

Nottawasaga

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

2025-2029





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Shared Commitment

On behalf of the Councils for the Townships of Adjala-Tosorontio, Essa, and the Town of New Tecumseth, we are pleased to present the 2025–2029 Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan.

We thank the County of Simcoe for its continued leadership and support in helping us align local priorities with regional efforts.

Since the original Plan was launched in 2021, our communities have faced growing and evolving challenges. The impacts of the pandemic, population growth, and rising service demands have reinforced the need for collaboration and proactive planning.

This updated Plan builds on our earlier work and reflects input from residents, service providers, and community organizations. It focuses on root causes and targets key priorities: mental health and addictions, housing and homelessness, and access to services, issues we continue to hear about across the region.

We remain committed to working together in new and stronger ways to ensure all residents, regardless of age, income, or background, can access the support they need and feel safe and connected in their community.

The Nottawasaga CSWB Plan is a shared commitment by local government, police, and community partners to focus our efforts where they can have the greatest impact. We are grateful to all who contributed their time and insight, and we look forward to continuing this work alongside our communities.



Chris Kalimootoo,
CAO, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio



Michael Mikael,
CAO, Township of Essa



Neil Garbe,
CAO, Town of New Tecumseth



Insp. David McLagan,
Detachment Commander, Nottawasaga
Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police



Mayor Scott Anderson,
Representative, Ontario Provincial Police
- Nottawasaga Detachment Board

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and support the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous communities, along with the organizations that work every day to enhance safety and well-being.

In recognition of the longstanding history of the land on which we live and where this Plan will be carried out, we offer this land acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land on which our community safety and well-being planning will take place is the traditional land of the Anishinaabe People.

The Anishinaabe include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. It should be noted that the Wendat and the Haudenosaunee Nations have also walked on this territory over time.

In times of great change, we recognize more than ever the importance of honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, respect and good health with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit People and our community as a whole.

As part of our commitment to reconciliation, this Plan respects the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and Indigenous-led planning.

We acknowledge the ongoing impacts of colonialism and the need to repair fractured relationships.

We are committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities and to learning from the knowledge and skills they bring, as we work together to enhance safety and well-being for all.





Introduction

Safety and well-being are built over time through strong relationships, access to services, and a shared commitment to community.

In Ontario, every municipality is required to develop, adopt, and implement a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan under the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 \(Part XVI\)](#). These plans follow a provincial [CSWB framework](#) that focuses on four key areas: social development, prevention, risk intervention, and emergency response. The goal is to work together, across sectors, to address issues early and create stronger outcomes for everyone.

There are six Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plans across Simcoe County, each tailored to local needs, yet they share common strategies and partners, reflecting the interconnected nature of our communities and the value of coordinated action.

This refreshed CSWB Plan for Nottawasaga reflects what we have learned since the release of our first Plan (2021-2025), through local data, community input, and close collaboration with our partners. Two key priorities remain the same, but this refreshed Plan takes a more focused and action-oriented approach to strategies that can drive real change.

We are taking a more connected approach, one that looks at how services and systems can work better together. By coordinating efforts across health, housing, policing, and social supports, we aim to make a meaningful difference in people's lives and strengthen our communities.

Plan At a Glance

The 2025-2029 Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan outlines Adjala-Tosorontio, Essa, and New Tecumseth's shared priorities to support a safer, healthier community. Built on [what we have learned since 2021](#), this Plan reflects the [insights](#) from data and the voices of local residents, service providers, and community partners. It highlights where we can have the most impact by working together on the issues that matter most, based on our [understanding of our community](#). The Plan is designed to be agile and responsive to emerging needs and opportunities, while maintaining clear, actionable strategies to guide progress. A list of [helpful terms and acronyms](#) may be useful when reading this Plan.

Priorities:

Housing and
Homelessness

Mental Health and
Addiction (MHA)

Access to Services
and Supports

Strategies:

While there were various ideas on how to address different aspects of safety and well-being and [other important priorities](#), the Plan includes the following [four aligned strategies](#), informed by community insight, that will guide our next steps and collective efforts :



Safe and Supported: Strengthening Pathways Out of Homelessness

Improves safety and stability through better housing access, outreach, and referral supports.



Transitional-Aged Youth Services Network

Supports the coordination of youth mental health and addiction services across agencies as an initial area of focus.



County-Wide Phased Data Approach

Builds a practical, collaborative foundation for sharing data to guide decisions and measure the progress of CSWB activities.



