



Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 3:03 p.m.

McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall

1. Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee Meeting 03-2025

Chair: Jason Veltri

2. Members

Geoff Abthorpe, Advisor - Mental Health
Eric Bilenki, Advisor - Not for Profit Organization
Paul Capon, Advisor - Indigenous Organization
Jodi Corbett, Educational Services
Andrea Docherty, Services to Improve Physical or Mental Health
Councillor Kasey Etrene
Jennifer Pasiciel, Advisor - Public Health
Roopa Rakshit, Advisor – Multicultural Community
Crystal Simeoni, Community or Social Services
Shannon Robinson, Director of Health Promotion, Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist
Jason Veltri, Police Service Board Representative
Diane Walker, Community or Social Services to Children or Youth

3. Officials

Cynthia Olsen, Director - Strategy & Engagement
Louisa Costanzo, Manager - Community Safety & Well-Being
Rilee Willianen, Drug Strategy Specialist & Encampment Response Lead
Kelly Hell, Committee Clerk & Legislative Specialist

4. Welcome and Disclosures of Interest

None.

5. Land Acknowledgement

Louisa Costanzo, Manger – Community Safety & Well Being, provided the Land Acknowledgement.

6. Agenda Approval

MOVED BY: Geoff Abthorpe

SECONDED BY: Jodi Corbett

WITH RESPECT to the September 25, meeting of the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda be approved with the removal of Line item #12 Engagement & Brand Awareness until the next meeting, and with the addition of Communication under New Business

CARRIED

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of Meeting 03-2025 Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, held on June 25, 2025, to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Andrea Docherty

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kasey Etreni

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 03-2025 Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, held on June 25, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. Community Safety & Well Being Report

Louisa Costanzo, Manager – Community Safety & Well-Being provided a detailed Managers Report. Document included for your review.

A discussion relative to the outreach of the Community Safety & Well Being Advisory Committee survey was held.

[Community Safety & Well-being Plan Update | Get Involved Thunder Bay](#) link shared with the Thunder Bay District Social Services staff and the St. Joseph's Care Group staff by their respective members on the CSWB Advisory Committee.

Jason Veltri, Chair and Louisa Costanzo, Manger – Community Safety & Well-Being working collectively on obtaining a list of contacts from the existing Advisory Committee members. An introduction email to be provided to send

along with the survey to their contacts. In addition, the reach will extend to various other groups and businesses.

Students from Confederation College and Lakehead University have received the survey link. A suggestion made to include the whole organization of both.

Lakehead Public School Board, Thunder Bay Catholic School Board, Matawa Education and all youth groups including trustees and students should be contacted to participate.

Louisa Costanzo, Manager – Community Safety & Well-Being continues to expand the reach of the survey through facilitated sessions, i.e.: Age Friendly Thunder Bay.

9. Strategic Plan Action Table

Legislation prescribes that specific areas require urgent action while using existing tables:

- social development,
- prevention,
- risk intervention
- incident response

Louisa Costanzo, Manager – Community Safety & Well-Being provided four questions for the committee to discuss.

- What elements of our current CSWB Plan are working well and should be carried forward?
- Where do you see gaps, challenges, or opportunities for improvement?
- What new or emerging priorities should we consider as we refresh the plan?
- How can the committee strengthen how we work together and connect with the broader community?

Discussion:

- A primary concern of the Advisory Committee is having everything as a priority resulting in nothing being a priority.
- Some tracking has taken place regarding the 30 key indicators. To date there is not a formal evaluation available due to staff shortage.
- The process to inform the community has been through providing presentations and annual reports to City Council.

- The priority regarding measuring indicators, moving forward with evaluation and where gaps exist to align with the community work is under way.
- Working at a community level to improve systems and support of the Community & Safety Well Being Advisory Committee work. Using system driven methods and the support of new programs focusing on upstream prevention rather than a reaction response.
- The Municipality is not mandated to operate or deliver the types of services required. A Community buy in is required and shared responsibilities of this Advisory Committee to take on this work.
- Action tables are set up to share the workload, but do not have a seat at the table. They are doing some of the work but no reporting mechanism back to the Advisory Committee on what actions they have taken to move the plan forward. Currently updates are available through staff resources.
- Existing action tables identified in the plan were not specifically set up for the Community Safety & Well-Being Committee and have existed for 20 – 30 years have agreed to assist with the work.
- A discussion was held relative to finding a better way to integrate accessing minutes and/or activities the action tables have undertaken.
- A suggestion was made to reach out to Advisory Committee members that sit on additional action tables and other community action groups to provide input from their tables. Keeping in mind they are not accountable to this table. Each action table to offer support to the Community Safety & Well-Being Advisory Committee and their responsibilities they are legislated to create.
- Legislation prescribes that specific sectors be represented this Advisory Committee and a representative from each of those sectors have been met.

