



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

A G E N D A

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

MONDAY, April 23, 2018

AT 8:40 AM

*"To deliver effective
and efficient, local
government services
that benefit our
citizens, our
businesses, our
environment and our
future"*

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. THAT the Agenda for the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- A. THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council held April 9, 2018, be adopted. (P. 3)

MINUTES

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4. GENERAL MATTERS

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

DRAFT YOUTHFUL VERNON STRATEGY (P. 9)

- A. THAT Council direct Administration to refer the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy to the public and stakeholder organizations for comment and review as outlined in the report titled "Draft Youthful Vernon Strategy" and dated April 11, 2018 from the Long Range Planner;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Mayor Mund to send a letter of appreciation to the University of British Columbia (Okanagan) Institute for Community Engaged Research and the students who provided research assistance in the development of the Youthful Vernon Strategy.

**CITY OF VERNON
OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY
UPDATE: WORKSAFE
BC (WSBC) AND
CERTIFICATE OF
RECOGNITION (COR)
(P. 91)**

B. Mr. Clay Fredin, Health & Safety Coordinator, re: City of Vernon Occupational Health and Safety Update: Worksafe BC (WSBC) and Certificate of Recognition (COR).

THAT Council receive the City of Vernon Occupational Health and Safety Update: WorkSafe BC (WSBC) and Certificate of Recognition (COR), as provided in the memorandum dated April 10, 2018 from the Coordinator, Health and Safety.

7. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS
8. COUNCIL INFORMATION UPDATES
9. G.V.A.C. / R.D.N.O REGULAR MEETINGS
10. INFORMATION ITEMS
11. CLOSE OF MEETING

NOTE:

*Council is invited to attend the 'Yellow Fish Painting' Storm Water Awareness Event in honor of Earth Day 2018, hosted by the City of Vernon being held in Spirit Square at **10:00 am** this morning*

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018**

PRESENT: Mayor A. Mund

Councillors: B. Spiers, J. Cunningham, S. Anderson,
C. Lord, B. Quiring, (D. Nahal, absent)

Staff: W. Pearce, CAO
P. Bridal, Director, Corporate Services/DCAO
S. Blakely, Manager, Legislative Services
K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Dev.
D. Law, Director, Financial Services
S. Koenig, Director, Operations
N. Nilsen, Communications Officer and Grants Coordinator
D. Lees, Sr. Bylaw Enforcement Officer*
R. Zubick, CPO Coordinator*
R. Miles, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability
B. Bandy, Real Estate Manager

**Attended as required*

Others: Media
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Akbal Mund called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

AGENDA ADOPTION Moved by Councillor Lord, seconded by Councillor Spiers:

THAT the Agenda for the April 9, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES Moved by Councillor Quiring, seconded by Councillor Cunningham:

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council held March 26, 2018, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

GENERAL MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

**SOCIAL PLANNING
COUNCIL – QUARTERLY
REPORTS and UPDATES**

Annette Sharkey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan, together with noted guest speakers, provided a Quarterly Report and Updates, as follows:

Partners in Action Final Report: January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018 – Reviewed:

- History, Vision and Mandate Reviewed
- Membership: Coordinating Committee
- Multiculturalism and Inclusiveness
- Homelessness/Poverty (with speaker Kelly Fehr as noted below)
 - COOL Team Update
 - Shopping Cart Action Team (need shopping carts in order to initiate program)
 - Housing Action Team
 - Housing Strategy
 - Vernon as a Designated Community
- Safety/Harm Reduction
 - Business Community Concerns
 - Downtown Community Clean Up
 - HART (Harm Reduction Team)
- 10 Years of Partners in Action

Update on the new Supported Housing Units with guest speaker Kelly Fehr, Co-Executive Director, John Howard Society of the North Okanagan/Kootenay

- Thankful for partnership with Social Planning
- 46 bed shelter – scheduled to open end of June
- Apartment Complex planned to open in November for 52 residents – fully supported
- Shelters full every night
- Temporary Shelters – still 20 beds open at Howard House, 13 temporary shelter beds recently closed due to better weather and lessening demand
- Optimistic remaining extra mats will be supported until Howard House is open
- Hoping new shelter and apartments will be able to accommodate couples

Update on Opioid/Harm Reduction with guest speaker Dr. Karin Goodison, Medical Health Officer, Population Health and Jessica Bridgeman, Harm Reduction Coordinator, Interior Health

The following points were reviewed:

- Opioid epidemic statistics
- Provincial data
- Overdose Deaths in BC 1991 – 2017

- Fentanyl-Detected Overdose Deaths in BC
- Overdose Death Rates by Health Services Delivery Area (HSDA)
- Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population, Interior Health (Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon)
- BC Data by Township
- Who is Affected?
 - Males 30-49
 - People who have been in Corrections
 - Aboriginal population
 - People who use drugs alone
 - Overdose occurred in private residences 60% of time
 - Fentanyl detected in most fatal overdoses
 - Various drug types and modes of consumption reported
 - Most are regular users
- Type of drug
 - Illicit drug overdose deaths including and excluding fentanyl 2007 - 2017
- Provincial Response
 - Overdose Emergency Response Centre
 - Community Action Teams will be established in communities with most urgent need (Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon)
- Components of Interior Health's Response
 - Take home Naloxone program
 - Mobile supervised consumption services
 - Increased access to treatment
- Importance of Treatment
 - BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: A review of Illicit Drug Overdoses
 - Accessible
- Why OAT - Opioid Agonist Therapies (eg suboxone, methadone and iOAT) for opioid dependence disorder?
 - Chronic condition, requires daily treatment, high risk of adverse outcomes if stopped
- Harm Reduction
 - Policies and programs that aim to reduce the harms associated with the use of drugs
- Community Response
 - Essential Health Sector Interventions
 - Essential Strategies for Supportive Environment
- Will there be resources?
 - As part of this funding, regional response teams and community action teams will have access to a new Community Crisis Innovation Fund – which includes \$3 million for the remainder of this year,

- and \$6 million each year in 2018/19 and 2019/20
- Interior Health covers the cost of disposing of needles through cleanup measures – new containers now in place

Councillor Quiring left the meeting at 10:04 am

Councillor Quiring returned to the meeting at 10:08 am

Moved by Councillor Lord, seconded by Councillor Spiers:

THAT Council receives the quarterly reports and updates from Ms. Annette Sharkey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan, Kelly Fehr, Co-Executive Director, John Howard Society of the North Okanagan/Kootenay, Dr. Karin Goodison, Medical Health Officer, Population Health, and Jessica Bridgeman, Regional Harm Reduction Coordinator, Interior Health as provided at the April 9, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED.

RECESS

Mayor Mund recessed the meeting at 10:21 am

RECALL TO ORDER

The meeting was recalled to order at 10:26 am

DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (5360-01)

Mike Fox, General Manager, Community Services, and Dale Danallanko, Manager RDF Operations, Regional District of North Okanagan, provided a presentation on the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Update.

The following points were noted:

- Stakeholders Meetings held on the SWMP
 - Context – Regulatory Requirements
 - Planning Process Overview
 - Draft SWMP Update
 - Direction Setting
 - System Summary
 - Goals and Strategies
 - ASRDF Waste Shed Information
 - Diversion Potential and Financial Plan
- Meeting Objections reviewed
- Regulatory Requirements
 - All regional districts in BC are required to have Solid Waste Management Plans
 - The Plan is comprehensive for the next 10 years, with vision for next 20-30 years
 - Includes all material streams and aspects of solid waste management
- Planning Process Reviewed
 - Initiate the Planning Process

- Set the Plan Direction
- Evaluate Options
- Prepare and Adopt the Plan
- Plan Implementation, monitoring and reporting
- Membership, Board and Staff reviewed
- SWMP Plan Update Timeline 2017-2018 reviewed
- Set Plan Direction
 - Establish Guiding Principles based on Ministry's & past updates
 - Reduce disposal rate from 500 kg per capita to **350 kg per capita**
 - Develop goals and strategies with estimated diversion potential
 - Build financial plan
- Set Plan Direction Guiding Principles reviewed
- Plan Area and Facility locations reviewed
- Background: Tonnes Disposed by Sector
- Waste composition reviewed
- Proposed Goals and Strategies reviewed
 - **Reduce, Reuse, Recycling Options**
 - Increase Organics Diversion
 - Reduce Disposal from SF Residential Households
 - Reduce Disposal for Sectors Served by Commercial Haulers
 - Develop Programs to Actively Promote Waste Reduction and Reuse Initiatives
 - Establish Staff to Ensure Reduction Program Effectiveness
 - **Residuals Management Options**
 - Develop Centralized Disposal Plan with Additional Landfill Capacity
 - Prepare Disaster Response Plan
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycling Options
 - Increase Organics Diversion
 - Reduce Disposal from Single Family Households
 - Reduce Disposal for Sectors Served by Commercial Haulers
 - Programs to Actively Promote Waste Reduction and Reuse Initiatives
 - Establish Staff to Ensure Reduction Program Effectiveness
- Residuals Management Options
 - (Disposal) Develop Centralized Disposal Plan with Additional Landfill Capacity
 - Waste Shed Management – Greater Vernon
 - Self-Haul information
 - Greater Vernon RDF
 - (Disposal) Disaster Response Plan

- Resulting Diversion Potential
- Five Year Financial Plan
- Costs per Household Across Regional District
- Public Engagement Phase 2, March 2018 – May 2018
- New website service for contact on RDNO website for public use – can send email and receive response to inquiries

Moved by Councillor Quiring, seconded by Councillor Lord:

THAT Council receives and supports in principle the report provided by Mike Fox, General Manager, Community Services, and Dale Danallanko, Manager RDF Operations, Regional District of North Okanagan regarding the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Update as provided at the April 9, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

COUNCIL INFORMATION UPDATES

G.V.A.C./R.D.N.O. REGULAR MEETINGS

INFORMATION ITEMS

CLOSE

Mayor Akbal Mund closed the meeting at 11:29 am.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Mayor:

Corporate Officer:



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON REPORT TO COUNCIL

ORIGINAL

SUBMITTED BY: Cleo Corbett, Long Range
Planner

COUNCIL MEETING: REG COW I/C
COUNCIL MEETING DATE: April 23, 2018
REPORT DATE: April 11, 2018
FILE: 6441-20-Child Friendly Cities

SUBJECT: DRAFT YOUTHFUL VERNON STRATEGY

PURPOSE:

To present the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy and request authorization to undertake the next stage in the proposed public participation referral and review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct Administration to refer the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy to the public and stakeholder organizations for comment and review as outlined in the report titled "Draft Youthful Vernon Strategy" and dated April 11, 2018 from the Long Range Planner;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Mayor Mund to send a letter of appreciation to the University of British Columbia (Okanagan) Institute for Community Engaged Research and the students who provided research assistance in the development of the Youthful Vernon Strategy.

ALTERNATIVES & IMPLICATIONS:

1. THAT Council direct Administration to refer the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy to the public and stakeholder organizations for comment and review as outlined in the report titled "Draft Youthful Vernon Strategy" and dated April 11, 2018 from the Long Range Planner, with the following amendments: *(to be determined by Council)*;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Mayor Mund to send a letter of appreciation to the University of British Columbia (Okanagan) Institute for Community Engaged Research and the students who provided research assistance in the development of the Youthful Vernon Strategy.

Note: The implications of this alternative would depend on the amendments identified by Council.

2. THAT Council defer consideration of the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy and associated referral and review process as outlined in the report titled "Draft Youthful Vernon Strategy" and dated April 11, 2018 from the Long Range Planner, to the Council meeting of *(date to be determined by Council)*.

Note: This option would delay the initiation of the public and stakeholder review on the draft Strategy and its ultimate refinement and endorsement.

ANALYSIS:

A. Committee Recommendations:

Council may choose to refer the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy to select Council Committees.

B. Rationale:

1. The Official Community Plan has a guiding principle to “Create a youth friendly city”. Numerous City initiatives aim to support this principle, but no one document aims to achieve it specifically. In 2017/2018, a \$10,000 Healthy Communities Plan H grant and a \$5,000 City of Vernon discretionary grant enabled the Child and Youth Friendly Vernon Committee to research best practices, conduct policy assessments, and engage stakeholders and the public to create the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy (Attachment 1).
2. The draft Youthful Vernon Strategy identifies actions that assist in building a strong, healthy, playful, connected community where young people thrive and where policies are grounded in fundamentally respecting the rights of children and youth. Only 20% of Vernon’s population is aged 0-19 (2016 Census) and their voices are often absent from civic participation. The purpose of the Youthful Vernon Strategy is to:
 - Build on existing plans and policies.
 - Identify and fill policy gaps where they exist.
 - Implement best practices in becoming more child and youth friendly.
 - Make actionable recommendations in a succinct strategy with a focus on implementation.
 - Ensure children and youth are included in decision-making processes.
 - Foster pride in Vernon children and youth for the place they call home.

Numerous child and youth friendly City initiatives that were highlighted in the research and the engagement process already form part of the Official Community Plan, the Parks Master Plan, the Master Transportation Plan or other strategic City documents. These initiatives are referenced in the *Where We are Leading* and *Improving What We Do* sections of the Strategy in an effort to support existing policies, but are not included as duplicated recommended actions.

3. Throughout the development of the Strategy, the committee researched best practices in child and youth friendly municipal initiatives and reviewed other child friendly strategies. The committee also collaborated with the University of British Columbia (Okanagan) Institute for Community Engaged Research (ICER) in the fall of 2017. Fourth year students assisted the project in researching the following subjects:
 - i. Urban Design and the Built Environment (Attachment 2);
 - ii. Community Gardens and Edible Landscapes (Attachment 3); and
 - iii. Youth and Reconciliation (Attachment 4).

It is recommended that Council authorize Mayor Mund to write a thank you letter to the student authors and ICER to show appreciation for the research assistance and to foster an ongoing relationship.

4. Various public engagement activities, all of which included children and youth, informed the development of the draft Strategy. The question, “What makes a youth friendly city?” (Attachment 5) was explored in depth at various events and with focus groups. Asset mapping was conducted asking participants where their favourite place in Vernon is and places that need some help or improvement (Attachment 6).
5. Once the Strategy actions were drafted using the research and engagement input, a Youthful Vernon Community Forum (Photo 1) was held on March 16, 2018 where participants prioritized the actions using “dotmocracy”. A diverse group of approximately 75 participants attended the Forum including youth, politicians, public sector employees and representatives from non-profit organizations. The results of

the prioritization exercise (Attachment 7) are reflected in the order of the recommended actions in the Strategy within each section.



Photo 1: Youthful Vernon Community Forum

6. Should Council support the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy, Administration would conduct a short review and referral process using Engage Vernon (www.engagevernon.ca) for public review and comment, and refer the draft to key internal City Divisions and external stakeholder agencies. Although many non-profit organizations, stakeholders and City Divisions were involved in the development of the draft Strategy, it is desirable to provide the draft as a whole to receive feedback from those who would be directly affected and involved with the implementation of the recommended actions. The feedback would be collected and a revised Strategy presented to Council for endorsement shortly thereafter. It is the goal of the Committee to finalize the document expediently in anticipation of Council's next Strategic Planning Session. If desired, Council may wish to consider the recommended actions in the Youthful Vernon Strategy as part of Council's next Strategic Planning Session.

C. Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Draft Youthful Vernon Strategy
- Attachment 2 - Towards a Youth Friendly Vernon: The Incorporation of Children and Youth in Urban Public Spaces, Dakota Tryhuba (2017)
- Attachment 3 – Community and School Gardens, Edible Landscapes, Eva-Lena Lang (2017)
- Attachment 4 – Youth and Reconciliation: Empowering Youth and Acknowledging Truth and Reconciliation, Anne O'Grady (2017)
- Attachment 5 – Engagement Feedback Summary – What makes a youth friendly city?
- Attachment 6 – Asset mapping – Favourite Place and Places Needing Improvement
- Attachment 7 – Community Forum Dotmocracy Results

D. Council's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018 Goals/Deliverables:

The subject involves the following deliverables in Council's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018:

- *Update draft Polson Park Master Plan and undertake improvements*

During the asset mapping exercise Polson Park was identified as one of the key areas in the city needing improvement.

- *Develop public engagement protocols to increase public (and youth) engagement (webtools, surveys, social media, resident feedback, etc.)*
- *Identify opportunities to include youth in consultation processes*

Numerous youth were involved in the Youthful Vernon Strategy, including a youth committee member.

- *Work with agencies and senior governments to develop and maintain comprehensive, accessible and affordable childcare*

The draft Youth Vernon Strategy furthers this strategic goal of Council.

E. Relevant Policy/Bylaws/Resolutions:

Numerous City policy documents and initiatives aim to make Vernon a more child and youth friendly city. The OCP, and its supplemental plans including the Master Transportation Plan and Parks Master Plan, all aim to build a great city that nurtures its residents and businesses. The draft Youthful Vernon Strategy strengthens existing policies and initiatives, assists in filling gaps where those might exist and is not meant to duplicate existing policies or initiatives.

BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Many of the action items identified in the draft Youthful Vernon Strategy would have budget implications when implemented. Should Council endorse the draft Strategy, Administration would conduct an internal departmental review of the document and explore budget implications further. Those would be included in the report accompanying the refined Strategy.

Prepared by:

Approved for submission to Council:




Kim Flick
Apr 16 2018 11:27 AM 

Cleo Corbett,
Long Range Planner



Kim Flick
Apr 16 2018 11:26 AM 



Will Pearce, CAO

Date: 16.04.2018

Kim Flick,
Director, Community Infrastructure and Development

REVIEWED WITH

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works/Airport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning & Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Building & Licensing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Development Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire & Rescue Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Services | | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development & Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTEE: | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Developed by the Vernon Child and Youth Friendly City Committee | | |

G:\6400-6999 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT\6441 COMMUNITY PLANNING - SPECIAL STUDIES\20 Special Community Planning Studies, filed alphabetically\Child Friendly Cities\report\180411cc_Rpt_Youthful Vernon Strgy draft.docx

DRAFT YOUTHFUL VERNON STRATEGY – APRIL 2018



BC Healthy Communities
People First Potential.



Contents

Introduction	3
Background	3
Research.....	3
Policy Review and Assessment.....	3
Community Engagement	4
Purpose.....	4
Recommended Actions.....	5
Play in the Built Environment.....	5
Transportation.....	7
Local Government	8
Arts and Culture.....	10
Healthy Community Development	11
Child Care	12
Youthful Vernon Charter – A Commitment to the Rights of Children and Youth	13
Conclusions	14
Youthful Vernon Steering Committee	15
Resources and Supporting Documents	16

Introduction

The City of Vernon Official Community Plan guides the future of the community. One of its guiding principles is to be “a youth friendly city.” But what does that mean and how is it achieved? Over the last number of years, the City and partner organizations have explored these questions in depth. The Youthful Vernon Strategy aims to guide actions the City can take to better support children and youth to achieve this guiding principle.

Background

In 2012, the City of Vernon endorsed and signed the Vernon Children’s Charter of Rights, making a commitment to honour and value young people as an integral part of the future and our community. In 2014, Vernon hosted the Cities Fit for Children Summit, bringing delegates from all over the province to hear internationally renowned speakers discuss how cities can support children, youth and families with concrete actions to help them thrive. Following the Summit, a collaborative working group, made up of representatives from the City of Vernon, Interior Health, the North Okanagan Early Years Council, Success by 6 and the United Way, has been exploring ways in which Vernon can better support children, youth and families to



build a strong healthy future and support community economic development. With a boost from Healthy Communities Plan H funding and a City of Vernon discretionary grant, the working committee was enabled to conduct the necessary research and community engagement to develop the Youthful Vernon Strategy.

