

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for the Communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band

Introduction

On January 1, 2019, amendments to the Province’s *Police Services Act* came into effect which required every municipality in Ontario to have a “community safety and well being plan” (“cswbp”) adopted by July of 2021. Such plans must be posted to the community, and must be monitored, updated and reported to the province. It was anticipated that with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March, 2020 that this deadline might be postponed, but it had not been.

The legislation requires the creation of a multi-sector “advisory committee” to provide input and guidance in the formation of the CSWBP. COVID-19 hindered the creation of, and collaboration with, this committee.

Since 2020 the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen, had experienced periods of instability and their capacity to create individual CSWBPs was impacted. Through discussion with the Solicitor General the creation of the plans was delayed and in 2022 the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen Reserve came together to create a joint CSWBP. As several of these communities individually lacked the human resources to develop their own specific plan, share many of the same service providers and are geographically near each other with residents working, living and playing throughout the region, the communities decided to share what resources they did have to create on joint plan rather than four individual plans. Respecting that each individual’s time is precious, this joint committee allows service providers to sit on one committee rather than on four. A member from each community’s administration team/governing body have come together to form the core of a Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Working Group. Representatives from the various service organizations working in these communities form the main body of this Group. These organizations include: Children’s Aid Society, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Lutheran Community Care, Nipigon OPP, North of Superior Programs, P.A.C.E., Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, and Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board. Addition some organizations were not available during the development workshops they were able to provide input through individual conversations and share resources to inform the process. These organizations included: Brass Bell/Early Years, Nipigon District Family Health Team, Nipigon District Memorial Hospital, Superior Greenstone District School Board.

With the assistance of Public Safety Canada, applied for by the Red Rock Indian Band, a consultant was provided to assist in the formation of the plan. Community consultation was also a key component of the development of the Plan, and initial surveys were conducted to gain community feedback. Over the course of 2023 the group met for 3 2-day planning sessions, as well as Zoom calls, and gathered community feedback to come up with this plan. The working group sessions were held at the Red Rock Marina Interpretive Centre, with the cost of refreshments being provided by each community on a rotating basis. The group has identified areas of concern and goals to improve the overall sense of safety and well-being among the residents of these four communities. The consultant put together the information, priority areas and goals to develop an early draft of the CSWBP. As the consultant provided

by Public Safety Canada was only available to help create the base for the plan, and there were still outstanding components required by the Solicitor General, this current document merges the formats of Public Safety Canada and the Solicitor General, and was put together by staff at the Township of Red Rock. This current plan was further developed to meet the needs of the region which have been identified through the formation of the Terms of Reference and Priority Areas of the working group and feedback from community members through surveys.

According to the legislation, CSWBPs must identify priority “risk factors” that impact community safety and well-being, strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors, and set out measurable outcomes so that the plan can be monitored for effectiveness. The CSWB Plan will focus on joint Social Development, Prevention, Risk Intervention and Incident Response.

Studies have shown that such planning benefits local communities in many ways. It also allows municipal leaders to focus attention on service delivery that addresses the priority risk factors. Continual monitoring of the plan, including the measurable outcomes, allows for a better understanding of trends, gaps, priorities and successes.

Messages From the Municipal Mayors and Chief

“The formation of this committee will give the communities an opportunity to work together to identify and address joint issues and challenges in relation to the overall safety and well-being for their residents.”

- Robert Beatty, Reeve, Township of Dorion

“Having a formal CSWBP in place is key to ensure our communities are moving in the same direction, towards the ultimate goal of fostering a safe and positive environment in which our citizens will not simply survive but thrive.”

- Suzanne Kukko, Mayor, Township of Nipigon

“Our communities continue to collaborate to make meaningful changes for our residents. This plan will foster positive outcomes where our community members will grow, participate in a welcoming environment, and foster real changes to not just their own lives but the lives of their families and the community.

- Darquise Robinson, Mayor, Township of Red Rock

Message From the Community Safety and Well-Being Working Group

“Recognizing that each community has its own strengths and challenges, coming together to share our resources and knowledge, in partnership with our regional service organizations gives us hope that we can help make our communities a safe place for our residents where they can experience a sense of belonging. This process has helped those involved in the Working Group gain insight and a better understanding into how these priority areas are all connected. We realize there is not a single end goal where each of these priority areas will be solved, but that working towards addressing these issues our community members face, we can make even the slightest difference in someone’s life, which impacts our region as a whole.”

- Ashley Davis, Joint CSWBP Lead, Community Development Officer, Township of Red Rock

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1. JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING WORKING GROUP

1.1 Vision

The group will all strive for and contribute to:

- Diverse, inclusive, open, friendly, welcoming, respectful and loving communities;
- Communities where everyone has hope, a sense of belonging, purpose, meaning and fulfillment;
- Communities where everyone has a home and is safely housed;
- Communities that ensure everyone’s safety and well-being;
- Sustainable and environmentally neutral communities living in balance and with an understanding of the state of the environment of their shared territories;
- Communities that provide for healthy living and quality health care;
- Communities that embrace and support lifelong learning through access to quality education and training within a broad and inclusive social support network and safety net;
- Communities with sustainable, locally controlled and operated public transportation systems connected by a safe, multipurpose transportation corridor;
- Communities connected to the world with access to the latest telecommunication capacities and technologies;
- Communities that are alive with celebration, recognition, the arts, markets, sports and leisure;
- Inclusive communities where all children/youth, Elders/seniors, women/men, LGBTQ2+, marginalized or minority groups are an integral part of community life;
- Communities where people and families can successfully and happily live and work;
- Close-knit communities where people know each other, have dynamic social networks and trusting life-long relationships; and,
- Communities that collectively look out for one another.

1.2 Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles will ground the activities of and ways of doing and acting by the Working Group members. The Seven Grandfather Teachings of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility and Wisdom are the basis of the following Guiding Principles:

1. The work will be grounded in the Love for our communities and people.
2. Leadership is the Humble servitude of others.
3. Be Brave, Respectful, open minded, Honest and Truthful in all that we discuss and do.
4. Partnership and collaboration are key to gathering Wisdom on the path to success.
5. Open and safe discussion and engagement is part of Respectful sharing and understanding.

1.3 Mission Statement

The mission is to assemble a team to undertake an ongoing holistic, proactive, collaborative planning process to address the safety and well-being needs of the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band in new and innovative ways. Further, to develop joint community plans with multi-sectoral, risk-based strategies in social development, prevention and risk intervention. The working group will gather information and provide an opportunity for multi-sectoral partners at the local and provincial levels to evaluate and improve the underlying structures and systems through which services are delivered.

1.4 Strategic Goal

The working group will develop, ratify and implement a common CSWB Plan. The planning process will complement existing governing structures and planning cycles of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band. Ratification processes and implementation plans will adhere to municipal, First Nation and organizational approval processes. Joint decisions by the working group on implementation will be developed and formalized.

The overall goal will be to establish planning and reporting cycles that are consistent between member communities and that take advantage of federal and provincial funding cycles. It is recommended that the annual planning process be finalized by October 31 of each year and reporting be concluded by March 31 of each year.

1.5 Membership

Recognizing existing pressures placed on municipal and community organization resources, each organization is responsible for appointing two (2) members to the working group: one (1) primary member; and, one (1) alternate member. Each organization will work to ensure consistent participation and input into the working group processes by their membership.

1.6 Decision-Making

Decisions and recommendations will be made by consensus. In the event where consensus is not possible, no recommendations or decision would be made until additional work is undertaken to achieve the required consensus.

1.7 Meetings

The working group will meet quarterly. Quorum for meetings of the working group will be one (1) representative from each municipality and First Nation and 50 per cent (%) of the member service delivery organizations. The working group Leads will also have some discretion when determining when the required expertise is available for meetings to meaningfully proceed.

Decisions and actions of the working group will be captured and communicated to working group members following each meeting of the working group by the working group Leads.

1.8 Working Group Leads

The working group Leads are responsible for the coordination of the working group, including the development of meeting agendas. The Working Group Leads are one (1) representative from each community.

