

Safe And Secure Kamloops Network and Political Leadership Meetings June 15, 2023, and June 22, 2023 Summary Report

In its 2023–2026 Council Strategic Plan, Kamloops City Council has identified Safety and Security as a key strategic priority, stating that “the City of Kamloops takes action to ensure all residents feel safe and secure in our community.” City Council has also identified Advocacy as a strategic priority, stating that “the City of Kamloops clearly and strongly advocates for Kamloops to other organizations and levels of government.”

In June, City staff and community partners came together to identify opportunities and actions to address community safety issues, and to identify areas where advocacy is needed to other levels of government for support and assistance. Key themes from these discussions were subsequently shared with the collective political leadership of Kamloops City Council, Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir, MP Frank Caputo, and MLA Peter Milobar.



Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting participants, June 15, 2023

Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting – June 15, 2023

On June 15, 2023, the City brought together representatives from all four Safe and Secure Kamloops engagement groups – Social Agencies, Protective and Safety Services, Business Sector, and Neighbourhood Associations – to engage in a collaborative discussion on efforts and actions that can be undertaken collectively and in coordination across sectors to address community safety issues. The Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting also provided an in-person opportunity for community partners to network and build relationships.

A total of 54 community partners and City staff gathered at the network meeting, which was guided by professional facilitator Tracey Lorensen of CivicExcellence. The event featured presentations from the RCMP, City, and Interior Health. RCMP Superintendent Jeff Pelley presented on community safety from a policing and enforcement lens; Will Beatty, the City's Emergency Preparedness and Community Services Manager presented on Community Services Officers and Bylaw services; and Rae Samson, Clinical Operations Manager for Community Mental Health and Substance Use Services with Interior Health, presented on community mental health and substance use services.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in roundtable discussions that focused on four community safety topics that were identified in advance by the four engagement groups in meetings leading up to the June 15 network meeting. The identified topics were crime prevention, social and health infrastructure, management of streets and public spaces, and enforcement and the criminal justice system. The discussions were guided by three key questions:

- What's working well?
- What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?
- Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?

Attendees were able to participate in roundtable discussions on each of the four topics over the course of the meeting. City staff facilitated the small group discussions, captured key themes and ideas, and reported the key themes back to the broader group at the end of the meeting. The key themes from the network meeting are included in this report.

Safe and Secure Kamloops Political Leadership Meeting – June 22, 2023

On June 22, 2023, a Safe and Secure Kamloops Political Leadership Meeting was held featuring the collective leadership of Kamloops City Council, Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir, MP Frank Caputo, and MLA Peter Milobar.



Safe and Secure Kamloops Political Leadership Meeting, June 22, 2023

The intent of the political leadership meeting was to share the key themes from the feedback gathered on community safety at the Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting from neighbourhood association representatives, and from the business, social, and protective and emergency services sectors.

More specifically, the intent was to share:

- initiatives that are working well
- where the business, social, and protective and emergency services sectors can improve coordination of efforts and resources, and
- where these sectors collectively would like to see our political leadership target their advocacy efforts to senior government.

The meeting was also guided by professional facilitator Tracey Lorensen and City staff were present to share the key themes from the network meeting and respond to questions from the political leadership.

Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting – Key Themes

Key themes from the Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting under the four identified community safety topics are included below.

Crime Prevention

What's working well?

- Expanded CSO program with increased community safety and outreach role
- Partnerships and collaboration between agencies and stakeholder groups
- Information sharing on crime prevention programs (e.g., Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Block Watch, security strategies)
- Presence of protective, safety, and outreach services (RCMP, Community Services Officers (CSOs), outreach teams) in community

What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Increase scope and reach of neighbourhood engagement on crime prevention programs and successes
- Increase data collection, information sharing, and reporting on statistics and program results
- Continue to build on successes with the business sector and expand crime prevention efforts to support more businesses

Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?

- Need for legislative changes to allow increased CSO roles and responsibilities in addressing social and safety issues
- Need for increased funding and incentives from senior government for crime prevention programs and initiatives
- Need for increased RCMP staffing levels and more enforcement resources

Social and Health Infrastructure

What's working well?

