



CVRD COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2012

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Message from the Chair

Over the past two years the Community Safety Advisory Committee has focused on Youth Safety. We have been working to gather information and asking our Communities' Youth about their safety - giving them a voice and making sure they are being heard. Our Youth Safety Subcommittee has been very successful and the big job was collecting their views and making sure we did not miss any of their thoughts.

We would like to welcome Terri Dame back to the Cowichan Valley. Lucky for us she has come on board in the middle of the Youth Dialogues this year and has been frantically capturing all the feedback. It has been challenging but she has done an amazing job.

At the close of 2012 we are now Community Safety Advisory Commission. We are hoping that with this profile we can be looked at as another important resource for staff at CVRD to utilize. It would be wonderful if we could be looking at a future Cowichan Region Youth Lens to be added to our list of tools for proposed developments and planning in the Cowichan region. You never know what the next year may bring.

In closing I would like to thank all of the members of the Commission for their continued support and commitment to a very worthwhile endeavor and all the challenges that come with it.

I look forward to sitting on this Commission in 2013.

Respectfully,

Lori Iannidinardo



Executive Summary

The CVRD Community Safety Advisory was formed in 2003, but has been working since its inception as the Women's Safety Advisory in 1996, to foster safe communities. CSAC is charged with the mandate of advising the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) on safety issues of regional, inter-municipal, and inter-agency importance. The Committee also serves as a forum for multi-sectorial discussion where local government, community groups, and residents can work together. The committee has a leading role in providing advice and support to safer communities' initiatives across the Region.

Over the years, CSAC has worked on a range of issues and initiatives including but not limited to Women's Safety Audits, Planning and Design Guidelines, a Community Action Plan, the development of a Regional Safety Lens, and a Safe Needle Strategy.

In 2011, the CSAC adopted Youth Safety as their priority and has worked over two years to gather information and the voices of Youth to better understand what youth need in order to flourish, and how local governments can both respond and plan to create communities that foster resiliency and protective factors.

During 2012, CSAC and its Youth Safety Sub-committee, along with Safe Youth Cowichan, conducted dialogues with over 300 young people to gather input around their needs for safety. This effort resulted in Six Principles for a Safe Youth Cowichan and Recommendations to Lay a Foundation, including a regional youth strategy, a youth safety lens, and local planning and action.

In addition to this major effort, CSAC devoted efforts to transitioning to a Commission, informing itself and others through community information bulletins, liaising with community initiatives such as the Cowichan Tribes Embracing Life Project, and supporting two neighbourhood working groups in taking a leadership role in community development and enrichment activities.

"The prevention of violence facilitates community cohesion and participation, fosters neighbourhood improvements, expands employment and educational opportunities, and improves overall health and well-being."

(Cohen et al; Addressing the Intersection. Oakland: Prevention Institute; p.1)

Introduction and Background

Purpose of this Report

This report provides a brief background and introduction to the CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC), a description of activities conducted during 2012, and a summary of achievements realized by the committee.

CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee

Until December 2012, the CSAC was a standing committee of the Board, appointed by the Board on an annual basis. The general terms of reference of the Community Safety Advisory Committee have been: to advise on community safety issues within the Regional District, including safety audits and safety related funding requests.

Committee Role and Activities

Within these general terms of reference, the CSAC has had the ability to assume an extensive role to address a range of factors that contribute to community health and safety in the Cowichan region. Historically, the Committee has taken a Social Development Approach to community safety and crime prevention which recognizes that just as there is no one cause of crime, victimization and fear, there is also no one solution. This approach focuses on addressing the underlying causes of crime and victimization, and undertakes research, needs assessments, action planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Over time, CSAC activities have included:

- ❑ Identification and assessment of issues and priorities for research and action.
- ❑ Undertaking, and/or providing guidance and direction to research and action projects.
- ❑ Promoting education and awareness of community safety-related issues and prevention strategies.
- ❑ Developing and submitting recommendations to the CVRD Board and other levels of government to undertake specific action as to address, promote and encourage policy development, community development, and provision of services relating to community safety.
- ❑ Developing and submitting recommendations to relevant departments, committees and structures of the CVRD and member municipalities for Official Community Plans and other bylaws, parks, emergency planning, human resources and so on, relating to personal and public safety.
- ❑ Developing tools and resources.
- ❑ Providing education and training through workshops and seminars for citizens, professional groups such as planners, developers, architects, and community organizations.
- ❑ Sharing information about this work with other communities around the province and across Canada.

