



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW, 2005, NO. 2600

14.0 SOCIAL PLANNING

14.1 Background

Like most municipalities in the region, the City of Langley has been increasingly challenged in recent years by high profile social issues such as crime, homelessness and substance abuse. These challenges have heightened demand for a greater local government involvement in social issues although municipalities in British Columbia generally have neither the mandate nor the resources to address the issues at hand.



“Gateway of Hope”

The City’s first homeless shelter, operated by the Salvation Army, opened in 2010 with extensive assistance from the City of Langley, the Province of B.C., the Government of Canada, the Township of Langley and the greater community

In order to determine an appropriate municipal role for engaging social issues in the community, the City completed the first *Social Plan* in its history in 2008. At the same time the City prepared an innovative *Accessibility and Inclusiveness Study* to identify ways in which to improve accessibility and social inclusion in the community. In 2009 the City adopted an *Affordable Housing Strategy* to guide its efforts to promote and preserve affordable housing. These three landmark initiatives, completed with the assistance of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C., will guide the City’s social planning activities for the next several years.

14.2 Policies

Policy 14.2.1

- ⇒ **Social planning activities shall be guided by the *Social Plan* and its ten priority areas.**

Policy 14.2.2

- ⇒ **Support and encourage affordable housing in accordance with the *Affordable Housing Strategy*.**

Policy 14.2.3

- ⇒ **Advance community accessibility and social inclusion as set out in the *Accessibility and Inclusiveness Study*.**