Nottawasaga CSWB Collaborative

The CSWB Collaborative in Nottawasaga will advance focused strategy through a subset of the membership of an existing multi-sector table to improve access to compassionate, coordinated supports for individuals facing mental health, addiction, or housing challenges by strengthening partnerships, reducing stigma, streamlining service navigation, and engaging the private sector.



This Plan Was Informed By

- An initial review of the original CSWB Plan
- Key Informant interviews
- A targeted engagement process including presentations to collaborative tables and short online polls to gather preliminary insights from key stakeholders
- An online Resident CSWB Survey (April – May 2025)
 - 55 responses
- A Local Nottawasaga Provider Session (Mar. 2025)
 - 12 providers participated
- A County-Wide Provider Session (March 2025)
 - 27 providers participated
- An online Provider Survey (March-April 2025)
 - 35 responses
- Data Analysis (available local data)

Actioning and Overseeing the Plan

Each strategy in this Plan has a lead agency and partners responsible for [moving the work forward and oversight](#). These groups will coordinate activities, track progress, and report regularly to the local Geographic Municipal Coordinating Committee (GMCC), which is a committee that serves as a collaborative forum for guiding, monitoring, and supporting the implementation of the Plan. Additionally, updates will be shared with the county-wide CSWB Advisory Body.

This Plan is designed to be useful and adaptable. As our communities grow and we learn what makes the biggest difference, we will keep adjusting, always aiming to make Nottawasaga safer, more supportive, and more connected for everyone.

Plan Update Approach



Momentum and Lessons Learned from the 2021-2025 CSWB Plan

Since launching our first CSWB Plan in 2021, we have made progress in several important areas.

Housing and Homelessness

Essa's Housing Pledge (2024) was endorsed and outlines the Town's commitment to meeting the target of 1,717 new housing units by 2031.

S.H.I.F.T transitioned to year-round operations (2023) recognizing the ongoing need for support beyond the winter season, S.H.I.F.T. transitioned to a year-round operation in September 2023. This expansion allows them to offer services 365 days a year, including overnight shelter, meals, an outreach team, and support services for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness and food insecurity.

Coordinated Access: Homelessness System (2022) was successfully implemented across Simcoe County, aligning with the federal mandate under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy¹ to streamline and enhance access to housing and support services across the region.

10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy² (2022) was introduced by the County of Simcoe and includes considerable added investment, enhancements, and support for the unhoused population in our communities.

Community Safety Teams (2024) build meaningful connections with people who are experiencing homelessness, intensify referrals to services, and work with the broader community to keep the community safe through safety walks, clean up, and more.

¹ [Overview: Reaching Home](#)

² [10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#)





Mental Health and Addiction

Newcomers Warm Line and Peer Crisis Support Service (2024) - launched by the Krasman Centre, offers 24/7 culturally sensitive peer support to newcomers in Canada. Staffed by individuals with lived experience as newcomers, it provides support via phone and online chat, addressing challenges like acculturative stress, isolation, and mental health issues associated with migration. The service also offers linguistic assistance through translation services and devices.

Nottawasaga Opioid Advisory Working Group (ongoing) - brings together community partners to share information, build relationships, and coordinate evidence-based strategies across prevention, harm reduction, and treatment to address the impacts of the drug toxicity crisis in Nottawasaga.

Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) (ongoing) - contributes to early intervention and crisis diversion by embedding a mental health professional with a sworn OPP officer, reducing emergency department visits and minimizing strain on frontline police resources.

Naloxone Kits - now carried by Adjala-Tosorontio's Fire Department.

Access

Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston (2025) launched a new pediatric clinic. This addition expands the hospital's outpatient services, providing specialized care for children and youth in the region.

Community Connection's 24/7 Housing Helpline and Coordinated Access (2022) was launched as an expansion to its contact centre operations to 24/7, providing a dedicated housing helpline accessible via calling 211. Callers can receive immediate assistance and be connected to appropriate housing resources through the Simcoe County Coordinated Access³ system.

Simcoe Addiction & Mental Health Treatment Centre in Cookstown (2021) - the Centre has expanded its facility to accommodate more clients. The centre offers evidence-based, holistic treatment for addiction and mental health, including inpatient programs, therapy sessions, and aftercare support.

³ [Overview: Coordinated Access](#)



Building on Experience

As we refresh the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, we recognize the value of reflecting on what we have learned from the development and implementation of the 2021-2025 CSWB Plan. Through collaboration, experience, and community engagement, we have gained important insights alongside a clearer understanding of the implementation challenges and limitations that can impact progress.

