



Community Safety and Well-Being

for **Huron**

CSWB Plan Review

June 2025

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Acknowledgements

Lower-tier Municipalities in Huron County

Lower-tier municipalities in Huron County play an active role in supporting community safety and well-being initiatives, demonstrating dedication and effort through their involvement and support.

- Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
- Municipality of Bluewater
- Municipality of Central Huron
- Town of Goderich
- Township of Howick
- Municipality of Huron East
- Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
- Township of North Huron
- Municipality of South Huron

Oversight Committee Representation

Community organizations and service providers across various sectors bring essential knowledge and perspective to the Oversight Committee related to the plan's four priority areas. Their involvement is key in informing lower-tier municipalities and shaping strategies that reflect the real needs and priorities of the communities they serve.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Avon Maitland District School Board | • Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance |
| • Canadian Mental Health Association Huron Perth | • Huron Perth Public Health |
| • County of Huron | • Huron-Perth Centre for Children and Youth |
| • Fanshawe College | • Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society |
| • Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health | • Huron Women's Shelter |
| • Huron County Social and Property Services | • Rural Response for Healthy Children |
| • Huron County Immigration Partnership | • Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services for Children and Youth |
| • Huron County OPP | • Tanner Steffler Foundation |
| • Huron Health Systems | • The Well Community Hub |
| • Huron Perth Catholic District School Board | • United Way Perth-Huron |
| | • Victim Services Huron Perth |

Introduction

Community safety and well-being are priorities in every Ontario community. Changes made to the Ontario Police Services Act in 2019 required municipalities to develop and adopt plans that address root causes of crime and complex social issues by focusing holistically on social development, prevention, and risk prevention. These plans – referred to as Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans – recognize that complex issues cannot be addressed in isolation or solely on an incident response basis.

The purpose of this Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) for Huron Review Report is to identify opportunities for continued collaboration and improvement. Over the last two years, CSWB for Huron has begun implementing actions related to the priority areas. A detailed review of the recommended actions contained in the Plan, as well as new and emerging issues identified in this report, will be completed following extensive consultation with the Oversight Committee and Municipal Working Group. It is anticipated that following this detailed review, a 3 to 5 year action plan will be created guiding future CSWB efforts across Huron County.

This legislated review ensures accountability and alignment with the goals set out in the original CSWB for Huron Plan, helping communities measure impact, adapt to emerging needs, and reinforce a proactive, integrated approach to safety and well-being. By assessing what's working and where further attention is needed, this report supports ongoing efforts to build inclusive, resilient, and thriving communities across the region.

Current CSWB for Huron Plan and Priorities

The CSWB for Huron Plan was developed by the nine lower-tier municipalities and community partners and was adopted by all nine lower-tier municipalities prior to July 1, 2021.

The CSWB Plan was created as a roadmap for how lower-tier municipalities in Huron County can collaborate across different sectors to make communities more inclusive, resilient, and where all residents thrive.

The Plan identified the following four (4) priority areas for action based on their research and community engagement:

- Mental Health and Addictions;
- Housing Stability and Homelessness;
- Domestic and Family Violence; and

- Community Security.

To advance CSWB in Huron, the current plan:

- Examined population data and other statistics for municipalities in Huron County to understand the context within which we are working, where resources are distributed and to identify potential risks and challenges to be addressed;
- Provided an overview of the legislative framework guiding the development of this Plan and the process taken by the nine Huron County municipalities to understand risk and needs;
- Established an approach to community safety and well-being in Huron based on collective impact, equity, and social determinants of health to ensure risk and needs are understood holistically;
- Identified Priority Areas for action to be addressed through this plan;
- Presented an Evaluation Matrix to help us measure progress; and
- Discussed next steps for Plan implementation.

CSWB Plan Review

As of April 1, 2024, the Community Safety and Well-Being Plans – Publication and Review (Ontario Regulation 414/23) under the Community Safety and Policing Act (2019) mandates that municipalities review and if necessary, revise their plans every four years.