- Coordination of services among and communication between social agencies
- Community outreach programs (e.g., CSO Outreach-Response, Interior Health Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Intensive Case Management (ICM) teams, social agency outreach teams)
- Low-barrier social infrastructure (i.e., shelters, supportive housing)

What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Better integration of social and health infrastructure (data sharing, coordinated access, integrated housing and health sites)
- Better public communication and community engagement on health and housing initiatives
- Expand supportive employment and vocational opportunities for vulnerable people (engage business community, pair housing with training and employment)
- Connect treatment and recovery options to housing efforts

Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?

- Need for increased investment in pathways to recovery (e.g., sobering and assessment centre, detox and withdrawal beds, intensive treatment beds, supportive recovery housing)
- Need to expand the communications interface between senior government and the public
- Need for increased recruitment and retention efforts for doctors, nurse practitioners, and other key clinical roles
- Need to shift the focus on social and health issues from crisis management to strategic planning and a coordinated systems approach between provincial ministries (e.g., Health, Housing, Social Development and Poverty Reduction) and between federal and provincial levels of government (e.g., Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and BC Housing, Health Canada and Ministry of Health)

Management of Streets and Public Spaces

What's working well?

- Collaboration between sectors and willingness to learn and try new ideas
- Increase in street-level response teams (e.g., CSOs, outreach teams, Customer Care and Patrol (CAP) Team, Clean Team)
- More eyes and ears on the street due to densification, increased business vibrancy

What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Increase partnerships between agencies and target funding to achieve better outcomes
- Increase public communications about public spaces and rights of the individual
- Increase education on mental health and substance use services and facilities

- Expedite initiatives that support vibrancy in all parts of our communities

Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?

- Need for more engagement from the Province with local and Indigenous government and communication with the public on decriminalization
- Need for more social and health infrastructure investment from the Province (day spaces, detox, treatment, wraparound services, housing, recovery options)

Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System

What's working well?

- Strong coordination between enforcement agencies
- Efforts to target prolific offenders and repeat violent offenders
- Increased number of shelter beds and housing units in recent years

What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Increase communications on prolific offenders and related enforcement actions
- Increase education on systemic causes to support anti-stigma work
- Increase coordination among social, health, and enforcement sectors to support reintegration efforts

Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?

- Need for increased staffing and enforcement resources (e.g., Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre, RCMP)
- Need for increased accountability for serious offences and for prolific offenders within the court system
- Need for relationship building with police in school system to support prevention, education, and awareness efforts
- Need to increase substance use services, facilities, and treatment options (detox, sobering and assessment centre, mandatory treatment, community mental health court, supervised consumption, safe supply, wraparound services in shelter and housing sites)

Next Steps

The Safe and Secure Kamloops Working Group and the four Safe and Secure Kamloops engagement groups will review the key themes regarding community safety within this report and continue to strengthen the coordination of efforts and resources across sectors.

The engagement groups and political leadership will continue to advocate and work with provincial and federal levels of government on the key advocacy items that emerged from these meetings and on other advocacy items related to community safety that are identified in the coming months and years.

Safety and Security and Advocacy are strategic priorities of Kamloops City Council, who will continue to advocate on these issues and other items listed within the 2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan that require the support of other levels of government.



Table discussion at the June 15, 2023, Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting

Safe and Secure Kamloops

Safe and Secure Kamloops includes a working group and four engagement groups – Social Agencies, Protective and Safety Services, Business Sector, and Neighbourhood Associations – with representation from community groups, government agencies, Indigenous organizations, social service providers, business organizations, and neighbourhood associations. The Safe and Secure Kamloops communications framework is shown below.



Safe and Secure Kamloops Engagement Groups

Organizations represented in each of the four Safe and Secure Kamloops engagement groups are listed below. For more information on Safe and Secure Kamloops, please visit LetsTalk.Kamloops.ca/SafeSecure.

