



## **Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table Meeting**

Thursday, March 10, 2021

10:00 A.M.

Meeting to be held electronically.

### **Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey Update – Leith Deacon
3. CSWB Integration Table Initiatives for 2022 – Carolyn Krahn
4. Roundtable Discussion – Updates
  - i. Education and Skills Development  
Action Table: Elgin Workforce Development Network  
Chair: Deb Mountenay
  - ii. Housing Security  
Action Table: Housing and Homelessness Action Table  
Chair: Danielle Neilson
  - iii. Mental Health and Well-Being  
Action Table: Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network  
Chair: Lynn Wardell
  - iv. Public Safety  
Action Table: Public Safety Action Table  
Chair: Chief Chris Herridge
  - v. Substance Use and Addiction  
Action Table: Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee  
Chair: Alicia Malcolm
5. Adjournment



---

**Meeting:** Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table  
**Date:** November 18, 2021  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Location:** Webex

---

**Attendees:** Deb Mountenay, Elgin Workforce Development Network  
Danielle Neilson, Housing and Homelessness Action Table  
Chief Chris Herridge, Public Safety Action Table  
Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas  
Wendell Graves, City Manager – City of St. Thomas  
Jeff Yurek, Elgin-Middlesex-London Member of Provincial Parliament  
Delany Leitch, Member of Provincial Parliament – Jeff Yurek’s Office  
Warden Tom Marks, County of Elgin  
Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer – County of Elgin  
Carolyn Krahn, Legislative Services Coordinator – County of Elgin  
Terry Carroll, Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation

**Regrets:** Heather Stillitano, Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee  
Dan Logie, Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network

---

## Minutes

### 1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Chief Chris Herridge  
Seconded by: Warden Tom Marks

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

- Motion Carried

### 2. Delegation – Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation – Terry Carroll, Executive Director

Terry Carroll presented an overview of the work of the Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation. The Community Foundation was involved in the Community Safety and Well-Being planning process. Most donations to the Community Foundation are directed to a

specific fund. When a specific fund is not requested, the donation goes to the Great-EST Needs Funds, which supports charitable projects that address the most pressing concerns in Elgin-St. Thomas.

The Community Foundation would like to rely on local data to determine where these funds should go, and they are exploring using the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan as a guide for directing the Great-EST Needs Funds.

Terry Carroll is retiring in November of 2021. The new director may request a seat at the Integration Table.

3. Services for Older Adults – Elgin and St. Thomas

The Integration Table received the St. Thomas and Elgin Services for Older Adults Studies.

4. Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Housing and Homelessness Forum

The Integration Table received the Elgin County Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment.

5. Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey Update

Carolyn Krahn provided a verbal update on the Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey. The digital survey is in its last two (2) weeks. Leith Deacon will be speaking on the *Fields to Forks* program on CTV tonight to talk about the importance of rural mental health. Currently, there are 709 completed digital surveys, and 15,000 paper copies for the entire project. The 15,000 paper copies also include surveys from other communities, and Elgin's numbers will be available in the New Year.

6. Roundtable – Action Tables

i. Education and Skills Development – Elgin Workforce Development Network, Deb Moutenay

Across the region, there are currently around 6,000 jobs that are open. Employers are experiencing frustration in trying to attract workers. The service industry is not experiencing the return of workers to the labour force. There is no consensus as to what is holding people back from re-entering the workforce. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has closed, but that does not seem to have had a big impact in getting people back into the labour market.

There have been some unexpected reactions to the program that the Workforce Development Network is currently running with manufacturers. People are coming out and participating in the training program, but when they get to the placements, some people decide that they do not want to go into a placement after all. We are also hearing that people are booking job interviews and not keeping them. There seems to be a general attitude out there that people are declining to work.

The message right now is that if people have been looking for work in a particular sector, now is the time to go out and pursue it because employers are interested in giving opportunities to anyone who is showing an interest in that sector or employers.

The Workforce Development Network is doing exit interviews with the people who have declined work placements, but there does not seem to be a specific reason that people are declining to work. The program has had its success stories too, and it is working well for those individuals who want to work.

ii. Housing Security – Housing and Homelessness Action Table, Danielle Neilson

The group formerly known as the Housing and Homelessness Action Group went dormant in 2019 and stayed dormant in 2020. It was revived late summer of 2021 and part of the work to revive it included a rebrand to inspire a new sense of motivation and commitment to do this hard work in the community. The group has changed its name to the Housing Stability Alliance which members of the committee felt more reflected the role of this group's ability to support the work in the community.

