

REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls

Date: July 18, 2023

Subject: 2022 Update – Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Recommendation

That Council adopt this Report to Council for information, on behalf of the work that has been completed by the Ear Falls / Red Lake Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Advisory Committee.

Background:

In 2019, the Province of Ontario required Ontario municipalities to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan for their respective municipality, along with the appointment of a multi-sectoral Advisory Committee, to implement strategies within the Plan.

The purpose of the CSWB Plan is twofold:

- 1) to identify risks within our community; identify strategies to reduce these risks and set measurable outcomes - for the *safety and wellbeing* of our residents; and
- 2) to alleviate OPP/EMS calls for services related to mental health.

The Township of Ear Falls and Municipality of Red Lake share multiple service providers (OPP, Firefly, Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital, NWHU, school boards etc.) which resulted in the Councils of the Municipality of Red Lake and the Township of Ear Falls adopting a *joint* Community Safety and Well-Being Plan in December, 2020.

Strategies were identified in the plan specific to the communities of Ear Falls and Red Lake, based on consultation with members of the public, including youth, members of racialized groups and First Nations.

RISKS

The main risks to our respective communities are as follows:

- 1) Substance Abuse Issues
- 2) Mental Health and Cognitive Issues
- 3) Housing insecurity
- 4) Physical Health Issues
- 5) Financial insecurity, unemployment, insufficient education
- 7) Emotional and sexual violence

- 8) Unsupportive family environment
- 9) Criminal involvement

These risks were identified through stakeholder, focus group sessions/interviews (including Advisory Committee members, community and Indigenous organizations), public surveys and workshops.

STRATEGIES

Since the plan's adoption, the Advisory Committee has set meetings a minimum of 4 times per year, as well as in the form of implementation group meetings, as required, to work towards the completion of eight (8) priority projects (*strategies*) identified in the workplan as follows:

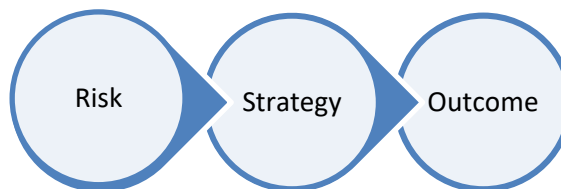
- 1) Establish inclusion/active anti-racism strategy
- 2) Establish Community Safety and Well-Being community engagement plan
- 3) Establish a Detox Centre (5 years) and Safe Bed Program (1 Year) in Red Lake
- 4) Establish a Managed Alcohol Program in Red Lake/Ear Falls
- 5) Develop and implement proactive Situation Table protocols
- 6) Establish a Youth Drop-in Centre
- 7) Establish affordable, assisted living facility for seniors
- 8) Develop and Implement Community Programming & Promotion Strategy

Of the eight (8) priority projects identified, to date, three (3) projects have been achieved due to the collaborative efforts of community partners:

- ✓ Develop and implement proactive Situation Table protocols
- ✓ Establish a Youth Drop-in Centre
- ✓ Safe Bed Program

The Committee continues to work towards implementation of the five (5) remaining projects and will move onto other priority projects identified in the workplan once these goals have been deemed achieved collectively by the implementation group & Advisory Committee.

THE CSWB PLAN IN ACTION



Mental Health (Risk)

Mental Health was identified as a *priority risk factor* with the CSWB Plan:

"Hospitalizations due to mental health issues are higher in Red Lake/Ear Falls than in Ontario as a whole. Incident rates of self-harm have been steadily increasing in the NWHU among 10 to 24 year olds. From 2011- 2015 it doubled, with female incidents higher than male. There are 3 times the hospitalizations due to self-harm and 1.7 times the hospitalizations are related to mental health and behavioural disorders". (Rates per 10,000 population 10-24 years of age, per year, 2008-2015, Source: NWHU, Child and Youth Mental Health Outcomes Report, 2017)

Youth Drop-In Centre (Strategy)

The Red Lake Youth Drop-in Centre, serves youth ages 15-24, creating a safe and welcoming space where youth can develop healthy coping strategies and build positive relationships with peers, while breaking down barriers and providing an avenue for access to services (life and employment skills, mental health programming/counselling, cultural activities).

The Ear Falls Youth Drop-in Centre was active prior to the adoption of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and is supported by volunteers in the community. Youth ages 10 – 16 are permitted to participate in the drop-in which operates during the school year. The centre's objectives are similar to those described above.

Result (Measurables/Outcome)

The Red Lake Youth Centre opened its doors on August 19, 2022. There are currently 15 regular attendees at the Red Lake Youth Drop-In Centre. Surprisingly, 12 tweens are also currently accessing the facility immediately after school between the hours of 2:30 pm and 5:00 pm. The NWHU was visiting regularly once per month up until the month of June.



Financial Considerations / Budget Impacts

The organizations represented on the CSWB Plan Advisory Committee support these priority projects within the scope of their individual mandates and financial and/or in-kind means.

With respect to the Township of Ear Falls, we have provided to date, the following financial/in-kind support:

- a) Youth Drop-In Centre – We provide the space and programming for the center in Ear Falls.

- b) Administrative Support – The Township of Ear Falls and Municipality of Red Lake provide administrative support (agenda / minute preparation) and the Clerks of the municipalities alternate these duties annually. The Clerks are also vice-chairs of the committee in the absence of the Chair.

Clerk Treasurer Administrator: _____