

# Prince George Social Plan



Directions For Today  
and Tomorrow

Community Planning Council  
of Prince George

December 2002

# Prince George Social Plan



*Directions for Today  
and Tomorrow*

# Community Planning Council (CPC) Mission Statement



- *The Community Planning Council is a resource working with Prince George individuals and organizations who are striving to build a dynamic community that is reflective of all who live here and where all may thrive. The Community Planning Council responds to issues relating to quality of life through facilitation, referral, education, research and advocacy.*

## **SOCIAL PLAN VISION**

- The Prince George Social Plan initiates the building blocks that will ultimately lead to a sustainable social infrastructure for the community. This social infrastructure ensures equal opportunity to improved quality of life for all Prince George residents.

# Prince George Social Plan



## - Components -

- Directions for Today and Tomorrow
- Executive Summary / Social Plan
- Supportive Documents - Reference, data, research

**The above documents are available for distribution by contacting:**

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# Purpose of the Social Plan



- To further develop grassroots community participation in identifying social issues and concerns in the community and neighbourhoods.
- To develop recommendations designed to address identified issues and concerns.
- To develop a sustainable social planning infrastructure over the long term.

# Social Planning Definitions



As detailed by the Province of British Columbia, *Social Planning for BC Communities: A Resource Guide for Local Governments. 1996:*

"Social planning is an open accessible process which can be used to help governments, community organizations and citizens to plan their present and future well-being, It can include a number of community processes and approaches which can help communities to:

- Identify their social issues resulting from growth or change
- Explore the impacts and outcomes of the issue(s) in the community, and
- Develop solutions or appropriate responses."

Michael Clague, in *A Citizen's Guide to Community Social Planning. (1993)*, : Social Planning and Research Council of BC., *Vancouver* says,

"Social planning is about practicing good citizenship. Community social planning is a way of doing things to strengthen the community. It is also an on-going, organized presence in the community; something that does not have to be re-created each time an issue, need or opportunity arises."

In *Towards a Strategy for Sustainability, A report to the Citizens of British Columbia, 1992, the British Columbia Round Table on the Environment and the Economy* said that social planning aims at social equity and:

"Social equity is defined as equal opportunity for all members of the community to meet their basic needs and enjoy a good quality of life. It is achieved through equal access to the decision making processes affecting the community, education and training, health care, social support services, housing, a quality environment and the opportunity to earn a livelihood"

# How Did We Get Here?



The Community Planning Council of Prince George was established in 1996 with a long term goal of helping the community develop a social plan to guide the community in its social development. The City of Prince George, during its most recent Official Community Plan Review process, encouraged the CPC to develop the social plan. This plan is the result of extensive research and hard work on behalf of the following:

**The Community Planning Council of Prince George gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions provided by the following funding partners:**

- *The City of Prince George*
- *Ministry for Children & Family Development*
- *Ministry for Children, Aboriginal and Women's Services*
- *National Crime Prevention Centre*

In kind support was provided by the following:

- BC Coalition for Safer Communities
- Beech Crescent Neighbourhood Centre
- Carney Hill Neighbourhood Centre
- City of Prince George – Leisure Services Department
- Cowichan Valley Safer Futures
- Northern Interior Regional Health Unit
- School District 57
- School District 57 Parents Advisory Committees
- South Fort George Community School
- Ron Brent Community School

# How Did We Get Here? (cont.)

*The CPC also acknowledges the personal and individual contributions made by the following:*

Ed Chanter	Dave Hodgson	Dave Read
Tammy Coldwell	Sharon Hurd	Alice Ross
Peter Cunningham	Franca Letendre	Marianne Sorensen
Terri Dame	Dr. Alex Michalos	Andrew Tucker
Theresa Eichler	Dan Milburn	Cathe Wishart
Penny Gagnon	Barbara Old	Linda Young
Dr. Ali Grant	Kerry Pateman	Peter Zimmer

***And the many residents of Prince George who gave of their time and input into safety audits and public meetings during the development of this report.***

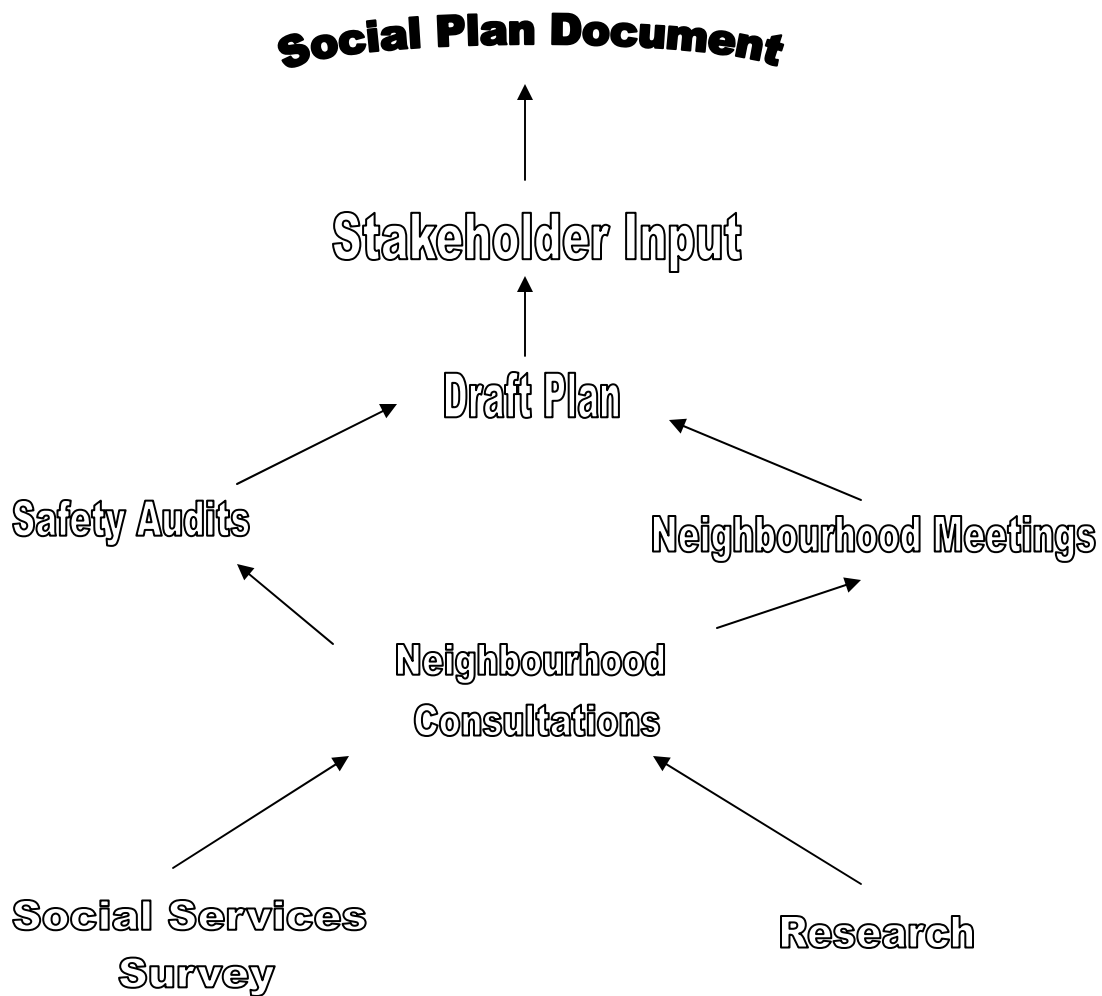
## **Social Plan - Directions for Today and Tomorrow**

This is the Executive Summary focussing on the recommendations arising from the data research and the plans for the long range vision.

