



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
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Strategic Plan 2017-2020

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Community Social Planning Council

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Introduction

The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (CSPC) was formed in 1936 to address the needs of people experiencing poverty in the region through community social planning activities and initiatives. Community social planning is a process for building community well-being. It is defined as a 'local democratic system for setting priorities, arriving at equitable compromises and taking action. It supports community needs and interests in social, cultural, economic, and environmental affairs". (Clauge, 1993).

Since its inception, the Community Social Planning Council has continuously evolved to respond to community needs, trends and priorities. It provides leading-edge community-based research, education and evaluation for its members, strategic partners and clients. The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria also provides leadership in convening and facilitating multi-sector collaborations and community engagement initiatives. A key function of the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria is to be a conduit for connecting the region to quality, reliable information and insightful analysis on topics that builds connections among people and that supports stronger communities.

Recent activities of the Community Social Planning Council include working in partnership with the Social Planning and Research Council of BC on the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy for the Capital Regional District; conducting community based research on tenants' experiences in supportive housing to support the implementation of the Regional Housing First Strategy, collaborating with Scale Collaborative to host and deliver a social enterprise incubator program for organizations looking to develop social enterprises; working with a coalition of organizations to develop a Regional Outcomes Monitoring framework; and conducting research for the BC Centre for Employment Excellence on outcomes for youth who participate in employment social enterprises. The Community Social Planning Council continues to administer the BC Transit Ticket Assistance program which, since 1997, has provided accessible public transit tickets and passes to organizations that work with low-income residents across the capital region to support transit accessibility for low-income residents. The Living Wage calculation, and employer outreach, also continue to be part of the Council's core work, as is the Youth Program Quality Initiative which provides professional development training for youth workers, and program evaluation for youth serving organizations across the region.

Practice and Services

The Community Social Planning Council is an independent, non-partisan, and knowledgeable voice on social issues in BC's capital region. By fostering social innovation and integrated action on social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions the Council supports the creation of sustainable communities. This work is done through the following areas:

Research: Conducting qualitative and quantitative, participatory, and community led research to inform action on improving community conditions. We analyze socio-economic trends and indicators and inform residents and stakeholders of emerging issues.

Evaluation: We conduct strength-based and solutions-oriented evaluations of programs, projects and agencies.

Community Development: Designing and implement asset – based community development processes to build innovative opportunities for social innovation.

Visioning: We provide spaces and opportunities for community members to create visions of the future for their communities.

Public Education: We deliver learning and public education resources and opportunities to mobilize knowledge for community benefit.

Policy Development: We use our research, learning and engagement expertise to inform policy development and engage with local stakeholders and government agencies at all levels to support best practice in public policy.

Community Engagement: We design and implement public and stakeholder engagement processes to inform project, program and policy development.

Community Planning: Managing community and regional planning processes to address socio-economic considerations on an inclusive and empowering basis. We undertake social planning for community services.

Program Creation: We create and incubate community programs, to meet community needs and opportunities. We convene stakeholders to collaboratively develop new resources to respond to emerging issues.

Strategic Direction

Vision: On-going and emergent social issues are well understood and communities have the tools they need to develop solutions to these issues.

Mission: The Community Social Planning Council provides reliable information and engagement processes that inform decision making across all sectors in order to support broad based social well-being. This is done by:

- Bringing people together to address community issues;
- Conducting community-based research; and
- Supporting community and regional planning processes.

Guiding Beliefs: The Community Social Planning Council is a values-driven organization. Underlying its work is a shared belief:

- ❖ In the attainability of a healthy, sustainable, just, and vibrant community;
- ❖ That accurate and accessible information is a tool for positive social change;
- ❖ That marginalized voices need to be part of social planning processes;
- ❖ In the necessity of a broad-based process of reconciliation with indigenous communities;
- ❖ That meaningful community engagement and respect for diversity and inclusion are critical components of a socially sustainable region; and
- ❖ Social policy development needs to acknowledge the critical and increasing points of connection between climate change, energy policy, and infrastructure development.

Strategic Priorities 2017 to 2020

Strategic Priority 1: Social planning

Goal 1.1: Continue to build relationships with all levels of government to support the inclusion of social issues into their planning efforts.

Strategy 1.1.1 – Continue to build strategic relationships with municipal governments across the capital region.

Strategy 1.1.2 – Formalize a partnership with the Capital Regional District.

Goal 1.2: Play a collaborative role in social planning efforts across Vancouver Island and the province.

Strategy 1.2.1 – Support the capacity of communities across the island and surrounding islands to engage in social planning.

Strategy 1.2.2 – Work to support the development of island-wide social planning priorities and coordinated responses.

Strategic Priority 2: Research, knowledge translation, policy development

Goal 2.1: Provide accurate, up-to-date and useful information to inform government and community planning efforts.

Strategy 2.1.1: Provide expertise and data to inform municipal and provincial government planning.

Strategy 2.1.2: Provide expertise and community information to inform private and public investment in community/social issues.

Strategy 2.1.3 - Build intentional relationships with university, colleges, and other research bodies to support research and data collection efforts and dissemination.

Goal 2.2: Be the go to experts on regional social and community issues.

Strategy 2.2.1 – Develop a process to inform community and government stakeholder on relevant research and data.

Strategy 2.2.2 - Continue to build in-house expertise in key community and social issues.

Strategy 2.2.3 – Strengthen relationships with private and public funders across the province.

Strategy 2.2.4 – Develop a media strategy in order to disseminate accurate information to a wider public audience and showcase Council expertise.

Strategic Priority 3: Community engagement and convening sectors

Goal 3.1: Play a collaborative role working with community residents, Indigenous organizations, governments, non-profits and businesses in coalitions and partnership activities across the capital region.

Strategy 3.1.1 - Work deliberately to deepen relationships with First Nations and Indigenous communities and ensure their voices are represented and respected within our research.

Strategy 3.1.2: Bring non-profit, government, and private sectors together to address key community issues.

Strategic Priority 4: Internal capacity and sustainability

Goal 4.1: Develop a sustainability plan for the organization.

Strategy 4.1.1 – Develop a staffing model that will support the implementation of strategic priorities.

Strategy 4.1.2 – Develop a financial plan based on diverse revenue streams that will effectively resource the Council and build organizational sustainability.

Strategy 4.1.3 – Conduct a governance review of the organization.

Goal 4.2: Become an entrepreneurial non-profit.

Strategy 4.2.1 - Strengthen the capacity of the organization to engage in social enterprise development.

Strategy 4.2.2 – Build an asset base that allows for financial stability.