The committee also updated their terms of reference. The changes include a clear definition of the vision, which is housing stability for everyone in St. Thomas and Elgin County, and the mission, which is about advising and guiding plans. The mission is not necessarily about decision making although the group does have the opportunity to vote through or endorse specific plans or new policies or procedures related to how we match people in our community who are vulnerable to housing opportunities.

The membership structure was also updated so that people can sign up as an active member or an associate member. Active members attend meetings

regularly and have voting rights, whereas associate members attend meetings as desired/available but do not have voting rights.

The Committee has formal commitments from supportive housing providers in the community to really work through the coordinated access system and the by-name list to ensure that we are matching people who need housing the most to the opportunities when they come up. An example of this partnership would be the work to match people to the new supportive housing, which is Railway Cities, under the Indwell umbrella.

Since late October and into November, they have matched around fifteen (15) individuals in the community with the highest need to housing and it was done specifically through coordinated access in the by-name list. Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, high hospital recidivism, high acuity, indigenous status, and youth status were prioritized. The goal is for the Committee to work through similar projects with some of the other supportive housing providers.

Danielle also reported that the construction fences have gone up to support the construction at 16 Queen Street. This project is in partnership with Indwell and will bring another 45 units of supportive housing to the community.

iii. Mental Health and Well-Being – Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network, Dan Logie

Dan Logie sent his regrets. In an email update to the Integration Table, Dan notified the group that the Elgin Mental Health and Addictions Network is meeting on December 6, 2021. They will continue to discuss how they can support the Community Safety and Well-Being Table, and Dan will provide an update at the next meeting.

iv. Public Safety – Public Safety Action Table, Chief Chris Herridge

The provincial government recently announced two (2) grants for City Police. One (1) of the grants was for the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) for an additional addictions clinician to be added to the outreach and support team. City Police have met with Dan and his team at CMHA to discuss the MCRT program. At some point, City Police, Aylmer Police, and the OPP would like to sit down together to discuss how their different teams out in the field can work together to maximize resources and enhance entire County coverage.

The second grant is the ongoing Community Safety and Policing grant. Funding from this grant will be used to support the salaries of the Downtown Foot Patrol Team and the mental health worker who is working with the MCRT team. These funds will help support the crisis in the downtown area.

Dan Logie met with City Police to talk about mental health and about what to expect when dealing with persons experiencing a crisis in the downtown area. The conversation included compassion and empathy. The response is not just about enforcement.

Discussions continue about expanding the CCTV program. This program has had benefits not only for the city core, but also in the city outskirts and County. There are eight (8) cameras in the downtown, and there have been a lot of successes. Recently, there was a break and enter near Ross Street, and they were able to identify the suspects using CCTV. Last week, there was a dangerous driving charge and they dumped the vehicle downtown and fled on foot. CCTV also led to the suspect being identified. This afternoon, the discussion will focus on expanding the program into the industrial zone.

Police are planning a Christmas season RIDE program. The staff sergeant covering the program has reached out to the OPP and Aylmer Police to coordinate a joint RIDE program to ensure that roadways are kept safe.

Chief Herridge also let the group know that the Thomas Valley District School Board has paused the school resource officer program. This mentorship program has contributed to the area's low youth criminal justice charges, and it is important that officers continue to have a presence in schools.

v. Substance Use and Addiction – Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee, Heather Stillitano

Heather sent her regrets and shared the following update via email:

The Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy has engaged with a consultant firm, Collective Results, out of Guelph to assist the Elgin Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee with the completion of their community strategy. This firm has been working weekly with Heather Stillitano, and in consultation with the Steering Committee to prepare community consultation materials. The goal of the community consultation will consist of four (4) pathways of data collection:

1. A community survey,
2. A Front Line Staff Survey (for various organizations in the community),
3. Peer interviews with persons with lived expertise, and
4. 25-30 key informant detailed interviews.

These survey materials are being presented to the Steering Committee this week for review and approval, with the aim to begin data collection the week of December 6, 2021. The Steering Committee will also be working this week to approve and solidify the list of key informants in the community that will be approached for a more in-depth consultation. The Steering Committee intends to present to St. Thomas City Council in December.