As we move forward with our refreshed Plan, we recognize:

- CSWB initiatives are most successful when a lead agency is identified, and roles are clearly defined
- Data sharing remains an ongoing challenge that needs to be addressed
- Lived and direct service provider experience brings valuable insight
- Inter-sectoral collaboration needs dedicated support and infrastructure
- Starting with clear, doable steps creates progress
- CSWB makes us rethink how we define success when it may not always be visible in the short term (e.g., prevented crises)
- Flexibility is essential for real-time learning and adjusting to emerging needs and opportunities
- The need for ongoing communication and consultation can not be overstated.

Understanding Our Community

The Nottawasaga area, which includes the Townships of Adjala-Tosorontio and Essa and the Town of New Tecumseth, is a vibrant mix of rural landscapes, historic villages, and growing urban centres. Home to over 77,000 residents⁴ the region is experiencing steady population growth, particularly in Alliston and surrounding areas. This growth brings new opportunities, but also places increased demand on housing, infrastructure, health, and social services.

Geographically, the area spans a large and varied landscape. While this rural character contributes to the region's unique charm and quality of life, it also presents challenges in ensuring all residents, especially those living outside core settlement areas, can access timely and appropriate services.

Nottawasaga's proximity to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) makes it an attractive location for families and individuals seeking a balance between urban amenities and small-town living. However, this growth has also contributed to rising housing costs, increased commuter traffic, and greater pressure on local services.

The population includes families, older adults, youth, newcomers, and individuals who may require additional supports at various points in their lives. Residents have highlighted the need for improved access to mental health and addiction services, housing supports, and service navigation, particularly for those facing financial or social barriers.

Canadian Forces Base Borden, located within the area, brings added richness to the community fabric and unique considerations, including the need for supports that assist military families and veterans during periods of transition.

Despite the pressures of growth and change, Nottawasaga continues to benefit from a strong sense of community, dedicated service providers, and collaborative local leadership.



⁴ County of Simcoe Data Portal, 2021 Census

Insights

This Plan is shaped by what we heard from the community and what the data tells us. Together, these insights help us understand local needs and focus our efforts where they are needed most.

Insights From Resident Survey Respondents

A Community that Feels Safe

Most residents feel positive about their personal safety, with 76% reporting that they feel safe or very safe in their community. When it comes to public spaces where homelessness is visible, residents identified a need to strengthen supports. They suggested that access to shelter, expanded mental health and addiction services, and outreach teams that are more visible and active in the community could help increase feelings of safety and support for all.

Supporting Youth Mental Health

Survey results highlighted concerns about the availability of mental health supports for young people. 41% of respondents believe that youth aged 12 to 25 do not have enough access to the mental health and addiction supports they need. Another 38% were unsure. Residents identified a lack of awareness as the biggest barrier preventing youth from accessing services, followed by wait times and transportation challenges. Some respondents also felt that schools should play a greater role in helping students connect to mental health and social supports. Many noted that offering services in familiar and accessible community spaces would make it easier for youth and families to get help.

Finding Help When It Is Needed

When looking for information about services, residents most often turn to municipal websites, local social media, community websites, or word of mouth. Even so, 41% of survey respondents said they would not know where to go for help if they or someone they cared about was experiencing mental health challenges or housing instability. There is strong support for making information more accessible, 79% of residents said that a centralized, local directory or app would make it easier to find services and navigate available supports in Nottawasaga.



Insights From Providers⁵

Coordinated Approaches to Homelessness and Housing

Service providers highlighted the need for a more coordinated outreach response to homelessness, with clearly defined roles and mandates across the housing system. People experiencing or at risk of housing instability need to know where to go for help and who to contact before a crisis occurs. There was a strong call for more deeply affordable housing options for individuals and families with minimal incomes, to help prevent homelessness and support long-term stability.

Integrated and Coordinated Services

Providers identified the need to better connect “like resources” and improve communication between organizations to ensure clients receive streamlined, coordinated care. There is a particular emphasis on enhancing service navigation and supporting individuals through a “no wrong door” approach, with a vision for more locally available supports and one-stop service hubs. Improved discharge planning, especially for those transitioning from hospitals to homelessness, was also highlighted as a key area for system improvement.

Stigma Reduction and Community Awareness

Addressing stigma, particularly around mental health, addictions, and homelessness, was seen as critical. Providers also emphasized the importance of increasing community and private sector awareness of the challenges residents face, as well as the efforts of service providers working to meet these needs.

Cultural Responsiveness and Equity

As the client base becomes more diverse, providers noted the need for greater access to culturally affirming resources and training. They also called for better data to understand and respond to the experiences of equity-deserving populations facing systemic barriers.