1.9 Sub-Committees

The working group will create sub-committees to: discuss identified priority areas; coordinate activities and resources; and, make recommendations for action. Recommendation will be brought to the working group for final consideration and inclusion into any existing initiatives of the member communities. Sub-committees will have a specific focus and membership based on the ideal team required to understand and address the issue identified. It is recommended that sub-committees meet virtually, to limit costs and time from sub-committee members.

1.10 Accountability

Members are accountable to their respective organizations, community governing bodies and to each other as they develop, implement, measure impacts and modify the CSWB Plan.

1.11 The Planning Process

Bring Learning into the Strategic Plan

To meet the municipal legislative requirements, the knowledge needs of the First Nation and to learn collectively, the CSWB Plan will be monitored, adapted (based on knowledge gained), updated and reported on regularly, as determined by participating communities. Complex and dynamic issues require solutions that can be discovered, refined, evaluated and scaled to the targeted audience. In order to bring learning into the strategic planning process, the Working Group will implement a planning process that will be circular in nature with three (3) phases:

1. Plan and Act;
2. Observe, Monitor and Reflect; and,
3. Adapt the Plan.

To inform the planning process and establish a baseline of knowledge, the Working Group implemented a CSWB Survey to inform the initial strategic plan. Moving forward, the survey will be improved and undertaken annually with members responsible for the gathering of information and data from their respective organizations that can be used to inform the CSWB planning process.

An annual ‘State of the CSWB Report’ will be developed, shared and discussed by the Working Group, the communities and the province. The CSWB situational analysis and discussions will provide an opportunity to better understand the communities, bring together a variety of perspectives that can inform potential solutions to inform the planning process.

2. PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK

The philosophies and theories that lead to the creation of the provincial framework have been tested and tried, and proven true in urban centers. They have not as yet been proven in rural settings. That having been said, these communities accept and are responding to the Provincial requirements.

The framework recognizes 4 categories of “influence” that are impacted and assisted by a CSWBP. Each category, as deployed, results in increased costs, both societally and monetarily.

2.1 Social Development

The first category is “Social Development”. A wide variety of people, agencies and organizations can bring to the table different perspectives and expertise to address social development.

Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen.

Social development means investing in people. It requires the removal of barriers so that all citizens can journey toward their dreams with confidence and dignity. It is about refusing to accept that people who

live in poverty will always be poor. It is about helping people so they can move forward on their path to self-sufficiency.

It is the desire of the Joint CSWBP Working Group and the Councils of Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band, that every resident of their community has the opportunity to grow, develop their own skills and contribute to their families and communities in a meaningful way. If they are healthy, well educated and trained to enter the workforce and are able to make a decent wage they are better equipped to meet their basic needs and be successful. Their families will also do well and the communities will see the benefits.

Social development involves learning and education. These facilitate a greater degree of success. Making sure that children get a good start in their education goes a long way to increasing their success later in life.

In addition, a safe and affordable place to live is very important in helping people achieve self-sufficiency. It is the focus of family life; where families can live safely, nurture their children, build community relationships and care for aging parents. Without a decent place to live, it is difficult to function as a productive member of society.

Other investments in people that contribute to the economic prosperity of society include youth programs and services, post-secondary education, job creation, and the promotion of healthy, active living and safe and secure communities.

2.2 Prevention

The second category is “prevention”. This refers to “proactively reducing identified risks and implementing evidence-based situational measures, policies or programs to reduce priority risks”.

The goal is to address situations before they lead to crime, victimization and/or harm.

2.3 Risk Intervention

The third category is “risk intervention”. This refers to intervention in situations where risk to the community’s safety and well being is threatened. Risks could involve crime, victimization or other harm.

This intervention is anticipated (based on an appropriate CSWBP) to occur before an “incident response” is required.

Multiple sectors of society can work together to intervene in crises situations prior to the need to engage a 9-1-1 response, involving police and other emergency responders.

2.4 Incident Response

The term “incident response” refers to the activities that take place when a 9-1-1 call is placed. The incident may be “critical” or “non-critical”, but the response is similar in both cases.

Police, fire, emergency medical services, child welfare services, mental health services, etc. may be required, depending on what prompted that 9-1-1 call. In any given community, these resources may not be available for response. This can lead to the “wrong” responders attempting to resolve a crisis issue.

Incident response is “expensive”, both in terms of actual cost to government, and actual risk to those involved. If a person is experiencing a mental health crisis, response by police is quite likely NOT the most appropriate response, and may lead to outcomes that are not desirable. This has been demonstrated in many crisis situations in the past decade (and more).

A CSWBP is an attempt to thwart these negative outcomes before they arise.

3. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Working Group surveyed community members in 2023 to inform the goals and priorities of this Plan and the activities of the Working Group. A total of 70 responses were collected from community members in Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon and Lake Helen.

The survey that was distributed online with hard copies distributed throughout each community. Key results are included in Appendix Three of this CSWBP.

As the CSWBP develops and is monitored, an annual survey will be undertaken to gauge the communities’ experiences and perceptions on the various priority areas identified in this plan.

A summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix 3

4. RISK FACTORS

There are many risk factors identified across Ontario that relate to community safety and well being. These include (in no particular order):

- a) Addictions/substance misuse
- b) Mental health concerns
- c) Crime rates (as well as the nature of the crimes perpetrated)
- d) Housing and homelessness
- e) Poverty and income
- f) Education levels/opportunities

The following commentary relates to the 3 priority “risk factors” identified by the Working Group through community consultation and focused workshops within the CSWBP Working Group, as they relate to the residents of Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon and Lake Helen.

- 1. Addictions/substance misuse
- 2. Housing and homelessness
- 3. Transportation

4.1 Addictions/substance misuse

It is recognized that addictions and substance misuse issues are often hidden behind closed doors, and are not readily “reported” or acknowledged by persons in the throws of them. This area was identified as a priority through the Working Group and the members of various service organizations who work with individuals impacted by addictions and substance misuse.

It is noted that addiction and substance misuse issues are closely associated with mental health issues.

4.2 Housing and Homelessness (Availability and Affordability)

The communities of Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon and Lake Helen do not have an obvious homelessness issue. It has been demonstrated that the homeless population tends to migrate to urban centers where opportunities to access services and/or potential income-earning prospects are greater. It is recognized that some segment of the homeless population are “invisible” in that they stay with friends or family rather than “on the street” known as “couch-surfing”.

Housing in general, however, *may* be an issue in the catchment area. It is not obvious based on the 2021 Census information, however it is noteworthy that those who live in poverty are the least likely to respond to such surveys. 17% of survey respondents (in 2023) live below the Ontario Poverty line (income below \$25,000).

When an owner has an “unaffordability” issue, the “obvious” option is to sell the home. This may not be an option for many – either realistically or emotionally.

The main concern from respondents and discussions among the Working Group members indicated that Housing Availability and Affordability was a top priority. For many this was related to the rising costs of housing purchases, rental prices that are often twice the cost of a mortgage (which is an obstacle for those with poor credit, or are looking for shorter term accommodations due to the length of employment, etc.), one income households faced with dual income level rental fees, and housing costs that are beyond what local employment opportunities pay (resulting in difficulty filling employment gaps). The lack of available affordable accommodations was identified as a major concern for attracting and retaining employees and families, as well as a reluctance for members of the older population, who still live in their home, to downsize in order to “free up” their home to attract a young family in need of more than a 2-bedroom apartment.

The Communities will need to work on communicating options (both realistic and emotional), limited as they may be, for people living in owner-occupied homes who have affordability issues.

Affordability in terms of owner-occupied homes can relate to costs associated with:

- the need for capital repairs;
- property taxes; and
- occupancy costs (heat, hydro, internet, telephone, cellular telephone, landfill site fees, etc.)

Municipalities have no control over individual property owners’ needs for capital repairs, or the occupancy costs associated with services that the municipality does not provide.

With respect to a municipal tax bill, some of these owner-occupied residential affordability issues can be directly related to Provincial policies which drive up property taxes, outside of the control of the local municipality’s council. These include mandated payments to outside agencies such as: health units, social service administration boards, Ontario Provincial Police services, and more.

