

Report to Council



Date: June 9 2025

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Community Safety Plan – Annual Progress Update

Department: Community Safety

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Community Safety Services Branch dated June 9, 2025, with respect to the 2025 progress of Kelowna's Community Safety Plan.

Purpose:

To receive the third annual progress report for Kelowna's Community Safety Plan.

Council Priority Alignment:

Crime & Safety
Affordable Housing
Homelessness

Background:

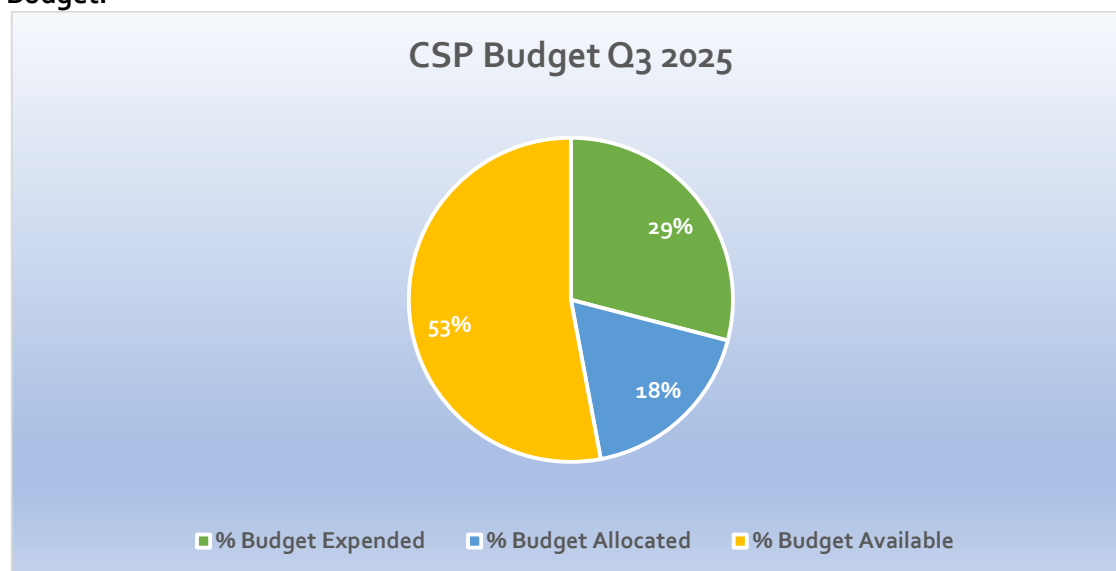
In 2021, the City convened and led the development of Kelowna's first-ever Community Safety Plan (CSP) through a comprehensive and collaborative process with social, health, education, and justice system leaders. The plan was informed by the diverse voices of nearly 900 people, including community members, representatives from more than 30 business and community organizations, City Council, and national subject matter experts. The five-year CSP was endorsed by City Council in spring 2022.

The CSP is a pragmatic five-year action plan which provides a strategic framework through which diverse agencies collaborate and coordinate their efforts to reduce risk, vulnerability, and harm, and create a community where all people are safe and feel safe. The CSP is guided by five priorities, 15 recommendations, and 30 action items. This report outlines the progress and results accomplished in the third year of implementation.

CSP Structure and Implementation:

The CSP is led by a Stewardship Team comprised of senior representatives from the City of Kelowna, RCMP, Interior Health, Ministry of Children & Family Development, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, Okanagan College, School District 23, and KCR Community Resources (KCR). This Team, supported by the work of operational Action Teams, advances the five priorities and works collectively and collaboratively to advance the 30 Action Items.

