

September 2015

Social Policy Framework (SPF)

The SPF is a City of Red Deer document created with direction from City Council and contributions from City staff and the community.

What is the Social Policy Framework (SPF)?

The SPF is a blueprint that will help evaluate and address community needs linked to Red Deer's social well-being. The framework supports implementation of City initiatives with social impact by acting as a guide, outlining community goals, and coordinating efforts with community organizations.

What is its ultimate purpose?

The SPF's purpose is to help The City sustain the community's social well-being. Social well-being is characterized in the SPF through:

a) The social pillar definition, which describes our desired social future:

Red Deer is a strong, engaged community that embraces its diversity. Through leadership, support and partnerships, everyone can meet their needs and maintain a good quality of life. Equality, social well-being and a sense of belonging are supported, and decisions are just.

b) An identified set of community goals The City and the community will work toward achieving:

- **Community Cohesion and Engagement:** We have strong personal, family, neighbourhood and community connections, and are engaged in the community, providing a sense of belonging and contributing to our quality of life.
- **Educational Opportunity and Attainment:** We have access to quality and diverse learning opportunities and programs throughout our lives.
- **Equitable Services and Access:** We have fair and equitable access to neighbourhood and community assets and services such as libraries, schools, parks, recreational facilities, transportation and Internet.
- **Health and Basic Needs:** We lead healthy and dignified lives, with basic physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs consistently met.
- **Housing:** Safe, accessible and affordable housing is available to all, and everyone is appropriately housed.
- **Jobs and Wages:** A broad range of employment and related opportunities exist to support upward economic mobility and provide sufficient wages in an equitable manner, so that individuals and families can afford a dignified standard of living and have opportunities to contribute to the well-being of others.
- **Poverty Prevention and Reduction:** Supportive systems are available to help prevent us from experiencing poverty and secure lasting economic stability and security.
- **Resilience:** We are prepared to respond to and recover from crisis. Our vulnerability to hazards is reduced, and impacts of natural hazards, emergencies and crises on our lives are minimized.
- **Safety:** We live, work, learn and play in a safe and secure community and contribute to the actual and perceived safety and security of ourselves and others.
- **Social and Cultural Diversity:** We respect and celebrate the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of all.

How will we know if we are on track to meeting these goals?

The SPF places importance on the need to regularly monitor and report back to the community on progress and gaps identified in advancing the community goals. An implementation plan will recommend how to best ensure we are on track to achieving our targets.

What happens next? How is the SPF applied?

The City is now working on an implementation plan that will: determine the community's level of achievement toward the community goals; set priorities; define The City's roles and tactics to advance priority goals; integrate with The City's other sustainability pillars; and develop a system to monitor and report progress.

What are The City's sustainability pillars?

The City has recognized that to meet the needs of citizens and to maintain a healthy community today and in future, we need to ensure we have a sustainable community across five dimensions – social, economic, cultural, environmental, and governance. The SPF is the plan that represents the social sustainability pillar.

How does this fit with The City Council's Strategic Direction?

Safety was one of the six themes identified in Council's Strategic Direction 2012-2014. The Strategic Direction also identifies that Red Deer's community wellness is founded on pillars of sustainability, one of which is social well-being. To support the expected outcomes of the Safety theme, the Safety Charter was developed approved by Council in 2012. One of the five Key Strategies identified in the Safety Charter was the development of a Social Policy Framework (SPF).

To read the report, visit www.reddeer.ca/socialpolicyframework.

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