



Social Planning Cowichan

Working collaboratively with the community to ensure a healthy, vibrant, and safe Cowichan Region.

What are our accomplishments and current initiatives?

A. Housing

- Homeless Shelter and Resource Center initiation – collaboration, community consultation, partnerships, site location, and funding.
- Inadequate Shelter Report (2007) – State of Cowichan Region, best practices and recommendations.
- Regional Affordable Housing Directorate established. Work to date:
 1. Speakers from Langford, Nanaimo, North Cowichan, CVRD and the Fraser Valley Housing Network);
 2. Community survey to determine specific needs;
 3. Secured funding for a researcher from Services Canada;
 4. Build an Affordable Housing Strategic Plan.

B. Community Well-Being

- Status of the Community Report (2006) – research on our community in the ten areas of Social Health and Visions 2020:
 - Arts, Culture & Recreation
 - Community Involvement
 - Economy & Employment
 - Education
 - Food Security
 - Health, Community & Social Services
 - Housing and the Built Environment
 - Natural Environment
 - Public Safety
 - Transportation
- Many organizations have used this report to access funding.



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- Feedback on Community Report (2007) – Services Canada funded researcher to consult with community groups and agencies to seek input on refining the report.
- Status of the Community Report Two (2008) –research is currently being conducted to update the report (Census 2006 statistics) and to break down the analysis to each community.

C. Child Care

- Child Care Report (2007) – State of Cowichan Region and Recommendations.
- Regional Child Care Task Force – Established, to date:
 1. Pending Early Childhood Education training in Duncan (Vancouver Island University, formerly Malaspina University-College);
 2. Collaborative partnerships on child care awareness, staff recruitment, training and retention.
- Provincial Government made aware of the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Crisis in Cowichan.

D. New Initiatives (2008)

- Community implications and planning for regional growth, including the aging population.
- Building on the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) social legacy of building strong cross cultural relationships and cultural harmony post Games; will celebrate multiculturalism in the Region.

E. Funding to Cowichan Region

- Provincial and Service Canada: Inadequate Shelter, Status of the Community Report, Social Health Researchers (eight funded positions to date).
- Provincial: Homeless Shelter.
- Pending: Vancouver Foundation for Barefoot in the Park (CSAC), BC Healthy Communities and Active for Living, Act Now for community forums and Status of the Community Two (2008).

Why should the CVRD continue to support us?

Without us...

- Single issue
- Silo planning, piecemeal approach
- Address symptoms
- Crisis management
- Anecdotal and interest based

With us...

- Big Picture
- Increased coordination and collaboration
- Address root causes
- Forward planning
- Evidence based research



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