Community Safety and Well-Being for Huron must submit its revised plan (if necessary) to the Ministry of the Solicitor General by July 1, 2025.

As part of the CSWB for Huron Plan review, the following review actions were taken to ensure the review was evidence-based, inclusive, and responsive to community needs:

- Review of Community and Oversight Committee survey responses;
- Review of the Plan's current priority areas; and
- Review of new and emerging issues (identified through survey responses).

Community and Oversight Committee Feedback (Survey)

The Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan Review Survey, conducted between February and April 2025, gathered input from both Oversight Committee members and community residents to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Plan's priorities.

Across both surveys, housing stability and homelessness, along with mental health and addictions, emerged as the most urgent concerns, reflecting widespread recognition of growing social and health-related challenges in the region. While domestic and family violence was also highlighted as a critical issue, particularly due to its long-term impacts on children, community security was generally seen as important but comparatively less pressing. **Many respondents emphasized that all four of the Plan’s priority areas remain vital and interrelated.**

There was also strong feedback regarding the need for greater coordination, better representation on the Oversight Committee, and improved responsiveness to on-the-ground realities. Overall, the surveys reflect a shared call for integrated, community-informed action that prioritizes safety, dignity, and well-being for all residents.

Details regarding the findings of both surveys are provided below.

Community Survey

The Community Survey gathered input from residents across Huron County, representing a wide range of ages and municipalities. The aim was to understand public perspectives on the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan’s priority areas and uncover any emerging issues affecting community well-being. A total of 165 responses were received.

Among the four priority areas:

- Housing Stability and Homelessness was identified as the most important by approximately 72% of respondents.
- Mental Health and Addictions followed closely, chosen by 68% of respondents.
- Domestic and Family Violence was selected as a top concern by 48% of respondents.
- Community Security was identified as most important by 42% of respondents.

Approximately 78% of respondents felt that all four areas are important and should be addressed collectively (similar to the findings of the Committee survey).

In terms of emerging issues, community members highlighted the following (ordered most to least mentioned):

- Homelessness & Housing Instability
 - Very frequently mentioned across many responses
 - Concerns include lack of affordable housing, visible homelessness in downtown areas, safety concerns, lack of emergency shelters (especially for men), and resistance to shelters in residential areas
- Mental Health & Addiction
 - Highly recurring theme
 - Includes the need for long-term treatment facilities, support for youth and families, overlap with homelessness, and addiction issues impacting public spaces and business areas
- Community Safety & Crime
 - Strong concern across multiple submissions
 - Includes fear of walking at night, theft, break-ins during off-season, and overall rise in local crime and violence (e.g. mention of femicide)
- Policing & Justice System
 - Repeated concerns about lack of visible policing, slow response times, and a disconnect between law enforcement and the judicial system
 - Several people request more police presence or satellite stations
- Food Insecurity
 - Mentioned multiple times directly or in relation to mental health, homelessness, and reliance on food banks
- Public Infrastructure & Urban Safety
 - Includes concerns about unsafe sidewalks, poor lighting, public washroom misuse, and issues like snowmobiles on sidewalks and unsafe school zones
- Poverty & Cost of Living
 - Rising costs of housing, food, and utilities are frequently tied to mental stress, homelessness risk, and migration out of the area
 - Criticism of municipal spending and taxation also emerged
- Transit & Transportation Access
 - Includes barriers to participation in civic life due to lack of public transport, rural transportation insecurity, and calls for active transportation infrastructure
- Childcare & Family Supports
 - Access to affordable childcare linked to employment and maternal mental health
 - Lack of programs cited as a barrier to economic participation

- Stigma, Compassion, and Social Division
 - Several comments highlighted harmful public attitudes toward marginalized groups, calling for more education, compassion, and inclusive planning

Notably, awareness of the CSWB Plan was mixed. While some respondents were familiar with the Plan through social media or council meetings, many were unaware of its existence, suggesting a need for improved outreach and communication.