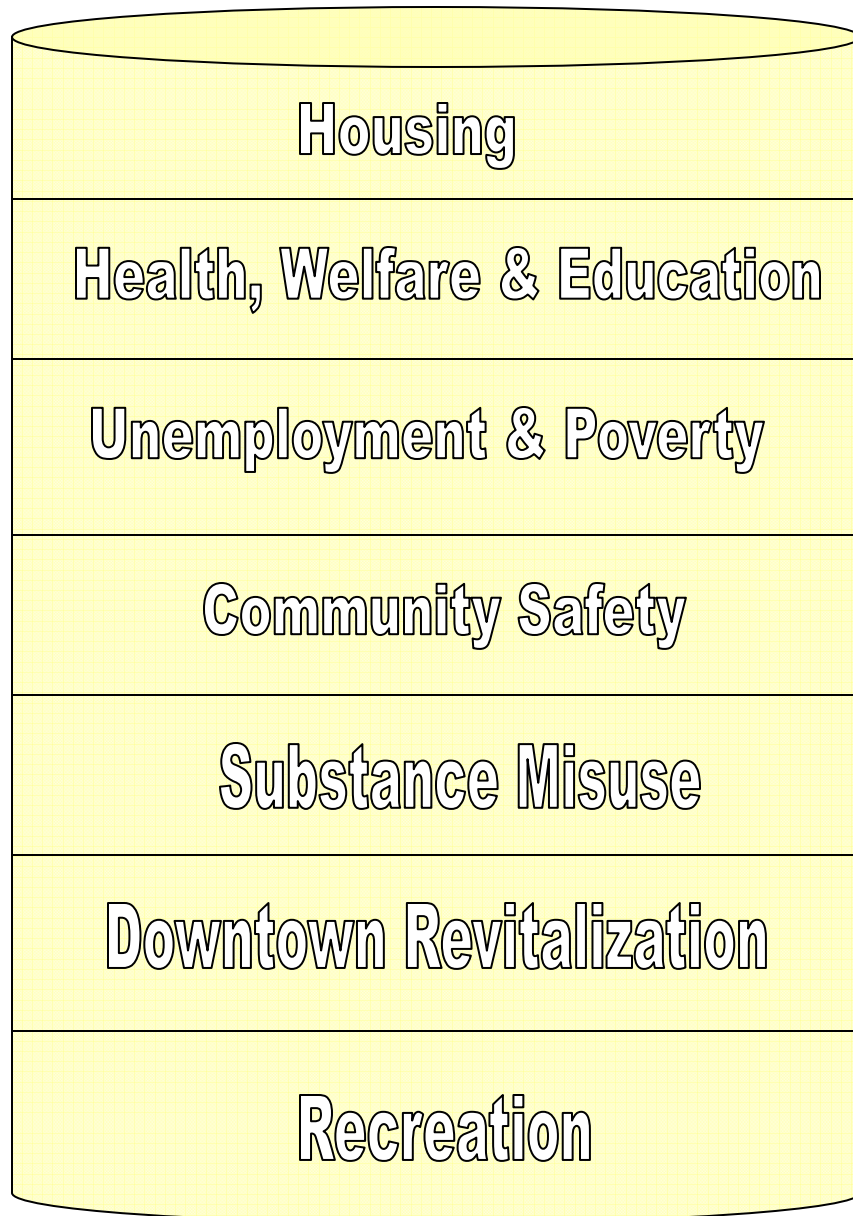
## **Supportive Documents - reference, data, research**

Contains the research, data and reference documentation. This document consists of all the information gathered from the neighbourhoods and stakeholders of Prince George. It shows in detail what data was collected and the subsequent categorization. It explains in detail how the social mapping of Prince George was accomplished and then used to enhance the formation of the social plan. It contains an Annotated Bibliography detailing the research that was used in compiling the social plan

# Input Process



# Issues Identified



# Issue # 1 Housing

(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 3)

(NOTE: Social and affordable housing policy objectives are noted in the Official Community Plan.)

