

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with information re. Elliot Lake's Community Safety and Well-being Plan

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report of the Special Projects manager dated June 4, 2021 be received;

AND THAT Council approve the Community Safety And Well-being for submission to the Ministry Of The Solicitor General.

AND THAT Council direct staff to work with the community partners listed in the Community Safety and Well-Being plan to put into motion the 3 initiatives listed in the plan.



Steve Antunes
Special Projects Manager



Daniel Gagnon
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

As noted in the previous report regarding the preparation of the Plan, Section 143 (Part XI) of the Police Services Act was adopted in 2019. Section 143 is entitled Community Safety & Well-Being Plans (CSWB) and deals with matters related to preparation, adoption, reporting and revisions of the plans.

The legislation requires each Municipal Council to prepare and adopt, by resolution, a Community Safety & Well-being Plan. This was to be initially completed by January 1, 2021, but due to COVID limitations, the deadline was extended to July 1.

The plans are required to be prepared by a multi-sectoral advisory committee comprised of representation from the police service board and other local service providers in health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services. The Elliot Lake CSWB Plan Advisory Committee members are:

Mayor Dan Marchisella – Police Service Board Chair

Shelley Watt Proulx - Executive Director Counselling Centre of East Algoma

Deborah Dubois –Supervisor, Child Protection & Children's Services- Children's Aid Society of Algoma

Ryan Forsyth - Vice Principal -Elliot Lake Secondary School

Tyler Sturgeon - Detachment Commander - Ontario Provincial Police, East Algoma Detachment

Rob Walsh – Staff Sargent - Ontario Provincial Police, East Algoma Detachment

Fundamentals of a Community Safety & Well-Being Plan

According to the province, the goal of Community Safety & Well-Being planning is “to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.” To achieve this, the intent is to develop plans that redirect stakeholder efforts and resources towards proactive investments while avoiding, where possible, reactionary, incident-driven responses. As per the Police Services Act, a community safety and well-being plan is required to:

- identify risk factors in the municipality or First Nation, including, without limitation, systemic discrimination and other social factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose and suicide and any other prescribed risk factors;
- identify which risk factors the municipality or First Nation will treat as a priority to reduce;
- identify strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors, including providing new services, changing existing services, improving the integration of existing services or coordinating existing services in a different way;
- set out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce;



Furthermore, legislation requires consultation in the preparation of a community safety and well-being plan. Specifically, the council are mandated to consulting with the following:

- The advisory committee;
- Members of the public
- Community organizations
- Any other consultation required by regulation.

Due to COVID restrictions, having a large scale and multiple consultations was difficult. Staff held 1 public consultation on May 19th. The input from the public on this consultation was very valuable and led to some good additions to the final plan.

ANALYSIS

Elliot Lake's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan outlines the following:

- The principles of the plan
- The Advisory Committee
- A community overview
- What's already being done in our community to increase resident safety and well being
- A breakdown of Elliot Lake's vulnerable populations
- A safety and 2 well-being initiatives

The safety initiative that the committee chose to pursue is the enhancement of services to survivors of sexual assault. This is primarily focused on the ability to have a sexual assault evidence kit (SAEK) collected locally. As noted in the plan, this will eliminate the need for a survivor travel 2.5 hours each way to get a kit collected post assault.

The well-being portions are more community based. The first initiative addresses the City's isolated seniors. The actions in this initiative involve:

- The opening of the City's new arts and recreation facilities
- Digital and hard copy bulletin boards for seniors to have access to listings of group events
- "Friendly Visitors" check in service
- Promotion of services at the Renaissance Center
- Establish a mentorship program with youth



The second well-being strategy is a youth engagement initiative. The actions suggested to take on this challenge are:

- The development of an awareness campaign focusing on youth inactivity and the lack of resources available to low income youth
- The establishment of a rental or donation system for recreational items for youth initiatives
- Fostering of a youth activity group
- Have the city's recreation department establish low/no cost programming of youth programs
- Introduction of a mentorship program between seniors and youth

Upon Council's adoption of the plan, staff will make the submission to the Ministry and also make the plan accessible to the outside world both in print and electronically.

As outlined in the plan, staff would serve as a resource to the community partners to execute the plan's initiatives.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial impact is limited to the staff time within multiple departments to establish programs and resources as listed in the initiatives.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This plan aligns with the following strategic goals:

- Continue to foster retirement opportunities
- Customer Service Excellence.
- Provide activities and promote healthy lifestyles through recreation for all age groups
- Support youth organizations

SUMMARY

Staff is recommending that Council adopt the plan and direct staff to support the initiatives outlined within it.

