

AV Safety Net

*The Alberni Valley:
A Safe Place To Call
Home*

AV Safety Net: Foundation

- A 36-month project of Alberni Community and Women's Services Society and The City of Port Alberni
- Funded by the Federal Government Ministry of Public Safety, National Crime Prevention Centre/Strategy
- 3 FTE/Budget approx \$200,000/yr

AV Safety Net: Partners

- ❑ **Local Government** has been a partner since before the initial proposal was submitted to the National Crime Prevention Centre.
- ❑ Other key partners and supporters include **PA RCMP, Fire Department, media, community service providers, The Friendship Centre, School District, Chamber of Commerce, local college, etc.**



AV Safety Net: Methodology

Our project uses a Crime Prevention through Social Development lens, and is a Comprehensive Community Safety Initiative.

AV Safety Net: Methodology

CPSD is a method of crime prevention work that looks at economic, social and cultural processes that contribute to crime and victimization.

CPSD seeks to strengthen the bridge between criminal justice systems, and the safe, secure, pro-social development of individuals, families and communities.

CPSD does this by focusing on root causes and protective factors.

(NCPC)

AV Safety Net: Methodology

A CCSI is a:

- **Comprehensive** (multiple points of contact, types of work, broad & focused coverage of multiple issues)
- **Community-based** (multiple stakeholders, broad participation)
- **Safety-focused**

Initiative

Port Alberni

Port Alberni is a community in transition. Just a few short decades ago, we had the highest per capita income in all of Canada.

Now, we have:

Port Alberni

- The 2nd worst RD for Overall Socio-economic index
- The 4th worst RD for Economic Hardship
- The 7th worst RD for Crime
- The 2nd worst RD for Health Problems
- The Worst RD for Education Concerns
- The 2nd worst RD for Children at Risk
- The 4th worst RD for Youth at Risk

Resiliency/Capacity

These struggles mean our community, our families, children, youth, neighbourhoods and businesses, are all struggling with **Resiliency and Capacity** issues.

“Resiliency is that which enables us to deal with challenges, crisis, and trauma, and still carry on. Resilient people (and businesses and families and neighbourhoods) seem to manage and even become stronger in difficult conditions.”

Theory of Change

This may seem like a “Soft” approach to Crime Prevention and Community Safety, but we believe that if we build resiliency and capacity in our community, we will prevent crime over the long run.

Why do we believe this?

AV Safety Net

We believe effective Crime Prevention work must include a focus on improving Community Safety that augments other forms of Crime Prevention work.

We believe Crime Prevention is a complex issue that requires complex solutions.

A Complex Approach

In order to solve complex problems, you need to:

- Think, Work and Fund over the long term
- Augment traditional approaches to Crime Prevention
- Engage multiple partners
- Target Root Causes

The AV Solution

Here's how we're doing that:

Year One

- ❑ Key Tasks include Quality of Life Survey and data- and partner-gathering

Year Two

- ❑ Build Community Safety Plan and raise awareness and involvement

Year Three

- ❑ Implement integrated actions/re-measure

AV Safety Net: QoL

Here's what our Quality of Life Research & Survey told us:

- ❑ The Alberni Valley experiences fractured, depleted community responses to social, economic and health issues, and these responses are almost completely intervention-oriented.
- ❑ Respondents asked for tougher enforcement, **improved services for addictions**, tougher laws, **stronger efforts to reduce poverty**, and **improved services for individuals living with mental health issues**.

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To date some of the things we've done include:

- ❑ Conducted Two QoL surveys
- ❑ Begun implementing community-recommended strategies
- ❑ Held several community forums to learn about crime and victimization in our community
- ❑ Conducted research on issues/solutions
- ❑ Engaged hundreds of individuals in working on this issue
- ❑ Done media work on Community Safety
- ❑ Developed a website and a Resource Library

Role of Local Government

Having local government at the table means this work is more likely to be imbedded in our community's culture, and is more likely to have positive impact over the long term.

Role of Local Government

How does Local Government play a role in this work?

Local Government can provide legitimacy, direction & support to community efforts.

Local government can help combine CP through Situational Design, CP through Environmental Design, and CP through Social Development approaches.

Role of Local Government

Operate and leverage Horizontal and Vertical thinking and resources.

Provide political leadership and lobby for policy change.

Utilize their knowledge and skills to adapt strategies to fit local needs.

Help build the capacity of the community to do the work.

Role of Local Government

Work with the press/media to get the message out.

Assist with funding projects/neighbourhood work.

Provide tools/data for measurement purposes.

(“Bureau of Justice Assistance Monograph: Crime Prevention Series. *The Role of Local Government in Community Safety*” (2001))

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See

www.avsafetynet.ca