To further view the Advisory Committee reports to date: CSWB 2021-2025 Plan, June 2021 Population Indicator Report and the two What We Heard Reports Phase one and two. Visit the website [Community Safety & Well-Being Plan - City of Thunder Bay](#)

Hold invites sent to the Advisory Committee members for the CSWB Forum event at the Community Auditorium November 13, 2025, 6 pm to 9 pm. Cynthia Olsen – Director – Strategy Engagement and Louisa Constanzo, Manager – Community Safety & Well-Being will send to ELTI members.

A suggestion was made to further the reach externally through the Advisory Committee members.

10. CSWB Advisory Committee Alignment

With the new governance model at the City of Thunder Bay, several Committees of Council have been dissolved as official Committees of Council, but Administration is working on transition plans to ensure the work of those groups continue. Two such groups are the former Earthcare Advisory Committee and the Anti-Racism & Equity Advisory Committee. It is being proposed that these two groups become Resource Groups that can support the efforts of, and provide additional context to, the CSWB Advisory Committee.

Community Safety & Well-Being Advisory Committee, because it is legislated, remains a Committee of Council per the Municipal Act. Meetings remain open, quorum is required and are to be formally ran by the chair.

A discussion was held regarding the primary job of the Community Safety & Well-Being it to oversee the development, execution, and evaluation of the plan. The concern raised is that other community working groups or campaigns that may or not be part of the role of the Advisory Committee may water the work down. This will be monitored as we move forward.

11. Roundtable

Jason Veltri, Chair shared the Thunder Bay Police Services Board Strategic Plan. A copy of the plan is available on the Thunder Bay Police Services website link provided. [Strategic Plan | Thunder Bay Police Service | Thunderbay](#)

12. Announcements

None

13. Meeting Schedule

The Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of six times annually or at the call of the Chair, with the exception of July and August, in the McNaughton Room, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

- Wednesday, October 22, 2025
- Wednesday, November 26, 2025

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Manager's Report – CSWB Advisory Committee

Date: September 24, 2025

Prepared by: Manager, Community Safety & Well-Being

CSWB Working Groups & Tables – Thunder Bay (2025 Snapshot)

Working Group / Table	Focus Area	Current Status
Housing & Homelessness Coalition	Housing, shelter, encampments, functional zero	Monthly meetings, CSWB input ongoing
Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee	Intersection of justice, health, social services	Active, regional coordination
Thunder Bay Mental Health & Region Network	Mental health, addictions, system navigation	Regular engagement
People with Lived Experience Table	Embedding lived experience in CSWB	Active, ongoing feedback
Incident Reporting Group	Anti-racism, hate incident tracking & response	Reports analyzed, recommendations in development
Planet Youth Working Group	Prevention-based youth model	Grant application submitted
Age-Friendly Thunder Bay	Seniors' wellbeing, accessibility	Active
Diversity Thunder Bay	Anti-racism, equity, inclusion	Regular meetings
Safe & Secure Committee	Business and community safety	New table; presented CSWB engagement
Accessibility Advisory Committee	Accessibility, inclusion, barrier-free services	Active; input on CSWB engagement priorities
Poverty Reduction Strategy	Poverty Reduction and Financial Empowerment	Hiatus during the summer meeting later in Sept 2025
Thunder Bay District Coordinating to End Woman Abuse	Gender based violence	Regular engagement and meetings.
YFSP	Youth, Guns and Gangs	Meeting regularly

1. Engagement & Partnerships – Summer 2025

- Pop-Ups & Community Events

- Hosted CSWB Pop-Ups across Thunder Bay.
 - Participated in Rockin' Recovery, Public Works Day, and Pride in October.
- Key Meetings
 - Met with the Chief of Police on CSWB alignment and Forum planning.
 - Service provider engagement: Food Strategy, Diversity Thunder Bay, Planet Youth planning, Incident Reporting Working Group.
- Regional & National Connections
 - Met with UN-Habitat Canada on Thunder Bay's role in the SDG Voluntary Local Review.
 - Connected with CSWB coordinators from Chatham-Kent, Timmins, Kenora, North Bay, Sudbury, and Timiskaming.
- Youth & Education
 - Supported RYMC engagement and student capstone projects.
 - Supported the Planet Youth Working Group and grant application for local adaptation.
 - Attended William W. Creighton Youth Services AGM.