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**Ensure that safe, healthy and affordable housing is available to all Prince George Residents**

**Ensure sufficient secondary and supportive housing is available**

**Ensure sufficient emergency shelter is available year round**

**Provide education and support on the need for a continuum of supports, integral to reducing and preventing homelessness and homeless at risk**

## **INITIATIVES:                      TIMEFRAME: Immediate - mid term - long term**

- Investigate the feasibility of implementing a standards of maintenance bylaw
- Investigate the feasibility and impact of regulatory changes to facilitate legalizing all secondary suites
- Actively lobby higher levels of government for social housing funds
- Support local initiatives involved in improving social housing opportunities in Prince George
- Continue lobbying and advocacy at all government levels
- Provide coordination and communication with government and the community at large
- Develop a strategy for fund raising for construction and programming
- Continue to be active in Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative - Community partners Addressing Homelessness Committee
- Continue to define priorities and needs addressing homelessness, homeless at risk and affordable, safe, healthy housing.
- Continue development of seniors housing strategy

## Issue # 1 - Housing (cont.)



### **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- PG Housing Coalition
- City of Prince George
- Provincial and Federal Government
- Prince George Construction Association
- Real Estate Industry
- Social Service Providers
- Community Planning Council
- Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative - CPAH Committee

# Issue # 2

## Health, Welfare & Education

(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 2)

### **OBJECTIVES:**

**Support the improvement of health, welfare and education access and opportunities for all Prince George residents**

**Develop a strategy to deal with sex trade issues in Prince George**

### **INITIATIVES:**

### **TIMEFRAME: Immediate - long term**

- Use all available avenues to lobby and advocate with Provincial and Federal contacts including the coalitions named in the social infrastructure scheme.
- Develop a community wide strategy to deal with sex trade issues which includes supporting legislative initiatives (such as vehicle seizures and the Safe Care Act etc).
- Strengthen and support social, educational and economic programming that will encourage sex trade workers to exit the sex trade
- Support the expansion of the DISC program to include liaison or referral between RCMP and social service providers / counselors / alcohol and drug services following the arrest of sex trade workers
- Develop an effective system of joint planning and collaboration between all levels of government, stakeholders and community residents
- Support legislation that allows landlords to evict convicted drug dealers from rental properties \*
- Ensure that youth services at all levels (School District # 57, C.A.S.E.Y. Youth Around Prince, Reconnect, Teen Crisis Line, RCMP etc.) are involved and active in addressing the issues of children entering the sex trade

*\* While this recommendation has impact under several of the issues, at this point in time it is included in this section as it has been noted as exacerbating the sex trade issue. It has resulted in increased access and use by sex trade workers contributing to increased health problems and risks to both worker and neighbourhood residents.*

## Issue # 2

### Health, Welfare & Education (cont.)



#### **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- City of Prince George
- University of Northern British Columbia
- College of New Caledonia
- School District # 57
- Northern Health Authority
- Prince George Housing Coalition
- Provincial and Federal Government
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Social Service Providers
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- General Public
- Community Planning Council
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Aboriginal stakeholders

# Issue # 3

## Unemployment & Poverty

*(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 2)*



### **OBJECTIVES:**

**Ensure continued exploration of alternative industry and employment opportunities in Prince George**

**Maintain support for the resource industries which form the backbone of the regional economy**

**Ensure equal access to services and programs for low income Prince George residents is available and accessible**

**Address any current barriers to employment for Prince George residents**

**Ensure support of on-going initiatives that help build community capacity to deal with increased community needs**

### **INITIATIVES:**

### **TIMEFRAME: Immediate - Long term**

- Support current initiatives and assist in developing additional initiatives
- Develop aggressive, coordinated lobbying of Provincial and Federal bodies to recognize the unique needs of Prince George as the Northern capital
- Ensure that Provincial and Federal bodies provide fair share and appropriate delivery models to Prince George
- Ensure support is provided to poverty relief services that build capacity sufficient to deal with increased community needs

## Issue # 3 Unemployment & Poverty (*cont.*)



### **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- City of Prince George
- Local Union Representatives
- School District 57
- Community Futures Development Corporation
- Tourism Prince George
- Social Service Providers
- Ministry of Human Resources
- Human Resources Development Canada
- College of New Caledonia
- University of Northern British Columbia
- Training providers and counselors
- Initiatives Prince George
- Northern Forest Products Association

# Issue # 4 Community Safety

(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 1)

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**Improve and maintain safety in all Prince George neighbourhoods and districts for all citizens**

**Ensure that information on all available resources related to community safety is advertised, communicated and utilized**