4.1 Transportation

Transportation was identified as a risk factor impacting the sense of safety and well-being among community members through the consultation process as well as by the Working Group. This is with regards to access to safe or affordable transportation services providing access to health care, work, recreation activities and community programming and services. A rising concern is that many health care services, including medical care and mental health services are located in Nipigon, while members of the vulnerable sector do not have access to reliable transportation to receive these services. As such. Many members of the lower income brackets or seniors forego these services due to affordability or a lack of available transportation.

5. Response: Strategies to Reduce Risk Factors

The following priority goals were agreed upon by the CSWB Working Group in response to the key Risk Factors raised through the community survey results and working group sessions.

5.1 PRIORITY GOALS

5.1.1 Community Safety and Well-Being Initiative Coordination

The creation of a joint CSWB Plan between three (3) municipalities and one (1) First Nation has raised questions with respect to implementation and initial work required by each community to ensure its sustainability. The joint initiative will benefit from additional resources and capacity to coordinate, facilitate and provide administrative assistance to the Working Group as it finds its space within existing municipal and First Nation governing and decision-making structures.

The goal is to create new community collaborative tables, relationships and partnerships between the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band that will facilitate the implementation of the CSWB Plan.

5.1.1.1 Initial Steps

- Create a funding proposal to Public Safety Canada to support the implementation of the CSWB Plan. Red Rock Indian Band may be in the best position to lead the initiative given the existing relationship.

5.1.2 Health, Safety and Well-Being

The health, safety and well-being of community members is inter-related and identified as an overarching strategic priority. This particular goal aims to ensure that the CSWB Plan contributes holistically to the health, safety and well-being of the communities and community members using the social determinants of health (SDOH) and food security measures of success and basis for conversations. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) identifies 12 SDOHs: income and social status; employment and working conditions; education and literacy; childhood experiences; physical environments; social supports and coping skills; healthy behaviours; access to health services; biology and genetic endowment; gender; culture; and, race/racism.

The working group has an overall monitoring and reflective role, providing insights into how strategies and initiatives are collectively and individually contributing to the health, safety and well-being of the communities and how they may be adapted. As part of the life-long learning of the Working Group, the work will have a broad mandate to understand how the CSWB Plan contributes to improving the health, safety and well-being of the communities and how it may be adapted and improved.

5.1.2.1 Initial Tasks

Survey – Complete the initial CSWB Survey. Discuss findings and how they might inform current initiatives. Incorporate survey learnings and knowledge gaps into next year’s survey.

Aggregated Safety and Wellbeing Data – Member organizations will gather aggregated information and data that may inform planning and innovation.

Statistics Canada Information – Employment statistics and other information relevant to the CSWB will be collected. Red Rock has requested information in the past.

Existing Plans, Strategies and Knowledge – Member organizations will gather their existing strategic plans, profiles and situational analysis to ensure everyone is well informed and working collaboratively.

5.1.3 Addictions and Substance Misuse

Assisting and supporting those struggling with addictions and substance misuse was identified as a strategic priority for the communities and it is recommended that an Addictions and Substance Misuse Working Group be established. This sub-committee will be prevention-focused and seek to bring hope, belonging, purpose and meaning to those struggling with addiction. The sub-committee will be tasked with undertaking an environmental scan to gather information on programs, services, existing capacities and gaps to begin working on the community being free of addictions. The actions of the sub-committee will support those struggling with addictions and substance misuse. The sub-committee will also work towards the development of a harm reduction strategy and a safe supply and provide those struggling with substance misuse with the strength and ability to contribute to their respective communities.

5.1.3.1 Situation Table Members*

- Nipigon District Family Health Team
- Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinic
- North of Superior Counselling Program (NOSP)
- Child Welfare Organizations – Children’s Aid and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care
- People Advocating for Change through Empowerment (PACE)
- High School, Mental Health Worker
- Ontario Provincial Police
- The Nipigon Hospital

**Municipal members are members of each sub-committee, by default.*

5.1.3.2 Potential Partners

- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- The Local Pharmacy
- District Social Services Administrative Board
- Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre – Thunder Bay
- Nipigon Doctor’s Group

5.1.3.3 Initial Steps

- Facilitate a situational analysis and environmental scan to ground discussion in the ‘now’. Identify any risk. What is happening? Who is doing what? What is missing? What are the opportunities for communities to have a positive impact on those living with addictions and reduce substance misuse generally across the communities.
- Look to those within the community who are effectively dealing with their addiction(s) and willing to mentor and support others. They may also be a resource to the CSWB Working Group.

5.1.4 Housing

Housing was identified as both a crisis and a strategic priority for the communities and it is recommended that a Housing Sub-Committee of the Working Group be established. The sub-committee is charged with undertaking a situational analysis to identify existing programs and services at the municipal, provincial and federal levels that could support the housing needs of the communities and their community members. The analysis would include how communities are accessing housing programs and services and how that access could be strengthened collectively.

The sub-committee is also tasked with identifying and understanding processes for the designation and servicing of land for housing and identifying housing options. These options could include: the creation of geared-to-income housing; social supportive housing; professional housing; new homes; and, safe/transitional housing. The sub-committee may also set the groundwork for the building of apartment complexes and the refurbishing of existing buildings for housing. It was recognized that housing would be a long-term standing agenda item that was facing specific pressures due to the recent economic activities in the area.

5.1.4.1 Situation Table Members*

- North of Superior Counselling Program (NOSP)
- District Social Services Administrative Board
- People Advocating for Change through Empowerment (PACE)
- Community Living
- Development Services Ontario
- Children’s Aid

**Municipal members are members of each sub-committee, by default.*

5.1.4.2 Potential Partners

- Industry

5.1.4.3 Initial Tasks

- Facilitate a strategic planning discussion on housing that will include key working group members to gain an understanding of the current realities, identify resources, organizations, existing capacities and partner opportunities. The initial goal will be to identify some short-term wins and successes within the context of the medium and long-term strategic goals.
- Identify existing programs at the federal and provincial levels that could support housing initiatives.
- Seek to understand the existing housing inventories and the existing and future housing needs.
- Gather existing housing strategies.
- Discuss impacts of industry on the housing situation and how communities could work together to explore opportunities with the new companies arriving in the Region.

5.1.4.4 Notes

From a municipal position, the Townships work hard at keeping property tax rates in an affordable range. That having been said, there are elements of a municipal budget that are completely outside the jurisdiction of the Townships, including mandated payments to boards and agencies of the Province.

The sole element of “housing affordability for owner-occupied residences” that the Township have any semblance of control over, is the property tax bill.

The Townships have, and will continue to, work towards efficiencies in order to keep those elements of the property tax bill that it has control over, affordable.

For all other household costs that may make housing unaffordable, the Townships have, and will continue to, relentlessly lobby the Provincial government for equitable and reasonable policy changes that would make the levies that municipalities are mandated to pay to Provincial agencies fair.

The Townships have, and will continue to, make available to homeowners, information associated with: cost reduction strategies, energy efficiency recommendations, grants available for home renovations, and more.

5.1.5 Transportation

Transportation was identified as a strategic priority for the communities and it is recommended that a Transportation Sub-Committee be established. Access to safe transportation has a direct impact on the health, economic prosperity and well-being of all citizens. Approaches to improve transportation in general will seek to improve how community members access health care, work,

recreation, community programming and services. The goal will be to examine and address transportation challenges faced by community members that impact their safety and well-being.

The Region is a hub for activity that brings people long distances who, in some cases, are not prepared for the long trip. Travelers have found themselves stranded in the area with a broken-down vehicle that they are unable to immediately repair. These types of emergencies would be considered as part of the transportation strategy.

5.1.5.1 Situation Table Members*

- Lutheran Community Care – Lana Corkum
- Nipigon Hospital
- Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Community Living
- District Social Services Administrative Board

**Municipal members are members of each sub-committee, by default.*

5.1.5.2 Potential Partners

- Ontario Northland
- Terrace Bay community health van
- Schreiber Handy Transit transportation initiatives
- Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- Shelter House, Thunder Bay – SOS Program funded by DSAB
- Industry Partners
- Casper Bus Lines
- Community Living
- U-ride, Uber

5.1.5.3 Initial Steps

- Facilitate a situational analysis and environmental scan to ground discussion in the ‘now’. What is happening? Who is doing what? What are the opportunities for the communities?
- A strategic planning discussion on transportation to gain an understanding of the current realities, identify resources, organizations, existing capacities and partner opportunities.
- Contact and learn from communities and organizations that have or had transportation initiatives.
- Identify some short-term activities that will improve or enhance transportation access for all community citizens to meet their various needs. This includes transportation for those with mobility issues.

