



# **PUBLIC SAFETY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**FIRST QUARTER REPORT, 2025**

# PUBLIC SAFETY



## COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

### Wellness Centre

The Wellness Centre received approximately 180-200 visits daily. They offered showers, laundry services, and maintained full utilization of all 30 shelter beds each night. The Centre continued to provide space for various resources, including income assistance and harm reduction programs. Additionally, the medical room was actively used to address medical care needs of both drop-in and shelter participants. The Centre also hosted a tax clinic, Hepatitis C clinic, ID clinic, immunization clinic and a hearing clinic.

### Chilliwack Interagency Response Team (CIRT) - Situation Table

In the first quarter, service providers presented 16 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.

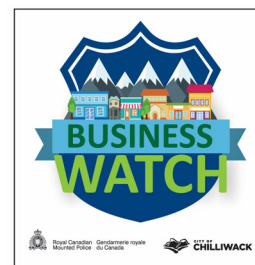
### Shop Talk

The Shop Talk table met regularly to discuss vulnerable individuals with high risks in the community and opportunities for connections to service. A total of 41 referrals were made.

CIRT Q1		Shop Talk Q1	
Files	16	Females	20
Generated		Males	21
Rejected	0	20's	10
Dwelling	1	30's	10
Family	1	40's	13
Individuals	14	50's	4
Females	3	60's	3
Males	12	70's	1
<20	2	Indigenous	14
20s	2	Substances	39
30s	5	Mental Health	39
40s	2	Cognitive	12
50+	4	Impairment	

### Business Watch

Business Watch Program supported 25 business registered with the program in quarter one completing five Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluations, and is actively recruiting to expand the program.



### 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 21 deployments and issued 198 warning letters to motorists.

### City Watch

City Watch completed 14 patrols with a focus on new Business Watch properties

### Crime Prevention Services

There were three safety presentations this quarter, two CPTED reports, and scenario training for front desk volunteers. In total, volunteers contributed 827 hours in support of Crime Prevention Programs, including participation in the Home Show.

### Crime Free Multi Family Housing

32 buildings remain active in this program. This quarter, there was a managers workshop, and training for two resident managers.



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Housing First Task Team (HFTT)

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

#### Challenges:

- Inadequate discharge planning from hospitals; individuals released without shelter or supports
- Rising number of individuals with complex needs (ex. mental health, substance use, physical health and mobility), many of whom shelters cannot accommodate
- Seniors and vehicle dwellers seeking housing but avoiding shelters
- High shelter demand with frequent turn-aways; aggressive behaviours causing exclusions
- Limited complex care housing options
- Tenant disputes and difficulty filling larger units due to occupancy standards
- Increased migration to Chilliwack from under-resourced communities

#### Opportunities:

- New vacancies opening across multiple housing programs
- Transitions to market housing occurring across shelters and supportive housing
- Expansion of staff training (ex. coordinated access, mental health, peer support)
- Collaboration on complex care programming (ex. Phoenix Society and RAN)
- Ongoing efforts to strengthen hospital discharge processes and cross-agency collaboration

### Social Development Events/Meetings

**Situation Table** — Re-training has been completed for all participants, including specialized sessions on Gender-Based Violence and Sexualized Violence.

**Regional Healthcare to Shelter and Supportive Housing** — Participated in a regional discussion with Fraser Health focused on improving transitions from healthcare to shelter and supportive housing.

**Vulnerable Populations Meeting** — Convened a meeting with service providers and Chilliwack General Hospital staff to discuss coordinated approaches for supporting individuals with complex needs both in hospital and in the community.

**Youth Evictions Seminar:** Attended a national seminar on developing human rights-based and youth-centered approaches to preventing evictions among young people.

**Community Clean-Up**—Social Development staff participated in a community clean up initiative with SARA for Women and Ann Davis Transition Society.

**Chilliwack Social Research Planning Council** — Staff participated in the review and evaluation of spring microgrant applications to support community-led initiatives.

**Tour of Social Service Facilities** — Staff had the opportunity to take City Councillors on a comprehensive tour of various facilities in Chilliwack. The tour included supportive housing, third stage housing, shelters, youth housing, family housing, treatment centres, outreach offices, and the food bank.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



## REACHING HOME

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada has extended Chilliwack's Reaching Home contract to 2028. The total contract between 2024 and 2028 is for \$5,215,312.

### 2025-2026 Reaching Home Budget:

Total Budget 2025-2026	% of Budget	Funding Amount
Admin	15%	\$192,464.00
Sub-Projects and Coordinated Access	85%	\$1,090,629.00
Total	100%	\$1,283,093.00

**Request for Proposals (RFPs):** Reaching Home RFPs were issued on January 29 and closed on February 19, seeking submissions for prevention and diversion initiatives and client support services.

### 2025-2026 Reaching Home Projects: Coordinated Community Outreach

Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) / Cyrus Centre received a contract extension for two years, ending in 2027. This project will continue to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with essential supports and services to help them move toward stability and housing.

### Case Management Services (Housing Hub)

Pacific Community Resources Society received a contract extension for two years, ending in 2027. The project will continue to provide housing navigation, case management, and support services to help individuals secure and maintain stable housing.

## Prevention and Diversion

This program offers emergency housing supports to those at risk of homelessness.

