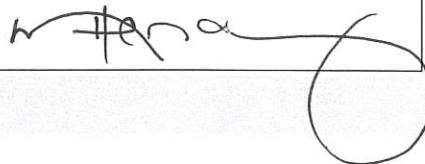


Staff Report

NO. CLERK-2026-04

Department:	Clerk	Prepared By:	Christine Goulet, Municipal Clerk	
Report To:	Council	☐ Open Meeting		
		☐ Closed Meeting	Meeting date.	
	Committee of the Whole	☒ Open Meeting	August 10, 2026	
		☐ Closed Meeting	Meeting date.	
	Committee	☐ Any Meeting		
Subject:	Red Lake-Ear Falls Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2023-2025 Annual Report			
Supervisor Approval	N/A			
CAO Approval:	Michelle Hendry			

A. Recommendation:

THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake hereby receives Staff Report No. CLERK-2026-04, the 2023-2025 Red Lake-Ear Falls Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Advisory Committee Annual Report, for information.

B. Background:

The Municipality of Red Lake and the Township of Ear Falls adopted a joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan in December 2020. A 13-member Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Advisory Committee implements priority projects in accordance with the attached work plan and meets quarterly.

From 2022 to 2024, the Committee faced challenges achieving quorum. In August 2024, both Councils agreed to reduce the Committee's membership from fifteen (15) to thirteen (13) members. This amendment has proven successful, and there is a core group of partners who are engaged and committed to community safety and well-being.

Year	Meetings Held
2021	3/4
2022	2/4
2023	1/4
2024	1/4 (<i>membership reduced in August to help achieve quorum</i>)
2025	4/4
2026	3 meetings to date with 1 more scheduled for October

The following organizations are represented and form the Committee:

	Organization	Member
1	Community Counselling and Addictions	Adam Kostiw (Vice-Chair)
2	Firefly	Vikki Healey
3	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	Michelle Parrish
4	Kenora District Services Board	Josee Mantle
5	Kenora Rainy River Family and Child Services	Nikki Haney
6	Municipality of Red Lake	Christine Goulet (Coordinator)
7	Northwestern Health Unit	Nadine Roche
8	OPP	Adam Illman
9	Red Lake-Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board	Jennifer Franczak
10	Red Lake Family Health Team	Pat Delf
11	Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre	Monique Tougas
12	Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital	Jennifer Lawrance
13	Township of Ear Falls	Doug Woolsey (Chair) *

*** NOTE:**

Previous to Councillor Doug Woolsey being on the Committee, there were no members of Council participating. When the former Clerk Treasurer Administrator for Ear Falls left the Township, Mr. Woolsey was appointed to the Committee. He was subsequently appointed as Chair of the Committee; however, he did not take on the responsibilities of the shared Coordinator position (it was intended that Red Lake and Ear Falls share this position, trading off annually). Currently, Red Lake is managing all the coordinating (i.e., agendas, minutes, etc.)

Since the 2022 Annual Report, which documented the launch of the Youth Hub, Safe Beds Program, and the development of Situation Table protocols, the original seven (7) priority projects have been reduced to four (4).

The following initiatives were considered or accomplished for 2023-2025:

Priority 1 – Establish Inclusion/Active Anti-Racism Strategy

- March 2024 - The Municipality of Red Lake adopted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy, in part, as a result of a CSWB Advisory Committee initiative that encouraged organizations to adopt their own DEI Policy to champion the establishment of an Inclusion/Active Anti-Racism Strategy.
- October 2024 – adoption of the Municipality of Red Lake – Township of Ear Falls Diversity and Inclusion Accord, which includes CSWB Advisory Committee organizations.

Priority 2 – Establish CSWB Community Engagement Plan

- Publication of the 2022 Annual Report on municipal websites and reference in the Municipality of Red Lake's newsletter.
- Discussions with the City of Ottawa regarding its Community Engagement Toolkit, led to connections with the City of Thunder Bay.
- Addition of a public "Feedback" icon to municipal websites to encourage public feedback.
- The Committee continues to explore resources on how to measure the success of the plan, identify key indicators of community safety and well-being, collect data, gather meaningful information, use this information to improve our initiatives and lastly, communicate results.

Priority 3 – Establish Detox Centre (Year 5) and Safe Beds (Year 1) in Red Lake

The Safe Bed Program was announced to commence in 2022 however, due to staff recruitment challenges, it did not open and launch until 2024. Since the beginning of 2026, the Safe Beds program has been fully staffed 24-hours a day and has maintained approximately 75% occupancy. The Red Lake hospital also has one detox bed available and most stays are short-term.

As such, the Committee has decided to postpone the Detox Centre initiative until there is a need. The focus will be on evaluating other substance abuse intervention programs for Red Lake and Ear Falls. The Safe Beds program has implemented weekly group sessions as well as two (2) times per week therapy sessions to assist those struggling with mental health and substance use. The program includes case management, which helps set up next steps, including long-term treatment out of the clients home community.

Priority 4 – Establish Managed Alcohol Program in Red Lake and Ear Falls

Although a Managed Alcohol Program was identified as a priority initiative, program partners and financial resources are currently unavailable. In addition to the Safe Bed Program and the hospital's 24-hour safe bed for detoxification, the Committee has decided to shift its focus to evaluating other substance abuse intervention programs for Red Lake and Ear Falls.