5.2 ADDITIONAL GOALS

In order to supplement the Priority Goals which address the major risk factors to a community safety and well-being, the CSWBP Working Group identified the following additional goals.

These goals were identified in being essential towards contributing to an overall sense of well-being among community members. While working on these additional goals, they also contribute towards one of the priority risk factors of Addiction/Substance Misuse as well as General Health and Well-being.

5.2.1 Inclusivity

The goal is to ensure that all voices are at all tables including, but not limited to: LGBTQ2+ community, women, men, youth, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and those living with disabilities. There is a need to create social groups and targeted initiatives for various groups within groups like young mothers and fathers, single women and men, older adults, young families, pre-school children, elementary school children, middle school children, high school students, university and college students. The desired outcome is to create safety and well-being strategies that consider all stages of life and the diversity of all people.

5.2.1.1 Initial Tasks

- Ensure that all working group communications and recommendation have been reviewed for inclusivity.
- Seek to identify groups who, historically, have had limited involvement in community activities and seek ways to improve participation.
- Have a presence at several existing community events to introduce the CSWB Working Group, CSWB Plan to the communities and present various avenues on how communities can become involved.

5.2.2 Youth Engagement and Focus

The goal is to invest in the future community leaders and engage youth within all communities in the development and implementation of initiatives and activities that will get them active in their communities. The working group will identify topics and areas of interest of the youth and provide them with opportunities to participate. The desired outcome is to provide learning opportunities for youth and increase youth participation in all activities in the communities.

5.2.2.1 Initial Steps

- Seek youth representation and participation on the CSWB working group.
- Re-establish, “Teen Town” as a cooperative effort between communities.
- Explore youth interests in learning household management skills like budgeting and financial planning.

5.2.3 Community Emergency Plans

Each community has established emergency plans with separate processes to keep them current and effective.

5.2.4 Emergency Supports

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates how emergencies impact the mental health, well-being and the sense of safety of community members, long after an emergency has ended. The working group will explore possible strategies and seek to update existing emergency plans to include ways to support those negatively impacted by emergencies during events and after events. The desired outcome is to have updated emergency plans in each community, including wellness recovery strategies.

5.2.5 Impacts of a Changing Local Economy

While the communities are excited to see new opportunities come to the Region, it recognizes that large changes will impact the health, safety and well-being of its citizens. Considering the SDOHs, safety and well-being, the goal is to ensure that the communities are discussing upcoming changes, the potential impacts and the collective strategies that will take advantage of the changes and mitigate or lessen any negative or unintended impacts. The desired outcome is to create a space where the communities and service organizations can come together to discuss how the CSWB Plan will continue to improve the health, safety and well-being of the communities within an environment of rapid change.

5.2.5.1 Initial Tasks

- Build the working group’s knowledge and understanding of the impacts and opportunities of a rapidly changing economy on the safety and well-being of communities. Determine what is known and how it can inform planning discussions. There is much to consider when more people come to a Region for work, including housing, childcare spaces and the availability of early learning educators. Communities coming together may provide collective options and strategies.
- Connectivity, including high-speed fibre Internet connections and cellular service is seen as essential to economic success and may be an opportunity for investment.

5.2.6 Life-Long Learning

There is a commitment to support learning throughout life’s journey. This includes creating the best schools with the best teachers, to facilitate re-training, skills upgrading and continued adult learning. There is a need to ensure the safety and well-being of our post-secondary learners and to understand and share with communities the skills and expertise businesses will need in the Region. It is also understood that people learn in different ways and some seek the opportunity to share their gifts and knowledge with others.

One goal is to support teaching and learning in all its forms and supports and encourage everyone to pursue their dreams whether it is to become a doctor or teaching Kung-Fu to teens.

Another goal is to build an Adult Learning and Educational Centre that can support and create a variety of alternative learning options for everyone. Intergenerational learning could also provide Knowledge Keepers and youth with an opportunity to learn from one another on a variety of subjects.

5.2.6.1 Initial Tasks

- Discuss how the communities might contribute to the creation of a recreation and learning coordinator position that would assist the communities in the planning and promotion of learning and teaching opportunities.
- Seek opportunities to enhance programming and learning at the schools. St. Anne’s Elementary School was held up as an example.

5.2.7 Active Communities

The goal is to make Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band communities where there is always something to do and different ways to get involved. Creating and sustaining a strong volunteer base will be one of the keys to success.

One objective is to increase the opportunities for people to participate, organize and volunteer at community celebrations, festivals, sporting event and leisure activities. It will be important to build the spaces needed for every community to stay active and be social.

It was suggested that a volunteer appreciation week be organized for and by volunteers. Opportunities were also needed to acknowledge contributions to community by businesses, services and individuals. The goal is to increase engagement, participation and interaction across all communities.

5.2.7.1 Situation Table Members*

- Nipigon Recreation Coordinator
- Libraries
- Service Clubs: The Legion, The Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, Silver Clubs, Fish and Game Club, Masons.
- Festival and Event Coordinator Group

**Municipal members are members of each sub-committee, by default.*

5.2.7.2 Initial Tasks

- Look to establish recreation coordinators in each community. It was noted that the coordinators will need to coordinate activities that include transportation options for every community to attend.
- Build the working group’s knowledge and understanding on how to build and maintain a diverse and engaged groups of volunteers and talented mentors who participate in various community activities in various capacities.
- Develop and implement a volunteer promotion initiative.
- Bring various organizations together to plan activities across communities.
- Create a shared Communities Calendar.

5.2.8 Communications Strategy

The goal is to create an open, consistent and inclusive communications process that reaches a broad diverse audience. This Strategy will track reach and success and identify various ways to reach diverse audiences.

5.2.8.1 Initial Tasks

- Create a regional safety and wellness newsletter that can be updated quarterly using existing communication methods and processes.
- Look to brand the new four (4) community working relationship strategy. “Top of Superior” was already in use and suggested with permission.

5.2.9 Environmentally Friendly Communities

Every citizen has a responsibility to protect and preserve the land, the community and the planet. Our proximity to the water and the forest and our love of both motivates us to be better stewards. Youth can play an important role in creating environmentally responsible communities.

The goal is to create a “how to be environmentally responsible” educational piece. There is a need to initiate discussions on a landfill diversion program and initiatives to support local farmers. An additional goal is to work towards net zero communities.

5.2.9.1 Initial Tasks

- Undertake a situational analysis to understand the communities’ garbage and landfill plans.
- Increase the Working Group’s understanding on existing recycling and composting initiatives and what opportunities may exist to working together and create economies of scale.
- Explore how youth can be engaged in the design and promotion of recycling and composting initiatives.
- Look at strategies on how materials destined for the landfills might be diverted, such as community garage sales and spring clean-ups, for example.

5.2.10 Family Supports

The goal is to increase family safety, security and well-being by creating accessible, affordable programs and support when they are needed. This goal will also be to create the spaces and opportunities for families to come together, socialize and support one another.

Some options that will be explored include increasing affordable childcare capacity across all communities, examining family respite care options, increasing food security through community garden initiatives and exploring an “on the land” family initiative.

One goal identified is to increase the participation of community members in family support programming like the pre-natal program. Strategies on building trust in the families support service is required as those families most in need often do not seek help. There is the fear that seeking support may lead to Children’s Aid being called.

5.2.10.1 Initial Steps

- Explore how existing community gardens can become fully operational and supportive of the community food needs. Red Rock Indian Band has a process to distribute garden produce to community members.
- Increase the Working Group’s understanding on the supports that will promote family safety and well-being.

