

SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: SU: BURNABY HEALTHIER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a copy of the report titled “SU: Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership”, dated March 5, 2025, of the Social Planning Committee meeting, be forwarded to Ms. Baljinder Narang; Dr. Carolyn Wonneck, Medical Health Officer for Burnaby; Ms. Leanne Appleton, Executive Director, Burnaby Hospital and Burnaby Community Health Services, Fraser Health; Mr. Gary Wong, School Trustee, Burnaby Board of Education; Mr. James Musgrave, Executive Director, Burnaby Division of Family Practice; and Ms. Thea Fiddick and Ms. Emma Gauvin of the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council.

REPORT

The Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on March 5, 2025, received and adopted the attached report providing a status update (SU) on the activities and initiatives of the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership from mid-2021 to 2024 and activities planned for the coming years.

On behalf of the Social Planning
Committee,

Councillor A. Gu
Chair

Councillor M. Santiago
Vice Chair

TO: SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: **SU: BURNABY HEALTHIER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

PURPOSE: To provide a status update (SU) on the activities and initiatives of the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership from mid-2021 to 2024 and activities planned for the coming years.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a copy of the report titled “SU: Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership”, dated March 5, 2025, be forwarded to Ms. Baljnder Narang; Dr. Carolyn Wonneck, Medical Health Officer for Burnaby; Ms. Leanne Appleton, Executive Director, Burnaby Hospital and Burnaby Community Health Services, Fraser Health; Mr. Gary Wong, School Trustee, Burnaby Board of Education; Mr. James Musgrave, Executive Director, Burnaby Division of Family Practice; and Ms. Thea Fiddick and Ms. Emma Gauvin of the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership (HCP) is a partnership between the City, Fraser Health, Burnaby School District, the Burnaby Division of Family Practice and the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council. This report provides information on the HCP’s activities over the past few years and activities planned for the coming years.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The activities and initiatives of the Burnaby HCP align with the

- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);
- Equity Policy (1994, updated 2020);
- Climate Action Framework (2020);
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016);
- Social Sustainability Strategy (2011); and
- Economic Development Strategy (2007).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership (HCP) is a partnership of the City of Burnaby, Burnaby School District 41, Fraser Health, the Burnaby Division of Family Practice

and Burnaby Inter-Agency Council. It aims to promote a healthier community through collaboration among those who shape the places where people live, work, learn and play. In accordance with the Partnership’s Terms of Reference (see Attachment 1), this report provides an update on the activities of the HCP.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The HCP initiative is rooted in the global healthy community movement which recognizes that health is “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (World Health Organization, 2010). The movement originates from the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion created by the World Health Organization in 1986. The Charter recognizes that many non- medical factors influence health outcomes. These factors, often referred to the social determinants of health¹ can influence health in many positive and negative ways. Local governments and community agencies, through their service provision and community planning and development functions can play an important role in the promotion of population health and community well-being.

Burnaby’s HCP was established in 2014, following the adoption of Burnaby’s Social Sustainability Strategy in 2011. Since its creation, member organizations have strengthened formal and informal working relationships and have collaborated on a number of initiatives to promote physical and mental well-being in our community. This report provides an update of the activities of the HCP from 2021 to present and identifies initiatives planned for the next two or more years.

3.1 HCP Vision and Goals

The HCP’s Steering Committee is responsible for the overall direction and activities of the HCP. The chair of the committee is Ms. Baljinder Narang. Other committee members include Councillor Maita Santiago, Trustee Gary Wong from the Burnaby Board of Education, Fraser Health’s Medical Health Officer for Burnaby, Dr. Carolyn Wonneck, the Executive Director of Burnaby Hospital and Community Health Services, Ms. Leanne Appleton; Doctors Davidicus Wong and Baldev Sanghera from the Burnaby Division of Family Practice; Ms. Emma Gauvin and Ms. Thea Fiddick, representing the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council; and support staff from each organization. The Steering Committee generally meets five times a year while ad hoc committees of the Partnership meet on an as needed basis to plan and implement specific activities.

The vision of the HCP is:

Burnaby: where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

The World Health Organization provides examples of social determinants of health, which can influence health equity in positive and negative ways: income and social protection; education; unemployment and job insecurity; working life conditions; food insecurity; housing, basic amenities and the environment; early childhood development; social inclusion and non-discrimination; structural conflict; and access to affordable health services of decent quality.

The goals of the HCP are to:

- 1. Understand and identify health issues that impact the well-being of all members of the Burnaby community.
- 2. Work collaboratively to support community-based initiatives that promote the health and well-being of all members of the Burnaby community.
- 3. Work collaboratively with existing Burnaby committees and regional organizations on healthy living initiatives.