Private Sector Engagement

The role of the private sector was identified as an untapped opportunity. Providers would like to see more intentional engagement with businesses and employers to help address social issues and foster broader community understanding, compassion, awareness (of what providers are already doing and planning to do), and involvement.

Collaboration and Shared Outcomes

Stronger cross-sector collaboration was recognized as essential. Providers expressed a desire to establish shared goals, enhance communication, and improve data sharing across agencies. These efforts would support a more connected system and ultimately lead to better outcomes for individuals and families accessing services

⁵ Insights were thematically grouped from January – April 2025 provider consultation sessions, key informant interviews, a CSWB provider survey, a county-wide provider session, and a local provider session



Key Data

Housing and Homelessness

In the 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count⁶, 6% of the 607 survey respondents were from Nottawasaga (South Simcoe).

As of May 25, 2025, 279 people are identified in the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)⁷ as experiencing homelessness in the Nottawasaga area. This number is subject to change as the HIFIS database is continuously updated with new and ongoing entries.

Mental Health and Addiction:

44.7% of elementary students reported feeling positive emotions like happiness and calm, which has decreased from 2019⁸. (Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board).

<50% of secondary students said they feel comfortable expressing their emotions at school⁹. (Simcoe County District School Board)

60% of provider survey respondents reported a 'significant change' in mental health concerns in people served

52% of provider survey respondents reported a 'significant change' related to substance use/addiction of their clients served¹⁰

Simcoe County has higher rates of Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations for self-harm and death by suicide compared to the provincial average¹¹

Resident survey respondents' top three biggest barriers to youth accessing mental health and or addiction support and services were long wait times, lack of awareness, and stigma.

Access:

52% increase in calls from Nottawasaga communities to 211 from 2019-2023

Top reasons for 211 calls: 1. Housing 2. Income 3. Mental Health/Health

⁶ A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count is a coordinated community effort to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night (the "enumeration") and includes a survey that is administered directly to individuals experiencing homelessness.

⁷ HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) is a federally supported, real-time database used by service providers to track and coordinate homelessness-related data and services.

⁸ Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, Elementary and Secondary Climate Reports, 2024

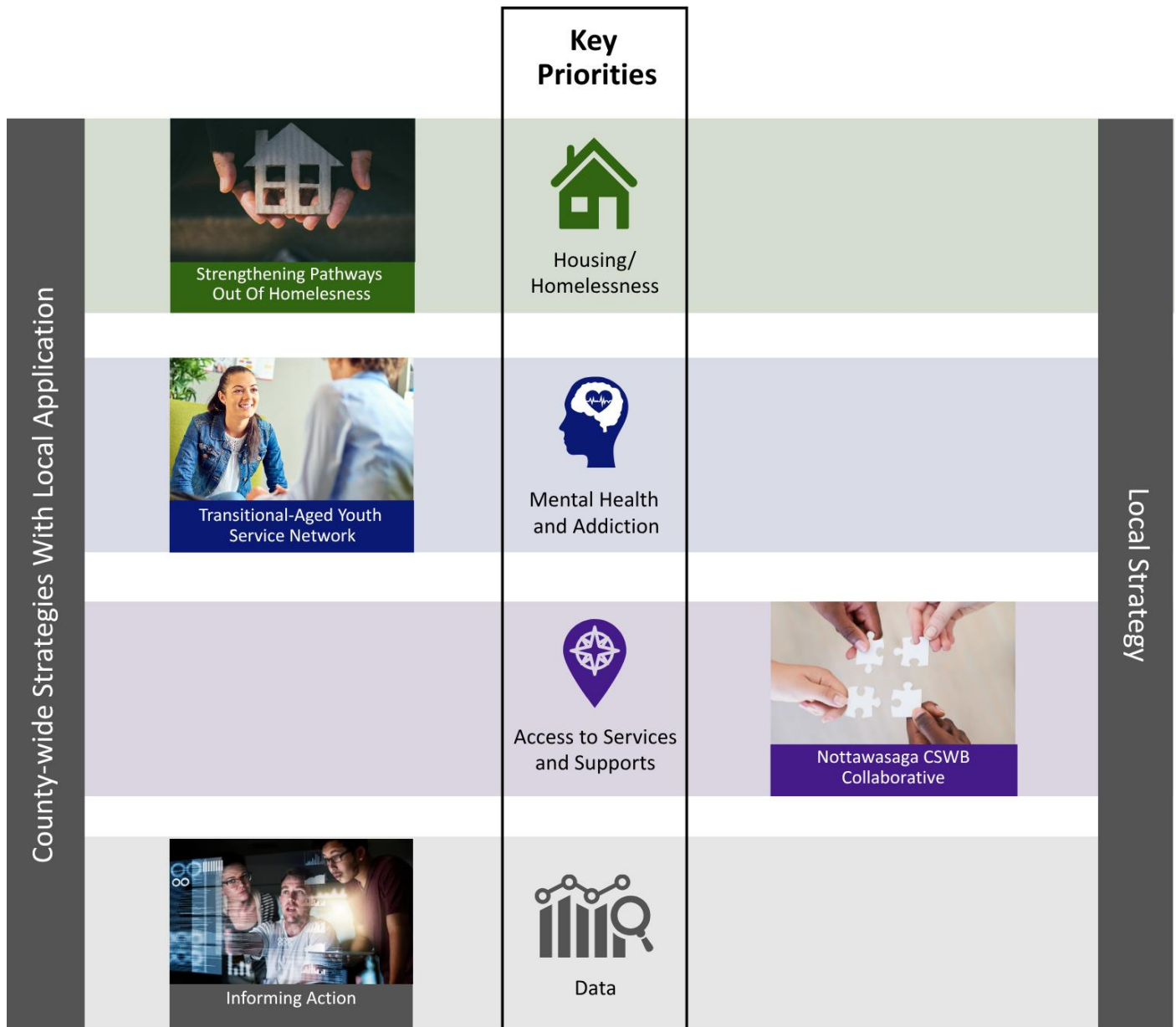
⁹ Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) School 2024 Climate Survey