Protective and Safety Services



- City Community Services Division
- Kamloops Fire Rescue
- Crime Prevention
- RCMP
- BC Ambulance Service
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre
- Crown Counsel
- Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Bylaws
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- CN Railway Police
- CP Railway Police
- BC Conservation Office Service

Social Agencies



- City Social and Community Development Section
- BC Housing
- Interior Health
- United Way
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- ASK Wellness
- Interior Community Services
- The Mustard Seed
- Connective
- A Way Home Kamloops
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society
- Out of the Cold
- Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

Neighbourhood Associations



- Aberdeen
- Barnhartvale
- Batchelor Heights
- Brock
- Dallas
- Downtown
- Dufferin
- Heffley Creek
- High Country
- Juniper Ridge
- McDonald Park
- North Shore Central
- Pineview Valley
- Sagebrush
- Sahali
- Schubert Drive
- Valleyview
- Westsyde

Business Sector



- City External Relations Division
- Venture Kamloops
- Kamloops Central Business Improvement Association
- North Shore Central Business Improvement Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Home Builders Association - Central Interior
- Association of Interior Realtors
- Tourism Kamloops
- Thompson Rivers University
- Graffiti Task Force
- Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Economic Development

Appendix 1 – Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting Agenda

SAFE AND SECURE KAMLOOPS NETWORK MEETING AGENDA

5:30 to 8:30 pm, June 15
McArthur Island Sports Centre Lounge

5:30 pm Arrival and sign-in

5:35 pm Welcome and Introduction to the Evening: Lead Facilitator, Tracey Lorenson, Civic Excellence

5:45 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Presentation 1: Community Safety from a Policing and Enforcement Lens – Superintendent Jeff Pelley, RCMP

6:15 pm Presentation 2: Community Services Officers and Bylaw Services – Will Beatty, Emergency Preparedness and Community Services Officer Manager, City of Kamloops

6:25 pm Presentation 3: Mental Health and Substance Use Services – Rae Samson, Manager of Clinical Operations, Kamloops Mental Health and Substance Use Services, Interior Health

6:40 pm Health Break

6:50 pm Roundtable Discussions on Community Safety (15 min per table)

- **Four topics:** Crime Prevention, Social and Health Infrastructure, Management of Streets and Public Spaces, and Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System
- **Three key questions for consideration at each table:** What's working well? What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources? Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?

7:50 pm Stretch Break

8:00 pm Reporting Back: Key themes from the roundtable discussions

8:25 pm Wrap-up and next steps

Appendix 2 – Safe and Secure Kamloops Political Leadership Meeting Agenda

**SAFE AND SECURE KAMLOOPS POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
MEETING AGENDA**

**9:00-11:00 am, June 22
Norkam Mechanical Group Lounge, Sandman Centre**

Intent of Meeting

To share with our political leadership the key themes from the feedback gathered on community safety from the business, social, and protective and emergency services sectors, and from neighbourhood association representatives, at the Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting held on June 15, 2023.

The intent is to convey initiatives that are working well, where these sectors can improve coordination of efforts and resources, and where these sectors collectively would like to see our leadership target their advocacy efforts to senior government.

9:00 am – Welcome and Introductions

9:10 am– Purpose and Meeting Overview

9:20 am – Overview of Safe and Secure Kamloops

9:30 am – Presentation of key themes from topics discussed at the Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting

- Crime Prevention
- Social and Health Infrastructure
- Management of Streets and Public Spaces
- Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System

10:30 am – Open Discussion

10:45 am – Closing and Next Steps

Appendix 3 – Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting – All Comments

All comments captured by City staff from the roundtable discussions at the Safe and Secure Kamloops Network Meeting on June 15, 2023, are included below. Comments are a verbatim transcription of all items collected during the evening. Comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all who participated.

