

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022– 8:45 am**  
**HELD ELECTRONICALLY**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair	Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce	Brian Foote, Community Member
Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Karen Stanton, Manager of Long Range Planning & Community Safety / Staff Liaison	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, BIA
Holly Ferris, Social Development Coordinator	Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building and Regulator Enforcement
Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations	Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:**

Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP
Joanne Jefferson, Stólo Justice	Steve Roukema, Restorative Justice
Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative	Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Lum called the meeting to order at 8:45 am and provided territorial acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved / ) That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee  
Seconded ( held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved / ) That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held  
Seconded ( Wednesday, January 12, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

## 5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

### **Outreach Update - Community Integration and Coordination Program**

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP, provided a presentation regarding the Community Integration and Coordination Program (CICP). The program focuses on our most vulnerable population and those experiencing homelessness who have been having difficulty accessing services and not in a position to navigate the system themselves. The RCMP Community Response Team are involved in the daily foot patrols in the downtown area and see the challenges our vulnerable population are struggling with regarding accessing services.

The Community Integration and Coordination Program was launched approximately three months ago after the City of Chilliwack received funding through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for a one-year Outreach and Integration pilot project to support the provision of two outreach workers to work hand-in-hand in case management of individuals with elevated risk, often directly relating to substance use, mental health and homelessness.

Sergeant Vrolyk provided additional information with respect to the program, the Situation Table (Chilliwack Interagency Response Team) and successes in the first three months. Sergeant Vrolyk noted this approach is working in the community.

Co-Chair Lum thanked Sergeant Vrolyk for the presentation. He provided positive comment regarding the success of the program to-date; however, noted concern regarding the sustainability of the program and outreach workers. He commented how the qualitative data collected by the outreach workers will be very important in determining there is no duplication of services or services. and that he would like to use this opportunity to better shape our response to homelessness. Co-Chair Lum thanked staff for their hard work on this project and is excited to see more successes.

Co-Chair Mercer provided a brief background with respect to the work done for the past two years by the Integrated Community Safety Task Force (ICSTF) followed by the Community Safety Governance Committee's work-to-date, regarding advocating to Fraser Health for additional services in Chilliwack.

Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building and Regulatory Enforcement, is involved in the daily foot patrols and provided positive comment with respect to the Community Integration and Coordination Program.

Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association, was pleased with the presentation and is appreciative of the work done and hopes there will be continued funding for the program. Peter provided a brief background regarding his personal tragedy in 2015, and commented how important it is to be able to offer the help when it's needed.

Peter Lang enquired as to the status of the new youth substance-use treatment facility operated by Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) located behind the Travelodge; staff do not have any information; however, will look into it. Sergeant Vrolyk noted the RCMP has referred a youth to the facility within the last three months. It was noted there are 20 youth beds at the facility which are allocated for youth throughout the Fraser Valley.

Co-Chairs Lum and Mercer requested to have Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) provide a presentation with respect to the status of the facility at the next Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting in March.

Brian Foote, Community Member joined the meeting at 9:10 am.

**6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Catalytic Converter Theft - Leduc RCMP/City of Leduc**

A news story was forwarded to the City of Chilliwack regarding Leduc, Alberta and their work regarding catalytic converter thefts. Leduc RCMP and the City of Leduc have launched a program called ‘You Etch It, We Catch it’ to try and stop the theft of catalytic converters. Partnering businesses offer to etch a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into catalytic converters free of charge. The VIN serves as an identifier that assists police in confirming the stolen part in order to return the property to the rightful owner. Leduc City Council is also working toward creating a bylaw that would make it illegal to be in possession of a catalytic converter without proof of ownership which would assist the RCMP in holding criminals accountable for the theft. The RCMP noted there is an issue in Chilliwack regarding catalytic converter thefts with two individuals recently arrested.

Discussion ensued with respect to the City of Chilliwack’s “Second Hand Goods Regulation Bylaw 2017, No. 4426”, whereby second hand stores and pawn shops are required to record and individually identify each item received in a transaction. The Bylaw Department will conduct site inspections should there be any concerns of businesses not adhering to the bylaw. The Bylaw Department has not had any recent issues with second hand stores or pawn shops.

Co-Chair Mercer requested the RCMP provide a presentation regarding catalytic converter thefts at the next Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting in March.