- **Salvation Army** (\$63,067) This project will provide essential services to 80-100 individuals/families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These services include one-time assistance with rental eviction supports in the form of rental and utility arrears to ensure participants remain housed.
- **Connective Support Society** (\$83,566) This project will provide short and long-term housing with wraparound supports to help 180 individuals/families secure and maintain stable housing, including rental/utility arrears and emergency support for food and transportation.
- **Mennonite Central Committee** (\$33,000) This project will provide essential services to 100 individuals/families to avoid eviction by providing short-term rental assistance and to cover rental and utility arrears.

## Client Support Services

This program will provide supports for basic needs (ex. Clothing, transportation, shoes), economic and social integration supports, and food security for individuals experiencing homelessness. Funding was provided to:

- **Salvation Army** (\$45,323) This project will support 350 individuals through the Emergency Food Intervention Program.
- **Connective Support Society** (\$85,562) This project will support 158 individuals by offering comprehensive supports including food, clothing, transportation, clinical treatment access, employment and education assistance, job readiness training, and social integration through recreation passes and community engagement tools.



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



## CHILLIWACK HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

### Regular CHC Partner and Task Team Meetings

CHC partners met twice during the first quarter as part of the bi-monthly schedule. Chaired by the Mayor, these hybrid meetings supported both in-person and virtual participation.

Meetings provided space for task team and working group representatives to report on successes, challenges, and opportunities. Partners also brought forward emerging issues to support timely, relevant discussion. These sessions continue to strengthen collaboration and support CHC's work.

The CHC Coordinator remained actively engaged with task teams, working groups, and committees to guide progress and ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan.

### First Quarter Highlights

#### New Partner: Chilliwack Youth Health Centre (CYHC)

CHC was pleased to welcome CYHC to the partnership. Their commitment to accessible, youth-centered health and wellness is a valuable addition, closely aligned with CHC's Guiding Principles. We look forward to their contributions to community well-being.

#### Substance Use Continuum of Care (SUCC) Working Group Reconvenes

Following a pause in early 2024, the working group reconvened in February with the addition of a few new key members. The group reviewed past work, explored current initiatives, and identified opportunities for renewed engagement—beginning with support for the April Information and Networking Event.

### Sexuality and Gender Equity (SAGE) Internal Scan Survey

To further strengthen inclusive practices across CHC partners, the SAGE Community Collaborative launched an internal survey on sexuality and gender equity. Open throughout the first quarter, the survey closed on April 8 and invites partners to share needs, challenges, and practices related to supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

Results will help SAGE identify future priorities and guide efforts to better support partners in creating equitable, inclusive environments.

### Chilliwack Food Council Strategic Planning

The Chilliwack Food Council (CFC) held its first quarter strategic planning meeting, focusing on current priorities and opportunities to strengthen food security efforts identified in the CFC Strategic Plan and the Chilliwack Poverty Reduction Plan.

### Increased Online Presence

CHC was recently added to the Pathways Community Service Directory, an online platform that connects individuals to local health and social services. This expanded presence offers another valuable channel for connecting with the community and strengthening regional collaboration.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## CHILLIWACK HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

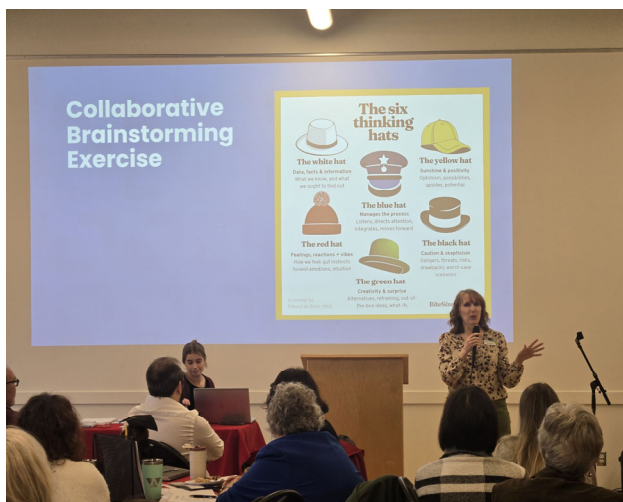
### Chilliwack Healthier Community and Chilliwack Youth Committee Weekly Mailout

The weekly Friday mailout connects nearly 900 email subscribers with community events, funding opportunities, training, and job postings. Each edition includes about 10 updates to keep partners informed.

Additionally, the mailout is available on the CHC website. Community feedback continues to highlight its value as a key tool for staying connected to local opportunities.

### Information and Networking Events (INE): Poverty Reduction Plan Engagement Session

On February 25, 2025, 46 service providers gathered at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre for a Poverty Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation Session focused on advancing the Plan. Using the Six Thinking Hats model, participants engaged in facilitated discussions at themed tables to explore challenges, generate ideas, and identify opportunities. The Poverty Reduction Task Team (PRTT) is now reviewing the input to determine tangible next steps.



### Event Planning in Progress

Two upcoming Information and Networking Events (INEs) began development during the first quarter:

- The Substance Continuum of Care Working Group is coordinating the April 22 INE, focusing on health supports for substance use and featuring a panel discussion with a Q&A.
- The Opening Doors Task Team is preparing the June 24 INE on Community Collaboration and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Relationships.

Both events will be featured in the next quarterly report.