The community survey results show strong support for the CSWB Plan's priority areas, with a call for deeper investment in housing, mental health, and social supports. The responses reflect a desire for coordinated, compassionate, and practical action to address the evolving needs of Huron County residents.

Oversight Committee Survey

The Oversight Committee survey aimed to evaluate how well the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan is meeting its intended goals and responding to current community needs. A total of 16 responses were received.

Among the four priority areas:

- Housing Stability and Homelessness was identified as the most important priority by 75% of respondents.
- Mental Health and Addictions and Domestic and Family Violence followed closely, chosen by 56.25% of respondents.
- Community Security was ranked as the least important by 18.75% of respondents.

Similar to the Community survey, the majority (81.25%) of respondents emphasized that all four priorities remain important and interdependent.

In terms of new and emerging issues, Oversight Committee respondents highlighted the following (ordered most to least mentioned):

- Racism, Discrimination, and Hate Crimes
 - Mentioned explicitly by three respondents
 - Noted as increasing over the past two years and described as an urgent concern needing targeted attention
- Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation
 - Raised by two respondents

- Suggested to be addressed under Community Safety, especially for youth and rural populations
- Economic Insecurity (Income, Job Security, Food Insecurity)
 - Combined mentions across income/job security and food insecurity from two separate responses
 - Concerns related to affordability, employment, and basic needs access
- Social Disconnection and Isolation
 - Described as a mental health–related issue
 - Mentioned once but connected to broader well-being concerns, especially in the context of community cohesion
- Homelessness and Emergency Shelter Gaps
 - One detailed mention describing ER overload during winter due to lack of shelter options
- Rural Mental Health and Farm Safety
 - One mention emphasizes the need to recognize geographically specific mental health challenges
- Cultural Competency & Equity-Oriented Services
 - One mention connecting stress from political and economic shifts to a need for culturally inclusive services
- Two respondents indicated no new issues or supported maintaining the current focus of the plan

When asked whether the Plan aligns with community needs, most members expressed support but also shared concerns about the clarity of the Plan’s objectives and its ability to adapt to evolving challenges. Many called for more concrete, measurable outcomes, and stronger connections to realities.

Regarding the functioning of the Oversight Committee itself, responses indicated a belief that the Committee provides value to the CSWB framework, but there were mixed views about the effectiveness of its governance structure. Several respondents suggested improvements in meeting frequency, internal communications, and broader representation from additional community organizations and sectors.

In summary, the Oversight Committee sees value in the current CSWB Plan and structure, but highlights a clear need for refinements to governance, broader representation, and more tangible, community-driven outcomes.

Review of Current Plan Priority Areas

Mental Health and Addictions

Mental health and addictions continue to be a priority area for Community Safety and Well-Being in Huron.

- Mental health among Canadians is three times worse than before the pandemic.¹
- Approximately 1 in 5 children and youth in Ontario have a mental health challenge.²
- Over the five-year period from April 2019 to March 2024, call volume rose by approximately 91.2%, increasing from 1,591 to 3,042 calls³

With increasing recognition of the profound impact mental health challenges and substance use disorders have on individuals, families, and communities, addressing these issues remains critical. Across Huron, maintaining a focus on mental health and addiction ensures that community members have access to essential resources, support systems, and interventions. By prioritizing mental health and addiction, we create a safer, more resilient community where people feel supported in their journey toward recovery and wellness, ultimately fostering a stronger sense of security and well-being for all.

Housing Stability and Homelessness

Homelessness remains a key priority area for Community Safety and Well-Being in Huron.

Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024 in Huron County⁴:

- 208 individuals experienced homelessness;
- 188 households experienced homelessness.

