

**Subject: Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan****APPROVALS:**

Glen Laubenstein, Chief Administrative Officer  
Carol Theberge, Divisional Manager  
Samuel Alatorre, Director

**Administrative Recommendation:**

THAT the Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan, dated June 2011 be approved as a guiding document for future crime prevention initiatives in the region.

**Summary:**

A team of eight individuals including those from the RCMP, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and Safe Community Wood Buffalo undertook research for the Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan (Attachment 1). This Plan advocates a new planning and crime prevention process for the region called SafeGrowth.

**Background:**

In June 2010, the Municipality launched this endeavour by forming the Crime Committee. This committee was supported by staff from the Planning and Development Department, Social Planning, Parks Department, RCMP, and Safe Communities Wood Buffalo.

With Provincial funding came the resources to work with two consultants: urban planner/criminologist Greg Saville, and urban design specialist Megan Carr. Mr. Saville is the founder of the SafeGrowth planning system for creating safe and secure neighbourhoods. It is his vision of a more holistic style to reduce crime and increase community involvement that inspired the Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan.

To thoroughly research different safety options, the Crime Committee took specialized training in crime prevention and conducted a safety project (Attachment 1, Appendix A) in one small area of Fort McMurray. To apply what the Committee had learned about SafeGrowth, one site was selected as a case study. With input from the RCMP, the Crime Committee decided to focus on the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Main Street. This allowed the Committee to assess the applicability of different methods to reduce crime in Fort McMurray.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

The Safe Communities Innovation Fund from the Province of Alberta financially supported this Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

With rapid growth and population increases, Fort McMurray's neighbourhoods are changing significantly and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. Safety and crime prevention go hand in hand with comprehensive and successful community development.

One lesson the Crime Committee learned during their research suggests that it is insufficient to simply attach a design checklist for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) onto the planning process. A more systematic process is needed that integrates social development, involves the community in a more coherent way, and provides a more accurate prescription of safe community building.

Relying only on theoretical crime prevention programs will not solve crime problems. What this Plan is recommending is a more holistic approach for more productive urban design and planning. There are physical recommendations, but also social and enforcement recommendations. With SafeGrowth, neighbourhood members, community developers, municipal GIS analysts, planners, and law enforcement have the means to diagnose neighborhood problems, integrate services and improve safety.

The SafeGrowth Model outlines six elements of effective safety planning:

- Establish a Community Voice
- Create a Neighbourhood Profile
- Form Local Priorities
- Encourage Community Engagement
- Implement a SafeGrowth Plan
- Ongoing Assessment

This model enables community members, organizations, law enforcement, and municipal government to work together to create safer neighbourhoods and communities. These recommendations align with the guiding directions of the Municipal Development Plan; specifically, Direction 4.3 "Safe and Secure Region," and Direction 6.4 "Effective Partnerships." This model also aligns the Strategic Plan 2012 - 2016 for Wood Buffalo and the priority to "Build Complete Communities."

This Plan supports municipal initiatives such as the Municipal Watch Program, which encourages municipal staff to report criminal activities. These plans and initiatives help Wood Buffalo to proactively develop safe communities throughout the region.

Administration recommends that Council support the recommendations of the Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan.

**Attachments:**

1. Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan