could make to support the strategy. Based on the feedback collected, amendments to the draft strategy were made and a formal meeting was scheduled for January 5, 2021 to provide Committee members with the opportunity to consider approval of the amended strategy and to discuss its presentation to Council.

# Current State Analysis

## Issues:

One on one interviews with Committee members highlighted impacts across sectors from persisting social issues, fueled by the opioid crisis and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. All Committee members expressed considerable frustration with the current state, while acknowledging that communities across the Canada are grappling with the residual impacts of mental health and substance misuse disorders, poverty, poor health, and homelessness.

Committee members identified a diversity of issues, largely based on the lens/sector from which they viewed the current state of community safety, cleanliness, and inclusion. Categories of issues raised by committee members included:

- Crime/Policing:** open drug dealing and use, theft, vandalism, assault, graffiti, break & enter, fires
- Cleanliness:** discarded needles, bio-hazard waste (urination, defecation), litter
- Perceptions of Safety:** aggressive behaviour, loitering, sleeping in doorways
- Social Health:** stigma & discrimination, trauma, lack of mental health/substance misuse supports and treatment options, lack of housing options
- Service Challenges:** lack of coordination/integration, funding shortfalls, competing health priorities, inconsistent/divisive government funding programs for non-profits, insufficient communication within/between sectors

The diversity of perspectives and experiences represented at the Committee table was challenging, but critical. Complex social issues, often characterized by incomplete or contradictory information, inter-connected root causes, considerable economic burden, and opposing viewpoints, can only be reasonably addressed with the collaborative involvement of all sectors.

Collaboration is most effective when there is a shared understanding of jurisdiction and mandate. Efforts were made throughout Committee meetings and workshops to overview the roles and responsibilities of each level of government, as well as distinct community roles that work in concert with government to create safe, clean and inclusive communities.

**Jurisdiction:**

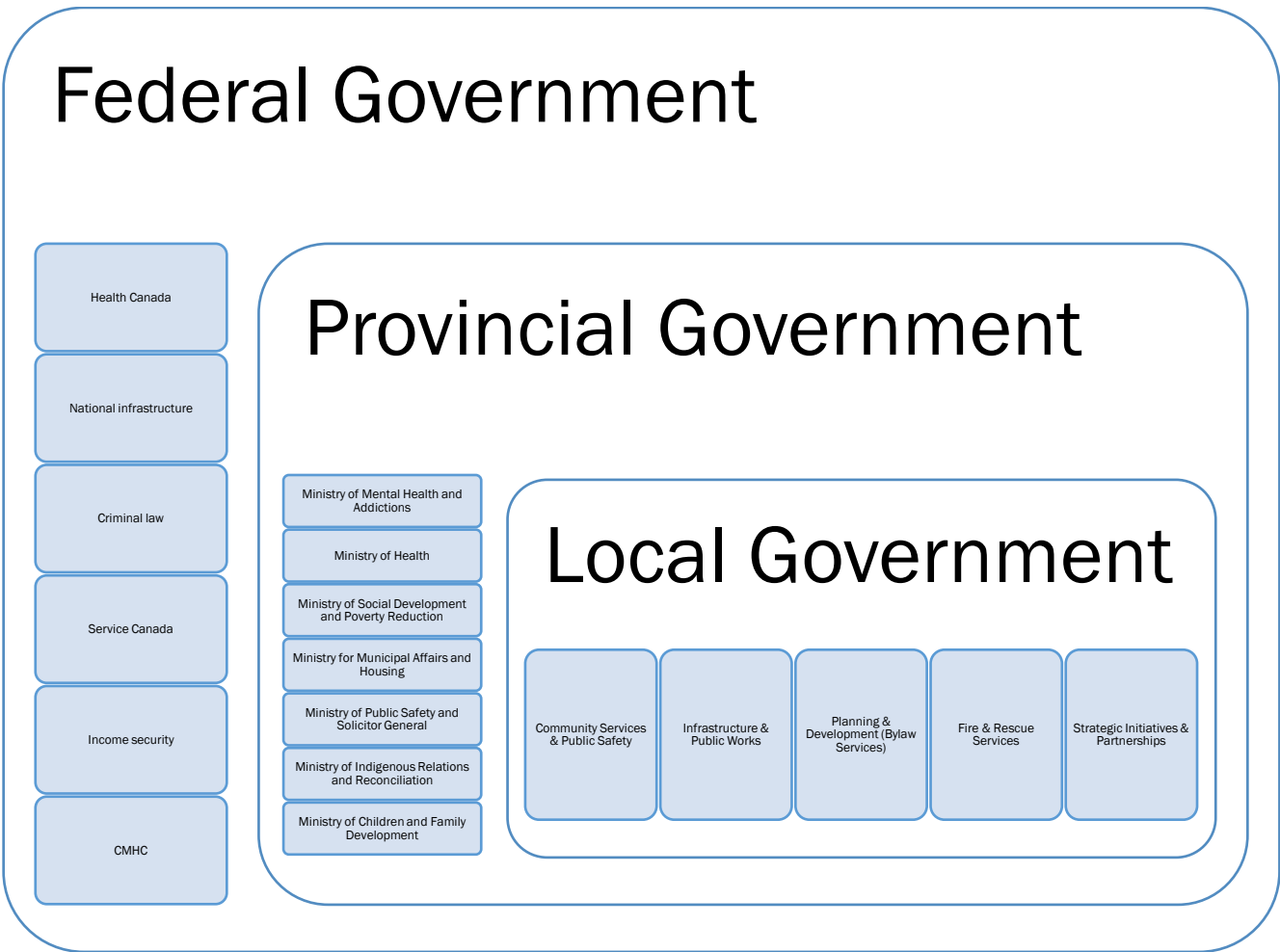
The social health and well-being of communities is reliant on systems level responses and strategic coordination. As a result, it is important to understand the spheres of influence on social health and well-being in communities. These spheres of influence contribute to community in a variety of ways and together contribute to a vibrant quality of life for people.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP INVOLVES:**

- COMMUNICATION
- ADVOCACY
- FACILITATION
- CAPACITY BUILDING

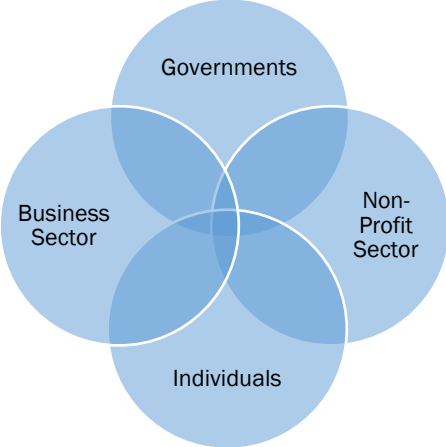
Significant confusion regarding the different roles and responsibilities of each level of government exists. This is a particularly challenging issue in Canada, where government policy delineates various overlapping responsibilities between the federal and provincial governments. The situation is further complicated with the inclusion of local governments, which are delegated a range of responsibilities by their respective provinces but are limited and often not the lead government related to community social issues.

*Government Roles and Responsibilities*



In addition to the role of government, there are important and distinct community roles and responsibilities, ranging from the individual to businesses to the non-profit sector. Combined with government, communities also have roles in building a safe, clean, and inclusive community. The landscape of social health and well-being becomes strained when each sphere of influence is not meeting its specific responsibilities to the community.

*Role of Community*



In the context of community, it is also important to define the roles of the non-profit and business sectors.

Non-profit organizations are an important contributor to building healthy communities by providing critical services that contribute to social as well as economic stability and mobility. Non-profit organizations are often the voices of the people they serve. Through their combination of strong community relationships and intimate local knowledge, non-profits often understand their community’s needs and the best ways to meet them. Strong, well-resourced non-profits that are connected to the decision-making infrastructure in their community can catalyze growth and opportunity. However, in an era of growing needs and shrinking government resources, non-profits are being asked to do even more with less, placing additional strain on their already limited resources. Further to this, provincial and federal government funding is often isolated and uncoordinated across their respective programs affecting the ability for non-profits to collaborate and integrate services at the community level.

Businesses also have an important community role in strengthening economic development and resiliency: they create jobs, improve local communities, contribute to the Canadian GDP, fuel innovation, and can grow. They are also in the position to work with other organizations to support larger actions, be that other community businesses, wider civil society, more traditional business, or government. Their viability, however, is significantly impacted by local changes in community that can be related to community emergencies, crime, theft, vandalism, revenue loss, and employee recruitment and retention. To counter these impacts businesses can actively support the work of non-profits through public/private partnerships to grow social enterprise businesses, employ marginalized individuals, and/or test innovative approaches to address community issues.