## **INITIATIVES:**

## **TIMEFRAME: Immediate - Long term**

- Improve public safety in neighbourhoods
- Initiate an awareness campaign on safety at home and in the community
- Strengthen or initiate Neighbourhood Block Watch groups through the development of a community safety coalition
- Enforce stricter guidelines for developments to consider social, economic and safety impact studies in proposals
- Encourage neighbourhood initiation of traffic studies
- Develop a master plan using community and neighbourhood consultation processes
- Implement a City wide advertising campaign of safety tips and strategies
- Ensure effective communication of existence of City "hot lines"
- Implement a communications campaign to encourage neighbourhoods to develop their own traffic watch studies with assistance from City of Prince George and CPAC offices
- Implement an effective advertising campaign to develop neighbourhood Block Watch groups
- Require all new development plans be required to adhere to CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles
- Require all new developments be required to include a social impact study and pedestrian impact study with proposed plans
- Require all new development projects be required to hold public consultations with potentially affected neighbourhoods prior to submission to City Hall for permits and zoning

## Issue # 4 Community Safety (*cont.*)

### **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- General Public
- City of Prince George
- Community Planning Council
- RCMP
- Community Associations
- Planners, architects, developers and construction
- Social Service Providers
- Business community

# Issue # 5 Substance Misuse

(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 2)

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**Ensure adequate provision of social programming and services for Prince George**

**Ensure the full continuum of needs and supports are addressed**

## **INITIATIVES:**

**TIME FRAME: Immediate to Long Term**

- Ensure sufficient detox beds are available
- Ensure relevant counselling programming is provided
- Ensure a continuum of services is identified and implemented to provide full rehabilitation
- Implement comprehensive programs to ensure adequate education pertaining to drug awareness beginning in the school system\_
- Implement stakeholder consultation to develop needs analysis
- Continue lobbying and advocacy at all government levels
- Coordinate contacts and communication, program development and educational awareness among stakeholders and the community
- Provide responsible monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress to community

## **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- Northern Health Authority
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Prince George Regional Hospital
- Social Service Agencies
- Community Planning Council of Prince George
- City of Prince George
- Ministry of Health / Drug and Alcohol
- Aboriginal stakeholders
- School District # 57
- RCMP

# Issue # 6 Downtown Revitalization

(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 3)

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**Develop a mix of housing in the downtown**

**Address beautification of public spaces**

**Support existing and new initiatives to attract more business to the downtown**

**Improve downtown safety**

**Development of permanent community activities and facilities**

## **INITIATIVES:**

## **TIMEFRAME: Immediate - Long term**

- Create opportunities for mixed housing in the downtown core
- Embark on a beautification campaign of downtown public spaces
- Improve lighting
- Increase RCMP Foot Patrols
- Support a safe haven drop in centre in the downtown core
- Develop and advertise “niche” sectors such as the “historic George Street” concept. Sectors should be community participation driven such as parks and green spaces, recreation facilities, open air or permanent market, open air theatre and arts
- Develop natural gateways that lead to downtown such as the development of the Civic Centre Plaza as public participation space.
- Develop the land fronting 1st Avenue into a park-like setting (see Houston, BC as an example)
- Create a climate for comprehensive re-development of downtown sections that includes residential development
- Encourage beautification through public/private “adopt a project” activities

## Issue # 6 Downtown Revitalization (cont.)

- Initiate a crime awareness and protection campaign for downtown
- Develop more family/youth oriented activities in the downtown core
- Sponsor activities and competitions such as open air theatre, sidewalk art etc.
- Increase efforts to incorporate "green" into the downtown using a combination of ground level greening and rooftop greening
- Develop a living theme for the downtown using natural or local products (signposts, garbage cans, benches flower and shrubbery boxes)

### **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association
- RCMP
- Initiatives Prince George: City Centre Ventures
- School District # 57
- Social Service Providers
- City of Prince George
- Town Centre Business Association
- Prince George Housing Coalition
- Community Planning Council
- Tourism Prince George

# Issue # 7 Recreation

(See Social Infrastructure Scheme, Page 24, Box # 4)