¹⁰ CSWB Provider Survey, 2025

¹¹ [Health Stats Dashboard, SMDHU 2020-2023](#)

Strategies

Nottawasaga CSWB Plan 2025-2029



The principles of equity, diversity and inclusion will underpin our approach

Safe and Supported: Strengthening Pathways Out of Homelessness

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. For people experiencing homelessness, the lack of stable housing can lead to increased vulnerability and involvement in high-risk situations. At the same time, some residents who are not experiencing homelessness may feel unsafe, particularly in parks or downtown areas where visible homelessness is more common. This strategy focuses on improving safety for everyone by strengthening connections to housing, outreach, support services, and ways to mitigate safety-related concerns for all residents.



Social Development

Risk Intervention

Lead Agency

County of Simcoe

Partners:

Homeless System providers and appropriate Health System providers

Goal

Improve perceptions of safety of the community and safety related to critical incidents for those experiencing homelessness

Objective

Enhance coordinated access to housing and social supports to reduce housing-related safety incidents for those experiencing homelessness

Action

Strengthen referral pathways to prevention supports and reduction strategies for homelessness through:

- Centralized Outreach
- Shelter/Supportive Housing
- Case Conferencing / Navigation Tables

Exploratory Measures to Consider

- Perceptions of safety (housed and unhoused residents in the community)
- Safety related to critical incidents
- Housing-focused outcomes

Transitional-Aged Youth Services Network

Young people aged 12 to 25 (transitional-aged) face growing mental health and addiction challenges. Currently, services can be hard to access and are often disconnected, leaving youth and their families unsure where to turn for help. This strategy supports the current development of an Integrated Youth Services Network that brings agencies together to make services easier to access, more connected, and better tailored to the needs of youth.

Creating a single-entry point (the networked system of providers) and encouraging collaboration between service providers will help reduce gaps in support, respond to the needs of a growing and changing population, and ensure services are appropriate for each stage of youth development. When youth and their families get the right help, they feel better and do better.



Lead Agency

CFS Counselling and Well-Being through the work of the Integrated Youth Services Network

Partners: Youth Hubs, Justice, School Boards, Indigenous Services, Child Welfare, Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), Child Youth & Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County, Youth

Goal

Improved mental health and well-being outcomes for youth aged 12-25

Objective

Enhance coordinated, accessible, and developmentally appropriate mental health and addiction (MHA) services for youth

Action

Support the development and expansion of the emerging Integrated Youth Services Network that will prioritize:

- Create a single access point into the system
- Expand collaborative and integrated programs
- Adapt services to population growth and diversity
- Identify service barriers and gaps

Exploratory Measures to Consider:

- Collaboration
- Service-related outcomes for youth
- Youth and caregiver satisfaction results

Nottawasaga CSWB Collaborative

The Nottawasaga CSWB Collaborative focuses on improving access to compassionate, coordinated supports for individuals experiencing mental health challenges, addictions, or homelessness. This work will be advanced through an aligned membership and intersection of certain objectives of an existing multi-sector table. The CSWB Collaborative will take on a focused mandate to strengthen coordination, reduce stigma, and improve service navigation across sectors. Priorities include raising awareness, mapping current service pathways, enhancing discharge planning, and developing shared protocols to close service gaps. By leveraging existing partnerships and engaging the private sector where appropriate, this strategy aims to build a more connected, responsive, and person-centred system of support in Nottawasaga.