**8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**9. REPORTS**

**a) RCMP**

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. There was a decrease in calls-for-service from December 2021 to January 2022.
2. Property crime increased in December 2021; however, reflected a slight trend down in January 2022.
3. The RCMP attended a number of fires in the downtown area, including a suspected arson fire at Lock’s Pharmacy.
4. The RCMP have been attending recent demonstrations over the past week with regards to COVID restrictions and freedom convoys. There was significant activity at one of the local elementary schools resulting in one arrest made yesterday. The RCMP received a weapons call in the same area of the school shortly after the above-noted incident, and as such, the school was placed on a hold and secure. The RCMP noted there is new legislation that prohibits any type of gatherings for the purpose of intimidation within 20m of a school or hospital.

**9. REPORTS (continued)****b) Fire Department**

Assistant Fire Chief, Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

The 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Summary was provided below:

1. In 2021, there were 4,136 calls-for-service reflecting an increase of 666 calls-for-service from 2020.
2. Of the 4,136 calls-for-service, the five leading calls for service were:
  1. Public Service (assist RCMP, BCEHS, home smoke alarm, CO alarm calls)
  2. Alarms Activated (industrial, commercial, multi-family and single family residential)
  3. Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI's)
  4. Fires (structures, vehicles, outdoor, dumpsters, trees and bark mulch)
  5. Burning Complaints (legal and illegal)
3. The above incident responses accounted for 3,557 calls, or 86% of the total calls responded to in 2021.
4. A total of 58% of the calls were from Hall 1 (downtown) and 28% were from Hall 4 (Sardis).
5. The Fire Prevention Program has been severely affected by COVID-19 public health orders; restricting the ability for fire department members to participate in many community events and fundraisers. However, the Fire Department was able to participate in Fire Prevention Week activities.
6. Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society (CFFCS) volunteered in the Salvation Army Food Drive, collecting over 10,000 food items and donated approximately \$25,000 to the Food Bank.
7. The Fire Department will be working with the RCMP and Chilliwack Search and Rescue (CSAR) on a joint emergency services initiative next year to include collecting food items for donation.
8. Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon expressed his thanks to the Chilliwack Emergency Support Services (ESS) Team who registered over 1,100 evacuees at Chilliwack Senior Secondary School in response to the atmospheric river event in November 2021. The closing of major transportation routes challenged ESS operations as help from other ESS teams was unavailable. At the peak of operations, a dedicated team of volunteers registered over 600 people in 2 days and also hosted over 190 people in group lodging facilities located at Evergreen Hall and the Chilliwack Landing Sports Centre. Assistant Fire Chief Bourdon also wanted to thank Darrell Lindhout from the City of Chilliwack who made a call out to City Life Church who provided bedding, toiletries and meals for the evacuees for over a week, the majority of whom were farm workers from Abbotsford. Thanks also to the School District who supplied buses to transport farm workers up to three times per day from Evergreen Hall to various locations such as City Life Church.

**c) BIA**

1. Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, BIA, expressed thanks to the City of Chilliwack, the RCMP, Griffin Security and the Bylaw Department with respect to the positive partnership and communication with the merchants in the downtown area.
2. The BIA and local merchants are working to assist the RCMP and Griffin Security with respect to security camera footage.
3. The BIA looks forward to the security presentation by both Griffin and RCMP at the February 17th BIA board meeting.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

As Vice Chair of the Design Review Advisory Committee, Co-Chair Mercer provided comment with respect to applications vetted through the Design Review Advisory Committee in which Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments are required. He enquired as to whether CPTED assessments could be of benefit to businesses with any smaller building façade changes. The RCMP noted they are moving forward to work with property owners with respect to making property less attractive to criminal activity. Staff noted there is a cost associated with the improvement with respect to whether there is a requirement of a CPTED assessment.

Michelle Wulff, Crime Prevention Society, provided information with respect to Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services which focuses on assisting the public by providing education and crime prevention techniques. The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was developed to assist and educate resident managers, business owners, and property owners on how to keep their properties safe from criminal and illegal activity. The RCMP encouraged the BIA to reach out to the Community Policing Office with any CPTED assessment requests. It was suggested the RCMP provide an information session regarding CPTED assessments at a future BIA meeting.

Brian Foote, Community Member, offered his assistance with respect to CPTED assessments, noting this was his background with his previous work. Brian also noted that most applications that go through the Design Review Advisory Committee are new builds; and as such, do not pose challenges as do older buildings with retrofits such as alcoves.