#### 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

# St. Thomas/ Elgin County Labour Market Consultation

## Raw Whiteboard Responses



**St. Thomas/ Elgin County Local Labour Market Consultations**  
**Whiteboard Questions and Attendee Answers**  
**Monday, October 4, 2021**

- 1. What should be done to improve LM results of the population groups at risk? How do we foster equitable and inclusive regional job opportunities? (Youth, NEET, Indigenous, females, immigrant, visible minorities, etc.)**
    - a. Training opportunities
    - b. Partnerships with community groups/facilities that serve youth
    - c. Promotion of in-demand career paths
    - d. Discussing with employers' ways to make their workforce more diverse- providing supports to groups at risk, accommodations, job carves
    - e. Engaging people from the populations that are underrepresented in the labour market
    - f. Engaging people from the populations that are underrepresented in the labour market
    - g. Diversity training at workplaces to better support immigrant and visible minorities in the workplace (retention)
    - h. Subsidies, scholarships, etc. for in-demand career paths. For subsidies, etc. that already exist, communicate these programs to applicable groups better
    - i. Discussions with employers to provide opportunities for those that may initially need more mentoring
    - j. Broad marketing program to reach newcomers, women, youth
    - k. Host targeted forums to determine their needs
    - l. It's best to hear what their needs are from them directly. We've done this before, but their needs may change. We need targeted forums based on the priority groups to hear their needs directly. We want to think about the person as a whole, not just as a working person. That will better prepare them for the labour market.
    - m. Forums should be regularly scheduled so there are ongoing opportunities to hear from people
    - n. Single source to find training
    - o. Contextualized programming that leads to LM involvement
    - p. People may feel more comfortable when they're within like-groups of people. If we had support to offer target populations, we could see if that would make it more comfortable for them to come. If we can contextualize things into people's culture, they may be more likely to be involved. We would need more funds to isolate the targeted populations to hear them directly.
    - q. Employers not expecting grade 12 for entry level position. Grade 12 doesn't necessarily bring a loyal and hardworking staff.
    - r. Transportation (check of agreement from another attendee)
-

- s. Hands-on training added to existing programming, so people get a real sense of what the jobs are like
  - i. One of the things we keep hearing is that people get into programs and then it's not exactly what they expect/ what it's like on the job. This provides them with the opportunity to manage their expectations beforehand.
- t. Housing opportunities for workers recruited from outside of the community (check of agreement from another attendee)

## 2. With what do we replace the federal and provincial financial support in the region?

### How?

- a. Concentrated training i.e., PSW in short amount of time
- b. Transportation assistance. Several unfilled rural full-time factory positions
- c. Paid training
- d. As the funding is ending, we can access those lists or can they be provided with learning and employment opportunities
- e. I'm not sure we can supply/replace government support funding, but we can seek to understand better why people don't go back to work. The jobs are there for sure! Is there COVID fear still- for instance?
- f. Change edibility rules: programming that is currently being offered is incredible. It's hard to access it though, where is it? Just applying can be restrictive. We need to broaden some of the eligibility rules because there are some populations being missed. Some young men are struggling to uplift for some standard Second Careers and other programs. We should make it more accessible. Right now, it's a bit confined. Accessing the free dollars that are available for free training, in class training, etc. There is a lack of participation, and this could help that because they are all a bit connected.
- g. I agree. There's a lot going on and it would be great to have a list and short blurb of training opportunities for employment counsellors and community service providers.
- h. I wonder if there are opportunities for job seekers to talk to employers in other settings than a job fair. Pillar Non-Profit has a fair of sorts that invited people interested working in non-profits to understand networking and other points of importance in NPs. I'm wondering if there are opportunities like this to help the awareness around certain jobs and the interesting things about them that are unique to the field. Going to the job seeker, being creative and innovative as to how to recruit and educate job seekers. Sharing ideas with how to get people involved in our community- increase uptake.
- i. We must find a way to make sure that as people go into occupations and sectors, they need to be the ones that are in demand. We need to encourage people to go into programs that are for occupations that are in demand. If there is a way to expose people to the industry, not necessarily them going into the industry, but a standardized way for them to understand what it's about. We need to connect

people to industries, so they understand what it's like to work in these industries. Experiential learning. Standardized way to expose people to certain industries (in demand industries)

**3. What should we do to maintain the entrepreneurial spirit in the region? (Business and job creation and self-employment)**