5.2.11 Social Safety Net

The goal is to establish a strong community social safety net accessible by all community members who find themselves facing challenges. Initial activities will include a situational analysis to identify any gaps in supports and how existing supports may be enhanced or scaled up. Services and programs that are deemed necessary included food banks, emergency shelters, detoxification centres with aftercare and a comprehensive, responsive emergency medical service.

5.2.11.1 Initial Steps

- Undertake a situational analysis to determine what exists and how supports can be enhanced and created.

5.2.12 Infrastructure Needs

There is a need for more places and spaces for community to gather as they build a community that is safe and well. Infrastructure is needed in the Region including: community centres; adult learning and educational centre; grocery store within a mall (alternative to Thunder Bay); youth activity centre; central emergency medical centre; detoxification centre; treatment centre; and, an “on the land” healing centre.

6. Measurable Outcomes

There are a variety of measurable outcomes that could be used over the short and medium term to gauge the success of the priority areas and action items identified in this plan. Some of these include but are not limited to: the number of new affordable housing units built, the number of youth programs established, the retention of a coordinator to assist with the implementation of this plan, and the number of new partnerships formed.

For the identified priority risks, one key measurable outcome is police statistics related to these matters. The CSWBP Working Group will continue to track these statistics as provided in Quarterly Reports from the OPP to each of the communities and report to the Province, as required.

Community Consultation will occur on an annual basis using the survey method. Initial surveys were conducted in 2023 to provide a baseline for community member’s opinions of safety and well-being in their respective communities. Future surveys will be revised as required to capture additional data, and compared to baseline data to determine if community members feel their opinions on safety and well-being in their community have changed.

In particular, the CSWBP Working Group will continue to monitor these statistics, in order to (a) report on the progress of this plan; and (b) recognize new/emerging issues which have an impact on this plan.

7. Conclusion

In general, Rural and “Small Urban” Ontario remains a safe and affordable place to live and raise a family. Community safety and well-being in rural municipalities, including the Township, is very positive.

Municipal leaders for these communities will continue to monitor the areas of concern and the statistics associated with the risk factors identified in this CSWBP and respond to any issues that arise.

The communities of Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon and the Red Rock Indian Band/Lake Helen will move forward with the required Advisory Committee (the Joint CSWBP Working Group) to provide recommendations to the respective Councils, and this CSWBP will be reviewed, amended, and updated with the input of that Advisory Committee on an annual basis.

Appendices

1. Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Working Group – Terms of Reference
2. Community Consultation – Paper Survey
3. Community Consultation – Responses
 1. Question Responses
 2. Comment Question Responses

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Community Safety and Well-Being Planning and Implementation Working Group for the Communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band

Draft Date: February 5, 2024

1. Introduction

On January 1, 2019, amendments to the province’s Police Services Act came into effect which requires every municipality in Ontario to have a “community safety and well-being plan” (CSWBP). Such plans must be posted to the community and must be monitored, updated and reported to the province. The communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band came together to create a joint CSWBP, as these communities share many of the same service providers and are geographically near each other with residents working, living and playing throughout the Region. The CSWB Plan will focus on joint Social Development, Prevention, Risk Intervention and Incident Response.

2. Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles were developed by the Community Safety and Well-Being Planning and Implementation Working Group (CSWB-PIWG) to ground the group in ways of doing, acting and being, as members of the working group. The Seven Grandfather Teachings of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility and Wisdom were seen as the basis of these Guiding Principles:

- Ground the work in the Love for our communities and people.
- Leadership is the Humble servitude of others.
- Be Brave, respectful, open minded, Honest and Truthful in all we discuss and do.
- Partnership and collaboration were keys to gathering Wisdom on the path to success.
- Open and safe discussion and engagement is part of Respectful sharing and understanding.

3. Mission Statement

The mission is to assemble a team to undertake an ongoing holistic, proactive, collaborative planning process to address the safety and well-being needs of the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band in new and innovative ways. Further, to develop joint community plans with multi-sectoral, risk-based strategies in social development, prevention and risk intervention. The working group will gather information and provide an opportunity for multi-sectoral partners at the local and provincial levels to evaluate and improve the underlying structures and systems through which services are delivered.

4. Strategic Goal

The working group will develop, ratify and implement a common CSWB Plan. The planning process will complement existing governing structures and planning cycles of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion and Red Rock Indian Band. Ratification processes and implementation plans will adhere to municipal, First Nation and organizational approval processes. Joint decisions by the working group on implementation will be developed and formalized.

The overall goal will be to establish planning and reporting cycles that are consistent between member communities and that take advantage of federal and provincial funding cycles. It is recommended that the annual planning process be finalized by October 31 of each year and reporting be concluded by March 31 of each year.

5. Membership

Recognizing existing pressures placed on municipal and community organization resources, each organization is responsible for appointing two (2) members to the working group: one (1) primary member; and, one (1) alternate member. Each organization will work to ensure consistent participation and input into the working group processes by their membership.

5.1 Municipal and First Nation Members

Robert Beatty, Township of Dorion
Linda Berube, Township of Nipigon
Ashley Davis, Township of Red Rock
Timothy (Ted) Wawia, Red Rock Indian Band

5.2 Partner Organization Members

Children’s Aid Society, Nipigon – Doug Kashak
Dilico Anishinabek Family Care – Brandy Brake Weldon/Jennifer Moore
North of Superior Programs, Nipigon – Candace Davies/Karli Chalifoux
Nipigon District Family Health Team – Melissa Harvey
Nipigon District Memorial Hospital –Shannon Cormier
OPP (Ontario Provincial Police), Nipigon – Dave Moscall/Ashley Cadeau
Superior Greenstone District School Board, Red Rock – Nicole Morden-Cormier/Deana Renaud
Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living, Thunder Bay – Sheila Zappitelli
Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Public Health Nurse – Miranda Silta/Carolyn Tait
Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Michelle Wojciechowski
PACE (People Advocating for Change through Empowerment), Nipigon – Georgina (Gina) McKinnon

6. Decision-Making

Decisions and recommendations will be made by consensus. In the event where consensus is not possible, no recommendations or decision would be made until additional work is undertaken to achieve the required consensus.

7. Meetings

The working group will meet quarterly. Quorum for meetings of the working group will be one (1) representative from each municipality and First Nation and 50 per cent (%) of the member service delivery organizations. The working group Leads will also have some discretion when determining when the required expertise is available for meetings to meaningfully proceed.

Decisions and actions of the working group will be captured and communicated to working group members following each meeting of the working group by the working group Leads.

8. Working Group Leads

The working group Leads are responsible for the coordination of the working group, including the development of meeting agendas. The following members are the current working group Leads, until such time that new Leads be appointed:

- Robert Beatty
- Linda Berube
- Ashley Davis
- Timothy (Ted) Wawia

9. Sub-Committees

The working group will create sub-committees to: discuss identified priority areas; coordinate activities and resources; and, make recommendations for action. Recommendation will be brought to the working group for final consideration and inclusion into any existing initiatives of the member communities. Sub-committees will have a specific focus and membership based on the ideal team required to understand and address the issue identified. It is recommended that sub-committees meet virtually, to limit costs and time from sub-committee members.

10. Accountability

Members are accountable to their respective organizations, community governing bodies and to each other as they develop, implement, measure impacts and modify the CSWB Plan.

11. Ways of Working, Expectations

The Working Group will:

- Be open to all ideas and experiences. Be flexible and open to try different things without judgment.
- Engage in self-care that allows each member to be present to participate and freely contribute to the conversation.
- Recognize that learning is key. Engage in active listening and learning by lifting each other up as we recognize that we may all be in different spaces.
- Seek better understanding; there are no ‘dumb’ questions.
- Be respectful by taking the time to listen and reflect before speaking.
- Be dedicated to the safety and well-being goals of the communities.
- Be respectful of timelines.

12. Building Trust

A key objective of the working group is to build trust between community members, their representatives and between members of the working group. Dedication to open communications, transparency of working group activities and decisions, building on existing relationships and spending time working together will work to continually build trust and strengthen relationships.

Understanding each community and addressing misconceptions will lead to the building of better relationships through understanding including those between First Nations and municipalities. It will be essential to build processes that facilitates two-way learning between municipalities and First Nation communities.

