

# Shape Your Future Victoria



## Community Well-being

### Definition and description

**Community well-being** is dependent on the well-being of each and every member of a community. It is only possible when the basic needs of all citizens are met in a way that maintains human dignity and each person has the opportunity to develop in their own capacity. Indicators of community well-being include equity, social inclusion, public safety and personal security, adaptation to gradual change and resiliency in challenging times.

### Why is this topic important?

In a sustainable community, **basic needs** are met through equal access to adequate food, housing, income, health services, learning, arts and culture, sports, recreation and mobility.

There is respect for social diversity and services are provided to assist vulnerable groups including people with a physical disability, mental illness or addictions. Sustainable communities also build on local resources, adapt to gradual change and are resilient to sudden threats, such as disasters or shortages in energy supply.

There are two types of community resources: **individual capacity** and **community capacity**. Developing the skills and potential of individuals leads to personal well-being. Opportunities for meaningful and stable work, education, creativity, physical activity and citizen engagement can help with the development of personal well-being. Stronger individuals can help to build a stronger community with the capacity to ensure all citizens feel safe, basic needs are met, and there are secure local sources of food, energy and materials.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

*Ideas and Options for the Future*

*June 25 and 26 - Topic Insert*



# Public Input on Community Well-Being

<b>Proposed Goal 1 From Public Input</b> <i><b>Build Community on the Sense of Belonging Between Citizens</b></i>	
<b>Direction:</b> <i><b>Holistic Planning</b></i>	<b>Direction:</b> <i><b>Intergenerational Neighbourhoods</b></i>
<b>Ideas and Examples</b>	<b>Ideas and Examples</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City is a community that embraces all residents and ensures inclusion for all.</li> <li>• Tolerant community.</li> <li>• City takes into account people with differing needs.</li> <li>• Use comprehensive planning approach.</li> <li>• Communicate best practices for creating inclusive and accessible neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• Integrate cultural, seniors, special needs, etc. lenses into development consideration.</li> <li>• People are integrated into mainstream society.</li> <li>• Community accepts services of marginalized people in the neighbourhoods. Less stigma, more acceptance and respectful support.</li> <li>• Maintain and grow multiculturalism.</li> <li>• Services for new Canadians, young people and urban aboriginal peoples.</li> <li>• Attract more First Nations and immigrant families.</li> <li>• Greater ethnic diversity. More ethnic food stores and restaurants.</li> <li>• Disability friendly built environment (barrier free).</li> <li>• All families feel that they belong to a place that values children (e.g. appropriate events, welcoming businesses, etc).</li> <li>• Embrace our seniors and children as full parts of our community (and not as isolated boxes).</li> <li>• More things for young adults to do.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed socio-economic neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Socially heterogeneous city with a mix of incomes, lifestyles.</li> <li>• More diverse age spectrum in the city.</li> <li>• Mix of young and old for more diverse demographic profile – ties to community amenities and public realm for young and old.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood based centres for pre-school daycare and seniors, in schools and close to where people live.</li> <li>• Co-locate childcare centres in nursing homes (e.g. 24 hour drop-in daycare).</li> <li>• Safe and accessible routes to get to places – strollers and scooters have the same needs for lights, crossing, sidewalks, etc.</li> <li>• Play spaces for children that are unstructured.</li> <li>• Intergenerational pilot programs.</li> <li>• Surrogate grandparents.</li> <li>• Events where meals are shared are always good.</li> <li>• Young adults reading to seniors.</li> <li>• Music events for a mix of generations.</li> </ul>

<b>Related Victoria Sustainability Framework Subthemes and Goals</b>	
<b>Inclusion:</b>	<i>Victoria is a place where all people come to live, work and play, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, culture, income, sexual orientation, ability and family status.</i>

## Public Input on Community Well-Being

<b>Proposed Goal 2 From Public Input</b> <b><i>Connect People to Communities Through Activities and Resources</i></b>	
<b>Direction:</b> <b><i>Community Centres</i></b>	<b>Direction:</b> <b><i>Social Connectivity</i></b>
<b>Ideas and Examples</b>	<b>Ideas and Examples</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the profile and role of community centres – more of a neighbourhood hub, or “go-to” place.</li> <li>• Community centres help to build community.</li> <li>• Improve community centres as recreational and social hubs: additions to buildings; procure access to spaces in other facilities (e.g. school gyms).</li> <li>• Stronger relationship between community centres and school board and with community as a whole.</li> <li>• Use existing community centres to help immigrants feel part of their neighbourhood).</li> <li>• Make them available for other non-profits to use.</li> <li>• Develop them as referral centre for information about services across the City of Victoria.</li> <li>• 24/7 drop in centres to enable people who work evenings and nights (similar to in China).</li> <li>• Hold more information sessions / public processes in community centres and facilities (e.g. schools).</li> <li>• Make it easier for seniors and young families to understand where to go for services.</li> <li>• More accessible services in terms of physical location, frequency, availability etc.</li> <li>• Built a network of community centres that is City-championed and community led with everyone at the table (i.e. City staff and every/all centres).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More opportunities for Victoria’s different communities to interact.</li> <li>• Increase number of participatory activities – public events are passive and do not promote interaction.</li> <li>• Volunteer driven events 52 weeks/year.</li> <li>• Recognize that a lack of distinct ethnic neighbourhoods means that cultural communities interact differently in Victoria and that they may need more support.</li> <li>• Focus on neighbourhood development, across cultural barriers, so that everyone in Victoria feels like this is home.</li> <li>• More festivals to celebrate City’s diversity</li> <li>• Create more spaces to gather and bump into your neighbours.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood gathering places and spaces (e.g. Fernwood Square), hubs that can be shared.</li> <li>• Network of neighbourhood hubs.</li> <li>• Use schools as community hubs.</li> <li>• A Victoria-specific model of density based on human scale and social interaction: outdoor Café seating on sidewalk; more ground-oriented development; more mixed use.</li> <li>• Built form that fosters interaction.</li> </ul>