## **OBJECTIVES:**

**Establish a youth centre in the downtown core**

**Review and improve affordable recreation opportunities available through the City of Prince George**

**Improve accessibility to City facilities for all residents**

**Develop a public consultation process to determine new facility development**

## **INITIATIVES:**

**TIMEFRAME: Immediate - mid-term**

- Initiate consultation to develop a sustainable youth centre downtown
- Consult with City and community to review and improve affordable recreation opportunities
- Investigate and develop an accessibility program for recreational opportunities
- Development of a Recreational Advisory Committee that will advise on existing recreational opportunities and new development opportunities
- Initiate community consultation and coordination of a youth centre project

## **SUGGESTED PARTNERS**

- City of Prince George
- Private recreation facilities
- Community Planning Council
- Youth Around Prince
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre - Reconnect Program
- Seniors Councils
- School District # 57
- Community Associations

# From Today to Tomorrow

## The Long Range Vision



- Many of the issues raised during the development of the Social Plan are complex. While considering these recommendations, it must be recognized that each of these pieces will be integral to, or impact, another level or issue. For instance, work done around health, welfare and education will impact substance misuse and unemployment and poverty activities. It is important to realize that where a coalition has been suggested by the Social Infrastructure Scheme, it is assumed that each coalition will be working closely with the others to ensure no duplication of activities occurs, but rather a community holistic plan begins to emerge. In short, we will begin to see the development of a sustainable social infrastructure.
- We also recognize that development and maintenance of these types of bodies takes time, commitment and effort to ensure sustainability over the long term. Therefore, a steering committee (using either an existing stable group or developing a core stable body) would be a key factor in monitoring and ensuring stability of the coalitions. It is important to ensure a plentiful and experienced pool of resource volunteers for these types of coalitions is available. This is a task the steering committee would be assigned and would then need to access networks, databases and connections within the community. It could also be utilized as a resource and administrative tool responsible for maintaining documentation, databases and information arising from activities within the coalitions.

