

## **Background**

Since 2005, City of Greater Sudbury Councils have taken on the strategic priority of quality of life. Each term of Council appointed a Healthy Community Cabinet which provided direction and advice on the 11 identified community challenges.

The 11 Healthy Community Challenges from 2005-2014 were:

- Health Status
- Health and Safety
- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Educational Attainment
- Arts and Culture
- Out Migration
- Infrastructure Deficit
- Unemployment
- Lake Water Quality
- Impaired Ecosystem

## **Strategic Direction**

The current City Council, in its Corporate Strategic Plan, Greater Together, identified four key areas of focus for the organization:

- Growth and Economic Development;
- Responsive, Fiscally Prudent, Open Governance;
- Quality of Life and Place; and
- Sustainable Infrastructure.

The Quality of Life and Place priority continues to align with the Healthy Community Strategy and United Nations University's Regional Centre of Expertise designation received by CGS in 2007. This Council continues to prioritize individual and community health and well-being. This makes strategic sense as the concept of a healthy community and sustainable development has been well entrenched and celebrated for many years. Here are excellent examples of healthy community initiatives which have been celebrated publically as Healthy Community Champions:

- Sustainable Mobility Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Community Action Networks
- Community Gardens
- Children's Water Festival
- Feel Free to Feel Fit
- Eat Local Sudbury

- Diversity Advisory Panel
- Accessibility Advisory Panel
- Nickel District Conservation Authority Climate Change Consortium
- Connecting the Creek
- Dearness Environmental Program
- Ridgecrest Playground
- Skate Exchange Program
- Drinking Water Source Protection Program
- Vale Living with Lakes Centre at Laurentian University
- Volunteer Sudbury
- Healthy Kids Community Challenge
- Seniors Advisory Panel to Mayor and Council

### **Population Health Moving Upstream**

Over the past twelve months at the request of community partners, community discussions were led by the City regarding individual health and well-being and in general, population health.

Population health has been defined as: *“an approach to health that aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health inequities among population groups. In order to reach these objectives, it looks at and acts upon the broad range of factors and conditions that have a strong influence on our health.”*

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/approach-proche/index-eng.php>

The discussions and priority setting sessions led by the City were held February 13<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>, and May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In each consultation a total of 60 – 80 participants and/or organizations were engaged. The objective of each discussion was to define the issue and the context of the priority, discuss actions and define conditions for success and identify appropriate community champions for these actions.

The identified community priorities for population health are an excellent example of quality of life and place.

1. Indigenous Youth
2. Build Resiliency
3. Investing in Families
4. Enable and Promote Mental Health
5. Seek Compassionate City Characteristics and Designation
6. Create Play Opportunities
7. Improve Access to Housing
8. Encourage Holistic Health
9. Promote Age Friendly Strategy
10. Support Healthy Streets

## **Next Steps**

As with a Healthy Community Strategy, a Population Health Strategy is the responsibility of all. The City has been asked to lead these initiatives in an effort to coordinate action, lead by example, and foster success. The City will continue to collaborate with the community and organizations to assist in championing improved health of citizens and the sustainability of the City of Greater Sudbury community. Progress on the key priorities for population health will be tracked, supported and brought back to Council for their information in 10 months.

The City of Greater Sudbury as an organization will also continue to champion projects under each of these priority areas to assist with improving population health. A great example of this would be the “Global Research Initiative on Reorienting Education and Training Systems to Improve the Lives of Indigenous and Marginalized Youth” now being undertaken by Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre. Indigenous youth was identified as a community priority for population health. The City of Greater Sudbury was successful in an application to join a global research project with UNESCO through the United Nations University focused upon improving educational outcomes for aboriginal youth. Funding was also successfully secured through INAC to support this research. Angela Recollet, CEO for Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre will lead this research with Dr. Pamela Toulouse from Laurentian University. The research locally will contribute to the international research with the United Nations University.

The City of Greater Sudbury has been identified as the lead for North and Central America within the Regional Centre of Expertise. This will significantly position Sudbury as a lead within the Global Regional Centre of Expertise initiative through the United Nations University and further contribute to a healthy sustainable community, best practices in population health and collaborative indigenous research to improve educational outcomes.

While the City of Greater Sudbury has been leading the healthy community and population health initiatives for well over 10 years, it is expected that after 10 months, an organization such as the NE LHIN will be in position to continue supporting and leading the local population health initiatives.