

A woman with long dark hair is holding a large, clear glass sphere. The sphere reflects a street scene with buildings and trees. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Wellness Centre

The Wellness Centre provided support to approximately 120-180 individuals daily, offering showers, laundry services, and maintaining full utilization of all 30 shelter beds each night. During this quarter, the Centre housed three drop-in guests and hosted a tax clinic, Hepatitis C clinic, and hearing clinic.

Chilliwack Interagency Response Team (CIRT) - Situation Table

In the fourth quarter, service providers presented 26 individuals with significantly elevated risks to the table for discussion. Training provided to the team strengthened the existing referral process and overall model. These improvements have directly contributed to the increase in the number of referrals, benefiting the community by enhancing support for at-risk individuals.

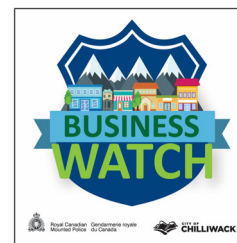
CIRT Q4	
Files Generated	26
Rejected	2
Dwelling	1
Family	0
Individuals	23
Females	11
Males	12
<20	5
20s	1
30s	7
40s	3
50+	7

Shop Talk Q4	31
Females	9
Males	22
20's	7
30's	10
40's	7
50's	3
60's	2
70's	2
Indigenous	6
Substances	29
Mental Health	29
Cognitive Impairment	14

Shop Talk—members discussed 31 individuals in quarter four.

Business Watch

The new Business Watch Program, launched in partnership with the RCMP last summer increased the total number of registered businesses from 7 to 22 in quarter four. Supports provided to these businesses include the opportunity to have a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluation, participation in Employee Safety Training, and inclusion in the patrols list. To date, 5 CPTED reports have been completed.



Block Watch: There are currently 52 registered block areas in Chilliwack. Registration of a new area (Ryder Lake) is currently underway.

Speed Watch: Speed Watch completed a total of 162 deployments in 2024 and were involved in 9 motor vehicle/motorbike/car seat incentives/events partnering up with City of Chilliwack Safe Roads program, UFVRD RCMP Traffic, and ICBC.

City Watch: At year end, City Watch reported a total of 52 patrols of block watch, business watch, and high crime spot areas and utilizing the SAR program on patrols "Stolen Auto Recover."

Crime Prevention Services: In 2024, Crime Prevention Services participated in a total of 17 Community events and 17 Senior Safety/Scams and Frauds/Online Safety Presentations. For 2024, 62 volunteers contributed a total of 5,932 volunteer hours.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing First Task Team (HFTT)

The team met monthly this quarter to discuss housing related matters, as well as opportunities and challenges within the community related to social issues and homelessness.

Opportunities:

- Outreach staff have launched an online platform to distribute supplies and resources.
- Shelters are implementing programs to support participants in progressing on their personal journeys.
- Shelters are offering activities to keep participants engaged, helping to reduce substance use.
- The Best Routes to Schools Initiative – a collaboration between School District 33, RCMP, Bylaw, Social Development, Engineering, Outreach, Ruth and Naomi's, and the Downtown Business community to ensure youth can safely access school.

Challenges:

- A new substance circulating in the community is causing serious health complications for users.
- The delayed rollout of the BC Housing Supported Rental Supplement Program and the insufficient supplement amount are not meeting the high cost of market housing.
- There is a lack of shelter options for families.
- Food security.
- There has been an increase in the number of families and seniors accessing services.

Events/Meetings

Official Community Plan Engagement Session

The Housing First Task Team engaged with the City's Planning Department to discuss ongoing housing and homelessness issues and offer input on the development of the 2050 Official Community Plan.

Cultivating Safe Spaces (CSS) Workshop

Facilitated by Elaine Alec, this workshop centered on Indigenous cultural safety, the CSS framework, and the importance of creating emotionally safe spaces that foster a sense of safety and belonging.

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

Staff attended the three-day conference on homelessness policy and advocacy, with sessions on Innovations in Coordinated Homelessness Services, Financial Support Strategies for Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability, and Using Data to End Homelessness to name a few. The sessions offered valuable insights into best practices for improving services, effective financial strategies, and the role of data in shaping policies to end homelessness.

Outreach Worker Day

The Chilliwack Society for Community Living hosted an event for service providers, during which Social Development staff delivered a presentation on various initiatives including Reaching Home and Chilliwack Healthier Community (CHC).