- a. Providing opportunities for those considering opening their own business-workshops, opportunities where to start, how to start. Individuals are doing a complete pivot but there's a lot of hesitation due to our economy right now. In the meantime, let's plant seeds that this can be done. Increase anticipation for post-covid. Simple things: how to create a business plan, how to get it up and running.
- b. That could be handled with referrals to Elgin Business Resource Centre or Small Business Enterprise Centre unless there is a gap they are not supporting and are unaware of
- c. I think the idea of workshops for entrepreneurship is a great idea
- d. Access to interpretation service for immigrants looking to start a business
- e. Create a list of resources for those willing to enter Entrepreneurship
- f. Continue celebrating businesses through the Small Business Centre and Elgin Business Resource Centre
- g. More opportunities to give profile to new start businesses through established websites and social media
- h. Elgin has very successful centres to help businesses get started
- i. Reinstate funding for people on EI to investigate entrepreneurship. The provincial government used to provide funding for Elgin Business Resource Centre- funding that was for people who were on EI, if they were thinking of starting a small business, they could stay on EI during the planning process. It was cancelled, but very effective in the London ER
- j. Rental subsidies for new businesses
- k. It's been a long-standing strategy to develop a small business mentoring program. The mentoring program often comes up in discussion, but taking it on is extremely challenging
- l. SWIFT is the group that is overseeing the expansion of connectivity in SW Ontario. They have a website with information on their progress. They look specifically at having more connectivity across SW Ontario. The recommendations they're doing is through government funding through SWIFT. The website tells you where the expansions are happening/ the timeline.

**4. What can be done regionally to improve the quality of the regional talent? (SAOs, micro-credential programs, etc.)**

- a. Reskilling program for women/ on-binary people. This population was affected greatly by the pandemic. There's data analysis, cyber security, and other specific training for specific industries to reskill the population over the next few years.

Ryerson has a program, but it can be drastically expensive, making it unrealistic for some populations. These organizations work in partnerships to reskill this population.

- b. Uplift Program- Manufacturing/hospital upskilling- looking for people with some training/experience in a variety of sectors. This program covers full cost, laptops, etc. Remote learning has advanced this learning. It won't all be remote, but some. Next year will be focused on advanced manufacturing.
  - c. Investments in digital literacy -and digital education- strike me as extremely important, especially since working-from-home now plays a dynamic roll in the labour market.
  - d. Keep working with employers to get more specific understanding to their needs to make programming as relevant as possible.
  - e. Some ways of engaging people in workplaces will have to change. People are reevaluating what they want from the workplace, and this must be a consideration going forward.
  - f. Being a rural, manufacturing, "blue collar" employer, we're having trouble finding workers. We have great wages, full benefits, and pension, and we can't find anyone. They only need to understand English, need to be able to read and write, no high school necessary. The future seems uncertain because if we're struggling right now, we will be in the future too.
  - g. There is a difficulty getting people into manufacturing and many other industries as well. People tend to look very short term, on a day-to-day basis, rather than a long-term, down the road perspective.
  - h. We've approached a few companies to see if they had potential staff who didn't make the cut to see if they could refer them to our training to gain skills and upgrading i.e., Build Your Skills. It has not been successful so far.
- 5. How much can remote work help the recruitment retention challenge of the regional employers? Should employers be more involved in training and personal development to solve their recruitment retention challenges?**
- a. For office level positions, remote work is an excellent attraction and retention strategy. However, in the manufacturing industry, it is not an option for our General Labourer and Welder positions.
  - b. Remote work is not really an option for more of the sectors identified as having the most difficulties in the earlier presentation
  - c. Gradual transitions are always an option as well. The first period can be done on site, then transition into a remote working environment
  - d. Employers may have to step away from that classic managerial approach to their hiring process. Job seekers/ employees are looking at their workplace, workdays, and their contribution. Their looking for employers who are going to spend time developing them and if young people especially don't see their potential to climb the latter, they're less likely to pursue that industry

- e. Remote work can create a great work-life balance for employees, but they can then miss out on being a part of the company culture, and lack of loyalty to the company if they're not involved in the workplace

**6. Why did the Apprenticeship Program enrollments drop so dramatically? What labour market signals makes this career choice more attractive? (Construction and Home Renovation flourished post pandemic)**

- a. Apprenticeship school terms and tests were delayed significantly during the pandemic
- b. Demand for licensed skilled trades is high but to have licenced people they need to have served an apprenticeship
- c. The possibility of a career is important. I work with many people who are looking for the security and personal growth that come from knowing they can pursue a career with long-term security and benefits
- d. Employers not accepting 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentices
- e. Employers should offer the opportunities within their organizations
- f. Perhaps increase or re-run previous apprentice marketing videos
- g. Difficulties finding sponsors
- h. Once people drop out it's hard to get them back and apprentices would have been lower in seniority during the pandemic and may have been the first laid off
- i. Apprenticeships take a long time to complete. About 4 years of schooling and experience. Perhaps condensing this would help make it more attractive.
- j. Lack of stable opportunities- Once people drop out, it's hard to get back. With the lay-offs and being without seniority, they would've been laid off. It does take 4 years of school, training, and experience to gain your journeyman. Are employers keeping folks there? If they spend a couple years with one employer, they must go find someone else to take them on. Finding an employer to take them on in general can be very hard. The ratios of journeyman and apprentices is a struggle. After finishing their education, they can just not find an employer to take them on.
- k. So much depends on the relationship between the employer and the apprentice. An apprentice at any stage in their program is snapped up by other employers.



