

REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

PRESENTED: OCTOBER 5, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING
FROM: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
SUBJECT: SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

REPORT: 20-124
FILE: LSP00006

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council endorse the Social Sustainability Strategy, presented as Attachment A to this report; and further

That Council refer to 2021 budget deliberations consideration of annual operating funding in the amount of \$50,000 to support implementation of the Social Sustainability Strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On November 6, 2017, Council approved the Terms of Reference to guide the development of a Social Sustainability Strategy to provide the groundwork for action in the social realm over the next decade. The preparation of the Strategy was shaped by extensive community engagement, including the work of the Social Sustainability Task Force. The Task Force was comprised of residents and local stakeholders with diverse interests in social sustainability, and met ten times over the course of the planning process to help identify challenges, opportunities, priorities, and actions.

Our Thriving Community: Township of Langley Social Sustainability Strategy (Attachment A) envisions a connected, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life. With the key issues and trends influencing social sustainability in mind, the Strategy establishes three 10-year goals, and six 5-year priorities with related actions, which comprise the 2021-2025 Action Plan. The 5-year priorities are:

- Priority 1 — Indigenous Relations: Build and sustain meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- Priority 2 — Belonging: Strengthen community belonging, social connections, and civic engagement
- Priority 3 — Housing and Food: Promote equitable housing and local food security
- Priority 4 — Learning: Encourage lifelong learning and social innovation
- Priority 5 — Getting Around: Provide for accessible, healthy, and safe transportation choices
- Priority 6 — Health and Safety: Nurture community health and safety

The actions are intended to reflect the Township's role, and community expectations, as a local government, and will be pursued in collaboration with other levels of government and local stakeholders. It is recommended that Council endorse the Strategy and refer to the 2021 budget deliberations consideration of annual funding in the amount of \$50,000 to support implementation of the Social Sustainability Strategy. The requested annual funding represents an investment of \$0.37 per person, based on the 2020 population estimate of 135,000.

PURPOSE:

This report is to provide information and recommendations concerning the proposed Social Sustainability Strategy.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

On November 6, 2017, Council approved the Terms of Reference to guide the development of a Social Sustainability Strategy to provide the groundwork for action in the social realm over the next decade. The creation of the Strategy responds to policy related to equity, health, and inclusion in the 2016 Official Community Plan, and was enabled by Council's 2017 decision to allocate municipal resources to social planning. The Strategy complements existing plans and initiatives, and advances the social aspirations of the Sustainability Charter by identifying clear goals, priorities, and actions to pursue over the next decade.

The preparation of the Strategy was informed by comprehensive community engagement and extensive research as well as input from the Social Sustainability Task Force, an interdivisional staff team, and external consultants with expertise in social sustainability. The community engagement program involved 45 engagement activities and 1,500 interactions with residents and stakeholders, including 58 local organizations. The engagement program for the Strategy was featured by PlanH as a "success story" on both its website and in its Healthy Community Engagement Action Guide.¹

On October 7, 2019, Council received a report on the emerging vision, goals, and priorities for the Strategy, and authorized staff to undertake the next steps in drafting the Social Sustainability Strategy. Between October 2019 and July 2020, staff worked to draft the Strategy with continued input from the Task Force. Summary notes from Task Force meetings during this time are attached to this report (Attachment B). Staff note that summary notes from earlier meetings have previously been provided to Council under separate covers.

The finalization of the draft Strategy was paused between March and May 2020 to reassess and recalibrate the priorities and actions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. A more detailed summary of the process to prepare the Strategy is included in Appendix A (see Attachment A).

In late August 2020, a draft Social Sustainability Strategy and summary document were made available on the Township website for public review and feedback, with email notifications sent to over 850 residents and stakeholders that had signed up for project updates. Three emails were received from community members between August 28 and September 21, all with positive feedback on the Strategy and planning process.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Socially sustainable communities are safe, diverse, connected, and democratic. They are fair in the distribution of resources and opportunities, and support the ability of individuals and communities to create and maintain a good quality of life for current and future generations.² Although many people in the Township enjoy a great quality of life, not everyone in the community is thriving. Like other places throughout the region and around the world, the community is grappling with social challenges, and is facing global trends that are having a significant impact on the economy, environment, and society.

The Strategy establishes a clear vision for the future and sets a course to get there. It is intended to help sustain the positive qualities of the community, harness the opportunities to tackle social challenges, and thrive in the face of change. The Strategy includes:

- An overview of the role of the Township and other organizations in the social realm
- A summary of challenges and opportunities
- The proposed vision, 10-year goals, 5-year priorities, and related actions
- The proposed implementation framework

¹ PlanH is a partnership between BC Healthy Communities Society and the British Columbia Ministry of Health, and facilitates local government learning, partnership development, and planning for healthier communities.

² This definition of social sustainability was adapted from the commonly-used Western Australian Council of Social Service (as cited in Partridge, 2005).

Roles and Responsibilities:

Social sustainability is a shared responsibility among all levels of government and requires involvement from numerous organizations, groups, and individuals. The Township can play various roles in advancing social sustainability, in keeping with its mandate, powers, and resources. These roles, along with current examples, include:

Role	Current Examples
Advocacy	The Township advocates for improvements to the delivery of health and social services that fall outside of its jurisdiction
Convening/ Coordination	The Township, along with Langley City and Fraser Health, convene the Healthier Community Partnership to foster collaborative action
Education	The Township makes information available through its open data platform
Planning/ Regulation	The Township plans and regulates land uses to develop “complete communities” that promote healthy living and social well-being
Funding	The Township administers grants through various programs
Service Delivery	The Township provides fire, police, emergency management, parks, recreation, and cultural services

The Township can enhance social sustainability through collaboration with the following organizations, groups, and individuals:

- The Government of Canada
- The Province of BC
- Metro Vancouver Regional District
- Local First Nations³ and neighbouring local governments
- Fraser Health Authority
- TransLink
- Langley School District
- Langley RCMP
- Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL)
- Local businesses and business organizations
- Post-secondary institutions
- Non-profits
- Community groups and faith-based organizations
- Local residents, employees, and students

Appendix C of the Strategy provides an overview of the role of these organizations, groups, and individuals.

Challenges and Opportunities:

The following summarizes the key issues and trends influencing social sustainability in the community. Many are not specific to the Township, but present local challenges and opportunities. It is with these issues and trends in mind that the Strategy has established its vision, goals, and priorities.

³ Local First Nations refers to those First Nations with reserve lands and that have a historic and current connection to the territory that now includes the Township of Langley (i.e. the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations).

- **Population growth, aging and diversity:** The Township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Lower Mainland and is facing demographic shifts in relation to the aging and increasing cultural diversity of the population as well as the urbanization of areas that have been characteristically rural in the past.
- **Cost of living and poverty:** Average household income in the Township is notably higher than the regional average, but Township households face high costs of living. Working households in Langley face higher combined housing and transportation costs (relative to income) than most other parts of Metro Vancouver. Furthermore, one in ten Township residents is living in poverty, meaning these residents struggle to meet their most basic human needs.
- **Inequity and discrimination:** Inequities are avoidable inequalities that exist between groups of people. Health outcomes, for instance, are more influenced by socio-economic factors, like gender, race, and education, than biology. Inequities exist in part due to discrimination, including systemic discrimination, which can be described as patterns of behaviour, policies, or practices that create or perpetuate disadvantage. About one in six Metro Vancouver residents reports experiencing discrimination in their day-to-day lives.
- **Climate change:** Driven by human influence, Canada's climate has warmed and will continue to do so in the future. Climate change is expected to increasingly threaten natural ecosystems and municipal infrastructure, hinder economic growth, erode food security, and jeopardize human health and safety. The responses to climate change, mitigation and adaptation, may also present challenges and opportunities for the community.
- **Indigenous relations:** Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada are working together to establish new and respectful relationships, and close the socio-economic gaps caused by colonial and assimilationist policies. With four local First Nations having an established connection to this territory, and a growing Indigenous population, the Township and broader community can contribute to the national process of reconciliation.
- **Technological innovation:** Rapid technological advancement will increase the pace of change, creating new challenges and opportunities, with far-reaching effects that transform everything from retail business models and education to elections and dating. New communication methods allow people to easily connect with other like-minded individuals, and organize and effect change in new ways, but also create new challenges in terms of social fragmentation.
- **Human health:** BC is currently grappling with two public health emergencies: the COVID-19 pandemic and the overdose crisis. Global integration, climate change, and ecosystem decline, among other factors, may increase the likelihood of future pandemics. Overdoses due to illicit drug toxicity remain the leading cause of unnatural deaths in the province, surpassing homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle incidents combined. In addition to these present health emergencies, chronic diseases (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and diabetes) will likely be the health burden of this century, as they are the greatest contributor to premature death in BC, and are likely to increase with an aging population.

Vision and Goals:

The Strategy consists of a long-term vision, three interrelated 10-year goals, and six 5-year priorities with associated actions. The six priorities help to achieve all three of the goals, which in turn make progress toward the long-term vision.

The vision statement is meant to inspire and give direction. It illustrates the long-term aspiration for a socially sustainable Township, providing a motivating stretch goal to work towards. The vision is:

The Township of Langley is a connected, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life.

Three 10-year goals are established to advance the Township towards its social sustainability vision:

Goal 1 — Connected Community: We are connected to each other and to opportunities that help us thrive.

Goal 2 — Inclusive Community: We are and feel welcomed, safe, and valued.

Goal 3 — Resilient Community: We adapt and flourish in the face of change.

These goals are not independent pillars, but in fact are interrelated — advancing on one will foster achievement in the others.

Priorities and Actions:

To move towards the goals, six 5-year priorities have been established. Presented in no order of significance, the following priorities will guide the Township's focus in the social realm until 2025:

Priority 1 — Indigenous Relations: Build and sustain meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people

Priority 2 — Belonging: Strengthen community belonging, social connections, and civic engagement

Priority 3 — Housing and Food: Promote equitable housing and local food security

Priority 4 — Learning: Encourage lifelong learning and social innovation

Priority 5 — Getting Around: Provide for accessible, healthy, and safe transportation choices

Priority 6 — Health and Safety: Nurture community health and safety

Like the goals, many of the priorities are interrelated. For example, engaging in lifelong learning (Priority 4) can be a way to foster social connections (Priority 2).

Within each priority, there are actions that address challenges and opportunities. There are a total of 31 actions, categorized as short-term (2021-2022) and medium-term (2023-2025), that comprise the Strategy's 2021-2025 Action Plan (see Attachment A – Appendix D). The actions are intended to reflect the Township's role as a local government, and will be pursued in collaboration with other organizations and groups.

Implementation:

The 2021 – 2025 Action Plan will inform the development of annual departmental work plans. Recognizing that priorities can change, the 5-year priorities will be reviewed and, as required, refreshed in 2025, and a new action plan (2026-2030) will be developed for Council's consideration. Implementation progress will be monitored annually in conjunction with the development of departmental work plans. A full progress report will be prepared in 2025 to inform the development of the 2026 — 2030 Action Plan.

To track progress on the priorities, 21 indicators have been established. The indicators have purposely been titled progress indicators rather than performance indicators, recognizing that the priorities in the Strategy are influenced by many factors beyond the Township's control. A publicly available digital dashboard will be created and used to monitor and report on the indicators, with updates made as new data becomes available.

Financial Implications:

Implementing the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan is estimated to cost \$997,000 (see Attachment A – Appendix D). It is noted that \$600,000 of this cost estimate is for the development of a Transportation and Mobility Strategy (Action 5A in the 2021-2025 Action Plan), which would update the 2009 Master Transportation Plan in support of social sustainability and other sustainability initiatives, including climate action as indicated in Report 20-108 (Climate Action Strategy Update).

To support the implementation of the Social Sustainability Strategy, it is recommended that Council refer consideration of annual operating funding in the amount of \$50,000 to the 2021 budget deliberations. This recommended annual operating funding would be used with existing budgets,

potential external grants, and Development Cost Charge (DCC) budget requests to support the total cost of implementing the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan over the five-year period (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Proposed Funding for 2021 – 2025 Action Plan over Five-Year Period

Recommended Annual Operating Funding (2021 budget request of \$50,000 per year)	\$250,000
Existing Budgets and Potential External Grants	\$147,000
Transportation and Mobility Strategy – Phase 1 (2021 DCC budget request)	\$300,000
Transportation and Mobility Strategy – Phase 2 (2022 DCC budget request)	\$300,000
Total	\$997,000

Based on the proposed funding in Table 1, the recommended annual operating funding of \$50,000 would be the only source of funding with an additional impact on property taxes (approximately an additional \$0.77 per year per representative residential household). The requested annual funding represents an investment of \$0.37 per person, based on the 2020 population estimate of 135,000.

In addition, to support implementation and leverage potential grants from external sources, the following staffing resource enhancements are recommended within the timeframe of the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan. Staff will continue to explore external sources of funding to support these staffing resources, and may submit funding requests for Council consideration as part of future budgets (2022+).

- An Arts, Culture, and Community Initiatives resource (part-time) to support the implementation of the Indigenous Relations actions
- A Transportation resource to support the implementation of the Getting Around actions and actions in the proposed Climate Action Strategy, as indicated in Report 20-108 (Climate Action Strategy Update)
- A Protective Services – Fire resource to support the implementation of emergency preparedness actions in the Social Sustainability Strategy and the 2018 Fire Department Master Plan

CONCLUSION:

The purpose of the Social Sustainability Strategy is to help sustain the positive qualities of the community, harness the opportunities to tackle social challenges, and thrive in the face of change. As a broad, foundational Strategy, it lays the groundwork for action in the social realm through collaboration with other organizations and groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Ward
STRATEGIC/SOCIAL PLANNER
for
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed divisions.

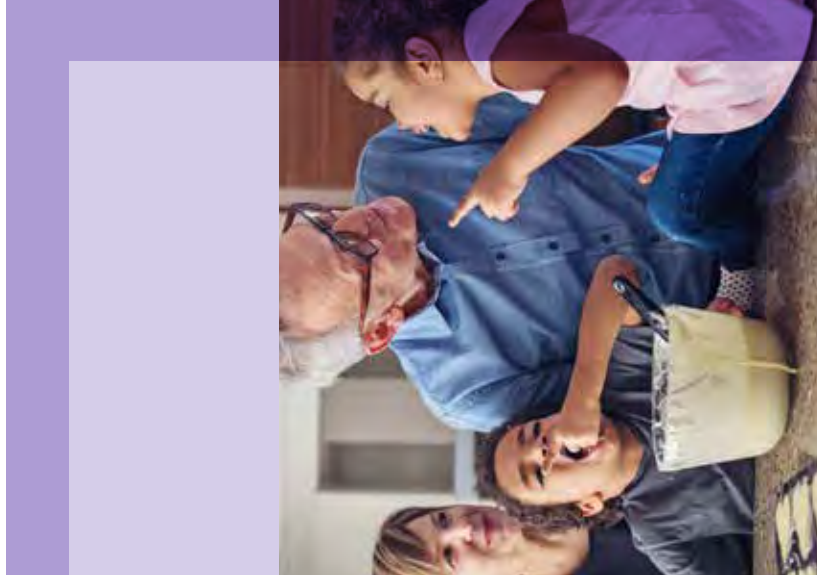
CONCURRENCES	
Division / Department	Name
ARTS, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES DIVISION	P. Tulumello
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION	S. Scheepmaker
FINANCE DIVISION	S. Ruff
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION	S. Harvey-Renner
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION	C. Blair
PROTECTIVE SERVICES - FIRE	S. Gamble
PROTECTIVE SERVICES - RCMP	J. Clelland

ATTACHMENT A Our Thriving Community: Township of Langley Social Sustainability Strategy

ATTACHMENT B Social Sustainability Task Force Meetings #7 – #10 Summary Notes



OUR THRIVING COMMUNITY



Township of Langley
Social Sustainability Strategy



We envision a Township that is
connected, inclusive, and resilient
— a place where all can enjoy and
contribute to a great quality of life.

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STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

The Social Sustainability Strategy establishes a clear vision for our future — a connected, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life — and sets a course to get there. While many people in the Township currently enjoy a great quality of life, not everyone is thriving. Rapid population growth, climate change, technological advancement, and unexpected events like the COVID-19 pandemic necessitate a strategy to guide us toward our vision.

Social sustainability is a shared responsibility involving all levels of government, and requires involvement from numerous organizations and groups. Within each priority, there are actions for the Township to undertake over the next five years that reflect its role as a local government. Each action identifies potential community partners.

By working more collaboratively, thinking big, and being open to doing things differently, together we can realize our social sustainability vision.

Keeping in mind the key issues and trends influencing our social sustainability, this strategy establishes three interrelated 10-year goals and six 5-year priorities:

10-year goals:

- Goal 1 Connected Community: We are connected to each other and to the opportunities that help us thrive
- Goal 2 Inclusive Community: We are and feel welcomed, safe, and valued
- Goal 3 Resilient Community: We adapt and flourish in the face of change

5-year priorities:

- Priority 1 Indigenous Relations: Build and sustain meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- Priority 2 Belonging: Strengthen community belonging, social connections, and civic engagement
- Priority 3 Housing and Food: Promote equitable housing and local food security
- Priority 4 Learning: Encourage lifelong learning and social innovation
- Priority 5 Getting Around: Provide for accessible, healthy, and safe transportation choices
- Priority 6 Health and Safety: Nurture community health and safety

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION | 5





ABOUT THE STRATEGY

The Township of Langley is an exceptional place to live, work, learn, visit, and play.

