



## Table of Contents

Project Overview.....	3
Background .....	3
Description of Model .....	3
Coordinating Committee .....	3
Action Teams.....	3
Coordinated Enforcement Task Force (CETF) .....	4
Committee Structure .....	4
Roles and Responsibilities.....	5
Identified Priorities .....	5
SWOT Analysis.....	6
Outcomes.....	6

## Project Overview

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The Community Action Team is focused on providing a collaborative compassionate community development response to social and safety issues throughout Kamloops.

### Background

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In 2010, the Coordinated Enforcement Task Force formed with key membership from City Council, City staff (Bylaw and Social/Community Development), RCMP, Kamloops Central Business Improvement Association (KCBIA), North Shore Business Improvement Association (NSBIA), Graffiti Task Force, and social agencies (ASK Wellness Society and Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)). Out of this committee came the need for a broader action focused membership to assist with street based community issues.

The first meeting of the Community Action Team was held on July 11, 2016. The meeting was facilitated by the City's Social and Community Development Supervisor and focused on a discussion of understanding the community issues from those who attended. It is acknowledged that not everyone from the community who is involved in supporting our street population was in the room and the goal will be over time to be more inclusive rather than exclusive. The first action resulting from the group was a commitment to work together and to access collective resources to help support the health, safety and vibrancy of the City.

### Description of Model

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The Community Action Team (CAT) is a solution-oriented, community driven committee that addresses social issues with a community development approach. The safety and health of community members (and the community as a whole) are two strong driving factors guiding the work of the Community Action Team.

#### Coordinating Committee

Members will be recruited based on the skills and knowledge they bring to the table, in addition to representation of an agency or group. Each member will be responsible for linking the committee to their particular resources (other committees, organizations, individuals who are knowledgeable in this area). The role of the Coordinating Committee is to identify problems and/or solutions and then create and oversee action teams.

#### Action Teams

\*Please note this is currently under development. The Coordinating Committee is currently playing both roles.

The key to this model is to break down larger social and safety issues into manageable solutions. When an issue or problem is identified or brought forward to the coordinating committee, an action team is created. The task of the action team is to problem solve. They are the "worker bees" of the model. Key players for the action team are recruited from the community based on the skills, knowledge and

connections needed to reach a solution(s). Action teams can be created ad hoc or include already established committees in the community. Once a solution(s) is reached, the action team disbands.

### Coordinated Enforcement Task Force (CETF)

The mission of CETF is “to coordinate enforcement efforts and facilitate communication with the community’s business interest, social agencies and the public to enhance the wellbeing of our commercial core areas.”

The mission is based on addressing four priority areas:

- Target priority areas;
- Focus on most frequent offences;
- Focus on victims as well as perceptions and fear of crime; and
- Anti-social behaviour.

The full terms of reference is available online here -

<https://kamloops.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/9400>

### Committee Structure

#### **Vision Statement**

To provide a place where residents feel safe and secure, where community input is valued and encouraged, and where all citizens have abundant opportunities to live, learn, work, and play.

#### **Mission Statement**

To identify and implement manageable solutions by coordinating and mobilizing community based actions focused on understanding the unique and diverse roles the community plays in responding and supporting how we address community challenges through community collaboration, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement.

#### **Goals**

- Build awareness and understanding of social issues
- Work collaboratively to problem-solve areas of concern
- Develop resources/policies to address gaps
- Monitor and evaluate the Community Action Team model
- Ensure sustainability of the Community Action Team

#### **Membership**

Membership has an ebb and flow, however, will focus on being inclusive of all organizations who wish to respond and act on the issues faced in the community. The facilitator (City’s Social and Community Development Supervisor) will look to draw support from organizations that represent the various approaches and roles that is culturally responsible.

## Roles and Responsibilities

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### **Coordinating Committee**

- Responsibilities:
  - Promote committee goals and accomplishments in the community
  - Recruit new members as needed for implementation of actions
  - Support actions by providing resources (research support, connections, networking, funding)
  - Commit to regular attendance of meetings
- Meeting Format:
  - Standard agenda:
    - Review reports/updates on actions; questions/comments
    - Guests (info sharing and/or requests for new actions)
    - New actions– determine capacity
  - Consensus decision making model
  - New members are welcome but need to notify the Facilitator (Social and Community Development Supervisor, City of Kamloops)
  - Guests are welcome but need to notify Facilitator in advance of their attendance and/or agenda items

### **Action Teams (future implementation):**

- Task is to problem solve a particular community issue
- Members recruited for skills, experience, contacts, and resources
- Meet on an ad hoc basis – once solution is reached, the action team disbands
- Chair of each Action Team attends the committee meetings to report on progress, need for more resources etc.

## Identified Priorities

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- Temporary shelters (aka. Transient camps)
- Panhandling
- Nuisance behaviour
- Profiling
- Drugs

## SWOT Analysis

### Strengths

- Lots of community programs and supports
- Commitment to work together and break down silos
- Compassion for the issues

### Weaknesses

- Inadequate or short term funding
- Lack of consistency in programming based on funding and staffing
- Inclusion of lived experience voice
- Lack of cultural diversity/representation as a voice at the table

### Opportunities

- Growing partnership opportunities across sectors
- Coordinated response teams
- Increasing public education and awareness for issues
- Creative funding opportunities to fund community prioritized actions

### Threats

- Lack of collaboration for community actions
- Membership disengagement
- Lack of commitment
- Not focused on solutions and only on problems
- No change or impact from actions in the community

## Outcomes

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Outcomes will be tracked on a quarterly basis through a compassionate lens guided by the approaches of – community collaboration, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement.

1. Prevention – strategies and interventions that help prevent harmful use of alcohol, tobacco and both illegal and prescription drugs
2. Treatment – having a range of interventions and support programs that encourage people with addiction problems to make healthier decisions about their lives
3. Harm reduction – that we do not harm those suffering from substance addiction, and that we focus on the harm caused by problematic substance use, rather than the substance use per se
4. Enforcement – recognize the need for peace, public order and safety throughout Kamloops.