## REPORT TO CSWB INTEGRATION TABLE

**FROM:** Carolyn Krahn, Acting Manager of Economic Development

**DATE:** March 1, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Rural Response to COVID-19: St. Thomas & Elgin County

### INTRODUCTION:

This report seeks to provide an update on the Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey.

### BACKGROUND:

In the Fall of 2021, the County of Elgin partnered with the City of St. Thomas and Southwestern Public Health on a rural response to COVID-19 survey. The survey was led by Associate Professor Leith Deacon, PhD, from the University of Guelph. The purpose of the study was to explore the experiences of residents from across small and rural communities in Ontario. The project had four (4) objectives:

1. To identify vulnerable populations in small and rural communities across Ontario affected by COVID-19;
2. To determine priority programs to support vulnerable populations during and post-COVID-19 (e.g., mental health and addictions, housing, income and food security);
3. To explore opportunities for the non-profit/charitable sector during and post-COVID-19;
4. To identify emergent mental health and addictions, income, and housing concerns generated by COVID-19.

There were approximately 2,300 responses to the survey with 53% of respondents living in St. Thomas. Leith Deacon will be presenting the preliminary results at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CSWB Integration Table. He will be looking for feedback from members on what data they would find most useful. The survey (attached) included many questions ranging from perceptions of mental health and well-being to residents' shopping habits. Leith will highlight this data in his final report, and the final report will also provide data from comparators (Middlesex and Oxford also participated in the survey).

**CONCLUSION:**

---

The results of this survey will generate data to support County and City services, community safety and well-being initiatives, and grant opportunities.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Carolyn Krahn

Acting Manager of Economic Development



# Rural Response to COVID-19: St. Thomas & Elgin County

## Primary Investigator

Leith Deacon, PhD, Associate Professor  
School of Environmental Design & Rural Development, University of Guelph  
519-824-4120 ext. 52521  
Leith.Deacon@uoguelph.ca

## Background

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in a study that is exploring the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on residents from small and rural communities across Ontario. Questions relate to how you have experienced the pandemic, how your behaviour has changed, and how you believe your behaviour will change in the future. Financial support for this project is provided by OMAFRA.

## Purpose of this study

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of residents from across small and rural communities across Ontario. This project has three objectives:

1. To identify vulnerable populations in small and rural communities across Ontario affected by COVID-19;
2. To determine priority programs to support vulnerable populations during and post-COVID-19 (e.g., mental health and addictions, housing, income and food security);
3. To explore opportunities for the non-profit/charitable sector during and post-COVID-19;
4. To identify emergent mental health and addictions, income, and housing concerns generated by COVID-19.

## Research Procedures

You are being asked to participate in this survey because you are a resident of St. Thomas or Elgin County. All participants must be over 18 years of age. If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in a survey. Survey questions will focus on your individual experiences with COVID-19.

## Risks and Benefits

There are very few foreseen risks to participate in this study.

**Social risks:** given the size of the community in which this study is occurring, it is possible that information provided may enable identity. However, in order to minimize this, no identifying information is being collected. You will have the opportunity to review collected data and if you are uncomfortable with any particular question, you can leave it blank.

**Psychological risks:** given the size of the community in which this study is occurring it is possible that information provided may enable identity. However, in order to minimize this, no identifying information is being collected. You will have the opportunity to review collected data and if you are uncomfortable with any particular question, you can leave it blank.

Additionally, if during the survey you become uncomfortable reflecting on the effects of COVID-19, you can stop the survey. There are no direct benefits to your participation in this study.

## Confidentiality & Anonymity

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any question, or withdraw from the study at any time with no direct effect on your future. You can request to have any collected data withdrawn from the study up until submission of presentation of the results (usually within 3 - 6 months of the survey date). All possible steps will be taken to help ensure confidentiality; however, it is possible that information provided may enable identification. You will be given the choice to share your information in the following consent form. All collected data will be stored on recording devices, hard drives, and portable jump drive which will be encrypted using advanced file security software (Bitlocker: [www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/encryption](http://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/encryption)).

Data will be kept for a maximum of five years in a secure location at which time. all recorded information will be destroyed and disposed of. During this time, all members of the research team will have access to the data. All surveys will be shredded, and recorded materials will be erased. If data does not make publication, all surveys will be shredded, and recorded material will be erased.