Research

The committee explored the wide body of planning documents and research pertaining to child and youth friendly initiatives. The committee also worked with the University of British Columbia Okanagan Institute for Community Engaged Research. Fourth year research students conducted and reported on child and youth centric best practices regarding food security, edible landscapes, urban design, built environment and empowerment and healing through acknowledgement of truth and reconciliation. This body of work helped form the Strategy.

Policy Review and Assessment

The City of Vernon has numerous planning documents and regulations that affect how child and youth

friendly the city is. The Official Community Plan, including land use and the growth strategy, and supplementary plans, such as the Master Transportation Plan and Parks Master Plan, have numerous policies pertaining to this subject. Assessments were conducted using resources from the Society for Children and Youth of British Columbia to evaluate existing policies and plans to see what Vernon was doing well, where there were gaps, how those gaps could be filled and where improvements could be made. The results of the evaluations form the Strategy.

Community Engagement

Launching the project on National Child Day (November 17, 2017), a community celebration was held to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of Vernon's Children's Charter. Community engagement began with over 300 people attending. They played, were entertained and expressed ideas for how Vernon could be more child and youth friendly. Attendants identified their favorite places in Vernon and places that needed improvement. Over the next few months numerous focus groups were held with children, youth, parents and service providers, all from a variety of backgrounds, to explore what steps Vernon could take to make a youth friendly city. The results, informed by the research, were then presented at a community forum, with 75 people in attendance. Local youth, elected officials and representatives from the public sector heard a presentation on Children's Rights and prioritized actions which now form the recommendations in this Strategy.

Purpose

Vernon is aiming to build a strong, healthy, playful, connected community where children and youth thrive and where policies are grounded in the rights of children and youth. 20% of the population in Vernon is aged 0-19 (2016 Census), and they are often the voices that are absent from civic participation. Evidence-based research indicates that one in four children in Vernon is vulnerable in one or more developmental domains upon kindergarten entrance (Early Development Instrument). One in five children in BC is growing up in poverty (First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition). Children with adverse early childhood experiences can suffer from toxic stress which has a lifelong impact on health, social engagement, educational attainment, and engaged citizenship (Harvard Centre for the Developing Child). There are numerous hard-to-connect families in Vernon, particularly with an increase in the refugee and immigrant population, as well as adjacent indigenous communities. We know that municipal policies and the built environment have an important role in supporting children's healthy development. Supportive environments provide strong mitigating influences (UNICEF, SCY). In this context, the purpose of the Youthful Vernon Strategy is to:



- Build on existing plans and policies.
- Identify and fill policy gaps where they exist.
- Implement best practices in becoming more child and youth friendly.
- Make actionable recommendations in a succinct strategy with a focus on implementation.
- Ensure children and youth are included in decision-making processes.
- Foster pride in Vernon children and youth for where they call home.

Numerous recommendations came out of the engagement process which are already in the Official Community Plan, the Parks Master Plan, the Master Transportation Plan or other strategic City documents. These are referenced in the *Where We are Doing Well* sections in an effort to support those initiatives but not duplicate them here.

Recommended Actions

Play in the Built Environment

The built environment refers to human made places such as parks, streets and buildings and how these elements interact. This section is focuses on those places we build for play.

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

Vernon is fortunate to have an accessible parks system with most neighbourhoods having a park or trail within a ten minute walk. Beaches, urban spaces and larger parks, like Polson Park, serve the entire community. Vernon's Parks Master Plan (2015) was developed through extensive community consultation including young citizens and is being actively implemented. Play areas are regularly checked for safety and cleanliness. There is also a playground replacement plan that is being implemented and has committed funding. Playground improvement projects regularly incorporate Literacy in the Environment and Natural Play elements.



IMPROVING WHAT WE DO

Action 1:

Continue to improve existing parks and add new parks to the system as the density of residential development increases as the city grows. Ensure the parks system evolves and keeps pace with the growing population.

Action 2:

Continue to add natural play elements to parks developments and improvements, such as sand, logs, rocks, trees, and shrubs.

Action 3:

Continue and expand the Park and Play Program, where activity leaders visit neighbourhood parks to encourage structured play and games. Continue working with community partners, such as the Optimist Club, to provide play boxes in parks.



HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

Our parks can be more creatively enriched to enhance opportunities for play, particularly water, natural and interactive play. Whenever possible, parks should provide multiple features that attract different types of people and ages.

Action 4:

Make washrooms in parks more accessible for longer hours during the day and for longer seasons. This may mean winterizing plumbing in new or renovated facilities. All washrooms in community parks should provide access to potable water. Washrooms should provide change tables for all parent types and family compositions. Gender neutral washrooms should be considered.

Action 5:

Provide more shade trees or structures, such as sails, to protect people in public spaces from the sun.

Action 6:

Consider edible landscaping in public spaces.

Action 7:

Incorporate more play elements in parks that encourage interaction between children, youth and adults.

Action 8:

Explore more free and “risky” play opportunities in parks.



Action 9:

Work with community partners and associations to encourage community gardens to have space for children to grow their own food and flowers. Community gardens should incorporate play areas and social spaces. Encourage and support gardens at schools and daycares.

Action 10:

Create spaces in the City Centre where youth can hang out, where loitering is encouraged and where youth can feel ownership in a public space.

Transportation

Neighbourhoods that support walking and cycling give children and youth greater independence and mobility. One way to measure walkability is to ask ‘could a child and a grandparent walk there together?’ If so, then the infrastructure is considered ‘8 to 80,’ meaning it is safe and easy for both an eight-year-old and an eighty-year-old to use.

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

The City of Vernon’s Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan outlines planned improvements to the walking and cycling networks throughout the city. Vernon is building a strong network of sidewalks, trails, and pathways. Investments are being made to improve Vernon Regional Transit and a service expansion in April 2018 has added a new route and more hours. Children five and under ride the bus for free. Upcoming changes to our Traffic Bylaw will allow small wheeled transport, such as scooters and skateboards, on multi-use paths.



IMPROVING WHAT WE DO

Action 11:

Accelerate the implementation of the Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan by increasing annual capital investment in active transportation infrastructure, including projects located in residential neighbourhoods and near schools, parks, and recreational facilities. Ensure that active transportation infrastructure is convenient and attractive by increasing operational investment for maintenance, including snow clearing.

HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

The majority of Vernon’s existing cycling routes are on-road bike lanes that may not be suitable for young children, and while annual investments are being made to build sidewalks and improve accessibility, gaps still exist. Families who cycle struggle to find secure bike racks that are suitable for non-standard cycles, such as cargo bikes or bikes with trailers and child seats. Since these bikes and accessories are costly, lack of security can be a major barrier.

Building great infrastructure takes time, but quick wins can be achieved by creatively harnessing existing spaces. Cities across North America have implemented temporary 'open streets' programs where streets are closed to non-resident vehicles for the day, often on Sundays or holidays, and used for recreation.

Action 12:

Ensure that all new active transportation infrastructure meets '8 to 80' design best practices.

Action 13:

Implement an annual traffic safety review and invest in safety improvements for existing active transportation infrastructure.



Action 14:

Update the Zoning Bylaw to include requirements for non-standard cycle parking suitable for bike trailers, cargo bikes and mobility bikes, and ensure all public buildings have bike parking suitable for non-standard bicycles.

Action 15:

Pilot an Open Streets program that temporarily converts streets into public spaces for walking, biking, play, events and socializing. Provide an easy and affordable permitting process for closing streets for block parties with a kit that includes street chalk and a large coffee urn.

Action 16:

Adopt the 'Kids Ride Free' program to provide free transit for children ages five to fourteen.

Local Government

Local Government can have a significant impact supporting children and youth. Other assessment areas of the Youthful Vernon Strategy, such as transportation and parks, have significant local government involvement and warrant their own recommendations and assessment. Other domains, such as Housing, are addressed in depth through the Official Community Plan Land Use Plan where a variety of housing is encouraged within the city and aims to fulfill the housing needs of a diverse population. The items found below are more general in nature and tend to cross more than one local government domain.

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

The Vernon Official Community Plan has had the guiding principle of "Creating a youth friendly city" for over a decade. The Vernon Children's Charter of Rights was signed and endorsed in 2012 making a commitment to honour and value children as an integral part of the



future and our community. In 2015, Vernon hosted the Cities Fit for Children Summit. Creative public participation is standard practice at the City which often includes targeted engagement activities for children and youth.

IMPROVING WHAT WE DO

Action 17:

Continue to actively engage a diverse cross section of young people in City projects, in planning processes and on Council Committees, including voting privileges for youth. Continue to evolve engagement methods to make providing feedback easy, fun and transparent and foster participation and advocacy for children and youth.

Action 18:

Continue a commitment to sustainability through land use planning, asset management, climate change adaptation and energy reduction to ensure future generations have a city they can be proud of and thrive within now, and in the future.



Action 19:

Continue to acknowledge National Child Day by supporting community celebrations and creating an annual awards program for youth engaged in the community and for those who support children and youth.

Action 20:

Update the Vernon Attainable Housing Strategy to ensure diverse housing needs are met, both physically and financially.

HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

From amending bylaws to creating standard operating procedures, the City of Vernon can update regulations and practices to put children and youth top of mind when conducting everyday tasks and when working on projects, big and small.

Action 21:

Amend bylaw regulations to update outdoor amenity and play space requirements for multiple family developments (townhouses and apartments) to ensure children, youth and families have adequate outdoor space for health, wellness and social connection reasons. Ensure childcare regulations and references are up to date and enable childcare to be provided in all areas of the city.

Action 22:

Declare Vernon a breastfeeding friendly community and ensure public spaces are signed appropriately and welcome breastfeeding.

Action 23:

Create an internal program at the City of Vernon where policy development and built environment projects are assessed through a child/youth lens. Develop and promote the youth lens as a Standard Operating Procedure.

Action 24:

All washrooms open to the public should include infant change tables. Private businesses where families are welcome should be encouraged to do the same. Family washrooms should be encouraged and provided. Explore creating inclusive family spaces and gender neutral washrooms in public parks and facilities.

Action 25:

Support playfulness and whimsy in everyday civic life through friendly signage, public art, pop-up installations and allowing street gatherings. Establish an affordable neighbourhood block party permit system to address insurance and supply kits.

Arts and Culture

Access to arts and cultural programming is critical for young people because creative expression enriches our lives and tells our stories. Arts participation is associated with positive academic and social outcomes (National Endowment for the Arts) and students who attend live performances demonstrate greater levels of tolerance and empathy (University of Arkansas).

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

Vernon has a rich and vibrant arts and culture sector. Children and youth can access a wide range of programs in different art forms including dance, visual arts, theatre, crafts and music. Our city is home to high quality professional arts organizations and a full suite of facilities including the Vernon and District Performing Arts Centre. Free, live outdoor music events happen throughout the summer and Vernon's library and Recreation Centre offer many programs for children and youth.



HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

Financial barriers can prevent children and youth from accessing arts and culture programming. Exploring ways to break down financial barriers and enable organizations to enrich their opportunities for youth could improve access. Local organizations offer music and theatre performances for young children, but there is a need for concerts and festivals aimed at teenagers. The community is also currently exploring the development of a new shared cultural facility to house the Greater Vernon Museum and Archives and Art Gallery as the current facilities do not adequately support the functions of both organizations.

Action 26:

Working with community partners, create a movable graffiti art wall installation and hire professional artists to run a workshop for young artists annually.

Action 27:

That the RDNO (through Greater Vernon Services and community partners) explore a grant program to invest in initiatives that improve arts and culture program accessibility for children and youth. Funding should be available for both professional arts and culture organizations to improve programs and to schools and community groups that need financial assistance to access programs.

Action 28:

Ensure that there are all-ages music venues and events programmed for teens with performers they want to see.



Action 29:

Make information related to arts and culture more accessible by working with local organizations to ensure that information about events, festivals and projects is available online, coordinated, and in child and youth-friendly language.

Action 30:

Support youth engagement in culture and heritage with a new multicultural festival that highlights the community's diversity.

Healthy Community Development

Local governments play a pivotal role in providing leadership for health by designing communities that influence resident choices and lifestyles. Together, Interior Health and the City of Vernon work collaboratively to create public policy and healthy built environments that are supportive of all citizens. Creating change through planning and policy is an upstream approach that can reduce health inequities for children and youth.

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

Interior Health has partnered with the City of Vernon to provide a 'health lens' for the Official Community Plan update (2008 and 2013) as well as the Parks Master Plan (2015), has participated in school travel planning (2009-2016), and supported the Plan H grant application for the Youthful Vernon Strategy (2017).

HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

While the City of Vernon has developed strong existing policies and planning documents, there are opportunities to strengthen policies that can positively influence the health and well-being of children and youth.

Action 31:

Create smoke-free outdoor spaces by implementing signage and enforcement measures for places that children and youth frequent such as parks and beaches.

Action 32:

Given the health inequities faced by indigenous children and youth, follow and implement the Calls to Action identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Action 33:

Engage with and support the coordination and collaboration of the various partners within the community that are working to increase food security.

Action 34:

Through zoning, explore a minimum distance that fast food outlets and fast food trucks can locate from child and youth orientated facilities such as schools and playgrounds.



Action 35:

Encourage community involvement and adoption of LIVE 5-2-1-0 messaging; a Sustainable Childhood Obesity Prevention program that encourages enjoying 5 fruits and vegetables, no more than 2 hours of screen time, 1 hour of playful activity and 0 sugary drinks each day. LIVE 5-2-1-0 provides consistent public messaging about healthy lifestyle choices for children and families.

Child Care

The North Okanagan Early Years Council is committed to community development and capacity building to meet the needs of families with children aged 0-6. This is part of larger regional and provincial initiatives funded and supported through Success by 6 and Children First. Stakeholders include family-serving agencies, the school district, local government, businesses, faith groups, the health authority, parents, grandparents and others.

Quality licensed affordable child care is in high demand in Vernon with long waitlists at most licensed care providers. When child care options are unavailable, parents are often forced to choose unregulated care or simply not participate in the workforce and put career goals on hold. The benefit of having affordable quality child care includes increased parent participation in the economy through increased employment which helps increase economic growth and stability. For the children, research shows that early childhood education provides benefits throughout a child's life, allowing them to be more prepared when entering the public education system and requiring less support services. The following actions identify what local government can do to support child care.

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

The City of Vernon is a key partner on the North Okanagan Early Years Council. Child care services are allowed in most areas of the City regardless of whether an area is residential or commercial.

HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

The child care shortage in the community is currently only understood anecdotally by long waitlists for licensed care. Regulations regarding child care licensing and locations need to be evaluated and updated. A thorough review of the system is desired.

Action 36:

Work with community partners to access funding to conduct a Child Care Needs Assessment to understand and address the needs in the community and to support economic development.

Action 37:

Encourage larger businesses, employers and residential subdivisions to consider including child care provisions in new development.

Action 38:

Encourage School District #22 to consider including child care provisions in new builds and facility expansions to co-locate related services. Recognize that School District #22 is currently at 104% capacity which puts early years/child care programs at risk and explore providing other options in the municipality.



Action 39:

Working with licensing partners, evaluate and update business license and zoning bylaw regulations related to child care. Working with early childhood education partners, lobby for increased enforcement of unregulated, illegal childcare.

Action 40:

Promote child care resources on the Welcome to Vernon website.

Youthful Vernon Charter – A Commitment to the Rights of Children and Youth

In 2011, the Early Childhood Educators of BC partnered with the North Okanagan Early Years Council to develop a charter recognizing children's rights as active citizens in our community. Focus groups,

committees and awareness-raising activities helped to develop the Vernon Children's Charter. In 2012, it was adopted by the City of Vernon, signed by many key partners, and distributed widely in the community.

WHERE WE ARE LEADING

The endorsement of the Vernon Children's Charter was a significant step in showing a commitment to the rights of children and identifies key items that the City agreed to support. National Child Day (NCD) is recognized annually and a large community gathering was held in 2017 to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Charter on NCD. The City of Vernon has included the voices of children and youth in numerous planning documents including the Official Community Plan, Parks Master Plan and the Child and Youth Friendly Vernon initiative.

HOW WE CAN DO BETTER

Action 41:

Implement the Youthful Vernon Strategy as a way to support the rights of children and youth with a review of the document at Council strategic planning sessions.

Action 42:

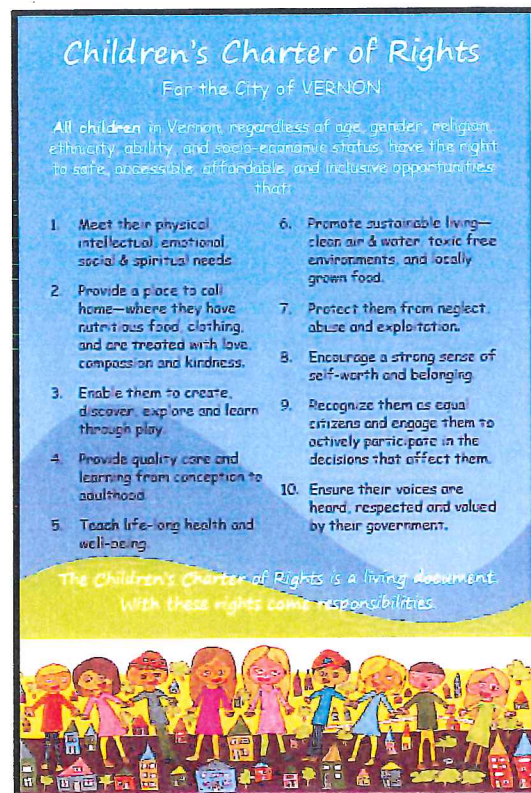
Update the Vernon Charter to better reflect and include the voice and rights of youth (ages 12-18).

Action 43:

Educate elected officials and staff on the existence and importance of the Children's Charter. Create a culture where the rights of young people are considered as a part of daily operations.

Action 44:

Promote the Children's Charter within City facilities and on the City website. Promote the Youthful Vernon Strategy to ensure inclusiveness of all ages and a city that is a fun youthful place to live, work and play.



Conclusions

The City of Vernon has many responsibilities to its constituents and taxpayers. While children and youth do not pay taxes, they are important constituents and are highly valued by our community. Our hope is that this initiative will result in a stronger voice for children and youth in local decision making, more opportunities that help children and youth to develop into healthy, engaged citizens that are proud of

their community, and that Vernon will be recognized as a community that cares for the needs of children and youth. The recommendations support the vital role they play in healthy social and economic development and the goal of a youthful Vernon – a community for all.