From our stunning natural setting and rural landscapes, to our abundant amenities and distinctive neighbourhoods, there is so much to celebrate. Although many people in the Township enjoy a great quality of life, not everyone in our community is thriving. Like other places throughout the region and around the world, our community is grappling with social challenges, and is facing global trends that are having a significant impact on the economy, environment, and society.

The purpose of this Strategy is to articulate a clear vision for the future and guide us toward that vision. It will help us sustain the qualities we all love today, harness opportunities to tackle our social challenges, and flourish in the face of change.

WHAT IS SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY?

Social sustainability addresses the quality of life of both current and future generations and comprises three components:

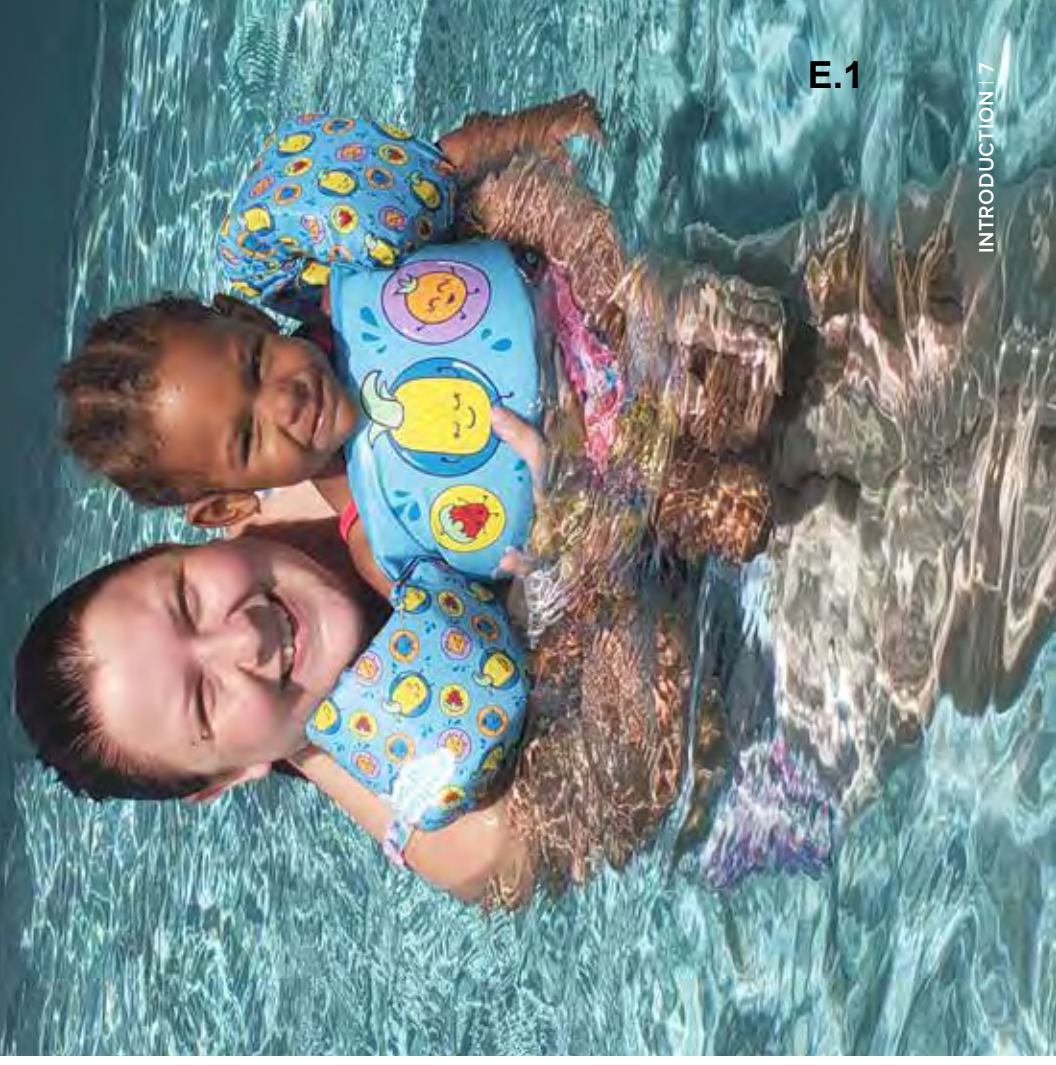
- Meeting basic needs (the things people need to function, participate, and be productive in society)
- Enriching individual capacity (the attributes and resources, such as education, skills, health, values, and leadership, that individuals can contribute to their own well-being, and to the well-being of the community as a whole)
- Enhancing community capacity (the relationships, networks, and norms that facilitate collective action to improve upon quality of life)

Underpinning these components are the principles of social equity and social inclusion.¹ Social equity is the fair distribution of resources among individuals and communities to facilitate full participation in community life, recognizing that different individuals and communities require different levels of support in order to thrive. Social inclusion refers to the right and opportunity for all individuals to celebrate their diversity and fully participate in all aspects of community life.

¹ There is no universal definition of social sustainability. The three components of social sustainability and the social equity and inclusion underpinnings were drafted by the Metro Vancouver Social Issues Subcommittee in 2004 (as cited in Holden, 2012).

² This definition of social sustainability was adapted from the commonly-used Western Australian Council of Social Service (as cited in Partridge, 2005).

Socially sustainable communities are safe, diverse, connected, and democratic. They are fair in the distribution of resources and opportunities, and support the ability of individuals and communities to create and maintain a good quality of life for current and future generations.²



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TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE TOWNSHIP

In 2008, Township Council adopted the Sustainability Charter. The Charter presents a vision to build a legacy for future generations by leading and committing the community to a lifestyle that is socially, culturally, economically, and environmentally balanced. Inherent in this vision is that social sustainability is an essential component of sustainability.

As the Township's highest level policy document, the Sustainability Charter is implemented through a number of other Township plans and strategies. The Social Sustainability Strategy complements these existing plans and strategies, and advances the social aspirations of the Charter by identifying clear goals, priorities, and actions to pursue over the next decade.

Although the focus of this Strategy is social sustainability, a prosperous economy and healthy environment all need and sustain a community with a high level of social well-being. Given the interdependence of these sustainability pillars, economic and environmental imperatives were considered during the development of this Strategy, and the recommended actions aim to reflect a holistic approach to sustainability.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries — developed and developing — in a global partnership. The goals, priorities, and actions in this Strategy support a number of the UN's SDGs, and complement other Township plans and strategies addressing these and other SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

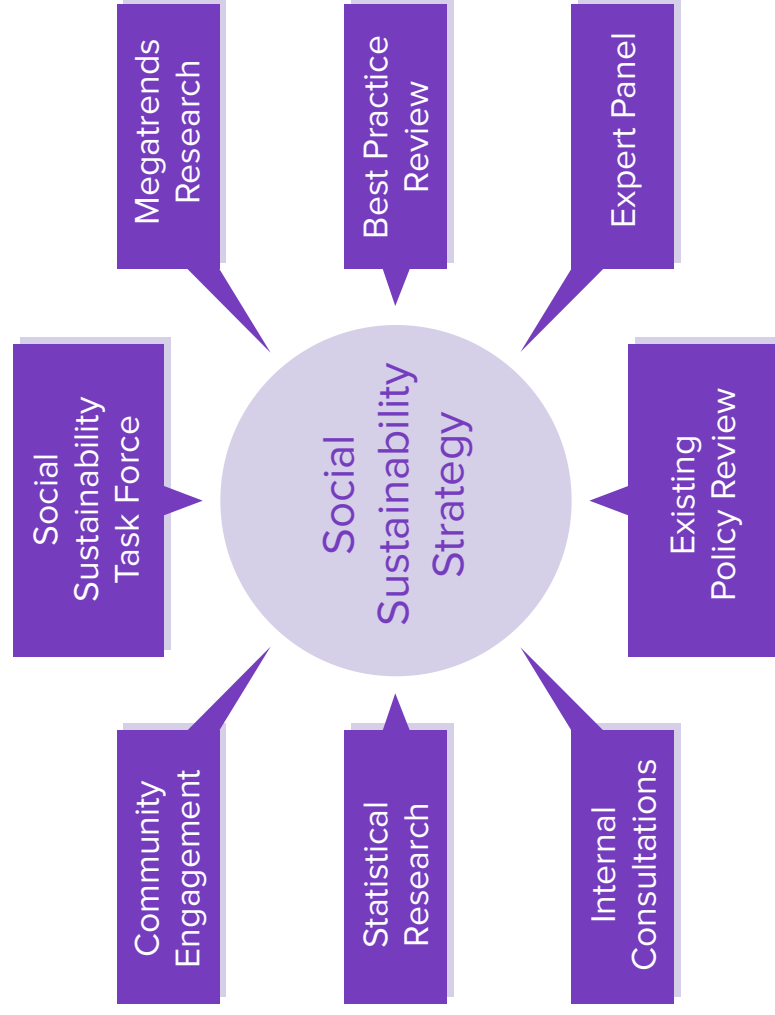


CREATING THE STRATEGY

In 2017, we launched a comprehensive planning process to develop the Social Sustainability Strategy. The creation of the Strategy responds to policy related to equity, health, and inclusion in the Official Community Plan, which was updated in 2016, and was enabled by Council's 2017 decision to allocate municipal resources to social planning.

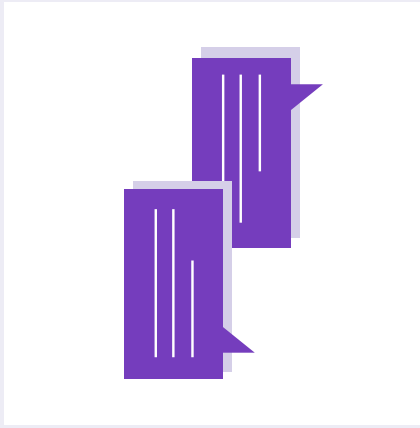
Being our first Social Sustainability Strategy, we invested two and a half years into the planning, research, and community engagement process (see Appendix A). It was important to take the time to listen to local residents and organizations, allowing us to learn more about our community's existing strengths and challenges, as well as hopes and fears for the future. It was also important to supplement this community input with other research – statistics focusing on the key issues influencing social sustainability in the Township, emerging trends, and best practices, among other things.

This Strategy — its vision, goals, priorities, and actions — is an outcome of this effort. As a result, this Strategy is soundly based in evidence and lays a solid foundation for the work ahead.



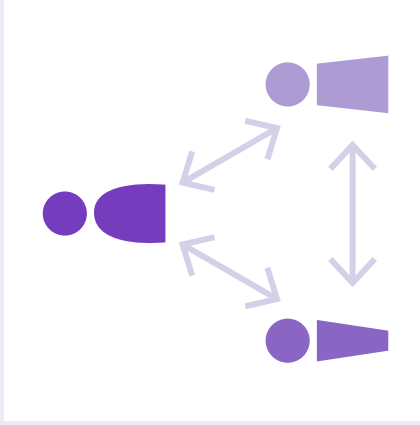
AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Township's engagement process for the Social Sustainability Strategy was featured by PlanH as a "success story" on its website and in its Healthy Community Engagement Action Guide. In its August 2019 e-newsletter, PlanH described the process for the Social Sustainability Strategy as offering "a master class in equity-centred community engagement."³



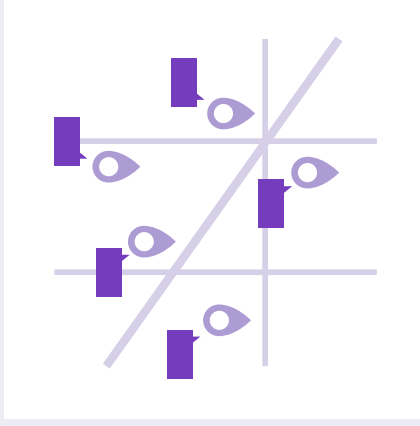
45

engagement activities



1,500

interactions with residents
and stakeholders



58

local organizations engaged



1,100

hours of community input

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³ PlanH is a partnership between BC Healthy Communities Society and the British Columbia Ministry of Health, and facilitates local government learning, partnership development, and planning for healthier communities.

CONTEXT



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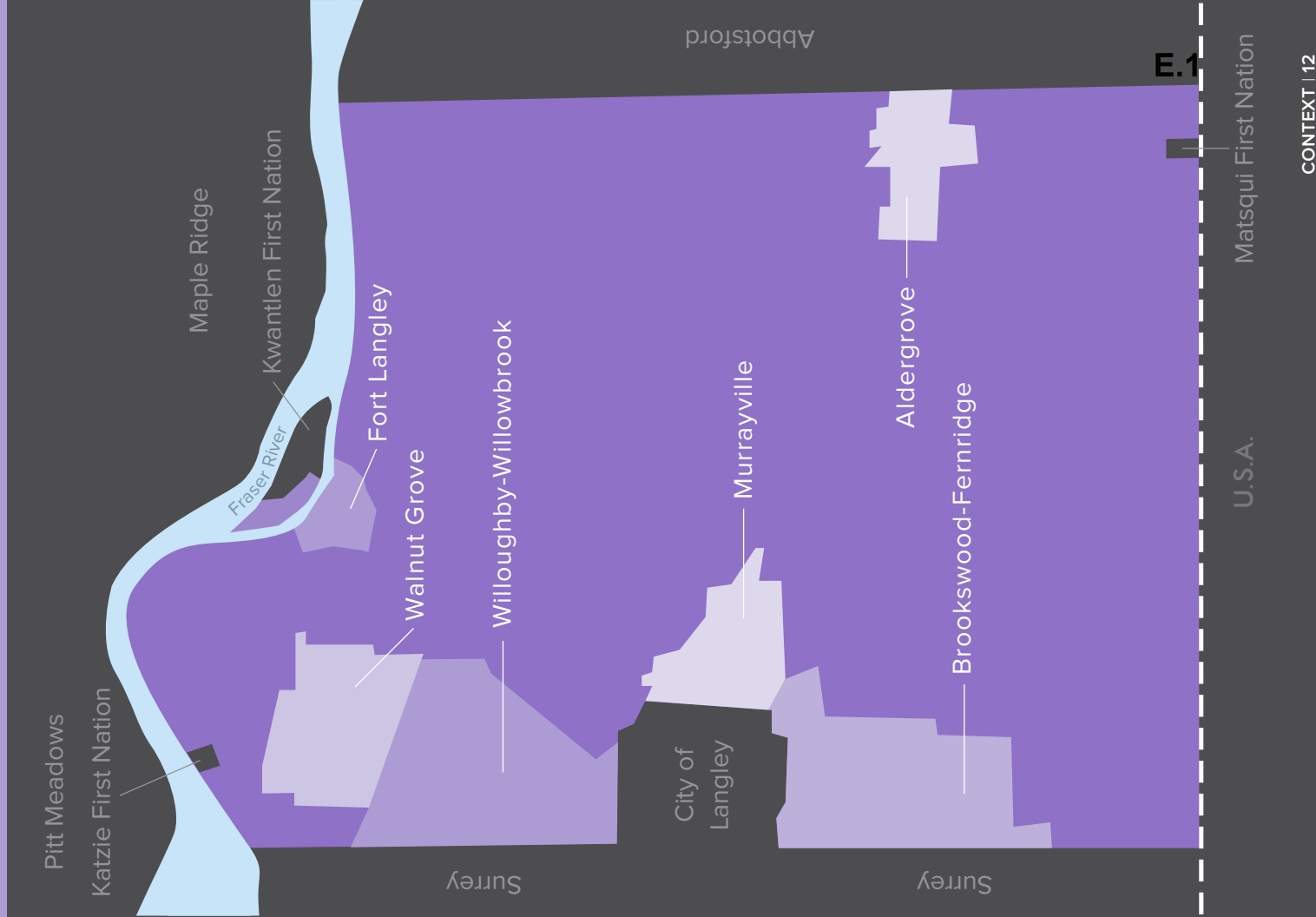
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LANGLEY TOWNSHIP

The Township is located on the traditional and unceded overlapping territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations, and is in the eastern part of Metro Vancouver. A total of 316 square kilometers in area, the Township is geographically one of the largest municipalities in BC. With the rural area encompassing about 75% of its land base, agriculture continues to play an important role in the local economy. These rural landscapes are a significant part of our community character and source of pride. Urban areas of the Township are characterized by six communities, each with its own distinct characteristics and array of conveniences and amenities.

Our History

The story of the Township is a rich and varied narrative involving many cultures and activities. From First Nations origins through European settlement and the Hudson's Bay Company era, Langley has played a role in provincial and national consolidation, and made considerable contributions to resources, trade and agriculture within the region. To learn more about our history, visit tol.ca/oursharedhistory.



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE (2016 CENSUS)

POPULATION		TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY	METRO VANCOUVER
Total population		117,285	2,463,431
SEX ⁴	Female	51%	51%
	Male	49%	49%
AGE	0 to 14	18%	15%
	15 to 24	12%	13%
	25 to 44	25%	28%
	45 to 64	29%	29%
	65+	16%	16%
PLACE OF BIRTH	Born in Canada	79%	56%
LEVEL OF EDUCATION (15+ years of age)	Secondary school diploma	33%	29%
	Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	52%	58%
INCOME	Average household income	\$107,658	\$96,423
MARITAL STATUS (15+ years of age)	Married or living in common law	63%	57%
FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS	Households with children	49%	44%
	Unemployment rate	4%	6%
LANGUAGE	Knowledge of English	99%	94%
VISIBLE MINORITY	Visible minority population	19%	49%
ABORIGINAL IDENTITY	Population with aboriginal identity	4%	3%

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⁴ Like previous censuses, the 2016 Census asked about the sex of people, with male or female as response options. Statistics Canada is currently testing questions on sex at birth and gender for future censuses.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Social sustainability is a shared responsibility among all levels of government and requires involvement from numerous organizations, groups, and individuals. The Township can play various roles in advancing social sustainability, ranging from direct engagement – service delivery and funding – to indirect engagement – advocacy and convening/coordination. The Township’s role will reflect its mandate, powers, and resources.