<b>Related Victoria Sustainability Framework Subthemes and Goals</b>	
<b><i>Social Interaction:</i></b>	<i>Victorians know their neighbours, are connected to communities of interest and have diverse opportunities for social interaction.</i>
<b><i>Human Capacity:</i></b>	<i>Victorians can support themselves and their neighbours in difficult times.</i>

## Public Input on Community Well-Being

Proposed Goal 3 From Public Input <i>Assist Citizens to Thrive</i>	
Direction: <i>Equal Opportunities</i>	Direction: <i>Inclusive, Community-Based Service Node</i>
Ideas and Examples	Ideas and Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the determinants of health approach – practice</li> <li>• Use determinants of health – practice as values.</li> <li>• The objective is that all people can meet both their basic needs and to contribute to their community.</li> <li>• Equitable distribution of incomes/social service delivery throughout the city.</li> <li>• Free public activities for families.</li> <li>• More events to make local businesses accessible to low-income (e.g. tourist in your own town).</li> <li>• Accessible galleries, museums, cultural programs – have monthly free-day</li> <li>• Recreation programs broadly accessible.</li> <li>• There is a need for a creative definition of “recreation”. For some, “recreation” is any kind of physical activity (e.g. to reduce obesity) not sports.</li> <li>• Lots of seniors who are living in poverty and need to have their basic needs met (e.g. food, shelter).</li> <li>• Currently seniors’ facilities do a lot that is not in their mandate (e.g. provide meals to seniors in poverty; try to assist those with dementia).</li> <li>• Prepare for a much older population with targeted services and new accessibility standards.</li> <li>• Lifestyle counseling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create hubs for service delivery.</li> <li>• Municipal, private sector, health and other government services are integrated with the end goal of an excellent quality of life for Victorians.</li> <li>• Create one hub where family services are co-located.</li> <li>• Think creatively about how services can be co-located to make use of existing facilities (e.g. VIHA nurse holds clinics at neighbourhood house).</li> <li>• Neighbourhood health centres for coordinated health care delivery with a preventative focus.</li> <li>• Strong network of neighbourhood centres that deliver a full spectrum of community and health services around the clock (child, senior care).</li> <li>• Possibly use schools for the centres, don’t sell them.</li> <li>• Families in need: develop a one-stop-shop for assessing / connecting families with services. Currently they go to multiple offices to meet needs.</li> </ul>

Related Victoria Sustainability Framework Subthemes and Goals	
<b>Poverty:</b>	<i>All Victorians have income and access to public services to be able to flourish and live with dignity.</i>
<b>Health, Care, Wellness and Harm Reduction:</b>	<i>Victorians are healthy and have a network of health related amenities, facilities and programs to promote wellness and meet the needs of all levels of mental and physical care.</i>

## Existing Policies on Community Well-Being

Victoria Sustainability Framework (2010)		
<b>Inclusion:</b>	<i>Victoria is a place where all people come to live, work and play, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, culture, income, sexual orientation, ability and family status.</i>	
Official Community Plan (1995)	Downtown Core Area Plan (draft 2010)	Other Plans / Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deal with discriminatory barriers, including sexism, disabilities, racism and homophobia and promote the full and equal participation of all citizens in the social, political, economic and cultural life of the City.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through public awareness and education, pursue the development of nurturing environments for all people, including those with disabilities, throughout their lives.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with youth-serving agencies, community organizations, and established youth groups.</li> </ul>		

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Official Community Plan (1995)	Downtown Core Area Plan (draft 2010)	Other Plans / Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design communities with sense of place, neighbourliness and sense of belonging.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the development of a major First Nations Cultural and Learning Centre in the Core Area in concert with First Nations, senior levels of government, and business and community partners as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbourhood Development Policy</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the need for new community services and facilities on an ongoing basis, as part of the monitoring strategy for the Downtown Core Area Plan.</li> </ul>	

## Existing Policies on Community Well-Being

Victoria Sustainability Framework (2010)		
<b>Human Capacity:</b>	<i>Victorians can support themselves and their neighbours in difficult times.</i>	
<b>Poverty:</b>	<i>All Victorians have income and access to public services to be able to flourish and live with dignity.</i>	
<b>Health, Care, Wellness and Harm Reduction:</b>	<i>Victorians are healthy and have a network of health related amenities, facilities and programs to promote wellness and meet the needs of all levels of mental and physical care.</i>	
Official Community Plan (1995)	Downtown Core Area Plan (draft 2010)	Other Plans / Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the City has a database for social needs analysis to develop policies responsive to the social needs of citizens and the changes in social mix within the neighbourhoods and the City at large.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the need for new community services and facilities on an ongoing basis, as part of the monitoring strategy for the Downtown Core Area Plan.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize the need for drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and special needs centres, such as group homes for disabled people requiring support services and crisis shelters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with regional partners and senior levels of government to explore establishing secure funding that will permit Our Place and other social service providers to provide round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week service to the street community as appropriate.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustain and enhance established residential care facilities and intermediate care facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the work of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.</li> </ul>	