## City of Prince George Response:

The mandate and jurisdiction of local government in relation to complex social issues is limited. Prior to the establishment of the Select Committee, and on an ongoing basis, the City of Prince George works to create a clean and safe downtown environment to encourage new developments, help businesses thrive, and promote engaging events. However, the City cannot address issues like substance use, homelessness, drug-related property crimes, and mental health issues on its own. That is why the City continues to work with partner agencies such as Northern Health, BC Housing, the RCMP, as well as other levels of government to improve conditions. Here are some of the initiatives that the City, often in collaboration with others, has championed.

- Removed derelict buildings
- Suspended and cancelled non-compliant business licenses
- Contracted security personnel to monitor the downtown civic precinct
- Improved lighting, security, and daily cleaning at City parkades and the Canada Games Plaza
- Provided funding to engage POUNDS Project Society to operate outdoor washrooms in the Canada Games Plaza (from 7am-Noon and from 7pm to Midnight) 7days/week from March – November of 2020
- Provided funding to engage POUNDS Project Society to provide seasonal graffiti removal services on private property
- Purchased land to enable the development of the Affordable Housing and Healthcare Partnership to provide new housing on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue with onsite services to help people experiencing mental health and substance use issues get the support they need to improve their health and stay safe
- Continued communication, using multiple channels (City website, media releases, social media posts, etc.,) to share information about initiatives that contribute to a safe, clean and inclusive community

In addition, and following the December 2019 public consultation, a Special Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit was held. At the meeting, the Committee directed Administration to bring back a multi-departmental service enhancement package with a range of cost options to augment safety, cleanliness, and social inclusiveness in the larger downtown area.

These multi-departmental service enhancement options were considered by Council at its January 6, 2020 Budget Meeting and resulted in the allocation of \$1.42 million. These enhancements are outlined in the table below.



**2020 Budget Enhancements**

<b>Service Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Enhancement</b>
<b>Police</b>	2 member foot/bike patrols 6 hours/day, 7 days/week for 9 months	<b>\$273,246</b>
<b>Security</b>	Contracted security services at civic facilities	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Bylaw</b>	Upgrade two Compliance Assistants to Bylaw Enforcement Officer & add two more Officers	<b>\$189,051</b>
<b>Social Supports</b>	Contribution to staffing associated with two downtown homeless service hubs	<b>\$236,000</b>
<b>Civic Operations</b>	Marginalized Camp Clean-up and downtown bio-hazard removal	<b>\$274,495</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,422,795</b>

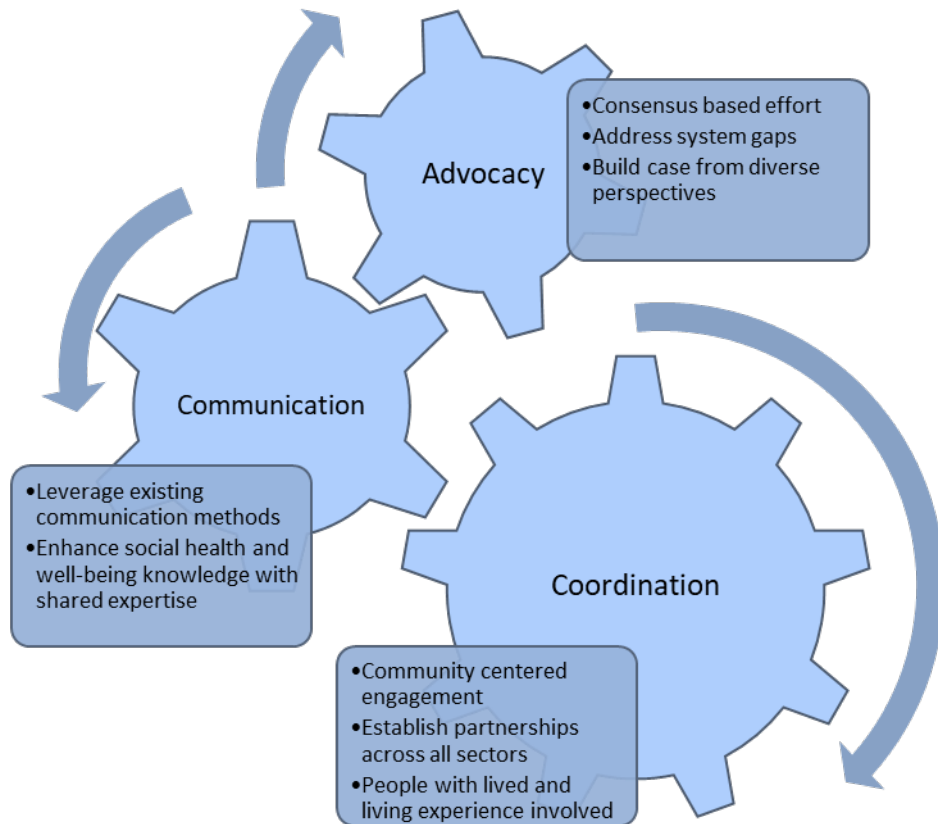
**Next Steps:**

Select Committee engagement enabled by 1:1 interviews and the facilitated workshop identified three key goals as well as guiding principles. These goals, informed by Committee input and based on an understanding of issues, jurisdiction, and the City of Prince George response to date, focus specifically on roles for the City of Prince George. These roles relate to advocacy, facility and capacity development, and communication in support of collective community action.

Opportunities for community organizations (such as social serving non-profit agencies), business associations (DPG, Chamber, Gateway), and other government entities (such as Northern Health, RCMP, provincial government agencies/ministries), to initiate and lead actions in support of the Committee’s vision for a clean, safe, and inclusive community are referenced in the section titled, “Partner Commitments”.

### *Strategic Connections and Guiding Principles*

Moving forward with this work requires recognition that all activities influence each other in some manner, and to be effective, connections need to be made across all moving parts as illustrated in the diagram below. The actions below support the ways in which the committee was best prepared to create a safe, clean, and inclusive community.



# City of Prince George – Key Commitments

## Committee Focus Area: Advocacy

**Goal:** Prince George has the facilities and personnel necessary to ensure that those with mental health and/or substance use disorders can quickly access both emergency and ongoing services and supports (i.e. sobering centre, specialized mental health and substance use services, transitional housing, etc.).

### Facilitate a Coordinated Advocacy Process

Background:

The September 15, 2020 workshop confirmed that a unified voice, particularly in relation to advocacy with other levels of government is a top priority. Committee members each have well developed networks that can be utilized to advocate for change. However, there is a need to ensure that advocacy efforts are reflective of partner roles, coordinated, and focused on shared priorities.

The City, with leadership from the Mayor’s Office, will help facilitate and align community advocacy efforts.

### Advance the BC Urban Mayors’ Caucus 2020 Blueprint for British Columbia’s Urban Future

Background:

Mayor Lyn Hall has joined with the Mayors of twelve urban communities across British Columbia to act as a unified voice on critical issues including substance use and treatment, mental health, and affordable housing.

This caucus has called on all parties to make a number of commitments including:

1. Immediately expand the availability of the full range of substance use and mental health treatment and recovery options for both youth and adults, including appropriate facilities for those with complex needs. Treatment on demand is required to ensure people get service when they need it.
2. Make the recent public health order regarding expanding the number of health professionals authorized to prescribe safer pharmaceutical alternative to the toxic drug supply permanent and urge all relevant regulatory colleges to scale up access to safe pharmaceutical alternatives for people at risk across BC.
3. While reviewing changes to the *Police Act*, consider alternative approaches for responding to mental health and substance use calls in the community on a 24/7 basis.

4. Accelerate investments to affordable, supportive and social housing on a priority basis, and simplify the funding application process.

### **Committee Focus Area: Coordination**

**Goal:** Multi-jurisdictional service coordination and integration is enhanced and supported by the establishment of a community safety hub, in the downtown.

#### **Lead the Establishment of a Downtown Public Safety Office**

Background:

Members shared their challenges and frustrations with repeat crime, safety, and social issues especially within the Downtown and Gateway areas, which require a coordinated response from a variety of human service organizations.

In addition, the establishment of the RCMP led Situation Table was identified as a key priority at the September 15, 2020 Committee workshop. Situation Tables (also known as Hubs) help front line staff from the public safety, health, and social service sectors to identify vulnerable people and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services before they experience a negative or traumatic event (e.g. victimization, overdose, eviction, etc.). Situation Tables empower agencies to reduce a broad range of risks that can impact a person's well being and safety.