In addition to these roles, as a major corporation and employer, the Township can advance and provide leadership in social sustainability through its corporate operations, such as hiring and purchasing practices.

See Appendix B for a more detailed summary of existing Township plans, strategies, programs, and initiatives related to social sustainability.

ROLE	ADVOCACY	CONVENING/ COORDINATION	EDUCATION	PLANNING/ REGULATION	FUNDING	SERVICE DELIVERY
DESCRIPTION	Engage other levels of government or organizations to influence policies and decisions	Foster relationships and support organizations and individuals in undertaking initiatives	Inform and inspire the actions of others by sharing data and identifying opportunities	Develop plans, policies, and regulations that affect Township actions and the actions of others	Support the work of other organizations through grants and funding	Provide services directly to residents and the community
CURRENT EXAMPLES	The Township advocates for improvements to the delivery of health and social services that fall outside of its jurisdiction	The Township, along with Langley City and Fraser Health, convene the Healthier Community Partnership to foster collaborative action	The Township makes information available through its open data platform	The Township plans and regulates land uses to develop “complete communities” that promote healthy living and social well-being	The Township administers grants through various programs	The Township provides fire, police, emergency management, parks, recreation, and cultural services
INCREASING INFLUENCE AND COST						

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KEY PARTNERS

The Township can enhance social sustainability through collaboration with the following organizations, groups, and individuals:

- The Government of Canada
- The Province of BC
- Metro Vancouver Regional District
- Local First Nations⁵ and neighbouring local governments
- Fraser Health Authority
- TransLink
- Langley School District
- Langley RCMP
- Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL)
- Local businesses and business organizations
- Post-secondary institutions
- Non-profits
- Community groups and faith-based organizations
- Local residents, employees, and students

See Appendix C for an overview of the role and responsibilities of these organizations, groups, and individuals.

⁵ Local First Nations refers to those First Nations with reserve lands and that have a historic and current connection to the territory that now includes the Township of Langley (i.e. the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations).



Local governments are established under the legal framework of the Province of BC, including the Community Charter. The Charter states that the purpose of a local government includes fostering the social well-being of its community. Lacking a formal mandate and with limited resources, local governments need to collaborate with others to achieve their social sustainability goals.

Many organizations and groups in Langley are already collaborating on various initiatives, but we see opportunities to enhance collaboration, particularly across different sectors.

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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following summarizes the key issues and trends influencing social sustainability in the Township of Langley.⁶ Many are not specific to the Township, but present local challenges and opportunities.

- **Population growth, aging and diversity:**
The Township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Lower Mainland and is facing demographic shifts in relation to the aging and increasing cultural diversity of the population as well as the urbanization of areas that have been characteristically rural in the past. These changes bring opportunities: further cultural and intergenerational exchange, greater resources, and increased volunteering, including from retired professionals. These changes also put pressure on community services and infrastructure, and may challenge community connectedness and social cohesion.
- **Cost of living and poverty:** Average household income in the Township is notably higher than the regional average, but Township households face high costs of living. Working households in Langley face higher combined housing and transportation costs (relative to income) than most other parts of Metro Vancouver. Furthermore, 1 in 10 Township residents is living in poverty (based on the low income measure), meaning these residents struggle to meet their most basic human needs. About 1 in 14 Township residents sometimes or often does not have enough to eat, and between 2014 and 2017, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Langley grew from 92 to 206.

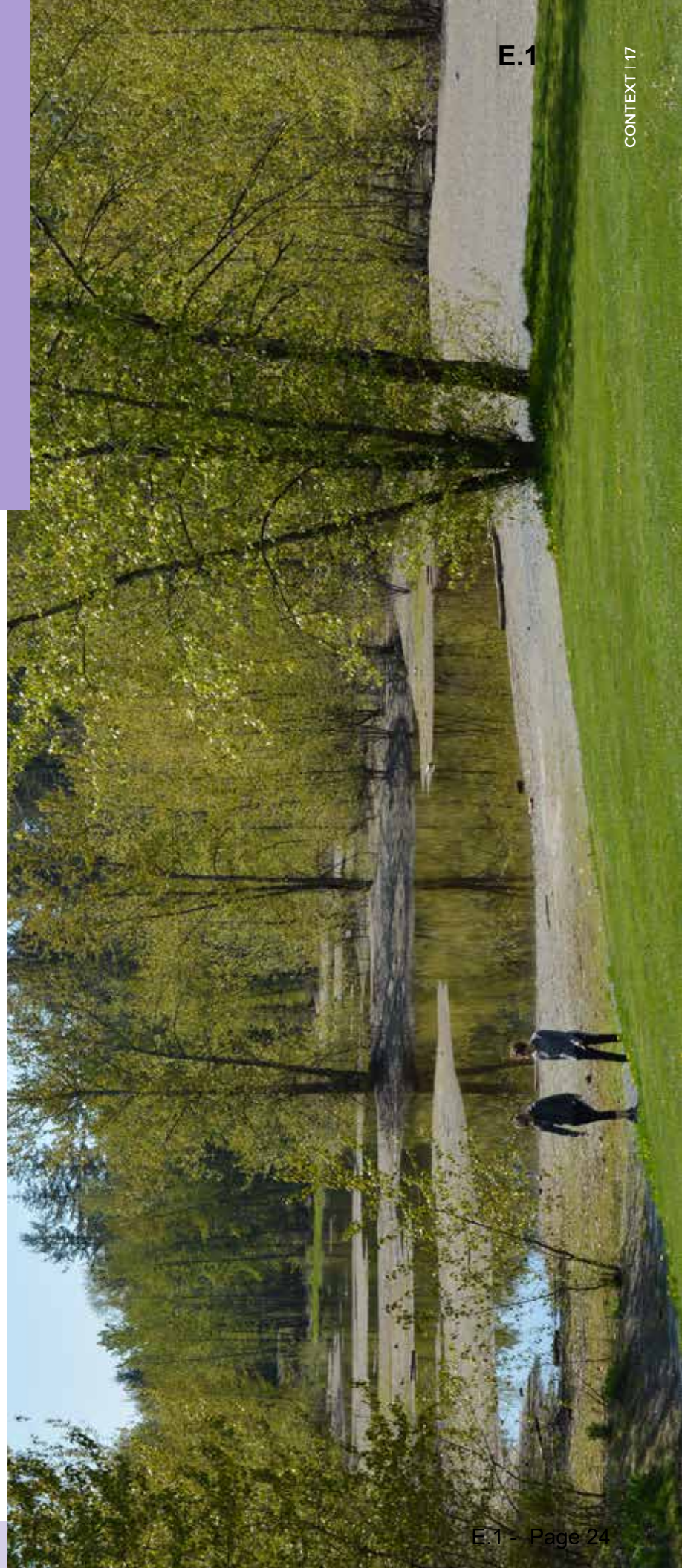


⁶ Refer to the Township's Social Profile, January 2019 (tol.ca/socialstrategy) for further information and references, except the sources specifically referenced herein.

Challenges and Opportunities

- **Inequity and discrimination:** Inequities are avoidable inequalities that exist between groups of people. Health outcomes, for instance, are more influenced by socio-economic factors, like gender, race, and education, than biology. Inequities exist in part due to discrimination, including systemic discrimination, which can be described as patterns of behaviour, policies, or practices that create or perpetuate disadvantage. Systemic discrimination may be hidden or unintentional, but is built into the way society works. About 1 in 6 Metro Vancouver residents reports experiencing discrimination in their day-to-day lives.
- **Climate change:** Driven by human influence, Canada's climate has warmed and will continue to warm in the future. Climate change is expected to increasingly threaten natural ecosystems and municipal infrastructure, hinder economic growth, erode food security,

and jeopardize human health and safety. Responses to climate change through mitigation and adaptation may also present challenges and opportunities for the community.



Challenges and Opportunities

- Indigenous relations: Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada are working together to establish new and respectful relationships, and close the socio-economic gaps caused by colonial and assimilationist policies. With four local First Nations having an established connection to this territory, and a growing Indigenous population within the municipality, the Township and broader community can contribute to the national process of reconciliation by deepening our awareness of the past and building meaningful relationships with Indigenous people that respect their values, ways, and cultures.



Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formed in 2008 to document the experiences of survivors, families, and communities affected by the Indian Residential School system, and to teach all Canadians about its history and intergenerational impacts. The Commission released its final report in 2015 along with 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation, which it defined as an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships so that future generations can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on the lands we now share. Although all Canadians and all levels of government share responsibility for taking action on reconciliation, 5 of the 94 Calls to Action specifically refer to municipal governments, and another 4 call on “all levels of government” to take particular action.



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CONTEXT | 18

- **Technological innovation:** Rapid technological advancement will increase the pace of change, creating new challenges and opportunities, with far-reaching effects that transform everything from retail business models and education to elections and dating. New technologies may enhance capacities for innovations that improve social conditions, and smart ways of connecting human behaviour to physical realms may improve the efficiency of systems like transportation and energy. Automation, however, may threaten to change industries faster than economies and people can adjust, while emerging gig work is expected to lead to more precarious work with less income security and no health or retirement benefits.⁷ New communication methods allow people to easily connect with other like-minded individuals and organize and effect change in new ways, but also create new challenges in terms of social fragmentation.

- **Human health:** BC is currently grappling with two public health emergencies: the COVID-19 pandemic and the overdose crisis. Global integration, climate change, and ecosystem decline, among other factors, may increase the likelihood of future pandemics. Overdoses due to illicit drug toxicity remain the leading cause of unnatural deaths in the province, surpassing homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle incidents combined. In addition to these present health emergencies, chronic diseases (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and diabetes) will likely be the health burden of this century, as they are the greatest contributor to premature death in BC, and are likely to increase with an aging population. Many of these diseases can be prevented by addressing risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity, which are influenced by physical environments and socio-economic conditions.⁸ Mental health is also a growing health challenge, as the percentage of British Columbians (aged 12+) who experience positive mental health is trending down.⁹ In the Township, obesity rates are higher than the regional average, and less than 2 in 3 residents report having excellent or very good mental health.



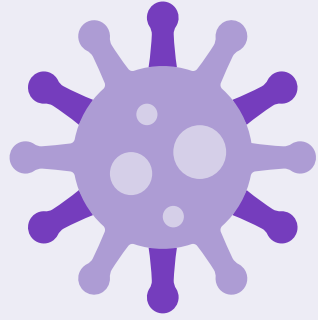
It is with these challenges and opportunities in mind that we have established our social sustainability goals and priorities.

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⁷ Gig work is where organizations contract with independent workers through online platforms.

⁸ Source: Province of BC, Investing in Prevention: Improving Health and Creating Sustainability, September 2010.

⁹ Source: Province of BC, Taking the Pulse of the Population: An update on the Health of British Columbians, January 2019.



COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a historic moment for modern society. As of August 2020, the number of deaths related to COVID-19 in Canada was more than 9,000, and the measures taken to protect public health have resulted in unprecedented social and economic disruption.

The COVID-19 disease can make anyone sick, but the health emergency has illuminated systemic weaknesses and inequities that existed before the pandemic. Many vulnerable populations, such as older adults, people with disabilities, and people facing economic barriers, are not only more at risk of getting infected and developing severe complications, but are also disproportionately impacted by the measures taken to reduce the spread of the virus. The examples below illustrate just some of the ways that some groups are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19:

- Individuals and families that do not have enough food are facing greater challenges, as a low-cost nutritious meal may no longer be accessible
- Migrant agricultural workers are at high risk of infection, as working and housing conditions can pose challenges to maintain physical distancing
- Women, particularly those in an abusive relationship, are in greater danger, as isolation can create an environment for domestic violence

At the same time, we have all seen acts of kindness throughout the crisis — people helping their neighbours, recognizing frontline workers, and sharing messages of hope, and businesses playing their part to support the community. As recovery from the crisis begins, this compassion can be used to build back an even stronger community.

Though some actions may support short-term recovery efforts, the Social Sustainability Strategy is not intended to serve as a pandemic recovery plan. Instead, the Strategy is positioned to build the Township as a more connected, inclusive, and resilient community, by harnessing the opportunity to adapt and innovate.

With the right actions, the COVID-19 pandemic can help catalyze the development of a community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life.

OUR STRATEGY

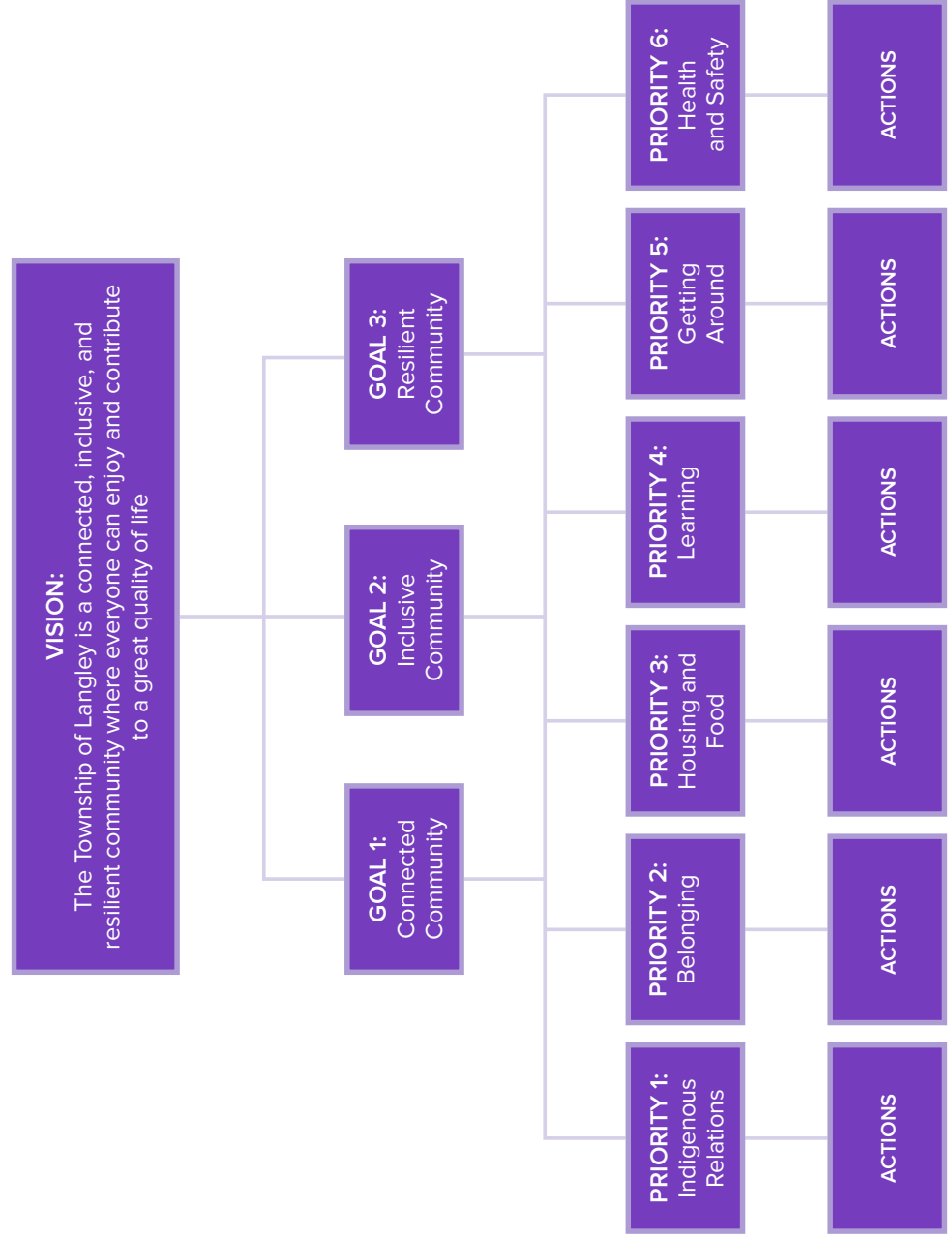


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OUR STRATEGY | 21

OVERVIEW

The Social Sustainability Strategy consists of a long-term vision, three interrelated 10-year goals, and six 5-year priorities with associated actions. As shown below, the six priorities help to achieve all three of the goals, which in turn make progress toward the long-term vision.





VISION

OUR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY VISION IS:

The Township of Langley is a connected, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life.

A vision statement is meant to inspire and give direction. Our vision illustrates the long-term aspiration for a socially sustainable Township, providing a motivating stretch goal to work towards.

The cornerstone of the vision is three words – connected, inclusive, and resilient – that form the basis of the Strategy’s three goals. Deliberately, the vision describes the Township as one community, rather than a community of communities. While the uniqueness of our local communities is rooted in our history and will continue to be a vital part of our character, this vision illustrates a cohesive community, one that celebrates its distinctiveness, but also affords everyone a common sense of

belonging. In addition, recognizing that we all have the responsibility and should all be given the opportunity to participate in developing a socially sustainable community, the vision describes a state where everyone can not only enjoy but also contribute to a great quality of life.

Achieving the vision may take longer than the 10-year life of this Strategy – it may take as many as 25 years, the typical length of a generation. Nevertheless, it articulates where we are headed, and will encourage all of us to think big, be open to change, collaborate more, and tap into a deeper level of compassion.