You will not be paid to participate in this study; however, if you would like to receive a copy of the aggregate results, please indicate as such (i.e., fill in the question regarding results).

Further information

If you have any questions about this study or your participation in this study, please contact:

Leith Deacon, PhD, Associate Professor  
School of Environmental Design & Rural Development, University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1  
519-824-4120 ext. 52521  
Leith.Deacon@uoguelph.ca

If you would prefer to complete this survey digitally, please copy and paste the URL below into any Internet browser:

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=163188969793>

This project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Board for compliance with federal guidelines for research involving human participants. If you have questions regarding your rights and welfare as a research participant in this study (REB # 20-05-020), please contact:

Manager, Research Ethics  
University of Guelph  
519-824-4120 ext. 56606  
reb@uoguelph.ca

You do not waive any legal rights by agreeing to take part in this study.

Q2 Are you over 18 years of age?

Yes

No

Go to End

Q3 Would you like to receive a copy of the aggregate study results?

Yes

Go to Q4

No

Go to Q5

Q4 Please include your email address to receive results

Demographics

The following questions are designed to gather information about each individual participant. Please indicate your answer with an X.

Q5 How do you describe your gender?

Man

Woman

Non-binary

I use a different  
term or prefer not to  
answer

- Q6 How old are you?
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 29<br>years | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 - 59<br>years | <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ years               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 - 39<br>years | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 - 69<br>years | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not<br>to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 - 49<br>years | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 - 79<br>years |  |

- Q7 What is your highest level of education completion?
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 1 - 6                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-graduate<br>degree (e.g., Master'<br>s, PhD, MD) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 7 - 13                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trades certificate                         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate<br>degree/College<br>diploma |  |

- Q8 Within Elgin County, your primary place of residence is:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of<br>Bayham         | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Aylmer           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of<br>Central Elgin  | <input type="checkbox"/> Township of<br>Malahide  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of<br>Dutton Dunwich | <input type="checkbox"/> Township of<br>Southwold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of<br>West Elgin     | <input type="checkbox"/> City of St. Thomas       |

- Q9 Have you lived in the community for less than three years?
- |                              |           |                             |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Go to Q10 | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Go to Q13 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|

- Q10 Did you experience trouble securing housing when you moved to the area?
- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

- Q11 Where did you move from?
- |   |           |   |           |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Toronto<br>Region (GTA)            | Go to Q13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Within Canada<br>(excluding Ontario) | Go to Q13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in<br>Ontario (excluding<br>GTA) | Go to Q13 | <input type="checkbox"/> The United States                    | Go to Q13 |
|   |           | <input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere                            | Go to Q12 |

- Q12 If you indicated you moved from elsewhere, please indicate where you moved from below

Q13 Which of the following best describes your primary source of economic support?

- |   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed and not looking for work | Go to Q16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed on a casual basis (less than 10 hours/week) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed and looking for work     | Go to Q16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full time (30+ hours/week)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social assistance                   | Go to Q16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part time (10-30 hours/week)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Student or recent graduate          | Go to Q16 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired                             | Go to Q16 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer                | Go to Q16 |

Q14 What sector are you employed in?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information, culture, and recreation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational services                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and warehousing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail and wholesale trade                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care and social services             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public administration                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional, scientific, and technical services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business, building, and other support services   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer                        |

Q15 What category best describes your **individual** income before tax and any other deductions from all sources?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under \$30,000                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$90,000 but less than \$109,999  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$30,000 but less than \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$110,000 but less than \$129,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$50,000 but less than \$69,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$130,000 but less than \$159,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$70,000 but less than \$89,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$160,000                         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer                   |

Q15 What category best describes your **individual** income before tax and any other deductions from all sources?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under \$30,000                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$90,000 but less than \$109,999  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$30,000 but less than \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$110,000 but less than \$129,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$50,000 but less than \$69,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$130,000 but less than \$159,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$70,000 but less than \$89,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$160,000                         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer                   |

Q16 Which of the following best describes your living situation?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Own with a mortgage      | <input type="checkbox"/> No shelter expenses          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Own without a mortgage   | <input type="checkbox"/> Room and board               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent including utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement or long-term care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent excluding utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsheltered                  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Couch surfing                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer         |

Q17 Do you identify with any of the ethnicities listed below (select all that apply)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arab (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin American (e.g., Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-East (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese)   | <input type="checkbox"/> White (e.g., European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-South-East (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous (e.g., Inuit, Metis, First Nation)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-South or Indo-Caribbean (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian) | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Canadian Indigenous (e.g., American Indian, Quechua)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-West (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-Canadian/American  | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-Afro-Caribbean or Afro-Latinx (e.g., Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer                                      |

Q18 Including yourself, how many people currently live in your home?