The RCMP has confirmed that the Situation Table will convene at the Public Safety Office. Other partner commitments associated with the establishment of the Public Safety Office are outlined in the next section of this report.

### **Committee Focus Area: City of Prince George Service Enhancements**

**Goal:** City of Prince George operating budget enhancements (\$1.42 million) address service priorities associated with the creation of a safe, clean and inclusive community.

#### **Evaluate and Reprioritize the Allocation of the Safe, Clean and Inclusive Service Enhancement Package**

Background:

In January of 2020, Council approved a multi-departmental service enhancement package to augment safety, cleanliness and social inclusiveness in the larger downtown area. The package, consisting of six interrelated areas, was designed to achieve service integration and cooperation, as well as a uniformed presence and comprehensive suite of response services eighteen hours per day/seven days per week.




The onset of COVID-19 in March of 2020, impacted service provision. However, even with the dramatic changes and impacts felt throughout the ongoing pandemic, the City implemented the service enhancement package and worked with community partners to address emerging priorities related to safety, cleanliness and inclusion. These emerging issues led to initiatives that included opening public bathrooms in the civic plaza (utilizing POUNDS employees), ramping up cleaning (utilizing the Prince George Brain Injured Group and DART), and convening weekly calls with its partner organizations to share information and problem solve. There has been significant learning because of these efforts, and opportunities to consider how this learning can further inform the City's response to issues associated with cleanliness, safety, and social inclusion.




# PARTNER COMMITMENTS

Throughout the convening process, Select Committee members acknowledged the tension between the desire for immediate solutions to better manage social issues, and the recognition that resolution of complex social issues is a long term, multi-partner undertaking.

The City’s key commitments, developed to align with its role as an advocate, facilitator, and capacity builder, are inextricably linked to the engagement and commitment of its partners, including the RCMP, Northern Health, BC Housing, the business and non-profit service sectors, as well as individuals. These partnerships are necessary to address the root causes of behaviours that manifest as complex social issues.

The chart below summarizes how partners, through their representation on the Select Committee for a Safe, Clean and Inclusive Community have agreed to support solutions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver supportive housing units</li> <li>• Track homeless individuals using BC Housing’s Supportive Housing Registry and HIFIS</li> <li>• Position a Health Services Coordinator in the Public Safety Office</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand staffing and access to Harm Reduction Services with the creation of an Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (IOAT) program</li> <li>• Make decisions in collaboration with partners</li> <li>• Base a position at the Public Safety Office</li> <li>• Work in collaboration with the RCMP in a partnered approach to service delivery in the downtown and through the public safety office and be inclusive of our RCMP partners in the delivery of Harm Reduction Services provision planning</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperate with Bylaw Services &amp; Civic Operations to manage behaviours and encampments</li> <li>• Lead the formation and operation of the Situation Table</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructure the Car 60 program and provide value to Northern Health outreach teams</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PGNFC commits to continuing to provide shelter and outreach supports that include wellness checks, winter clothing, pain control, dental clinic services, personal storage services, and other supports specific to marginalized and vulnerable people in the community of Prince George</li> <li>• PGNFC outreach workers will work collaboratively with other outreach workers in the community (AWAC) and will continue to work closely with Bylaw Services, the RCMP, NH (Mental Health and Substance Use) to connect individuals to community services, supports and housing</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="396 1073 678 1121">Association Advocating for Women and Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work closely with Bylaw, RCMP, and PGNFC outreach to connect individuals to services and housing</li> <li>• Continue to provide night outreach that includes wellness checks on behalf of other agencies, the provision of warm clothing and blankets, and transportation to/between shelters</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="440 1436 626 1556"><b>DOWNTOWN PRINCE GEORGE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate alley cleanup services with DART (with funding from Northern Health and BC Housing)</li> <li>• Continue to coordinate the Downtown Clean Team in partnership with the Brain Injured Group</li> <li>• Aiming to complete another lighting project in the downtown, similar to the lighting on 3<sup>rd</sup> and George, in 2021</li> <li>• Participate in coordinated advocacy targeting other levels of government</li> </ul>



- Provide policy development skills and access to government in support of advocacy efforts
- Provide access to data provided by membership
- Facilitate marketing campaigns to encourage local support of businesses

In addition, **partner organizations and community representatives have committed to using their networks and channels to communicate and share information** about efforts to ensure a safe, clean and inclusive community.



# APPENDICES



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

December 2, 2019

6:00 pm

Council Chambers of City Hall

1100 Patricia Boulevard Prince George, BC

PRESENT:

Mayor Lyn Hall, Chair  
Councillor Everitt  
Councillor Frizzell  
Councillor Krause  
Councillor McConnachie  
Councillor Ramsay  
Councillor Sampson  
Councillor Scott  
Councillor Skakun

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Kathleen Soltis, City Manager  
Mr. Walter Babicz, General Manager of Administrative Services  
Mr. Shane DeMeyer, Northern Health  
Mr. Fred Crittenden, Manager of Bylaw Services  
Ms. Gina Layte Liston, Director of Public Works  
Mr. Adam Davey, Associate Director of Community Services  
Superintendent Shaun Wright, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
Ms. Leslie Kellett, Legislative Coordinator

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A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Skakun  
Seconded By Councillor Sampson

*That the agenda for the regular Council meeting scheduled for December 2, 2019 be amended to add the PowerPoint presentation at item B.1 and that the agenda, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.*

Carried Unanimously

B. MAYOR'S REPORT

B.1 Mayor

Moved By Councillor Everitt  
Seconded By Councillor Krause

*That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION public feedback on issues and opportunities to further inform the City's response to the social issues throughout Prince George with a focus on downtown.*

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Kathleen Soltis, City Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the impact of downtown social issues and contributions to resolve the issues by the City of Prince George, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Northern Health. Further information was provided on social issues in communities, the City's 2019 response effort amounting to \$1.7+ million dollars, corporate impacts, and the proposed First Avenue Service Hub partnership between the City of Prince George, Northern Health and BC Housing.

Superintendent Shaun Wright, RCMP, spoke to the impact of the community social issues on police support services including use of the Downtown Safety Unit, patrol resources, mental health calls, and the increase in population due to the "Hub City" of Prince George.

Mr. Shane DeMeyer, Northern Health, spoke to the contributions and impacts of the community social issues on health services and further noted current activities undertaken by Northern Health including: simplifying services; keeping people stable and in their homes; providing in-home intensive mental health and substance use support; supporting harm reduction, overdose prevention and wellness; optimizing access to detox beds; increased access to Opioid therapy; primary care – enhanced teams; child and youth support; mental health inpatient care; and First Nations mental wellness.

Mr. Bernie Schneider attended Centre Table, spoke on behalf of a group of downtown business owners wanting to express that the "Downtown Is Open for Business," further noted the need for downtown business owners and staff to feel safe in their place of employment and requested consideration be given to the City forming a committee to work together to resolve the existing issues.

Mr. Jesse Cody attended Centre Table, noted concerns with downtown safety for his employees, open dealing of drugs, the lack of short-term housing available for the homeless, commented that collaboration on the social issues should have come sooner and inquired on the number of RCMP calls to individual business addresses.

Superintendent Wright responded advising that some businesses are hot spots for calls for service.

Mr. Lance Boyds attended Centre Table, noted that there are similar issues outside of the downtown in the Spruceland area and inquired on what the RCMP plans to do to mitigate issues in this area.

Superintendent Wright acknowledged the Spruceland area is on the RCMP's radar.

Mr. Daniel Gallant, employed downtown, attended Centre Table, commended Council for hearing the public on these social issues and the swift response following the public discussions that have taken place. He further spoke to possibilities regarding police support services, noted that the province announced a decrease in policing budget and proposed the City consider charging a levy to downtown businesses to offset the salary costs for one to one and a half police officers with a concentrated presence in the downtown area.

Ms. Gail Inkster attended Centre Table, acknowledged appreciation for the compassion for social issues from members of public and proposed that a regular meeting be set to provide a forum to deal with these types of issues.

Mr. Jason Luke attended Centre Table, noted ongoing requests from business owners to have existing parking issues downtown addressed, concerns that the existing parking bylaw does not encourage customers to attend downtown due to the high risk of receiving a parking infraction ticket and proposed the City enter into discussions with downtown organizations such as Downtown Prince George and Prince George Chamber of Commerce to address downtown parking issues.

Major Neil Wilkinson, Salvation Army, attended Centre Table, shared a story of showing compassion for individuals in difficult circumstances as an opportunity to make connection and provide opportunity for change in an individual's circumstances.

