

# **BUILDING A SAFER NANAIMO THROUGH YOUTH RESILIENCE (Building Safer Communities Fund)**

**Council Engagement  
2023-FEB-13**



CANADIAN MUNICIPAL  
NETWORK ON CRIME  
PREVENTION  
Together for Safer Canadian Cities

RÉSEAU MUNICIPAL  
CANADIEN EN PRÉVENTION  
DE LA CRIMINALITÉ  
Ensemble pour des villes canadiennes plus sûres



**Together for Safer Canadian Cities**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Together for Safer Canadian Cities**

## WORK PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

-  Research report
-  Consultation engagement strategy
-  Steering committee engagement
-  Community consultations
-  Best practice summary report
-  Public awareness, education strategy, communication
-  Data collection strategy and monitoring plan
-  Sustainability plan

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## WHAT IS UPSTREAM PREVENTION?



Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## RISK FACTORS

Individual	Peer Group	School	Family	Community	Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior delinquency or criminalization</li> <li>Illegal gun ownership</li> <li>Drug trafficking</li> <li>Desire for status, identity, self-esteem, companionship, and protection</li> <li>Aggression or violence</li> <li>Alcohol and drug use</li> <li>Early sexual activity</li> <li>Violent victimization</li> <li>Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gang members in class</li> <li>Friends who use drugs</li> <li>Friends who are gang members</li> <li>Interaction with peers who are in conflict with the law</li> <li>Pre-teen exposure to stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor school performance</li> <li>Low educational aspirations</li> <li>Negative labelling by teachers</li> <li>Few teacher role models</li> <li>Educational frustration</li> <li>Low attachment to school</li> <li>Learning difficulties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family violence, neglect, and drug use</li> <li>Family members in a gang</li> <li>Lack of adult and parental role models</li> <li>Criminalized and/or incarcerated parents</li> <li>Violence from parents or siblings</li> <li>Lack of presence of parents before and after school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of gangs in the neighbourhood</li> <li>Availability or perceived access to drugs in the neighbourhood</li> <li>Availability of firearms</li> <li>Cultural norms supporting gang behaviour</li> <li>Feeling unsafe in neighbourhood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High poverty</li> <li>Discrimination, stigma, racism, and oppression</li> <li>Lack of access to affordable and safe housing options</li> <li>Lack of services (social, recreational, cultural)</li> </ul>

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## PROTECTIVE FACTORS (RESILIENCIES)

Individual	Peer Group	School	Family	Community	Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intolerant attitude toward violence</li> <li>Positive self-esteem and sense of belonging</li> <li>Popularity acknowledged by friends</li> <li>Highly developed social skills / competencies</li> <li>Religious beliefs</li> <li>Strong conflict resolution skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong and close relationships with classmates</li> <li>Close relationships with peers who are not in conflict with the law</li> <li>Membership in peer groups that do not condone violent behaviour</li> <li>Involvement in after-school activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to school</li> <li>Clear behaviour rules in school</li> <li>Engagement of parents and teachers</li> <li>Academic achievement and aspirations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connectedness to family or adults outside the family</li> <li>Ability to discuss problems with parents</li> <li>Frequent shared activities with parents</li> <li>Consistent presence of parent(s) in the morning or evening</li> <li>Involvement in social or recreational activities</li> <li>Parental/family use of constructive strategies for coping with problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement</li> <li>Volunteering</li> <li>Participation in traditional healing and cultural activities</li> <li>Availability of services (social, recreational, cultural)</li> <li>Supports for parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social and economic policies that support positive youth development</li> <li>Access to basic needs and services</li> <li>Community norms of shared responsibility for supporting youth and families</li> </ul>

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## DISCUSSION / ENGAGEMENT

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## STRENGTHS

- What child/youth programs are you aware of in Nanaimo?
  - Which of these specifically support children and youth that struggle (e.g., fitting in, displaying challenging behaviours such as problematic substance use, are in conflict with the law, have school attendance issues, live in a situation where it is difficult to make ends meet, etc.)?
  - Which organizations and programs do well in working with children and youth?
  - Are there any specific neighbourhood-based programs that do well in supporting children and youth?

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## CONCERNS

- In your opinion, to what extent are gangs and guns an issue in Nanaimo?
- With regards to gun and/or gang activity in Nanaimo, what are some key locations of concern?
- Why do you think children/youth become involved with gangs in the first place? (E.g., risk factors)

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## OPPORTUNITIES / SOLUTIONS

- What recommendations do you have to prevent and/or intervene with the reasons children/youth become involved in gangs?
  - Consider programs, services, policies, etc.
- What do you think should be done in Nanaimo to support young people exiting gangs?

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## **SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM**

- If the community wants to have a lasting impact building on the strategy, what can organizations do now and into the future to keep up the momentum of prevention and intervention?
- More concretely, what can Council do to create lasting changes in the community (e.g., policies, programs, collaboration efforts, etc.)?

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

## **MONITORING / EVALUATION**

- At the end of the 3 years of funding, how will we know if our strategy has been successful?
  - Consider the impact on children and youth in Nanaimo.
  - Consider the impact on community safety in Nanaimo.
  - Consider the impact on community capacity and collaboration in Nanaimo.
- In your opinion, what indicators can show us whether Nanaimo has been successful in achieving the goals for the strategy?

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

# **CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS**

Together for Safer Canadian Cities