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than four |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |   |

Q19 Do you have children or dependents at home?

- |                              |           |   |          |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Go to Q20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer | Go to N9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No  | Go to Q22 |   |          |

Q20 Do you access childcare services (e.g., daycare)

Yes                      Go to Q21                       Prefer not to answer

No                              Go to Q22

Q21 Have you experienced difficulty securing childcare services?

Yes     No

Q22 Do you have access to adequate home-internet at a quality of service that meets your needs (e.g., work, home)?

Yes     Sometimes

No

**PRIOR TO COVID-19 (March 1, 2020)**

The following questions are designed to measure how your life was **before** the COVID-19 pandemic (March 1, 2020).

Q23 Individual well-being  
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how would you rate your:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Not applicable
Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal finances	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Employment satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Living arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal safety	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Sense of belonging is a feeling of security and support you receive when you identify with, feel accepted by, and are included within a group or community. It is about feeling like a part of a supportive whole.

Q24 In general, how would you describe your sense of belonging to your local community **before** the COVID-19 pandemic?

Very strong     Very weak

Somewhat strong     Do not know

Somewhat weak     Prefer not to answer

Q25 Social behaviour

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (March 1, 2020), how often did you:

	More than 2x/wk	1 - 2 times/wk	1 - 2x/mnth	Never or not at all
Spend time with friends and/or family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support local businesses/stores in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grocery shop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit a local market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shop at a 'big-box' store (e.g., Walmart, Costco, Home Depot)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shop online (e.g., Amazon, Wayfair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eat at a local restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit a coffee shop/local bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend church/faith based services/activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in an in-person activity (e.g., recreation or leisure activities, service clubs, social clubs, sports clubs, other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in a virtual activity (e.g., Facebook chat, online games, apps such as HouseParty)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consume alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consume marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consume opioids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q26 Day-to-Day Living

Please indicate yes, no, sometimes, or not applicable to each of the following statements. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (March 1, 2020):

	Yes	No	Sometimes	Not applicable
I kept enough food at home for seven days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I kept enough of my medical prescriptions for seven days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I kept enough over-the-counter medications for seven days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about paying my utility bills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about paying my rent/mortgage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about living alone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about illness or becoming ill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about living with my family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about my personal safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about how I was perceived by members of my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about the well-being of my family and/or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I accessed social services (e.g., income supports, pre-employment services, food programs, counselling, other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I felt isolated (physically or psychologically)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q27 Risk management and planning

Please indicate yes, no, or not applicable to the following statements. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (March 1, 2020):

	Yes	No	Not applicable
I received the flu vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I accessed health care providers for regular (e.g., annual) check-ups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I accessed professional support for mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was able to work from home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q28 Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, my primary source of information was: (check top **two** choices)

<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Local government website
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio
<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Television
<input type="checkbox"/> Word-of-mouth	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**SINCE COVID-19 (after March 1, 2020)**

The following questions are designed to measure how your life has/has not changed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 1, 2020).

**Q29 Individual well-being**

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (after March 1, 2020), how would you rate your:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Not applicable
Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal finances	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Employment satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Living arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal safety	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Sense of belonging is a feeling of security and support you receive when you identify with, feel accepted by, and are included within a group or community. It is about feeling like a part of a supportive whole.

**Q30** In general, how would you describe your sense of belonging to your local community during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Very strong

Somewhat strong

Somewhat weak

Very weak

Do not know

Prefer not to answer

Q31 Social behaviour

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (after March 1, 2020), how often did you:

	More than 2x/wk	1 - 2x/wk	1 - 2x/mnth	Never or not at all
Spend time with friends and/or family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support local businesses/stores in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grocery shop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit a local market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shop at a 'big-box' store (e.g., Walmart, Costco, Home Depot)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shop online (e.g., Amazon, Wayfair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eat at a local restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit a coffee shop/local bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend church/faith based services/activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in an in-person activity (e.g., recreation or leisure activities, service clubs, social clubs, sports clubs, other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in a virtual activity (e.g., Facebook chat, online games, apps such as HouseParty)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consume alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consume marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consume opioids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q32 Day-to-Day Living

Please indicate yes, no, sometimes, or not applicable to each of the following statements. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (after March 1, 2020):