TABLE 1: Social and Health Infrastructure

1. What's working well?

- CSO Outreach program
- MOU: BC Housing and City
- ICM/ACT – Interior Health
- Interior Health Complex Care
- Triaging services between service providers (CMHA/ASK/Mustard Seed, etc.)
- All service providers
- Supportive housing
- Low barrier shelters
- Community dispersion
- Early intervention (A Way Home)
- Roofing vocational training with TRU → Corrections

2. What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Food security
- Increase supply of community gardens
- Permits and zoning
- Systemic coordination
 - Data sharing (e.g. individual management)
 - Coordinated access
- Public communication
 - Current services e.g. Interior Health
 - Pre and Post engagement with neighbourhoods
- Bringing more detox levels (e.g. socialized)
- North Shore Shelter
- Holistic Integrated services
- Knowledge sharing across sectors
- Integrated access point | hub | health
 - Connect housing and health
- Vocational opportunities

- Treatment and recovery beds
 - Diverse pathway to recovery
 - Peer employment supported by businesses
 - Educating businesses prior
 - Youth and family services (preventative)
 - Second-stage housing
 - Dry
 - Location that is supportive
 - Reduce stigma
3. Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?
- Coordination of lobbying efforts (creation of committee)
 - Create paid position
 - Transition from crisis management to strategic planning
 - Enable interagency and intergovernmental info sharing and communications
 - Policy and legislative changes (systems informed funding)
 - Communication to the public/impacted communities
 - Increase funding transparency, allow public interface and depoliticize
 - GP and NP (nurse practitioner) recruitment and retention
 - Supportive recovery housing
 - Treatment and recovery beds
 - Advocate for wage subsidy for individuals coming out of corrections or recovery
 - Reign in the distribution of illicit drugs

TABLE 2: Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System

1. What's working well?
- Integrated Crisis Response Team (Car 40) expansion
 - PACT (Peer Assisted Care Team)
 - Increased nurses and officers
 - Emergency response time
 - Development of a crime reduction program
 - Increase in RCMP services
 - Decriminalization
 - Multiple layers of harm reduction
 - Good communication between Housing and KRCC re: reintegration
 - Housing supply increases since 2017-18 (more options)
 - Increase in shelter beds and providers
 - More communication and integration of services
 - Prolific offender work

- Good coordination between enforcement agencies (quick action)
 - Introduction of ReVOII (Repeat Violent Offender Intervention Initiative)
2. What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?
- Multi-agency coordination re: reintegration (prevent release to shelter)
 - Multi-crown/multi-jurisdictional coordination of offender location (offence vs. breach)
 - Think and plan longer term (beyond election cycles)
 - Location and size of housing development vs. neighbourhood design
 - Anxiety and discomfort around visible substance use – communication and education
 - Communicate results of requested actions
 - Enhancement of accountability to judiciary on high-risk offenders
 - Mandatory/court-order treatment
 - Understand who does what (levels of government)
 - Communicating mental health act
 - Education: anti-stigma
 - Clarity to understand the issues and government response
 - Early intervention/prevention and education (school-age) to build positive relationships with police
 - Regulation of pawn shops coordinated with RCMP
 - Improved access to Indigenous justice systems and representation
 - Systemic look at issues—won't be solved by the Ministry
 - Educating on the causes of issues – intergenerational trauma
 - Aligning drug vs. public alcohol consumption enforcement
 - Communicating prolific offender information (majority caused by a small group) and actions to address
 - Less shelters and more housing
3. Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?
- Justice system needs to take a deeper look at individual files; not a quick glance at the current offence
 - Encampment strategy
 - Sobering centre
 - Detox centre
 - Community mental health court
 - Further decriminalization options
 - Mandatory treatment
 - Accountability of serious offences within the courts

- CSO's achieving Peace Officer status
- Communication on decriminalization (awareness/education) – currently a lack of clarity with the general public
- Support and advocate for enforcement roles to be within schools for education/awareness/prevention
- Long-term vision with no political view
- Police and enforcement staffing
- 24-hour wrap-around services for shelters and housing
- Supervised consumption and safe supply

TABLE 3: Management of Streets and Public Spaces

1. What's working well?

- Willingness to collaborate among agencies, City, etc.
- Breaking down of silos, more collaboration across sectors
- Seek innovation and solutions
- Empathy and understanding of learning issues
- Education on how and why people end up in certain circumstances
- CPTED principles
- Increased outreach teams
- Increased CSO hours
- Addition of low-income housing
- Patios create vibrancy Downtown
- Densification of people in streets
- Creating deterrents (having more people in the street)
- Clean Team program, CAP Team, George with the Mustard Seed
- City/BC Housing MOU – more strategic planning
- Coordinate access – community care model
- Assisting people in need
- Shelter coordination to reduce loss of services (bans)

