

Building Safer Communities

2024 Annual Report



The Building Safer Communities Action Plan 2024-2026 aims to address youth risk factors associated with gun and gang violence across three focus areas through collaboration with community partners and youth-serving organizations. By increasing both physical and psychological well-being, fostering a sense of belonging, and connecting youth to positive relationships and experiences, this Plan seeks to create a lasting impact by strengthening protective factors.

Focus Area #1 – Youth at Risk of Gun and Gang Involvement

Actions within this Focus Area are intended to identify and support youth that may be at greater risk of gun and gang involvement. This includes programs to support mental health and well-being, expand social development, and enhance youth connection to services and community resources.

What We've Accomplished

✓	PreVenture Program Expansion In partnership with Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services, PreVenture has expanded its reach to promote mental health and reduce the risk of substance use among youth. Now integrated into school settings, the program aims to equip youth with skills to help them cope with life's challenges.
✓	Youth Engagement Series In partnership with the YMCA HBB and Brantford Police Service, the Youth Engagement Series aims to strengthen relationships between Brantford youth and police. Participants learn about safety topics, youth services and engage in recreational activities with officers.
✓	Youth Connect Peer Mentorship Program In partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University's CARE Lab, this program focused on supporting the social-emotional learning and stress management skills of youth through the guidance of older peer mentors.
✓	Youth Outreach Program In partnership with Community Living Brant, the Pathways program provided service navigation, resources, and support to street-involved youth.

What We're Working On

●	Launch a Youth Arts Consultation Program to understand the needs of local and neurodivergent youth through asset mapping, storytelling, and visual art to explore their engagement with Brantford's infrastructure and programs.
---	--

Building Safer Communities

2024 Annual Report



Focus Area #2 – Support the Unique Needs of Youth

Actions within this Focus Area are intended to engage youth from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives that may be at greater risk of marginalization or social isolation. These programs aim to foster a positive sense of identity, promote community connection and cultural learning.

What We've Accomplished

✓	Launched Cultural Sports Exchange Program Developed in collaboration with the Brantford Youth Council, this pilot project acknowledged the issue of functional exclusion in sports spaces for newcomers, racialized youth, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.
✓	Youth Community Changemakers Program This program functions as a project development hub where youth learn to scale their ideas connected to inclusion and belonging. Youth learned about project management, grant writing, and public speaking.
✓	Inclusive Community Celebration The Inclusive Community Celebration was organized to encourage community conversations and gather valuable youth perspectives on what living in an inclusive Brantford means to them.
✓	Community Peace Mural Project Community stakeholders connected to the Brantford Immigration Partnership came together to collaborate on a mural concept inspired by the theme of 'Community Peace: Promoting Unity by Celebrating our Differences.'

What We're Working On

●	Collaborate with local partners to launch programs for urban Indigenous youth, offering wraparound supports such as academic assistance, land-based learning opportunities, connections to cultural and language programs, outdoor recreation, youth events, sharing circles, and storytelling.
---	---

Building Safer Communities

2024 Annual Report



Focus Area #3 – Education and Awareness

Actions within this Focus Area are intended to create community awareness about how to prevent youth involvement in violence and crime. These initiatives include campaigns targeted towards youth, families, service providers and community.

What We've Accomplished

✓	Community Connections Conference In partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University, this conference brought youth and professionals from various sectors together with a focus on child and youth mental health and well-being.
✓	Introduction to Indigenous Matters Course The City of Brantford, in partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University, launched a free online learning course to provide community members with an opportunity to learn about Indigenous Peoples experiences, history and culture.
✓	Peer-to-Peer Conversation Video Campaign In partnership with the Brantford Youth Council, this video series amplified youth voices on topics of importance to them, including belonging and inclusion, healthy relationships, and mental health.
✓	Healthy Relationships Campaign The Youth Healthy Relationships Campaign aims to raise awareness about intimate partner and gender-based violence by encouraging open dialogue and highlighting available resources.

What We're Working On

●	Continue to work with community partners and the Hamilton Hub to further develop a knowledge base to better understand youth involvement in gun and gang activities and share information with local service providers.
---	---