



BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & CHANGE

FRAMEWORK FOR A SOCIAL ACTION PLAN FOR WEST VANCOUVER

District of West Vancouver Community Grants Committee (2017)

west vancouver

VISION | ADVANCE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND WELL-BEING
IN WEST VANCOUVER THROUGH INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP,
SUSTAINABILITY OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

First introduced in 2008, the West Vancouver Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change is a long-range strategic planning tool to address issues fundamental to the health and well-being of a vibrant community, such as equity, health, quality of life and social inclusion. The Blueprint helps to guide decisions and resource allocations on social matters to help create positive community change. Through this, many successful collaborative initiatives have advanced connections and well-being in West Vancouver.

The 2017 Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change contains revised strategies that reflect current community needs and the District's commitment to ensuring that social issues are considered as an integral part of long-term planning and community sustainability.

- Imbed the importance of community social services in the District's culture
- Anticipate and meet community needs as demographic changes occur, through short and long term strategies for the delivery of social services
- Respond to and identify new directions and challenges through a social services delivery model that is both innovative and flexible
- Ensure a purposeful and accountable response to community needs by measuring, evaluating and monitoring progress
- Embrace the values of diversity, access, social inclusion, safety and adaptability in all District initiatives
- Proactively address social challenges by taking actions that ensure equal treatment of all citizens



1 RECOGNIZE THE DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES AS A VITAL MUNICIPAL PRIORITY

STRATEGY 1

Apply a 'social' lens to development and policy planning to ensure that the social priorities of the community are considered in municipal planning and processes.

STRATEGY 2

Ensure the municipal budget cycle is informed of social services needs.

STRATEGY 3

Provide training around awareness of barriers and accessibility for District staff.

STRATEGY 4

Continue support of recreation and leisure opportunities for the marginalized individuals through the District's Recreation Financial Assistance Program, and like programs available through not-for-profit organizations.

STRATEGY 5

Promote and support community skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.



RECONCILIATION | We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Call to Action #57

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (2015)

2 ENSURE THE RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE DISTRICT ARE MEANINGFUL AND RELEVANT TO WEST VANCOUVER RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

STRATEGY 6

Ensure that the Community Grants process supports organizations that meet the needs of, and are accessible to, West Vancouver residents.

STRATEGY 7

Promote relationship-building and ongoing dialogue amongst residents.

STRATEGY 8

Ensure that municipal services are provided in a manner that respects the diversity of all residents.

STRATEGY 9

Continue to support and enhance child and youth engagement processes so that young people have an ongoing and meaningful role in providing input to District services and related policy development.

STRATEGY 10

Explore the potential for neighbourhood hubs based on community partnerships.



VULNERABILITY | People in West Vancouver are not always aware that challenges such as poverty, disability, and mental health issues exist here. We need to do more to reach out to those who are “invisible” and vulnerable in our community.

Vital Signs (2017)

West Vancouver Community Foundation

3 COLLABORATE AND MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT FILL SOCIAL NEEDS AND GAPS AND THAT FOSTER A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

STRATEGY 11

Conduct open forums with local service providers to discuss emerging issues and opportunities for collaboration.

STRATEGY 12

Liaise with community agencies, funders and businesses to identify opportunities for collaboration.

STRATEGY 13

Work with the Squamish Nation to find ways to collaborate to meet social service needs.

STRATEGY 14

Maintain and develop partnerships with local community groups and networks.

STRATEGY 15

Promote integrated school and community collaborations.

STRATEGY 16

Explore ways to foster citizen engagement.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY | Supportive communities provide environments in which people are able to make decisions to improve their health and engage in healthy behaviors.

District of West Vancouver and Lions Bay Community Health Profile

My Health My Community survey

4 MAKE FAIR USE OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE LONG-TERM INDEPENDENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

STRATEGY 17

Encourage, facilitate and accommodate activities organized by residents as a means to foster a sense of belonging to the community and support diversity.

STRATEGY 18

Review and make recommendations on the allocation of municipal resources to social services to determine if budget allocations adequately address community needs.

STRATEGY 19

Encourage volunteerism in West Vancouver.

STRATEGY 20

Conduct an annual review of the Community Grants budget to determine if budget allocations adequately address community needs and values.



VOLUNTEERISM | Service clubs and volunteer work should be encouraged. They do good for many in and around our community.

Participant, Phase 2 District of West Vancouver Official Community Plan Review (October 2017)

5 WORK WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS DELIVERING SERVICES TO WEST VANCOUVER RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS EMERGING COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS

STRATEGY 21

Continue to build partnership arrangements with West Vancouver School District around the use of public facilities to ensure effective use of all facilities and maximize community benefits.

STRATEGY 22

Strengthen relationships and communication with Coast Salish Peoples and provincial and federal government departments in areas where there are shared interests or overlapping jurisdiction.

STRATEGY 23

Participate in regional and tri-municipal planning tables and joint funding initiatives to share knowledge and implement sustainable strategies for addressing priority issues.

STRATEGY 24

Continue with and annually update the Healthy Communities Partnership agreement with Vancouver Coastal Health.



DIVERSITY | Diversity needs diversity. Diverse people want to live in diverse cities with culture, arts and sports that reflect such dynamic backgrounds, but also serve to unify through shared experiences.

Diversity Dividend: Canada's Global Advantage, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2017

6 WORK WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO IDENTIFY WAYS OF BETTER LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY SO THEY CAN DELIVER SERVICES RELIABLY

STRATEGY 25

Examine the Community Grants application processes on a regular basis to ensure service review, evaluation and adjustment meet municipal and community needs.

STRATEGY 26

Examine the permissive tax exemption application process on a regular basis to ensure service review, evaluation and adjustment meet municipal and community needs.



MUNICIPAL ROLE IN SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS | Socially connected communities support strong citizen engagement and enhance the health and well-being of residents. Local governments can play a role in improving social connectedness and helping communities thrive by creating strong social environments and resilient neighbourhoods.

BC Healthy Communities (2017)