

Public Safety Report: April 1 to September 30, 2022

Report submitted by: Jami Tonasket, Community Safety Coordinator
Mike Ochoa, Youth Justice Worker

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Overview of Okanagan Indian Band on/off reserve:

OKIB Health Bulletin

- **OKIB follows BC Public Health Orders, and continues with vaccine mandate**
 - Vaccine Booster shots provided to membership

BC Opioid, Mental Health, and Housing Crisis

- Safety planning: including ways to minimize the risks of using substances, we continue to find new ways to stay safe, reduce harms and support each other. Supports inclusive of education, prevention, advocacy, and referrals to support community members on/off reserve.

Public Safety team reaches out for mental health supports; Okanagan Nation Response Team, to strengthen teamwork when addressing crisis, prevention, counselling, traditional healing and supports.

Activity 1: Community Engagement

Community Safety Planning

Community Mobilization, Phase 2: *ntytyix A Time for Action annual report 2022* speaks to Community safety starts with you! This message of empowerment carries within it a collective responsibility. As we have been taught as syilx people we have responsibilities. And that is the 'why' that carries this work forward. Knowing who we are and where we come from. "How the people of n'kmaplqs came together to re-envision a safe community" and put them into action. In that report the community answered the question, what does a safe community look like for you?

Invitations to the departments to engage began in fall of 2021. Several facilitated action planning sessions took place between September 2021-May 2022 with each of the band departments: Communications, Education, Human Resources, Health & Wellness, Lands, Policy & Strategic Initiatives, Public Safety, Public Works & Housing, Territorial Stewardship as well as the Okanagan Indian Band Group of Companies. Additional engagements this year added to the conversation and were accomplished through hosting roundtable style conversations with both community, Elders, Youth Leadership Council etc.

Respective action plans contained within this report and every line item represents their goals and the steps the department has taken, is being taken, and/or is required to accomplish their goals. The goals are prioritized into color-coded timelines, --- Short = 8 months or to the end of current fiscal year, Medium = 16 months, Long = 36+ months, Ongoing/As need arises = Items that will be continued to be pursued overtime. Through

Public Safety Report: April 1 to September 30, 2022

actioning the voices of the people, it is recognized that accountability and reporting back to community is integral to moving the community safely forward.

Complete Report: <https://okib.ca/uploads/images/PHASE-2-2022-ntytyix-A-Time-for-Action-Phase-II-2022-Final-Report-4.pdf>

The final report was completed May 30, 2022, and was presented to community members and leadership at a Community Forum, September 12, 2022.

Complete witness account: <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/20220920-SafetyisaCommunityEffort-PSD-YSS-2.pdf>

Activity 2: Direct Interventions and sustainability of programs, services, and partnerships.

Sustainability of programs, services and partnerships that include culture, language, and sense of belonging/connection.

Youth Leadership Council –

- The Youth Leadership Council is moving steadily to inspire, motivate and empower youth. The first couple of years focused on training, culture, and balance.
- Youth engaged in creating a mural for the n’kmaplqs Wellness Centre at the PSD of the Four Food Chiefs
- June 12, 2022, over 80 Youth showed up to the skateboarding event hosted by the PSD, and the Youth Leadership Council. The message to all youth was: empowerment, leadership, togetherness, and inspiration. “Empowering Indigenous youth to embrace their right to self-determination through positive impact of skateboarding stated: Joe Buffalo, Rose Archie, Dustin Henry, Tristan Henry, and OKIB member Jade Spotted Eagle”. Showing understanding that their culture is essential to them and can be used in many ways to keep them safe.
- Justin Peters, Chair, Youth Leadership Council, attended the Community Safety Summit in the Yukon, where he learned about Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which is preventing crime through community planning and layout. Removing old brush that might block vision, putting streetlights into dark areas, etc.

First Nation Justice –

The Youth Justice Worker provides support, education, prevention and awareness, cultural wellness teachings etc. with local School Districts, the justice system, social justice, police, the Ministry of Children and Family, referrals to other services, counselling etc.

