

DATE OF MEETING February 12, 2025

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SUBJECT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (CREWS)

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To present to the Public Safety Committee information on the Community Resilience Early Warning System.

BACKGROUND

In May 2023, Public Safety Canada announced more than \$25 million in funding for projects under the federal government’s Community Resilience Fund. Muflehun, a social resource agency based in the United States, received \$710,475 to collaborate with local governments in pilot locations across Canada to identify and prioritize early prevention needs through the Community Resilience Early Warning System (CREWS). The CREWS uses data-driven methods to assess relevant risk and protective factors specific to local communities. Based on findings, Muflehun works with local government staff to develop recommendations for primary prevention programs tailored to each community’s unique needs, using a public health primary prevention approach. Additionally, the CREWS will design a comprehensive resilience framework for each location, aiming to optimize the use of limited resources in reducing vulnerabilities to violence and other complex social challenges.

Muflehun has approached the City of Nanaimo to be one of its pilot locations to implement the CREWS. In addition to Nanaimo, Muflehun is working with Victoria and Burnaby in British Columbia and Hamilton, Sudbury, and London in Ontario.

DISCUSSION

CREWS aggregates and analyzes open-source data of societal and community level risk and protective factors to gauge the relative resilience and vulnerability of Nanaimo. Using a data driven analysis and collaborating with Staff, Muflehun will identify priority needs in reference to the identified challenges in the city. The following phases will be utilized to implement the CREWS in Nanaimo:

- Data Analytics: collate data from publicly available sources and localized data that can be provided by the City, including law enforcement data sources. Attachment A provides an overview of the type of indicators used in the CREWS.
- Qualitative Analysis: conduct key partner interviews to better understand the data results and trends.

- Assessment: make recommendations and/or ensure alignment in existing community safety and wellbeing strategies, including better ways to direct scarce resources towards filling any identified gaps in the social service sector.
- Knowledge Dissemination: as directed by community, Muflehun will hold workshops to increase awareness of key risk and protective factors in the city, identify associated targeted primary prevention programs, and share any further recommendations.

CONCLUSION

CREWS findings will be used as supplementary information to existing City of Nanaimo strategies such as *City Plan*, including the *Integrated Action Plan*; the Monitoring Strategy; the Health and Housing Action Plan; the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan; and the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy. The CREWS will allow the City another source of data to monitor and assess the current context of community safety, and whether the current City strategies related to community safety and wellbeing are effectively addressing violence and complex social issues.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Muflehun, a social resource agency based in the United States, received \$710,475 from Public Safety Canada to implement the Community Resilience Early Warning System (CREWS) in select communities in Canada. Muflehun has asked the City of Nanaimo to participate in the project as one of the pilot locations.
- The CREWS uses data-driven methods to assess relevant risk and protective factors specific to local communities to develop recommendations for primary prevention programs tailored to each community's unique needs using a public health primary prevention approach.
- CREWS findings will be used as supplementary information to existing City of Nanaimo strategies such as *City Plan*, including the *Integrated Action Plan*; the Monitoring Strategy; the Health and Housing Action Plan; the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan; and the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: CREWS Canada Indicators List

Submitted by:

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