Structural Support to CSAC

CSAC is supported in its efforts by the CVRD, including administrative and departmental functions. Over the years, various departmental staff have provided input to the committee and have reported on their activities.

Safer Futures Support to CSAC

CSAC is also supported by the Safer Futures Program under an Annual Financial Contribution. Safer Futures is a community research and development program of the CWAV Society that conducts research on issues related to the safety of women, children and other vulnerable groups in their communities and works collaboratively to develop and implement solutions. Safer Futures supports CSAC in its mandate of advising the CVRD on safety issues of regional, inter-municipal, and inter-agency importance.

Program Team

Theresa Gerritsen, Executive Director
Terri Dame, Program Manager
Thanya Al-Saadoon, Project Manager
Terri Ferris, Administrative Support

Safer Futures acts as a primary resource to the committee with wide range of coordination and facilitation services including but not limited to:

- Assistance in the development and implementation of the CSAC Work Plan and the work plans of CSAC sub-committees.
- Liaison with neighbourhoods.
- Research and analysis on safety issues at the local, provincial, federal, and international levels.
- Assistance in analysis and identifying activities to promote and enhance safety for the Cowichan region based on research as above.
- Creating and/or contributing to CSAC reports and documents.
- Assistance with the production of communication materials related to community safety.

As well, Safer Futures provides support to committee work through partnership projects supported by granting agencies. These projects have been developed in consultation with the Committee with the aim of meeting specific objectives for research and/or community development. In turn, the Committee has provided structure, guidance and direction to project activities, and has taken the information resulting from projects to develop and submit recommendations for action.

Supportive and Guiding Documents

The Annual CSAC Work plan

This work plan is informed by the three documents that provide a Framework for Action and the basis for the main activities of CSAC for the fiscal year.

The Community Safety Action Plan

In 2006, CSAC developed a draft community, health and safety framework entitled "Community Safety Action Plan". This document provides an overall Strategic Plan to address safety within the Cowichan Valley region. Four building blocks provide the structure of the Plan: Policy and Guidance, Safe and Accessible Design, Building Strong Neighbourhoods and Coordinated Action. The Plan provides the framework for the CSAC Work Plan each year.

The Cowichan Region Safety Lens

The Community Safety Lens is a planning and development tool. As a framework document it considers safety, ensures adequate consultation and informs a range of procedures. Specifically, the lens provides planners, elected officials and developers with a tool to assess safety for proposed developments and planning in the Cowichan region.

Goals for a Safe Community

(Cowichan Region Safety Lens, 2008)

A safe community is one where we feel safe in our home, at work, and out in public, day or night.

In a safe community, no one is assaulted, abused, or otherwise harmed by family members, friends or strangers. Work places are free from violence and harassment.

A safe community can be measured by the experiences of its most vulnerable citizens.

A safe community contains quality services (youth programs, daycare, training) and well-designed infrastructure (safe buildings, public spaces, transit and streets).

In a safe community, everyone has access to housing that is adequate and affordable. Everyone lives in neighbourhoods where they feel able to freely walk around and play outside.

A safe community is accessible by all of its citizens - regardless of physical and intellectual ability.

In a safe community, diversity is valued and there is no racism or discrimination.

2012 Community Safety Advisory Committee Member List

Name	Representing
Director Lori Iannidinaro (Chair)	Area D Cowichan Bay, CVRD
Director Barb Lines (Vice Chair)	District of North Cowichan, CVRD
Councillor Michelle Bell	City of Duncan
Councillor Jayne Ingram	Town of Lake Cowichan
Councillor Jill Dashwood	Town of Ladysmith
Councillor John Koury	District of North Cowichan
Councillor William Seymour (Chip)	Cowichan Tribes
Councillor Cindy Daniels (<i>alternate</i>)	Cowichan Tribes
Corporal Jon Stuart	RCMP, North Cowichan/Duncan
Constable Kelly Rydholm (<i>alternate</i>)	RCMP, North Cowichan/Duncan
Cheryl Stone, Executive Director	Community Options Society
Theresa Gerritsen, Executive Director	Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
Jim Harnden, Executive Director	Cowichan Independent Living
Linden Collette, Executive Director	Social Planning Cowichan
Dr. Frank Groenewold	CAC/Advisory Committee for Corrections Canada, Nanaimo Parole Board
Carol-Ann Rolls, Manager	Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society
Zoe Sorenson	Youth Representative
Support Staff	
Terri Dame, Program Supervisor /Manager	Safer Futures (program within CWAV)
Thanya Al-Saadoon, Community Development Coordinator	Safer Futures (program within CWAV)
Joe Barry	Corporate Secretary CVRD
Tara Daly	Recording Secretary CVRD

