

# CSWB Specialist Report- December 2023

## CSWB PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The CSWB Specialist continues to support the Action Tables with Implementation. The Seven Action Tables include:

- Diversity Thunder Bay (Priority: Anti-Racism & Discrimination);
- Thunder Bay Housing and Homeless Coalition (Priority: Housing);
- Thunder Bay District Mental Health & Addictions Network (Priority: Mental Health & Substance Misuse);
- Thunder Bay District Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (Priority: Gender Based Violence);
- Thunder Bay Police Service-Project Prevent (Priority: Community Violence);
- Poverty Reduction Strategy (Priority: Poverty Reduction & Financial Empowerment); and
- Healthy Kids HOME Steering Committee (Priority: Supports for Children, Youth & Families).

We continue to work together to identify alignment between their work plans/priorities and the Targeted Outcomes identified within the CSWB Plan. We are also identifying gaps for further discussion.

## CSWB ROUNDTABLE EFFORTS

### CPTED Training and Audit

On September 19, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Police Service, CSWB will be coordinating a full day of training on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Barry Horrobin, Safety & Security Specialist from Windsor Police Service will lead the training, as well as a CPTED audit of a local organization.

### Annual CSWB Forum

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forum was successfully held on October 12, 2023. The theme of the Forum was **Adverse Childhood Experiences**. One hundred and thirty people attended. On the evening of Wednesday October 11, we screened the documentary film Resilience. Forty community members were in attendance. A Forum Report is being produced

### 2023 Mayor's Community Safety Awards

The 2023 Mayor's Community Safety Awards were scheduled for November 6. Due to technical difficulties, the Awards were rescheduled to November 20. Two individuals and four outstanding community projects were recognized:

Community Hero: Jon Green  
Young Leader: Winner McGuire  
Outstanding Community Projects: People With Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Poverty Free Thunder Bay, Expressive Arts Program (NorWest Community Health Centres), Voices of Youth Project (RMYC & NAN Youth Council)

Thunder Bay's Emergency Food Plan (EFP) was ratified on November 27, 2023 at Roots Community Food Centre. This work is being led by the Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy. The City of Thunder Bay is a primary partner on the EFP and CSWB supported its development. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **CSWB PRIORITY-SPECIFIC INITIATIVES**

### **PRIORITY AREA: ANTI-RACISM & DISCRIMINATION**

#### **Truth and Reconciliation Toolkit**

The CSWB Specialist coordinates the Truth & Reconciliation Toolkit Working Group, which is focused on developing a toolkit to support our community's journey towards reconciliation. This work follows a recommendation by Diversity Thunder Bay following their review of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action. Diversity Thunder Bay is the CSWB Action Table for the Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination.

We are working with several community partners to develop this toolkit, as well as a Community Conversation Guide, to provide a framework for facilitating conversations about reconciliation in Thunder Bay. We worked with a Leadership Thunder Bay Community Action Project (CAP) group (September 2022-June 2023) to facilitate seven Community Conversations using the Guide and develop a framework for the Toolkit. Work is ongoing.

On November 15 we participated in a One City Many Voices event with Diversity Thunder Bay and the Anti-Racism & Equity Advisory Committee. The focus of the event was to highlight the Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination priority area of the CSWB Plan and highlight initiatives that aim to address the targeted outcomes in the Plan.

### **PRIORITY AREA: MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

#### **Adverse Childhood Experiences Initiatives**

##### ***National Scan of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)***

In partnership with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, we conducted the National Scan in 2022. The final report – [National Scan of Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) Prevention and Intervention Approaches](#), was released during the Canadian Municipal Network's National Virtual Conference in November 2022. We will be speaking about this report at the October 12 CSWB Forum. The report was highlighted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CSWB Forum.