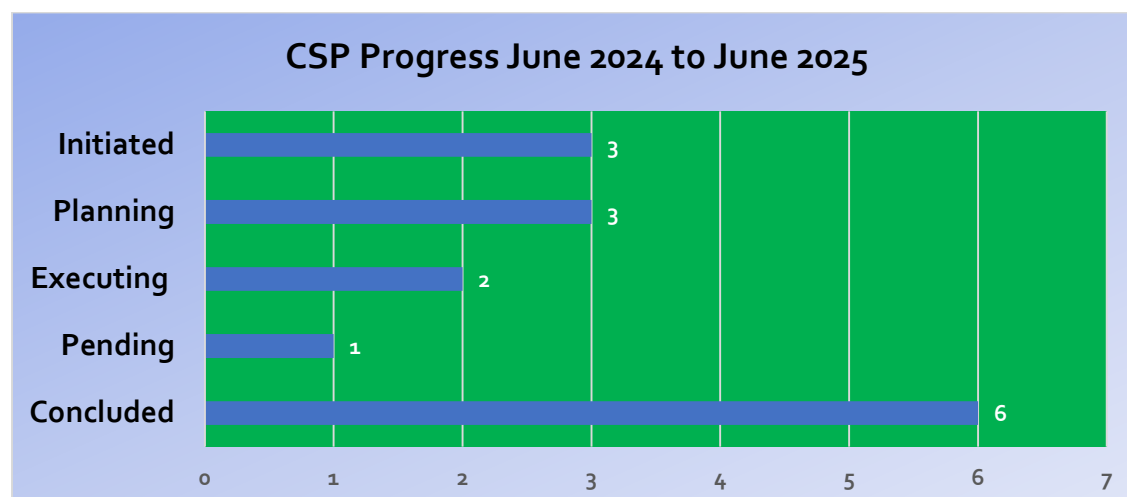
Budget:



In spring 2022, Council allocated \$250,000 in funding for the implementation of the 30 Actions over five years. As of this report, 29 per cent (\$72,600) of the budget has been spent with another 18 per cent (\$45,000) earmarked for ongoing Actions and 53 per cent (\$138,000) of funds remain to carry out Actions in the final two years of the plan. Individual Actions may also receive enhanced or ongoing funding from Council, such as Action 1.2 which received \$250,000 in 2024, and another \$500,000 in 2025.

This Year's Progress:

Recognizing that, three years in, the CSP has a strong foundation of inter-agency cooperation and collaboration, implementation of the 30 Action Items is being accelerated momentum is building towards the 2027 implementation timeline.



This past year:

- three Action Items moved to the Initiated stage
- three Action Items reached the Planning stage
- three Action Items reached the Executing stage
- one Action moved from Executing back to Pending
- six Action Items were Concluded

Action Items:

The CSP's Actions vary in scope and objective; each designed to be flexible to adapt to changes that have arisen since the CSP was first endorsed. The life cycle of an Action Item may not always be linear but is tracked through various stages to conclusion.

Action Item Stages

- Unactioned Items are those where the work has not reached a level that an Action Team has yet to be formed. Often there is work occurring 'behind the scenes' by the partners to address these Actions, but more work is needed before the idea can be brought to the Stewardship Team for consideration.
- Initiated Actions are those in which the Stewardship Team has approved the proposal of an Action Team, at least in principle, but funds have yet to be allocated as the detailed planning is not yet complete.
- Actions at the Planning stage are those in which an Action Team, who has submitted a proposal to the Stewardship Team, are refining the pitch. Typically, more details on budget or scope of work is required before the Action can move to the next stage.
- Actions in the Executing stage have been approved and funded by the Stewardship Team, and the Action Team is actively working to advance the objectives of the Action Plan.
- Actions in the Pending stage are those in which the Action Team has an approved plan but has encountered an obstacle or discovered a new area of work which requires the original plan to be amended. For example, under Action 4.2, the RCMP and KCR completed the Action as initially envisioned, but Social Development will lead Phase 2, including re-engaging the group, supporting the drafting of a new project charter inclusive of any funding requests. The Action Team will focus on identifying a specific project/initiative which can be developed and actioned within 6 months.
- Actions in the Concluded stage are those in which the Action Team has met the objectives of their plan. This does not mean that the work is over but rather the product of the Action becomes the foundation for further work by one or more of the partners.