The ongoing challenge of homelessness affects individuals and families in profound ways, impacting their health, safety, and ability to thrive. Addressing homelessness not only improves the quality of life for vulnerable individuals but also strengthens the overall

¹ Canadian Mental Health Association. The State of Mental Health in Canada 2024. Retrieved from: <https://cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CMHA-State-of-Mental-Health-2024-report.pdf>

² Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario. Mental Health. Retrieved from: <https://ontario.cmha.ca/mental-health/>

³ Data retrieved from Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance for the period of April 2019 to March 2024

⁴ Data retrieved from County of Huron for the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

resilience of the community. Ensuring that everyone has access to safe, stable housing is essential for fostering a sense of belonging, security, and well-being for all members of Huron.

Domestic and Family Violence

Domestic and family violence remains a vital priority area for Community Safety and Well-Being in Huron.

For the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025⁵:

- 120 women/dependents accessed Emergency Shelter or Second Stage;
- 548 Risk Assessment and Safety Plans Implemented;
- 1824 calls for support to the 24-hour Crisis Line.

In 2024⁶:

- 796 recorded incidents of Intimate Partner Violence;
- 211 charges related to Intimate Partner Violence;
- 284 recorded incidents of family disputes.

The devastating impact of violence within the home affects individuals and families, often leading to long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm. By prioritizing domestic and family violence, CSWB for Huron is dedicated to providing critical support services, resources, and intervention strategies that help individuals escape abusive situations and rebuild their lives. Addressing this issue not only protects the safety and dignity of victims but also strengthens the community as a whole by promoting healthier, more supportive environments. Ensuring that those affected by domestic and family violence have access to safety and support is crucial for creating a stronger, more resilient Huron.

Community Security

Community security remains an essential priority for Community Safety and Well-Being in Huron.

In 2024:

- 69 reported stolen vehicles in Huron County⁷

⁵ Data provided by the Huron Women's Shelter for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

⁶ Data provided by the Huron OPP for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

⁷ Data provided by Huron OPP for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

- 2 reported hate and/or discrimination in Huron Perth⁸

Ensuring that all residents feel safe in their homes, neighborhoods, and public spaces is fundamental to fostering a sense of belonging and trust within the community. By prioritizing safety and security, Huron focuses on proactive measures such as law enforcement, emergency response, and crime prevention initiatives, while also fostering collaboration between residents, local organizations, and authorities. This holistic approach not only reduces the risk of crime but also strengthens the community's resilience, creating an environment where everyone can thrive with confidence and peace of mind. Ultimately, a strong focus on community safety and security is key to maintaining a welcoming, supportive, and cohesive Huron for all its residents.

New and Emerging Issues Identified through Survey Responses

Throughout the course of this review, several new and emerging issues were identified by interest holders and community members. Each of the identified issues was carefully examined as part of the review process, including consideration of any available information or context. **Table 1** summarizes the new and emerging issues identified through survey responses.

While some of these issues lack comprehensive data or context, and others fall outside the immediate scope of the CSWB for Huron, all are recognized as important to the broader needs of the community. Their inclusion reflects our commitment to acknowledging emerging concerns and ensuring they are considered in future planning, collaboration, and prioritization efforts.

Appendix A contains the completed annual review of CSWB actions currently underway to address the issue. For this report, only the 2024 year in review has been completed. Moving forward, all CSWB actions will be reviewed and reported annually in the first quarter of the following year.

⁸ Data provided by Victim Services Huron Perth for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Table 1: Summary of New and Emerging Issues Identified through Survey Responses

Issue Identified	Explanation of Issue (in relation to CSWB for Huron Plan)	Action(s) (Current or Recommended)
Childcare	<p>Childcare was not explicitly identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) as an emerging issue in Huron County. Within the Plan, this issue was mentioned in relation to the impact of not earning enough income to support living expenses.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum wage for October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 was set at \$16.55⁹ Living wage in Huron was determined to be \$23.05¹⁰ 	<p>Future actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for Living Wage across Huron
Employment Security	<p>Employment security was not explicitly identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) as an emerging issue in Huron County. In the Plan it was noted that economic stability relies on ensuring residents can earn a living wage.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, the unemployment rate for the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Economic Region decreased by 1.2 percentage 	<p>Future actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for Living Wage across Huron