Youthful Vernon Steering Committee

Leola McMillan, Chair, Early Childhood Educators of BC, North Okanagan Branch

Trina Devine, Program Director, Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs

Tracy Williamson, Early Years Community Development Coordinator, United Way/FRC

Juliette Cunningham, Councillor, City of Vernon

Carson Armitage, Youth Ambassador, Vernon Community School, School District #22

Lynne Reside, Coordinator, Youthful Vernon Project/Regional Coordinator Success by 6

Janelle Rimell, Healthy Communities Environmental Health Officer, Interior Health

Angela Broadbent, City of Vernon, Active Transportation Coordinator

Cleo Corbett, City of Vernon, Long Range Planner



Resources and Supporting Documents

<https://bchealthycommunities.ca/>

<https://bernardvanleer.org/app/uploads/2017/10/BvLF-8-80-Cities-Report-Final.pdf>

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/top_13_things_municipalities.pdf

<http://still1in5.ca/report-card/>

<http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/edi/sd/22/>

<http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/mdi/nh/>

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/>

<http://www.childfriendlycommunities.ca/>

<https://www.childinthecity.org/>

<https://www.live5210.ca/>

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

https://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/New_Westminster_Child_and_Youth_Friendly_Community_Strategy_Reduced_Size.pdf

<http://www.campbellriver.ca/your-city-hall/advisory-committees-commissions/youth-action-committee>

<https://planh.ca/take-action/healthy-society/inclusive-communities/page/age-friendly-and-child-friendly-communities>

<http://www.scyofbc.org/>

<https://www.880cities.org/>

Elpus, K. (2013) Arts education and positive youth development: Cognitive, behavioural and social outcomes of adolescents who study the arts. National Endowment for the Arts <http://www.artsedsearch.org/summaries/arts-education-and-positive-youth-development-cognitive-behavioral-and-social-outcomes-of-adolescents-who-study-the-arts>

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. "Major benefits for students who attend live theatre, study finds." ScienceDaily, 16 October 2014 <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/10/141016165953.htm>

We gratefully acknowledge that we are working, living and playing on the traditional Okanagan and Secwépemc (Secwépemcúl'ecw) territory.

We gratefully acknowledge the funding support of BC Healthy Communities Plan H and the City of Vernon Discretionary Grants in developing this Strategy.

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who contributed to this project!



(Image Source: <https://route97.net>)

Towards a Youth Friendly Vernon: The Incorporation of Children and Youth in Urban Public Spaces

PREPARED FOR: THE CITY OF VERNON
PREPARED BY: DAKOTA TRYHUBA

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, 2017



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My interest in this topic is greatly influenced by my vested love of urban centres. This paper has its origins in a community-based research (CBR) project for Dr. Jon Corbett's community engaged research class prepared for the City of Vernon. I would first like to thank Cleo Corbett for her incredible support and mentorship. Her wisdom and understanding of urban planning and child and youth friendly policy have been instrumental in completing this project and would not have been possible without her. Both Jon and Cleo were equally involved in all aspects of the research process in which they contributed their expertise on the subject matter. I am grateful for their contributions and for their feedback on my ideas. I gained a lot of knowledge and experience throughout the term working with them on this project. I would also like to thank the "child and youth friendly perspectives" committee (as I have been calling it that while I wait for an official committee name to be decided upon) for allowing me to work alongside them on this project and, as well, for inviting me to present my findings to them. Lastly, thank you to my program and my professor, Jon Corbett, for his support in the Institute for Community Engaged Research and help with this work.

According to Israel et al (2008), the aim of CBR is to increase the knowledge and understanding of a given phenomenon and integrate the knowledge gained with interventions and policy change in order to improve the health and quality of life of community members. Having completed this project, I can now truly say that the core of this project resided in CBR. I strongly hope that the City of Vernon is able to gain some valuable insight from the findings of this project that could be potentially integrated into their future community plans. Overall, my first experience engaging in CBR was positive, as I gained a lot of valuable skills and insight from both Jon, with his expertise on CBR, and Cleo, who is involved in what I hope will be my future career—urban planning. I look forward to hearing the final comments and suggestions from both parties on my final report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child and youth friendly communities (CYFC) is a framework developed by UNICEF in 1996. Since then, many cities across the world have begun to follow similar trends in launching initiatives at the local, regional, and national levels that aim in progressing towards more child and youth friendly cities. It is important to note that CYFC is not a model, but rather a framework consisting of nine “building blocks” in which a city must meet in order to be considered “child friendly”. Today, there are nearly 1,000 UNICEF child friendly cities across the world. In Canada, many cities have one or more of the nine “building blocks” and could do more to make the best decisions for their youngest citizens (UNICEF, 2017). These nine CYFC Building Blocks include:

- **Children’s Participation**
- **A Child friendly Legal Framework**
- **A City-Wide Children’s Rights Strategy**
- **A Children’s Right Unit or Coordinating Mechanism**
- **Child Impact Assessment and Evaluation**
- **A Children’s Budget**
- **A Regular State of the City’s Children Report**
- **Making Children’s Rights Known**
- **Independent Advocacy for Children**

Focusing on urban design and public spaces, this report discusses some of the ongoing youth friendly initiatives taking place within the City of Vernon and offers some insight on tangible examples of successful practices employed in other cities that could also be implemented in Vernon. Policies and practices that support child and youth friendly public spaces can be broken down into seven main categories and will guide the following report:

- **Land use planning**
- **Play in built environments**
- **Architecture**
- **Children and youth specific interaction spaces and places**
- **Placemaking**
- **Streetscapes**
- **Arts, culture, and entertainment**

The objective of this report is to highlight some of the current research, policy-making, and successful practices of child and youth friendly initiatives in Canada and globally. It is hoped that

this paper will ignite a dialogue concerning the integration of children and youth in all dimensions of urban life. Children and youth initiatives are becoming more widespread and effective in cities worldwide. In considering current and future actions, it is up to local governments to consider the diverse needs of children and youth and to integrate these needs into their current and future plans and policies. Such dialogue is only possible with a strong partnership between children, youth, and the communities in which they live.

This report has outlined the following recommendations:

- Encourage land use planning that promotes open spaces, pedestrian traffic, and age-appropriate independence and transportation.
- Explore alternative child friendly architectural designs.
- Strengthen the parks and open space system to become a more enjoyable place for those living, working, and visiting the area.
- Expand policies based on the design of lively, inclusive, creative, and livable neighbourhoods and communities.
- Ensure that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles are incorporated into all future planning and development.
- Promote the acquisition of public art and its display in public spaces through the use of cultural playgrounds, alleyway artwork, and non-traditional bus stop styles.
- Develop a neighbourhood crosswalk art project through active transportation.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
BACKGROUND	2
CURRENT AND RECENT STATISTICS	3
LITERATURE REVIEW	5
LAND USE PLANNING	7
PLAY IN BUILT ENVIRONMENTS	7
ARCHITECTURE	9
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPECIFIC INTERACTION SPACES AND PLACES	11
PLACEMAKING	12
STREETSCAPES	14
ARTS, CULTURE, AND ENTERTAINMENT	16
RECOMMENDATIONS	18
CONCLUSION	18
REFERENCES	20

LIST OF FIGURES

	PAGE
Figure 1. 2016 census population by age group (0-65+) in Vernon, BC	3
Figure 2. Figure 2. 2011 & 2016 population change by age group (0-65+) in Vernon, BC	4
Figure 3. 2011 & 2016 youth population change by age group (0-19) in Vernon, BC	4
Figure 4. Chapelfield play area, near Stirling, Scotland	8
Figure 5. Murergaarden, Norrebro, Copenhagen	8
Figure 6. Water elements	9
Figure 7. Village in the school yard	10
Figure 8. Giraffe childcare centre	10
Figure 9. Children's Bicentennial Park	10
Figure 10. OB kindergarten and nursery	11
Figure 11. Youth pod shelter	12
Figure 12. Using the street as a playground	15
Figure 13. Creative school zones	15
Figure 14. Colourful and playful crosswalks	15
Figure 15. Creative crosswalks	16
Figure 16. Reinventing alleyways	16
Figure 17. Skatepark murals	17
Figure 18. Bus stop styles (a)	17
Figure 19. Bus stop styles (b)	17
Figure 20. Cultural heritage playgrounds	17

LIST OF TABLES

	PAGE
Table 1. Two approaches to planning public spaces	14

INTRODUCTION

The challenges of designing and planning the twenty-first-century city are shared by nations across the globe (Bishop & Corkey, 2017). The increasing urbanization and densification apparent in cities around the world today, has also increased the social, economic, and environmental pressures on the people that inhabit them. Children and youth, between the ages 0 to 18, represent a vulnerable and marginalized segment of society, and are highly susceptible to having their needs and considerations overlooked by the prevailing adult agendas and priorities (Bishop & Corkey, 2017). Planners, designers, and developers of the urban environment should ask themselves, what might cities look like if the children and young people that live in them today were active participants in imagining the built environments of *their* future?

Child and youth friendly communities (CYFC) is an increasingly important concern for considerations of all levels of government, especially municipal. Municipal governments are the ones closest to children, their families, and their communities and they have also the tools necessary to make age friendly and child friendly communities turn to life. Such considerations for the incorporation of children and youth in today's societies is not only crucial due to the widespread recognition and advocacy of child and youth rights around the world—to ensure that they are considered in the decisions that ultimately affect them—but more importantly, because today's children and youth are the ones who inherit the cities and nations that present policy makers leave for them.

“A child-friendly community is important for a healthy community because it sets the stage for a good start in life, leading to healthy mental, social, and physical development, as well as healthy lifestyle habits. Child-friendly communities provide opportunities for physically active play and sport through recreation programs and playgrounds, learning opportunities through libraries and community events, and civic engagement and leadership development through municipal processes. Provided early in life, these opportunities allow children and youth to build the confidence, knowledge, and skills they need to thrive as they develop. Simply put, local conditions that support healthy children and youth also support the development of healthy adults and a healthy society overall.” (PlanH, 2017)

Cities and communities need to be inclusive and livable for all. In Canada, many cities are investigating the idea of becoming CYFC. By incorporating the needs of children and youth within its urban fabric, a municipality can create more progressive and livable communities that promote healthy and active lifestyles along with social integration. Historically, urban design has been

crafted around current market trends, economic growth and prosperity, middle-class interests, and the demands of the current community rather than those of future populations, especially children. Bourke (2014) notes that a gradual tendency towards children being less present at play in the public spaces of Western cities has been noted in the literature for some time. Therefore, it is the objective of this report to present several options for urban design in public spaces that take into account sustainability considerations and the demands of current and future populations through a child and youth friendly lens.

BACKGROUND

As Vernon looks ahead in planning and development, what offers the City its greatest hope? Many pillars of the past include prudent growth strategies, a robust economy, a high-quality of urban and rural lifestyle, and excellent business opportunities that continue to remain among Vernon's strongest assets. However, the City's vibrancy today and tomorrow depends upon another vital asset— its children and youth.

“Create a youth-friendly city” is one of the nine Guiding Principles of Vernon's Official Community Plan (OCP). The City has set forth the goal of “involving youth in planning and decision making [to] help ensure their needs and interests are being met” (City of Vernon 2011, p. 42). Vernon applied for funding through a PlanH program, which is a partnership of BC Healthy Communities Society and the Province of BC, Ministry of Health. Although Vernon was initially unsuccessful in receiving the grant through the program, BC Healthy Communities representatives viewed the proposed project as valuable and was granted \$10,000 in funding (City of Vernon, 2017). The Child Friendly City project aims to evaluate how Vernon is doing in supporting children and youth through working with community partners and examining topics relating to health, housing, transportation, parks and recreation, and urban design. Moreover, the project lays the foundation for research into the current and future needs of Vernon's children and youth. Councilor Juliette Cunningham stated that,

“In May 2012, the City of Vernon adopted the Children's Charter where Council declared that we would recognize them as equal citizens and engage them to actively participate in the decisions that affect them. The Child friendly project ensures their voices are heard, respected and valued by their local government.” (City of Vernon, 2017)

VERNON'S YOUTH-FRIENDLY CITY GOALS:

Vernon's Official Community Plan states three primary goals in achieving a youth-friendly city:

- Provide greater opportunities for young people to remain in the community post high school graduation through the provision of housing, transportation, recreation and employment options.
- Foster an environment whereby youth are engaged, respected and productive members of Vernon.
- Support youth engagement in formal decision-making processes, as well as informal participatory processes, as appropriate. (City of Vernon Official Community Plan, 2013, p. 123)

It is hoped that through taking on the CYFC initiative in the City of Vernon, it will lead the City towards a place where the voices of young people are acknowledged and included in the growth and development of the community in order to improve upon the lives of those in the present-day community as well as for the future.

CURRENT AND RECENT STATISTICS

The City of Vernon is truly a diverse and booming community—one that welcomes all ages. As a city, it is crucial to be equally mindful of a group that makes up approximately one-fifth of its residents. The latest 2016 Census indicated that, in Vernon, 20 percent (9,740) of its population is currently between the ages of 0 and 19 (Figure 1). In a city has a markedly higher percentage of people aged 65 years and over, it is likely that the youth of the City are often overlooked (City of Vernon, 2013). The time has never been more crucial for a focus on the needs of the younger generation and place these needs at the centre of their current and future community plans.

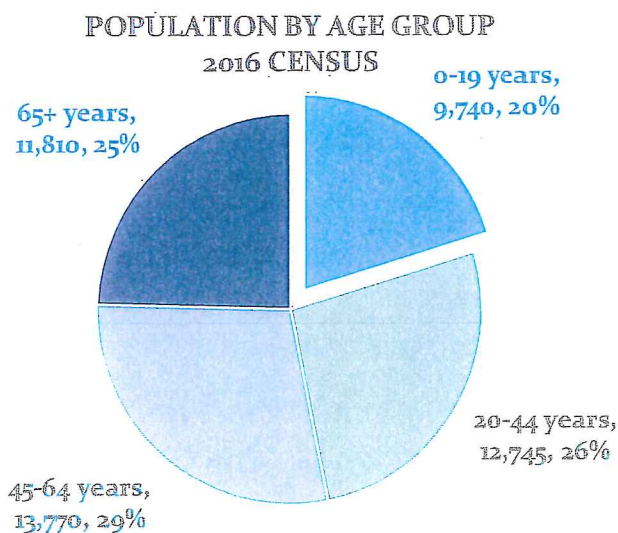


Figure 1. 2016 census population by age group (0-65+) in Vernon, BC.
(Statistics Canada, 2016)

Figure 2 displays the census population change from 2011 to 2016 in Vernon. It shows that there has been roughly a 7.2% increase in the overall population within this five-year period. If these

numbers are compared with the population change of the youth age demographic from 2011 to 2016 (Figure 3), there is a noticeably less increase in the overall youth population of only 3.4% (ages 0-19). This further substantiates the demand in Vernon to implement child and youth friendly initiatives within the City. By implementing youth friendly policies and initiatives, this could potentially increase the proportion of the younger age demographic and promote a more livable community for all age groups. Attracting families is vital to the survival of the City and can be successfully done through the design of public spaces and cities that encourage children and youth to explore, and more importantly, promote spaces where parents can feel confident in letting their child play unaccompanied. Both of these can help promote positive childhood experiences and potentially create a better sense of pride and community within the City landscape.

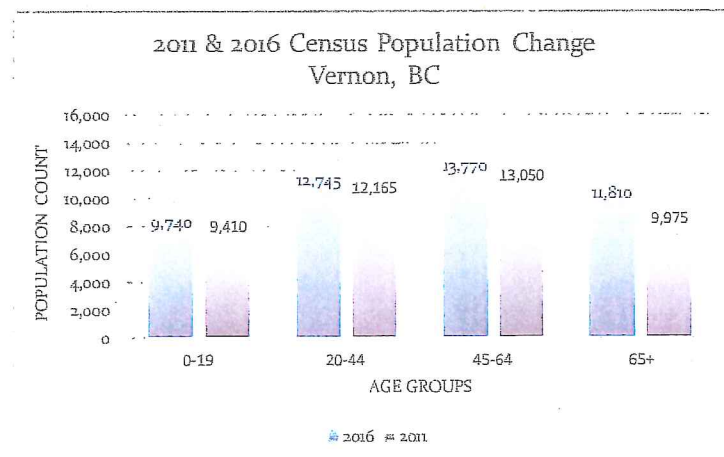


Figure 2. 2011 & 2016 population change by age group (0-65+) in Vernon, BC. (Statistics Canada)

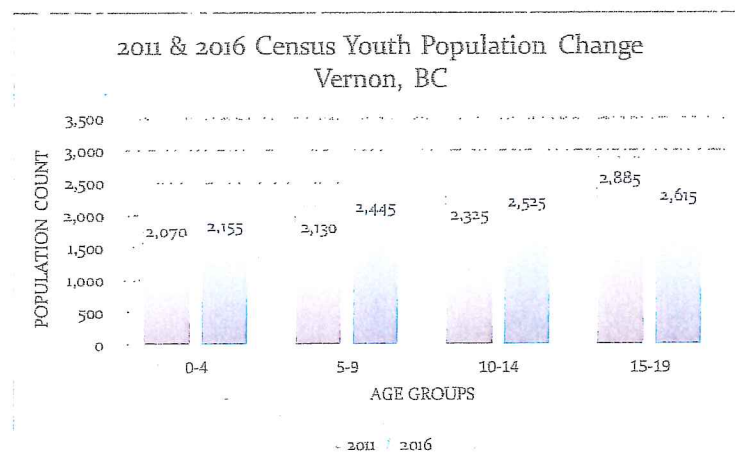


Figure 3. 2011 & 2016 youth population change by age group (0-19) in Vernon, BC. (Statistics Canada)

City staff are currently implementing a number of initiatives, programs, and services that deal with fostering greater youth engagement. Based on the past and current initiatives that have taken place within the city, Vernon is making tremendous progress in helping to facilitate and foster the participation of children and youth and make its City a safer and more livable place for all ages. The range of excellent City facilities and programs include: The Children's Charter, the Cities Fit for Children Summit, numerous transportation related policies and initiatives supporting youth, flexible zoning for daycares, on-going affordable housing initiatives, and capital infrastructure improvements contemplating children and schools. Collectively, these programs and initiatives have helped in promoting a positive and vibrant landscape throughout the community. In addition, Vernon is known around the province for creative and meaningful public participation in their engagement processes. To quote Cleo Corbett, Vernon's long-range city planner,

“We also have a policy to engage youth in all our public consultation. As an example, we engaged 4,000 residents in the creation of the Parks Plan. A healthy percentage were youth and younger adults. We are very proud of our engagement and using public feedback to drive policy and projects.”

LITRATURE REVIEW

“In an urban environment *being safe and having the freedom to move around safely is one of children and young people's basic rights, and feeling safe one of their basic needs. Their sense of safety influences their behaviour, the activities they take part in and the places where they spend their time. These things have a significant and cumulative impact on their health and well-being, their connections to their community and their outlook to the future.*”
(Wilks, 2010, p. 36)

Urban design refers to the design and shaping of buildings and public spaces to affect the physical arrangement, appearance and functionality of communities (City of Vernon, 2011). When buildings and public spaces blend well together, they contribute to a distinct sense of place that in turn create places that people want to visit and stay in (City of Vernon, 2011). Policies and practices that support child and youth friendly public spaces can be broken down into seven main categories:

- Land use planning
- Play in built environments
- Architecture

- **Children and youth specific interaction spaces and places**
- **Placemaking**
- **Streetscapes**
- **Arts, culture, and entertainment**

There is certainly a strong sense of validity in designing spaces—especially public spaces—with the child in mind. In 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in order to address the lack of representation by children and youth and, more importantly, give young people the basic human right to have their voices heard in all matters that affect them. Since its implementation, many cities around the world have jumped on the child and youth friendly bandwagon and have begun promoting child and youth friendly policies and initiatives within their city frameworks.