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GOALS

Three 10-year goals are established to advance the Township towards its social sustainability vision.

Goal 1

Connected Community: We are connected to each other and to the opportunities that help us thrive.

A connected community is a place where people know their neighbours, that helps build relationships between diverse groups of people, and that bridges divides. A connected community also means people are aware of and can access health and community services, along with opportunities for learning, employment, entertainment, recreation, and civic engagement. The benefits of social connectedness include improved health, increased neighbourhood safety, and a stronger sense of community pride, while access connects people to the supports and opportunities that contribute to a great quality of life. Connected communities also foster the relationships that enable collaborative problem-solving and can be called upon in turbulent times.

Goal 2

Inclusive Community: We are and feel welcomed, safe, and valued.

Inclusive communities are physically and socially accessible to diverse groups of people through the removal of systemic barriers so that all can live, play, learn, and work with dignity. An inclusive community ensures everyone is meeting their basic needs for food, shelter, security, and health, and affords everyone equitable opportunities to participate and engage in all aspects of community life. Being and feeling included has wide-ranging quality of life impacts, including a positive association with increased life expectancy and good mental health. Inclusive communities also promote innovation and better decision-making by including and celebrating different views and perspectives.

Goal 3

Resilient Community: We adapt and flourish in the face of change.

A resilient community adapts, recovers, and continues to thrive in the face of economic, environmental, and social change, or unexpected events. Resilient communities have strong social networks, work proactively and collaboratively across different sectors, and are always learning and innovating to turn challenges into opportunities. Resilient communities also ensure that people have the tools to cope with stress, which is associated with lower rates of depression and greater life satisfaction. With trends like technological advancement and climate change, an ability to learn and adapt will be critical in sustaining a great quality of life.

These goals are not independent pillars, but in fact are interrelated – advancing on one will foster achievement in the others. If one falls behind, the others will as well.

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PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

To move towards the goals, six 5-year priorities have been established. Together they address complex social issues and trends faced by the community where the Township sees an opportunity to strengthen its engagement in collaboration with other organizations and groups. The priorities were also established based on the extent to which they could make progress on more than one issue or trend, and address the root causes of the issue.

The priorities, which are presented in no order of significance, will guide the Township's focus in the social realm until 2025. The priorities are also meant to be a call to action for the broader community to help realize the social sustainability vision.

Complex social issues are shaped by many interdependent factors, constantly changing, and deeply rooted in fundamental economic and social structures. Addressing these issues requires a different approach and mindset than addressing past issues, including a focus on upstream interventions that address root causes rather than symptoms. Strengthening community belonging and social connections, for instance, is an upstream intervention to preventing poor health outcomes.

Priority 1

Indigenous Relations: Build and sustain meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Priority 2

Belonging: Strengthen community belonging, social connections, and civic engagement.

Priority 3

Housing and Food: Promote equitable housing and local food security.

Priority 4

Learning: Encourage lifelong learning and social innovation.

Priority 5

Getting Around: Provide for accessible, healthy, and safe transportation choices.

Priority 6

Health and Safety: Nurture community health and safety.

Like the goals, many of the priorities are interrelated. For example, engaging in lifelong learning (Priority 4) can be a way to foster social connections (Priority 2).

Priorities and Actions

Within each priority, there are actions that address challenges and opportunities. These actions comprise the Strategy's first 5-year Action Plan (Appendix D).

In developing the Action Plan, priority was given to actions that:

- Reflect the Township's role as a local government
- Have a high impact
- Are flexible, cost-effective, and able to leverage outside resources
- Can catalyze innovation and enhance community capacity
- Build on existing community assets, partnerships, and Township initiatives

Given the scope and foundational nature of the Strategy and the complexity of the issues, the majority of the actions are broad and exploratory in nature, necessitating further research, prototyping, or planning. Each are intended to be led or initiated by the Township, in collaboration with other organizations and groups.

Our Community Assets

Our community has an abundance of assets that can be mobilized on the goals and priorities, including dedicated community leaders, devoted volunteers, passionate youth, generous local businesses, engaged faith-based organizations, and a collaborative non-profit sector.



An Equity Lens

We recognize that differences in age, gender, ability, race, income, and sexual orientation, among others, mean that some people face more barriers than others in fully participating in community life. Social equity aims to achieve fair outcomes by giving people the support they need to participate and removing systemic

barriers that cause avoidable inequalities (the second and third illustration in the figure below).

Advancing social equity is an important part of building an inclusive community (Goal 2).

To ensure the actions in this Strategy are approached in an equitable way, we will

prepare a social equity policy to serve as a lens through the implementation phase. The social equity policy is intended to recognize the diversity of our community, and acknowledge that deliberate measures may be needed to ensure fair processes and outcomes.

Equality versus Equity



In the first illustration, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



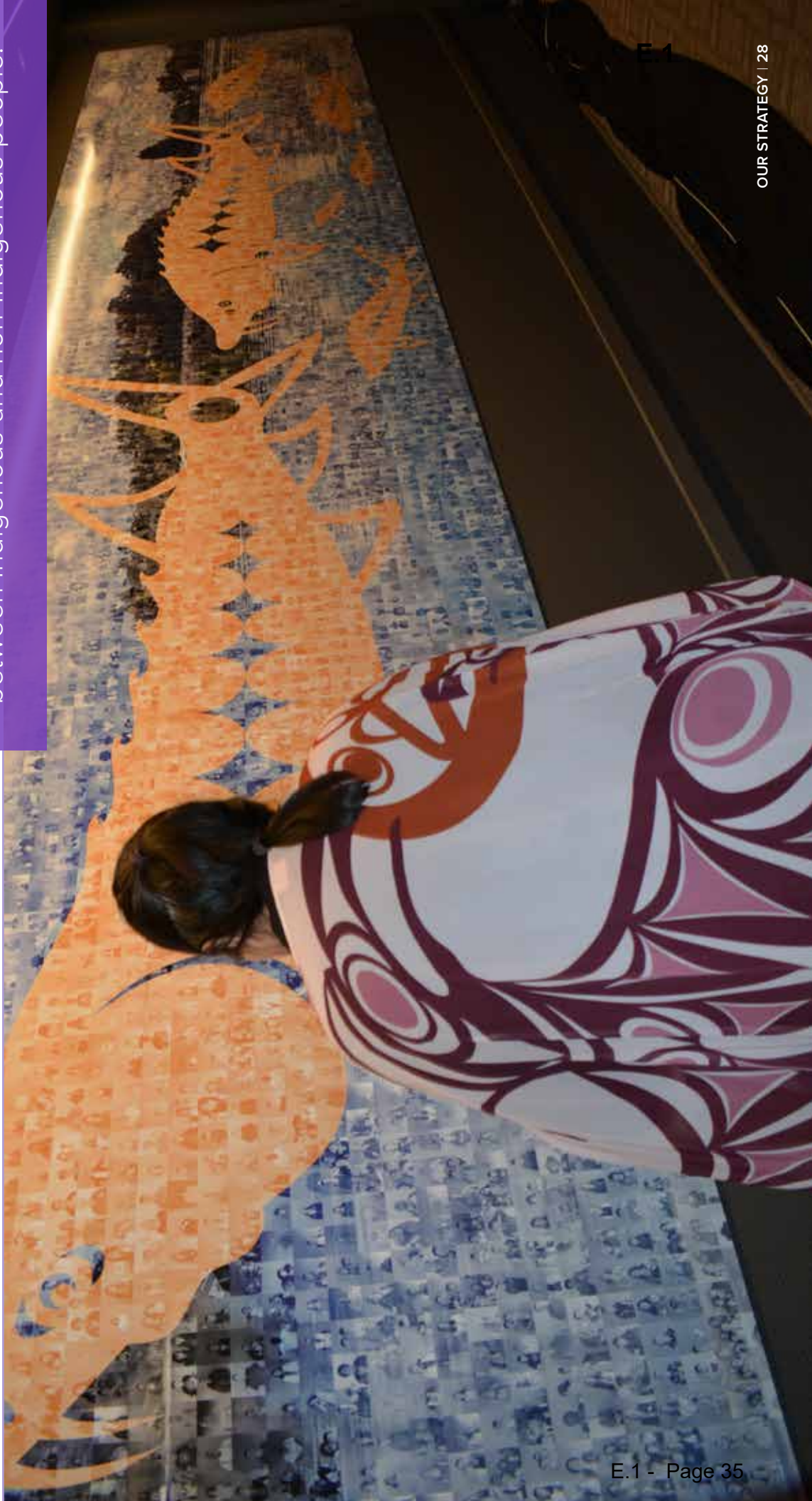
In the second illustration, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third illustration, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

PRIORITY 1: INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Build and sustain meaningful relationships
between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.



Why This Priority

In its final report, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) identified the urgent need for reconciliation “to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share.” According to the TRC, reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. For some Indigenous people, including some local First Nations, the term reconciliation is problematic as it implies there was a good relationship to begin with, something many assert is not the case. Out of respect and acknowledgment of this perspective, the terms relations and relationships are proposed instead.

All Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in building and sustaining respectful relationships. While this journey will not be the same across the country, according to the TRC, the process must include “awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour.”

The Township of Langley is located on the overlapping traditional territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations and has a growing Indigenous population comprised of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from all across Canada. As such, the Township, local organizations, and residents have an opportunity to support the process of authentic relationship building and lay the groundwork for a more inclusive community.

“We need more awareness of residential school issues, and events to be held that create awareness of Indigenous rights and issues.”
— Phase 1 and 2 survey respondent

“I’m Métis, and no one would know that, so often the conversation about Indigenous relations takes place as if we aren’t in the room, but we are.”
— Phase 3 workshop participant

Statistics

Total population of **aboriginal identity** is

4,310

43% are First Nations

54% are Métis

1% are not First Nations

Métis or Inuk (Inuit) but have Registered or Treaty Indian status and/or Membership in a First Nation or Indian band

0.5% are Inuk (Inuit)

1.5% are multiple aboriginal identity

Some Strengths to Build On

- The Kwantlen First Nation and Township have partnered on a number of initiatives, including the proposed development of two new museums in Fort Langley, a joint submission under the Infrastructure Canada Smart Cities Challenge, and a community to community forum involving Kwantlen Chief and Council and Township Mayor and Council
- The Township has executed an agreement with the Katzie and Matsqui First Nations to provide municipal services, and is working towards a similar agreement with Kwantlen First Nation
- The Township, in partnership with the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society, Fraser Health, and other community stakeholders, presented the Indigenous Circle of Health in 2018, a program intended to bring First Nations culture, health, and fitness to the general community

Existing Township Policy Context

- The Arts and Cultural Services Plan (2011) recommends ensuring First Nations contributions to arts and cultural planning in the Township are ongoing

Actions 2021–2025

1A

- In partnership with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations, explore opportunities to:
- support and implement initiatives that raise community-wide awareness and understanding of local Indigenous histories, cultures, and issues
 - implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action related to municipalities and related initiatives that support building and sustaining meaningful relationships
 - develop a communications guide with information and protocols to assist Township Council, staff, and the broader community in building partnerships with local First Nations and Indigenous people

1B

Invite all four local First Nations to identify opportunities to strengthen the government-to-government relationship and identify matters of mutual interest for future exploration.

1C

Provide cultural awareness education to all Township staff and offer cultural safety training to Township Council and staff working with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations, and explore opportunities to extend education and training to local businesses and non-profit organizations by, for example, sharing resources and onsite training, as appropriate.¹⁰

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Related to Municipalities:

- #40 Establish Indigenous-specific victim programs and services
- #43 Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- #47 Reject concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and land
- #57 Educate municipal public servants and develop skills in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism efforts
- #64 Require denominational schools to provide comparative religious studies including on Indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices
- #75 Protect Residential School cemeteries
- #77 Provide records of Residential Schools to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- #87 Provide public education on the history of Indigenous athletes in Canada
- #88 Take action to support the development of Indigenous athletes

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Call to Action #43) emphasizes Indigenous peoples' rights to live in dignity, to maintain and strengthen Indigenous institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue self-determined development, in keeping with Indigenous needs and aspirations. The Province of BC passed legislation in November 2019 to implement the UN Declaration, mandating the government to bring provincial laws, which affect local governments, into harmony with the UN Declaration.

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¹⁰ Cultural safety training programs are designed to strengthen the skills of those who with Indigenous people. The goal is to foster a climate where the unique history of Indigenous peoples is recognized and respected.

PRIORITY 2: BELONGING

Strengthen community belonging, social connections, and civic engagement.



Why This Priority

Community belonging, social connections, and civic engagement are interrelated concepts that are vital to our social sustainability. Community belonging is the feeling that individuals are valued and accepted by one another, and is influenced by the ability to participate in community life free of barriers and discrimination. A strong sense of community belonging is associated with good physical and mental health, and motivates individuals to make positive contributions in their community.

Social connections refer to relationships with one another and the strength of those relationships, while civic engagement refers to individual and collective actions aimed at making communities better, like volunteering and voting. The benefits of strong social connections include increased neighbourhood safety, improved health, and enhanced resilience, and civic engagement helps build individual and community capacity, and fosters more inclusive decision-making.

Population growth, urbanization, and changing demographics present challenges and opportunities for community belonging, social connectedness, and civic engagement.

“My neighbours are part of my family. Small town, big hearts.”
– Phase 1 and 2 pop-up event participant

“It would be nice to be able to afford to do something with the family. We pool all our resources into our house (paying bills and eating); we have little to spend elsewhere. It would be nice for our family of 4 to be able to afford a rec pass or something to keep us busy. I do understand that they are well priced and there are subsidies, however we make just above so never qualify for anything.”
– Phase 1 and 2 survey respondent

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Statistics

57% of residents have a strong or somewhat strong **sense of community**, compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 56%

48% of residents have at least four **people to confide in**, compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 45%

30% voter turnout for the 2018 municipal election, compared to the BC average of 36%

Some Strengths to Build On

- The Township operates six recreation facilities, more than 1,200 acres of park, including five spray parks and nine community gardens, a museum, and six community libraries through the Fraser Valley Regional Library, all of which are hubs for social connection
- Numerous local organizations offer programs and activities that facilitate social interaction, including the Township, which provides a wide variety of recreation programs
- Langley has a number of free or low-cost community events, many of which are sponsored or supported by the Township
- The Township has initiated and supported various projects and events that celebrate the diversity of its population, including the Benches of Diversity art project at Derek Doubleday Arboretum and the installation of a rainbow crosswalk in Fort Langley
- The community is served by many dedicated volunteers and benefits from the Langley Volunteer Bureau, which connects individuals to various local volunteer opportunities
- Langley has a strong spirit of collaborative action, particularly among non-profit and faith-based organizations

Existing Township Policy Context

- The Age-friendly Strategy (2014) aims to create healthy, liveable communities that are welcoming to all ages, with a focus on older adults
- The Public Engagement Charter and Strategy (2016) lay the groundwork for a spirit of collaboration and meaningful community consultation

Actions 2021–2025

2A

Increase opportunities for neighbourhood social connections through initiatives such as:

- exploring a small grants program for neighbourhood-based projects that aim to connect and engage neighbours, with a view of launching a pilot program
- further researching social connectedness in multi-family developments, to inform potential updated design guidelines and pilot programs
- researching opportunities and best practices in facilitating neighbourhood events on local streets

2B

Address community space needs through initiatives such as:

- preparing and publishing an inventory of low-cost space available for community use, and working with local organizations, including FVRL, School District 35, local businesses, and strata corporations to explore opportunities to make more space available for community use
- exploring opportunities to support community hubs that offer a range of community programs, services, and gathering places
- exploring smaller neighbourhood-based centres with amenities like exercise equipment, games areas, and meeting space

2C

Refine and share the Township's best practice guide for engaging subpopulations to build capacity within the organization and community on best practices for inclusive community engagement.

2D

Explore opportunities to support and empower youth in developing youth-friendly events and programs, with a view of piloting innovative ideas.

2E

Conduct research and pilot innovative programs, initiatives, and events that foster intergenerational, intercultural, and urban-rural connectedness.

2F

Develop a volunteer strategy to, among other items, consider emerging trends in volunteering, enhance the Township's volunteer programs, and support volunteering in the community.

2G

Review existing programs, research best practices, and pilot initiatives to ensure municipal recreation and culture opportunities are accessible to all community members, including members of local First Nations, people with lower incomes, people with disabilities, and people of diverse cultural backgrounds and identities.

Small grants are intended to connect neighbours and give people a chance to see how they can make positive contributions to their neighbourhood. Small grant projects might include organizing a book exchange or hosting a canning workshop.



PRIORITY 3: HOUSING AND FOOD

Promote equitable housing and local food security.



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Why This Priority

Housing and food are both basic human needs. Equitable housing means that all people have access to housing that meets their needs, now and in the future. Similarly, food security means that all people have the ability and opportunity to grow and consume nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate foods. Local food systems are characterized by increased food self-reliance, which means more food needs are satisfied by locally grown food.

Having housing options that are affordable and suitable for everyone is an important element of an inclusive community. People living in stable housing are more able to pursue other opportunities, like education and employment, and access services that help them thrive. Local food security can lead to improved community health and food safety, strengthened local economies, reduced negative environmental impacts, and enhanced resilience in the face of threats to the global food system. Food can also foster community connectedness, including between producers and consumers and people with diverse cultural backgrounds.