Not Forgotten Ceremony

Staff attended a ceremony to honor individuals who passed away in 2024 due to homelessness or substance use.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



REACHING HOME

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada is currently working on extending Chilliwack's Reaching Home (RH) contract to 2028. The contract renewal has allocated the following funds between 2024-2028:

- 2024-25—\$1,283,093 (incl. winter funds)
- 2025-26—\$1,283,093
- 2026-27—\$1,324,563
- 2027-28—\$1,324,563

Total Amount: \$5,215,312

2024-2025 Sub-Projects:

Coordinated Community Outreach

Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) / Cyrus Centre

- PCRS recorded 1,450 unique visits and a total of 314 referrals this quarter
- Cyrus Centre connected with 577 individuals and supported 10 individuals with housing

Prevention and Diversion projects

Chilliwack District Seniors' Resources Society (CDSRS)

- 311 seniors provided food hampers
- 9 seniors assisted with housing supports.

Wilma's Transition Society

- 48 individuals and families provided financial assistance to ensure they remained housed.

Case Management Services (Housing Hub)

Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS)

Continued to manage 29 housing units supporting 35 individuals, as well as children.

Stabilization Funding (Winter Funding)

Reaching Home provided top-up funds in the amount of \$203,954 to address winter unsheltered homelessness. The following sub-projects received funding:

Chilliwack and District Senior's Resources Society:

- Prevention and Diversion and Food Security — \$49,600

Salvation Army:

- Prevention and Diversion and Food Security—\$84,800

Wilma's Transition Society:

- Prevention and Diversion—\$25,600

Ruth and Naomi's Mission:

- Shelter supplies and expanded services for an additional 10 shelter beds between January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025 to address winter unsheltered homelessness.

PCRS:

- Outreach Supplies—\$2000

Connective:

- Outreach Supplies—\$2000

Pearl Life Renewal:

- Outreach Supplies—\$2000

2024-2028—Reaching Home Community Plan:

Staff began drafting the plan. It outlines a strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness for the 2024-2028 funding cycle, focusing on effective resource allocation and enhancing existing approaches. Developed with input from local stakeholders, the plan aligns with both community needs and Reaching Home program requirements, with investment breakdowns based on the Reaching Home Directives.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



CHILLIWACK HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Regular CHC Partner and Task Team Meetings

In the fourth quarter, the final CHC Partner meeting of the year took place on November 26, 2024. The CHC Coordinator regularly met with task teams and working groups, supporting both new initiatives and ongoing projects.

Poverty Reduction Plan (PRP) - The Poverty Reduction Task Team (PRTT) reconvened with meetings in November and December to explore strategies for advancing the Poverty Reduction Plan (PRP). Reducing poverty requires unified efforts, and the PRP highlights the importance of collaboration amongst the City, CHC, community organizations, and senior levels of government. This collaboration supports the implementation actions and the recommended monitoring methods. Looking ahead, the PRTT will host an engagement session early in the new year to support the PRP's implementation.

Aging Well Expo - On October 17, 2024, the Aging Well Expo successfully welcomed over 350 guests. The event, organized by the Healthy Aging Task Team (HATT), featured more than 40 exhibitors, including 16 sponsors. A wide range of resources and services tailored to older adults was provided. Attendees enjoyed a complimentary pancake breakfast, seven informative workshops, and a local food truck, which was a particular highlight. The workshops were fully attended, and traffic through the service provider booths remained steady throughout the day. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, underscoring the event's significant impact and value to the community.



CHC Resource Projects:

NEW: Sexuality and Gender Equity:

Supporting the 2SLGBTQ+ community with essential resources and connections. (SAGE Working Group)

NEW: QR Code Card for Food Resources:

Linking users to "No Cost and Low-Cost Food Resources in Chilliwack." (Chilliwack Food Council)

UPDATED: Indigenous Health & Wellness

Services: Connecting culturally safe services and supports for health, wellness, and community needs. (Opening Doors Task Team)

Information and Networking Events (INE):

Scott Williams, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor and Neurocognitive Clinician, delivered a presentation titled "Caring Without Carrying" on October 22, 2024, at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. The session focused on strategies to enhance well-being and effectiveness, addressing mental health self-care, emotional boundaries, working with resistant or violent clients, and setting healthy boundaries. The event drew a full house of engaged attendees, including service providers, government representatives, and community members. Feedback highlighted strong interest in additional professional development opportunities from CHC.

CHC / CYC Weekly Mailout

CHC continues to send out weekly newsletters every Friday, updating and connecting partners and organizations on what is happening in the community including local events, grant programs, continuous learning opportunities and employment postings. The weekly mailout is far reaching with over 900 subscribers.