



2026 | CITY OF VICTORIA | Community Safety, Wellbeing and Partnerships Department

Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

2026 Plan Implementation Highlights


1  March 12, 2026



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What is Community Safety?

- Community safety is a collaborative multi-sector approach to creating a secure, inclusive and supportive environment
- Community safety is achieved when all members of our community are and feel safe
 - Absence of harm and fear
 - Physical and social wellbeing
 - Social justice and equity
 - Access to resources
- Extends beyond traditional law enforcement to a shared quality responsibility for overall wellbeing, quality of life and social supports.

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Background

Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

- Prevention, intervention and response
- 99 recommendations across 8 sectors
- 11 priority actions directed by Council
 - July 2025 – September 2025 *resourcing & initiation*
 - October 2025 – February 2026 *rapid implementation*

Continuing Momentum in 2026

- Operationalizing actions through service delivery
 - Advocacy, piloting and testing
 - Identifying gaps and nurturing relationships
- Multiple city teams and community organizations play role in delivering on actions and achieving objectives

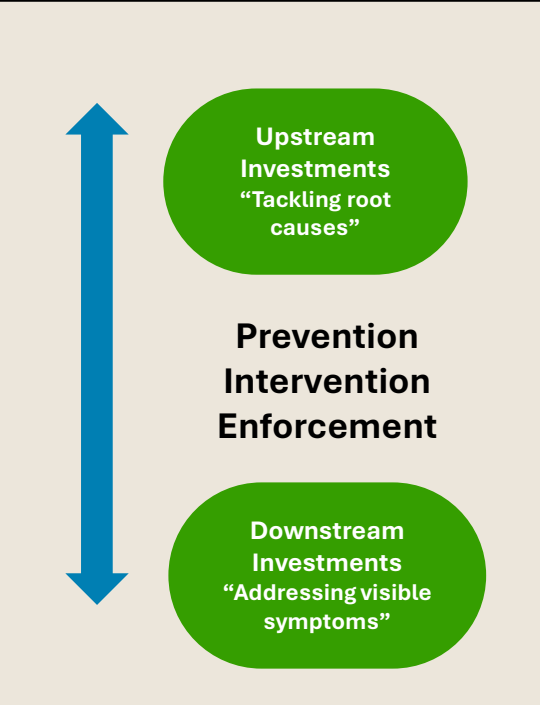


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Diverse Audiences & Strategies

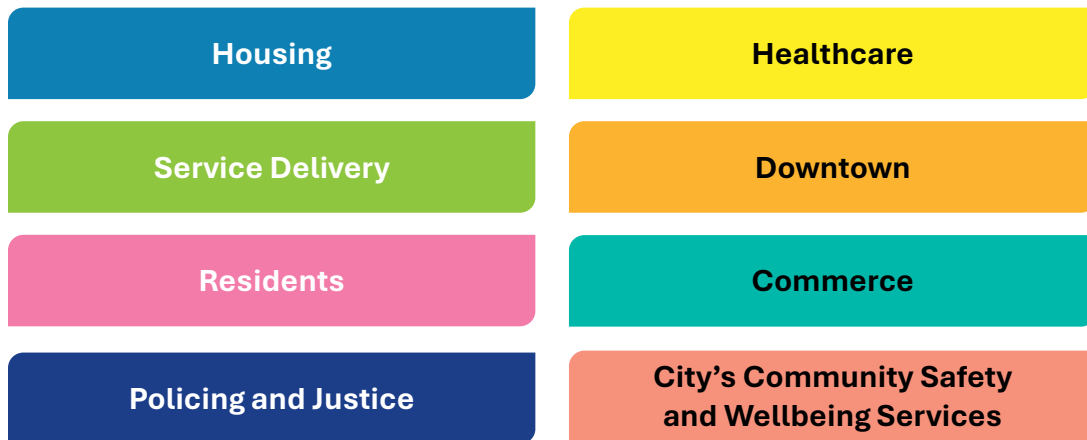
- Government / agency partners
- Service providers
 - Direct / supportive / peer-led
- Business owners / employees
- Community members including
 - Housed / unhoused / precariously housed
 - Individuals seeking detox, substance use, physical or mental health supports
 - Those impacted by trauma / abuse
 - Older adults, children, youth and young adults



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8 Sectors | 99 Recommendations



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Approach to Delivery

- Continual process of **implementing learning and adapting**
- Strive to **achieve multiple objectives** through each City investment
- Involve **trusted partners and agencies**; find continued ways to **engage those with lived and living experience**
- **Demonstrate leadership** in community, the region, the province
- **On-going advocacy role** by Council

Exploration / resourcing / solutions

Planning / design

Early implementation

Full implementation

Monitoring & adaptive management

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Implementation Philosophy



Investments:

- Informed by those with lived / living experience
- Fill gaps and catalyze action
- Leverage other funding sources

Relationships:

- Convene and collaborate

Implementation:

- Seize opportunities and multi-solve
- Respond to emerging or changing needs
- Create space for new ideas and roles

Demonstrating leadership while holding senior orders of government accountable

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Recap on 11 Priority Actions