“Since my parents separated, we’ve moved six times in the last two years. All my mom can afford is a small basement suite. There’s no yard for us to play in and I have anxiety about when we’ll have to move again.”
– Phase 1 and 2 youth workshop participant

“If a resilient community is one of our goals, we’d better have local food production.”
– Phase 3 rural community conversation participant

“I have a disability and live off a fixed income, so I stock up on food when it’s on sale. Once I filled my fridge freezer with bread, and ate it for weeks. Sometimes a deal is too good to pass up.”
– Phase 3 workshop participant

Statistics

11% of households are in **core housing need**, compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 18%¹¹

206 people in Langley are **homeless**

7% of residents sometimes or often **do not have enough to eat**, the same as the Metro Vancouver average

35% of the Township's agricultural land is used for **food production**, compared to the regional average of 52%

Some Strengths to Build On

- The Township has various types of quality market housing, including single detached dwellings, secondary suites, townhouses and apartments, and anticipated developments, like the Shepherd of the Valley in Willoughby (under construction) and the CLA Housing Society in Murrayville (in the planning stages), will increase the supply of affordable rental housing for families and seniors
- With about 75% of its land base in the Agricultural Land Reserve, the Township has more agricultural land than any other municipality in Metro Vancouver
- The Township promotes 'buy local' through various integrated campaigns and supported the BC Land Matching Program, which pairs would-be farmers with people who have agricultural land
- A number of local organizations are currently engaged in housing and food, including:
 - operating supportive housing and emergency shelter, including accommodation for youth and for women and children fleeing violence, and providing homeless outreach services
 - supporting local agriculture and food security, including the provision of low-or no-cost food and meals and food literacy programs

Existing Township Policy Context

- The Housing Action Plan (2013) identifies recommended actions to encourage a diverse and affordable supply of housing
- The Agricultural Viability Strategy (2013) identifies recommended actions to support local agriculture
- The Official Community Plan (2016) includes policies to encourage affordable housing, local food production, and food education

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¹¹Households in core housing need are those whose dwellings are considered unaffordable, in need of major repair, or too small for the number of occupants, and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community.

Actions 2021–2025

3A

Research and consider policy and regulatory changes that would allow detached accessory dwelling units (e.g. garden suites) in some areas.

3B

Review and update the Housing Action Plan to explore:

- opportunities to increase the number of market rental units, including rental apartment units and secondary suites
- policy and regulatory tools to further protect existing rental housing
- opportunities to facilitate more non-market rental, supportive housing, and emergency shelter options

3C

Research and explore opportunities to expand community food gardening, which could include integration with outdoor amenity areas and landscaping in multi-family developments, built-in planter boxes on balconies, and retrofits in existing parks.

3D

Support initiatives that raise awareness and address misinformation about homelessness in the community (e.g. local events and advertising campaigns).

3E

Develop a food strategy that complements the Agricultural Viability Strategy and explores opportunities to increase access to healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, and local food, including:

- better access to local farm food, which could include having farmers markets in different communities throughout the Township and the promotion of farms with farm-gate sales
- partnerships and programs that enhance food security, such as garden-sharing programs and food drop-off at satellite distribution centres
- the development of community kitchens as spaces to improve food literacy and support food-based social enterprises

Food literacy is having the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to choose, grow, prepare, and enjoy healthy food. It means understanding the impact of our food choices on our health, the environment, and our economy.



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PRIORITY 4: LEARNING

Encourage lifelong learning and social innovation.



Why This Priority

Learning can take place at every stage of life, and can be both formal and informal.¹² Lifelong learning can help improve incomes, foster job stability, reduce loneliness, improve health, and nurture relationships with communities of shared interest.

Lifelong learning also helps build community capacity and foster resilience in the face of technological advancement, shifting patterns of work, and other global trends.

Social innovation is about addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges in new ways. It refers to a rapidly growing array of new techniques and methods for changing system dynamics and unleashing solutions to deeply rooted social challenges. Organizations can build their capacity to address social issues by undertaking social innovation collaborations.

“Learning should take place throughout our lives. When we are learning, we are growing.”

– Social Sustainability Task Force member

“I work with seniors and some of them are really struggling with digital technologies especially when it comes to accessing services and programs. Everything is digital now, the information, forms, even trying to find a contact number to call.”

– Social Sustainability Task Force member

¹² Formal learning is structured and goal-oriented. Examples include classroom-based and online courses (including English Second Language and retraining courses), public lectures, and professional development seminars. Informal learning is unstructured and self-directed, with no set goals. Examples include online reading and books.

Statistics

30% of the **kindergarten population is vulnerable** on at least one of the five scales of the Early Development Instrument, compared to the provincial rate of 33%¹³

61% of residents aged 25 to 64 years have a **postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree**, compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 68%

Some Strengths to Build On

- There are 35 public schools and 6 libraries located in the Township, plus Trinity Western University, BCIT (satellite locations) and, in the City of Langley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, all of which are hubs for learning
- Several local organizations, including the Township, School District, Fraser Valley Continuing Education, and Fraser Valley Regional Library, provide learning opportunities for people of all ages
- There are various cross-sectoral planning tables in the community that facilitate information sharing and collaborative action (e.g. the Langley Children Committee, the Langley Seniors Community Action Table, and Langley Poverty Reduction Task Group)

Existing Township Policy Context

- The Official Community Plan (2016) includes an objective to increase education, skills training, and lifelong learning opportunities for all residents
- The Library Services Master Plan (2012) provides a guide for the development of the Township's library system

¹³ The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures the development of the kindergarten population on five scales, and vulnerability is assessed for each of the five scales. Children whose scores fall below the vulnerability cut-off on a particular EDI scale are said to be vulnerable in that area of development, and are represented in the "vulnerable on at least one of the five scales" summary measure. Children represented by this summary measure may be experiencing vulnerabilities on one, two, three, four or all five scales of the EDI. EDI scores are an indicator of early childhood experiences, including early learning, and can be a predictor of future development, including future learning outcomes.

Actions 2021–2025

4A

Promote bc211 as a centralized source for information about community, government, and social services to help build community capacity through access to services.

4B

Support initiatives that build the capacity of public, private, and non-profit organizations to address community issues and innovate in a more collaborative way, such as:

- piloting tactics to strengthen local business engagement in social sustainability, such as promoting social purpose business as an emerging business trend
- working with business, post-secondary institutions, industry associations, and non-profits to collaborate on research and projects that advance social sustainability
- incentivizing partnerships across organizations and sectors in the delivery of special events and projects through the community grant program
- sharing more Township data in an open source format

4C

Seek ways to better promote lifelong learning opportunities, such as:

- enhancing the promotion of Fraser Valley Regional Library and other learning programs in Township communications such as the Leisure Guide
- convening local organizations including business, post-secondary institutions, and the School District to identify and implement shared opportunities to foster lifelong learning

4D

Help residents, local businesses, and community organizations prepare for technological advancement through initiatives such as:

- convening a task force to study the effects of changing technology on students, workers, businesses, non-profits, and community networks
- researching how community organizations can be supported to harness the new technologies to enhance their social missions
- convening community partners to explore opportunities for expanding digital literacy so that residents and organizations can access online programs and services, and can participate in the digital age

4E

Research best practices in developing a network of resources for social entrepreneurs, such as capacity-building opportunities and access to shared space.

bc211 is a confidential, multilingual telephone and texting service that provides free information and referral to a full range of community, social, and government services, and operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

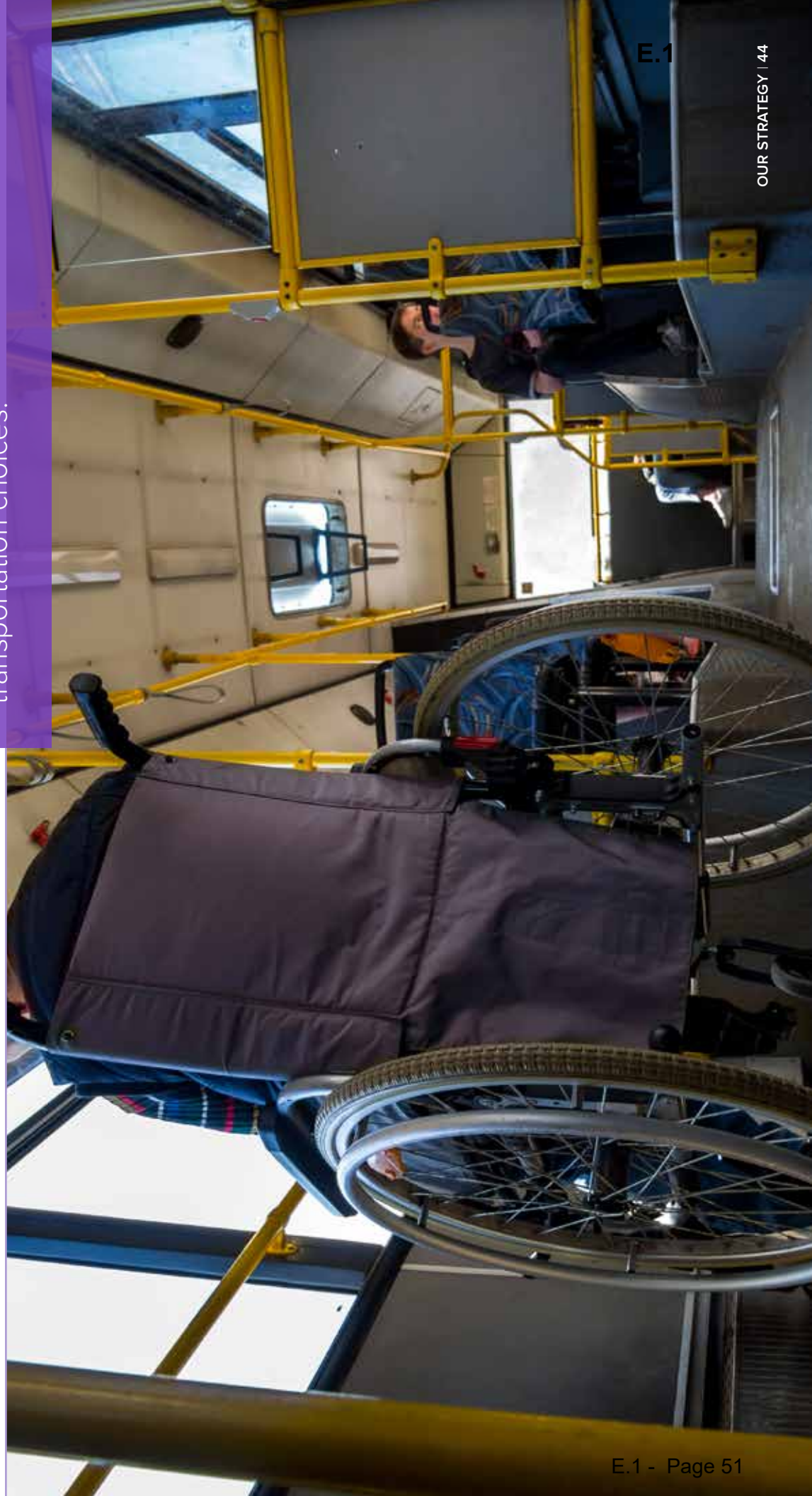
A social purpose business is a company that defines their reason for being in social terms, and places it at the core of their operations to become the engine that powers the business and contribute to a better world. Evidence is mounting that there is a strong business case for having a social purpose. Businesses that stand for solving societal challenges are performing well in terms of market growth, meeting changing customer needs, and energizing their employees.



E.1

PRIORITY 5: GETTING AROUND

Provide for accessible, healthy, and safe transportation choices.



Why This Priority

Mobility, or getting around, is important to quality of life as it is necessary for work, entertainment, socializing with friends, and access to health and community services. Currently, 9 in 10 weekday trips by Township residents are made by automobile, either as a driver or passenger. Getting around by private automobile is not possible for many people of different ages, income levels, and abilities who rely on walking, including movement with wheelchairs and other mobility aids, cycling, and transit. These modes can also promote social interaction and are better for the environment, and walking and cycling are healthier.

“Seniors generally cannot easily get around due to the poor transit system and end up relying on family to transport them.”
– Phase 1 and 2 survey respondent

“The children have no way to walk to their school. It is beyond dangerous. We need sidewalks and bike lanes to encourage our youth to be active.”
– Phase 1 and 2 survey respondent

“Vehicle speeding is creating very dangerous circumstances in rural areas, people need to be educated on the impacts of this behaviour.”
– Phase 3 rural community conversations participant

Statistics

9% of weekday trips in Langley Township are made by **walking, cycling and transit**, compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 27%

11 pedestrian and cyclist crashes per one million trips in the Township, compared to 12 crashes per one million trips in Metro Vancouver

Some Strengths to Build On

- There have been some recent enhancements in transit services, such as the introduction of bus service along 208 Street in Willoughby in 2016, and TransLink is developing a plan for SkyTrain between Langley Centre and King George Station
- The Township undertakes a number of infrastructure improvements for cycling and walking each year
- Partnerships between the Township, HUB Cycling, and the Langley School District support transportation education and awareness

Existing Township Policy Context

- The Master Transportation Plan (2009) guides the development of the Township's overall transportation system
- The Cycling Plan (2015) guides the development of the Township's cycling network
- The Official Community Plan (2016) guides the development of new neighbourhoods with land use and design features that support multiple modes of transportation

Actions 2021–2025

5A

Develop a Transportation and Mobility Strategy that will explore and enhance opportunities for active mobility, connectivity, safety, and accessibility, including the identification of priority areas for capital improvements.

5B

Prepare amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to incorporate bicycle space and storage regulations consistent with the Cycling Plan.

5C

Convene residents, including youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, local businesses, and TransLink to share information and identify opportunities to improve transit service, including HandyDART.

Transportation accounts for more than half of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the Township. The Transportation and Mobility Strategy can explore ways to not only make the transportation system more socially sustainable, but also more environmentally sustainable.



E.1

PRIORITY 6: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Nurture community health and safety.



Why This Priority

Health and safety are key components of social sustainability. When people are and feel healthy and safe, they are more able to participate in society in various ways, such as through employment, education, and community activities. Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.¹⁴ Although human health is influenced by biology and access to health care, it is more influenced by the physical environment (e.g. air quality and civic infrastructure) and socio-economic conditions (e.g. income, education, food, housing, and social connections).

Safety involves the level and types of crime reported, but equally important is feeling safe at home, work, school, and in the community. Community safety also encompasses the extent to which our community is prepared for emergencies like floods, fires, and earthquakes. Climate change is expected to increasingly threaten health and safety through impacts such as extreme heat, reduced air quality, and climate-related disasters.

“We should consider the benefits of trees to improved mental health.”
– Phase 1 and 2 survey participant

“We need more doctors and our hospital needs funding for an expansion – people are not able to find doctors in our community.”
– Phase 1 and 2 survey participant

“There seems to be an uptick in burglaries, car thefts, and shootings/car fires in my community, although on the surface it seems like a very safe area.”
– Phase 1 and 2 survey participant

¹⁴ Source: World Health Organization, Basic documents: Forty-ninth edition, 2020.

Statistics

50% of residents report being in excellent or very good general health , compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 49%	63% of residents report having excellent or very good mental health , compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 57%	59% of residents feel safe walking after dark, compared to the Metro Vancouver average of 58%	27% of residents have emergency supplies for three or more days (72 hours), the same as the Metro Vancouver average
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Some Strengths to Build On

- The Township operates 6 recreation facilities, more than 1,200 acres of park, and 190 kilometres of trails, and provides a wide variety of recreation programs that promote health and wellness for people of all ages
- There are numerous organizations in the Township that are involved in health services and programs, including Fraser Health, which is responsible for governing, planning and delivering health care services
- The Township and Fraser Health partner on various programs and initiatives, including community planning processes and the Langley Healthier Community Partnership¹⁵
- The Langley RCMP, which delivers police services through contract with the Township, administers a variety of crime prevention and awareness programs, like Block Watch and Business Link
- The Township provides fire suppression service, public education, and, jointly with the City of Langley, an emergency management program, which includes emergency planning and response

Existing Township Policy Context

- The Official Community Plan (2016) includes policies that address community safety and promote healthy built environments¹⁶
- The Fire Department Master Plan (2018) identifies priorities for improved service and performance related to fire safety and emergency preparedness

¹⁵ The Langley Healthier Community Partnership is a joint initiative of the Township and City of Langley and Fraser Health, and provides broad-based community input and guidance for the development of concrete action plans to improve the overall health of the community. The Langley Healthier Community Partnership Steering Council is co-chaired by the Township of Langley and Langley City Mayors and Fraser Health and is made up of numerous community leaders who are committed to creating a healthy Langley.

¹⁶ Healthy built environments are characterized by, among other things, active transportation, spaces that promote physical activity, and access to healthy food.

Actions 2021–2025

6A

Strengthen the relationship with Fraser Health Authority and other community partners involved in the delivery of health care to improve access to health services including mental health and substance use through initiatives such as:

- supporting the development of a community health plan through the Langley Healthier Community Partnership
- enhancing collaboration during community planning processes to identify where health can be integrated into policies and assess anticipated health care needs

6B

Promote healthy living by enhancing park spaces, open spaces, and trails through initiatives such as:

- reviewing per capita park area standards based on best practice research and recent development trends
- introducing additional interactive play and fitness equipment, including piloting the installation of playboxes in parks with equipment like rackets, balls, and frisbees for shared use

6C

Enhance community safety through education and prevention initiatives such as:

- convening community groups to co-develop strategies for sharing accurate information about community safety and reported crimes
- raising awareness of the roles that residents can play in fostering community safety, including increased promotion of existing crime prevention programs
- researching best practices in strengthening the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines

6D

Consider accelerating the future initiatives identified in the Fire Master Plan related to emergency preparedness to, among other items, strengthen community engagement in preparedness planning and facilitate regular updates to the emergency response plan and incident-specific guidelines.