Malone (2002) notes that the presence of youth and their competing use of street space stations them in the front line of conflict over its use. As the privatization of public spaces continues to increase, there is a growing risk that young people will be excluded from places the “public” now occupy. Many children and youth become undesirable and a source of anxiety, while others are seen as needing protection thus placing them in an ambiguous zone in relation to space (Malone, 2002). As noted by Valentine (1996),

“Public space therefore is not produced as an open space, a space where teenagers are freely able to participate in street life or define their own ways of interacting and using space, but is a highly regulated—or closed—space where young people are expected to show deference to adults and adults’ definitions of appropriate behaviour, levels of voices, and so on—to use the traditional saying: ‘Children should be seen and not heard’.” (p. 214)

Furthermore, Derr and Kovács (2017) note that “families and children are among the least heard or considered in new urban development” (p. 31). Prominent journalists have bluntly questioned whether children even belong in cities (DePillis 2014), suggesting that cities should instead cater to the younger, well-educated adults with ‘healthy incomes’ who bolster urban development and economic growth (Derr & Kovács, 2017). Conversely, Tisdall and Bell (2008) suggest that it is *precisely* because children and youth are among the highest users of public services that they should be the ones to also have a say in the processes that influence these services. In addition, not only do young people have a basic right to contribute to the places they inhabit and will ultimately inherit, but their involvement can also lead to a greater dialogue about the livability of a city and can offer alternative perspectives for how to address urban issues (Derr & Kovács, 2017).

As such, the following discussions present tangible examples for the City of Vernon to consider that illustrate how urban design and public spaces can enhance the everyday lives and experiences of children.

LAND USE PLANNING

There is no doubt within the planning sphere that land use planning plays a significant role in the development of child and youth friendly communities. The form of development that a community subscribes to directly influences the types activities that take place within it. Therefore, it is important for neighborhoods and communities to try their best to avoid isolating young people in the form of sprawl as sprawl discourages the interaction and participation of children and youth within the local community. Sprawl also leads to increased exposure to the dangers associated with automobiles and elicits a sedentary lifestyle for children and youth (Gleeson & Sipe, 2006). Therefore, it is necessary for child and youth friendly neighbourhoods to employ mixed use zoning, nodal development, and compact and complete communities. Neighbourhoods that meet these prerequisites hence provide greater opportunities for young people to enjoy and independently have access to the breadth of urban life (Freeman, 2006). Moreover, recent studies show that young people are more open to diverse housing options, with access to open play spaces, friends, and urban amenities as all being more important than a specific housing type (Derr, & Kovács, 2017).

PLAY IN BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

Play should be the centre focus of the everyday lives and experiences of children and youth. Children, in general, enjoy playing and more importantly, it is a fundamental part of their overall growth and development. They typically prefer to be outdoors, however, the opportunities for them to do this are decreasing due to a lack of unique play spaces and growing concerns of children's safety within the built environment. This is especially evident in Vernon where there are limited parks and open spaces available for children to utilize. The current parks and open space system within the City is highly underutilized and needs to be improved to become a more enjoyable place for those living, working, and visiting the area (City of Vernon, 2011). The key to successful play spaces is high quality and good design in order to attract children and families and become a valued part of the local environment (Shacknell, Butler, Doyle, & Ball, 2008). Shacknell et al (2008) indicate ten essential principles for successful play spaces:

Successful play spaces...

- are 'bespoke'
- are well located
- make use of natural elements
- provide a wide range of play experiences
- are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
- meet community needs
- allow children of different ages to play together
- build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
- are sustainable and appropriately maintained
- allow for change and evolution. (p. 13)



Figure 4. Chapelfield play area, near Stirling, Scotland: This playground was a previously level site located on the edge of a village backing onto a farmland. It was transformed into a playable arrangement of mounds, ditches, and hollows, inspired by the archaeological history of the site. The new changes in the ground levels provide numerous opportunities for children to explore, climb, hide, and chase one another (Shacknell et al., 2008). (Image Source: Stirling Council Play Services)



Figure 5. Muregaarden, Norrebro, Copenhagen: This small, 1,050m² playground is located in an integrated institution that includes a nursery school, kindergarten and an after-school club. The space is located in a lower-income residential area and is also used outside operating hours by local children and young people, thus being subject to a lot of wear and tear. This playground is an oasis with organically-shaped planting, which complement the large surfaces of the surrounding buildings. The higher and lower levels are connected by a terraced slope and is a central feature in the playground. (Green Places, 2004). (Image Source: <http://www.sansehaver.dk>)

ARCHITECTURE

How people perceive their cities and urban environments plays a crucial role in the outlook of their everyday lives. As well, what children perceive has a large influence on their future relationship with their community. A child's perception is very different than an adult's, therefore, urban design and architecture should be carried out while wearing a child's lens. Urban design should provide children with the option to be creative and learn throughout every step they take within their community. Child friendly urban design is not limited to just creating more playgrounds for children to use, but rather, to design the city itself to *be* a playground in order to make public spaces more safe, healthy, and enjoyable for the children that occupy them. Often in cities, playgrounds are enclosed and/or isolated from other common areas which targets its use almost entirely to children. However, in child friendly urban spaces, the play areas are not separated from other usages, but are instead integrated into the public domain of the community to target a wider range of users and avoid being isolated by boundaries. Designers of these spaces should be cognizant of slow traffic, zone separations, green spaces, and interactive, creative, sense-oriented places. Four basic design guidelines are typically followed in order to make a living environment child-friendly: Safety, healthy, lively, and sustainability.



Figure 6. Water elements: Child friendly architecture can be as simple as an element of water running through a sidewalk. (Image Source: <http://architectforum.eu/child-friendly-public-space-in-ivano-frankivsk>)

The streetscape and historic downtown area of Vernon captures iconic examples of many architectural periods such as Mission Revival, Art Deco, and Post-Modern (City of Vernon, 2011). However, there are currently no policies in play in Vernon's City Centre Neighbourhood Plan about child-friendly design strategies. While design guidelines cannot possibly anticipate every contingency, new development should incorporate children into its architectural elements to contribute to a distinct sense of place. The result is the creation of places that people of all ages want to visit and stay in (City of Vernon, 2011).



Figure 7. Village in the school yard: Village-in-the-Schoolyard, built by MUTOPIA architectural firm in Denmark, is a transformation project of a private school with a twofold agenda: to improve the school's health profile, currently among the country's poorest, and to create a social meeting point across age and interest for the entire local community of Torup, a renowned Danish eco-village situated in the middle of the Halsnæs peninsula, a part of the Capital Region of Denmark. (Image Source: <https://www.archdaily.com>)



Figure 8. Giraffe childcare centre: A gigantic yellow giraffe pokes its head out from the rooftop of this childcare centre in suburban France. Built by Hondelatte Laporte Architectes in suburban France, the idea was to animate that urban landscape by using a child's imagination. (Image Source: <https://www.archdaily.com>)



Figure 9. Children's Bicentennial Park: Bicentennial Park (Parque Bicentenario) is just one of the many excellent urban parks that are spread throughout the city of Santiago. Children and youth can partake in recreational activities, investigate the collection of unique sculptures, as well as watch free concerts in the park's amphitheater. Designed by ELEMENTAL in Perú, Recoleta, Santiago Metropolitan Region, Chile. (Image Source: <https://www.archdaily.com>)

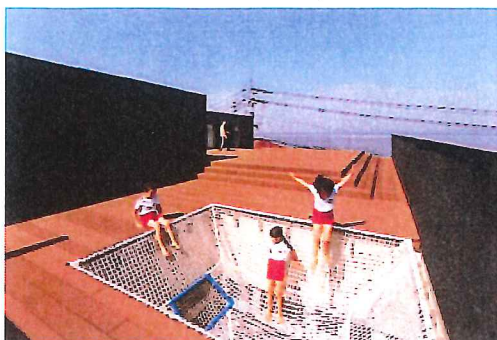


Figure 10. OB kindergarten and nursery: This kindergarten and nursery facility was designed to cater to the needs of the children in the surrounding area. The children who live around the site had a problem with a lack of physical activity and obesity. Designed by HIBINOSEKKEI + Youji no Shiro in Nagasaki, Japan, this firm set forth the goal of designing a building that improves the overall well-being of children from physical activity, to creativity, all the way to their diet and nutrition. (Image Source: <https://www.archdaily.com>)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPECIFIC INTERACTION SPACES AND PLACES

Youth engagement provides children and youth with physical, social, and emotional benefits that are necessary for their overall growth and development. For successful youth engagement to take place, there needs to be a welcoming environment for children and youth to gather. There is a distinct difference between place and space. More specifically, place refers to a physical location, while space is created by those who interact in it. Some important considerations listed by *Walking the Talk* (2016) to keep in mind when selecting child and youth friendly places:

- **Is the location easy for youth to find and get to?**
- **Do the hours of operation meet youth's needs and schedules?**
- **Is the building accessible for youth with disabilities and special needs?**
- **Is the physical space comfortable and appealing to youth?**
- **Will noise or use of the location disrupt others in close proximity?**
- **Is there a quiet area that youth can use to de-stress and practice self-care?**
- **Is there an opportunity for youth to make the place their own?**



Figure 11. Youth pod shelter: Sutcliffe's Youth Shelter is a multi-use pod shelter that is modular in design and includes a Bluetooth music player which is powered by pedals encouraging children to be active while hanging out with their friends. Places such as these that integrate technology, play, and social interaction go a long way in meeting children's social, physical, and emotional needs. To find out more about Sutcliffe's Youth Shelter, visit this link: https://cms.esi.info/Media/documents/55834_1351085473092.pdf (Image Source: <http://www.sutcliffeplay.co.uk/>)

PLACEMAKING

“Cities in North America have begun to look more like each other in recent years, and every place is beginning to look like every other place. Stores, buildings and streets are increasingly homogenous, and traffic dominates our lives, even in small towns. As driving has become the primary mode of transportation for people to get around, walking has become a lost art.”
 (Project for Public Spaces, 2000, p. 13)

Young people use public spaces just as much as anyone else, if not more—and yet, too often are young people not included in the process of placemaking and end up “loitering” in other spaces (Millard, 2015). Many communities frown upon loitering, which can create a negative image for young people and only contributes to the stigma surrounding them, especially those who are at risk (Millard, 2015). As both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving neighbourhoods, cities, or regions, placemaking encourages people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community (Project for Public Spaces, 2009). It is much more than just promoting better urban design, as placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing, evolution.

The Project for Public Spaces (2000) has indicated that “revitalizing streets for walking, gathering, and shopping is perhaps the most direct example of how placemaking can benefit a city or town economically” (p. 14). With community-based participation at its centre, an effective placemaking process capitalizes on a local community’s assets, inspiration, and potential, and results in the creation of quality public spaces that contribute to people’s health, happiness, and well-being. Vernon’s City Centre is fortuitous with rich history as a regional hub for commerce, agriculture, and transportation in the Okanagan Valley (City of Vernon, 2011). By zeroing in on these types of community assets, Vernon can create strong sense of place that influences the physical, social, emotional, and ecological health of individuals and communities everywhere.

In a survey conducted by the Project for Public Spaces (2009) about what placemaking means to people, they found that placemaking is a crucial and deeply-valued process for those who feel deeply connected to the places in their lives. Moreover, placemaking shows people just how influential their collective ideas and visions can be. It helps people re-imagine everyday spaces, and to see anew the potential of parks, downtowns, waterfronts, plazas, neighbourhoods, streets, markets, campuses, and public buildings (Project for Public Spaces, 2009). According to the Project for Public Spaces (2009),

Placemaking is:

- **Community-driven**
- **Visionary**
- **Function before form**
- **Adaptable**
- **Inclusive**
- **Focused on creating destinations**
- **Context-specific**
- **Dynamic**
- **Trans-disciplinary**
- **Transformative**
- **Flexible**
- **Collaborative**
- **Sociable**

The current approach to planning is “project-driven” and “discipline-based” (See Table 1). It’s where the project, whatever it may be, is the reason for action (Project for Public Spaces, 2000). However, the problem with this approach, according to the Project for Public Spaces (2000), is that it does not begin with anything that that community has defined as an issue, and it also does not start with a public space. It is a top-down action approach that does not provide residents with the opportunity to bring up issues they are concerned about—such as the safety of their children (Project for Public Spaces, 2000).

Two Approaches to Planning Public Spaces	
Current Approach	Alternative Approach
Project-driven	Place-driven
Discipline-based	Community-based

Table 1. Two approaches to planning public spaces (Project for Public Spaces, 2000, p. 31)

Therefore, in order to make sure that the community's vision is being realized, a fairly drastic change is needed in the way that communities are currently being planned. The planning process needs to begin by talking and working with the community. This alternative approach starts with the professionals evoking the community's concerns and more importantly, their ideas for changes to their local public spaces. The professionals' role then becomes implementing the vision of the community (Project for Public Spaces, 2000).

STREETSCAPES

The role of streetscapes is vital within communities, especially mid-sized ones such as Vernon. The impression visitors take away from a community is often influenced by their experience driving while through it (Rutgers University Bloustein School of Policy & Planning, 2016). As visitors pass through, they begin to visualize a series of images that will either be reflected positively or negatively, thus influencing their overall impression of the community and determining whether they will return in the future. Therefore, it is crucial that the outcomes of visitor (and local) impressions are characterized positively throughout the urban landscape to ensure a positive and prosperous community. This can be effectively done through different techniques of streetscape design. Street furniture, landscaping, parking areas, and property frontages are all streetscape elements that furnish the street environment and enhance community livability. Views to significant features can be emphasized, while the less desirable and unattractive views can be minimized through visual distractions (Rutgers University Bloustein School of Policy & Planning, 2016). In addition, by creating a community that enhances a more structured form, this also influences how its inhabitants experience it, "a more aesthetically pleasing community fosters local pride and encourages further beautification and improvement efforts (Rutgers University Bloustein School of Policy & Planning, 2016, p. 5).



Figure 12. Using the street as a playground: Creating a unique sense of place can be as simple as hanging a swing from a tree. It is inexpensive, a thoughtful gesture, and more importantly, it encourages children to loiter, play, and utilize the entire street as a playground. (Image Source: <http://spacing.ca/national/2014/03/03/twelve-ways-can-make-cities-child-friendly/>)



Figure 13. Creative school zones: A creative and unique way of improving the visibility of school zones within communities. This is a great way to increase the quality of community streetscapes while also drawing motorist's attention to school zones. (Image Source: safetygonessane.files.wordpress.com)

Figure 14. Colourful and playful crosswalks: This crosswalk in Montréal's Mont-Royal makes crossing the street convenient, safe, and fun for any age group. By simply adding French words onto the crosswalk, the City creatively integrated its French heritage into its streetscape design and more importantly, this forces motorists to slow down and become more alert. (Image Source: <http://spacing.ca/national/2014/03/03/twelve-ways-can-make-cities-child-friendly/>)



ARTS, CULTURE, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Public art provides an opportunity to celebrate and showcase local arts and culture, establish a unique identity, and enhance the community in ways that conventional streetscape elements simply cannot (City of Vernon, 2011). Arts and culture not only make considerable and necessary contributions to the social health of communities, but they are also powerful tools with which to engage communities in various levels of change (Creative City Network of Canada, 2005). More specifically, arts and culture enable public dialogue, contribute to the development of a community's creative learning, create healthy communities capable of action, provide a powerful tool for community mobilization and activism, and help build community capacity and leadership (Creative City Network of Canada, 2005). The City of Vernon already has policies in play in the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan (2011), stating that the City should “promote the acquisition of public art and its display in public spaces, especially at key intersections, parks, and gateways” (p. 43). Below are some creative and unique examples of what other cities have done to integrate more public art and culture into their cities that could be applied within the City of Vernon.

Figure 15. Creative crosswalks: A creative crosswalks public art project in Rochester, New York. This project was funded by a Citizen's Bank grant to reflect the sights, sounds, and values of the neighbourhood. The project involved the help from volunteers on the city's Community Paint Day which included roles such as painting, set-up, photography, outlining. This is a fun and creative way of bringing communities together and creating something unique and functional to the city. To read more about the project, visit this link:

<http://northwinton.org/2013/09/18/volunteer-for-creative-crosswalks-a-public-art-project/>

(Image Source: <http://creativecaseysblog.blogspot.ca>)



Figure 16. Reinventing alleyways: Alleyways are typically just wasted space and frankly, unsafe for people and children especially. This particular alleyway, just off of Fraser Street in South Vancouver cost little more than a few tins of paint and some creativity. Boosting city vibrancy and eccentricity, this reinvented alleyway provides a secure, visually appealing, and much-needed social gathering place for adults and children alike (Bruntlett, 2014). (Image Source: <http://spacing.ca/national/2014/03/03/twelve-ways-can-make-cities-child-friendly/>)

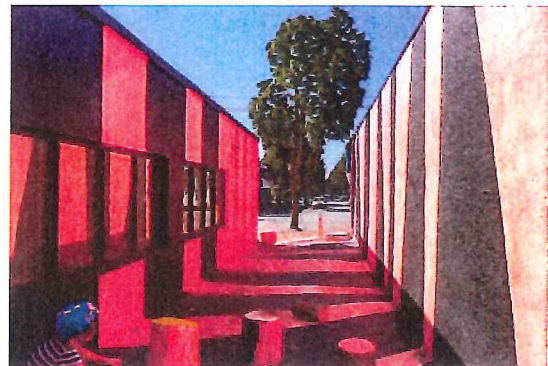




Figure 17. Skatepark murals: Murals in skateparks can help avoid unsightly amateur graffiti as well as promote the work of local artists. (Image Source: <http://calgaryskateboarding.com>)



Figure 18. Bus stop styles (a): Called the Obvious Bus Stop by its creators, Spanish Art Collective, Mmmm..., this towering wooden structure in Baltimore spells out BUS in a 14-foot-tall font. The bus stop is part of an initiative called TRANSIT: Creative Placemaking with Europe in Baltimore. The collective's mission was to "transform the dull experience of waiting for the bus to an entertaining, leisurely space in the middle of the hectic rhythm of the city." With the B a perfect rain shelter and the U and S ideal for adults to lounge and kids to climb and slide on, this bus stop is ideal for CYFC (Dovey, 2014). (Image Source: <http://jennybsspace.blogspot.ca>)



Figure 19. Bus stop styles (b): Created in Athens, Georgia, this creative design includes a bus stop shelter made of welded-together school buses. The sculpture, created by artist Christopher Fennell, is made from Athens school buses from 1962, 1972 and 1977 with an old city bus seat from Atlanta. (Image Source: <https://nextcity.org>)

Figure 20. Cultural heritage playgrounds: Integrating cultural heritage elements into a city's playground would help promote cultural heritage within the City as well as educate and remind children of the region's ancestry while they play. (Image Source: <https://www.royalparks.org.uk>)



RECOMMENDATIONS

The current focus is to create a safe and crime-free Vernon, where children and youth can have the freedom to enjoy the outdoors unaccompanied without feeling that they are in danger. Based upon research obtained through the comprehensive review of past and current practices and initiatives in cities around the world, the following seven recommendations address the key findings pertaining to land use planning, urban play spaces, architecture, children and youth specific interaction spaces and places, placemaking, streetscapes, and arts, culture, and entertainment.

- Encourage land use planning that promotes open spaces, pedestrian traffic, and age-appropriate independence and transportation.
- Explore alternative child friendly architectural designs.
- Strengthen the parks and open space system to become a more enjoyable place for those living, working, and visiting the area.
- Expand policies based on the design of lively, inclusive, creative, and livable neighbourhoods and communities.
- Ensure that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles are incorporated into all future planning and development.
- Promote the acquisition of public art and its display in public spaces through the use of cultural playgrounds, alleyway artwork, and non-traditional bus stop styles.
- Develop a neighbourhood crosswalk art project through active transportation.