Social Development

Prevention

Lead Agency

Nottawasaga Opioid Advisory Working Group (SMDHU)

Partners:

Municipalities of Adjala-Tosorontio, Essa, and New Tecumseth, Health, MHA, Housing/ Homelessness, Police, Education, Employment, Local Business Associations, Faith Communities, Community Services, Non-Profit Organizations

Goal

Improved access to compassionate, coordinated support for people facing mental health challenges, addictions, or homelessness in Nottawasaga

Objective

Strengthen coordination across sectors to build a more connected, compassionate, and effective system by addressing awareness, stigma, discharge processes, and pathways of support for individuals facing mental health, addiction, and housing challenges

Action

Establish and sustain a CSWB Collaborative that brings together social service, community service, health, public and private sectors to co-design and prioritize action around:

- Increase public awareness of mental health, addiction, and homelessness challenges
- Reduce stigma to help people feel safe asking for help
- Create shared processes for referrals and service coordination to close gaps
- Map how people move through services, including after hospital discharge, to find and fix barriers
- Engage local businesses in practical ways to support community well-being

Exploratory Measures to Consider

- Coordination and integration
- Access and navigation
- Collaborative engagement and responsiveness

Informing Action

Access to consistent, meaningful data was a key challenge during the first CSWB Plan. Many partners used different systems, tracked different indicators, and had limited capacity to share data-making it difficult to assess progress or respond to emerging issues.

This strategy takes a more practical and collaborative approach. By starting with an inventory of existing datasets and exploring shared indicators tied to plan priorities, the County can build a stronger foundation for future data work. This phased model emphasizes learning, trust-building, and achievable steps rather than overcommitting to complex systems too early.

Aligned with the provincial CSWB framework, this strategy supports *collaboration*, *risk prevention*, and *information sharing* by helping partners better understand what drives safety and well-being across communities. It also responds directly to lessons learned from the first plan: start small, focus on alignment, and use what's already available to guide smarter decisions moving forward.



Social Development

Prevention

Risk Intervention

Lead Agency

Simcoe County

Partners:

Police Services, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Community Connection, other relevant partners

Goal

To support municipalities and community partners in better understanding and responding to community safety and well-being issues through practical, collaborative data initiatives

Objective

Begin with achievable steps to map, access, and use shared data to support CSWB planning, decision-making, and ongoing learning

Action

The County of Simcoe will lead this work by:

- Hiring a summer student to map available datasets across CSWB-related organizations and assess potential for sharing
- Exploring key indicators with partners that align with the priorities in the Plan(s)
- Identifying current data gaps and exploring potential sources of supplementary data (e.g., Environics Analytics), recognizing any cost limitations.
- Exploring safe and practical ways to share data in the future
- Using lessons learned from this phase to inform future data-related collaborations

Exploratory Measures to Consider

- Data and Inventory
- Partner Engagement
- Capacity-Building and Relationship Development
- Innovation and Learning

Coordinating Action and Measuring Progress

Governance and Advisory Support

The following three groups play key roles in the development, monitoring, and alignment of the CSWB Plan:

Nottawasaga Geographical Municipal Coordinating Committee (GMCC) – This group is responsible for oversight and governance of the CSWB Plan. The GMCC will provide oversight to create space for shared learning, reflection, and alignment across strategies, not day-to-day management.

Nottawasaga CSWB Collaborative – The group (formerly known as the Local Table in the 2021-2025 Plan) serves as a subject matter advisory group that monitors progress on the CSWB Plan and provides input on the local application of both county-wide and locally developed strategies. A subset (executive group from the original Local Table) will report back to the GMCC and to the Simcoe County CSWB Advisory Body.

Simcoe County CSWB Advisory Body (formerly referred to as the CSWB Steering Committee in the 2021-2025 Plan) - The Advisory Body, comprised of subject matter experts across areas of risk, plays a key role in matters of county-wide interest or application as well as aligning CSWB planning with broader system planning through joint strategic efforts that support the collective advancement of local and regional CSWB strategies.

Actioning the Strategies

Strategy Leads: Each strategy in this Plan will be led by a designated Lead Agency with partner support.

Implementation of the strategies will be phased to encourage collaboration, learning, and adaptation.