### ***Submission to Ontario Trillium Foundation for Resilient Communities Fund***

In partnership with the Thunder Bay District Child & Youth Mental Health and Addictions Planning Table (CSWB's Action Table for Mental Health & Substance Misuse Priority Area), on January 31, 2023 we submitted a \$200,000 grant application to help advance ACEs work in Thunder Bay and District. This grant is related to COVID-19 Recovery efforts. The proposed project – *“The Brain Story”: Advancing recovery through preventing and mitigating adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by building knowledge and nurturing resiliency* would mobilize knowledge related to the Brain Story Certification Program, adapt the Brain Architecture Game, and train service providers, educators and other sectors across the community to deepen collective understanding and action towards building better brains and consequently increase health, safety and well-being outcomes. The original submission was unsuccessful; however, it was resubmitted in November 2023.

### **PRIORITY AREA: COMMUNITY VIOLENCE**

#### **Building Safer Communities-Development of a Youth Gang Prevention Strategy**

The City of Thunder Bay was identified by Public Safety Canada (PSC) to receive funding for a 3-year program aimed at preventing youth gang involvement. This initiative is part of a larger program where PSC designates municipal governments to receive funding and collaborate with community representatives to develop programs addressing youth risk factors associated with gang activity. The City's role is to bring together community partners to collaboratively determine how and where these resources should be best used. To assist in this effort, we have established a Steering Committee and hired a consultant, who is tasked with supporting the community-led Situational Assessment process. A report will be brought to City Council in December..

### **PRIORITY AREA: GENDER BASED-VIOLENCE**

#### **Trauma- and Violence-Informed Response to Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking**

CSWB, in partnership with Thunder Bay Police Service, Sexual Abuse Centre Thunder Bay, and other local partners, completed a project to improve the trauma and violence-informed response to Human Trafficking and Gender-Based Violence in Thunder Bay and region. Two days of training were held in February 2022 for over 100 officers and Crowns were in attendance. Two days of training were held in February 2023 for community partners and service providers. Over 150 people attended in person, with close to 350 attending virtually. Additional elements of the project included the development of an education and awareness campaign on sexual violence and human trafficking, which was launched late in 2022. The CSWB Specialist supported the Program Evaluation activities. The final evaluation report demonstrated positive impacts.

#### **Intimate Partner Violence Deputation to CSWB Advisory Committee**



On May 24, staff from the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre brought a deputation on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) to the CSWB Advisory Committee. The presentation included information about IPV/Gender-Based Violence in Thunder Bay the Renfrew County Coroner's Inquest and other municipalities' efforts regarding declaring IPV an epidemic. A motion was passed to bring a recommendation to City Council to declare Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic.

A Corporate Report with this recommendation was brought to City Council on September 25, and included a joint deputation from the Thunder Bay District Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse and the Naadmaaggwin Indigenous Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee. City Council supported the recommendation and declared GBV/IPV an epidemic in Thunder Bay.

### **Funding Submission for Youth Dating Violence Prevention Project**

CSWB is supporting a grant submission to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) for *Preventing Gender-Based Violence: the Health Perspective Teen/Youth Dating Violence Prevention*. This project will build on the Youth Violence Prevention Program that has been running for the last few years.

On November 1, the CSWB Specialist participated in the Naadmaaggwin Indigenous Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee's Youth Conference and co-led a session on Technology-Facilitated Violence .

## **PRIORITY AREA: SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

### **Youth Inclusion Program**

The Youth Inclusion Program wrapped up at the end of June 2023. The CSWB Specialist supported the evaluation, which was led by the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research at Lakehead University. The Final Program Evaluation Report was submitted to Public Safety Canada in August 2023. The Report identifies the positive impacts of the program and includes recommendations for next steps. A final report on the program will be brought to City Council on November 27, 2023.

### **Healthy Kids HOME Initiative**

Thunder Bay District Health Unit, in partnership with Our Kids Count and The City of Thunder Bay Recreation and Culture Division, received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and in-kind contributions from local community partners to implement the Healthy Kids H.O.M.E. (Health on the Move for Equity) Program hubs in the Windsor Street, Academy Heights and Dease-McKellar-Ogden-Simpson. Satellite programming is taking place in the Westfort neighbourhood. The program includes a third-party evaluation and is demonstrating positive outcomes. Programming is ongoing. See their [website](#) for more information.