Building trust will allow for communities to share assets and resources, assist with funding requests from partners and bring together the collective influence of the member communities.

13. Communications

The working group will communicate with communities using community hubs like libraries, the post office, schools, grocery stores, community bulletin boards, the Legions and bingo halls. They will also use existing social events, including festivals and the Pow Wow for communication opportunities. It was suggested that communication strategies could include existing community groups and service communities, i.e., fish and game, Rural Mental Health Service Community, the Situation Tables, etc. Communications strategies may also include the development of materials for weekly flyers; using social media; and, the creation of a CSWB website.

14. Review and vision of the Terms of Reference

Members of the working group will review the terms of reference annually.

Community Councils will review the Terms of Reference upon the election of a new Council.

Appendix 2 – Community Consultation – Survey



Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Survey **DORION, RED ROCK, NIPIGON & LAKE HELEN**

Amendments to the Province’s Police Services Act mandates municipalities to prepare and adopt community safety and well-being (CSWB) plans that proactively address locally identified priority risks.

The communities of Dorion, Red Rock, Nipigon, and Lake Helen have come together to create a Joint Community Safety and Well-being Plan as these communities share many of the same service providers and are in close proximity to each other with residents working, living, and playing throughout the region.

This survey will assist the Joint Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee in the development of the CSWB Plan and its goals and will be conducted on an annual basis to assist in monitoring the implementation of the plan.

The Joint Community Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territory of the Robinson-Superior Treaty and that the land on which it gathers is home to the Red Rock Indian Band, the Anishinabek, and the Metis people.

1. How safe do you feel in _____ (name of your community):

Not Safe at all Not very Safe Somewhat Safe Mostly Safe Always Safe

Why?: _____

2. How fearful are you of being victimized in your community?

Very Fearful Somewhat Fearful Not fearful at all

Why?: _____

3. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being very unsafe and 5 being very safe, how safe do you feel in the following places:

a. Workplace - Location: _____

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

b. School – Location: _____

1 2 3 4 5 N/A

c. At your home

1 2 3 4 5

d. Outside of the community

1 2 3 4 5

e. Community gatherings

1 2 3 4 5

f. Travel between communities

1 2 3 4 5

4. The following 6 priorities have been identified by the CSWB working group. Please rank each of them in the order that you feel is relevant. If you have a suggestion for a priority not in the list, please add and rank below.

Priority	Rank
Housing (availability and affordability)	
Mental Health	
Substance Use and Addictions	
Health and Well-being (overall health and physical health)	
Food Security	
Transportation	
Other:	
Other:	

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Survey – Continued

5. What does community safety and well-being mean to you?

6. Are there any ideas you have about improving safety in your community?

7. Please select the age group that best describes you?

☐ under 18 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 65-74
☐ 18-24 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 75 + ☐ Prefer not to answer

8. Please indicate your (individual; not household) level of income:

☐ Under \$10,000
☐ \$10,000 to \$24,999
☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
☐ \$100,000 to \$149,000
☐ \$150,000 and over
☐ Prefer not to answer

Notice of Collection: Personal information collected on this form is under the legal authority of the Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990

Questions about this collection may be directed to Ashley Davis, Community Development Officer for the Township of Red Rock at cdo@redrocktownship.com or 807 886 2235.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

Appendix 3.1 – Community Consultation – Survey Results

1. Name of your Community

Answer Choices	Online	Paper Surveys	Total Responses	Responses
Red Rock	20	4	24	32%
Nipigon	15	14	29	39%
Lake Helen Reserve	4	0	4	5%
Dorion	5	12	17	23%

2. How safe do you feel in your community?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely safe	15.00%	6
Very safe	30.00%	12
Somewhat safe	47.50%	19
Not very safe	7.50%	3
Not safe at all	0.00%	0

3. How fearful are you of being victimized in your community?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very fearful	0.00%	0
Somewhat fearful	55.00%	22
Not fearful at all	45.00%	18

4. On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being "not safe at all" and 5 being "extremely safe", how safe do you feel in the following places?

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Total
At your workplace	0.0% 0	5.0% 2	12.5% 5	15.0% 6	30.0% 12	37.5% 15	40
At your School	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	13.1% 5	7.8% 3	78.9% 30	38
At your home	0.0% 0	10.5% 4	10.5% 4	42.1% 16	36.8% 14	0.0% 0	38
Outside the community	0.0% 0	12.5% 5	35.0% 14	35.0% 14	17.5% 7	0.0% 0	40
Community gatherings	0.0% 0	2.5% 1	17.5% 7	30.0% 12	50.0% 20	0.0% 0	40
Travel between communities	2.5% 1	17.5% 7	22.5% 9	35.0% 14	22.5% 9	0.0% 0	40

5. The following 6 priorities have been identified by the CSWB working group. Please rank each of them in the order that you feel is relevant. If you have a suggestion for a priority not in the list, please specify below.

	First Priority		2nd Priority		3rd Priority		4th Priority		5th Priority		6th Priority		Total
Housing (availability and affordability)	26.4%	9	5.8%	2	14.7%	5	20.5%	7	8.8%	3	17.6%	6	34
Mental Health	13.8%	5	33.3%	12	33.3%	12	5.5%	2	2.7%	1	11.1%	4	36
Substance Use and Addictions	30.3%	10	18.1%	6	9.0%	3	12.1%	4	15.1%	5	6.0%	2	33
Health and Well-being (overall health and physical health)	25.7%	9	14.2%	5	28.5%	10	11.4%	4	8.5%	3	8.5%	3	35
Food Security	8.8%	3	17.6%	6	14.7%	5	17.6%	6	26.4%	9	8.8%	3	34
Transportation	6.2%	2	15.6%	5	0.0%	0	21.8%	7	21.8%	7	31.2%	10	32
Other	12.5%	1	25.0%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	12.5%	1	0.0%	0	8
Other (please specify)													6

Other:

Senior's housing

A properly managed system is able to prioritize all of these matters effectively without weighing one against the other. All are priorities even if that means pouring just a little bit into each instead of trying to dump everything into one problem.

Police presence/patrol...especially known trouble spots

low cost youth activities ex. game nights, sports, music

medical services more available within community

community psychological safety

Please select the age group that best describes you.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	2.50%	1
18-24	5.00%	2
25-34	17.50%	7
35-44	15.00%	6
45-54	22.50%	9
55-64	17.50%	7
65-74	17.50%	7
75+	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	2.50%	1

Please indicate your (individual; not household) level of income:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under \$10,000	5.00%	2
Between \$10,000 and \$24,999	10.00%	4
Between \$25,000 and \$49,999	15.00%	6
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	25.00%	10
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	12.50%	5
Between \$100,000 and \$149,000	10.00%	4
\$150,000 or over	5.00%	2
Prefer not to answer	17.50%	7

Appendix 3.2 – Community Consultation – June 2023 – Survey Comment Responses

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Community Surveys June 2023 Survey Comment Responses

NV = Not Very Safe SW = Somewhat Safe VS = Very Safe E(S) = Extremely Safe

How safe do you feel in your community:

Dorion

- SW - I feel we need more police presence.
- SW - close to the highway
- E - Quiet community filled with great people.
- E - very seldom problems with violence, vandalism etc.
- VS - In this day and age things can't be taken for granted that just because it's a small community that its safe. Crime is everywhere be alert
- VS - I live on the hwy - feel my home is mostly safe as there is a lot of traffic that keeps theft etc away although also means that there is A LOT more traffic passing by my home increasing possibility of trouble. Tired of playing chicken with the amount and speed of traffic when pulling onto the hwy
- E - not much activity in the area and neighbours watch
- VS - to date, never had crime at our home. Roads are sometimes not safe, particularly in winter. Forest fires are a potential threat
- VS - We live on the trans Canada highway. Lots of traffic. We are very pleased with the visibility of the OPP cruisers in our area
- VS – Live on the gravel road. Not too much traffic
- E – minimal crime rate

Red Rock

- SW - Lots of drugs and associated problems
- SW - During the day safe, but not so much during the night hours . Because no one really watching during the night/ hours.
- VS - During the day safe, but not so much during the night hours . Because no one really watching during the night/ hours.
- VS - Not out in the evening late at night
- SW - Getting alot of druggies and thieves in town :(
- SW - Break ins and drug dealers new in town
- VS - Good police presence.
- SW - Individuals (community members and visitors) with poor coping strategies (drugs and alcohol) using around town, highway commute dangerous due to road conditions/snow clearance
- VS - We don't have many transients and everyone looks out for each other for the most part
- SW - Some drug usage and criminal activity in recent years introduced new individuals to the town
- NV - Drug dealers in town. No or little action by police to shut them down.