Ms. Dawn Matte attended Centre Table, proposed the City not only partner with the big organizations, but consider including local businesses in their discussions and decision making. She noted fear for her safety and that of her employees in the downtown area, advised that this has resulted in an increase of business costs to cover additional security and benefits for her employees to access mental health services and remarked that the social issues extend beyond downtown and that accountability of partners is critical.

Ms. Kerry Pateman, Coordinator, Community Partners Addressing Homelessness (CPAH) attended Centre Table, advised that the visibility of the homeless and look of downtown is largely there because of a lack of other land uses, noted that businesses have left and continue to leave the downtown area and encouraged Council to make a commitment to a collaborative approach with all partners and in particular individuals who are on the street, to determine their needs.

Ms. Katherine Tuck attended Centre Table, suggested partnerships be considered with organizations responsible for bringing students and international students to the community for post-secondary education, and LGBTQ2S community groups and further noted that the issue at hand is more broad than provision of housing.

Ms. Nansi Long attended Centre Table, highlighted that this a community wide issue, suggested that consideration be given to solutions implemented in other communities, expressed concerns that the public washrooms are not located in centralized areas and noted that rather than "big housing projects", there is a need to create neighbourhoods where people feel wanted, needed, respected and inclusive of our community. It was further suggested that that a collaborative approach with the target population will be more successful than proposing a solution without their consideration.

Ms. Jacqueline Marion attended Centre Table, advised that her business is located in the downtown area and noted that the physical presence of police support services would make a big difference to the safe feel of the downtown.

Ms. Charlene Thorp attended Centre Table, spoke to the drastic change in the community over the past five years and noted concerns that bus shelters have become spaces for unacceptable behavior such as drug use and open defecation.

Ms. Connie Abe, Executive Director, Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC) attended Centre Table, shared information on the Association's programs and opportunities available to the homeless, advised that there are services available, but there are a large number of individuals who choose not to access the available services including housing.

Mr. Chris Trump attended Centre Table, commented that it is not a solution to place drug addicts and hard-to-house individuals in one housing complex; as it does not address the underlying issues and proposed accommodating individuals in alternative housing such as RV Parks.

Ms. Torie Beram attended Centre Table, noted that she is employed downtown and highlighted the importance of the individuals being discussed being recognized as people and that proper consultation with stakeholders, business owners, people in the community and the vulnerable population located downtown is necessary.

Ms. Jordan Tucker attended Centre Table, commented that 24-hour injection sites and assisted housing does work, that this is not an issue to be fixed by Council, highlighted the community's responsibility to assist in resolving these ongoing issues and shared information about a winter clothing drive - "Warm Winter Woolies for People Without Homes."

Ms. Barbara Bud attended Centre Table, expressed fear for her and her children's safety, commented on the importance of addressing an individual's underlying issues to truly affect change to our community's existing social issues, the immediate need for emergency shelter and proposed that the City contact communities such as Lethbridge and Medicine Hat to inquire how they eliminated homelessness.

Ms. April Ottesen attended Centre Table, stated that communities are viewed by the way their most vulnerable populations are treated, suggested that if the solution does not address the mental health and addictions issues that includes appropriate consultations with all stakeholders, the problems will get bigger and referenced the eradication of homelessness in Medicine Hat as a benchmark for success and cost savings.

Mr. Karmjeet Manhas attended Centre Table, inquired what percentage of people are hard-to-house because of mental health versus addictions versus homelessness, noted the deteriorated state of downtown, concern for children who attend his place of business daily and are exposed to needles and debris on the ground, suggested a reallocation of City funds to fund solutions and commented that there is an immediate need to establish a place for the homeless to go during the day and for shelter.

Mr. DeMeyer, Northern Health, advised that while he does not have the exact numbers, almost all people with substance use issues also have mental health issues.

Ms. Danielela Castell attended Centre Table, spoke in support of the compassion being exhibited in the community, the need for an immediate development of shelter for the population who are currently living on the street, proposed that the application of a restorative model be applied to the vulnerable population to have them buy into their own self-care, the value of the formation of a committee or coalition group that includes representatives from all of the organizations who have been involved and are yet to be involved, including representatives from our marginalized population, shared concerns with the current downtown parking bylaw being a preventative to increased traffic in the downtown area and noted an example of a successful transitional housing project in Portland, Oregon - [dignityvillage.org](http://dignityvillage.org).

Mr. Peter Wise, attended Centre Table, noted that despite available housing, some individuals are not interested in being housed and proposed the City pass a bylaw that disallows homelessness and vagrancy and that would permit the RCMP to pick up individuals and remove them from the street thereby providing the opportunity for mental health professionals to assess the individuals' situation and to connect to services, medication, and housing.

Mr. Daniel Roy attended Centre Table and expressed that many individuals who are living on the street having coping challenges due to trauma, stigma around addiction, commented that a viable solution to recovery from drugs and alcohol is necessary to help the vulnerable population and proposed the creation of a local recovery centre for men and women.

Mr. Bill Tooke attended Centre Table, commented on the unresolved trauma of many individuals in the vulnerable population, compassion and understanding needed when meeting and speaking with individuals, mental health and psychological problem associated to drug use and noted that that statistics be reviewed on the actual crime data related to the downtown.

Dr. Connie Delisle attended Centre Table, spoke to her own experiences, suggested implementing a digital wall to engage youth and noted that resolutions start with the removal of barriers for all populations – youth, seniors, mentally ill, etc.

Ms. Kyla Turner attended Centre Table, spoke to the existing adult withdrawal centre, noting that in order to help individuals withdraw from substances, more than one week withdrawal management program will be necessary, addressed other harm reduction programs such as safe drug supply, commented on the lack of community connection with individuals who are struggling and the need to provide a safe place for individuals when they need them and noted the operating hours of the Fire Pit Cultural Drop In Centre.

Mr. Paul Svisdahl attended Centre Table, spoke to the downtown parking bylaw and noted satisfaction with the parking system as a citizen, homeowner and building owner downtown. It was further noted that some tenants have businesses that service vehicles for customers which requires parking on the street and proposed a solution to provide an opportunity to charge an extra fee to business owners to reserve parking stalls for a short period of time.

Ms. Shelby Wenyenmayr, Community Health Educator, Positive Living North, attended Centre Table, spoke about harm reduction, noted that the issue of substance use and the vulnerable population is a situation that needs to be addressed by all levels of government and commented on the success of harm reduction in saving lives.

Mr. Dino Beganovic attended Centre Table, spoke about judging individuals and their behavior, noted business owners are not equipped to deal with the people on the street needing help and proposed charging a rental rate for the on-street parking and that money be used to financially support the downtown social agencies.

Ms. Carmel Bennett attended Centre Table, noted a need to gather information from homeless individuals to ascertain their desire to be housed versus sheltered, suggested that the issue of homelessness is complex and the importance of being heard and proposed that urban planning could be incorporated with the creation of spaces where people can connect meaningfully as a way to address the barriers of the marginalized individuals.

Mr. Christos Vardacostas, Aboriginal Housing Society, attended Centre Table, spoke to the demographics of Prince George noting that there are individuals aging out of care in group homes and students leaving school homeless and further noted the importance of inclusiveness not segregating the population.

Councillor McConnachie exited Council Chambers at 9:18 p.m. and returned at 9:20 p.m.

Councillor Skakun exited Council Chambers at 9:21 p.m. and returned at 9:23 p.m.

Ms. Melodie Ward attended Centre Table, noted that a fundamental issue involved is prejudice against mental illness, highlighted the need for appropriate supports and inclusivity of the marginalized population and commented on the importance of understanding an individual's situation and needs.

A woman (name unknown) attended Centre Table, commented on the money required for solutions put forward, highlighted the importance of downtown businesses as assets to the community, their taxation revenue and number of people they employ, encouraged Council to continue supporting local business and noted an informative YouTube video by Joe Minicozzi, Urban Planner.

A man (name unknown) attended Centre Table, spoke to the need for accountability and statistical evidence for policies and programs put in place toward the resolution of the social issues, suggested that the homeless are homeless due to choices made, and noted his opposition to financially penalizing the business owners downtown to resolve the social issues.

Ms. Kyla Turner attended Centre Table, spoke for a second time regarding the need to encourage the RCMP Members to interact with individuals on the street outside of their car to reduce the physical barrier which may be perceived as intimidating.