6E

Explore opportunities to better communicate the mental health benefits of recreation programs, nature, and greenspace, and seek opportunities to further integrate the promotion of mental wellness into recreation program offerings.

Law enforcement and policing are key components of community safety, but the complex nature of crime and safety requires a broader set of strategies that include education, prevention, and intervention. Crime Prevention Through Social Development (CPSD), for example, is a longer-term crime prevention strategy that aims to enhance safety through a greater focus on community and social development.



E.1

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INTEGRATION

Social sustainability integration is targeted at shaping operations across the entire organization. To further integrate social sustainability within the Township of Langley, we will undertake the following additional actions between 2021 and 2025:

7A

Develop a social equity policy and handbook that would serve as a lens to help ensure Township policies, services, programs, facilities, and infrastructure are inclusive of the full diversity of residents, and develop a work plan to review existing policies with this lens.

7C

Prepare a corporate sustainability strategy to ensure the Township's business operations achieve social, economic, and environmental benefits for the community.

7B

Update the Sustainability Charter to ensure it continues to be inspiring and reflective of community values.

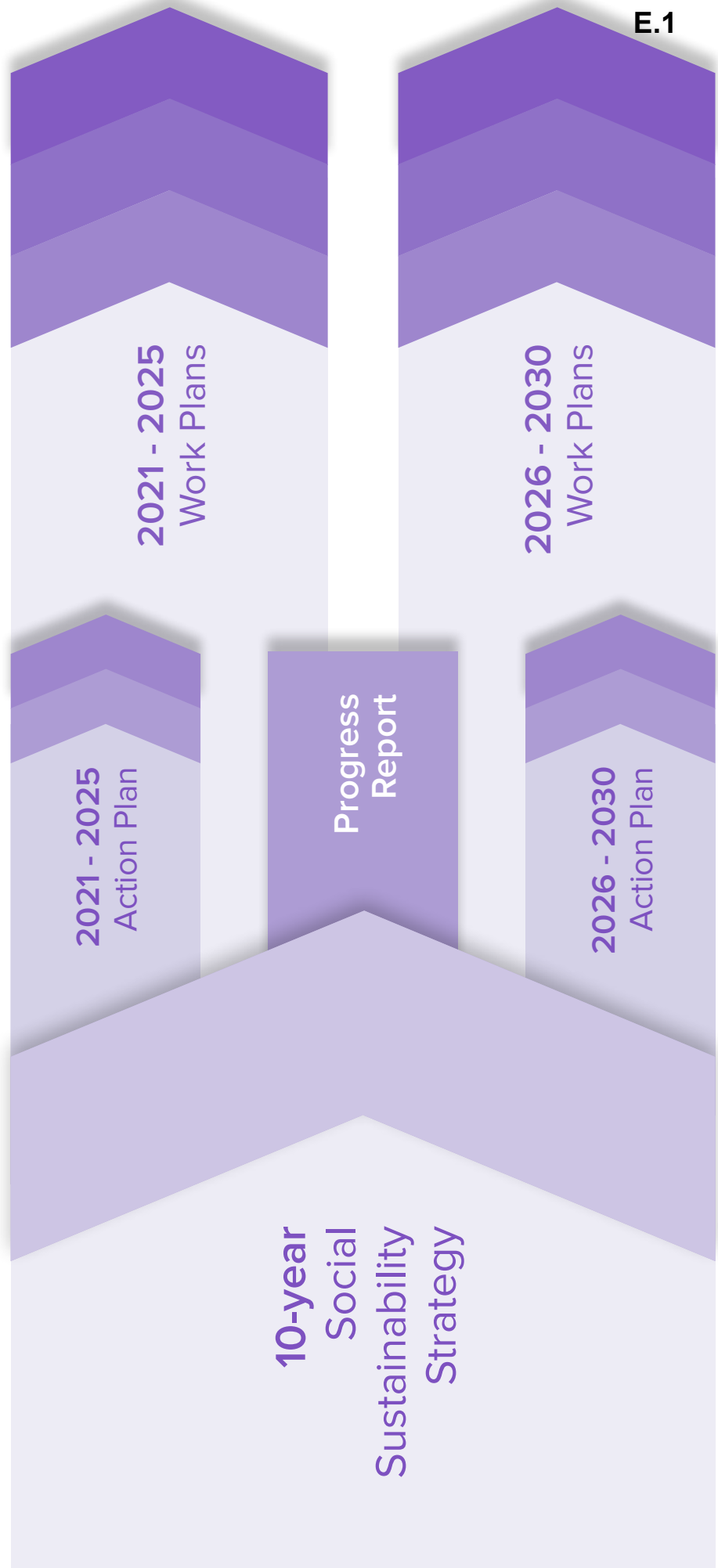


IMPLEMENTATION



FROM PLANNING TO ACTION

The 10-year Social Sustainability Strategy consists of six 5-year priorities linked to a set of actions to be carried out over the same timeframe. These 5-year priorities and actions comprise the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan (Appendix D), and will inform the development of annual departmental work plans. Recognizing that priorities can change, the Township will review and, as required, refresh the priorities after five years, and develop a new action plan.



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PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

The Action Plan outlines 31 actions to undertake between 2021 and 2025. Given the scope and foundational nature of the Strategy, the majority of the actions will require further research, prototyping, or planning. Therefore, a set of principles is needed to guide how these actions should be implemented.

All of the actions will be expected to take the following principles into consideration in their scoping and activation.

1. Advance social equity
2. Mobilize social innovation
3. Collaborate across sectors
4. Use resources effectively
5. Engage community members and local organizations



1. Advance social equity

Advancing social equity means working to give everyone what they need to participate in community life, as opposed to treating everyone the same, and removing systemic barriers that cause avoidable inequality.

Guidelines:

- Once complete, employ the social equity policy as a lens to ensure that all municipal actions and decisions are undertaken with equity considerations

2. Mobilize social innovation

Social innovation is about addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges in new ways. It refers to a rapidly growing array of new techniques and methods for changing system dynamics and unleashing solutions to deeply rooted social challenges.

Guidelines:

- Test different platforms that support developing and implementing solutions in a collaborative way, like social innovation labs, and replicate the platforms that work best
- Employ whole systems thinking to better understand all the dimensions and opportunities of an issue
- Use new tools to accelerate innovation, like challenges, pledges, and project spotlighting
- Where appropriate, employ experimentation over elaborate planning, and learn from failure
- Use evaluation approaches that capture feedback early and often



Social innovation labs are multi-stakeholder workshops where one experiments with finding small, local solutions to complex social problems. These labs emphasize **whole systems thinking**, which is an approach to understanding how things are related, and how they influence one another.

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3. Collaborate across sectors

Collaborative action is usually more effective as it capitalizes on a more diverse range of expertise and assets. While there are numerous examples of local organizations and groups currently collaborating on community initiatives, these efforts will need to be enhanced to make progress towards the vision and goals, particularly across the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Guidelines:

- Leverage existing platforms, like the Healthier Community Partnership, to strengthen collaboration, and seek out new ways to engage other potential partners
- Wherever possible bring all the sectors and stakeholders together to tackle actions and identify collaborative solutions
- Share municipal best practices with other organizations and, where possible, include other organizations in developing tools, models, training, and approaches that are transferable

4. Use resources effectively

Local governments have limited resources to address complex social challenges, so it is important to be cost-effective when implementing solutions. It is also important to acknowledge that there may be costs associated with doing nothing.

Guidelines:

- Seek out cost-sharing partnerships, grants, and other sources of external funding
- Build on existing community assets, including the resources and knowledge of post-secondary institutions, businesses, and other organizations
- Evaluate the impact of the actions
- Communicate the potential cost savings when undertaking actions that address a root cause of the problem

5. Engage community members and local organizations

The development of this Strategy was shaped by a comprehensive community engagement program, and engagement should continue through implementation. Continuing to engage the community in this way will foster a sense of belonging and build community capacity.

Guidelines:

- Ensure actions that require additional planning are undertaken with a commensurate community engagement program, including potential input from Council Advisory Committees or project-specific task forces
- Administer the Langley Tomorrow Survey (a statistically valid community survey) to keep a pulse on community values and aspirations on a regular basis
- Encourage local organizations to consider the Strategy as part of their strategic planning processes
- Communicate and celebrate the actions undertaken under the Strategy

COST AND RESOURCE ESTIMATES

Implementing the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan is estimated to cost \$997,000, or an average of \$199,400 per year (see Appendix D).

In addition, to support implementation and leverage potential grants from external sources, the following staffing resource enhancements are recommended within the timeframe of the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan:

- An Arts, Culture, and Community Initiatives resource (part-time) to support the implementation of the Indigenous Relations actions
- A Transportation resource to support the implementation of the Getting Around actions
- A Protective Services – Fire resource to support the implementation of emergency preparedness actions in this Strategy and the Fire Department Master Plan





MONITORING AND REPORTING

Implementation Progress

Implementation progress will be monitored annually in conjunction with the development of departmental work plans. A full progress report will be prepared in 2025 to inform the development of the 2026 – 2030 Action Plan. The progress report will categorize the actions as not started, in progress, and completed.

Progress Indicators

To track progress 21 indicators for the priorities have been established. These indicators have purposely been titled progress indicators rather than performance indicators, recognizing that the priorities in the Strategy are influenced by many factors beyond the Township's control. In addition, these indicators are not necessarily perfect indicators for the priorities, as data gaps exist, so we must not simply manage what is getting measured. No indicators have been identified for Priority 1: Indigenous Relations as we hope to have an opportunity to co-develop a progress indicator (or indicators) with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations.

In keeping with the vision that everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life, these indicators will be monitored for different population groups, subject to data availability. A publicly available digital dashboard will be created and used to monitor and report on these indicators, with updates made as new data becomes available.

E.1

Monitoring and Reporting

PRIORITY	PROGRESS INDICATOR	DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCE
BELONGING	Community belonging	Percent of population with a strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community	My Health My Community (MHMC)
	Discrimination	Percent of population treated unfairly or with less respect in the past 12 months because of certain personal characteristics	MHMC
	Social connections	Percent of population with at least four people to confide in	MHMC
	Voter turnout	Percent of registered electors that cast a ballot in the last municipal election	Langley Township
	Volunteering	Percent of population that volunteers for local organizations	MHMC
HOUSING AND FOOD	Core housing need	Percent of households whose dwellings are considered inadequate, unaffordable, or unsuitable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate local housing	Census
	Homelessness	Number of people experiencing homelessness	Metro Vancouver Homeless Count
	Food insecurity	Percent of population that sometimes or often do not have enough to eat	MHMC
	Local food production	Percent of total agricultural land used for food production	Census of Agriculture
LEARNING	Early childhood vulnerability	Percent of the Kindergarten population that is vulnerable on at least one of the five scales of the Early Development Instrument	Human Early Learning Partnership
	Educational attainment	Percent of population aged 25-64 years old that have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree	Census
	Lifelong learning	Percent of population that participated in learning activities in the past 12 months	MHMC
	Travel mode	Percent of trips by mode	TransLink
GETTING AROUND	Traffic incidents	Pedestrian and cyclist crashes per one million trips	ICBC
	General health status	Percent of population reporting excellent or very good general health	MHMC
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Mental health	Percent of population reporting excellent or very good mental health	MHMC
	Feeling safe	Percent of population who feel safe walking after dark	MHMC
	Property crime rate	Property crime incidents per 100,000 population	Statistics Canada
	Violent crime rate	Violent crime incidents per 100,000 population	Statistics Canada
	Emergency preparedness	Percent of population with emergency supplies for three or more days (72 hours)	MHMC

CONCLUSION

The Social Sustainability Strategy is intended to help us sustain the things we love about our community today, harness the opportunities to tackle our social challenges, and prepare for the future.

As a broad, foundational Strategy, it points us in the right direction, like a compass that will help us navigate through constantly changing terrain. By thinking big, being open to change, working more collaboratively, and tapping into a deeper level of compassion, we can build a community that is more connected, inclusive, and resilient. Since we envision a community where everyone can both enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life, we encourage you to join us in this work.

How can I contribute to a thriving Langley Township?
Here are some ideas:

- Get to know your neighbours, they'll likely be there when you need them, and good friends are good for your health
- Initiate a neighbourhood project, like a little free library, an emergency supplies hub, or a public art project
- Volunteer for the Township or a local organization, the Langley Volunteer Bureau can help connect you
- Support our local businesses, they care about and are invested in the well-being and future of our community
- Donate money to organizations and projects that benefit our community
- Take the time to learn about local issues, champion positive social change, and don't forget to vote



E.1

APPENDIX A: STRATEGY PROCESS

The process to prepare the Social Sustainability Strategy was organized into four phases, with implementation identified as a fifth phase.



Phase 1 of the process (“Initiating the Project”), which began in November 2017, involved raising project awareness, establishing the Social Sustainability Task Force, and retaining external consultants with expertise in public engagement and social sustainability.

The following guiding principles and assumptions were established at the beginning of the project, with minor refinements as the project proceeded, to inform the preparation of the Strategy:

1. **Consider all three elements of sustainability.** The Strategy will focus on our social sustainability, but the interconnected and interdependent nature of sustainability means that advancing our social aspirations may also provide opportunities to advance our economic and environmental aspirations.
2. **Acknowledge our role and responsibilities.** The Township is only one of a number of parties that play a role in addressing social issues. The Strategy’s actions must recognize the Township’s limited jurisdiction and funding for the delivery of social services. Where appropriate, the Strategy’s actions should identify potential partners.

3. **Build on our foundation.** The Strategy should seek a balance between acknowledging and building upon our existing strengths and foundation and identifying new directions and initiatives that address social sustainability.

4. **Be aspirational and realistic.** The Strategy should be aspirational and visionary in nature, but should also be realistic through suitable, strategic, and cost-effective actions and implementation timelines. Undertaking too many new initiatives at the same time will likely mean that existing initiatives will need to be scaled back or additional financial and staffing resources will be required.

5. **Recognize our nature as a “community of communities.”** The Township of Langley consists of both a rural and urban area, and within the urban area, each community is unique. While the Strategy is intended to address social sustainability in the Township as a whole, it is important to recognize that social issues may be experienced differently in different parts of the municipality.

6. **Engage the community and build capacity.** The preparation and implementation of the Strategy should provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for community engagement and should strive to improve the capacity of the broader community to address social issues by facilitating dialogue and identifying potential partnerships.

7. **Track and evaluate our progress.** The Strategy should identify key social indicators and baseline data so that progress can be tracked over time, but should also consider ongoing evaluation approaches that support social innovation.

8. **Provide flexibility.** While providing a clear guide for decision-making related to social sustainability, the Strategy should recognize that conditions may change, requiring flexibility as implementation proceeds.

9. **Prioritize upstream approaches.** The Strategy should focus on interventions that address the sources rather than the symptoms of the issues.

Phase 2 (“Exploring Social Sustainability and our Situation”) began in March 2018 with a social sustainability panel discussion at the Langley Events Centre, a public event to formally kick-off the project.

Approximately 70 people, including residents, local stakeholders and members of Council, attended this Thriving or Surviving event to hear insights from a panel of experts on what it takes to create a vibrant, inclusive community in which everyone can thrive.

Phase 2 involved numerous public engagement activities, including Task Force meetings, to collect input on our community’s strengths, challenges, aspirations, and priorities in the social realm. Between April and June 2018, staff conducted six different types of engagement activities, resulting in more than a thousand interactions with residents and local stakeholders. As a key goal of the public engagement program was to broaden and diversify community participation, the Phase 2 engagement activities were held throughout the Township and specifically targeted, and ultimately reached, various population groups that are often underrepresented in public engagement processes, like children, youth, recent immigrants, and people with disabilities.

An overview of the panel and the other public engagement events, including a complete reporting of the input received, is included in the Phase 1 and 2 Engagement Summary, which is available on the project webpage (tol.ca/socialstrategy).

Phase 2 also included additional research and analysis that, together with public and stakeholder input, supported evidence-based decision-making in the preparation of the Strategy. The results of this research and analysis were summarized in the Social Profile, which includes information on:

- Global and national scale megatrends (e.g. urbanization and climate change), which are not unique to the Township, but have local implications
- Notable federal and provincial investments in the social realm
- The Township’s historical and current context, including a general description of the community’s strengths and challenges in addressing social issues
- Statistics that help to indicate the local situation and trends
- Relevant Township plans, programs, and initiatives
- Local organizations providing services and programs and/or opportunities for discussion and collaborative action

The Social Profile is available on the project webpage (tol.ca/socialstrategy).

Appendix A: Phase 3

Phase 3 (“Developing Goals and Strategies”), which began in February 2019, involved the preparation of an early draft vision statement and early draft strategic priorities based on the information collected and analyzed in Phase 2.

This work was initially undertaken with input from the Task Force, which supported staff in identifying the key findings from the Phase 2

work and refining preliminary versions of the draft vision and strategic priorities, before presenting these items to the broader community for feedback.

In May and June 2019, staff conducted a number of workshops and focused discussions with residents and local stakeholders to obtain feedback on the early draft vision statement and strategic priorities, and brainstorm ideas for action. Phase 3 also broadened the overall

engagement program by proactively targeting population groups and organizations that were underrepresented or not consulted in the earlier phases, such as rural residents, local First Nations, and other stakeholder groups. An overview of these engagement activities, including a complete reporting of the input received, is included in the Phase 3 Engagement Summary, which is available on the project webpage (tol.ca/socialstrategy).



Appendix A: Phase 3 (cont.)

Sixteen “issues and trends” were identified from the research. As shown in the table below, all of these key issues and trends are reflected in the priorities for the Social Sustainability Strategy. For context, the relationship between these issues and trends and existing Township plans and strategies is also shown in the table below.