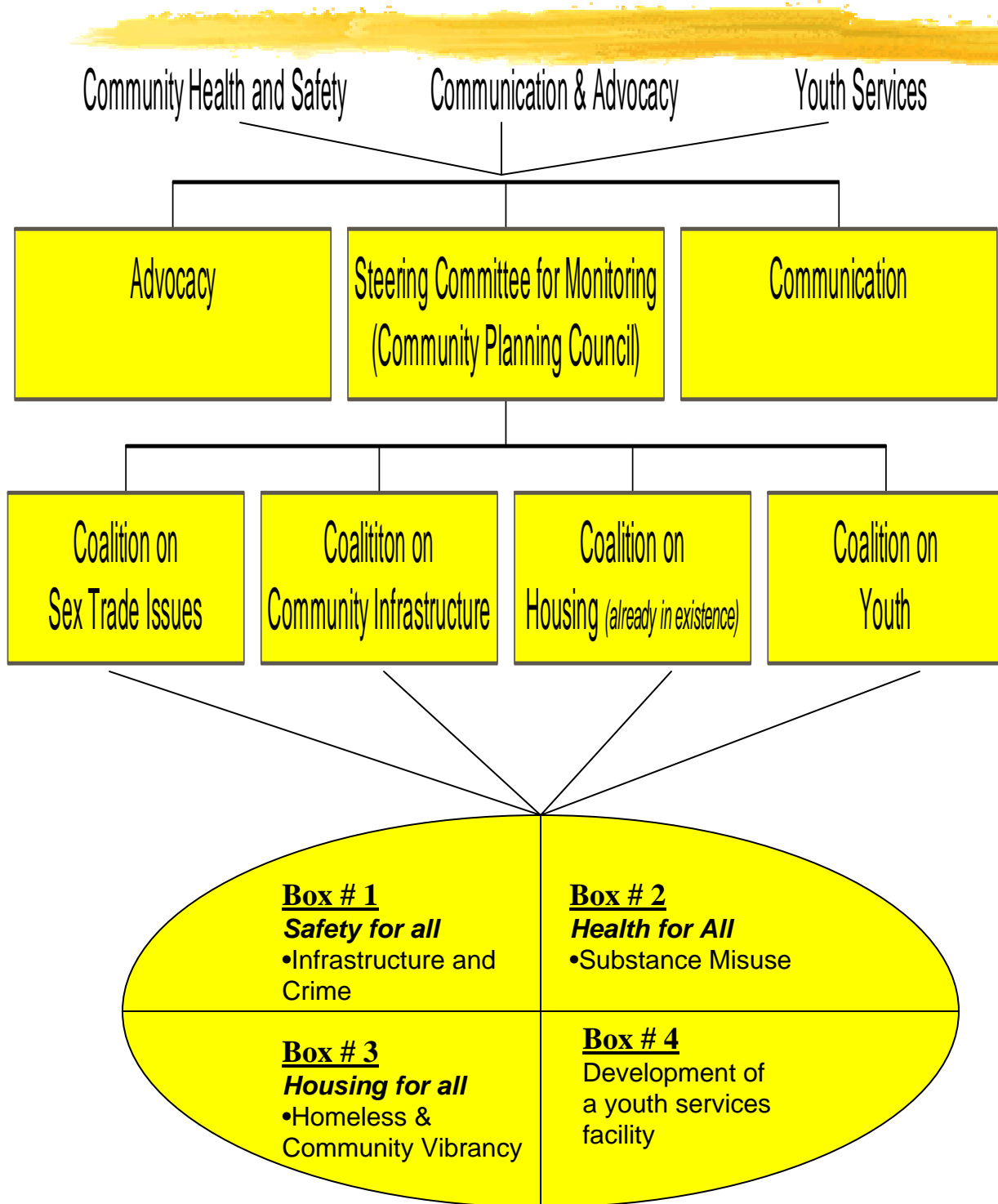
# From Today to Tomorrow

## The Long Range Vision (cont.)



- Researching current and past activities arising from identified issues within coalitions is an activity the steering committee should offer along with research into possible funding avenues and criteria that may be associated with recommended actions. It should also be utilized as a sounding board and repository of activities and reports, again, ensuring that the holistic nature of a sustainable social infrastructure is maintained. The steering committee needs to be the engine available to establish the necessary roots of each of the coalitions and participate as a stakeholder on each coalition alongside other key stakeholders.
- We also believe it is crucial that a reporting mechanism be established that will develop and present a public report annually on the actions and progress of each of the coalitions. Again, the steering committee could be directed to take on this role. As the matrix on the next page shows, there is a connection and communication between each of the coalitions that has been suggested, with a strong sense of accountability essential to the community of Prince George regarding all activities that take place under this model.
- We would note that this social plan is a plan designed to serve and involve all residents and agencies throughout the community. The steering committee component is key to ensuring this plan has a life and evolves alongside the community. The make up of the steering committee could be an existing group with the appropriate funding and supports or a newly formed body. Either way however, it is important that they be given the resources necessary to complete the task.

# Social Infrastructure Scheme



# Steering Committee Activity Calendar

## **Activities – Year 1 (2003)**

- Identify funding and resources necessary for calendar of activities to be completed
- Develop a base of stakeholders relevant to coalitions
- Initiate and coordinate community consultations to develop coalitions
- Develop and coordinate administrative needs of each coalition
- Assist coalitions to develop Terms of Reference and Plans of Action
- Assist with development of needs, gaps and assets analysis for each coalition
- Develop an interactive community communication vehicle for use by coalitions and community at large
- Year end monitor and report of progress to Council and community

## **Activities – Year 2 (2004)**

- Provide research activity to coalitions where required
- Provide community consultations as per coalitions needs
- Investigate funding possibilities where required or identified
- Continue provision of all administrative activities
- Continue to develop recruitment to coalitions as required
- Develop a coordinated advocacy campaign
- Year end monitor and report of progress to Council and community

## **Activities – Year 3 (2005)**

- Initiate re-evaluation of coalition plans of action and adjust where necessary
- Continue with administrative activities as needed
- Continue with communication and advocacy campaigns
- Year end monitor and report of progress to Council and community

## **Activities – Year 4/5 (2006-7)**

- Continue with all ongoing activities
- Complete monitor, review and evaluation of social plan progress, infrastructure and activities.
- Setting of future activity plan (5 year plan, 2008 - 2012)