Moved By Councillor Sampson  
Seconded By Councillor McConnachie

*That Council EXTENDS the December 2, 2019 regular Council meeting to 11:00 p.m.*

Carried Unanimously

Discussion commenced regarding appreciation for the all the public input received, challenges faced by the business community, consequences for criminal activities, the need for safety and security for businesses and patrons' downtown, the importance of involving community partners and stakeholders and the City's contributions to addressing social issues downtown and in other areas of the community.

Moved By Councillor Skakun Seconded By  
Councillor McConnachie

*That Council DIRECTS Administration to prepare Terms of Reference for a select committee addressing downtown social issues.*

Carried Unanimously

C. ADJOURNMENT

THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 10:27 P.M.

Moved By Councillor Sampson  
Seconded By Councillor Scott

*That there being no further business the Regular Meeting of Council, BE ADJOURNED.*

Carried Unanimously

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
CERTIFIED CORRECT



Appendix Two – Delegation to Council – December 16, 2019. Presentation prepared and delivered by the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George, and the Gateway

## Delegation to Council

Monday December 16, 2019

Presentation Prepared & Delivered by:



## Introduction

As representatives on behalf of more than 1,200 business and property owners in the City of Prince George, the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA have been at the forefront of discussions with business and property owners, team members and stakeholders throughout our city on the changing face of our community.

On November 12, 2019, the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, along with our partners at Downtown PG and the Gateway BIA, hosted a business consultation, gaining a clearer understanding of the issues, impacts and desired outcomes of our representative members and stakeholders.

During the November 12, 2019 discussions, we collected feedback on some initial concepts, enquired about additional thoughts and worked in a collaborative manner to re-engage with those in attendance. Through this process, we have developed a list of recommendations for Government to consider.

We understand that this is not just a Prince George issue. Social and economic impacts are being experienced throughout BC and Canada. However, we believe in working collaboratively to invoke positive change in our community – building a better Prince George for everyone.

The included recommendations to Council and the Province represent the first steps in what will be a long process, requiring multiple engagements with Government, stakeholders and community organizations.

The Chamber, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA stand committed to being leading partners in this process, ensuring public input and transparent dialogue and processes are driving factors.

Thank you for your consideration of the ideas developed in consultation and collaboration with Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Prince George and Gateway BIA members.

## *2020 Policy and Enforcement Requests – City of Prince George*

- 1) That the City of Prince George provide an additional 6 officers and 2 support staff to the Prince George RCMP and that these new members are assigned to uniformed patrols of the Downtown and Gateway areas. The new members and support staff are estimated to create an expenditure of \$1.8M per annum. Out of an abundance of caution, we are requesting that Mayor and Council for the City of Prince George consider this allocation necessary to enhance public safety and defer other spending to create a net zero budget impact

During 2020, we are requesting that the City of Prince George work with their internal teams, community stakeholders and the RCMP to develop an Integrated Public Safety and Enforcement Team with specific focus on creating vibrant and safe spaces for all residents, business owners/operators and patrons

AND;

- 2) That the City of Prince George enforce Bylaw 8425, 2012 – Amendment Bylaw 8819, 2017 being the Property Maintenance Bylaw. Owners and operators of harm reduction locations must be accountable for the debris, waste and paraphernalia left in the area of their operations. Where property owners and business operators throughout the Prince George are required to maintain safe and clean properties, any establishment found not adhering to the rules and regulations set forth by Council, and regulated by Bylaw, shall be subject to additional fines and/or penalties as enforceable by the City of Prince George

AND;

- 3) That the City of Prince George engage BC Hydro and Clean BC on opportunities to enhance lighting solutions in defined areas of the City. Particular focus should be placed upon alleyways and alcoves, walking routes, surface parking locations and parkades

AND;

- 4) That the City of Prince George petition the Government of British Columbia and Northern Health to develop treatment facilities/sobering centres - ensuring at risk persons can secure localized treatment assistance without the need to travel to the Lower Mainland

AND;

- 5) That the City of Prince George continue working with BC Housing and the Government of British Columbia to develop housing and employment solutions for those at risk on our streets

AND;

- 6) That the City of Prince George engage with Downtown Prince George the Gateway BIA and the Prince George Chamber of Commerce to advocate on their behalf to the Provincial and Federal Governments, providing the greatest level of transparency and continued asks on behalf of business and property owners as well as residents.

## *2020 Policy and Enforcement Requests – Province of British Columbia/Northern Health*

### Harm Reduction:

- 1) That the Province of British Columbia direct Northern Health to develop and implement sobering and treatment facilities within the City of Prince George - ensuring at risk users are able to receive the treatment required to live fulfilling lives

AND;

That the Province of British Columbia develop enhanced, street level mental health assistance for those at risk, creating a better understanding of the at risk community and what treatment assistance can be made available

AND;

That the Ministry and Children and Family Development be compelled to release unused, or under-utilized property at the Prince George Youth Custody Centre to BC Housing and the Health Ministry to create additional beds, short term sobering centres and long term addictions counselling and recovery services

AND;

That the Province of British Columbia allocate \$3.00 to mental health, addictions and homelessness solutions for every \$1.00 allocated to harm reduction strategies

### Accountability:

- 1) That the Province of BC direct each Health Authority be required to mark paraphernalia used in harm reduction strategies with identifiable markings, ensuring all agencies are accountable for the recovery and disposal of the materials provided to users

### Justice:

- 1) That the Attorney General for the Province of BC review and provide recommendations for modernizing the sentencing practice for prolific offenders

AND;

That the Attorney General for the Province of BC look at alternative systems and sentencing structures, taking into account rural and remote populations. And that restorative justice is strongly considered, providing a layer of accountability in the recovery process.

## *Results – November 12, 2019 Consultation*

<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Immediate Action</b>	<b>Short Term Action</b>	<b>Long Term Action</b>
Create Social Services Zoning	15	9	36
Review Crowns Charging Process	17	25	13
Establish a Long Term Working Group of Business & Government	14	21	22
Develop a Long Term Funding Model for Mental Health & Drug Addiction	18	25	31
Review Prolific Offenders Act	39	11	15
Addressing Downtown as a Health Emergency	60	10	9
Ownership of Discarded Needles	52	14	4
Enhanced Lighting Projects	20	27	26
Examine Downtown CCTV	25	13	16
Open Community Policing Outlets	20	11	31
Uniformed Patrols (Bylaw/RCMP)	65	13	16

## Appendix Three – September 15, 2020 Select Committee Workshop Data

This Appendix contains the verbatim notes received at the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Select Committee for A Safe, Clean, and Inclusive Community workshop. The notes have not been edited for brevity, spelling, or punctuation. The information was collected through two main workshop exercises – one on one interviews among the members and group discussions consolidating thoughts and voting on priority ideas.

### One on one Interview Notes

Question 1: How might we co-design communication solutions focused on celebrating what is great about downtown and what can we do to share social wellbeing solutions that are working in the community more broadly?

#### Interview Response

Tell the story and share it outside this loop- What is going on?

Be honest about what the gaps are

Use all forms of comms (the City website, all partner websites, social media, TV, radio)

Express freely

-Prescribed Interviews (Q/A)

Ensure a prescribed, consistent front, so that what is ACTUALLY going on (I.e. the social wellbeing solutions in downtown are accurately understood and conveyed)

Most effective to create talking points and key messages

Combo of written word and audio/video

Credibility comes from being tethered to this body (linked, not just papered)

#### Interviewee Graham

How do we celebrate wins that are achievable?

Competing priorities; working at cross-purposes

Northern Solutions to Northern Problems

Social agencies- outreach to "normal" community

Larger geographic area to down south- less budget

How do we create magic on a shoe-string budget?

Narrative appears "Fixed" at the moment

Wins include:

-normalizing it through making it "less scary"

-progress has been made- collaboration

-This discussion is a step forward

Understanding who owns what

"Community" is they key word here, population causing the downtown issues also belongs to the community

Downtown population probably do want help, to contribute and be part of the community but compassion fatigue with other populations

Find opportunities and broaden the stakeholder groups

We may be too singularly focused on one item issues (i.e. needle disposal)

Can we create a communication channel through the chamber? To showcase wins? Newsletters and business gatherings?

### Interviewee Bernie

What are we attempting to communicate - What are we selling

In order to sell, we need: basic strategy, knowledge, tools to effectively communicate issues

Who is developing this strategy? (who "owns" it)

Are there resources available - communications team (City?)

Communicating good things is very easy; events; "good" news story

Difficult to "spin" reality- people understand the reality behind the message that has been spun

Social media; biggest deterrent/challenge to comms strategy

Strategy definition:

1) Here is the current problem

2) Where are we going?

3) What is our end goal?