2. Funding Applications & Research Projects

- New Horizons for Anti-Racism Fund: Collaborative proposal Lakehead Social Planning Council, Regional Youth Multicultural Council, 211-Ontario, Diversity Thunder Bay application focused on building anti-racism systems, supporting incident reporting response loops, and strengthening equity across municipal and community services. Awaiting results.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Climate & Equity Lens: Proposal to integrate equity and climate resilience into municipal planning and decision-making. Would support development of a toolkit for City projects and CSWB priorities. Awaiting response.
- CSCF Pilot Project: Application not successful. Follow-up meeting with funders scheduled this week.
- Data Hub – Studio Labs Thunder Bay (In Development): Proposal for a collaborative data and knowledge hub linking municipal data, community indicators, and storytelling. Goal is to pitch to Public Safety Canada and others, with CityStudio integration.
- Planet Youth Application: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Submitted in partnership with United Way, TBDHU to bring the Icelandic prevention model to Thunder Bay. Awaiting results.
- CCE Research Funding: Continued Canadian Institute of Health Research, ((CIHR) Grant (Knowledge User Role): Multi-phase study to evaluate the ONS model, synthesize a place-based framework, and test/refine it through implementation in Thunder Bay.

3. CityStudio & Student Collaborations

- Confederation College (Marketing): Student-led engagement through communications and outreach.
- Lakehead University (Business Administration): Students working on applied projects tied to CSWB planning and strategy, including student engagement.
- Lakehead University (Social & Ecological Determinants of Health): Students exploring new models of collaboration and applying them to CSWB and municipal well-being strategies.

4. CSWB Forum – November 13, 2025

- Theme: Aligns with National Crime Prevention Month.
- Program Elements:
 - Service Provider Showcase
 - Community -Led Discussion
 - Cultural Performances).
 - Respect & Safety Awards presentations.
 - Communication discussion
- Funding & Support: \$6,000 sponsorships + in-kind contributions from partners.

5. Promotion & Marketing

- Use of City digital screens to promote engagement opportunities and the Forum.
- Transit partnership to expand awareness through bus advertising.
- Chamber of Commerce newsletter to reach business audiences.
- Thunder Bay Police Services have shared the CSWB survey internally, helping broaden engagement reach.
- New branding for CSWB

6. Conference Participation & Submissions

- I will be attending the Canadian Safer Communities Annual Conference in November.
- Submitted a peer-to-peer presentation proposal, awaiting feedback.

7. Participation in Groups, Committees and Networks

Group / Committee	Role / Contribution
Incident Reporting Group	Member; tracking incidents of racism in community
CSCF (Community Safety & Crime Forum)	Participation in meetings and proposal work
Empower the North	Collaboration and community outreach
Accessibility Advisory Committee	Advise on barrier-free services and inclusion

Communications Committee	Presenting CSWB engagement updates, media / messaging
Northern CSWB Group	Peer network with other CSWB leaders (e.g., Timmins, Sudbury, etc.)
Diversity Thunder Bay	Equity, inclusion, anti-racism work
Poverty Reduction Network / Table	Addressing economic inequities, food security, housing
Youth & Family Supports Executive Committee	Oversight, planning, advocacy for youth/family services
Upstream Community of Interest	Preventative frameworks and upstream solutions
CityStudio's Steering Committee	Overseeing applied student collaborations and projects
RYMC Engagement	Multicultural youth council, peer input & programming
Evergreen United (Grant Support)	Supporting grant applications and community initiatives
Sisters for the Black Community	Cultural, advocacy & empowerment work
African Choir	Community arts / culture engagement
Youth Justice Groups	(New inclusion) Meetings and alignment with youth justice partners

- Active member of multiple working groups and advisory bodies (see snapshot table above).
- Presented CSWB engagement strategy to the Communications and Accessibility Committees
- Ongoing collaboration with service providers, local tables, and community partners.
- Met with the Youth Justice group