CONCLUSION

Complete communities are possible. Cities can increase their densities and compact form for to families with children as well as revitalize their urban public spaces tailored to its youngest citizens. A city that is serious about becoming Child Friendly can draw from a number of sources, such as other communities that have started the process (McAllister, 2008). Children and youth bring creativity, energy, and practical, localized knowledge to the creation of more livable cities (McNulty & Ragan, 2004). Successful public spaces provide young people opportunities to learn, create, explore, imagine, play, and preserve their connection to the natural environment (McNulty & Ragan, 2004).

Certain steps that a City can take to help transform itself into a child friendly utopia is: designing streets that are pedestrian-friendly, encouraging the use of active transportation, and greening up its urban environment. Each of these are all different ways of designing with the child in mind; because when we design sustainable cities that are built for the future, then we are also designing

for its future users, in other words, the children and youth of today. Moreover, by employing initiatives such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), this will help to make these new and beautiful cities safe as well (Landscape Architects Network, 2015). Each of these design elements conspire to multiply the advantages that comes with creating a landscape that is attractive to families—from benefitting the local economy, to reducing crime, and more importantly, to making more sustainable and youth friendly cities (Landscape Architects Network, 2015). We are already seeing tremendous improvements in all of these transformative steps throughout the City of Vernon. This gives Vernon a huge head start on becoming a more sustainable and child friendly city in Canada.

Simple improvements to public spaces often catalyzes on itself in a positive feedback loop to promote further development and investment within an area (City of Vernon, 2011). While making these changes will not have an immediate effect on the everyday lives of children and youth, they will gradually reinforce youth friendly principles within the City and move it closer to becoming a UNICEF recognized CYFC. As the City of Vernon continues in its efforts to improve urban design—and all of its facets—within the City, it also seeks to gain more insight from its younger community members in order to strengthen these ongoing efforts because “[the] involvement of young people within the planning process not only addresses children’s rights and interest in participating in decisions that affect their lives, it also helps broaden the types of voices within the process” (Derr & Kovács, 2017, p. 31).

While there is still a road ahead in implementing this framework within Vernon and further in adapting it to the needs of the people that live within it, it is still very worthwhile for the community to consider. Aesthetic improvements and urban design enhancements make cities places where investment is strong and the streets are safe (City of Vernon, 2011). With the quality design of private and public spaces along with public input, we can in turn make a proud community that attracts more people to its city.

REFERENCES

- Bishop, K., & Corkey, L. (Eds). (2017). *Designing cities with children and young people: Beyond playgrounds and skate parks*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Bourke, J. (2014). "No messing allowed": The enactment of childhood in urban public spaces from the perspective of the child. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 24(1), 25-52. doi: 10.7721/chilyoutenvi.24.1.0025
- Bruntlett, C. (2014, March 03). 12 ways to make cities more child-friendly. *Spacing National*. Retrieved from <http://spacing.ca/national/2014/03/03/twelve-ways-can-make-cities-child-friendly/>
- City of Vernon. (2011). *City centre neighbourhood plan*. Vernon: City of Vernon.
- City of Vernon. (2013). *Official community plan*. Vernon: City of Vernon.
- City of Vernon. (2017). *City explores child friendly initiatives*. Retrieved from City of Vernon: <https://www.vernon.ca/activities-events/news-events/news-archive/city-explores-child-friendly-initiatives>
- Creative City Network of Canada. (2005). *Arts and positive change in communities*. Retrieved from [https://www.creativecity.ca/database/files/library/arts_positive_change\(1\).pdf](https://www.creativecity.ca/database/files/library/arts_positive_change(1).pdf)
- DePillis, P. (2014, August 19). It's hard to build cities for kids. But do they really need them? *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- Derr, V. & Kovács, I. G. (2017). How participatory processes impact children and contribute to planning: A case study of neighborhood design from Boulder, Colorado, USA. *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability*, 10(1), 29-48. doi: 10.1080/17549175.2015.1111925
- Dovey, R. (2014, September 19). Public art projects made these 7 amazing bus stops. *Next City*. Retrieved from <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/public-art-bus-stops-photos>
- Freeman, C. (2006). Colliding worlds: Planning with children and young people for better cities. In B. Gleeson & N. Sipe (Eds.), *Creating child friendly cities: New perspectives and prospects* (pp. 69-85). London: Routledge Ltd. doi: 10.4324/9780203087176
- Free Play Network. (2008). *Design for play: A guide to creating successful play spaces*. Retrieved from Play England: <http://www.playengland.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/design-for-playintroduction.pdf>

- Gleeson, B. & Sipe, N. (Eds.). (2006). *Creating child friendly cities: New perspectives and prospects*. London: Routledge Ltd. doi: 10.4324/9780203087176
- Green Places. (May, 2004). Nature's playground [Brochure]. Retrieved from <http://www.sansehaver.dk/brochurer/p28.pdf>
- Isreal, B. A., Schulz, A. J., Parker, E. A., Becker, A. B., Allen, A., & Guzman, J. R. (2008). Critical issues in developing and following CBPR principles. In M. Minkler & N. Wallerstein (Eds.). *Community-based participatory research for health: From process to outcomes* (2nd ed., pp. 47-66). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Landscape Architects Network. (2015, August 25). Why designing for children is vital to the future of landscape architecture [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://landarchs.com/why-designing-for-children-is-vital-to-the-future-of-landscape-architecture/>
- Malone, K. (2002). Street life: Youth, culture and competing uses of public space. *Environment & Urbanization*, 14(2), 157-168. doi: 10.1177/095624780201400213
- McAllister, C. (2008). Child friendly cities and land use planning: Implications for children's health. *Environments*, 36(3), 45-61.
- McNulty, L. & Ragan, D. (2004). *The youth friendly city*. Vancouver Working Group (Canada) & Environmental Youth Alliance. Vancouver: Vancouver Working Group.
- Millard, C. (2015, June 02). Young people and placemaking: Engaging youth to create community places [Web log post]. Retrieved from <https://www.pps.org/blog/young-people-and-placemaking-engaging-youth-to-create-community-places/>
- Municipality of North Perth Downtown Areas Revitalization and Beautification Strategy. (January, 2011). *Part two: Streetscape design*. Retrieved from https://www.northperth.ca/en/municipalservices/resources/FinalStreetscapeDesign_NorthPerthJanuary23-12.pdf
- PlanH. (2017). *Age-friendly and child-friendly communities*. Retrieved from <http://planh.ca/take-action/healthy-society/inclusive-communities/page/age-friendly-and-child-friendly-communities>
- Project for Public Spaces. (2000). *How to turn a place around: A handbook for creating successful public spaces*. New York, NY: Project for Public Spaces.
- Project for Public Spaces. (2009, December 31). *What is placemaking?* Retrieved from https://www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/
- Rutgers University Bloustein School of Policy and Planning. (2016). Rutgers University bike share: Connecting the Raritan health impact assessment. Retrieved from <http://>

bloustein.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Final-Draft-V3-1.pdf

Shacknell, A., Butler, N., Doyle, P., & Ball, D. (2008). *Design for play: A guide to creating successful play spaces*. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). ISBN 9781847752253

Statistics Canada. (2011). *Focus on geography series, 2011 census*. Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-csd-eng.cfm?LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=5937014>

Statistics Canada. (2016). *Census profile, 2016 census*. Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dppd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Ge01=POPC&Code1=0983&Ge02=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=Vernon&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Population&TABID=1>

Tisdall, E. K. M. & Bell, R. (2008). Included in governance? Children's participation in 'public' decision making. In E. K. M. Tisdall, J. M. Davis, M. Hill & A. Prout (Eds.), *Children, young people and social inclusion: participation for what?* (pp. 103-119). Bristol, UK: The Policy Press.

UNICEF Canada. (2017). *Child friendly cities*. Retrieved from UNICEF Canada: <https://www.unicef.ca/en/article/child-friendly-cities>

Valentine, G. (1996). Children should be seen and not heard: the production and transgression of adults' public space. *Urban Geography* 17(3), 205-220. <https://doi.org/10.2747/0272-3638.17.3.205>

Walking the Talk. (2016), *Create youth-friendly spaces*. Retrieved from <http://www.yetoolkit.ca/content/create-youth-friendly-spaces>

Community and School Gardens, Edible Landscapes
City of Vernon

Dec 11th, 2017

Eva-Lena Lang
Community Engaged Research GEO 491H
Jon Corbett, UBCO
Cleo Corbett, City of Vernon

The purpose of this paper is to introduce successful school garden programs and policies related to edible landscaping in the City of Vernon, and cities across Canada. Collaboration between the City of Vernon, the Regional District of the North Okanagan and community organizations is evident, and the programs I am going to present today have several common goals in which the city collaborates with community organizations. Edible landscapes are defined as “the use of food plants as design features in a landscape. These plants are used both for aesthetic value as well as consumption” (Napawan, 2009, p.2). In *Nourishing Communities* “research revealed six inter-related and overlapping motivations for school food gardens: community building and engagement; social development; curriculum and learning; environmental education; food literacy and health; and local food and sustainable agriculture linkages” (Knezevic, Blay-Palmer, Levkoe, Mount, & Nelson, 2017, p.100). Expanding awareness of local food production, providing opportunities for access and knowledge to nutritious food, and getting children and youth outside and engaged, are all goals that are accessible by providing edible landscapes and community gardens. Community gardens are more than providing food; they create community as people socialize and work together, teach entrepreneurial and horticultural skills, and the level of social capital is enhanced among their residents (Lyson, 2011).

In 2013, students around the province participated in the BC Adolescent Health Survey resulting in the McCreary Report. In many of the organizations I reviewed, the school programs available stated that school gardens enrich schools and neighbourhood's. According to this report, Okanagan youth engaged in activities, felt valued when their activities were meaningful, leading to better mental health (Peled et. al, 2014). Through engaging with community gardens, children and youth develop pride for their community, empowering them to be a part of their

community. Only 36% of youth reported feeling connected to their community (Peled et. al, 2014). Carolan states that “changing behaviour’s requires changing communities”, and creating inclusivity can change the outcome of community (2011, p.120). In many Okanagan communities, community social capital is lacking and school food gardens address this loss creating a venue for the community to gather and increase neighbourhood engagement (Knezevic, Blay-Palmer, Levkoe, Mount, & Nelson, 2017). The skills they learn in school garden programs are life-long skills. In 2013, youth in the Okanagan reported good physical and mental health, and felt connected to their family and community; and 77% of youth were a healthy weight (Peled et. al 2014). Physical activity, meaningful engagement, school connectedness, nutrition and healthy relationships were protective factors identified to improve the most vulnerable youth (Peled et. al 2014). Only 57% of students in the Okanagan felt like they were a part of the school (Peled et. al 2014).

The Edible Schoolyard Project, initiated by Alice Waters in Berkeley, California, has inspired many school garden programs around the world. Alice Waters “sought to engage students in terms of their own needs and interests, and to do so with gardening and the preparation of food”, and to create pride (Hassanein, 2012, p.471). An activist and chef, Alice Waters started the Edible Schoolyard Project in the 1990’s, at a middle school in Berkeley (The Edible Schoolyard Project, 2017). The project became extremely successful, teaching students about gardening and cooking, by providing hands on learning opportunities through class time in the garden and kitchen (The Edible Schoolyard Project, 2017). Programs and initiatives similar to the Edible Schoolyard Project create empowerment and responsibility among youth, and teach them to work cooperatively, and create a space for inclusivity (The Edible Schoolyard Project, 2017).

Below is a review of the City of Vernon Official Community Plan, Master Parks Plan and North Okanagan Food Systems Plan, in relation to a 'Child and Youth Friendly City' and support for community gardens and edible landscapes in the City of Vernon.

The guiding principles in the creation of a youth friendly city in Vernon's Official Community Plan include, to "attract, retain and support youth and young families by providing them with fulfilling employment, involving them in decision making processes and creating a city that they want to live in" (2008, p.6). As a youth friendly city, a goal for Vernon is to "foster an environment whereby youth are engaged, respected and productive members of Vernon" (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.123).

The City of Vernon supports and encourages a "healthy, accessible and resilient food system" supporting the development of community and neighbourhood gardens; and food access and food production programs (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.21). The North Okanagan Food System Plan states, "when people are eating well, it builds social capital and improves health and vitality of individuals and the community" (Baumbrough et. al, 2009, p. 9). It also supports strong neighbourhoods, encourages collaboration and partnerships and supports "sustainable rural and urban agricultural practices with the city, including... urban food production, wherever possible" (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.98). The Official Community Plan and its social planning "support programs that promote a healthy food system, create strong neighbourhoods (2008).

Identified as a shared space in the community, parks connect Vernon community members to nature, where they can play, relax and explore; contributing to the quality of life of its residents (Official Community Plan, 2008). As the population grows the City takes into account community amenities and services available, and it works "with the Greater Vernon Advisory

Committee and community organizations to provide cultural facilities and activities that meet the needs of the community" (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.104).

Recognized in the Vernon Parks Plan, community gardens are "important for food security and providing leisure opportunities", they play a role in food access, plots are popular and waitlists exist (Master Parks Plan, 2015, p.41). The Regional District of the North Okanagan manages contracts, maintains gardens, coordinates programs, and registration and fees are administered through Recreation Services (Masters Parks Plan, 2015). Recreation services and programming in Vernon are offered in agreement through partnerships between the City, schools and parks (Official Community Plan, 2008).

Two policies in the Official Community Plan fall in line with the goals of community and school gardens, "actively engage youth in stewardship opportunities in the community and identify other methods to include youth in community endeavors" and "support the creation of public and private spaces for youth to gather and socialize" (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.124).

Community services in the City of Vernon include working "with the School District, Okanagan College and other education services to provide education opportunities" to meet the needs of the community (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.107). The City of Vernon Parks Plan identified school district properties provide important space for additional recreation facilities and parks supply in the community (2015). Recreation Services provides programming and booking support for community facilities on School District properties; and the School District, City of Vernon and RDNO have 'A Joint Use' understanding (Parks Masters Plan, 2015). These partnerships will be reassessed to clarify responsibilities and roles to ensure community park and recreation needs are supported (Parks Masters Plan, 2015).

There are seven elementary schools, three secondary schools, Okanagan College and other educational programs in Vernon (Official Community Plan, 2008). The city consults the schools when identifying facility and service needs for the community (Official Community Plan, 2008). A supporting policy includes the city supporting and participating efforts to expand education opportunities for Vernon residents, and continue “supporting the use of schools, facilities and public facilities between different user groups in the community” (Official Community Plan, 2008, p.110). The North Okanagan has a rich agricultural history and increasing community awareness of Vernon's heritage is experienced through the landscape, structures and buildings here (Official Community Plan, 2008). Connecting youth to Vernon’s heritage and agricultural history could be done through community gardens.

The North Okanagan Food Systems Plan recognises that there is limited access to healthy and local foods, especially for low income earners, and community food programs are under-resourced (Baumbrough et. al, 2009). And, according to the North Okanagan Food Security Assessment and Action Plan, food security in the North Okanagan has been an issue (Nyberg-Smith, 2007). There are opportunities to improve food security by adopting policies to provide edible landscaping and gardens, providing schools with more gardening opportunities for the school and community and to improve food literacy (Baumbrough et. al, 2009). It also recognizes that community food programs provide levels of food security and consumer food literacy (Baumbrough et. al, 2009).

The Master Parks Plan (2009) recommends that Vernon continue working with RDNO to provide community gardens and make the following considerations for community garden plots: semi fertile land with the ability to build soil, vehicle and bike access and parking, watering and irrigation options, and semi-private space, including space in new multifamily developments. It

also recommends continuing to promote and plant native, low maintenance species and to introduce edible plants in parks (Master Parks Plan, 2015, p.54).

The Food Action Society of the North Okanagan (FASNO) supports and organizes several successful programs in the North Okanagan. For the last 3 years FASNO has been running the Cook It, Try It, Like it program, and before that it was run by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Okanagan (L. Boyd, personal communication, November 14th, 2017). The program is run at various school locations, the Boys and Girls Club, Maven Lane and Salvation Army (L. Boyd, personal communication, November 14th, 2017).

Samara Sonmor, executive director of FASNO, mentioned that FASNO operates two community gardens (East Hill Community Garden, West Vernon Community Garden) and Patchwork Farms a community urban agriculture demonstration site in Vernon (S. Sonmor, personal communication, October 24th, 2017). In March, a \$19,430 age-friendly grant from the province was received by the Vernon Community Garden to improve the age-friendly community garden project (Bouey, 2017). Produce grown in Patchwork Farms' collective gardening program is donated to community food programs (S. Sonmor, personal communication, October 24th, 2017). In addition, FASNO provides educational garden programs, teaches members how to grow food, engages children and others from the vulnerable sector to garden, and creates access to fresh produce (S. Sonmor, personal communication, October 24th, 2017). Participants of the community gardens learn how to grow food, connect with other community members, have access to fresh, nutritious food, and their physical and mental well-being increases through increased outdoor physical activity, and social inclusion (S. Sonmor, personal communication, October 24th, 2017). The Food Action Society, in partnership with the Regional District of the North Okanagan (RDNO) and the City of Vernon, created the

“Community Gardening in Greater Vernon Gardener Handbook (S. Sonmor, personal communication, October 24th, 2017). This document provides information and rules around the use of the community gardens run by FASNO. In the 2016 season, 770 people were reached at all three gardens, including community garden participants, volunteers, visitors, and event and workshop attendees from the community; and 1,800 pounds of food was grown at Patchwork Farms (S. Sonmor, personal communication, October 24th, 2017). A need for more community gardens in Vernon exists as all the gardens are fully subscribed (S. Sonmor, personal communication, November 9th, 2017). Currently there is a 10-person waitlist and it is expected to increase in the spring (S. Sonmor, personal communication, November 9th, 2017). To implement and run the various programs, FASNO’s partnership with the City of Vernon and the Regional District of the North Okanagan is important. The Social Planning Council advises the FASNO board on all of our programs, including community gardens (S. Sonmor, personal communication, November 9th, 2017). Gardeners register for available plots after January, 1st, each year at the recreation center (S. Sonmor, personal communication, November 9th, 2017). FASNO has a close relation with the RDNO as they provide funding for coordination, maintenance, needed tools and supplies every year to keep the gardens running (S. Sonmor, personal communication, November 9th, 2017).

As a public health initiative school gardens “can increase healthy lifestyles, food literacy and nutrition education”(Knezevic et al., 2017, p.100). School District #22 has several successful school garden and food programs. The challenge is these programs rely on parent and teacher volunteer’s and at times have not had the necessary resources available (K. Wickum, personal communication, November 24th, 2017). Silver Star Elementary school has two community gardens, and this space is rented from the City of Vernon (L. Kadach, personal communication,

November 27th, 2017). Other schools outside of the City of Vernon have successful programs. Kindergarten and elementary students from JW Inglis Elementary School in Lumby, work with seniors in the intergenerational gardening in the Saddletown community garden (K. Wickum, personal communication, November 24th, 2017). Lavington Elementary School Community garden is on a donated property adjacent to the school (D. Gamage, personal communication, November 27th, 2017). Parent and student volunteers water and maintain the gardens in the summer and the whole school gets together at the end of fall to enjoy soup made with products from the garden (D. Gamage, personal communication, November 27th, 2017). Funding for the program and seeds, comes from grants, and pumpkin and squash sold by donation, (D. Gamage, personal communication, November 27th, 2017).

Edible landscape and garden policies in the following communities have several similarities. In most communities, community members are required to submit an application to their municipality office. The requirements to develop a community garden in liaison with a city include the following: proof of comprehensive liability insurance, funding and depending on the community, a specified time commitment, a garden design and operational plan. The community gardens have to have enough volunteers and support from neighbours around the specified site. A city will help identify a suitable location for the community garden, requiring an accessible location for all, close to public transportation, walking paths and has direct sunlight.