- NV - To many drug dealers in town
- SW - Town is getting overrun with drug dealers/addicts
- VS - Foot patrol by OPP, OPP make sure they are seen in town, community members watch out for their neighbours
- E - Neighbours care about their neighbours and after over their property. Little evidence of violence or vandalism

Nipigon

- E - My neighbourhood is safe, and I have never had a break-in or anything like that.
- VS - I have never been threatened in Nipigon and have not heard of anyone who has been recently.
- SW - Lots of drugs and associated problems
- SW - Poor police presence, lots of vehicles coming and going at all hours, drunks (kids) wandering the streets at all hours, vandalism to my property, rough neighbours
- SW - Lots of drug addicts.
- SW - Drug dealers
- VS - OPP do an excellent job at keeping the community safe.
- SW - I have noticed an increase in theft in the community in last 2 years.
- SW - The increase in crime and drug use has been rapid
- SW - I live on Harkness st and have had stabbings, fighting, drug deals happening in plain daylight, new people not from our community roaming the streets looking for drug houses and having parties. Constantly having to call police on same people causing these issues with no resolve!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- SW - concerns of rising number of gangs and high volume of lethal drugs
- VS - Low crime rate, you know everyone or most in the community and know who and what houses to stay away from.
- VS - because I do not do foolish things and I am careful of my surroundings
- ES - Area where we live has been very quiet near McKirdy Ave. Older residence and families
- VS – New to this area. Seems okay so far
- ES - Safe neighbourhood, Quiet, Good Neighbours, No noisy traffic
- VS - I feel mostly safe in Nipigon just because of the random occurrences
- VS – safe area, surrounded by forest
- ES - Always safe because everyone knows each other so they keep an eye on each other and let the community aware if something not good happens (on facebook or make a phone call)
- VS - Occasionally young people act out. Some adults drink or do drugs and drive. Some people do not control their temper and can lash out. Most people and most of the time are really decent and well-behaved. In a small community the citizens (& the police) mainly know who to watch out for
- SW – too many drugs
- VS - many new/strange people out and about early and late?
- VS - as a male feel less threatened than female or elderly person
- VS - I'm not from here but it seems 110% safer than where I'm from
- VS – no incidents, esp of violence

How fearful are you of being victimized in your community?

N = Not fearful

S(W) = Somewhat Fearful

Dorion

- SW - close to the highway
- N - I've never had any negative or dangerous experiences here.
- SW - A lot of small community's in CANADA are not as safe as people think many are targeted due to being rural or remote and slow 911 response due to miles to get there
- SW - We have been known to have theft of property especially in this area
- SW - Somewhat Fearful
- N - We have a cell phone. Keep our doors locked day and night. Have excellent neighbours.
- N - its been safe so far
- N – safe community
- N - Avoid situation that put you in a position of being victimized, if possible. Reach out to community members and communicate uncertainty.

Red Rock

- SW - Living rurally puts me, my family and home more vulnerable to being a victim of theft and property damage
- SW - same as above = Getting alot of druggies and thieves in town :(
- N - Have never been victimized and have lived in the community for years
- SW - An element of criminal activity known in town
- SW - News of intruders in homes.
- SW - Drug dealers
- SW - Drug dealers/addicts
- N - Close knit community which, in mosst part, would not allow that to happen. Very protective of what we have and have worked hard to keep out people safe
- SW - No law enforcement present in the community. Seems to be more drugs in the community which is concerning

Nipigon

N - I have never had an experience of being victimized.

S - Telephone scams are of concern and drug use in the community.

S - If I speak up or take action, attention will be on me for payback

S - Drug addicts and dealers.

S - our vehicle has been broken into in the past and items removed

S - Theft due to drug use

S - During these times people are struggling more. This makes people more desperate.

S - We have had to install security cameras at our home because there is a heavy police presence montly. And people we don't recognize looming around houses

N - know most of the people - most people friendly and helpful

S - if a person is on many drugs, no one can say they are safe

N - I don't feel fearful because you know who to stay away from and even when people are in a hard place a "hi" goes along way and it shows respect, especially in a small community where everyone knows everyone.

N – because If I can't handle the situation I probably just scream a lot

N - Quiet Area

N - OPP are awesome here!

N - Lived in Nipigon for years, and all have been kind beyond what words can properly describe

SW - Some crime in Nipigon, but not in close area

SW - Somewhat fearful because firstly I usually go to places where people can see me and secondly this is a small community, people know each other so I don't really worry that someone will attack me and I find people in Nipigon are nice

SW - Because there are a few people who may act out. Also - A bigger risk - who knows what criminals may drugs off the train or drive in from the highway

SW - drugs, people on drugs are just not rational!

N - try to keep my self aware of my surroundings and people

N – Everyone seems like pretty

SW – we are seniors

Ranking priorities

Other priorities identified:

- 1st Priority – Sufficient high paying employment
- OPP Presence
- community psychological safety
- medical services more available within community
- low cost youth activities ex. game nights, sports, music
- Police presence/patrol...especially known trouble spots
- Senior's housing
- A properly managed system is able to prioritize all of these matters effectively without weighing one against the other. All are priorities even if that means pouring just a little bit into each instead of trying to dump everything into one problem. (Lake Helen)

What does Community Safety mean to you?

Dorion

- Having the feeling of a secure and safe environment and knowing you matter.
- Fire Dept. coverage for my community Access to Health Unit programs
- Peace and Serenity
- A quiet, relaxing environment where my family and I can feel relaxed and content without worrying excessively about crime.
- Safety - freedom from fear of violence or intrusion. Well-being - sufficient local employment for all
- When I'm home - to be able to live on my own property with out having to lock my doors or look over my shoulder to see if all is safe when I am outside of the house in yard etc.
- Feeling safe and secure in your home, work and community
- a secure and comfortable living environment
- Plan in place for community danger like forest fire/flooding. Ambulance services need to be in place and definitely not cut
- A network of information and resources that benefits the residents in the area. Easy access - 911 - 211 - Good communications between Council and the community. During the pandemic our Reeve and Council were excellent in keeping us informed
- Easy Living
- Safe in your home and when you are out in your community
- Community safety and well-being means that you feel safe in your environment and that you know who neighbours are and that you look out for each other in the community

- Feel safe and comfortable with the knowledge my neighbours all look out for one another

Red Rock

- to raise a family without the worry of drugs that kill! seniors can go and walk anywhere without fear
- Being able to go out your door with no fears
- Being able to walk without being afraid, older children being able to play unsupervised without being scared. Leave on vacation without being afraid of someone breaking in
- Being able to go for a walk in my community and not feel scared of being attacked.
- Means having adequate and efficient police enforcement. Safety meaning protecting yourself, your loved ones and your home. And everything You worked hard for safe without having to worry someone is breaking into your home or stealing from your property.
- Everyone is friendly in Red Rock
- feeling safe while in your home or outside your home
- It means peace of mind to walk around to not worry about any items in the yard being stolen or vandalized
- A level of civility, a welcoming and accepting community instead of being ostracized, e.g. dismissing ideas at community meetings, dismissing/ignoring successful community related contributions, declining offers to volunteer, refusing to engage after events, high level of gossip (& made up stories) which community thrives on and is damaging to individual's reputation. Consider workplace harassment laws and cultivate within the same context a welcoming community culture.
- Feeling comfortable letting your children play outside without fear for their safety. Feeling as though everyone in the community is looking out for each other and working towards the betterment of the community as a whole.
- Having social determinants of health met
- Means being able to come and go within or outside the community without fear
- Safety for seniors and children to be able to be out in community without worry of criminal activity or viewing drug paraphernalia
- Feeling safe when alone in my home. Reducing illegal drugs in the community so as to provide secure environment especially for young children.
- Ensuring all community members are safe from any harm within the community and feeling welcomed into any community event. This does not happen at our town office
- Removing the drug dealers/addicts from our communities
- Safety- continued OPP presences in the community, resources for people to have safety plans at home, emergency response services, Well-being - programs in place to keep people active, gatherings on a monthly or quarterly basis
- Being able to walk around my community at all hours and not being worried that I am going to get attacked, assaulted or harassed. That if anything happens, the people around me will help. Fast response times for emergency services. The resources are available if I need assistance for food, shelter, or mental health assistance. There are safe opportunities for physical activity.
- Can walk around anywhere without worrying about who is around. Little fear of home/garage being broken into
- Know that we have adequate Police surveillance and protection. Being able to go anywhere without fear. Having activities which promote a healthy lifestyle

- This is a very important issue to me. As I age it is important to me to feel safe both in my home and while moving throughout the community

Nipigon

- Overall health of everyone. Access to healthcare and transportation to healthcare is so important. Access to services as well.
- Good health care with adequate senior's housing in a safe community low in crime.
- Peaceful enjoyment of own property without worries and undue annoyances or fears of repercussion. There should be some sort of local transportation system too... whether Taxi, U-Ride, Uber, whatever
- Strong police presence. Healthy neighbourhoods. No run down houses. No trap houses. No well known drug houses and/or dealers.
- I want to raise my future kids and a safe community
- means living in a safe place where people can interact without fear of verbal abuse or physical harm, and engage in activities promoting physical health and well being and other social activities
- The ability to leave your home to enjoy the community without fearing harassment, theft or robbery.
- A community that is unified
- Being able to leave my house without being afraid.
- Safety is only one aspect of being for a person but vital in order to contribute to the overall feeling of well being.
- reconciliation and appropriate mental health and housing
- Being able to enjoy our own property without fear of someone stealing items or breaking into our home.
- access to services (health, licensing, bank, restaurants, library), programs and events, and to stores (food, clothing, fuel)
- being able to walk out and about in the community without fear of intoxicated or high or persons with serious mental illness approaching me
- Community safety and well-being means that whether at home, at work or at play you can feel safe that you are not going to get into conflicts or assaulted while living your day to day life.
- that I can participate in activities without fear or worry
- That there would not be drugs flowing through the community and that those struggling with such issues would find the supports needed
- A nice sense of peace
- It means being able to allow your children to play in the yard without worry
- Walk down the street safely, park car safely, clean water and food
- I really care about community safety and well-being wherever I move to. I feel comfortable and less stress when living in a safe neighbourhood and promote well-being
- Being able to walk around at night (ie. Put garbage out), feeling safe walking to shops and other places, being comfortable (& safe) in my yard, or the streets, etc.
- Able to frequent stores, going for a walk around town in evening
- It means that we can feel comfortable in our own homes
- Thank I am free to move about, go shopping, go for walk in and around town and rural bush roads

- Safe to move about, shop, walk
- safe environment for our children to develop and thrive in
- Free from physical harms and harassment, health care in the community, possessions safe from theft

8. Ideas for improving safety in your community

Dorion

- more police presence and having mental health seminars or educational programs at the local schools.
- Twinning the Trans Canada Highway
- Not really. It's already safe.
- All levels of government must be pro-active concerning employment issues and economic development. We need to attract businesses to our areas that are NOT involved in natural resources, as well as expanding our resource based businesses. Why was Hurkett not included? Although unorganized it is an integral part of our community.
- Maybe once in a while for seniors who are alone and in remote rural areas a simple phone call once a month or so to ask if all is OK around where they live and nothing strange going on. There's no strangers hanging around for NO REASON?
- Bigger Police Presence. More traffic being stopped for speed as the speeds on fourlanes and passing lanes is ridiculous
- Better road maintenance particularly in winter. Too many people die on our roads
- The number of transports that go by our door on a daily basis is very concerning as the incidents of transport incidents and accidents in high. More driver regulations and training needed. Better internet access.
- More policing?
- More policing in relation to drugs
- Improving safety in the community includes not only neighbours continuing to look out for each other, but seeing "policing" in the community, especially during period when there are many strangers in the community during summer months and long weekends etc
- Police presence on long weekends as many strangers out and about

Red Rock

- get rid of the meth houses
- Crack down on the drugs, neighbour's watching out for each other
- Punish the ones who commit repeat offences.
- more police presence
- Community watch just keep an eye out for suspicious activity and look out for your neighbors and seniors
- You can have all the affordable housing, transportation, etc., but if you don't have a culture in place to create a welcoming community, what is the point of living here. It's not living, it's existing. Research topics like a culture of belonging, community civility, lateral violence, community psychological safety, also invite more diversity.
- Community watch program along red rock road and in town.
- More education to our communities about services available Affordable housing
- If there are any drug houses or activities in the area, their elimination would prevent violence and victimization for all who live in the community

- Safe needle disposal Police presence to deter thefts Cameras
- More police presence especially around areas where drug deals are known to occur, not in front of the post office.
- More police presence
- Have the police finally arrest dealers. We all know who they are and so do the cops. Quit going after “the big fish” and lock up the ones in our communities already
- Trail cameras around town as they are cheaper for the municipality.
- Updated listing of services and resources on community notice boards and websites.
- more police patrols although it has improved
- Sidewalk improvement, neighbourhood watch program
- Improve the condition of sidewalks and roads
- The presence of law enforcement on a more regular basis. Keeping an ambulance base in the community

Nipigon

- I like to see the police sgt at community functions
- I think businesses should take on young people who may not have a sense of direction... eg. Hairdressers, barbers, cafes, bakeries, social housing, banks, garages, etc... I think to try to encourage young people in this way, not quite an apprentice program but a hands on experience at a couple of afternoons per week... maybe something like this would help break social isolation and help to promote a sense of well-being and responsibility deterring youth and young adults away from destructive lifestyles.
- Road repairs (potholes), Clear snow in back alleyways
- The only thing I would suggest improving safety is encouraging, safe practices at home that can translate over to the community ie. Picking up your garbage
- Practice yoga, dance (have class or studio with affordable fee), install camera in places where people usually gather or parking lot at the grocery store
- Sorry I don't. I think Nipigon is doing a good job of providing activities for people to get together and know one another which contributes to community cohesiveness, and to people being friendly and supportive of one another
- More patrolling by OPP in evening
- More police presence
- Walkabouts by OPP - only see parked when something happening * very little interaction with people in the streets
- Like to see OPP more often especially at night, understand #s make this harder to do
- more kid/children activities with minimal to no cost
- Stop lights at Tim Hortons

General Comments:

Dorion

- Our local volunteer Fire Dept (they go far beyond their original mandate); our excellent Library Services and technology support; Knowing and supporting our neighbours; The very active 55+ club; The excellent rapport with the Nipigon OPP detachment; The need for improved internet services; Excellent municipal staff; local church groups; the strong support of the community in times of need; the OPP cruisers visible in our area; a community food bank; a local historical

museum; The ability to enjoy the beautiful scenery and landmarks in our area. The Freedom to explore, hike, fish, pick berries, camp and enjoy fresh air; the ability to plant our own gardens and share the rewards; the feeling that those in power have our backs: medical services, ambulance service and helicopter, fire services (local and MNR), OPP support (school programs), highway improvements, local Council and many gov't mandates; Our own local community Cemetery. We are extremely blessed to live in Northern Ontario. Space to move, clean air, clean water, ability to know and support our neighbours. Very please to see the much needed four-laning of highway 17. Very happy to receive this survey. Hope you receive a good response to this survey!

Nipigon

- Very concerned about the semis on the highway, too many accidents
- Fairly new to the community ... but would hope seniors are cared for and that young people would have sufficient and interesting activities
- Maybe can also teach young people how to do burns of where there is a lot of old overgrowth... near on highway boulevards... down the slopes of creeks which would further beautify this awesome community – maybe this may even get rid of some mosquitoes??