

# An Emerging Vision - Citizen Social Dev Goals



*To achieve our sustainability vision for the future, Prince George's social development goals are to...*

- a. Have a clear **identity** that the community can be proud of, with a strong downtown and strong connection to its rivers and natural surroundings. *(Community Identity)*
- b. Be a friendly and supportive community that has opportunities to **connect** and a vibrant cultural life rich in the arts. *(Community Connections)*
- c. Be a community where diversity is welcomed and improved educational and social services are **accessible** and affordable. *(Equity and Inclusion)*
- d. Have a **safe** and secure community, with a focus on downtown safety. *(Safety and Security)*
- e. Be a **healthy** and active community that offers abundant recreational opportunities and access to local food. *(Health and Wellness)*
- f. Offer accessible, affordable and safe **housing**. *(Housing)*



*Enabled by:*

## 1. Strengthening Communities

- Actively support the building of community capacity
- Encourage participation in communities and government
- Increase access to community space

## 2. Building Capacity for a Comprehensive Social Infrastructure

- Identify areas for strategic investment in social development
- Increase the effectiveness and co-ordination of planning activities
- Extend social monitoring and reporting
- Evaluate program success
- Seek more fair and flexible sources for city revenue

## 3. Expanding Civic Leadership and Partnership

- Work towards a joint strategy for social development in the surrounding region
- Work with other municipalities to develop a national urban agenda
- Strengthen the city's role as advocate

# Social Development

## Most Relevant Goals

- accessible, affordable, safe housing
- healthy community, good recreation, local food
- safe, secure community
- friendly, supportive community, strong culture
- a clear identity
- diverse, fair and accessible



## Current Initiatives

### Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces (WICWP)

As the result of a partnership between IMSS, IPG, and the Chamber of Commerce, the primary goal of WICWP is to support inclusive, welcoming and vibrant communities where immigrants can realize their full potential, racism is eliminated, and cultural diversity is valued and celebrated. The program funds initiatives that will foster welcoming communities by building capacity building at all levels, developing broad, long-term partnerships across sectors and stakeholder groups, and serving as a catalyst for systemic change.

### Prolific Offender Management Pilot Project

Prince George is the pilot site of the Prolific Offender Management Project. The project brings together resources from enforcement agencies, regional health authorities, housing services, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Ministry of Children and Family Development and Adult Forensic Psychiatric Services.

The project uses increased supervision and timely intervention with a small group of prolific offenders to address the issues that fuel criminal activity. These interventions can include: referrals to drug treatment programs; seeing mental health professionals on a regular basis; and referrals to job or housing programs.

### Homeless Intervention Pilot Project

The goal of this project is to reduce chronic homelessness. The Homelessness Intervention Project will align several government ministries, health authorities, the non-profit sector and other agencies that address chronic homelessness and establish an immediate integrated homelessness intervention project.

Integrated, cross-agency teams will find housing and support services for chronically homeless people through coordinating resources, data, policy and client information. Initially, the outreach teams will be tasked with two basic goals: to immediately reduce homelessness in these communities and to create a more integrated, synchronized approach to the delivery of services to the homeless.

Over time, the government will put in place a management system with enhanced reporting that will enable communities to maximize and prioritize outreach, housing and support services for the chronically homeless. Through this approach, the communities will be in a better position to address the client population that is the most difficult to house: chronically homeless with severe mental health and addictions complications.



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## Current Initiatives

### Stone Soup

Stone Soup is a collaborative food security project which involves community agencies, the Aboriginal Friendship Centre, and focuses on the “most poor, most food deprived in the city”. It includes an action research project to identify the barriers to accessing healthy and affordable food, and to address issues that would speak to the community at large. Participatory research has led to a Community Food Action Assessment, while a community kitchen has opened in the Friendship Centre’s new lodge as well as kitchen facilities that can be accessed by other community groups.

### Communities that Care

Communities That Care (CTC) is a system that helps communities to engage in multi-level, multi-sectoral prevention planning and implement evidence-based programs. The program aims to prevent common youth problems (substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy, school drop-out, and mental health difficulties) and promote positive youth development. The approach has five phases, each accompanied by specific training sessions for community leaders and volunteers. The strategy supports communities in selecting and implementing existing evidence-based programmes that fit the risk profile of their community

### Beyond Homelessness Standing Committee

The Beyond Homelessness Standing Committee was formed by City Council following a delegation to Portland to examine the city’s successful Housing First Program. The Committee’s mandate is to work closely with others to eliminate homelessness by:

- helping to develop a strong community based vision for safe and affordable housing in the city;
- providing a structure to support integrated and coordinated response to housing and its related issues;
- developing a unique and made in Prince George model that demonstrates innovative and collaborative partnership in moving a community forward; and
- celebrating and supporting innovation and successful initiatives that are in place, in progress or emerging.

The Committee is also implementing a Downtown Clean and Safe program and supporting the development of a Downtown Health Centre and a mixed housing development.

**Comments and additions:**

## Implications

### Effectiveness:

- Many initiatives are beginning to use a collaborative, multi-agency approach to address root causes. Partnerships between government and local community organizations are particularly successful.
- Initiatives are addressing a number of the goal areas, and no longer operating in “silos”

### Future Risks:

- Funding remains a concern for social development, as the success of initiatives rely on long-term investment and support. Waning levels of interest from government in social sustainability is a constant threat.