Year Three Highlights:

The Action Teams have been very busy in the past year. As a demonstration of the type of complex, long-term issues the Action Teams are tackling, the following are samples from different stages of the typical Action Item:

Initiated

Priority 2 Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence	
Action 5.1	Expand and explore current and potential community learning programs to prevent dating violence (e.g., healthy relationships for couples, parenting skills & family relationships, victim-centered services, mentorship, etc.).
Action 6.1	Develop educational campaigns and resources for community members to identify risk factors and intervene in / report situations of DV/IPV (e.g., poster campaign in liquor establishments, virtual hand signal for DV/IPV, bystander intervention training).
Action 7.1	Advocate for increased funding for DV/IPV wraparound services, with a focus on transitioning out of shelters (e.g., support in managing finances, access to housing, etc.)

Led by the Ministry of Children & Family Development, the Action Team is taking the ambitious step of combining these three action items. The Action Team will engage with local experts to identify which programs can benefit from enhancement with funding and guidance from the CSP to collectively advance these Actions.

Planning

Priority 1 Crime Prevention, Intervention and Sense of Safety	
Action 4.1	Create strategies / mechanisms for peer-to-peer (e.g., people with lived or living experience) involvement in community safety projects. (e.g., partnerships with business community)

The City's Social Development Team has launched an Action Team to explore collaboration between DKA and URBA with PEOPLE Lived Experience Society and the Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness (LECoH). The vision is a program in which the work of the BIA's On-Call Ambassadors and Clean Teams are assisted by the efforts of people experiencing homelessness; giving deserving people a chance at meaningful work that connects them with their community.

Executing

Priority 1 Crime Prevention, Intervention and Sense of Safety	
Action 4.3	Expand the Strong Neighbourhoods program to further support neighbour connection, engagement, safety, and sense of belonging. More specifically this action will intentionally focus on expanding the Block Connector Program to have a presence in targeted neighbourhoods based on Community Safety data.

The City's Active Living & Culture Department has led the charge to advance this Action. Since inception, 84 Block Connectors neighbourhoods have been established, a Promotional Video created, an asset-based community development ("ABCD") workshop facilitated, and tailored events delivered like the 4th Neighbourhood pulse pop-up in Ben Lee Park, and the KSAN community engagement with CSSB and RCMP.

Concluded

Priority 5 Racism and Discrimination	
Action 14.2	Expand and advance initiatives to increase partnerships, reduce hate crimes, and increase reporting. (e.g., post-secondary institutions, indigenous and diverse communities).

KCR Community Resources is the lead for this Action Team which has been productive with events such as:

- In collaboration with Kelowna Pride, Advocacy Canada, Dignity Network Canada, and This Space, a presentation titled '*From the Global to the local and back again*' was delivered. It was an open community dialogue on attacks on the 2SLGBTIQ+ community.
- Arranged for a public session, '*Hate Requires a Response*' featuring Dr. Danny Carroll on the growing threat of White Nationalism and White Supremacy.
- Completed delivery of two *anti-racism training in sports field* sessions for the UBC Okanagan Men's Soccer team and ran weekly inclusive soccer sessions in July and August 2024, and again from November 2024 to March 2025 with an average of 40 participants per session.
- Activated a United Against Discrimination (UAD) social media campaign, which is continuing, and responding to incident reports received through the UAD portal.
- Arranged a public speaking event held in February at the Metro Hub titled '*A Journey to Radical Compassion*' featuring Tony McAleer; over 140 participants attended

Sharing Progress - the CSP Dashboard:

A CSP dashboard has been launched on the [Community Safety Plan](#) landing page which provides up to date progress information. The purpose of this dashboard is to increase accountability to residents, and to acknowledge and recognize the many contributions of the 55+ project partners who have been collaborating to improve the safety and sense of safety in Kelowna since April 2022.



Conclusion:

The CSP continues to build effective interventions to address issues in our community. More importantly it has changed how we work in the Community Safety space. It has shown the importance of a collaborative, strategic approach among partners versus isolated efforts which sometimes duplicated the work and created competition for resources.

In the year ahead, the CSP Stewardship Team will be focussed on entrenching those relationships so they endure beyond the five-year timespan of the CSP and will be looking to build bridges with more community partners as we advance the remainder of our Actions.

Internal Circulation:

Active Living & Culture

Communications Department

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by: K. Duggan, Community Safety Services Manager

Approved for inclusion: S. Leatherdale, General Manager, People & Protective Services

cc: cc: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

K. Mead, Acting Community Safety Director

C. Cornock, Social Development Manager