



# Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

SUMMARY DOCUMENT  
2026

PREPARED BY  
**THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES**

Canadian Centre for  
**Safer Communities**



Centre canadien pour des  
**communautés plus sûres**

# About this Document

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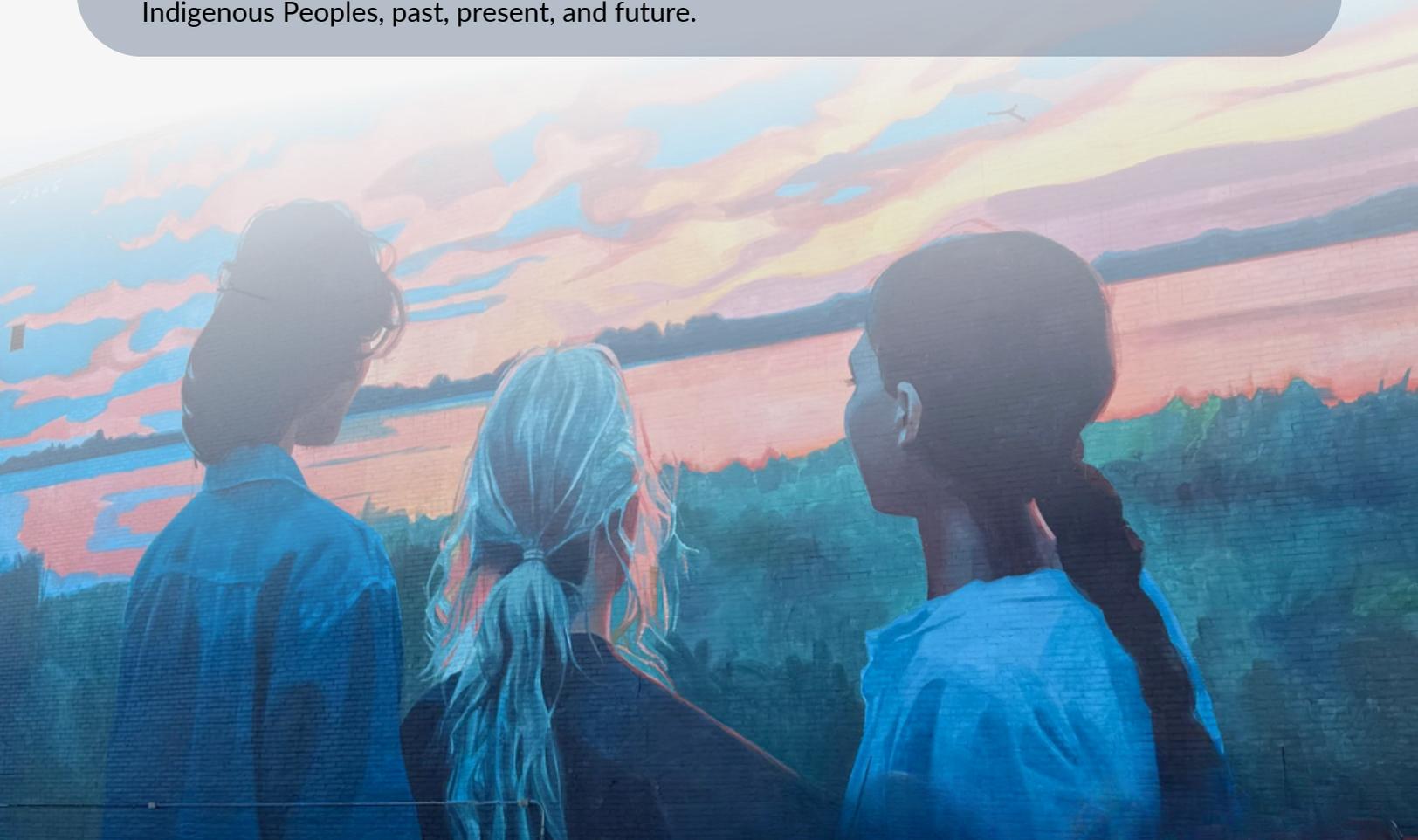
Portage la Prairie's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan was prepared by the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities (CCFSC). The plan is a living document. New information, actions, and recommendations related to community safety will emerge regularly and this report reflects the data collected at the time of the CSWB Plan development. This document provides a summary of the key elements of Portage la Prairie's CSWB Plan. For more information, please refer to the full CSWB Plan document.

## Acknowledgements

Developing this Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was a collective and collaborative effort. Sincere gratitude is offered to the CSWB Planning Project Team, Advisory Committee, and the community members who shared their perspectives, experiences, and concerns by attending the engagement sessions, responding to consultation questions, and completing the CSWB survey.

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Portage la Prairie sits on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, and Nehethowuk Nations, and the homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize, honour, and respect the presence of Indigenous Peoples, past, present, and future.



# Background Information

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## What is a CSWB Plan?

A Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plan is a strategic framework designed to help guide and inform local decisions and actions to enhance safety and well-being. There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach; each plan reflects the unique needs, priorities, and capacities of the community it serves, though common elements often overlap across jurisdictions.

CSWB aims to create sustainable conditions where everyone feels safe, connected, and supported, with access to education, healthcare, housing, income, food, and opportunities for social and cultural participation. Achieving this requires long-term, collaborative, and evidence-based efforts that respond to local circumstances and reduce crime and other risks.

## Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

Portage la Prairie is located 75 kilometres west of Winnipeg and has a population of approximately 14,622.<sup>1</sup> Known for its early history with fur traders, Portage la Prairie is located along the Trans-Canada Highway and sits on the Assiniboine River.

Portage la Prairie is experiencing many of the same issues that are endemic across Manitoba, and Canada as a whole: a housing crisis, systemic mental health and addictions crises, and crime. These challenges tend to feature in a variety of municipal plans. Portage la Prairie worked with the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities to develop its CSWB Plan as part of the Manitoba Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Pilot Project funded by Manitoba Justice.

## The Canadian Centre for Safer Communities

The Canadian Centre for Safer Communities is a national, membership-based not-for-profit organization that brings together urban, rural, and Indigenous communities across Canada to foster community safety and well-being (CSWB) through training, research, and knowledge exchange. We represent over 100 communities across Canada, and our work is guided by a broad concept of community safety and well-being that expands beyond criminal legal responses and reduced reliance on enforcement.

[1] <https://worldpopulationreview.com/canadian-cities/portage-la-prairie>

# Guiding Principles

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The development and implementation of Portage la Prairie's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is guided by the following guiding principles:

ACCESSIBILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY

COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY

RECONCILIATION

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY

WELLNESS-FOCUSED

## CSWB Plan Vision Statement

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*We envision a Portage la Prairie where every person feels a deep sense of pride, belonging, and connection. Our city thrives on inclusivity, where diverse voices come together to celebrate cultures, traditions, and opportunities. Our streets, parks, local businesses, and public spaces are vibrant, clean, and welcoming. With strong partnerships between residents, schools, service providers, and local organizations, we create a resilient city where no one is left behind, and everyone has access to the support they need. From the laughter of children playing in safe parks to the quiet exchanges of neighbours offering support, Portage la Prairie is a place where everyone is seen, valued, and heard.*

# Community Assessment

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Portage la Prairie's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was informed by a comprehensive data collection process that included a review of existing data (e.g., Statistics Canada, existing reports), a CSWB survey with community members, and community engagement with various groups including service providers and people facing higher levels of marginalization/vulnerability, such as youth, seniors, Indigenous peoples, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, people with lived/living experience, etc.



## Local Strengths

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Community Pride



Natural Beauty



Small Town Feel



Proximity to Amenities



Friendly Community



Quiet and Peaceful Community



# CSWB Plan Priorities and Goals

## Housing and Houselessness

- Increase accessible, affordable housing inventory.
- Increase the availability of supportive housing in Portage la Prairie and the surrounding region (First Nations and Rural Municipalities).
- Reduce derelict/dilapidated housing and turn them into opportunities for housing revitalization and safer neighbourhoods.

## Crime and Community Safety

- Increase perceptions of safety.
- Increase awareness of and communication about crime and safety issues.
- Increase community patrols.
- Ensure consequences match offences.
- Increase support for individuals leaving the justice system

## Mental Health and Addiction

- Increase mental health and addiction services.
- Increase awareness and understanding of risk factors and experiences of mental health and addiction challenges.
- Decrease barriers to accessing mental health and addiction services.
- Increase upstream prevention measures for mental health and addiction challenges.

## Access to Services

- Increase collaboration and coordination of services.
- Increase awareness of existing services.
- Increase access to services.

## Children and Youth

- Increase awareness of existing financial support for youth programming.
- Increase availability of open-access programs.
- Increase awareness and coordination of existing programming.
- Increase opportunities for children and youth to find their purpose.
- Advocate for prevention/early intervention programming for children and youth.

## Racism, Discrimination, and Social Division

- Increase awareness and education of anti-racism, reconciliation, and inclusion.
- Improve diverse representation at decision making tables.
- Increase community belonging.
- Increase access and availability of community spaces.



# CSWB Plan Actions

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## Actions Already Underway

- Explore additional supports to address the impacts of addiction (short and long term).
- Increase awareness of existing mental health and addiction services e.g., visual aids, pamphlets, websites, etc. that can be distributed widely.
- Hold more neighbourhood/community events to increase sense of community, build relationships, identify collective solutions to emergencies, etc.
- Encourage community members and businesses to report crimes as they occur.
- Review and update the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation [Resource Guide](#).
- Provide additional low barrier/free programming for young people in Portage la Prairie.

## Short Term Actions

- Understand the gaps and needs for housing.
- Create and implement community-wide educational campaigns on mental health and addiction challenges to promote accurate information, understanding, and reduce stigma.
- Provide parents with information about healthy screen time and social media use.
- Host ongoing meetings/events where service providers can network and learn about different agencies in the community e.g., lunch and learns.
- Increase hours of local food bank/soup kitchen.

## Long Term Actions

- Increase low-income housing options.
- Increase hours for available services e.g., RAAM clinic, more 24/7 services, etc.
- Continue to expand Community Safety Officer program hours.
- Provide more affordable childcare options.
- Develop workshops for community groups and businesses to create and implement anti-racism policies.
- Explore additional opportunities to share information and educate community members (students, seniors, etc.) about diverse cultures, races, perspectives, experiences, etc.
- Advocate to the Provincial Government for increased and more flexible funding (e.g., not just for individuals) to support involvement in children/youth programs.

## Next Steps

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A CSWB Coordinator will be hired and based out of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation. This person will coordinate the implementation process alongside the Advisory Committee, CCFSC, and local Action Teams. There will be one Action Team per priority area who will be responsible for implementing the actions listed in the CSWB Plan.