In the first year, each strategy lead/table/group will:

- Clarify roles
- Explore early measures of success
- Identify key performance indicators
- Set baselines and data-sharing methods
- Launch activities toward their goals

This approach follows the CSWB Framework's focus on proactive planning, shared accountability, and continuous improvement, using local data and lived experience to keep strategies flexible and responsive.



Other Important Priorities Beyond this Plan

During our engagement with community members and service providers, we heard many thoughtful and meaningful ideas. While not all are reflected in this version of the Plan, they remain important. Some are already underway, some need more time or resources, and some may inform future planning.

These priorities are included here, so they are not forgotten. They may guide future work, support others in shaping initiatives, or be part of a future Plan update.

- **Pathways to safety for victims of intimate partner and gender-based violence** – The absence of an articulated strategy in the refreshed Plan does not diminish the keen awareness that we need to work with community partners to improve access and outcomes for those at risk and victims.
- **Continuous Engagement** – Recognizing that some voices and demographics may have been underrepresented in the initial engagement process, the implementation of this Plan will include a commitment to ongoing and responsive engagement, exploring methods beyond traditional approaches as needed to better reflect the diversity of perspectives in the community.
- **Access to Healthcare** - Primary and specialist care, mental health supports, and timely services remains an important priority. Health system partners continue to work toward improving access and equity across the region, and their efforts will be key to supporting overall community well-being.
- **Addressing Poverty** – Finding ways to identify poverty-risk earlier, so that early interventions and assistance can be offered. Collaborative groups are working to address this.

As this work moves forward, the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion will remain essential to ensuring a wide range of voices and experiences are reflected.



Building On What Exists

The Nottawasaga CSWB Plan was developed in the context of a wide range of ongoing work across the municipalities, Simcoe County, and the community. The Plan strategies are intended to align with and support these broader efforts. Where possible, actions in this Plan build on work already underway or amplify it through collaboration.

[Housing / Homelessness](#)

| Plan / Strategy Name | Lead | How it Aligns |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| New Tecumseth Official Plan and Growth Management Study | Town of New Tecumseth | Guides long-term land use and infrastructure planning to support sustainable growth, including the development of diverse and affordable housing options. |
| New Tecumseth Community Improvement Plan (CIP) | Town of New Tecumseth | A municipal tool used to encourage revitalization and targeted development by offering financial incentives that support community priorities such as affordable housing, downtown renewal, and economic growth. |
| Essa's Infrastructure Master Plan | Township of Essa | A long-term strategy (25 years) to ensure the community has safe, reliable, and sustainable services, like roads, water, and wastewater, to support current and future growth |
| Adjala-Tosorontio's Draft Official Plan and Asset Management Plans | Township of Adjala-Tosorontio | These Plans help support housing and homelessness by encouraging and facilitating a diverse range of housing options and ensuring that essential infrastructure is maintained and ready to accommodate current and future residential development. |
| 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy And the 10-point homelessness prevention strategy | County of Simcoe | Outlines steps for the development and implementation of creative solutions for increasing affordable housing |

Also Aligned: the work of Simcoe County Alliance To End Homelessness, Coordinated Access for Homelessness, the Municipal Liaison Group

Mental Health and Addiction

| Plan / Strategy Name | Lead | How it Aligns |
|---|---|--|
| SCDSB Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan | Simcoe County District School Board | Guides priorities for advancing school mental health |
| SMCDSB Mental Health and Well-Being Strategic Priorities and Action Plan | Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board | Guides priorities for advancing school mental health |
| Also Aligned: Nottawasaga Opioid Advisory Working Group, Simcoe Muskoka Drug Strategy (SMDS) | | |

Data

| Plan / Strategy Name | Lead | How it Aligns |
|--|---|--|
| County of Simcoe Interactive Map (GIS) | County of Simcoe | Provides interactive maps and spatial data that help identify community needs, plan services, and support evidence-based decision-making for community safety and well-being |
| County Of Simcoe Data Portal | County of Simcoe | The online portal supports Simcoe County and its partners in identifying community needs through data |
| Health Stats Simcoe Muskoka | Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit | Provides information and data about the health status of Simcoe and Muskoka people and communities |
| Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Diversity Hub Contact: scip@simcoe.ca | Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership | To connect stakeholders and provide local access to resources that support inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility for vulnerable populations in Simcoe County |
| Also Aligned: Simcoe County Data Consortium | | |

Appendix A: Organizations and Voices that Helped Inform the Plan

Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle
(BANAC) / Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin

Barrie Native Friendship Centre

Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal
Women's Circle (BRAWC)