⁹ Government of Ontario. Updated April 2025. *Minimum wage rates*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/your-guide-employment-standards-act-0/minimum-wage#section-0>

¹⁰ Ontario Living Wage Network. *Calculating Ontario's Living Wages*. Retrieved from: https://assets.nationbuilder.com/ontariolivingwage/pages/110/attachments/original/1732044005/Calculating_Ontario's_Living_Wages_-_2024.pdf?1732044005

	points to 4.2%. This is the largest percentage drop of all economic regions in Ontario and the Region now sits at the second lowest unemployment rate in the province. ¹¹	
Food Insecurity	<p>Food insecurity was not explicitly identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) as an emerging issue in Huron County. Food insecurity was mentioned in the Plan as it relates to the impact of not earning enough.</p> <p>The issue of food insecurity is closely linked to income (United Way Perth Huron). The risk of food insecurity increases as a household's income declines.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, the cost of groceries for a family of four in Huron Perth was \$309 per week, or \$1,338 per month.¹² • United Way Perth-Huron's Social Research & Planning Council Household Food Insecurity Study¹³ found that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 63% of participants experience food insecurity across Huron and Perth. ○ 87% had to sacrifice their household food budget to pay other living expenses (high cost of housing is the 	<p>Future actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for Living Wage across Huron

¹¹ Four Counties Labour Market Planning Board. *News Release May 9, 2025: April Unemployment*. Retrieved from: <https://www.planningboard.ca/news/april-unemployment-rate-decreases-to-4-2/>

¹² Huron Perth Public Health. 2024. *The Real Cost of Eating*. Retrieved: https://www.hpph.ca/media/bmfchzbu/hpph-cost-of-eating-report_mar17.pdf

¹³ United Way Perth-Huron. May 2023. *Food Insecurity Study*. Retrieved from: <https://perthhuron.unitedway.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-06-22-Food-Security-Report-UPDATE.pdf>

	number one living expense that is reducing food budgets).	
Social isolation and loneliness	<p>This issue was identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) within the Mental Health and Addictions and Community Security priority areas.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For immigrants and newcomers to Canada, the Huron-Perth Immigrant Survey (2023) found that 39% felt isolated or lonely in the last year.¹⁴ 	Past and current CSWB actions are working towards addressing this issue.
Racism and Discrimination	<p>This issue was identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) within the Community Security priority area.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% of immigrants and visible minorities reported experiencing discrimination in Huron-Perth. Individuals who were Black (86%) most frequently reported experiencing discrimination in Huron Perth, followed by Indigenous Peoples (81%). The site discrimination most frequently occurred in were in the workplace, frequently took the form of 	Past and current CSWB actions are working towards addressing this issue.

¹⁴ Huron County Immigration Partnership. 2023. Huron-Perth Immigrant Survey: Summary report.
<https://www.huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ImmigrantSurvey-HuronPerth-Summary-final.pdf>

	a micro-aggression and were perpetuated by White Non-Immigrant Men in Middle Age. ¹⁵	
Rural Mental Health	<p>This issue was identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) within the Mental Health and Addiction priority area.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the time Canadians reach the age of 40, 1 in 2 have experienced a mental illness¹⁶ • 68% of farmers are more susceptible than the general population to chronic stress, which can lead to physical and mental illnesses.¹⁷ 	Past and current CSWB actions are working towards addressing this issue.
Farm Safety	<p>Farm safety was not explicitly identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) as an emerging issue in Huron County.</p> <p>Farm safety, related road safety, fits within the Community Security Priority Area.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p>	<p>Future actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate farm safety into future CSWB actions (website, information campaigns)

¹⁵ Lapshina, N. & Esses, V.M. 2021. Discrimination experienced by immigrants, visible minorities, and Indigenous Peoples in Huron-Perth. Network for Economic & Social Trends, University of Western Ontario & the Huron County Immigration Partnership. https://www.huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2021-11-16-Report-Discrimination-Huron_Perth.pdf

¹⁶ Smetanin et al. (2011). The life and economic impact of major mental illnesses in Canada: 2011-2041. Prepared for the Mental Health Commission of Canada. Toronto: RiskAnalytica.

