



New legislative amendments outlined under part XI, Section 143 of the current Police Services Act (1990) mandates every municipal council to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWBP).

Municipalities have the discretion and flexibility to develop joint plans with surrounding municipalities or First Nation communities [s. 143(2)], although First Nation band councils are not required to engage in Community Safety and Well-Being Planning by legislation.

This new legislative requirement came into force on January 1, 2019 [s. 143(2)]. Additional legislative requirements related to the CSWBP process include:

- Establishing a multi-sector advisory committee [s. 145(3)].
- Conducting consultations with the advisory committee, members of the public, including youth, members of racialized groups and of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, as well as community organizations that represent these groups [s. 145(6)].

Contents of the plan must include [s. 146]:

- Identifying priority risk factors (e.g. including, but not limited to, systemic discrimination and other social factors that contribute to crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose and suicide);
- Identifying strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors (e.g. new services, changing/coordinating existing services);
- Setting measurable outcomes.

There are also requirements to publish a completed CSWBP – online, in print for review by anyone who requests it, and in any other manner or form determined by the municipality – within 30 days after adopting the plan [s. 149(2), O. Reg. 527/18].

As the Advisory Committee moves Community Safety and Well-Being Planning forward, the following phases of work will be extremely important:

- Community and organization engagement
- Identifying priority areas of risk and strategies to reduce the prioritized areas of risk
- Ongoing community consultation, especially with people with lived experience/vulnerable populations most impacted within each priority area of risk;
- Achieving greater coordination and collaboration between existing organizations and supporting consolidation where appropriate; and
- Providing annual progress reports from the Advisory Committee, to participating Municipal Councils, and to the communities at large.