Speak truthfully: cannot paint a donkey and call it a zebra

Strategy has to be tied to success- clearly developed

This could occur through this committee

Small wins= media release on clean-up, graffiti removal, etc.

Highlight the positives, those that are working

Do not mislead- be truthful

### Interviewee Shelby

Communications must be accessible- a mix of print, online, etc.

focused strategy with goals that are well understood:

-Small, clear, not all at once

-Use real examples- how do we fix them (point by point)

But, all organizations involved need to sign on and commit (shared logos, so it is not misconstrued as "city propaganda"- SHARED OWNERSHIP

Although focusing on positives is good we have to address the elephant in the room- "own" what we can do and acknowledge what we cannot solve

Must be flexible- adjust as the situation changes (Consider covid as an example, new info/data may result in a different approach)

Use "well known" community members to promote (not necessarily politically engaged, but recognizable in numerous sectors. Not everyone reads social media, news, etc.)

Need a "lead" a single "owner" \*coordinate resources etc.

Involve people experiencing homelessness in the process/plan

### Interview Response

1. Ownership- who leads? Who does? (cannot be City only)
2. Strategy- What are we communicating?
3. Resources- Where from?

### Interviewee Eoin

Unsure if that is an issue from his lens

Independent business promotion

Feels that initiatives- like clean team- are well shared

Identify what programs are running- consider targeting- who needs to hear about this?

Increasing visibility for providers, non profits, gather and share to avoid creating silos

Accountability from providers to share info-

Annual general meeting- AGM Report- Barb Ward Burkitt

-Covers major work and milestones

Covers positive developments

-Creates a profile for the year for the organization

- shows challenges as well and ? event planning

Build community profiles and representation from these partners= non profits, gov, businesses

Could be done via website

Could it be done at City council? Feature 1 profile as each meeting

### Interviewee David

Emphasize the things we enjoy about PG and how social services and programs maintain these things

Featuring stories of growth and success- people contributing to the community

Incorporating culture into what we do as a community

Builds investment, engagement, pride in the community and for the individuals

Improving communication across orgs and sharing ideas

Document and lift up the work to a visible level at the community

### Interviewee Paul

Must celebrate events downtown

Celebrate what's going great about businesses

Close off streets, allow people to walk around and enjoy downtown- "foodie Fridays"

Act like there is no downtown issues

More you do to bring people downtown creates partner with organizations to present what they are doing in the community

Promote organizations

City continue to pursue beautification downtown

### Interviewee Shawn

Social media promotion



### Interviewee Keil

Good things happening in PG to support well-being and public safety  
Re-fueling existing communication tools  
How PG looks after each other  
Supporting businesses through challenging times, they give back to the community  
  
Businesses excellence is not just about financials but what they will do for the community  
  
Promote partnerships

### Interviewee Gina

Gathering people with expertise and skills- communication and collaboration  
Whether you are in downtown or not creativity and love for downtown  
Gather in places like this or verbally what is happening  
need for willingness and openness  
Attitude and positiveness, no negativity  
# of people in our community- find them to share and think about these things  
Simple as gardens, planters on corner of downtown  
Tough with covid  
Many beautiful places - language  
Rob Vanandricom- photos- beauty of the city  
Social wellbeing- communication portal, not too much info- too overwhelmed  
Maybe new or need info knowledge that its there  
Social media but also other areas  
Photo art gardens bring out joy to live here in the moment  
Social wellbeing, we tent to focus on one group- negative

### Interviewee Malachy

Stuck on that  
What do we have in place  
Social media, advertise, tourism to other communities  
Not yet- once we have outcomes then we can celebrate  
What we are doing- safe clean inclusive committee- share outcomes  
Advocating for what IS happening  
BOLDY Hughes- Greenhouse-yap-friends-schnitzel-pork- Sal Army- Constituents  
Giving back to the community  
Talk about it  
POUNDS- talk about it- celebrate it  
Print, social media, celebrate community day  
Bring people together (Post covid)  
BC housing news committee  
Public knowledge of what were doing

### Interviewee Dawn

Social media platform  
City of PG- putting it out there with collaboration from St. V or downtown PG association  
  
Hell ya PG- Youth using media like Tik Tok, Instagram, snap chat

Good news stories

Headers on the websites draw your eye- click on it to get more info

People could submit- edit what content is on there

Realistically social media

Word of mouth

Business- talk about non-profit services, what is going on

Avenue for more advocacy- more positive

Marketing- how do we let others know what were doing

Has to be done in a way that is heartfelt, honest, change what people view is actually happening

Closing the gap between the youth and the middle

Question 2: How might we develop and implement the following community safety initiatives- Situation Table (RCMP), and Downtown Public Safety Office co-located @ DTPG

<b>Interview Response</b>
<p>Have to get a basic service model for buy in, goals, outline expected contribution</p> <p>Research orgs to be at the table</p> <p>Need reps from the homeless community- bring peer perspective</p> <p>Similar to Vandu</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Difficult part, solutions can often be diverse</p> <p>Funding challenges, privacy, different levels of gov</p> <p>other models in other cities and states</p> <p>anonymization provers to protect identity</p> <p>Safety Office</p> <p>place where someone can come with an issue</p> <p>Service is a navigation service</p> <p>place where collection of services and supports are co located</p> <p>action oriented and is not solely a referrals source</p> <p>drop in and referral centre</p> <p>Service is a navigation service</p>
<b>Interview Response</b>
<p>Get all the groups to the table, MH, probation, addictions services, anyone who would have something to say or involvement</p> <p>Get all stakeholders together for an initial meeting to develop Plan C</p> <p>Use examples, start easy, to get the process then move to a more difficult example where maybe less is known about them</p> <p>provisional sentencing where appropriate</p> <p>treatment rooms would need to be made available in order for this to work (MH or addiction)</p> <p>Hands on follow ups afterward to ensure ongoing success</p> <p>DTPSO</p> <p>Clear definition on roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Hand in hand with RCMP and Bylaw/ NH</p> <p>Database to store client info when clients consent to disclosure</p>
<b>Interview Response</b>
<p>Look at sequentially, project that optimizes a process</p> <p>Look for resolution of support to go back to council to have the PSO co located with DPG</p> <p>could then have sit table? "out of" the same sit</p> <p>Would have to have commitment from partners to participate on a regular frequency</p> <p>Discuss as a group opportunity for small wins relationship building, evolves to full collaboration</p> <p>Bottom up to set collab- us top down told</p> <p>develop the process incrementally</p>

### Interview Response

Identify secure key stakeholders - social services/business comm/ RCMP/city - expectation of ongoing operation despite staff turnover  
A very clear vision, terms of reference and responsibilities  
an understanding of privacy issues/oversight groups to deal with potential issues  
Groups could be accountable to city council- it's an elected body  
How is it funded- what external services can be accessed  
DPSO looks a lot like downtown policing unit / community policing  
DPG and DPSO are different operations and need to be recognized as such

### Interviewee Dawn

Coordination  
Sit table- mission statement- office  
Stakeholders, services bylaw RCMP, NHA, DPG  
What is the next step  
Goal? Act upon Goal?  
Level of privacy?  
Not enough of an understanding to provide feedback - info needed  
Gathering place  
Assessment of the services they need  
Businesses utilize- repetitive issues  
Instead of RCMP  
Non-emergency  
Collaborative relationships where to go for assistance  
Easy to access  
FAQ  
Directory (need to establish)  
Goals? Responsibilities?  
Communications with community stakeholders  
Avenue on who/where to go  
alleviates those issues that are not emergencies  
Allow businesses to feel supported

### Interviewee Malachy

How to get outcome- already drawing conclusion  
Share experiences to get the best outcome  
Take a step back  
Sit table - Surrey (presentation)  
Focused on individual criminal justice or others  
What target group dedicated to sit table  
How many sit tables do we need?  
HIP weekly 9-10 years  
IHIP 1 year ago from corrections  
Coordinated access manager where best place to be housed?  
BC housing space for this  
One in the same



### Interviewee Lynne

Situation Table  
Safety office  
Needed  
Venue for collaboration  
Not reinventing the wheel  
Meets the safe, clean and inclusive goals  
Good recommendations  
LTFN, CS, RCMP, NHA, Ministries, DPG, Advocacy for families - childcare  
Letting agencies know these are new non profits (what their role would be)  
Who role is to lead? Who is invited?  
How to ensure balanced, inclusive collaboration  
"Always the same people" How to make sure its inclusive?  
Those that are being spoken about- how to make sure they are included  
What they would need instead of making assumptions