¹⁷ National Survey of Farmer Mental Health, Submission to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food: Strengthening Canada's Agricultural Sector – A Canadian Network for Farmer Mental Health by Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph (2016)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, there was one reported (Huron OPP) farm accident in Huron County¹⁸ 	
Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation	<p>Human trafficking, particularly for the purpose of sexual exploitation, is a serious and growing issue in Ontario. The province is recognized as a major hub for human trafficking in Canada due to its dense population, extensive transportation networks, and economic disparities.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim Services Huron Perth received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 referrals for human trafficking in 2021- 2022¹⁹ 16 referrals for human trafficking in 2024-2025.²⁰ Huron OPP statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two occurrences where human trafficking was identified in 2024²¹ In 2024, there were no reported sexual exploitation occurrences²² <p>Community partners who directly provide services for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation has indicated that this</p>	<p>Future actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further investigation into this issue across Huron County.

¹⁸ Data retrieved from Huron OPP for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

¹⁹ Data retrieved from Victim Services Huron Perth for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

²⁰ Data retrieved from Victim Services Huron Perth for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

²¹ Data retrieved from Huron OPP for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

²² Data retrieved from Huron OPP for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

	occurs across Huron County, and they have observed an increase in youth being lured online and disregard for trusted adults.	
Increased homelessness	<p>This issue was identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) within the Housing and Homelessness priority area.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11% of Huron County homeowners spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing and 31% of Huron County renters spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing.²³ 	Past and current CSWB actions are working towards addressing this issue.
Lack of 24/7 shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness	<p>Although Housing and Homelessness was identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021), lack of 24/7 shelter for homeless individuals was not identified specifically as a new or emerging issue within the Plan.</p> <p>The County of Huron Social & Property Services) works collaboratively with community partners in the delivery of sheltering solutions as a response to the growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness. Sheltering solutions have shifted to a housing first model, which aims to house individuals and provide adequate support for them to live, either in shared accommodation or independently.</p>	<p>Future actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for continued sheltering solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness in Huron County Advocacy for Living Wage across Huron

²³ Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0259-01 Housing indicators by tenure: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions. <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810025901-eng>

Increase in crime, drug use and public safety concerns	<p>The issues of crime, drug use and public safety were identified in the CSWB for Huron Plan (2021) within the Community Security priority area.</p> <p>Statistics related to this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the Huron OPP report for 2024²⁴: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Violent Crime reduced by 17.6% from 2023; ○ Drug crime overall reduced by 28% from 2023. • It is difficult to quantify public safety concerns, without specific types identified. 	Past and current CSWB actions are working towards addressing this issue.
Need for increased police presence	This is not considered a new or emerging issue for action under CSWB for Huron.	No further action required.
Need for improved police response times	This is not considered a new or emerging issue for action under CSWB for Huron.	No further action required.

²⁴ Data retrieved from Huron OPP for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Challenges

As part of the ongoing review of the CSWB for Huron plan several key challenges have emerged that impact effective implementation and progress.

Coordination and Staff Resourcing Gaps Among Lower-Tier Municipalities

While the CSWB framework encourages collaboration across all levels of government and service providers, differences in capacity, priorities, and resources among Huron County's lower-tier municipalities have led to coordination challenges. Some municipalities are unable to provide dedicated staff or consistent engagement channels to fully participate in CSWB initiatives, which can lead to fragmented responses and uneven progress across the region. Continuation of this approach may lead to reduced CSWB efforts.

Strengthening mechanisms for communication and joint planning is critical to ensure alignment and equity in community safety and well-being efforts. A CSWB plan coordinator would allow for a more unified approach to CSWB actions.