- **Shifts in municipal service delivery**
Urban Clean Team, Community Safety & Bylaw Services, Emergency Management
- **Increased capacity to respond**
Public Works, Community Safety & Bylaw Services, Victoria Police, Service Providers
- **Additional housing and shelter solutions**
New and expanded shelter spaces, introduction of recovery housing
- **Capital Investments**
Zone-based, phased implementation of streetscape and public realm improvements
- **Expanded partnerships and on-the-ground solutions**
Prevention, intervention, and response initiatives with 25+ community organizations

Investments, programs and partnerships established in 2025 continue through 2026

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Recap on 11 Priority Actions | 7 months

Community Safety Wellbeing and Partnerships Department
[Downtown Street Ambassador Program](#)
 Expanded Housing Outreach and Relocation Support Team
[Downtown Neighbour Network](#)
 Indigenous and Youth Focused - Outreach & Transportation Support Programs
[Spark Program for Enhanced Youth Safety and Wellbeing](#)
 Increased public works streetscape cleaning programs
[Salvation Army – 13 additional shelter beds](#)
 Bridge Street Pathways Shelter – 34 new transitional beds
[Johnson Street Recovery Housing – 20 new Units](#)
 Rock Bay Landing – 30 additional shelter beds
[Enhanced Emergency Weather Response Program](#)
 Quadra Pedestrian Lighting, Pandora Median Restoration, Victoria Conservatory Music Plaza
[Two Community Safety Field Hubs](#)
 Additional resources for Community Safety & Bylaw Services and Victoria Police

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Plan Implementation 2026

- **The Plan is a catalyst for action, investment, partnership and advocacy**
 - Recommendations guide efforts
 - Evolution is expected to meet changing community needs
- **There is (and will continue to be) more work to do**
- **Staff are delivering on recommendations across all eight sectors**

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Plan Actions | Underway in 2026

- ✓ **Integrating CSW impact Statements into COTW reports**
- ✓ **Serving as a convener to help bring service providers together**
 - Providing administrative support to the Downtown Service Providers Network
 - Sponsoring 2026 Project Reconnect Event
 - Building partnerships through city-supported housing and sheltering solutions
- ✓ **Providing anti-hoarding supports and programming through Victoria Fire**
 - Partnership with Island Health HEAT program
- ✓ **Promoting city-wide events on CityVibe calendar – year round**
- ✓ **Conducting EDI reviews of different City programs and grants**
- ✓ **Delivering downtown public realm enhancements / amenities**
 - New public art including mural under JSB, Douglas Street Kiosks, Commercial Alley art panels

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Plan Actions | Underway in 2026

- ✓ **Delivering businesses-focused safety programming and supports**
 - Networks, training, assessments, and public information sessions
- ✓ **Improving and simplifying City housing support policies to make building all types of housing easier.**
 - Permit Fee Holiday
 - Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw review
 - Development Process Modernization
 - BC Housing Affordable Housing Projects
- ✓ **Undertaking targeted education and outreach with renters**
 - Focus on issues of tenancy rights, bylaw compliance, eviction prevention and financial literacy
- ✓ **Supporting the delivery of substance use and addiction workshops**
 - Partnership with Umbrella Society

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Plan Actions | Underway in 2026

- ✓ **Supporting multi-sectoral planning and response tables of decision makers**
 - Homelessness Response Leadership Table
 - Development Planning Advisory Committee
- ✓ **Working with partners to develop and maintain public-facing asset maps / service options**
 - Community infrastructure strategy
 - Community Mapping Atlas (emerging)
- ✓ **Encouraging people to spend time downtown, particularly in the evenings**
 - OUR DWTN program - including Victoria at Dusk event
 - Late night business options
 - Patio Program

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Plan Actions | Underway in 2026

- ✓ **Investing in late-night support teams to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of individuals enjoying late-night events or downtown businesses**
 - Partnership with Destination Greater Victoria & Good Night Out
- ✓ **Supporting community-led events and placemaking in neighbourhoods**
 - Expanded My Great Neighbourhood Grant program
- ✓ **Investing in active infrastructure and public transit**
 - Road safety programs (speed limit reductions, crosswalks, traffic calming)
 - Multi-modal infrastructure programs / Youth bus pass program
- ✓ **Revamp City business licensing processes**
 - Focus on addressing redundancies and improving the experience of people seeking or applying for permits

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Plan Actions | Underway in 2026

- ✓ **Updating internal databases about sites and services focused on health, safety and social services**
- ✓ **Expanding community partnerships focused on upstream protection / intervention**
 - Community Social Planning Council - Rent Bank Program
 - Restorative Justice Victoria – Service Delivery
 - Lived Experience Professional Network (emerging)
- ✓ **Expanding the urban forest tree canopy**
 - Partnership with Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- ✓ **Developing OCP monitoring and evaluation program**
 - Includes community safety and wellbeing metrics / indicators
- ✓ **Establishing a new Positive Transfer Housing initiative**

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Reflections and Next Steps

- **We are making progress – and delivering on Plan objectives**
 - Delivering solutions
 - Supporting positive flow
 - Increasing capacity
 - Responding to community needs
- **Continued efforts to listen, reflect and act with all members of the community**
- **Progress Reporting**
 - Regular website updates
 - Annual Report 2025
 - Official Community Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

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