Canadian Mental Health Association
Simcoe County

Canadian Mental Health Association
York Region and South Simcoe

Catulpa Community Support Services

CFS Counselling + Well-Being

Child Youth & Family Services Coalition
of Simcoe County

Community Connection

Contact Community Services

County of Simcoe – Health and
Emergency Services

County of Simcoe – Housing and
Community Social Services

Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka

Essa Public Library

Family Connexions

Focus Community Development
Corporation

Honda of Canada

Huronian Transition Homes

John Howard Society of Simcoe &
Muskoka

Krasman Centre

New Path Youth and Family Services

New Tecumseth Public Library

North Simcoe Muskoka Specialized
Geriatric Services

Nottawasaga Residents (survey
respondents)

Ontario Provincial Police (Nottawasaga
Detachment)

S.H.I.F.T (Support and Hope For
Individuals and Families Today)

Simcoe County District School Board

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District
School Board

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The Gilbert Centre

Town of New Tecumseth

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio

Township of Essa

United Way Simcoe County

Appendix B: Helpful Acronyms and Terms

Acronyms

- **CMHA** – Canadian Mental Health Association
- **CSWB** – Community Safety and Well-Being
- **GMCC** – Geographic Municipal Coordinating Committee (GMCC)
- **MHA** – Mental Health and Addiction
- **OHT** – Ontario Health Team
- **SMDHU** – Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Terms

- **Case Conferencing / Navigation Tables** – Regular meetings where service providers collaboratively coordinate care and support for individuals with complex needs.
- **Coordinated Access** – A streamlined process where individuals are matched to services through a shared intake and referral system across agencies.
- **Equity-Deserving Groups** – Communities who experience systemic barriers to access, opportunities, and resources, such as racialized people, Indigenous populations, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and others.
- **Integrated Youth Services Network** – A group of service providers working together to improve access, coordination, and quality of services for youth.
- **Navigation / Navigators** – People or services that help individuals understand and access the right support systems.
- **Outreach Services** – Services delivered directly to people in the community (rather than in a fixed location), often targeting individuals who face barriers to accessing traditional services.
- **Risk Intervention** – Targeted actions to support people facing escalating challenges before a crisis occurs.

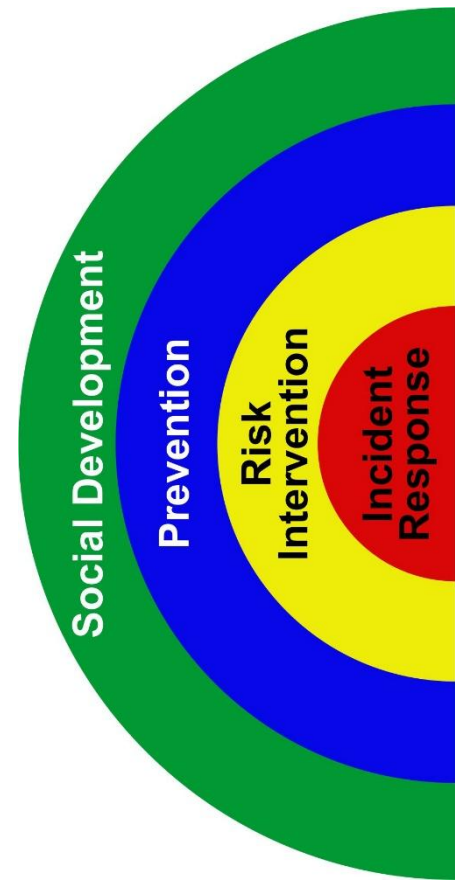
Appendix C: CSWB Framework

The Community Safety and Well-Being Framework is a way for communities across Ontario to work together to make life better and safer for everyone. It helps us look at the big picture, what people need to live well, and focus on preventing problems before they become emergencies.

The Province of Ontario created a model to guide how communities do this work. It resembles a bullseye with four layers, or “areas of focus.” Each layer shows a different way we can support people in our community, from long-term planning (green) to immediate help in a crisis (red).

The Four Areas of Focus

- **Social Development**
Improving housing, education, mental health, and employment over time creates stronger communities and reduces future risks.
- **Prevention**
Early action through programs and outreach helps address issues before they become serious.
- **Risk Intervention**
Coordinated support is provided to individuals or families showing signs of serious challenges to prevent crises.
- **Incident Response**
Emergency services address urgent situations, with a long-term goal of reducing the need for crisis intervention.



How We Work Together

- **Collaboration**
Bringing together partners from various sectors and services to work towards more effective and coordinated solutions.
- **Information Sharing**
Sharing de-identified data helps partners understand emerging needs and risks, leading to better-informed and unified responses.
- **Measuring Progress**
Tracking results shows what is working and where.



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