The City Hall in Victoria and Kamloops have planted edible plants in their green spaces and are promoting urban food production. A goal in the 'Food and Urban Agriculture Plan' for the City of Kamloops includes increasing sustainable urban and local food production, including the following action, "continue to expand the use of edible landscaping in the City parks and around civic facilities, where appropriate" (2015, p. 24). Baltimore, Maryland and Bainbridge Island,

Washington are also taking initiative to grow more food on city land, and Darrin Nordahl discusses if it is the cities responsibility to provide 'public produce' as a way to promote healthy eating and increase food security, as the city provides many services to its community (2010). Through a program run by the Yukon Government Environment Department (Yukon Youth Conservation Corp), the Riverdale Whitehorse Community Centre hired summer students to maintain the edible landscaping garden (Riverdale Community Association, 2017). After the community expressed a desire for the city to move towards edible landscaping, the city developed their parks with that in mind through the Communities in Bloom initiative (Communities in Bloom, p. 26). They used a variety of berries and tree fruits, and educational content was provided by displaying signs (Communities in Bloom, n.d., p. 26). The City of Kingston maintains an annual fund to support and maintain community gardens, and provides grants to help start and manage edible landscapes (City of Kingston, 2017). Both, the City of Victoria and Kingston state that foraging from edible landscapes for consumption is permitted at the participant's own risk. A couple of years ago the City of Vernon hired a Food Systems Coordinator. The City of Victoria has several programs, including edible landscaping growing herbs and fruits at Fishermans Wharf (V. Lavallee-Picard, personal communication, November 30th, 2017). The city is working with the community to improve green space and provides community members with the opportunity to start community gardens, and plant fruit trees in city parks (V. Lavallee-Picard, personal communication, November 30th, 2017). Liability insurance is no problem as community gardens are affiliated with community organizations that already have liability insurance (V. Lavallee-Picard, personal communication, November 30th, 2017). Two new programs include the Urban Fruit Tree Project and the Boulevard Gardening (V. Lavallee-Picard, personal communication, November 30th, 2017).

There are several successful school and community garden programs which have been developed through the collaboration of community organizations and cities. Fresh Roots is a non-profit society in Richmond working in partnership with the Vancouver School Board, engaging youth and the community in growing food, and teaching food literacy on two half acre farms at VanTech and David Thomson Secondary Schools (Fresh Roots, 2017). The food that is grown at these Schoolyard Market Gardens is sold to the community through the Salad Box program, restaurants and school cafeterias (Fresh Roots, 2017). The Edible Garden Project works out of an office in the North Shore Neighbourhood House, in North Vancouver. The Edible Garden Project (EGP) started in 2005 after Vancouver Coastal Health identified a gap in access to local produce on the North Shore, and a group of individuals created the EGP (Edible Garden Project, 2017). The partnerships include: Vancouver Coastal Health, District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, the North Shore Recycling Program, community agencies and volunteers (Edible Garden Project, 2017). The City of North Vancouver played a role in securing funding (Edible Garden Project, 2017). Education programs are available for people of all ages at Loutet Farm, a social enterprise that has farm gate sales available two times a week (Edible Garden Project, 2017). Through their Sharing Gardens program food grown is shared with those in need (Edible Garden Project, 2017). When the organization first started, funding was provided by various businesses, private donations, Environment and Climate Change Canada, foundations, banks, municipalities, North Vancouver and West Vancouver (Edible Garden Project, 2017).

Communities face a number of challenges implementing community garden and edible landscape initiatives. Although there are challenges, the opportunities outweigh them. There are many resources available to educate and support initiatives. The BC Climate Action Toolkit and

the Ministry of Community Development and Union of British Columbia Municipalities produced a toolkit¹ to provide local governments with background information about community gardens, templates and other useful resources related to community gardening. There is opportunity for the City of Vernon to engage children and youth through community gardens and other edible landscaping programs, provide land for gardens and include edible landscaping in parks with educational signage for children. Though the program is already active in the community, the Cook It, Try It, Like It program could be implemented in after school or day camp programming as it includes an educational component, including a lesson on food miles and a planting session (Linda Boyd, personal communication, November 14th, 2017). Creating a community where young people are engaged, benefits both youth and their community.

¹ Dig It Community Garden Guide: How Local Governments Can Support Community Gardens (2009).
<http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/resource/dig-it-community-garden-guide-how-local-governments-can-support-community-gardens>

References:

- Baumbrough, B., Aasen, W., Gunner, A., Whiting, D., & Kalina, L. (2009). *A North Okanagan Food System Plan*. Retrieved from http://www.farmlandinfo.org/sites/default/files/no_food_system_plan_090127_1.pdf
- Bouey, K (2017). *Community garden funds - Vernon News*. Retrieved from <https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/191377/Community-garden-funds>
- Carolan, M. (2011). *Embodied food politics*. Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited.
- Communities in Bloom (n.d.). *Whitehorse Communities in Bloom*. Retrieved from www.whitehorse.ca/home/showdocument?id=5550
- City of Kingston (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/facilities/community/community-orchard>
- Edible Garden Project (2017). *Building a Community Network That Grows, Harvests, and Shares Local Food on the North Shore*. Retrieved from <http://ediblegardenproject.com/>
- Fresh Roots (2017). Retrieved from <http://freshroots.ca/>
- Hassanein, N. (2012). Practicing food democracy: a pragmatic politics in transformation. In Counihan, C. & Williams-Forsen, P. (Ed.), *Taking food public: Redefining foodways in a changing world*. (pp.461-474). New York, New York: Taylor & Francis.
- Food and Urban Agriculture Plan (2015). *City of Kamloops, Food and Urban Agriculture Plan*. Retrieved from <http://www.kamloops.ca/socialdevelopment/foodsecurity.shtml>
- Knezevic, I., Blay-Palmer, A., Levkoe, C. Z., Mount, P., & Nelson, E. (Eds.). (2017). *Nourishing Communities*. Cham: Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57000-6>

- Lyson, T. (2012). Civic agriculture. In D. Young & T. Princen (Ed.), *The localization reader: Adapting to the coming downshift*. (pp.117-127). USA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Master Parks Plan (2015). *Vernon Masters Park Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.vernon.ca/parks-recreation/parks-fields-beaches/parks-master-plan>
- Napawan, N. C. (n.d.). Design & Planning of Edible Landscapes (As Public Open Space). University of California Davis. Retrieved from ucanr.edu/sites/ucmg2014conference/files/200430.pdf
- Nordahl, D. (2010). Smart city governments grow produce for the people. Retrieved from <http://grist.org/article/food-smart-city-governments-grow-produce-for-the-people/>
- Nyberg-Smith, R. (2007). *North Okanagan Food Security Assessment and Action Plan*. Retrieved from http://www.socialplanning.ca/food_security.html
- Official Community Plan (2008). *Official Community Plan, City of Vernon*. Retrieved from <https://www.vernon.ca/homes-building/neighbourhood-planning/official-community-plan>
- Peled et. al, (2014). *Listening to BC youth: regional results from the Adolescent Health Survey II*. Burnaby, BC: McCreary Centre Society.
- Riverdale Community Association (2014). Retrieved from <https://riverdalecommunityassociation.wordpress.com/about/>
- Riverdale Community Association (2017) Retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1527026604010904&id=330120237034886&substory_index=0

YOUTH RECONCILIATION

**EMPOWERING
YOUTH**



**ACKNOWLEDGING
TRUTH &
RECONCILIATION**



**A PROPOSAL TO VERNON CITY COUNCIL
UNITED WAY, THE NORTH OKANAGAN EARLY YEARS COUNCIL,
VERNON FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
AND YOUTH**

Anne O'Grady | Geography 491H | Community Engaged Research | December 2017

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

"A collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. Community Based Research begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change"



Community Based Research (CBR) is by definition a partnership that equitably involves community, practitioners and academic researchers in all aspects of the process.* CBR promotes co-learning, capacity building and empowering processes for social justice.

This particular tripartite partnership includes the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO), the City of Vernon, and myself, Anne O'Grady, as UBCO student.

The City of Vernon has a Youth and Child Friendly mandate, expressed in their Official Community Plan (OCP)* and itemized in a plan including policy assessments, research of best practices and community engagement.

Focus is indicated as health, housing, parks and recreation, transportation and urban design.*

University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO)'s Institute for Community Engaged Research (ICER) shares "a commitment to research that supports diversity, equity, and social justice".*

I state my position in furthering the Calls to Action (CTA) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) vested in social justice. Herein, justice reflects on colonial society and governance imposed in a settler state, where justice is not served by looking backward. Context can be enlightening. Peer engagements can be inspiring. Leadership, optimism and participation can provide for a just and equitable future.

Engaging civic leadership, the wisdom and direction of the TRC, and the energy and optimism of youth in a profound synergy to generate social justice.

A RENEWED RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Canada



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

The Government of Canada

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the federal department responsible for meeting the Government of Canada's obligations and commitments to First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and for fulfilling the federal government's constitutional responsibilities in the North expresses that

*"The Government of Canada is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership."**

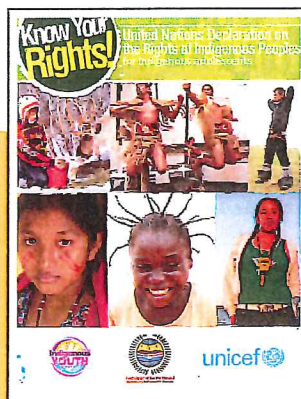
This includes the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by Canada in 2012.* UNDRIP provides an essential tool for reconciliation as it addresses human rights, racism, and profound harm to Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world.

*"Article 21.2: States shall take effective measures and where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities."**

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, in collaboration with UNICEF, the UN and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus have published a youth-friendly text version aimed at youth 13-18.



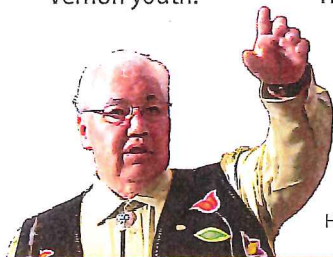
THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

The TRC has witnessed and acknowledged Indian Residential School (IRS) experiences, impacts and consequences. These include the national crime of cultural genocide, child abuse and neglect. The TRC seeks to contribute to truth, healing and reconciliation, promoting social justice in **94 Calls to Action** (CTA).

The TRC Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future; Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015 was

developed to address the genocide of Canada's Indian Act Residential School system that was—and continues to be—the hallmark tool of their colonial assimilation agenda.* The TRC report was developed and broadcast in summary with 94 Calls to Action for sweeping change—all tenable and applicable, feasible, impactful, appropriate and directed—actionable by Canadian society of all ages.* The TRC provides enlightened opportunity to address Indigenous urban poverty, homelessness, addiction, unemployment, violence and incarceration. All of these impact youth, including Vernon youth.

This research provides opportunity for Vernon youth to embrace a national call for justice, in small acts and large.



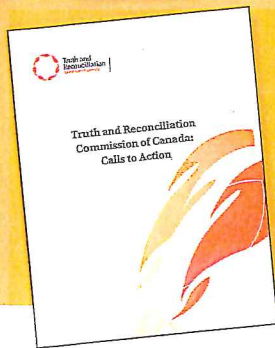
Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, TRC Chair



“This flame represents the fire of reconciliation that we’ve lit in this country.”*

“Establishing a strong foundation for reconciliation depends on the achievement of individual self-respect and mutual respect between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. While this is true for adults, **it is particularly urgent with regard to young peoples; they are the lifeblood of reconciliation into the future.** We believe that children and youth must have a strong voice in developing reconciliation policy, programs, and practices into the future. It is therefore vital to develop appropriate public education strategies to support the ongoing involvement of children and youth in age-appropriate reconciliation initiatives and projects at community, regional, and national levels.”*

“A lot of that is going to fall to young people, to young students, to young adults today who are going to be taking over, [...] the levers of decision making and the levers of policy making and law making.”¹



“There must be dialogue and action in communities across the country [...] Collective efforts from all peoples are necessary to revitalize the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canadian society.”*

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

THE LANDS WE SHARE

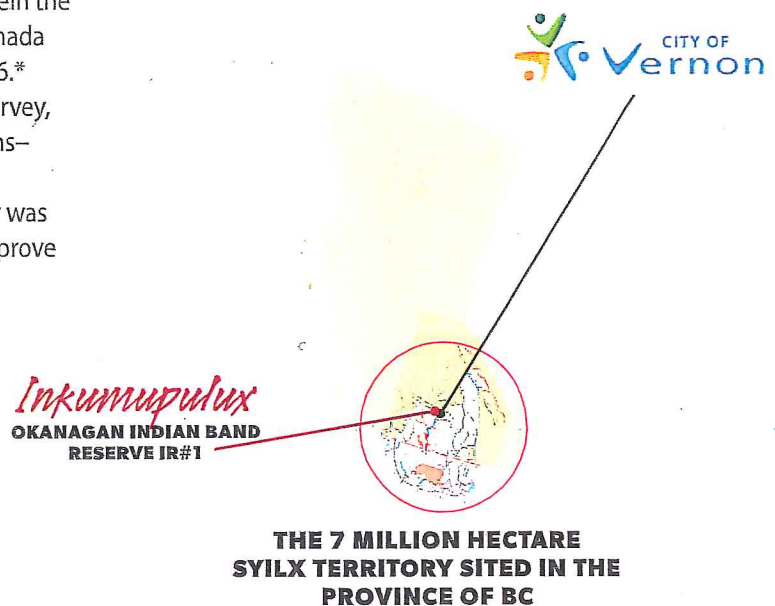
CITY OF VERNON AND ADJACENT OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND RESERVE

The city of Vernon is situated in south central British Columbia on the traditional unceded territory of the Indigenous *Syilx* (Okanagan) Nation. The *Splatsin* tribe of the *Shuswap* Nation's traditional territory is also adjacent. Vernon city's history is of 150 years. The *Syilx* have resided here for over 10,000 years.*

The Okanagan valley—first visited by Europeans as early as 1811—was integrally a part of the economic and resource-extractive fur trade and brigade route super-imposed upon what is now known as Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) Okanagan Trail.* Religious/missionary conquests, gold mining, and colonial land acquisitions eventually created political and social land-based tensions wherein the nationalistic, expansionist government of Canada legislated and imposed the Indian Act of 1876.* Reserve commissioners were appointed to survey, constrain and allocate the *Syilx*—and all Indians—via the Indian reserve system.* A permanent urban-rural racial and cartographic boundary was established. Reserve boundaries continue to prove restrictive and challenging.

The Okanagan Indian Band is one of eight member communities of the *Syilx* peoples.* INAC reports the OKIB population of approximately 1700 on 11,000 hectares.* The OKIB reserve is comprised of several land parcels, the largest being *Inkumupulux* or Head of the Lake. Priest Valley IR#6 is situated on 33 hectares within the City of Vernon on the mouth of Okanagan Lake, adjacent to the city public Kin Beach recreational area.*

Vernon townsite was settled as early as 1867 and gained the name of "Vernon" in 1885.* It is a colonial city whose history and economies are celebrated in its architecture and museums.



“Inspiring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share.”*

URBANIZATION AND YOUTH

20TH C

THE CENTURY OF THE CITY: SPACES OF OPPORTUNITY



**BY 2030 60% OF ALL URBAN DWELLERS WILL
BE UNDER THE AGE OF 18***

Carli cites the 20th century as the *Century of the City* where the city holds spaces of opportunity.* The United Nations youth cohort projections provide an acute sphere of both opportunity and challenges.

“Having a right to the city [...] turns residents into citizens.”*



THE CITY OF VERNON HAS FOUNDED ITS GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON

“Creating a welcoming city that addresses discrimination and celebrates diversity in all its forms.”*

ABORIGINAL URBAN YOUTH



ABORIGINAL URBANIZATION:
56%*

According to Carli and the Saskatchewan Institute, Aboriginal urbanization is world-wide phenomena where Indigenous people are often forgotten in cities.*

Twentieth century evolutions and developments including social changes, technologies, Indigenous resistance, resilience and values including fecundity rates have culminated in an emerging unprecedented and substantial urban aboriginal population. According to Stats Canada, First Nations populations continue to grow both on and off reserve.* They will be housed, educated and participating in urban society. These urban Indians will be voting and paying taxes in the civic community.



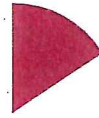
ABORIGINAL POPULATION:
FASTEST GROWING POPULATION IN CANADA*

Urban aboriginal youth face challenges of:

- inclusion
- integration
- identity
- discrimination
- violence
- housing



**INDIGENOUS WOMEN
MAKE UP 4% OF THE
CANADIAN FEMALE
POPULATION***



**16% OF WOMEN
MURDERED IN CANADA
BETWEEN 1980 AND 2012
WERE INDIGENOUS***



**ABORIGINAL MALES
ACCOUNTED FOR 31% OF
ALL MALE YOUTH IN THE
CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM***

“Human rights, hope, opportunity and human flourishing are not the privilege of one group or one segment of Canadian society; they belong to all of us.”*

COMPETENCY

KNOWLEDGE | CONVICTION | CAPACITY FOR ACTION

The City of Vernon has made steady, incremental and fiscal advances towards a Child and Youth Friendly mandate.

The City of Vernon

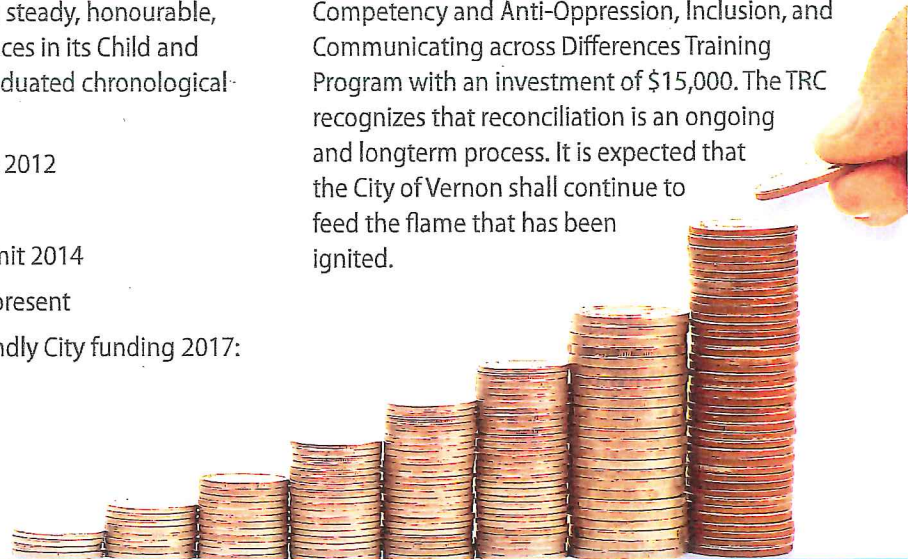
Vernon's population is approximately 40,000 with a 1996 to 2016 growth rate of 21.6%. Twenty percent are youth 0-19*. It is a strong and dynamic city with business, recreation and lifestyle opportunities and amenities. Climate, environment, transportation, education and housing provide attractive conditions for quality of life—for tourism, business and for families.*

The City of Vernon has made steady, honourable, fiscal and appreciated advances in its Child and Youth Friendly mandate. Graduated chronological phases include:

- Children's Charter of Rights 2012
- National Child Day
- Cities Fit For Children Summit 2014
- Policy Framework 2015 to present
- PlanH Child and Youth Friendly City funding 2017: \$10,000

The October 2017 Report to Council cited that three major steps towards TRC **CTA #57** and **#92** have been approached.* Council has adopted a trial First Nations Recognition Statement directed towards the *Syilx* and the *Splatsin*. Aboriginal Elders will also be invited to participate in a traditional welcome in ceremony and special events.