CSAC Activities During 2012

During 2012, it was the consensus of CSAC to continue with the 2011 Work Plan Goals which identified the focus of Youth Safety and a regional Youth Safety Dialogues Project. In addition, the committee worked on a range of tasks including its Terms of Reference and a Commission bylaw, membership, education and awareness, community liaison and response to issues.

Membership

The committee welcomed Dr. Frank Groenewold, Citizen Advisory Committee to the Correctional Service of Canada in June 2012, Corporal Jon Stuart (Duncan/North Cowichan RCMP), and Mike McKay, Official Trustee, School District No. 79 in July 2012, and bid farewell and thanks to Corporal Kevin Day (Duncan/North Cowichan RCMP) and Candace Spilsbury (School District No. 79 Trustee).

Community Liaison and Assistance

Neighbourhoods

Beverly Alexander Neighbourhood Working Group

The Beverly Alexander Neighbourhood Working Group (formerly was formed in 2006 as the James Alexander Working Group and has since narrowed its geographical focus and volunteer base. During 2012, the working group organized a major Neighbourhood Celebration in September, which was attended by approximately 200 people. Following on their theme of promoting the Community Garden, they applied for a City of Duncan Grant-in-Aid to build a sign. This group has also strived to stay active in local planning and development processes.

Cairnsmore Neighbourhood Working Group

The Cairnsmore Neighbourhood Working Group was also formed in 2006, and continues to actively engage neighbours and community organizations in monthly meetings. During 2012, Safer Futures attended meetings of this group and provided support to develop a Grant-in-Aid application which provided funding for the production and distribution of a neighbourhood newsletter, and a summer community barbeque and family day. The Cairnsmore Working Group continues to monitor and explore community infrastructure planning in their neighbourhood.

Seniors' Safety

During 2012, CSAC also liaised with the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues, a newly formed sub-committee of the City of Duncan's Mayor's Advisory Committee on Disability Issues and sent correspondence to explore and review representation of seniors' issues in the work of the committee. As CSAC transitions from a Standing Committee to a Commission, it can address the 2013 year as CSAC assumes its new structure as a Commission.

Cowichan Tribes State of Emergency and Embracing Life Project

In September 2012, the CSAC Chair and Safer Futures staff met with Chief Alphonse of Cowichan Tribes to offer assistance during the Cowichan Tribes current State of Emergency initiated in May following four incidences of suicide and 57 suicide threats since January. In September, Stephanie

Charlie attended CSAC to provide an overview of a 90-day exercise: the Embracing Life Project - focusing on Suicide Awareness/Prevention which will conclude with a Community meeting. Safer Futures will liaise with this project and share information on CSAC activities.

CSAC Youth Safety Sub-committee

In 2011 the CSAC identified its work focus as 'youth and family safety', and a Youth Safety Sub-committee was struck to plan and implement a youth engagement strategy aimed at collecting youth generated input. The Youth Safety Sub-committee CSAC members are Theresa Gerritsen, Linden Collette, Cheryl Stone and Michelle Bell, assisted by Safer Futures' Thanya Al-Saadoon and Terri Dame.

This sub-committee recruited local youth from across the region and assisted them in forming '*Safe Youth Cowichan*', the youth action component of the CSAC Youth Safety Sub-committee. This group of youth designed a dialogue workshop aimed at engaging young people in fun discussions about both community safety and about what helps them to flourish.

Cowichan Women Against Violence/Safer Futures submitted a grant application to the BC Ministry of Justice for the funding of ten community youth dialogues. This grant application for \$11,000 was successful and the project was carried out during 2012.

The *Cowichan Valley Youth Safety Dialogues* looked at a range of indicators that tell us about risk and protective factors for youth in the Cowichan Valley and involved approximately 340 youth in discussions about what safety means to them, why and where they are concerned about their safety, what they do to stay safe and what would help them to feel safer. The final report outlines the process and outcomes of the dialogues, and recommended that a Regional Youth Strategy be undertaken.

