

Public Safety Report: October 2022 to March 2023

Report submitted by: Jami Tonasket, Community Safety Coordinator
Mike Ochoa, Youth Justice Worker
Linda Williams, Syilx Community Liaison

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Activity 1: Community Engagement

Overview/context of Okanagan Indian Band on/off reserve:

OKIB Health Bulletin

- *OKIB follows BC Public Health Orders, and continues with vaccine mandate*
 - *Vaccine Booster shots provided to vulnerable membership*

BC Opioid, Mental Health, and Housing Crisis

- *A full spectrum of culturally competent supports and services to support safety planning: including ways to minimize the risks of using substances, we continue to find new ways to stay safe, reduce harms and support each other. Supports inclusive of education, prevention, advocacy, crisis response, coordination of care & care planning, trauma informed treatments and referrals to support community members on/off reserve.*

Public Safety Department key themes have shaped the framework and continuum: Culture as a foundation, community development of what they need to be safe, ownership, and capacity building, quality of care system and competent service delivery, collaboration with partners etc.

The team has reached out for mental health supports; Okanagan Nation Response Team, to strengthen teamwork when addressing crisis, prevention, counselling, traditional healing and supports. By working as, a team we are able to coordinate mental health service delivery, coordinate culturally appropriate service delivery, as well as promote mental health awareness to our members/families.

Community Safety Planning

Comprehensive Safety Strategy:

Community Mobilization, Phase 3: Implementation of Short-term Goals defined from ntytyix A Time for Action annual report 2022 that speaks to Community safety starts with you! This message of empowerment carries within it a collective responsibility. As we have been taught as syilx people we have responsibilities. And that is the 'why' that carries this work forward.

Recognizing that a roadmap is needed to help guide and coordinate community. Achieving this we have provided:

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- Culturally grounded community healing, development and capacity building that reduces risk factors and increases protective factors.
- Supported the development and education of high quality culturally responsive mental wellness training, programs, and services.
- Sustained commitment and collaboration by partners and stakeholders

The Okanagan Indian Band departments (Education, Housing, Lands, Health, Territorial Stewardship, Public Safety, Group of Companies etc.) will work on defined goals to implement short-term goals (action items). Final report of outcomes will be made available late spring of 2023 to community and leadership on progress and next steps.

Activity 2: Direct Interventions and sustainability of programs, services, and partnerships.

Sustainability of programs, services and partnerships that include culture, language and sense of belonging/connection.

Youth Leadership Council

- The Youth Leadership Council is moving steadily to inspire, motivate and empower youth. The first couple of years focused on training, culture, and balance.
- Syilx Young Leader Training Series (on-line) developed to create a time and space where participants will function at their highest levels and are challenged to apply productive and practical skills. Participants will be engaged in productive and meaningful activities creating stronger, more confident, and better prepared young leaders to take charge of their world. A major factor in this training experience is a significant opportunity for the team to contribute directly to the syilx community development. ~ training to commence late spring and completion fall of 2023.
- BCAFC, Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference, Vancouver. Youth Leadership Council members attended and gained educational information from Indigenous Leaders, celebrate culture, share knowledge, and develop relationships to create positive change within their lives.

First Nation Justice

The Youth Justice Worker provides support, education, prevention and awareness, cultural wellness teachings etc. with local School Districts, the justice system, social justice, police, the Ministry of Children and Family, referrals to other services, counselling etc.

Assembly of First Nations, First Nations with Persons with Disabilities and Knowledge Keepers Talking Circle.

The AFN invited the OKIB Community Safety and community member who has lived experience (PWD) to the talking circle to address:

- Disability Inclusion Action Plan

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- Accessible Canada Act review
- Wholistic Accessibility Diagram that creates policies, laws and legislation that impact First Nations Persons with Disabilities. Further, these policies influence First Nations programs and services to see the barriers and supports. When complete, it will be used to develop new accessibility legislation/recommendations/calls to action grounded in First Nations reality and world view.