TRC **CTA #57** shall be embraced with staff Cultural Competency and Anti-Oppression, Inclusion, and Communicating across Differences Training Program with an investment of \$15,000. The TRC recognizes that reconciliation is an ongoing and longterm process. It is expected that the City of Vernon shall continue to feed the flame that has been ignited.



FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS/ASSETS



BEST PRACTICES: CTA AND TRC ENGAGEMENTS

A nation-wide inventory of peer best practices and engagement in the TRC CTA situates the city of Vernon in an accountable position as it vies for business and residential growth. Inspiration can be found in knowing the competition, and following the examples of astute leaders.

Following is an inventory of CTA and TRC engagement of major and lesser cities in Canada where Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary and Edmonton set the bar in declaring a year of reconciliation. However, smaller cities are also engaging in large ways.

Vancouver

The City of Vancouver leads, embraces and realizes duty and opportunity in cultural and capacity training for staff, appointment of an Aboriginal relations manager, broad recognition of unceded First Nations territories and their innovative Youth Matters advocacy for Indigenous youth coalition.

Vancouver's Reconciliation process has three components: cultural competency, strong relationships that recognize of the history and heritage of Indigenous peoples, and effective transparent and flexible relationships.

The Vancouver Parks Board specifically addressed **CTA #48**, adopting UNDRIP as a reference framework, reviewing monuments and memorials to ensure integration of Indigenous history, and heritage. A process is underway to rename Stanley Park's Siwash Rock—deemed as a symbol of dispossession and disrespect to the native peoples.

Vancouver has proudly documented and displayed its reconciliation practice on its website:

*"This is going to make the difference for how Vancouver is seen on the world stage. The more we indigenize, the more we send the message that Vancouver has unique place on the world stage because no one else has this."**

Toronto

Toronto City Council has endorsed all **CTA**. The City explicitly recognizes its role to implement concrete relevant actions including scholarships, Indigenous cultural competency training, adopting UNDRIP, heritage preservation, and in hosting the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) **CTA #88**.

Calgary

Calgary has performed an outstanding amount of strategic reconciliation research and documentation in their Calgary Urban Aboriginal Affairs Committee's (CUAAC) *White Goose Flying Report*. The report acknowledges Aboriginal urban growth, the contemporary significance of its history and its future planning implications, stating

*"Great neighbourhoods are built on diverse people coming together, sharing the land and building community."**

Calgary is renaming the historical Langevin Bridge as a sincere act of reconciliation.

Edmonton

Edmonton has invested in public art for an Indigenous Art Park, **CTA#83**, expressing

*"Our future, and the well-being of all our children rests with the kind of relationships we build today."**

Winnipeg

Winnipeg has developed an extensive *Partnership Accord* and a Roots Youth Exchange with a three year timeline to achieve five specific CTA-influenced goals. Their vision statement is

*"to make out city a better place to live based on mutual respect, equal opportunity, and hope."**

Saskatoon

Saskatoon is cited as *ahead of the curve* on reconciliation, with a reconciliation flag raised at City hall and the publication of a cultural guide for building partnerships and protocol. Commensurate with **CTA#14/#17/#79** and a blueprint renaming movement within the city, a Saskatoon Public Library branch has been renamed, honouring Dr. Freda Ahenakew, patron of Cree language preservation.

There is also attention to rename the new North Commuter Parkway and the downtown Traffic Bridge. A grade seven school class has written to city council, asking that the Traffic Bridge be renamed to honour reconciliation. The Central Urban Metis Federation has asked that the adjacent Victoria Park be renamed Reconciliation Park.

Kelowna

Vernon's neighbouring city of Kelowna—the largest community in the Regional District cites a population of 127,500 –the fastest growing city in Canada. Kelowna's response to the TRC CTA is documented in Report to Council, January 2017. wherein the city has engaged the *Syilx* cultural En'owkin Centre and University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO)'s Institute for Community Engaged Research (ICER) to address reconciliation.

University of British Columbia Okanagan

University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO) has embraced place naming, choosing campus *Syilx* language street names in consultation with the Okanagan Language Authority. The activity raises respect, awareness of the language, and acknowledges traditional lands.

Smaller cities, including those vying with Vernon for growth, (Langford, Langley and Chilliwack) have also embraced their TRC duty in leadership, social justice and citizenship.

Langford hosted a Cultural Perspectives Training facilitated by the Indigenous Perspectives Society.

Chilliwack hosted a BC Association of Family Resource Programs *TEDx Grass Roots Approach to Reconciliation*. The event focused on our collective roles in pursuing reconciliation.

Langley has its own grassroots Journey to Reconciliation Committee with organized events including TEDxED presentations.

Lethbridge has collaborated with community stakeholders to develop a 10-year Reconciliation Implementation Plan (2017-27) for the community.

Prince George with a population of approximately 65,000 has committed to Aboriginal reconciliation. The City has re-named their premier park—Fort George Park—*Lheidli T'enneh* Memorial Park in honour of their first peoples. City Hall also now permanently flies the *Lheidli T'enneh* flag.

Sioux Lookout, Ontario—population 5000—has proclaimed 2017 to be a Year of Truth and Reconciliation with commemorations and collaborations as well as acknowledgment of a much longer commitment, and ongoing multi-generational process.

Wetaskiwin, Alberta—population 12,000—has declared 2014 -2015 as the Year of Truth and Reconciliation.

Prince Edward Island youths are participating in a national TRC competition—IMAGINE Canada. IMAGINE Canada is celebrating youth's visions through reconciliation, recognizing the need to change, and to live together in a respectful relationship.

Other broad and deep sweeping agencies furthering reconciliation include the Canadian Institute of Planners (**CIP**), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (**FCM**), the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (**UBCM**), the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (**UBCIC**) and the National Association of Friendship Centres (**NAFC**).

CIP invites local governments planners to embrace reconciliation works, therein repairing the relationship with Indigenous peoples of Canada.

*"Our members have the unique ability in their planning practice to bring the citizens of their communities together, to recognize individual and collective needs, along with educating everyone involved in and touched by planning processes [...] We're all curious about what's next after the fantastic work by the TRC. What will implementation involve? How do we start" **

FCM is the national voice of municipal government leading municipalities to be "strong hometowns for a strong Canada." * Their Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) focuses on building strong fruitful relationships between municipalities and First Nations. These partnerships, along with their Big City Mayors—representing 22 of Canada's biggest cities—are tremendously effective in leveraging and furthering TRC to affect social, cultural and economic benefits associated with aboriginal urbanism and historical poverty, racism and inequalities.

*"Our full potential as cities will be realized only by forging new paths with Indigenous peoples and their leaders." **

UBCM endorsed of a Year of Reconciliation in 2013, recognizing that "Reconciliation begins with each and every one of us." * In a partnership with Reconciliation Canada they will initiate, foster, and support reconciliation initiatives and activities to benefit British Columbians. Their downloadable spreadsheet cites 23 local governments' response to the TRC. The UBCM is also partnering in delivering 100 Reconciliation workshops in a range of communities and governments.

The president of the **Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs** (UBCIC) Grand Chief Stewart Phillip contributes:

*"We agree with many of the findings of the TRC final report and unquestionably agree that we all must recognize our collective history. [...] The TRC's 94 recommendations are calls for action by all levels of government and must be implemented as the bare minimum to respect, recognize and reconcile for the sake of our future generations." **

National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) cites full implementation and collaborative response to the 94 TRC CTA and UNDRIP as mandatory actions to eliminate violence and against Indigenous women and girls.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

To recognize is to make provision for respect, and to respect is to create peace and justice.

Many of the partnerships and opportunities examples address the TRC **CTA #14/#17/#79**) where Indigenous languages and place names are respected, recognized and implemented.

Place names—names derived from the name of a place, possess much power. Place name study has been widely addressed in terms of history, colonization, linguistics, geography, cartography, and anthropology—highly applicable and interconnected. Names vividly illustrate the power of labelling, defining and representing culture, location and identity. Place names are evident in intimate and official geographies: critical spiritual, ecological, and social foundations for both diversity and for cultural survival.

CTA #14/#17/#79) address the repatriation and recognition of Indigenous language with regard to place names and language and culture. Other local initiatives include the repatriation of Haynes Point, Osoyoos, and of Okanagan Falls.

The study of place names study is neither mere history nor anthropology, but a dynamic and vital opportunity for addressing cultural diversity, identity and social justice. Names can foster post-colonial cultural healing. Appreciation for diversity, and the delicate consciousness and tact to observe place names will generate recognition and awareness. To name is to recognize. To recognize is to make provision for respect, and to respect is to create peace and justice.



To recognize is to make provision for respect, and to respect is to create peace and justice.

CONCLUSION

“The question for everybody in this country is what can you bring to that fire? It might be a twig, it might be a log, or it might be a whole bunch of logs, but the idea is to build that fire to as bright, and as strong, and as resilient, and as enduring as possible.”*

Next Steps

Vernon's Child and Youth Friendly City focus on health, housing, parks and recreation, transportation and urban design may be stimulated within the spark—or perhaps the flame—of social justice. Social justice, recognized, sanctioned and generated by youth will engender, endure and inspire.

The Appendix, page 14, provides 24 TRC Partnership Opportunities, prefaced with a link and an invitation to watch, listen and show respect as Justice Minister Murray Sinclair narrates the video *Educating our Youth*. The Appendix includes a mere sample of multiple and diverse programs and Calls to Action with corresponding CTA references where applicable. The scope runs from the creative: planting a Heart Garden, participating in Project of Heart, arts to IMAGINE Canada's creative leadership. Activities include attending a Kairo Canada's Blanket exercise and attending an aboriginal ceremony.

Advocacy projects may include sponsoring the transformation and empowerment of a youth or youth leader in the Okanagan's Indigeneyez program, exploring the 4R's Youth movement or respectfully recognizing and implementing Indigenous language.

Perhaps the best way to start is to ask yourself *Who has the right to the city?* and *What role does the city play?*

This research proposal provides context and peer leadership opportunities for capacity building through reflexivity, TRC CTA and youth advocacy. It fosters the CBR research agenda of justice, dignity, respect and decolonization.

The synergy of the energy and optimism of youth is not only magic. When it respectfully engenders social change it is precious and profound.





APPENDIX

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Watch, Listen and Show Respect: Justice Minister Murray Sinclair narrates the video “Educating our Youth”: <http://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/youth-reconciliation/>
- 2 Read UNDRIP for Youth:
http://files.unicef.org/policyanalysis/rights/files/HRBAP_UN_Rights_Indig_Peoples.pdf (CTA #48)
- 3 Adopt and implement the UNDRIP. (CTA #43)
- 4 Adopt a year of Truth and Reconciliation.
- 5 Respect, recognize and implement Indigenous language. (CTA #14/#17/#79)
- 6 Plant a Heart Garden:
<https://www.kairosCanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Heart-Garden-Instructions-KAIROS-Final.pdf>
- 7 Sponsor a youth or youth leader in Indigeneyez: “Uncommon solutions for the common good”. Engage, Inspire, Mobilize: transforming communities through youth engagement.
<https://indigeneyez.com/>
- 8 Participate in the Project of Heart: <http://projectofheart.ca/>
- 9 IMAGINE Canada: http://nctr.ca/education_imagine.php
- 10 Attend Kairos Canada’s Blanket Exercise
- 11 Join Reconciliation Education: 4 Seasons of Reconciliation:
<http://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/>
- 12 Read Calgary’s *White Goose Flying Report* and Appendices of resources:
<http://wpmedia.calgaryherald.com/2017/04/white-goose-flying-calls-to-action-cauac.pdf>
- 13 Plan a Reconciliation Event, document it, report it to the TRC. (CTA#53/#66)
- 14 Ask yourself: *Who has the right to the city?* (CTA#47)
- 15 Ask yourself: *What does an inclusive and safe city look like?*



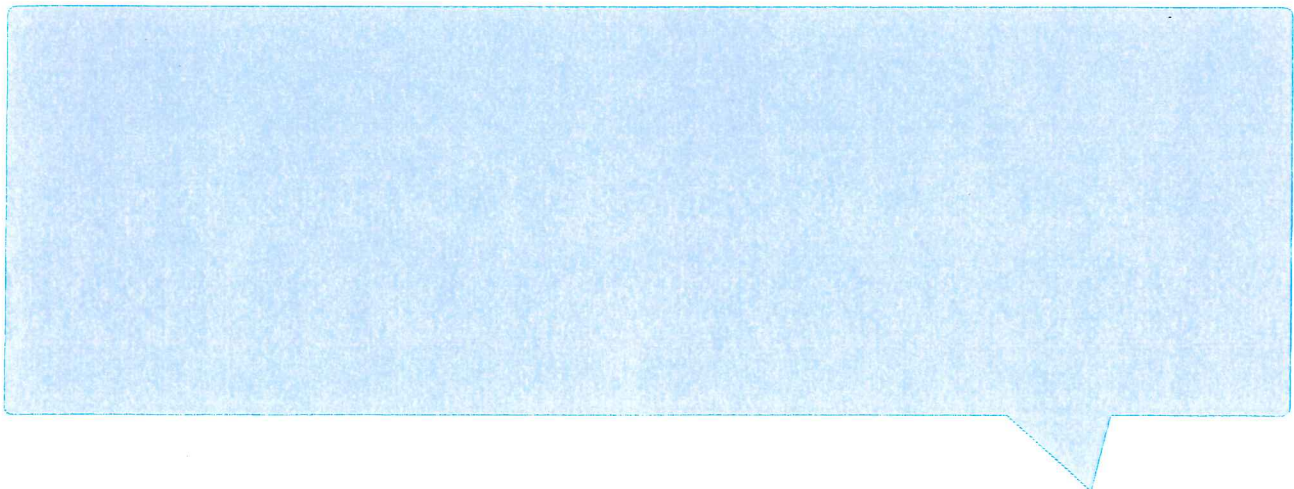
- 16 Ask yourself: *What role does the city play?*
- 17 Educate public servants regarding residential schools, UNDRIP, treaties, anti-racism, intercultural competency, and human rights. **(CTA#57)**.
- 18 Support Indigenous athletic development and competitions. **(CTA#87/88/91)**
- 19 Respect Indigenous territorial protocols and involvement of Indigenous communities in event planning and participation. **(CTA#87/88/91)**
- 20 Attend a ceremony.
- 21 Follow the Union of BC Municipalities newsletter and recommendations:
<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/meta/news/news-archive/2015-archive/reconciliation-from-truth-to-action.html>
- 22 Explore the 4R's Youth Movement: Unity in Diversity: www.4rsyouth.ca/
- 23 Explore the National Association of Friendship Centres: www.nafc.ca
- 24 Read *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future; Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015* including the 94 Calls To Action.
http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final Reports/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf

**"BUILD THAT FIRE TO AS BRIGHT, AND
AS STRONG, AND AS RESILIENT, AND AS
ENDURING AS POSSIBLE."***

*All citations and references pending.

WHAT MAKES A YOUTHFUL CITY?

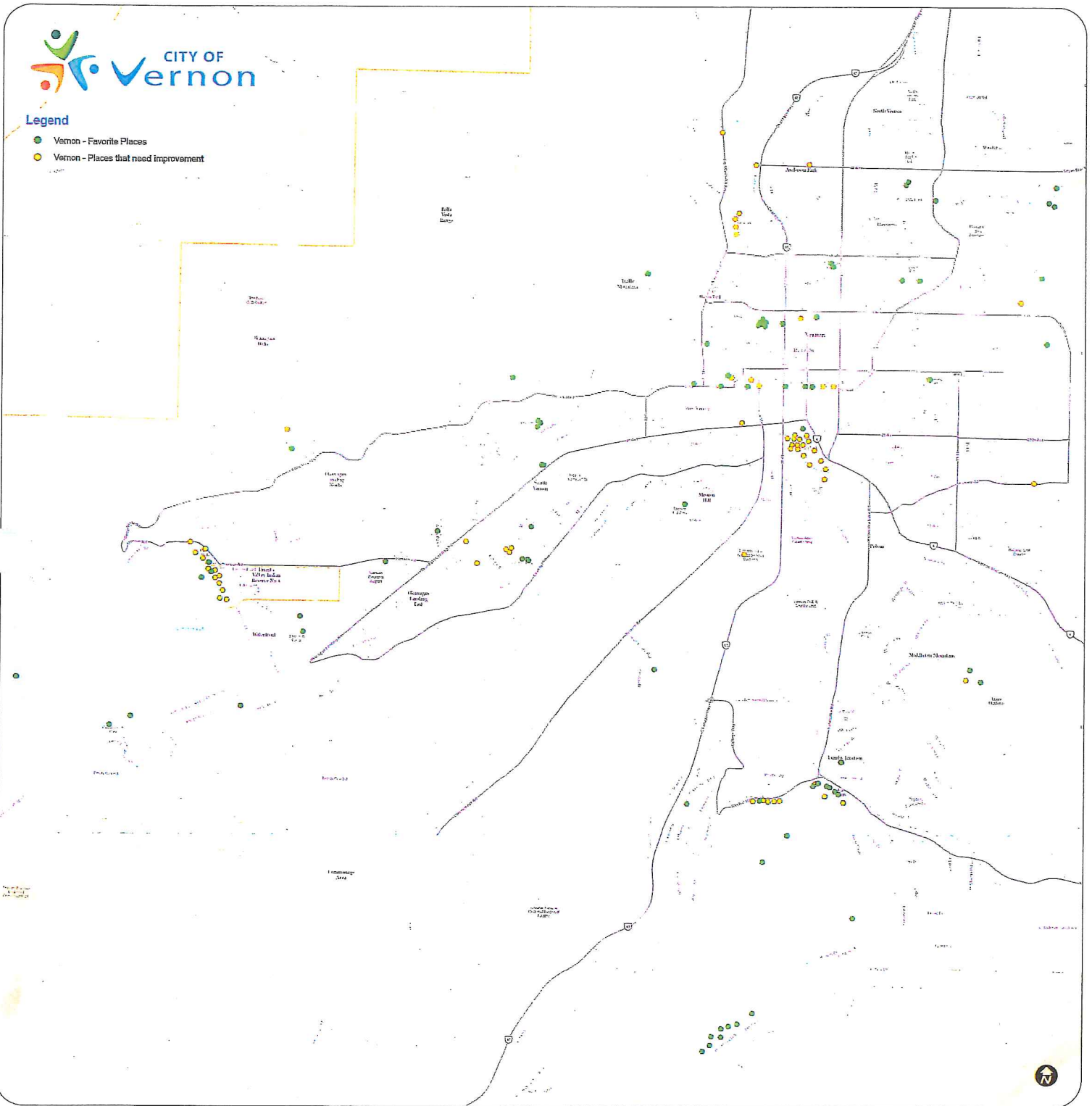
We asked Vernon children, youth and families.
This is what they are saying.