Public Safety Report: April 1 to September 30, 2022

The Public Safety team priorities are to empower youth and families to reach their goals and aspirations, engage and collaborate with justice-based activities, keep people safe by reducing incarceration, promote a healthy path, celebrate, and acknowledge identity, sense of belonging etc.

- The Public Safety Team and Indigenous Policing Services collaborated to host (May 31st) a Crimes, Guns, and Gangs presentation that shared information about how crime impacts the community.

Complete witness account of services:

<https://okib.ca/uploads/images/20220817-WeNeedOurCulture-PSD-YSS-1.pdf>

A Cultural Approach to Personal Healing. Complete schedule attached:

<https://okib.ca/uploads/files/Healing-Circles-Schedule-2022.pdf>

Anti-Racism Network –

May 2022 finalized Resource List. Public Safety team collaborated with the Social Planning Council, Vernon, 'Anti-Racism Network' to provide a "Community Resource List" that provides where to find support: type of crime or incident, where to report and Community Resource List.

The Challenges Youth Face and the Movement to Overcome them

Youth homelessness is a complex social issue experienced nationally throughout Canada. Common contributing themes to youth homelessness include but are not limited to:

- Unsafe housing
- Inadequate or negative experiences with the foster care system
- Trauma
- Drug and/or Alcohol addictions
- Mental health issues
- Lack of affordable housing

In January 2022, the City of Penticton conducted a youth homelessness research report "No Where to Go- A Report from the Youth Homelessness Research Project" that highlights the Youth Emergency Service's collection of youth voices over a six-year period, from 2013-2019 where it was identified that the most significant issues impacting youth were mental and physical health, drugs and alcohol use, poverty and lack of resources including social, health, housing, and recreational options. (WRH Consulting, 2022).

Complete Report: <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/Youth-Homelessness-2022-OKIB.pdf>

Housing Resources: <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/Housing-Counselling-Resource-Library.pdf>

Activity 3: Culturally Based Supports

Community informed workshops, healing circles and clients supported:

Public Safety Report: April 1 to September 30, 2022

Description	Month	Average # of participants
Wellbriety	April 2022	40
Clients:20 Healing Circles: Medicine Wheel, Traditional teachings, Mending Broken Hearts		Clients = 20 Healing Circles= 52
Wellbriety	May 2022	42
Clients:20 Healing Circles: Mending Broken Hearts Medicine Wheel Drugs, Gangs, Crime, Community Presentation		Clients= 20 Healing Circles= 46 In-person= 37 Zoom= 71 on-line
Wellbriety	June 2022	51
Clients:19 OKIB kindergarten class Nation Skate		Clients = 19 Kindergarten class=18 Nation Skate=77
Wellbriety	July 2022	Native Housing=33
Clients:19 Healing Circles: Medicine Wheel Skippers Training – Canoe		Clients = 19 Healing Circle= 17 Skippers Training=19
Wellbriety	August 2022	38
Clients: 18 Healing Circles: Cultural Safety Education		Clients = 18 Cultural Safety= 18
Wellbriety	September 2022	37
Clients: 18 Cultural Safety Education		Clients = 18 Cultural Safety= 21

Public Safety Report: April 1 to September 30, 2022

Next Steps:

- Community Healing Gatherings Planning ~ Spring 2023
 - Education/Training/Prevention
 - Drugs and Addiction
 - Indigenous Addiction & Healing
 - Cultural Safety
 - Healing Circles: Mending Broken Hearts, Medicine Wheel, Masks People Wear, Healing the Spirit, Water Ceremony, Talking Circles, etc.
 - Self-care: message therapy, touch-for-health, manicure/pedicures, hair cuts, meditation etc.
 - Traditional: Games, Drumming, Stick-games,
 - Community: feast, sharing medicines, stories etc.
 - Mental Health First Aid First Nation – The EAGLE Model
 - support training – to be inclusive of OKIB and open to others (Vernon Social Planning Council, ONART, Social Workers, Shelters etc.)
 - To have front-line workers identified for training (mental health, social workers, homecare, first responders/fire department, by-law etc.)
- Schedule the 3-day training