## OVERARCHING INITIATIVES

### City Studio

CSWB Thunder Bay has partnered with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Lakehead University, Confederation College, University of Ottawa Medical School, and Community Safety & Well Being Ottawa (City of Ottawa) to receive a grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). The project is focused on implementing the CityStudio model – a proven experiential learning and civic engagement model that works by harnessing the expertise, innovation, and energy of university resources (i.e., faculty and students), to work on community-oriented projects identified by the municipality. CityStudio has been implemented successfully in 15 cities worldwide to date. A full-time CityStudio Coordinator has been hired to provide specialized coordination to support this project for its duration. Three projects are currently underway, with many more being planned for the winter semester. Learn more about CityStudio [here](#).

### Centre for Safer Canadian Cities (previously the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention)

Thunder Bay continues to be an active member of the CSCC. The CSWB Specialist participates in a Community of Practice for communities across Canada who are receiving Building Safer Communities funds. This CoP will be an opportunity for municipalities to come together to discuss best practices and challenges related to gang and gun violence across the country.

The CSWB Specialist attended the CMNCP's Annual Conference in Regina October 23-25 and participated in a panel discussion about CSWB governance models.

### Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

The CSWB Specialist attending the C2U Expo at Lakehead University from June 5-8, 2023, and participated in a presentation about Thunder Bay's VLR and its implications for CSWB. The Thunder Bay VLR report can be found [here](#).

### UN SDG Cities Initiative

The City of Thunder Bay was invited to participate in the SDG Cities Initiative. *SDG Cities* is a global initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting 1000 cities worldwide to catalyze their potential to accelerate their achievement of the SDGs. The UN is in the process of developing the SDG Cities in Canada initiative and are compiling a report on the progress of selected Canadian cities toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The City of Thunder Bay was invited to participate and be included in this report.

The report on the achievement of the SDGs in Canadian cities will be published by UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and presented to the Federal Government of Canada for use in its reporting to the UN



on how it is achieving the SDGs. It will as well be presented at upcoming global events such as the United Nations Habitat Assembly later this year and the World Urban Forum in 2024. Thunder Bay submitted its report in June.

### **Upstream Community of Interest**

In partnership with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, CSWB Thunder Bay was successful in its application to the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health's Evidence Exchange Network for support to establish an Upstream Community of Interest. A Knowledge Broker has been assigned to our team until March 31, 2024, to help us develop and mobilize information related to Upstream Approaches. Work is ongoing through a Working Group that has been established to develop knowledge translation materials. A wrap-up event is being planned for February 2024.

### **Participation in Other Groups**

- i. C2U Expo Steering Committee
- ii. Canadian Centre for Safer Cities (Thunder Bay Representative)
- iii. City Studio Steering Committee (Chair)
- iv. Diversity Thunder Bay
- v. Healthy Kids HOME Steering Committee
- vi. Incident Reporting Working Group
- vii. Inquest Recommendation 91 Working Group
- viii. Inquest Recommendation 112 Working Group (Chair)
- ix. Inquest Recommendation 116 Working Group (Chair)
- x. Regional HSJCC (Previously NorthWest Community Mobilization Network)
- xi. Poverty Reduction Strategy
- xii. Respect Working Group (Chair)
- xiii. Tech-facilitated Violence Working Group (Chair)
- xiv. Thunder Bay & District Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (Board of Directors)
- xv. Thunder Bay Drug Strategy Implementation Panel
- xvi. Thunder Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking (Steering Committee)
- xvii. Truth & Reconciliation Toolkit Working Group (Chair)
- xviii. United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination-Planning Committee
- xix. United Way Thunder Bay (Board of Directors)
- xx. Upstream Community of Interest Working Group (Co-Chair)
- xxi. Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Working Group for UN UNSDGs
- xxii. Community Supports Planning Table (Previously Vulnerable Populations Planning Table)
- xxiii. Youth Inclusion Program-Internal Working Group (Chair)
- xxiv. Youth Inclusion Program-Evaluation Team (Chair)
- xxv. Youth Inclusion Program-Evaluation Advisory Committee (Chair)
- xxvi. Youth Violence Prevention Project Thunder Bay (Steering Committee)