Legend

- Vernon - Favorite Places
- Vernon - Places that need improvement



Attachment 7

A		B		C		D		E		G		H		I		J	
		Youthful Vernon Community Forum Results															
		Youth		WPG/Biz		Etc. Off.		Public Service		Total							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Domain	Recm	7	2	3	10											
2	Health	1. Create smoke-free outdoor spaces bylaw that children/youth frequent - beaches and parks. 2. Given health inequities for indigenous children/youth, implement Calls to Action of TTC. 3. Engage with and support collaboration with partners on increasing food security. 4. Through zoning, explore minimum distance for fast food/food trucks near schools, playgrounds, etc. 5. Encourage community involvement in Live 5210. Adopt consistent public messaging.	7	2	3	10											
3			0	5	2	4											
4			0	2	1	5											
5			0	2	2	2											
6			2	1	1	1											
7	total		13	4	3	14											
8	Transportation	1. Accelerate implementation of Pedestrian and Master Bike Plan. Increase capital investment. 2. Ensure all new transportation infrastructure meets 8-80 design best practices. 3. Implement annual traffic safety review and invest in safety improvements for existing active trails. 4. Update zoning bylaw for non-standard cycle parking, ensure public buildings have this parking. 5. Pilot Open Streets program to temporarily convert streets, closing streets for block parties. 6. Investigate the feasibility of free transit for children over 5 and low income families.	13	4	3	14											
9			1	2	1	3											
10			0	1	0	2											
11			5	3	1	6											
12	total		1	2	0	3											
13			16														
14																	
15																	
16	total		13	4	3	14											
17																	
18																	
19																	
20																	
21																	
22																	
23	Play/Built Env	1. Encourage washrooms to be open for longer hours in the day and longer seasons 2. Continue to add natural play elements to parks, provide more shade trees / consider edible landscapes 3. Work with partners to encourage community garden space for children, play areas. 4. Improvements to Peanut Pod and child-friendly improvements to fountain in Civic Plaza 5. Incorporate more play elements in parks that encourage adult/child interactions, Park & Play, playboxes 6. Consider putting speakers in parks, Civic Plaza to provide music from dawn to dusk.	11	5	0	8											
24			7	8	3	12											
25			3	0	2	7											
26			1	2	2	0											
27			0	8	0	9											
28			0	0	0	0											
29	total		11	5	0	8											
30																	
31																	
32																	
33	Child Care	1. Evaluate and update business license and zoning bylaws re child care. Enforcement re illegal child care. 2. Promote child care resources on the Welcome to Vernon website. 3. Encourage large businesses, employers and subdivisions to include child care in new development. 4. Work with community partners to access funding for a child care needs assessment. 5. Develop MOU with SDD22 regarding new builds and co-location of related services.	3	5	1	0											
34			0	0	0	0											
35			3	1	2	5											
36			2	6	1	3											
37			2	5	1	2											
38	total		11	3	2	6											
39																	
40	Arts and Culture	1. Create movable graffiti art wall installation and hire artists to run young artists workshop annually. 2. Support youth engagement in art and culture with new multicultural festival highlighting diversity. 3. All ages music venues and events for teens with performers they want to see. 4. Arts and Culture info re events, festivals available online in child and youth friendly language 5. RDNO explore grants to improve arts and culture programs for children/youth.	2	1	1	1											
41			2	1	0	0											
42			2	1	1	5											
43			2	2	1	0											
44			2	15	3	4											
45	total		2	15	3	4											
46																	
47	Local Gov	1. Create internal program for policy development with child/youth lens as Standard Operating Proc. 2. All washrooms open to public with change tables. Family and gender neutral washrooms. 3. Declare Vernon breastfeeding friendly community and ensure public signage. 4. Amend bylaws to update outdoor amenity and play space requirements for multi-family developments 5. Actively engage youth in City Projects, planning processes and committees with feedback methods. 6. Commitment to land use planning, asset management, climate change etc. for future generations. 7. Acknowledge National Child Day supporting celebrations and awards program for engaged youth.	3	2	1	1											
48			2	0	0	1											
49			8	1	0	2											
50			2	3	9	16											
51			0	1	1	3											
52			7	1	0	4											
53			1	0	0	6											
54	total		3	2	1	1											
55																	
56																	
57																	
58																	
59	Vernon Charter	1. Update the Charter to better include youth. 2. Educate Vernon Staff and Council on the Charter. 3. Promote the Charter and Strategy 4. Implement the Youthful Vernon Strategy	3	1	0	1											
60			1	1	0	1											
61			1	0	0	0											
62			5	2	2	2											
63	total		11	4	2	20											
64																	
65	Totals		114	97	42	136											
66																	



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

INTERNAL M E M O R A N D U M

TO: W. Pearce, CAO **FILE:** 2640-01
PC: P. Bridal, Deputy CAO **DATE:** April 10, 2018
R. Manjak, Director, Human Resources
FROM: C. Fredin, Coordinator, Health and Safety
SUBJECT: *City of Vernon Occupational Health and Safety Update: WorkSafe BC (WSBC) and Certificate of Recognition (COR)*

The Human Resource Division continues to deliver effective and efficient local government services in line with Council's Strategic Plan. Please find the attached City of Vernon's Occupational Health and Safety Update: *WorkSafe BC (WSBC) and Certificate of Recognition (COR)*.

The City of Vernon continues to advance a health and safety culture within the organization through the continued support of the Mayor, Council, Senior Management, Managers, Supervisors and Unions.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the City of Vernon Occupational Health and Safety Update: *WorkSafe BC (WSBC) and Certificate of Recognition (COR)*, as provided in the memorandum dated April 10, 2018 from the Coordinator, Health and Safety.

Respectfully submitted:

Clay Fredin
Coordinator, Health and Safety

Occupational Health and Safety Update

WorkSafe BC Insurance Rates 2013 - 2018

WorkSafe BC (WSBC) calculates a base rate or average rate each year. This rate reflects the historical costs of injuries within each industry. Using a firm's health and safety record (claims costs) an experience rating (discount or surcharge) is applied to establish a net rate each employer will pay. This rate is paid for every \$100 of an employer's assessable payroll. Discounts on the rate can be as much as 50% while surcharges can be as much as 100%.

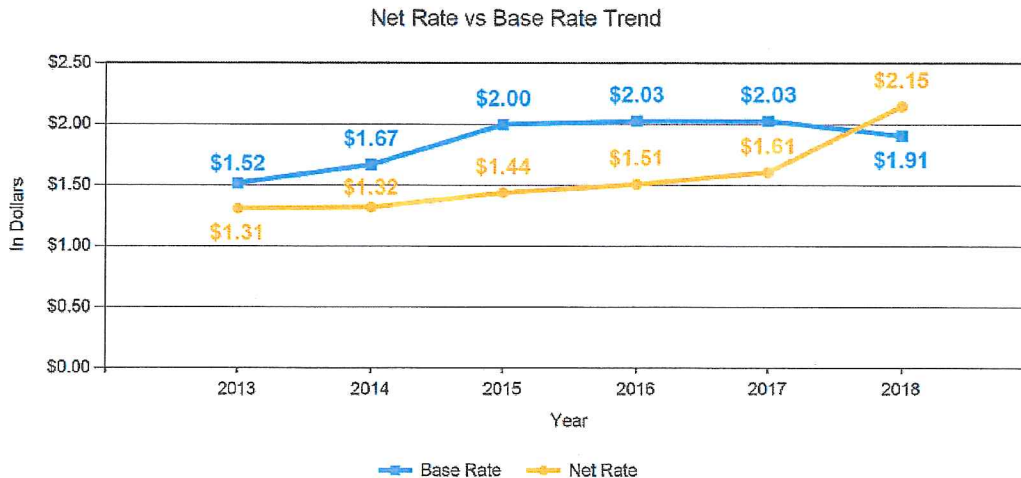
For example:

In 2017, the Base Rate for Local Government was \$2.03 (blue line in Table 1), which was set for employers to pay per \$100 of assessable payroll. If the City of Vernon experience rating was the same as the industry base rate (blue line), the City's insurance costs for 2017 would be:

$$(\$20,805,915 / \$100) \times \$2.03 = \$422,360.$$

The blue line in Table 1 below shows the Local Government Industry Base Rate versus Vernon's Net Rate (orange line). The City of Vernon has achieved a Net Rate well below the Industry Base Rate for the last 5 (five) years. The City has realized an increase in its net rate of 54 cents from \$1.61 in 2017 to \$2.15 in 2018 as a result of increased claims costs and a 12 cent drop in the industry base rate.

Table 1



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CU Base Rate	\$1.52	\$1.67	\$2.00	\$2.03	\$2.03	\$1.91
ER%	-14.0 %	-21.2 %	-27.9 %	-25.8 %	-20.5 %	12.7 %
Net Rate	\$1.31	\$1.32	\$1.44	\$1.51	\$1.61	\$2.15
Rate at Maximum Discount	\$0.76	\$0.84	\$1.00	\$1.02	\$1.02	\$0.96
Rate at Maximum Surcharge	\$3.04	\$3.34	\$4.00	\$4.06	\$4.06	\$3.82

Actual Costs

Over the last five (5) years the City of Vernon has saved \$418,839 from the Industry Base Rate. For 2018, it is estimated that the City will pay an additional \$56,688 in WSBC insurance premiums resulting from the merit rate in 2017 decreasing from a 20.5% merit to a surcharge rate of 12.7% in 2018.

Table 2

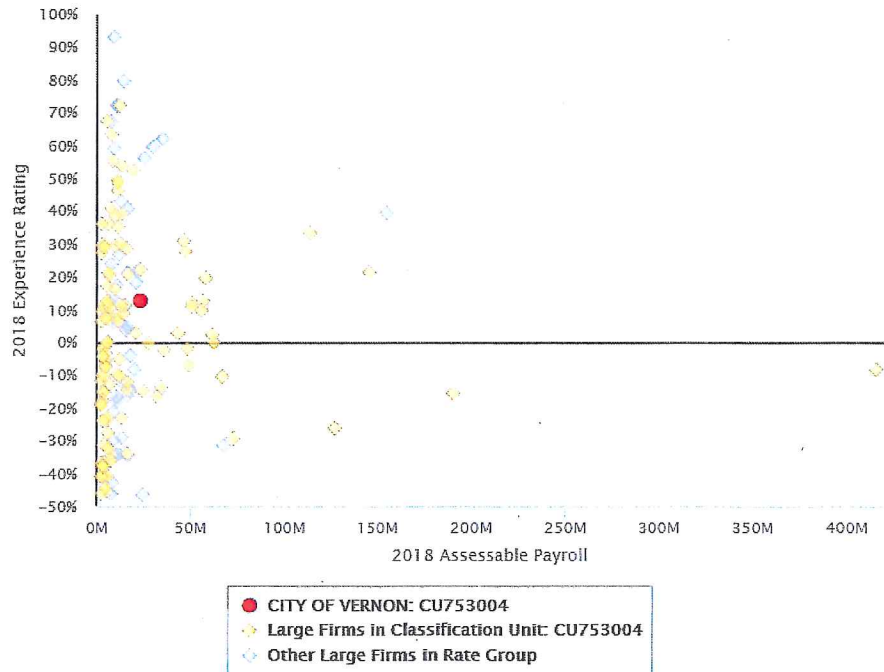
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (Estimated Year End)
Assessable Payroll	\$19,173,562	\$19,758,046	\$20,350,934	\$20,805,915	\$20,777,511	23,619,997
Industry Base Rate	\$291,438	\$329,959	\$407,019	\$422,360	\$421,783	451,142
Experience Rating %	-14.0%	-21.2%	-27.9%	-25.8%	-20.5%	12.7%
Discount/Surcharge	(\$40,264)	(\$69,153)	(\$113,966)	(\$108,191)	(87,265)	56,688
Actual Assessment Paid	\$251,174	\$260,806	\$293,053	\$314,169	\$334,518	507,830
Max. Surcharge Rate	\$582,876	\$659,918	\$814,038	\$844,720	\$843,566	902,284

Industry Comparison

City of Vernon Experience Rating versus Assessable Payroll

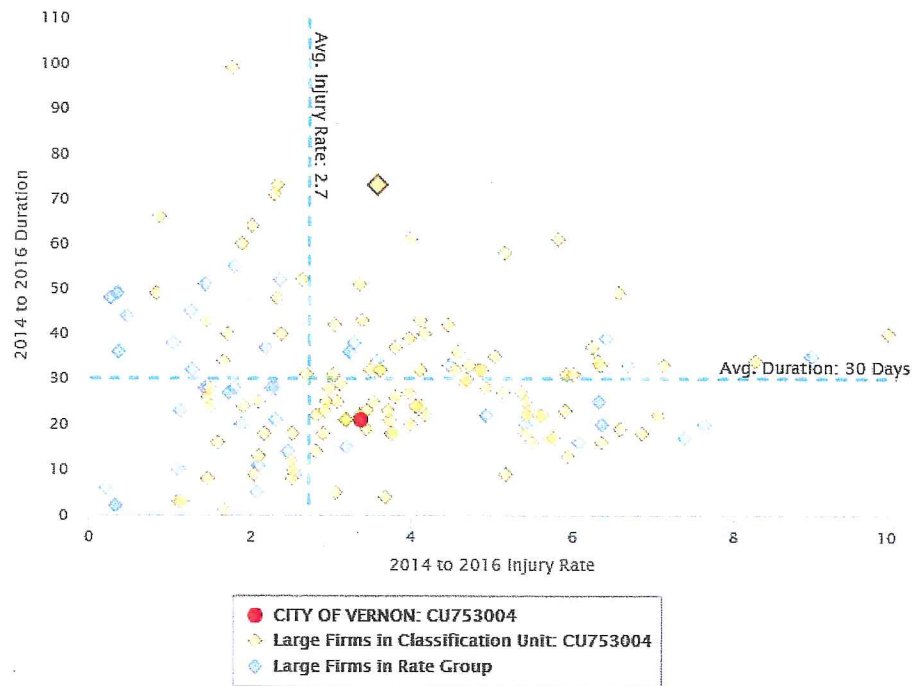
The City of Vernon Experience Rating (ER) is a measure of the relative claims cost performance for the organization. The scatter plot shows the City's current year ER as compared to peers within the same classification unit.

In 2018, the City of Vernon is at a 12.70% ER surcharge which equates to an increase in insurance premiums paid to WSBC. This has dropped from a -20.50% ER merit or 20.50% reduction in insurance premiums in 2017.



City of Vernon Injury Rating versus Claim Duration

The City of Vernon Injury Rate measures the number of wage loss claims the City has per 100 workers. This measurement is an indicator of the effectiveness of the City's Safety Management System (SMS). The claim duration measures the average length of time loss claims and is an indicator of the effectiveness of the City's Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) program.



The scatterplot shown in the table shows the injury rate for the City at 3.36 with an average claim duration of 21 days, as compared to the

Classification Unit average of 2.7 and 30 days. At the time of this summary, data for 2017 was not yet available; however it is expected that the injury rate will stay relatively close while the claim duration may continue to increase as a result of long term WSBC claims experienced during 2017.

With the changes to WSBC legislation regarding mental health claims, it was anticipated that the average claims duration and claims costs for employers would likely increase due to potential mental health disorders; of which Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is considered one of approximately 450 different diagnosis options in the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5 (DSM-5). For example, if a diagnosis of PTSD occurs, the nature of the mental health injury may require more lengthy treatment times to rehabilitate workers. As a result, the City has realized increased claims cost in 2016/2017 related to PTSD and will likely see an increase in claim duration when those numbers are available in late June or early July 2017.

Increasing claims costs for 2016/2017 and a 12 cent reduction in the Industry Classification Unit rate from \$2.03 in 2017 to \$1.91 for 2018 has resulted in the City of Vernon moving from a merit rating for 2017 to a demerit rating of 12.7% in 2018 which will be realized as an increase in the City's 2018 insurance premiums.

Certificate of Recognition (COR)

The Certificate of Recognition (COR) is a WSBC program which rewards employers who have developed and implemented a Safety Management System (SMS) and Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) program. Achieving and maintaining COR for both the SMS and SAW/RTW affords employers an annual incentive rebate from WSBC.

The 2017 annual report discussed the WSBC review of COR which has been proceeding and early indications are that a report may be forthcoming in 2018 outlining the changes WSBC will be recommending for both SMS COR and SAW/RTW COR.

History and Highlights

- The City of Vernon achieved SMS COR in 2011 resulting in an incentive rebate in 2012 of \$31,988;
- In 2012, the annual COR audit was passed for SMS and an incentive rebate was issued in 2013 of \$28,015;
- In 2013, the annual COR audit was passed for both SMS and SAW/RTW resulting in an incentive rebate in 2014 of \$43,715;
- In 2014, the annual COR audit was passed for both SMS and SAW/RTW resulting in an incentive rebate in 2015 of \$49,370;
- In 2015, the annual COR audit was passed for both SMS and SAW/RTW resulting in an incentive rebate in 2016 of \$61,052;
- In 2016, the annual COR audit was passed for both SMS and SAW/RTW resulting in an estimated incentive rebate in 2017 of \$65,500; and
- In 2017, the annual COR audit was passed for both SMS and SAW/RTW resulting in an estimated incentive rebate in 2017 of \$65,000.

The City has benefited by \$344,640 in incentive rebates from 2011-2017.

COR Health and Safety Initiatives

Council passed a resolution in 2012 allowing incentive rebates to be maintained in the Occupational Health and Safety budget to fund safety initiatives. Initiatives the funding has been instrumental in supporting are:

- Standardization of fall protection and confined space entry equipment;
- Standardization of respiratory protective equipment for dealing with asbestos, silica and toxic process gases such as chlorine and ammonia;
- Implementation of foot actuated tools in the garage;
- Purchase of Arc Flash protective gear and better quality electrically rated tools for electricians;
- Purchase of ergonomic equipment to assist with indoor workers health;
- Initiating asbestos inventory for all City facilities;
- Initiating rooftop assessments on City facilities to ensure appropriate fall protection is in place for workers required to be working on City facilities;

- Purchase of updated shoring for excavation work;
- Purchase of specialized fall protection and rescue devices for Fleet staff and bucket truck operators;
- Purchase of upgraded underground utility locating devices to improve utility locating prior to excavating;
- Purchase of confined space davit arm to facilitate increased operational requirements for confined space entry;
- Bluetooth headsets to facilitate communication between workers in noisy environments;
- Updated turnout gear for volunteer firefighters;
- Co-purchased a Washer/Extractor for decontamination of Firefighter turnout gear;
- Purchased an arborist winch system for lowering tree sections more safely;

Benefits for Achieving and Maintaining COR

- The City of Vernon is one of the industry leaders in the Local Government Sector;
- Annual financial bonuses;
- WSBC recognizes the City of Vernon as having implemented industry best practices: regulatory compliance; and a
- **SAFER WORKPLACE FOR OUR EMPLOYEES**
 - WSBC partnered with UBC's Partnership for Work, Health and Safety research department to perform an independent impact evaluation of the COR program;
 - Overall certified firms have 12% lower short term disability (STD), long term disability (LTD) and fatality injury rate between 2005-2012 compared to non-certified firms and a 17% lower serious injury rate; and
 - Certification was associated with a lower injury rate for STD, LTD and fatalities and for serious injuries across all years of the study. In the years with the largest number of certified firms (2009 to 2012), the reduction in the STD, LTD and fatalities injury rate ranged between 10% and 16% and the reduction in the serious injury rate ranged between 14% and 17%.

Challenges Moving Forward

- Continued focus on duration rates for workplace injuries: aging workforce/mental health disorder claims;
- Continued revision of the SAW/RTW and rehabilitation initiatives focused on early return for mental health disorder claims which will incorporate WorkSafe recommendations;
- PTSD is now listed as a presumptive mental disorder for first responders, covered by WSBC;
- Disclosing of the proposed changes by WSBC to the COR program which may change/eliminate the incentive rebate portion of the program; and
- Major changes to the COR auditing process.