### Interviewee Kyle

Partnership MOU for contributing groups  
Figure out which groups have a funding role or just an "in-kind" role  
Who operates, maintains, pays taxes on the facility  
Terms of reference developed  
One stop shop for community safety queries - track and measure kinds of questions  
Target audience is the business community  
Clear role definition- not the RCMP responding to calls  
Direct calls- figure out the proper agency to address a specific issue  
Record metrics, introduce accountability  
Communication coordination advocacy

### Interviewee Shawn

Utilize funding and training provided by the province  
Stakeholder meeting to firm up commitments  
Funding support- one time start up funding from the province  
Identify a location and agency willing to provide the facility  
Develop a PR strategy- build community awareness and build support- convince agencies to participate

### Interviewee Connie

SITUATION TABLE  
-Determine desired outcomes  
-Who can facilitate achieving those  
-Invite stakeholder agencies to come to the table  
SAFTEY OFFICE  
-Complaint centre- business owners would report issues to the safety office  
-Clear role definition  
-Bylaws, outreach, RCMP to collectively address problems  
Distribute information to build awareness about appropriate agency to address specific concerns

### Interview Response

Commitment from partner organizations to participate  
Determine desired community for this  
Inclusion of diverse groups (service agency, Business, Public, Government, RCMP)  
Have outreach workers from various agencies all-co locate  
Let public/ businesses know they call public safety office when RCMP is not appropriate  
Take inventory of what programs exist (who is already meeting regularly)  
Identify gaps!  
Commitment from organizations to be there, even to create positions to participate and execute

### Interviewee Eoin

Self answer: Give people authority to affect change at situation table

Question 3: How might we continue to grow or establish diverse training and employment opportunities to alleviate poverty impacts and provide a sense of community value and contribution for people with lived experience of homelessness or substance abuse?

**Interviewee Bernie**

Have to establish parameters around eligibility- some could have never been employed- some chose not to be

Guidelines / direction on who are the people able to contribute and who cannot

-assessments done by NH- mental illness structures in the way

-Crime issues- that prohibit certain people from holding certain jobs. Thief can't work at store

Financial incentives to employers because there will be problems. Employer not expected to be mental health worker

Value? What value are we working for an at what level, value of contribution depends on the ability of a person to perform those duties

-City decides to get involved and allows workers to be placed in jobs- menial tasks and above depending on skills

Opens door to discussion with unions, to buy in it. To start off there needs to be an assessment on who qualifies. probably gets developed as a branch of NH

Def take mental health workers to assess and criminal justice to provide critical information - make the assessment based on their own knowledge

There would have to be supervised worksite visits from different levels/organizations- mental health workers, probation officers, CRVPT workers- just the tip of the iceberg

**Interviewee Adam**

Key small wins, - rather than big picture not solve we should focus on small wins

Brain injure group- DPG operates team to clean up- meaningful work that needs to be done, straightforward work as a starting point

Enhancing this program is one example of a small win. Low cost, data supports, scalable

Pounds

New washrooms - vitalizes peers and people overcoming substance abuse. Peers oversee use of new washroom

Graffiti clean up group, low cost effective, easy to manage and implement

Three examples above one practical and achievable with data to support effectiveness. Best thing to do is to enhance what works for small wins

When people relapse, there is little consequence to client

**Interviewee Graham**

Already have examples- brain injure group

NH is growing capacity to introduce peers with lived experience

A lot of willingness to contribute but our organizational structure keeps people out

-don't have business?

-unsophisticated



What we could do: not everyone in recovery can transition into the working world  
Social enterprise is the area we need to focus on. Create peer led, peer developed programs  
Trying to find agencies who have a "rolodex" of individuals who are ready to work. There are already organizations/volunteers  
Create an opportunity for people to create value. Recognition that what you are doing is value within the community  
Leave coordinating to agencies

#### Interviewee Shawn - RCMP

Linking experience of homelessness and substance use (Where there is an opportunity- What could that look like?)  
Continuation and expansion of some existing programs- Downtown chess?? Team for example brain injure group  
General society emphasis on GED (high school education) and skill training  
List benefits to accomplishments in education and skill training  
People working to connect people with substance addiction to job opportunities  
Partnership with social enterprise businesses to involve those who have no employment experience in labour market

#### Interviewee Connie

People with lived experience- wage subsidy or employment opportunities for BC housing  
"Lived experience program" people to work in shelters  
Non-profit and social enterprise employment of people with lived experience  
Monitoring and support for those living with addiction- in the employment opportunities  
Physical assessments for people to ensure the are "fit for work"  
To support people into recovery and treatment where there are employment or housing services provided.  
Incentives for agencies, humanities, non-profit who hire people with lived experience with homelessness or addictions ex. Tax incentive  
While in treatment, employment still provided

#### Interviewee Paul

Opportunities like pounds project enables them to serve the community they are a part of  
Allows them to be a part of the solution  
Services Could be provided by people with lived experience  
Provide sense of empowerment while maintaining empathy  
Brain injured group cleaning is a good example  
Support from the municipality for the programs  
Training programing at places like public library that are available and comfortable  
ex. Resume writing/ job coaching  
Utilizing existing civic personal and services  
Employ people with lived experience to enable them to help others

#### Interviewee Malachy

Support recovery beds- after treatment support those individuals to recover /regain skills

Get business to access to groups of these people and a post jobs to and have and ability to hire from those groups of people of people (a collective place to hire these person)  
Funding for individual to gain skills  
Access to funding for testing to ensure sobriety for businesses if needed  
Provide opportunity for persons with addictions (current) to gain employment, even for short periods of time

### Interviewee Lynne

More information on poverty so service providers understand what poverty is  
Partnering with local nations to gain cultural perspective understanding off reserve experience  
Training should include causes of trauma and mental health  
Employment - employers have a better understanding of barriers to work  
More open attitude from employers  
Services for individuals to prepare for a job or an interview (showers etc.)  
Collaboration employers to access a resource to find persons to employ  
Hand up rather than hand out  
Employer to be flexible with expectations and hours  
Affordable childcare for those who are working  
Non judgemental towards a person past and to be open to those working to change their future

### Interviewee Gina

Skills training  
People who have a passion caring and empathy to do the training, find the right people  
Established through an organization that has trust and credibility to do the training  
Credibility in many different areas to get funding and provide training etc.  
Consistency with funding for organizations to create stability for those seeking skills training  
Employment  
Needs conversation and engagement with businesses for employers to provide support for employers with emphasis on the realistic outcomes, situations, and support  
Reducing stigma  
Training for employers to reduce stigma  
continued funding for employers to support  
Creating incentives for businesses and non-profits to hire. Wage subsidies programs.  
To have fail safes for  
Pay it forward program  
Identifying gaps in the industries  
Work safe exemptions for people who are addicted with barriers to gaining employment

### Interviewee Barb

Build relationships  
Strategy - collaboration  
Establish relationships roles, clear sense of goals  
What puzzle looks like  
Goals and objectives  
Common understanding of issues  
Where to access funding

### Interviewee Nick Remple

Priority- stigma reduction, cultural safety  
Partners access to education on issues  
Education of lifestyle issues with employers  
Reduce misconceptions  
Funding for potential employers

Individualized employment opportunity

-Matching

Vocational matching

Support in place for employers

Community partnerships

Employer incentives

Small wins

### Interviewee Eoin

Identify gaps in labour market

Focus training on gaps

Life skills to get them to jobs

Workplace behaviour training before they start work

Customer service training before they start work

Continued support for employers to encourage long term employment and potentially not taking the best employee

### Interview Response

S- Start while people are still in elementary / high school- provide learning on diversity, poverty, substance use. Learn to live with people who are different.

L- Relationship between City and Brain Injured Group is a good example- if we provide for you, and hire you, you provide a service. Instill pride and purpose.

S- Establish a standard and expectations

L- Instill a sense of this is how the world works

S- Expect Diversity of experience

L- Give a foundation of reciprocity

S- Acknowledge the validity of one earning. For example, Couriers

L- Don't be too entrenched in the value of structured formal training- there are other ways

Question 4: How might we strengthen our advocacy effort for additional services in our community that are delivered by NH and BC Housing?