Scope and Responsibility Pressures

Interest holders have expressed concern regarding community expectations around issues that, while critical, fall outside the direct scope or control of the CSWB for Huron plan. These include increased calls for policing presence, affordable housing solutions, and complex mental health supports. While the CSWB for Huron Plan promotes a preventative and collaborative approach to these systemic issues, it does not hold the jurisdictional authority or resources to resolve them independently. This misalignment sometimes creates pressure on the CSWB process and can lead to confusion about roles and responsibilities among partners and the public.

Funding Constraints

A key barrier to fully implementing the CSWB for Huron plan is the absence of sustained and dedicated funding. Many of the strategies identified in the plan, such as community-based programs, integrated data sharing, and ongoing evaluation, require financial and

staff resources beyond what is currently available. Without a stable funding framework at the municipal or provincial level to support CSWB for Huron work, partners must rely on ad hoc grants, in-kind contributions, and limited lower-tier municipal budgets, limiting the scale and continuity of impact.

Next Steps

To strengthen the implementation and impact of the CSWB for Huron Plan, the following next steps are recommended:

Broaden Oversight Committee Representation

Extend additional invitations to community interest holders and representatives from underrepresented groups to ensure the Oversight Committee reflects the diversity and needs of all Huron communities. This will enhance inclusivity and support more comprehensive decision-making.

Increase Promotion and Community Engagement

Develop and implement a communication strategy to raise awareness of the CSWB Plan across Huron. This includes outreach through local media, social media platforms, and community events to foster greater community understanding, buy-in, and participation.

Establish a 3 to 5 Year Action Plan

Develop a detailed 3 to 5 year action plan that outlines specific goals, timelines, and responsibilities. This should include a thorough review of current actions identified in the plan and incorporate strategies to address newly identified or emerging community safety and well-being issues.

Advocate for Funding to Support Implementation

Actively pursue funding opportunities from government and other sources to support the hiring of a dedicated CSWB Plan Coordinator. This role will be essential in driving implementation, monitoring progress, coordinating interest holders, and maintaining momentum over the long term.

Appendix A: Annual Year in Review



Community Safety and Well-Being For Huron

2024 Year in Review

The 2024 Community Safety and Well-being for Huron efforts would not have been possible without the collaboration of all nine lower tier municipalities in Huron County, as well as all our expert partners.

We have had many positive remarks about all the campaign facts and figures that have been shared throughout the year related to the plan's four priority areas. Community safety and well-being within our communities is truly a collaborative effort – we look to the community to reach out to any of the lower-tier municipalities or expert partners for future focus areas and needs.

Marg Anderson & Anita Snobelen, Co-Chairs of Oversight Committee



www.cswbhuron.ca

- Launched July 2024
- 909 Unique Website Visits as of October 11, 2024

2024 CSWB Campaigns

- **Mental Health and Addictions** January - March
- **Domestic and Family Violence** April - June
- **Community Security** July - September
- **Housing Stability & Homelessness** October - December

13 Inquiries from other Jurisdictions

Perth County, Adelaide-Metcalf, Bruce-Grey, Oxford County, Haliburton County, City of Peterborough, OMSSA, City of Stratford, Espanola, Timiskaming, Regional Municipality of Durham, City of Timmins, Niagara Region (re IPV & GBV)

Programs & Supports on Website

- 31 Mental Health & Addictions
- 16 Housing Stability & Homelessness
- 19 Domestic & Family Violence
- 20 Community Security