3.2 HCP Initiatives and Activities – 2021 to Present

Recognizing the far-reaching health and well-being benefits of social connection, and the corollary risks of social isolation, the HCP has focused on social connectedness. The importance of social connectedness was brought to the fore during the pandemic and heat dome of 2021 and recognized as key to individual and community resiliency.

Over the past three years, the HCP has engaged in and supported, as appropriate, the following initiatives and activities:

Integrated Model for Health and Well-Being – The HCP has actively supported and advised on the development of an Integrated Model for Health and Well-Being for Burnaby, being led by the Burnaby Primary Care Network² and the Burnaby Division of Family Practice. Recognizing the essential role the social determinants of health play in our health and well-being, the Model aims to create a web of care that is preventative, restorative and sustainable by integrating health services with community services and supports. The Model builds on the collaborations established during the pandemic by the Burnaby Primary Care Network and community agencies to address the immediate needs of Burnaby residents³. A funding proposal on the model including the business case will be submitted to Shared Care, a collaborative committee between the Doctors of BC and the BC government, in March 2025 seeking funding over four years to operate the model. Representatives of the HCP have participated in the task group to develop the model including considerations for governance, operations and ongoing funding.

Extreme Weather (Heat) Response –The HCP has supported efforts to improve heat awareness and response in the community following the heat dome of June/July 2021 which resulted in 619 deaths in BC, of which 73 occurred in Burnaby. In 2022, the City received a BC Healthy Communities Age-Friendly grant to develop a community-based extreme weather (heat) response plan targeted to isolated seniors and other vulnerable populations. Initiatives have included the creation of a communications tree, a virtual workspace platform that serves as a one-stop source for health-related materials on ways to stay safe during heat events as well as a communication channel to advise community

²The Burnaby Primary Care Network brings together primary health care providers (e.g. Burnaby Division of Family Practice), Fraser Health, and community organizations and service agencies to collectively drive city wide health and well-being. See <https://burnabypcn.ca/>

³The PCN created 8 working groups comprised of health professionals and community service providers to address immediate needs including food security, access to digital devices and technology, isolated seniors at home, social isolation, homelessness, children and families, youth, and persons with disabilities.

agencies about heat alerts and events. In 2023 and 2024, a simple, plain language outreach card was created in English and translated into six languages that was distributed to isolated seniors throughout the community. The outreach card contained tips for staying safe during heat events as well as phone numbers for agencies offering phone call check-ins during heat events. The HCP intends to build on this initiative to include other extreme events.

Burnaby-New Westminster Walk30 Challenge – In 2018, the Burnaby and New Westminster HCPs received a Fraser Health Active Communities grant to launch the Walk30 Challenge. The Challenge is a friendly competition between the two communities to encourage residents, including school children, to walk a minimum of 30 minutes a day for 5 weeks as an affordable, social, healthy and environmentally friendly means of getting around. The Challenge has occurred every year since except for 2020. In 2021, the Challenge partnered with BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation) to administer and promote the challenge.

Updates and Presentations

In addition to the above initiatives, over the last three years the HCP received updates, presentations and provided feedback on the following:

- Regular updates on the toxic drug crisis.
- Connect and Prepare – a program to build neighbourhood resiliency to prepare for emergencies.
- Food security/insecurity and the work of community agencies.
- Mental health and substance use services in Burnaby.
- Burnaby 2050, Burnaby’s Official Community Plan update.
- Burnaby Community Assembly- a resident advisory body to Burnaby 2050.
- Burnaby’s Community and Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment.
- Foundry/BC Centre for Ability – the creation of an integrated health and wellness centre for youth ages 12 to 24 in Burnaby slated for 2027; BC Centre for Ability is the lead agency.

In receiving updates and presentations on the above, HCP members have considered ways to support community initiatives as individual member organizations of the HCP and collectively, where appropriate.

3.3 The Years Ahead

Members of the HCP note the value of information-sharing, coordination, collaboration, and collective action through the HCP.

Over the next few years, the HCP will continue to invite representatives from existing community organizations to HCP meetings to learn about community health and wellness initiatives and determine ways to support this work as individual member organizations and collectively where appropriate. In relation to this work, the HCP will:

- Aim to broaden membership on the steering committee through representation from the Health Employees Union and the Burnaby Board of Trade.
- Continue to advise on and support the development of the Burnaby Integrated Model for Health and Well-Being.

- Continue to support community-led extreme weather response initiatives.
- Support any future grant applications for funding to address the toxic drug crisis.
- Support and promote the Walk30 Challenge.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership – Terms of Reference

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Margaret Manifold, Senior Social Planner and reviewed by Johannes Schumann, Director Community Planning and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development.