Mental Health First Aid First Nations

EAGLE model training for OKIB front-line workers. The MHFA was facilitated from a First Nations perspective where front-line workers explored First Nations and western practices that enhance mental wellness, strengthening skills to help those concerned about changes affecting their mental wellness, increase awareness of the signs and symptoms related to changes in mental wellness and reduce stigma about mental wellness. OKIB had an overwhelming positive response to training and will be hosting an additional MHFA in late April 2023 for front-line workers and community members.

Cultural Safety Education

Cultural Safety Education has been ongoing educational workshops to native & non-native OKIB employees, community members (youth, elders etc.) and partners/stake holders. Averaging 2 sessions per month (20 participants per session). Education includes pre-contact, Canada's hidden history, understanding Truth & Reconciliation, and celebrating our past, live in the present, and visualize our future as Okanagan/syilx.

Exploring & Healing Trauma Workshop Series

The three-day trauma workshop explored what trauma is and how it impacts our lives; healing circles; how it affects the mind, body, spirit, and trauma in the brain. OKIB had an overwhelming positive response to workshop, and we will host a series of workshops related to unresolved issues, grieving, triggers, codependency, and development of healthy boundaries ~ series will commence late spring and go to late fall of 2023.

Legal Information Presentations

The following presenters provided information, answered questions of the membership. Upon further requests from membership, we will host more legal presenters in the future.

- Human Rights Tribunal and Advocacy- Beverly Froese and Laura Track
- Native Courtworkers -Deanna Gooden and Legal Aid
- Allard Law Indigenous Legal Clinic (Virtually)- Mark Gervin and Vernon Black
- Wills and Estates- Pushor Mitchell- Theresa Arsenault, KC and Sayre Potter
- Child Protection, and knowing your rights upon arrest- Lorna Fadden
- Driving While Prohibited- Dominique Verdurmen, Verdurmen Law

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Activity 3: Culturally Based Supports

Community informed workshops, healing circles and clients supported:

Description	Month	Average # of participants
Wellbriety (3 locations, weekly)	October 2022	27
Clients: 18 Healing Circles: Traditional teachings Cultural Safety Education	On-line traditional teachings (9 sessions = 112 participants) Cultural Safety 2 sessions p/m = 53 participant	Clients = 18 Healing Circles= 25 Cultural Safety= 15
Wellbriety (3 locations, weekly)	November 2022	29
Clients: 18 Healing Circles: Mending Broken Hearts Understanding our Purpose	Healing Circles (2 sessions = 46 participants)	Clients= 18 Healing Circles= 46
Wellbriety (3 locations, weekly)	December 2022	23
Clients: 16		Clients = 16
Wellbriety (3 locations, weekly)	January 2023	33
Clients: 15 School Dist. #23: Racism, Conflict Resolution Cultural Safety Educ.	SD #23 = 2 sessions, 40 students Cultural Safety 2 session p/m = 50 participants	Clients = 15 Students = 40 Cultural Safety = 15
Wellbriety (3 locations, weekly)	February 2023	38
Clients: 15 Youth Community Future	Youth education Community Futures: 11 session, 75 participants	Clients = 15 Youth = 75
Wellbriety (3 locations, weekly)	March 2023	37
Clients: 13 Mental health First Aid Exploring Healing & Trauma Workshop	Mental Health First Aid, 3-day training = 20 Exploring Healing & Trauma, 2 days = 15 participants	Clients = 13 Mental Health = 20 Healing = 15

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Next Steps:

Community Healing, Education, Prevention, Awareness and Advocacy:

- Youth Justice Worker and RCMP/IPS Cst. Horne to develop workshops for Grade 5 to 12 on crime, guns, gangs, drugs etc. ~ to be delivered at SD 22 & OKIB, fall of 2023.
- Supporting & Protecting Exploited and Vulnerable Peoples
 - Situational Awareness Workshops
 - Self-defense training
 - Healing Circles
 - Safety Awareness, Healthy boundaries
 - Legal Supports
- Cultural Safety Education ~ understanding the context to colonization, regaining traditions and healing (self, family, and community):
 - Healing Circles
 - Exploring Trauma, Emotional Competency and Mending Broken Hearts Healing Circles and Educational Workshops
- Youth Leadership Council:
 - Leadership Training Series
 - Youth Talking Circles ~ Planning, organizing, and developing strength-based activities for Youth.