ISSUES AND TRENDS	Social Sustainability Strategy Priorities					Township Plans and Strategies¹										
	Indigenous Relations	Belonging	Housing and Food	Learning	Getting Around	Health and Safety	Age-friendly Strategy	Agricultural Viability Strategy	Arts and Cultural Services Plan	Child Care Action Plan (in progress)	Cycling Plan	Housing Action Plan	Master Transportation Plan	Official Community Plan	Parks and Recreation Master Plan	Public Engagement Strategy
Access to services	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	●		
Aging population		●	●	●	●	●	●					●		●		
Arts and cultural spaces		●							●					●		
Community connectedness	●	●		●		●	●		●					●	●	
Community engagement		●		●			●			●				●	●	●
Early childhood experiences		●	●	●	●	●				●				●	●	
Housing affordability and homelessness			●				●					●		●		
Human health challenges		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	
Increasing cultural diversity		●	●	●	●	●			●						●	
Inter-community equity	●	●	●	●	●	●				●					●	
Local food security			●	●		●		●						●		
Perception of crime		●		●	●	●								●		
Poverty		●	●	●	●		●					●			●	
Reconciliation and First Nations engagement	●	●		●					●					●		
Transportation access and affordability					●											
Vulnerable groups²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	

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● = key issues and trends specifically addressed | ● = key issues and trends partially or indirectly addressed

¹ Existing Township strategies relevant to the key issues and trends

² People belonging, or perceived to belong, to groups that are in a disadvantaged position or marginalised are often referred to as vulnerable groups, which may include Indigenous people; people experiencing homelessness; people with disabilities; people with low-incomes; LGBTQ2S+; newcomers (including refugees); racialized groups; seniors; survivors (especially women and children) fleeing domestic violence; and youth.

Phase 4 (“Drafting the Strategy”), which began in September 2019, involved the preparation of an Emerging Directions Report and then the draft Strategy, based on the community input received in Phase 3, additional best practice research, and input from the Task Force.

The finalization of the draft Strategy was paused between March and May 2020 to reassess and recalibrate the priorities and actions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



APPENDIX B: OVERVIEW OF TOWNSHIP PLANS, STRATEGIES, PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The following is a brief summary of Township plans, strategies, programs, and initiatives that are relevant to the social realm. For a more detailed overview, refer to the Social Profile (tol.ca/socialstrategy).

PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Age-friendly Strategy (2014):

Aims to create healthy, liveable communities that are welcoming to all ages, with a focus on older adults.

Agricultural Viability Strategy (2013):

Identifies recommended actions to support local agriculture.

Arts and Cultural Services Plan (2011):

Provides recommendations for supporting and encouraging a diverse arts and cultural community.

Child Care Action Plan (in progress):

Will provide actions for improving access to affordable, quality child care in the community.

Climate Action Strategy (in progress):

Will work to tackle the causes of climate change through mitigation actions and prepare our community to better adapt to climate changes well into the future.

Cycling Plan (2015):

Identifies the eventual cycling network and the ultimate cycling infrastructure in the Township.

Economic Development Strategy (in progress):

Will update the existing five-year strategy to support a thriving local economy.

Fire Department Master Plan (2018):

Identifies priorities for improved fire service and emergency preparedness.

Housing Action Plan (2013):

Guides decision-making related to market and non-market housing.

Library Services Master Plan (2012):

Provides a guide for the development of the Township's library system.

Master Transportation Plan (2009):

Guides the development of the Township's transportation system to accommodate projected population and employment growth.

Official Community Plan (2016):

Guides population and employment growth through land use and related policies.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2002):

Provides principles and guidance for parks and recreation services in the Township.

Public Engagement Strategy (2016):

Provides recommended actions for enhancing public engagement.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The Township programs and initiatives outlined below are organized under the Strategy's six priorities. This is intended to be illustrative, and is by no means exhaustive.

Indigenous Relations

- In partnership with the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society, Fraser Health, and other community stakeholders presented the Indigenous Circle of Health (2018), a program intended to bring First Nations culture, health, and fitness to the general community
- Partnered with the Kwantlen First Nation on a number of initiatives, including the proposed development of two new museums in Fort Langley (in progress), a joint submission under the Infrastructure Canada Smart Cities Challenge (2018), and a community to community forum involving Kwantlen Chief and Council and Township Mayor and Council (2019)
- Installed the mosaic mural *stələw*, meaning "big river," by artist *q'wət'ica* (Phyllis Atkins) of the Kwantlen First Nation in the Township's Civic Facility's Fraser River Presentation Theatre (2019) as a legacy project to recognize Canada's 150th birthday
- Executed agreements with the Katzie and Matsqui First Nations to provide municipal

services, and is working towards a similar agreement with Kwantlen First Nation

- Co-hosts the Advanced Business Match Lower Mainland event, which connects communities and companies with complementing goals, with Kwantlen First Nation on an annual basis

Belonging

- Operates six recreation facilities, over 1,200 acres of park, a museum, and six community libraries through the Fraser Valley Regional Library, all of which are hubs for social connection
- Delivers social recreation programs and provides low-cost drop-in activities, including 'try it free' opportunities, and offers financial assistance to qualifying residents to participate in recreational activities
- Hosts and supports numerous community events like Canada Day celebrations, Langley Walk, Arbour Day, Rivers Day, and the Summer Festival Series
- Under its Age-friendly Strategy, installed age-friendly exercise equipment at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum (2017) and developed an Age-friendly Business Recognition Program (2018) that acknowledges local businesses that have made a commitment to age-friendly business practices, among numerous other initiatives

- Supported the Benches of Diversity art project at Derek Doubleday Arboretum (2018), which was created by a local artist and involved the installation of two mosaic benches that feature more than 400 handmade tiles that middle and secondary students painted with self-portraits and words about how diversity makes us a better community
- Supported the installation of a rainbow crosswalk in Fort Langley (2017)
- Exhibition of Behind the Lines: Contemporary Syrian Art at the Langley Centennial Museum (2018), which featured the artwork of contemporary Syrian artists, several of whom still reside in war-torn Syria
- Commemoration of World Refugee Day at the Langley Centennial Museum (2018) in partnership with Immigrant Services Society of BC to raise awareness on the plight of refugees and celebrate their strength and resilience
- Under its Public Engagement Strategy:
 - Produced short informational videos that explain the fundamentals of planning and development (2017)
 - Created a policy that sets out the criteria, logistics and reporting requirements for developer held public information meetings (2016)
 - Provided additional staff training in public engagement formats and techniques (2016)

- Offers volunteer opportunities for arts, culture, and museum programs, recreation programs, adopt-a-programs, recycling programs, and Council Advisory Committees
- Provides community grants to non-profit organizations for special events and community improvement projects

Housing and Food

- Under its Housing Action Plan:
 - Included policy in the updated Official Community Plan (2016) that provides for consideration of density bonusing and parking relaxations for affordable housing projects (on a project-by-project basis)
 - Adopted the Development Cost Charge (DCC) Waiver Bylaw (2018) that waives DCCs for eligible affordable housing projects
 - Adopted the Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) Policy (2018) that exempts eligible affordable housing projects and directs a portion of the contributions to an Affordable Housing Reserve Fund
- Provides annual funding for the Gateway of Hope in the Langley City, which provides services to the homeless and those at risk, including meals and shelter
- Operates nine community gardens
- Promotes 'buy local' through various integrated campaigns

- Supported the BC Land Matching Program (2018), delivered by Young Agrarians, which pairs would-be farmers with people who have agricultural land

Learning

- Operates three licensed preschools
- Provides library service by contract with the Fraser Valley Regional Library
- Delivers a wide variety of programs that promote lifelong learning for people of all ages including arts programs, first aid courses, history and heritage programs, and language classes

Getting Around

- Manages and maintains the road, cycling, and pedestrian network, with recent capital improvements including:
 - New cycling infrastructure on 32 Avenue in Aldergrove and 216 Street in Murrayville (2018)
 - The 208 Street overpass widening at Highway 1, including new cycling lanes (2018)
 - Traffic calming measures fronting five elementary schools (2019)
 - Modification of seven bus stops to improve accessibility (under construction)
 - The new 216 Street interchange at Highway 1 (under construction)

- Supports education and awareness by providing transportation related information on its website and through partnerships with external organizations such as HUB Cycling and the Langley School District

Health and Safety

- Operates 6 recreation facilities, over 1,200 acres of park (including 5 spray parks, 75 playgrounds and 5 skateparks), and 190 kilometres of trails for active living
- Delivers a wide variety of recreation programs that promote health and wellness for people of all ages
- Through the Official Community Plan, promotes “healthy built environments” that support active transportation, spaces that promote physical activity, and easy access to healthy food
- Collaborates with Fraser Health on various programs and initiatives, including community planning processes and the Langley Healthier Community Partnership
- Piloted mental health awareness workshops (2019) for employees, including front line staff
- Supports the Langley Division of Family Practice medical student tour as a means to encourage future physician location in the community

Health and Safety (cont.)

- Contracts the RCMP to create a safer community through enforcement, education, and awareness, including programs and services such as Block Watch, Business Link, the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, and Client Support and Victim Services
- Delivers fire suppression and emergency response service, including medical response and ambulance support
- Provides public education, including the promotion of home alarms, fire sprinklers, and fire safety, and supports prevention through fire inspections and building plan reviews
- Through the Langley Emergency Program (LEP), a joint program between the Township of Langley and the Langley City, ensures that disaster response is fluid in communications and coordination by maintaining and updating emergency plans, encouraging citizens and businesses to be prepared, and training volunteer responders



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APPENDIX C: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

The following organizations, groups, and individuals play a role in advancing social sustainability:

- The Government of Canada has exclusive jurisdiction over criminal law and First Nations matters, shares responsibility with the Province over immigration, and engages in the areas of health, education, housing, and income security.
- The Province of BC has jurisdiction over the areas of health, education, housing, employment standards, and income security, and pursues its social policy agenda through regulation and service provision.
- Metro Vancouver Regional District is a federation of 21 municipalities (including the Township), one Electoral Area and one Treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Its core services are drinking water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management, and it regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, and provides affordable housing. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each local authority, and Township representatives participate on various regional committees.
- Local First Nations and neighbouring local governments are increasingly working together to discuss common interests and mutual opportunities for their communities. The Township communicates frequently with the neighbouring Katzie, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations as well as its neighbouring municipalities, and has collaborated with these governments on a variety of initiatives.
- Fraser Health Authority is responsible for governing, planning, and delivering health care within the Township. These services include the operation of the Langley Memorial Hospital, Langley Public Health, Langley Home Health, and the Langley Mental Health and Substance Use Centre. The Township and Fraser Health consult regularly through various committees and liaison groups and collaborate on a number of joint initiatives.
- TransLink is responsible for a range of public transportation services within Metro Vancouver, including bus service as well as HandyDART for passengers unable to use conventional transit. Through its participation on the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, the Township has an opportunity to provide input into regional transportation strategies and investment plans.

- **Langley School District** is responsible for implementing the Provincial education curriculum to the Township, Langley City, and Katzie, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations. The District operates public schools (elementary, middle, and secondary) throughout the Township and provides numerous programs for learners of all ages, including early learning and adult education. The District also offers a range of services to help students with special needs, including orientation services for new immigrants and refugees. The Township and School District consult regularly through various committees and liaison groups and collaborate on a number of joint initiatives.
- **Langley RCMP** works to create a safer community through enforcement, education, and awareness. The services provided by the Langley RCMP are delivered under contract with the Township.
- **Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL)** works to improve quality of life through knowledge, ideas, and a range of diverse experiences. From six community-based branches, the FVRL offers access to printed materials, eBooks, audiobooks and other digital technologies and delivers various programs that foster community well-being. The services provided by the FVRL are delivered under contract with the Township.
- **Local businesses and business organizations**, including local developers, play an important role in facilitating social sustainability. Local businesses have a direct impact on local employment, and many contribute generously through grants, sponsorship, and employee volunteering. Some local businesses are supporting social sustainability in other ways, like offering employment opportunities to people facing barriers, supporting diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and directly partnering with the non-profit sector on community initiatives. Local developers play a role in addressing housing and community amenities. The Township engages with local businesses and business organizations in various ways, largely through work to foster local economic development and investment.
- **Post-secondary institutions**, including Langley-based Trinity Western University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, can offer information, research, advice, and practicum students to assist with social development initiatives. These institutions can also provide empirical information to improve understanding of social trends, risks, and issues, and support social innovation. Some institutions engage in community projects and use their own organizational resources and assets to advance social sustainability.



- **Local residents, employees, and students** play an important role in advancing positive social change, including raising public awareness on issues and volunteering for local organizations, events, and projects. Through its public engagement and volunteer programs, among other opportunities, the Township provides various opportunities for local residents, employees, and students to engage in social sustainability.

• **Non-profits**, including community-based service organizations, provide valuable social and health services. The Township and local non-profits frequently collaborate on initiatives of mutual interest and, because of the population groups they often serve, local non-profits can provide important insights in identifying local social needs and trends. Many community-based service organizations are members of the Healthier Community Partnership Steering Committee, which provides a framework for information sharing and collaborative action within Langley.

- **Community groups and faith-based organizations**, including community associations, arts groups, sports organizations, and service clubs, engage around common issues and interests, and, in some cases, may directly deliver or support the delivery of social services, through fundraising and volunteering. Due to their unique understanding of the community, faith-based organizations and community groups can support planning related to social issues, and in some cases can offer space, volunteers, and other assets that support social initiatives. The Township communicates frequently with such groups to better understand and share information about local issues and trends.



APPENDIX D: 2021–2025 ACTION PLAN

The table on the following pages summarizes the 2021 - 2025 Action Plan. Short-term actions are meant to be started in 2021 - 2022 and medium-term actions are meant to be started in 2023 - 2025.

All actions identify organizations and groups that could potentially partner with the Township in implementing the action. The federal, provincial, and regional government, along with local residents, employees, and students, are not specifically identified as potential partners as we will consider opportunities to engage these organizations and groups when scoping and activating all of the actions.

Recognizing new issues may emerge within the timeframe of the Action Plan, the actions are subject to recalibration as part of the development of annual work plans. Similarly, the Township is not limited by the actions identified in the Action Plan.



Appendix D: Priority 1 Indigenous Relations

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS						
REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES	
1A	In partnership with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations, explore opportunities to: • support and implement initiatives that raise community-wide awareness and understanding of local Indigenous histories, cultures, and issues • implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action related to municipalities and related initiatives that support building and sustaining meaningful relationships • develop a communications guide with information and protocols to assist Township Council, staff, and the broader community in building partnerships with local First Nations and Indigenous people	Short	\$30,000	• Local First Nations • Non-profits • FVRL • SD35	Belonging, Learning	
1B	Invite all four local First Nations to identify opportunities to strengthen the government-to-government relationship and identify matters of mutual interest for future exploration.	Short	\$7,500	• Local First Nations	Belonging	
1C	Provide cultural awareness education to all Township staff and offer cultural safety training to Township Council and staff working with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations, and explore opportunities to extend education and training to local businesses and non-profit organizations by, for example, sharing resources and onsite training, as appropriate.	Short	\$10,000	• Non-profits • Local businesses and business organizations	Learning	

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

Appendix D: Priority 2 Belonging

REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES
BELONGING	2A Increase opportunities for neighbourhood social connections through initiatives such as: • exploring a small grants program for neighbourhood-based projects that aim to connect and engage neighbours, with a view of launching a pilot program • further researching social connectedness in multi-family developments, to inform potential updated design guidelines and pilot programs • researching opportunities and best practices in facilitating neighbourhood events on local streets	Short	\$10,000	• Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations	Health and Safety
	2B Address community space needs through initiatives such as: • preparing and publishing an inventory of low-cost space available for community use, and working with local organizations, including FVRL, School District 35, local businesses, and strata corporations to explore opportunities to make more space available for community use • exploring opportunities to support community hubs that offer a range of community programs, services, and gathering places • exploring smaller neighbourhood-based centres with amenities like exercise equipment, games areas, and meeting space	Short	\$0	• FVRL • SD35 • Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations	Learning, Health and Safety
	2C Refine and share the Township's best practice guide for engaging subpopulations to build capacity within the organization and community on best practices for inclusive community engagement.	Short	\$0	• Non-profits • Local businesses and business organizations	Indigenous Relations, Learning
	2D Explore opportunities to support and empower youth in developing youth-friendly events and programs, with a view of piloting innovative ideas.	Short	\$10,000	• SD35 • Non-profits • FVRL	Learning, Health and Safety

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

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Appendix D: Priority 2 Belonging (cont.)

REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES
BELONGING	2E Conduct research and pilot innovative programs, initiatives, and events that foster intergenerational, intercultural, and urban-rural connectedness.	Medium	\$25,000	• FVRL • SD35 • Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations • FHA • Post-secondary institutions	Learning, Health and Safety
	2F Develop a volunteer strategy to, among other items, consider emerging trends in volunteering, enhance the Township's volunteer programs, and support volunteering in the community.	Medium	\$45,000	• FVRL • SD35 • Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations • FHA • Post-secondary institutions • Langley RCMP	
	2G Review existing programs, research best practices, and pilot initiatives to ensure municipal recreation and culture opportunities are accessible to all community members, including members of local First Nations, people with lower incomes, people with disabilities, and people of diverse cultural backgrounds and identities.	Medium	\$12,500	• Local First Nations • Non-profits	Indigenous Relations, Health and Safety

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

Appendix D: Priority 3 Housing and Food

REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES
3A	Research and consider policy and regulatory changes that would allow detached accessory dwelling units (e.g. garden suites) in some areas.	Short	\$0	Local businesses and business organizations	
3B	Review and update the Housing Action Plan to explore: - opportunities to increase the number of market rental units, including rental apartment units and secondary suites - policy and regulatory tools to further protect existing rental housing - opportunities to facilitate more non-market rental, supportive housing, and emergency shelter options	Short	\$50,000	- Non-profits - Local businesses and business organizations - Post-secondary institutions	Health and Safety
3C	Research and explore opportunities to expand community food gardening, which could include integration with outdoor amenity areas and landscaping in multi-family developments, built-in planter boxes on balconies, and retrofits in existing parks.	Short	\$0	- Non-profits - Community groups and faith-based organizations - Local businesses and business organizations	Belonging, Health and Safety
3D	Support initiatives that raise awareness and address misinformation about homelessness in the community (e.g. local events and advertising campaigns).	Medium	\$0	- Non-profits - Community groups and faith-based organizations - Local businesses and business organizations - FHA - Langley RCMP	
3E	Develop a food strategy that complements the Agricultural Viability Strategy and explores opportunities to increase access to healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, and local food, including: - better access to local farm food, which could include having farmers markets in different communities throughout the Township and the promotion of farms with farm-gate sales - partnerships and programs that enhance food security, such as garden-sharing programs and food drop-off at satellite distribution centres - the development of community kitchens as spaces to improve food literacy and support food-based social enterprises	Medium	\$55,000	- Non-profits - Community groups and faith-based organizations - FHA	Health and Safety

HOUSING AND FOOD

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

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Appendix D: Priority 4 Learning

REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES
4A	Promote bc211 as a centralized source for information about community, government, and social services to help build community capacity through access to services.	Short	\$0	• FVRL • SD35 • Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations • FHA • Langley RCMP	Health and Safety
4B	Support initiatives that build the capacity of public, private, and non-profit organizations to address community issues and innovate in a more collaborative way, such as: • piloting tactics to strengthen local business engagement in social sustainability, such as promoting social purpose business as an emerging business trend • working with business, post-secondary institutions, industry associations, and non-profits to collaborate on research and projects that advance social sustainability • incentivizing partnerships across organizations and sectors in the delivery of special events and projects through the community grant program • sharing more Township data in an open source format	Short	\$5,000	• FVRL • SD35 • Non-profits • Local businesses and business organizations • FHA • Post-secondary institutions	Belonging, Health and Safety
4C	Seek ways to better promote lifelong learning opportunities, such as: • enhancing the promotion of Fraser Valley Regional Library and other learning programs in Township communications such as the Leisure Guide • convening local organizations including business, post-secondary institutions, and the School District to identify and implement shared opportunities to foster lifelong learning	Short	\$5,000	• FVRL • SD35 • Local businesses and business organizations • Post-secondary institutions	

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

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E.1

Appendix D: Priority 4 Learning (cont.)

REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES
4D	Help residents, local businesses, and community organizations prepare for technological advancement through initiatives such as: • convening a task force to study the effects of changing technology on students, workers, businesses, non-profits, and community networks • researching how community organizations can be supported to harness the new technologies to enhance their social missions • convening community partners to explore opportunities for expanding digital literacy so that residents and organizations can access online programs and services, and can participate in the digital age	Medium	\$15,000	• FVRL • SD35 • Non-profits • Local businesses and business organizations • Post-secondary institutions	
4E	Research best practices in developing a network of resources for social entrepreneurs, such as capacity-building opportunities and access to shared space.	Medium	\$0	• Non-profits • Local businesses and business organizations • Post-secondary institutions	

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

Appendix D: Priority 5 Getting Around

GETTING AROUND						
REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES	
5A	Develop a Transportation and Mobility Strategy that will explore and enhance opportunities for active mobility, connectivity, safety, and accessibility, including the identification of priority areas for capital improvements.	Short	\$600,000	- Community groups and faith-based organizations - SD35 - FHA - Langley RCMP	Health and Safety	
5B	Prepare amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to incorporate bicycle space and storage regulations consistent with the Cycling Plan.	Short	\$0	Local businesses and business organizations	Health and Safety	
5C	Convene residents, including youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, local businesses, and TransLink to share information and identify opportunities to improve transit service, including HandyDART.	Medium	\$2,000	- TransLink - Non-profits - Local businesses and business organizations - Community groups and faith-based organizations - SD35		

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

Appendix D: Priority 6 Health and Safety

HEALTH AND SAFETY						
REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES	
6A	Strengthen the relationship with Fraser Health Authority and other community partners involved in the delivery of health care to improve access to health services including mental health and substance use through initiatives such as: • supporting the development of a community health plan through the Langley Healthier Community Partnership • enhancing collaboration during community planning processes to identify where health can be integrated into policies and assess anticipated health care needs	Short	\$0	• FHA • Non-profits • Local businesses and business organizations • SD35		
6B	Promote healthy living by enhancing park spaces, open spaces, and trails through initiatives such as: • reviewing per capita park area standards based on best practice research and recent development trends • introducing additional interactive play and fitness equipment, including piloting the installation of playboxes in parks with equipment like rackets, balls, and frisbees for shared use	Short	\$15,000	• Community groups and faith-based organizations • FHA		
6C	Enhance community safety through education and prevention initiatives such as: • convening community groups to co-develop strategies for sharing accurate information about community safety and reported crimes • raising awareness of the roles that residents can play in fostering community safety, including increased promotion of existing crime prevention programs • researching best practices in strengthening the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines	Short	\$0	• Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations • Langley RCMP	Belonging, Learning	

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

See next page

Appendix D: Priority 6 Health and Safety (cont.)

HEALTH AND SAFETY						
REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES	
6D	Consider accelerating the future initiatives identified in the Fire Master Plan related to emergency preparedness to, among other items, strengthen community engagement in preparedness planning and facilitate regular updates to the emergency response plan and incident-specific guidelines.	Short	\$0	• FHA • SD35 • FVRL • Local businesses and business organizations • Post-secondary institutions • Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Langley RCMP	Belonging	
6E	Explore opportunities to better communicate the mental health benefits of recreation programs, nature, and greenspace, and seek opportunities to further integrate the promotion of mental wellness into recreation program offerings.	Medium	\$0	• FHA • Non-profits		

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

Appendix D: Social Sustainability Integration

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INTEGRATION					
REF #	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	RELATED PRIORITIES
7A	Develop a social equity policy and handbook that would serve as a lens to help ensure Township policies, services, programs, facilities, and infrastructure are inclusive of the full diversity of residents, and develop a work plan to review existing policies with this lens.	Short	\$25,000	• Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Local businesses and business organizations • FHA	Belonging
7B	Update the Sustainability Charter to ensure it continues to be inspiring and reflective of community values.	Short	\$50,000	• Local First Nations • FHA • SD35 • FVRL • Local businesses and business organizations • Post-secondary institutions • Non-profits • Community groups and faith-based organizations • Langley RCMP	Indigenous Relations, Belonging, Housing and Food, Learning, Getting Around, Health and Safety
7C	Prepare a corporate sustainability strategy to ensure the Township's business operations achieve social, economic and environmental benefits for the community.	Medium	\$25,000	• Local businesses and business organizations • Post-secondary institutions • Non-profits	

FHA = Fraser Health Authority | FVRL = Fraser Valley Regional Library | SD35 = Langley School District 35

APPENDIX E: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We respectfully acknowledge that the work to prepare the Social Sustainability Strategy took place on the traditional and unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations.

This Strategy was shaped by the participation of many passionate and engaged community members. Thank you to everyone that shared their thoughts, ideas, and hopes for the future.

A special thank you to the individuals that participated on the Social Sustainability Task Force:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • Amanda LaBoucane | • Janet Burden |
| • Barb Stack | • Juliet Henderson-Rahbar |
| • Danielle Arenson | • Kristine Carrick |
| • Deanna Horn | • Laura LaBelle |
| • Ellen Peterson | • Lisa George |
| • Erin Easingwood | • Lisa Weaver |
| • Fraser Holland | • Renge Bailie |
| • Gary Jones | • Sherry Baker |

The preparation of this Strategy was supported by the experience and expertise of MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement, Solstice Sustainability Works, and Strandberg Consulting.



SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEETING #7 SUMMARY NOTES

Details:

Monday, October 28, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Yorkson Creek Meeting Room located at the Township Civic Facility (20338 – 65 Avenue).

Present:

Barb Stack, Ellen Peterson, Erin Easingwood, Janet Burden, Juliet Henderson-Rahbar, Kristine Carrick, Lisa George, Sherry Baker

Regrets:

Amanda Laboucane (Fraser Health), Deanna Horn, Gary Jones, Lisa [Saddler] Weaver

Staff:

Aubrey Jensen, Community and Policy Planner; Patrick Ward, Strategic/Social Planner

Notes:

1. Staff welcomed the members of the Social Sustainability Task Force (SSTF).
2. Staff noted that some Task Force members have not yet attended any meetings, and asked whether there were opportunities to improve attendance. The SSTF suggested that some members may have changed roles since the start of the project, and may no longer feel like they can contribute. The SSTF further suggested that staff check-in with those members regarding their interest in participating on the Task Force. The SSTF members in attendance expressed their interest in continuing to participate in the project, and were looking forward to seeing the Strategy completed and implemented.
3. Staff reviewed the emerging goals and priorities for the Social Sustainability Strategy, as detailed in the Emerging Directions Report dated October 2019. It was noted that Council had received the Emerging Directions Report on October 7, and authorized staff to undertake the next steps for the project.
4. The SSTF reviewed a list of action ideas that had emerged from the community engagement and best practice research to date. The SSTF identified actions that, in their opinion, should be pursued in the Strategy, and worked in groups to refine the actions, with a focus on the potential role of the Township. Transcribed notes from this exercise are included in Attachment 1.

5. The SSTF brainstormed implementation principles for the Strategy. Effective communication, ongoing community engagement, flexibility, and prioritization of upstream interventions emerged as ideas for the implementation principles.
6. The SSTF suggested holding an additional meeting in late November or early December to discuss health as a potential priority for the Strategy.

ATTACHMENT 1

Action ideas for the Social Sustainability Strategy:

- Develop neighbourhood-scale events and initiatives (block party, street closure, providing public space for no charge for neighbourhood events/activities, offer small grants for neighbourhood projects that bring people together)
- Address space needs and consider smaller neighbourhood-based centres as community hubs (gifts in kind, charitable space, identify under-utilized spaces [public and private], multi-family/purpose spaces/clubhouses, church spaces, vacant commercial spaces [restaurants, etc.], after-hours professional buildings, school spaces [but they're busier])
- Catalyze inter-organizational collaboration (create a TOL liaison to connect groups with resources, i.e. grant process, reduce grant barriers for organizations outside TOL, Township supports with grants and resources and staffing for non-profits who collaborate on a priority)
- Promote local food production and support local processing and distribution (facilitate/find rent out kitchen space [farm to table], Township bylaws, agritourism, share land, promote, sales, shop and gather, enable stands and harvesting)
- Address food security (low cost grocery store space near transit route [can also have a community kitchen for teaching cooking, etc.], satellite food distribution centres, e.g. community centres, schools, not just food banks)
- Address housing needs of different population groups (accelerated permits, reduce regulatory barriers incentivize builders for lower-income/rental/co-operative)
- Increase non-market and subsidized housing, including supportive housing and emergency shelter (a range of developer funded amenities, not just tot lots, donating land, work with funding partners and organizations to develop and operate, require a percentage of units of new developments to provide subsidized rent, ensuring zoning in every district in the TOL that allows for subsidized housing)
- Provide more public transit (make TransLink come to meeting in Langley by transit [both ways])

- Facilitate carsharing, ridesharing, and carpooling (subsidize hospital parking for patients and visitors, grant for car sharing)
- Use partnerships to increase access to TOL programs and facilities, transportation and food for low-income residents (making sure TOL facilities are available for a variety of programs that are not TOL run [other orgs and agencies, school] at no/very low cost)
- Improve general health services and supports (ensure space for healthcare in housing/plaza/business park new developments)
- Enhance community awareness about safety (advertising campaign of who are homeless [break down stereotypes], real-time communication to community groups of instances/crime)

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEETING #8 SUMMARY NOTES

Details:

Thursday, December 5, 2019, 9:00 – 11:00am in the Murray Creek Meeting Room located at the Township Civic Facility (20338 – 65 Avenue).

Present:

Amanda Laboucane (Fraser Health), Barb Stack, Deanna Horn, Gary Jones, Janet Burden, Juliet Henderson-Rahbar, Kristine Carrick, Lisa George, Lisa Weaver, Sherry Baker

Regrets:

Erin Easingwood

Staff:

Aubrey Jensen, Community and Policy Planner; Patrick Ward, Strategic/Social Planner

Notes:

1. Staff welcomed the members of the Social Sustainability Task Force (SSTF).
2. The SSTF reviewed a list of action ideas that had emerged from the community engagement and best practice research to date. Focusing on the actions related to health, the SSTF brainstormed health-related action ideas and the potential role of the Township. Transcribed notes from this exercise are included in Attachment 1.
3. Staff noted that the SSTF would likely be reconvened in early February 2020.

ATTACHMENT 1

Health-related action ideas for the Social Sustainability Strategy:

Improve general health services and supports and expand mental health services:

- Space in community centres / schools
- Space in new developments for health care services
- Advocacy; including culturally appropriate services (raise awareness)
- Enhance opportunities for Fraser Health Authority (FHA) to provide services
- Use TOL-owned land to lease to FHA
- Seniors health care
- Help recruit GPs
- Consider health care service needs through planning process
 - Earlier collaboration
 - Strengthened partnerships w/ Langley Division of Family Practice and others
- Help navigate health services and healthy living opportunities
- Support collaborative approaches to mental health services (wrap around services)
- Support mobile services
- Share TOL data

Strengthen the relationship with Fraser Health:

- Collaborate
- Develop advocacy-based collaborative role

Develop mental health resilience programs and reduce mental health stigma:

- People feel welcome in recreation programs and community
 - TOL hiring practices (diversity of staff)
- Look at this deeply
- Peer to peer network (as part of recreation programming)
- Front line staff training

Other ideas:

- Educate community about upstream / social determinants of health, and importance of health
 - Educational campaigns (including mental health awareness)
 - Promote programs at local level (e.g. quit smoking campaign), including at recreation centres
- Support development of a Healthier Community Partnership community health plan
- TOL takes active supporting role in health
- Culturally appropriate recreation services

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEETING #9 SUMMARY NOTES

Details:

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Murray Creek Meeting Room located at the Township Civic Facility (20338 – 65 Avenue).

Present:

Barb Stack, Danielle Arenson (Fraser Health), Janet Burden, Juliet Henderson-Rahbar, Lisa George, Lisa Weaver, Sherry Baker

Regrets:

Erin Easingwood, Deanna Horn, Gary Jones, Kristine Carrick

Staff:

Aubrey Jensen, Community and Policy Planner; Patrick Ward, Strategic/Social Planner

Notes:

1. Staff welcomed the members of the Social Sustainability Task Force (SSTF).
2. The SSTF reviewed and provided feedback on the early draft five-year action plan for the Social Sustainability Strategy. Overall, the action plan was well-received, with most comments focusing on potential partners for the actions.
3. The SSTF reviewed and provided feedback on the early draft implementation section for the Social Sustainability Strategy. Overall, the implementation section was well-received. The SSTF noted that a number of the indicators relied on data from the upcoming My Health My Community survey, administered by Fraser Health.
4. Staff noted that the next and final SSTF meeting was scheduled for April 23, and would be followed by a public open house for the Strategy.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEETING #10 SUMMARY NOTES

Details:

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 9:00 – 10:30am via video conference.

Present:

Danielle Arenson (Fraser Health), Deanna Horn, Ellen Peterson, Erin Easingwood, Gary Jones, Janet Burden, Juliet Henderson-Rahbar, Kristine Carrick, Lisa George, Sherry Baker

Regrets:

Lisa Weaver

Staff:

Aubrey Jensen, Community and Policy Planner; Patrick Ward, Strategic/Social Planner; Ramin Seifi, General Manager, Engineering and Community Development

Notes:

1. Staff welcomed the members of the Social Sustainability Task Force (SSTF).
2. The SSTF reviewed and provided feedback on an early draft version of the Social Sustainability Strategy. The following feedback was provided:
 - Statements about the Strategy’s vision should not include the word “more”
 - The inclusive engagement program that shaped the preparation of the Strategy should be highlighted
 - The Langley RCMP should be identified as a potential partner in implementing select actions
 - Primary care physicians play a role in delivering health care, in addition to Fraser Health Authority
 - Racism and discrimination need to be acknowledged in a more direct way
 - The social determinants of health could be used as an evidence-based foundation for discussing discrimination
 - The increase in overdose deaths during COVID-19 could be acknowledged
 - The action to develop a Social Equity Policy to serve as a lens through implementation should be identified more clearly
 - The action to convene community meetings with TransLink should include a broader range of population groups, in addition to youth and seniors
 - Enhanced diversity and inclusion training for Township staff should be considered as an action

- Implementation should include engagement with local organizations, in addition to community members
 - The progress indicators could potentially be mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
 - The Strategy needs a communications strategy to raise public awareness during implementation
 - The Strategy needs a publicly-accessible short version that highlights actions that are underway and ways that people can get involved
3. Staff thanked the SSTF for their contributions to the project. Members reflected on their positive experiences participating on the Task Force, and expressed interest in seeing the Strategy finalized and implemented.