<b>Interview Response</b>
We need to have a point person/decision maker from NH.
Both partners need to be in agreement and supportive of the advocacy
It doesn't stop but continues through the Ministry of Health, Housing, Women/Children etc.
The advocates need to be expert in the task- this is a specific skill set. The reason being that people with some knowledge of the advocacy issue may not fully inform the conversation and make a better case.
Meet with those people who make the decision, not elsewhere
BC housing is one of the keys for us managing out social issues- as pointed out in their housing first strategy- housing is critical but its full success is program supports by working with the RCMP and crown.
<b>Interviewee Adam</b>
Chose what we want out priority to be (sober not detox center)
Advocacy channel to determine priority
Model: 4D's
1. Diagnose- Gaps and priorities
2021 objective (project) what is next step
Priority basics on what we can afford - do one thing on then move on to the next priority item
Different levels of government and funder issues will be a problem
<b>Interviewee Graham</b>
Big thing is the decision \$ and infrastructure
Demonstrating community efforts like this committee
Resources are a problem for us as a hub city
Some sort of task force to provide basic infrastructure of services
Pro-active solutions
Making sure the task force has authority to make decisions
Hub cities need ability to make decisions
<b>Interview Response</b>
We need a consensus in this room over what we actually want to do beyond collaborating
Who should be involved in solutions and who is responsible for \$\$
Helpful for people to know about budgets and what is and isn't working
Task force to make suggestions for funding certain programs
Government needs to give authority to task force to make recommendations for funding priorities
<b>Interview Response</b>
Caught up in our own work
Structures are in place, challenging to get beyond the desire to stay inside the box
Community tables/partners

Engage local governments, share your agency's info needs and demands
Collaborative advocacy with community partners
Cross ministerial requests, partnership, management
Reach out / build more collaborative / community ways to collaborate
Data collection is critical to support advocacy to gov, MLA's Local Gov, community
Personal impact / stories
No org has sole responsibility to fix the issue
<b>Interview Response</b>
Need a united force for our asks- multi organization
Voices need to be heard in Victoria and Ottawa
-What are our asks
-Quantifying our asks
Messaging and talking points supporting the asks - making our voices heard
United voices from diverse organizations and sectors
Harm reduction services need to be looked at, life saving vs life persevering
Content of messaging
<b>Interview Response</b>
Address and inform about programmes to remove the stigma that is in place
Advertise the service/program to community in an informed way
Showcase success stories from these programs, real messaging from real people rather than focusing on the failures you may see driving the downtown PG
Role models are needed to share their stores/journeys of resiliency
Messaging to tax payers is important to remove stigma and negativity
<b>Interviewee Lynne</b>
Information to community to what's happening in NHA- especially NHA challenges e.g. low number of detox beds
Communication w/npo on what services are in the community
Believing in our partners and the work they are doing
Don't re invent the wheel
Information sheets on what good work is happening in the community
<b>Interviewee Gina</b>
Streams of advocacy they have- example- City, UBCM
Advocate diversity to Ministry Agency
<b>Interviewee Dawn</b>
As a group on the same page
-equal priorities to each others needs
Speak with a unified voice
<b>Interview Response</b>
More voices from non -profits
Hear from the front-line people

More voices with same message the better
Bring the data- make the case stronger
Work on relationship building
-know who you need to advocate to in order to make a difference
Two-way relationship- need to contribute if you want something in return
Message has to get further up the chain
Pool funds for advocacy campaigns
<b>Interview Response</b>
Leverage provincial peer agency networkers
"Team PG" approach to lobby prov govt, lobby together instead of as individual agencies
Collate lobbying efforts already occurring
Develop coherent asks to present to the province- they respond to loud vocal groups

## Group Discussion – Consolidating thoughts and prioritizing ideas

FLIP CHART 1 - How might we co-design communication solutions focused on celebrating what is great about downtown and what can we do to share social wellbeing solutions that are working in the community more broadly?

Identify what is working well- who needs to hear this?
AGM style
Building profiles for community initiatives
Online
City Council <-> not city
Emphasize what citizens like about PG- Pride ● ●
Recognition
Document initiatives to celebrate accountability
Shared ownership- who leads?
Should not be City of PG led
Strategy - what are we communicating? To who? ●
Cant solve everything
Resources- where are they coming from?
Who is the audience?
Post more celebrations to be help downtown
Promote more events that celebrate public safety ● ●
Focus on business excellence- what they do for the community ● ● ●

Promote organizations and what they do for the community	● ● ● ●
Telling the story about what's happening including the gaps	● ● ● ● ● ●
Ensuring we all have key messages talking points- same wellbeing accurately understood and conveyed	





1. Who needs to lead? -downtown and gateway business associations
2. Who needs to be partner? -Business org (gateway, DT, Festivals and celebrations, individual businesses, social orgs, NPOs, CPG)
3. Professional communications role- marketing and strategy
4. How long? Comms plan with timetable TBD
Focus on beautify of our community ●
Attitude of positive
Stuck- don't know how
Advocacy of knowledge of what is actually happening ●●●●
This committee more public
Social media
Businesses share what non- profits are doing
Word of mouth advocate

FLIP CART 2 - How might we develop and implement the following community safety initiatives- Situation Table (RCMP), and Downtown Public Safety Office co-located @ DTPG

Sit Table
Privacy and confidentiality ●●●●●●●
Clear vision and goals
Responsibilities and roles of members
TOR clear and understood
Targeted- person in mind-intervene-community impact-divert crisis
Complete membership ●●●●●●
Voices-community-NHA-Ministries
Inclusion
Service agencies- Business people /general public
RCMP
Crown counsel
Regular meeting
Commitment ●●
Overlapping jurisdictions
HR commitment , admin ●●

Sit Table
<b>Buy in</b>
Internal?
Decision makers- actions
"voluntold"
Believe and passion at the table
RCMP update on funding and process
Similar programs that exist
Who is already tasked to these issues?
Operational
Training is essential
Who owns this process? RCMP? Table?
Tool for RCMP
Develop a PR strategy
<b>Next Steps</b>
Sit table- RCMP led concept
Partner organizations -Northern Health -Bylaw -Car 60 -Mo family services -Youth shelter -BC housing -PGNFC CINH -FNHA -Reconnect -Non traditional partners
<b>Resources Required</b>
Commitment from organization -Human -Time -Money -TOR -Clear vision goals (statement) -Coordinator -Accountability
Time: Oct 31 2020
Public Safety Office
Northern Health

City
RCMP
Outreach
Downtown Resources
Community policing
Time: 6 month/year
Office- Public Safety ● ●
Who? RCMP/community policing- social assistance
Outreach - housing, health, MSDPR
Bylaw (CPG)
NHA
Peer agency with credibility
Roles and responsibilities ● ●
Ensure balanced, inclusive, collaboration ● ● ● ● ●
Accountability- track metrics ● ● ● ●




FLIP CHART 3 - How might we continue to grow or establish diverse training and employment opportunities to alleviate poverty impacts and provide a sense of community value and contribution for people with lived experience of homelessness or substance abuse?

Database for employers and employees (episodic work)
a. lead-PGFFC? PGNATA
Established organization? Work BC
Provincially led?
b. Partners -CNC, work safe BC, IT partner
Pounds, Dart, BIG, Vocational therapist, Industry association, ITA, Activators
c. Resource
Centralized: Training employees
Learning employers
IT
Long term funding
Who is managing- must stay current?
Social enterprise model
Baldy Hughes- woodworking-sales-revenue
Pounds- graffiti
A) Day to day pay
B) Lead- social service agency
C) Partners- committee members?

D) Admin/funding/resource  
Start up funding  
Space

Training/employment support
A) social service agency -employment support -employer support ASAP
Sharing of information between employers
1. reducing stigma for employers and workers
2. Creating incentives for Businesses and non profits ex. Wage subsidy payments
3. Identify Gaps in Labour market- train to fill gaps
4. Database for employers to find employees and for potential employees to find work
5. Social enterprise model ex. DART program
6. Support for individuals in program who may relapse and support for businesses to learn and also offer support
7. Control point of contact- for individuals to access- for businesses to access -Mini HR org with social workers
8. See what individual is interested in being trained in
9. Embed job training etc. into treatment program

# FLIP CHART 4 - How might we strengthen our advocacy effort for additional services in our community that are delivered by NH and BC Housing?

Task force beyond this committee 
Unified voice to levels of Gov from task force 
Clear definition of what is needed for people  -Funding Messaging -Equal Priorities -Data driven -Infrastructure
Who needs to lead? P Chamber vol. -Task force, CPG
Partner: -CPG+MLAs+MPs -*NH NPOs Indigenous Groups -*FNHA -RCMP -BC Housing -DGNFC Differ depending on topics for advocacy issues
Resources: -In kind facilitation -Education and advocacy *Marketing and communications expertise -Some funding for operational needs
How long: -*Ongoing -Create goals and actions

\*Action items that are prioritized and agreed to annually