Oversight Committee and Guest Members



Oversight Committee and Municipal Working Group Meetings





Community Safety and Well-Being For Huron

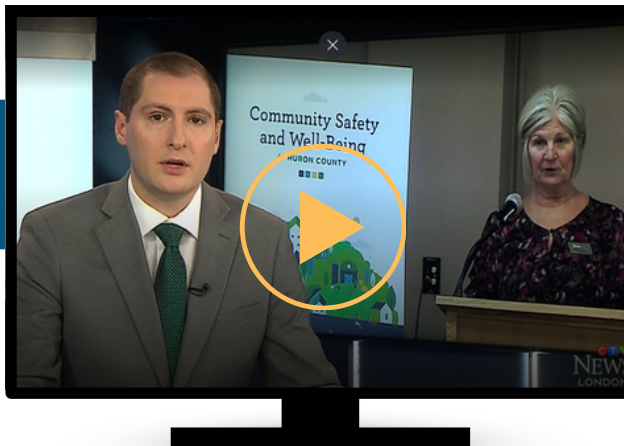
Mental Health & Addictions

January - March 2024



Launched January 19, 2024

- [CTV London](#)
- [Lakeshore Advance](#)
- [CKNX News](#)
- [Huron County News](#)
- [Goderich Sun \(page 17\)](#) Click on the links to view



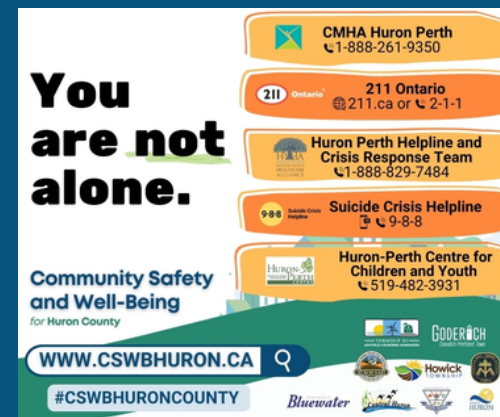
⑤ Programs and Supports Highlighted

- 211 Ontario
- CMHA Huron Perth
- Huron-Perth Centre for Children and Youth
- Huron Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team
- 9-8-8 National Suicide Crisis Line



Social media posts created and shared across nine lower-tier municipalities

Social Media Graphics Preview





Community Safety and Well-Being For Huron

Domestic & Family Violence

April - June 2024



Launched March 25, 2024

- [Lakeshore Advance](#)
- [CTV London](#)
- [CTV London \(Video\)](#)

Click on the links to view



④ Programs and Supports Highlighted

- Huron Women's Shelter 24/7 Help Line
- Victim Services Huron County
- 9-1-1
- Neighbours, Friends and Families IPV Course



Social media posts created and shared across nine lower-tier municipalities

Social Media Graphics Preview





Community Safety and Well-Being For Huron

Community Safety & Security

July - September 2024



Launched June 27, 2024

- [Lakeshore Advance](#)
- [London CTV News](#)
- [Huron County News](#)

Click on the links to view



⑥ Programs and Supports Highlighted

- CAMSafe
- Project Lifesaver
- COOL Aid Program
- OPP Non-Emergency Line
- MADD Canada
- Victim Services Huron Perth



Social media posts created and shared across nine lower-tier municipalities

Social Media Graphics Preview





Community Safety and Well-Being For Huron

Housing Stability & Homelessness

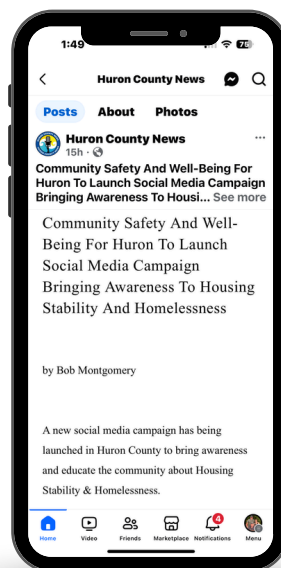
October - December 2024



Launched September 26, 2024

- [Lakeshore Advance](#)
- [CKNX News](#)
- [Huron County News](#)

Click on the links to view



⑤ Programs and Supports Highlighted

- 211 Ontario
- Crisis Line
- Huron County Social & Property Services
- 2 local Connection Centres
- Huron Safe Homes for Youth



Social media posts created and shared across nine lower-tier municipalities

Social Media Graphics Preview

