

Community Mobilization & Safety Planning Process

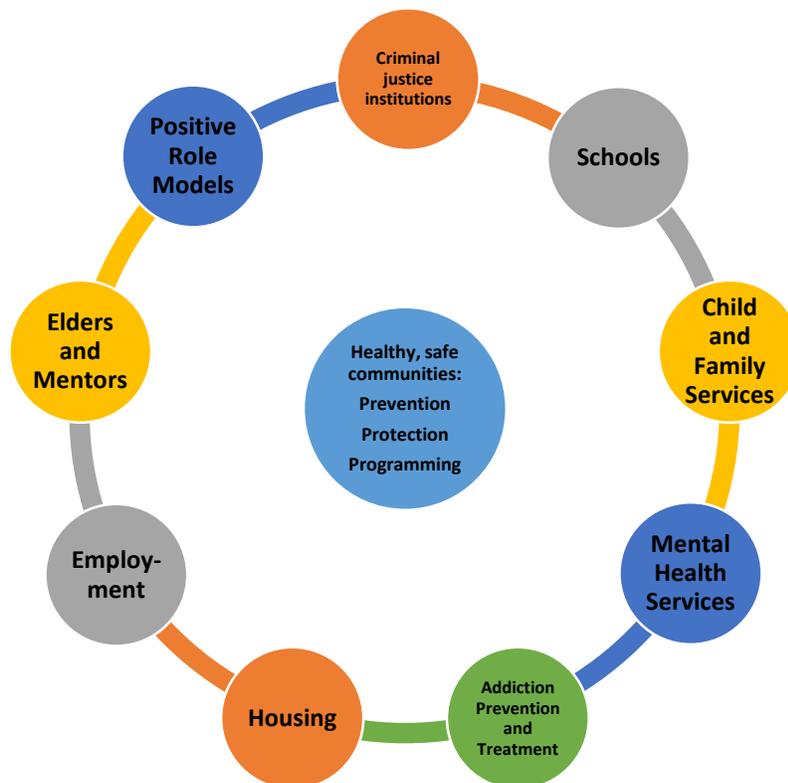
Public Safety Canada, through the Aboriginal Community Safety Team, supports community mobilization and safety planning processes for Aboriginal communities across Canada. In partnership with the Ungaluk Program, the Aboriginal Community Safety Team would like to collaborate with your community to develop a Community Safety Plan.

What is a Community Safety Plan?

A community safety plan is an approach that allows Aboriginal communities to take ownership of local issues/problems and potential solutions to improve the safety of all community members. It will allow for the community to develop a shared vision and action plan to make sure that all relevant services and programs are working together.

Goal of Safety Planning

To support an integrated approach to community healing which addresses multiple community issues.



Desired Results of a Community Safety Plan

- 1) An unified response and vision to community needs and priorities, instead of many separate projects and services;
- 2) A clear and concrete work plan developed by community members to improve well-being and reduce crime over a period of time;
- 3) Strong working relationships within a community (e.g. policing, child and family services, addressing addictions, employment, Elders, leaders, etc.);
- 4) Better matching of community needs with funding programs such as Ungaluk and those from the federal and provincial governments.

Step One – Community Leadership commitment/creation of the core group

The eventual Safety Plan can be a strong blue-print to help a community move toward positive change at a pace that is realistic for the community. But for that to happen, community Leadership needs to be fully supportive of the process and willing to integrate the Safety Plan into the broader community goals. The community members developing the Safety Plan need to feel that they have a mandate to do so, and their efforts will be applied in a transparent fashion toward the improvement of the community.

First, the Mayor will need to agree to participate in this process.

Then, a key contact person should be identified, who will then form a core group of community members to engage in this process. Public Safety Canada can help with this process.

The core group will be a good mix of people with a variety of backgrounds. It should be formed with dedicated individuals who want change and are passionate in their work with the community, and who can make decisions in the community.

Each community is unique, but an ideal core group would have representatives from:

- Community service providers (e.g., mental health community health representative, Alcohol and Drug Program, social services, etc.);
- Safety providers (e.g., police, probation, shelters, etc.);
- Leadership (or authorized delegates);
- Education workers;
- Community initiatives (e.g. Youth committee, Elders committee, Health committee, Education committee, Housing committee, Wellness committee, Municipal Council);
- Youth initiatives or groups;
- Elder councils or groups; and
- Others who wish to get engaged.

A firm commitment by the core group is crucial to the success of the plan:

- There is a time commitment of approximately 3 hours/month
- The core group is required to attend meetings for the planning and implementing of the community development activities.
- The core group is required to attend workshops that the external facilitator would deliver to help the process get started.
- The process should be viewed as a key component to ensuring long-term sustainability of the community development process.

Step Two - Community mobilization

A trained facilitator (employed by Public Safety Canada) and the Ungaluk team will deliver a series (2-3) of 2-day workshops to the community core group to promote positive change and build skills-sets. The core group will learn how to help their communities prepare for change, and how to identify the inherent abilities, issues, capacities and gifts at the community level. The

workshops are designed to assist communities in gauging readiness and capacity to prepare for more comprehensive planning and community development.

Specifically, the workshops will provide skills and techniques to help the core group:

- 1) Identify risks that lead to crime and victimization;
- 2) Identify and build on assets in the community;
- 3) Identify gaps in the community;
- 4) Identify solutions based on the community's vision of what it wants to be;
- 5) Increase community capacity (skills, ability to respond effectively, etc.);
- 6) Develop processes to work together within the community and with external partners; and
- 7) Develop a map or a safety plan that outlines an integrated response to addressing the causes of victimization and responds to community safety issues.

Step 3 - Community safety planning

As the workshops are delivered, the community then uses the skills and techniques learned at these workshops to develop a community safety plan. That process allows the community to develop new partnerships (both within and outside the community), find better ways to use existing resources, and access funding, if required, to meet its identified needs and priorities. The facilitators will support and mentor the core group throughout this process.

The eventual Safety Plan will include:

- An outline of the community's **all-inclusive** approach toward community healing;
- A recognition of the community's **strengths and challenges**;
- Agreed-upon **community goals**;
- **Activities** to support each goal;
- **Timelines** for the activities;
- A **group or person responsible** for carrying out each activity;
- **Resources** (human, financial, information, readiness, etc.) required to carry out the identified activities, and
- An **Action plan** to address community issues.

Available Supports

Throughout the process, Ungaluk and Public Safety Canada will ensure that communities are supported to successfully carry out this work in the following ways:

- Aboriginal facilitators and/or Ungaluk team will deliver 2-3 two-day workshops in the community;
- Aboriginal facilitators and/or Ungaluk team will provide coaching, research, mentorship and other training supports as requested by each respective community.

Successes to date

To date, 53 communities across Canada have received training workshops, and 10 have completed a Community Safety Plan. Evaluation findings suggest that:

- Safety Planning process has helped communities see the potential of addressing safety issues through a collaborative approach using existing resources;
- Linkages have been made among different departments within First Nations government;
- Community agencies are learning to work together as equal partners;
- Community engagement has improved;
- Communities have developed new programs (operated by volunteers) to respond to family violence or support addiction treatment;
- Communities are prepared to use other funding opportunities more effectively;
- One community is now delivering enhanced family counselling including parenting courses;
- A few communities focused on engaging youth to take a leadership role in affecting positive changes.

For further information, please contact:

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