

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL  
ON  
SOCIAL PLAN PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the Social Plan planning framework, which will be used to guide the 2009 Kamloops Social Plan review and update.

**COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

This report supports Council's strategic priorities and areas of focus regarding:

- **Governance and Accountability**
  - Community Engagement: We are committed to engaging and connecting with Kamloops residents and stakeholders.
  - External Relationships: We understand the importance of maintaining and improving key relationships.
- **Livability**
  - Healthy Community: We foster an environment that supports and promotes healthy living through recreation, community, and social connection.
  - Housing: We focus on improving diversity and access throughout the housing continuum.
  - Inclusivity: We are committed to supporting inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility in our community.
  - Safety: We recognize the importance of a safe and secure community.
- **Vibrant Economy**
  - Partnerships: We continue to nurture partnerships with key agencies and organizations.

**SUMMARY**

The Kamloops Social Plan review and update will be a three-phase process that includes background research and analysis of social infrastructure, community visioning and engagement, and development of a draft and final plan. City staff will engage Council at key points throughout the project. The final output of the process will be a comprehensive plan that supports the City and community partners in utilizing a strategic, holistic, and coordinated approach to help address social and community issues.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**For Council information only.**

## SUPPORTING COUNCIL AND CORPORATE DIRECTION

- Kamloops Social Plan, 2009
- Food and Urban Agriculture Plan, 2015
- Affordable Housing Strategy, 2018
- Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy, 2018
- August 13, 2019, Regular Council Meeting - Council authorized \$40,000 to develop a new Kamloops Social Plan
- Community Child Care Planning Program, 2020
- Housing Needs Assessment Final Report, 2020
- February 15, 2022, Regular Council Meeting - Council authorized staff to submit an application for \$25,000 to the Union of BC Municipalities under the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program to support the review and update of the Kamloops Social Plan

## DISCUSSION

The City is initiating a review and update process for the Kamloops Social Plan. The social planning and community development sector has evolved significantly since the plan was developed in 2009. Social movements; continued advocacy; and collective efforts related to truth and reconciliation, gender and identity, and diversity and inclusion have led to progressive change and increased community awareness. However, existing crises related to homelessness and housing affordability have broadened in scope and impact, and new crises related to the toxic drug supply, mental health, and extreme climate events have emerged and placed significant pressures on the social infrastructure of communities.

Social infrastructure assets include social and affordable housing, shelters, schools, daycares, seniors' homes, youth centres, hospitals, treatment facilities, community centres, and other spaces and programs that provide health and/or social services to meet the needs of community members. While BC municipalities do not generally have the mandate to build or operate most social infrastructure assets in community, municipalities play an important role in facilitating, coordinating, and convening efforts and resources to address social issues.

The closure of storefronts and emptying of the public realm during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to an increased visibility of social issues, including homelessness and mental illness. The increasing community focus on social issues that followed has led to a corresponding increased expectation of municipal involvement to address these issues. Many municipalities, including the City of Kamloops, have expanded their social mandate by directing additional resources towards urgent response efforts.

The Kamloops Social Plan review and update will be a three-phase process that includes background research and analysis of social infrastructure, community visioning and engagement, and development of a draft and final plan. The three phases of the project are described below.

### **Phase One - Background Research and Social Infrastructure Gap Analysis**

Phase one will begin by consolidating and adding to relevant work completed by City staff in 2017, 2019, and 2020, including reviews of promising social planning practices from

comparable jurisdictions and prior engagement on implementation of the 2009 Social Plan. Phase one will also involve identification and systems mapping of social infrastructure assets in community with a focus on places and programs that provide health and/or social services to meet the needs of community members. Relevant 2021 Census data and other available and applicable datasets will be used to establish a community profile and to identify current need and demand for social infrastructure. The City will engage consultants as appropriate to complete this work. This phase of the process will help the City, community partners, relevant government agencies, external funders, and other stakeholders use a more targeted and data-driven approach to address gaps in the city's social infrastructure and to apply evidence-based solutions to social issues affecting community.

### **Phase Two - Community Visioning**

Phase two will begin with engagement to identify the community's vision for the social landscape in Kamloops for the coming years. Engagement activities will feature public and stakeholder discussions on intersecting social topic areas and issues, including social and affordable housing, homelessness, childcare, accessibility, food security, mental health and substance use, diversity and inclusion, truth and reconciliation, gender and identity, poverty reduction, equitable neighbourhoods, climate justice, and community resiliency. The City will provide a mix of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities while also utilizing the City's Let's Talk platform and social media channels to promote the project and share information. Feedback received during the phase two engagement activities will be captured in a summary report of key themes.

### **Phase Three - Draft and Final Plan**

In Phase three, City staff will draw from promising and innovative practices, the social infrastructure gap analysis, the community visioning process, and technical input from staff and relevant stakeholders to create a draft Social Plan. The draft plan will capture the community's vision, clarify the city's role in addressing social issues under the various social topic areas noted above, and identify strategies and actions to help address current and emerging needs in the city's social infrastructure. City staff will engage Council and the community on the draft plan to assess if the plan "gets it right" and to identify any red flags or key items that may be missing. City staff will make revisions as and where needed and bring the final plan back to Council for authorization.

### **Schedule**

The intent will be to initiate phase one activities immediately, conduct phase two engagement during winter 2022/2023, and complete phases one and two by spring 2023. The phase one social infrastructure analysis can largely be completed at the same time as the community visioning process. The intent will be to develop the draft plan during spring and summer 2023, conduct engagement on the draft plan in fall 2023, and bring the final plan to Council for authorization by the end of 2023. Given the Social and Community Development Section's involvement in the City's emergency support services (ESS) program, this proposed schedule is subject to change pending the scale, frequency, and duration of emergency response events and associated ESS activations.

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**Kamloops Social Plan Review and Update - Project Schedule**

	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
<b>Phase 1</b>						
<b>Phase 2</b>						
<b>Phase 3</b>						

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The City will engage consultants to support the social infrastructure mapping and gap analysis activities in phase one, components of the community engagement process in phase two, and development of the draft plan in phase three. City staff will provide project management for these activities and will lead all other project activities, including the broader community engagement process and development of the final draft of the Social Plan. Council-approved funding in the amount of \$57,000 has been set aside to support the development of an updated Kamloops Social Plan. The City has also successfully received \$25,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities under the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program to support the review and update of the Kamloops Social Plan.

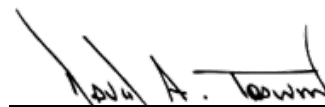
Pending a successful application from BC Healthy Communities Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program, the \$25,000 grant will be used to support a project that will provide an analysis of age-friendly services and recommendations that will inform strategies and actions within the updated Social Plan.

**COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The Social and Community Development Section will work with the Communications and Community Engagement Division to develop a communications strategy for this project.



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