	Yes	No	Sometimes	Not applicable
I kept enough food at home for seven days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I kept enough of my medical prescriptions for seven days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I kept enough over-the-counter medications for seven days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about paying my utility bills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about paying my rent/mortgage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about living alone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about illness or becoming ill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about living with my family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about my personal safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about how I was perceived by members of my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worried about the well-being of my family and/or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I accessed social services (e.g., income supports, pre-employment services, food programs, counselling, other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I felt isolated (physically or psychologically)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q33 Risk management and planning

Please indicate yes, no, or not applicable to the following statements. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (after March 1, 2020):

	Yes	No	Not applicable
I received the flu vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I accessed health care providers for regular (i.e., annual) check-ups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I accessed professional support for mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was able to work from home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I expect to continue to work from home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I received the COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I had trouble accessing the COVID-19 vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q34 Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, my primary source of information was: (check top **two** choices)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper     | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet      | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook      | <input type="checkbox"/> Television               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word-of-mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                    |

Q35 Given your experience since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following are your top **three** (3) issues that you believe should require more support from the government?

- |   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (K - 12)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic development        |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (post-secondary) | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration                 |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk management             |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health and addiction |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                       | Go to Q36 |

Q36 Please provide your example if you chose other for the previous question

Q37 In September 2022, which of the following aspects of your life do you predict could become the most vulnerable?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My family and home life      | <input type="checkbox"/> My relationships with friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My career, job and work life | <input type="checkbox"/> My finances                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My mental health             | <input type="checkbox"/> My physical health            |

Q38 Would you be willing to be contacted to participate in a follow-up interview?

- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Go to Q39 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No  | Go to End |

Q39 Please include your email address to be contacted about a possible follow-up interview.



## REPORT TO CSWB INTEGRATION TABLE

**FROM:** Carolyn Krahn, Acting Manager of Economic Development

**DATE:** March 1, 2022

**SUBJECT:** 2022 CSWB Plan Initiatives

### INTRODUCTION:

This report seeks to provide the Integration Table with an overview of initiatives proposed for 2022.

### BACKGROUND:

In June 2021, the County of Elgin, its Local Municipal Partners, and the City of St. Thomas adopted the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The plan is a roadmap for how partners across different sectors can work together to make our community a safer, more inclusive place.

The CSWB Plan is a three (3) year plan. There are many elements that contribute to community safety and well-being and therefore it was important to identify areas of focus to ensure that the Plan is achievable. The Advisory Committee used local data and feedback from community engagement to identify five (5) areas of focus of the Plan:

- Education and Skills Development,
- Housing Security,
- Mental Health and Well-Being,
- Public Safety, and
- Substance Use and Addiction.

In order to implement strategies and actions within these focus areas, a structure was developed that leverages existing planning tables in Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas. An Action Table has been identified for each priority area and the work of each table is connected through the Integration Table. The Integration Table consists of the Chairs of each Action Table, the Mayor of the City of St. Thomas, the Warden of Elgin County, the Local Member of Provincial Parliament, and the CAO of Elgin County and City Manager of St. Thomas.

## **Discussion:**

---

The first initiative planned for 2022 and beyond is a forum series on each priority area. In November 2021, the CSWB Integration Table hosted a Housing and Homelessness Forum. Local Councillors and senior municipal staff were invited to the forum to hear the results of the Elgin County Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment, learn what initiatives are already underway in our communities with regards to housing and homelessness and learn about how the Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table is ensuring coordination of efforts across communities and organizations. After the success of this event, plans are underway to host similar forums for each priority area.

With consensus from the Integration Table, the first forum in 2022 will be focused on the Mental Health and Well-Being priority area. Discussion items may include the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) program and the Rural Response to COVID-19 survey results. Municipal staff will connect with the Mental Health and Well-Being Action Table to finalize plans for the forum. The targeted date for the forum would be late Spring 2022.

The second initiative for 2022 is a series of videos on the five (5) priority areas identified in the CSWB Plan. These videos will highlight the great work of each Action Table and will be designed to keep the community and local Councils updated on the activities and progress of the Integration Table.

We would like to start the video series by featuring the Housing Security priority area. County of Elgin staff have connected with City of St. Thomas Social Services staff, and plans are currently underway to release a video update in Spring 2022.

## **CONCLUSION:**

---

Not only will the Forum Series and Video Series keep our communities and Councils updated on the Integration Table's activities, but they will also give us an opportunity to broaden our partnerships as more people learn about the important work underway in their communities.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Carolyn Krahn

Acting Manager of Economic Development