2. What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Centralized database for individuals – agencies and front-line resources
- Create partnerships to implement projects
- Consultation
- Public Health workshop to streamline services and identify gaps
- Public communication between agencies
- Data sharing
- Shared successes

- Collab-authority – what to do to make it safe for people
 - Jurisdictional challenges
 - Outcome focused conversation
 - SMART strategic planning
 - Coordinated focus for agencies (funding)
 - Money best suited for outcomes – team approach
 - More housing/low barrier needs – longer-term housing
 - Easily accessible
 - Accessibility/walkability – active transportation
 - Reduce banning of people accessing services
 - Work with people to learn how to access
 - Opportunities for peer programming
 - North Shore shelter
 - Increase sense of safety outside Downtown
 - Diversify specialized programs
 - Communicate and educate the public about mental health facilities (offer tours)
 - Everyone has a right to occupy public spaces
 - Rights to treatment
3. Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?
- Decriminalization
 - Negative outcomes not fully considered
 - Positive outcomes (improve understanding of trauma, reduce stigma, shift mindset to understand drug use is a disease) need to be better communicated
 - Consultation with local government
 - Housing
 - Better lighting/cleanliness
 - Team of lobbyists to senior government (municipal government)
 - Detox/treatment/wraparound care beds/housing/recovery
 - Consider closing Victoria Street to vehicles
 - Create vibrant community in summer
 - Inside day space in multiple areas of City
 - City Council get along
 - Collaborative modeling
 - Specialized programs

TABLE 4: Crime Prevention

1. What's working well?

- Available crime prevention programs
- Going to groups to present on programs
- Point of contact
- Bringing agencies/stakeholders together to work on the challenges
- Engaged Block Watch groups are effective
- Inter-agency collaboration and partnerships
- CSO presence helps, make more of it!
- Increased CSO responsibilities providing big benefit
- Out-of-the-box thinking is innovative
- Responsibilities for enforcement are clear(er)
- Responsive, extended hours helpful
- Densification increases people on the street and reduces issues
- CPTED info valuable
- Prolific offender program
- Victoria St. security efforts – RCMP presence
- Certain security efforts (e.g. camera @ 7-11) has very positive effects (not perfect)
- Accessibility of contact to report issues
- Outreach programs and partnerships with other agencies

2. What can we do to improve the coordination of efforts and resources?

- Communication/promote crime prevention programs
- Monitor and evaluate communication strategies
- How do you engage passive residents?
- Increase stats reporting
- Improve resident engagement with crime prevention programs – Block Watch
- Get the info out further and to the right people/agencies
- More crime prevention tools – e.g. bike lockers
- Increase residents confidence that reporting issues results in action
- Increase ease to get a Block Watch group formed
- Increase funding/grant programs to bring residents together
- Intergenerational/integrated communities
- Promote CPTED and other programs to relevant groups
- Common database
- Continue to promote program successes and efforts (e.g. prolific offender program)
- Communicate stats for education

- Recruitment strategies for enforcement groups
 - Coordination with CAP Team, outreach teams, and other groups
 - Increase BIAs to reach further out into community
3. Where do we need to target our advocacy efforts to senior government?
- Address 'catch & release' challenges
 - More lobbying from provincial government to federal government (e.g. enforcement resources)
 - More enforcement resources – e.g., speeding, increase RCMP presence
 - Increased roles and responsibilities of CSO
 - Incentives for crime prevention programs
 - Increase affordable housing and education
 - Private/public CCTV (closed circuit television)
 - Advocate for funding for private CCTV/public CCTV
 - Increase CSO abilities to work to address social and safety issues
 - RCMP recruitment strategies to increase staffing levels
 - Collaboration between provincial ministries to address issues
 - Increased funding for various crime prevention initiatives
 - Increased education and awareness about crime prevention/safety in schools (school-age)
 - Increase and distribute the roles and responsibilities for enforcement groups to share the load