**d) Bylaw Department**

1. There has been a decrease in complaints regarding snow removal due to warmer weather.
2. The Bylaw Department has recently hired an additional bylaw officer who will join the weekend and evening bike patrols.
3. The Bylaw Department continues to deal with mainly COVID-related complaints and parking issues.

**e) ICBC**

1. ICBC is promoting a Road Safety Speaker program in schools across BC. There has been one presentation in Chilliwack last month with two more presentations scheduled in local schools in Chilliwack. Road safety speakers will share how making poor choices while driving have impacted their lives, and the lives of their family and friends.

Sergeant Vrolyk requested the RCMP be notified of the Road Safety Speaker presentations as RCMP school liaison officers can be available for discussions with students afterwards with respect to any questions students may have regarding road safety. The RCMP School Liaison Officers may also be able to provide further connection with students, if requested.

**f) School District**

1. Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities, thanked Sergeant Vrolyk for all her support over the past week at Sardis Elementary School, including School Liaison Officers Holdich, Kershaw and Scott.
2. An elementary school is not an appropriate place for political demonstrations. Over the past week, the School District has been working with a small group of individuals to move their political platform away from the school to a more appropriate venue. As a result of continued demonstration and disruption to the learning environment of the school, SD33 delivered exclusionary letters under the authority of the School Act (Section 177 – Maintenance of Order) and Section 2(1)(c) of the Access to Services (COVID 19) Act.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

The School District also had members of the School District executive team, Manager of Facilities, along with Board Chair Jared Mumford; and, Chilliwack Teachers Association (CTA) representatives on site to offer support to staff and the school community.

3. Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities, thanked the school Administration team for their leadership during this challenging time and want to recognize and commend the school community for not engaging with the individuals on site. There was a great show of support to staff with people dropping off food. School is now back to undisrupted normal operation.
4. The School District has served four Notice of Exclusion letters to individuals who have been camping on various school district properties.

**g) Operations**

1. Crews have been busy with winter sand clean-up of sidewalks, bike lanes and turning lanes. Much of the work has to be hand work due to the placement of road delineators along major bike routes; and, therefore, crews will occasionally be out cleaning and sweeping in the early mornings.
2. Ongoing dyke brushing is underway in preparation for the freshet.
3. Dyke maintenance has begun with vegetation control and inspections as part of the annual dyke inspection. The inspection report will be completed and submitted to the Province in April.
4. The Open Drainage Maintenance program has had to be re-evaluated and priorities shifted due to the atmospheric river event in November 2021. The City of Chilliwack is actively seeking funding through the Province’s Emergency Assistance program to assist with the clean out of sections of Elk Creek and Ford Creek as they come off the eastern hillsides.
5. Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations, expressed his thanks to Kara Jefford, Manager of Transportation and Drainage and the Engineering staff for all their efforts to date and on-going hard work.

Co-Chair Lum passed along some of the positive comments he has received with respect to how quickly City of Chilliwack crews repaired damaged infrastructure caused by the atmospheric river.

**h) Social Development**

1. The United Church was used as an emergency weather shelter established by Ruth and Naomi’s Mission and BC Housing and was open from January 24, 2022 to February 5, 2022.
2. There are currently three calls-for-proposals out through the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board:
  - a. Housing support facilitators
  - b. Indigenous housing support facilitators
  - c. Community outreach integration initiative
3. Additional funding is expected through the Federal Government.

Co-Chair Lum thanked staff for expediting the emergency weather shelter.

**i) Restorative Justice**

No report

**j) Stólo Justice**

No report

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

**k) Chamber of Commerce**

No report

**l) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society**

1. January 2022 was uneventful with respect to Chilliwack Crime Prevention due to weather.
2. The 2021 Crime Prevention Volunteer Stats were provided as below:
  - a) 3,857 volunteer hours – This number is low due to the pandemic with typical hours averaging at approximately 8,000 volunteer hours.
  - b) There are currently 92 active volunteers in Crime Prevention and other programs.

Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society can provide more detailed programming statistics if requested.

**Community Members**

Peter Lang, Community Member and President of Chilliwack Métis Association, is away for the next meeting in March; however, looks forward to receiving information with respect to the presentation from Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS).

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved / ) That, in accordance with Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter*, the Committee hold a  
Seconded ( Closed meeting.

Carried Unanimously

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Councillor Lum, Co-Chair