At the conclusion of this phase of work, two funding applications were submitted by Safer Futures to the BC Ministry of Justice and Status of Women Canada that will further the aims of this work. Specifically it is hoped that these funding streams will assist in providing for additional dialogues with youth in the region, broad consultation and action planning toward a Regional Youth Strategy, youth leadership development and youth action projects.

Communications, Education and Awareness

Safety Bulletins are a tool used by the Committee to highlight and stay apprised of arising safety issues and concerns that may guide the ongoing work of CSAC to promote community safety. The bulletin pays attention to community events and news media coverage for factors that may influence citizen perception of risk or experiences of harm. The Bulletin also highlights activities that promote safety and risk reduction by physical and social means.

The 2012 bulletins were prepared and are posted on the CSAC web page:
<http://www.cvr.d.bc.ca/index.aspx?nid=964>

During 2012, CSAC generated awareness of its activities and community safety issues through posting agendas, minutes, bulletins and reports on the CSAC web page which was re-designed

this year to be more accessible and user friendly. Two presentations to the CVRD Board were made by Safer Futures, the Youth Safety Sub-committee and Safe Youth Cowichan.

CSAC continued to work on building community relationships through exploring the goal of enhancing integrated planning with Cowichan communities through Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC. Social Planning Cowichan presented a partnership opportunity to receive a workshop on "Planning Together: Building Respectful and Effective Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relationships". Although the opportunity for applying during 2012 did not materialize, the Committee can revisit this opportunity in 2013.

Community Safety Advisory Commission Bylaw

This year, CSAC worked on the development of a bylaw to establish a *CSA Commission* for the purpose of creating a higher level of long-term focus on community safety issues. "CVRD Bylaw No. 3622 – Community Safety Advisory Commission Establishment Bylaw, 2012" was passed in December 2012. The bylaw establishes the Community Safety Advisory Commission to "provide advice on safety issues of regional, sub-regional, and inter-agency importance", and lays out the responsibilities as follows:

- a) To advise the Board on community safety issues of regional, sub-regional and inter-agency importance. Advice may be in reference to programs, plans, policies, guidelines, or other local government policy instruments.
- b) To serve as a forum for multi-sectorial discussion where local government and community groups can work together. The Commission has a leading role in providing advice and support to safer communities' initiatives across the region.
- c) To be a conduit for recommendations arising from its members and from community initiatives, and for issues referred by the Board, elected officials and staff requests.
- d) To be a resource for planning staff at various local governments and to Advisory Planning Commissions.

Summary of Activities and Outcomes

Aim	Activities	Outcome/Achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and implement a youth engagement strategy aimed at collecting youth generated data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Safe Youth Cowichan - a youth led advisory; and youth membership to the CSAC Application for grant submitted and approved for 2012 340 youth engaged in dialogue about their safety Funding applications submitted for follow up and second phase activities in 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased youth and school involvement in community safety Increased knowledge and understanding of youth needs for safety in the region Six Principles for a Safe Youth Cowichan and Recommendations to Lay the Foundation formulated to sustain the momentum A Regional Youth Strategy to be developed in 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and mentor new members to ensure smooth transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach and information provided, meetings with and support offered to three new CSAC members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New members oriented to CSAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance CSAC aims through establishing a Commission enshrined in bylaw to create a higher level of long-term focus on community safety issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVRD Staff research and bylaw preparation Sub-committee exploration of membership options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "CVRD Bylaw No. 3622 – Community Safety Advisory Commission Establishment Bylaw, 2012" submitted and passed by the CVRD Board Enhanced ability of Commission to operate and develop long range and sustainable membership and planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise and support to neighbourhoods and communities to achieve their goals for neighbourhood safety and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at community meetings Support in preparation of Grant-in-Aid applications Support in planning, organizing and implementing community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued enhancement of neighbourhood cohesion through community building events Two applications for grants succeeded in achieving resources for community awareness and two neighbourhoods to hold community events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community through response to issues and requests for assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with Cowichan Tribes Liaison with Seniors' Network Conduct research into safety on rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced communications and relationship with two sectors that will foster continued collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build committee and community awareness of safety issues and best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed four Safety bulletins and posted to CSAC web page Collected, disseminate and translated pertinent research and information (eg: Irvin Waller bulletins, Public Safety Canada resources) Explored opportunities for enhancing community relationships and integrated planning with Cowichan communities through Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased committee and community awareness of local safety issues and strategies, as well as issues and strategies from across Canada and beyond