Memberships & Networking

The municipalities have more recently become members of the Canadian Center for Safer Communities, an organization that supports Community Safety and Well-Being and provides resources and guidance to Canadian municipalities. The Red Lake Municipal Clerk is also a member of the CSWB Northern Collective, a group of CSWB co-ordinators from North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Kenora. More recently, Sioux Lookout has joined the membership. The CSWB Northern Collective meets every two (2) months to discuss opportunities and challenges.

C. Financial Considerations and Budget Impact:

\$350.00 per year for an annual membership in the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities, with the cost shared by both municipalities.

D. Council Policy and Guidelines:

O. Reg 414/23 – Community Safety and Well-Being Plans

Municipality of Red Lake and the Township of Ear Falls joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, adopted December 2020

E. The Municipality of Red Lake Strategic Plan:

"Safe, vibrant, inclusive, sustainable community"

F. Alternatives:

As outlined in the Red Lake-Ear Falls Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, an annual report is required to keep Councils abreast of activities and initiatives as they progress towards implementation.

No alternatives are recommended.

Submitted By:



Christine Goulet,
Municipal Clerk
Coordinator, Red Lake-Ear Falls Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Advisory
Committee

Attachment: 2021-2025 Work Plan dated April, 2026

OUR WORK PLAN	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025+	Working Group		Status
						Lead	Advisory Committee Members and other Key Resources (preliminary)	
Inclusion and Community Engagement						Pillar lead - Municipalities		
Establish inclusion/active anti-racism strategy (PRIORITY)						Municipalities	Solicitor General - Anti-Racism Directorate, Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion area First Nations, all Advisory Committee member organizations	Ongoing
Establish CSWB community engagement plan (PRIORITY)						Municipalities	Advisory Committee members organizations	Ongoing
Safe Substance Use						Pillar Lead - CCAS		
Establish Detox Centre (5 yr) and Safe Beds (1 yr) in Red Lake (PRIORITY)						CCAS	Hospital, OPP, RLIFC	Safe Beds Complete
Investigate Substance Intervention Programs in Red Lake and Ear Falls (PRIORITY)						Family Health Teams	Hospital, OPP, RLIFC, NWHU, Schools, Firefly, RLIFC	Ongoing
Develop and implement proactive Situation Table protocols (PRIORITY)						OPP	CCAS, Hospital, KRRCSF, Firefly	Complete
Implement evidence-based prevention planning						NWHU	KPDSB, RLIFC	
Develop and implement standardized primary assessment and referral protocols/resources aligned with community paramedicine program						KDSB	Hospital, Paramedicine, OPP, Family Health Teams, LHIN, CCAS	
Establish shared agency training protocols and resources						KDSB	TBD	
Mental Health						Pillar Lead – Firefly		
Establish Youth Drop In Centre (PRIORITY)						Firefly	KDSB, Municipalities, RLIFC, OPP, Community Organizations	Complete
Establish Safe / Stabilization beds						CCAS	CCAS, Family Health Teams	
Optimize use of telehealth for psychiatric and support services						Family Health Teams	Hospital, CCAS, Firefly, LHIN,	
Establish proactive coping support program for families and seniors						RLIFC	Family Health Teams, Firefly	
Housing						Pillar Lead – KDSB		
Establish affordable, assisted living facility for seniors (PRIORITY)						Municipalities	LHIN, KDSB, Home for the Aged, Hospital, RLIFC, Cdn Mental Health Assoc.	Ongoing
Establish Supportive Youth Housing						Tikinagan	KRRCSF, RLIFC, Red Lake Emergency Shelter, KDSB	
Establish In-home support services (to enable aging in place)						KDSB	LHIN, Municipalities, Canadian Mental Health Association	
Assess & forecast need for seniors housing across the full continuum						LHIN	KDSB	
Assess need and develop plan for affordable multi-unit housing						KDSB	Municipalities	

Conduct comprehensive review of supports for maintaining tenancy/housing						KDSB	TBD	
OUR WORK PLAN	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025+	Working Group		
						Lead	Advisory Committee Members and other Key Resources (preliminary)	Status
Family Environment						Pillar Lead – RLIFC		
Develop and implement community programming & promotion strategy (PRIORITY)						Municipalities	NWHU, Firefly	Complete
Establish coordinated supply chain for family support services						TBD	KDSB, Family Health Teams	
Expand utilization of Early ON centres						KDSB	Family Health Teams, School Division, CFS, Tikinagan	
Establish inter/intra community transportation						KDSB	RLIFC, Tikinagan, KRRCFs, CCAS, NOMA	
Establish partnerships for coordinated pre-natal support						NWHU	Family Health Teams, NWHU	
Financial Security						Pillar Lead – Township of Ear Falls Economic Development (year 1)		
Improve internet connectivity, speed, and cost						Municipalities	Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)	
Expand access to adult & continuing education						KPDSB (School District)	Municipality, RLIFC, RL Adult Ed. Centre, Confederation College	
Establish coordinated food security program						RLIFC	NWHU, KPDSB	
Coordinate data from school completion programs						School Division	RLIFC, KDSB	
Connect to/expand local access for Early Childhood Education training						KDSB	KPDSB	
Coordinate & activate economic development to support diverse local economy						Municipalities	Chukuni Communities Development Corporation (CCDC)	

Legend: Orange – Priority projects, Grey – Non-Priority Projects, Green – Completed Projects