

**Teet'it Gwich'in Council
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COMMUNITY WELLNESS PLAN

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June 2024**

Mission, Vision, and Values of the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council

VISION

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council envisions supporting their traditional values and lifestyle to ensure the prosperity of the Teetl'it Gwich'in people while safeguarding their treaty and inherent aboriginal rights.

MISSION

Our mission is to foster a thriving and healthy community through economic development, nurturing the success of the Teetl'it Gwich'in with positive relationships and accountable leadership.

VALUES

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council is guided by core principles that shape our actions and decisions:

- Empowerment
- Accountability
- Encouragement
- Respect
- Support
- Honesty
- Sharing
- Caring

The Chief and Council are dedicated to preserving the Gwich'in way of life through the practice of our traditions, culture, and language. We are proactive in all facets of administration, promoting economic beliefs, initiating work projects, and creating employment and training opportunities for the benefit of our members, staff, and the broader community. This commitment ensures financial transparency and accountability as we revisit the five-year community wellness plan for Teetl'it Zheh (Fort McPherson, NT).

Introduction

The Teetl'it Gwich'in Council secured funding from the Government of Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services to formulate a community wellness plan. Community involvement and engagement in crafting wellness programs are crucial for effectively tackling health and social issues. The Community Wellness Plan empowers communities to determine the allocation of wellness funds according to their specific needs and priorities.

Background

Previously, the community received annual funding from the Government of Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services for various wellness programs. Community consultations were conducted to empower communities to determine the allocation of wellness funding based on their needs.

Overall, the Teet'it Gwich'in Council will outline a comprehensive strategy for the community, identifying actions that align with the established goals, functions, and objectives.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

The SWOT analysis enables Fort McPherson's community to leverage its strengths, address weaknesses, capitalise on opportunities, and mitigate threats. These factors were identified through extensive community consultations.

Strengths

- The Teet'it Gwich'in community takes great pride in its heritage, language, and culture.
- Strong community support spans mental, physical, social, emotional, and financial realms, fostering a culture of mutual aid.
- Abundant local talent and education among the Aboriginal population, with many volunteering their skills.
- Respected elders enrich community life with their knowledge of the Gwich'in language, tradition, and values.
- CBQM, the community-run radio station, effectively disseminates information locally and beyond.
- Robust community participation in traditional dancing, crafts, and the Midway Lake Music Festival.
- Active involvement in sports and youth activities, contributing to community cohesion and lower crime rates.

Weaknesses

- Communication gaps hinder community awareness and involvement in local affairs.
- Insufficient parental engagement necessitates parenting workshops and support initiatives.
- Limited traditional learning opportunities for community members.
- Educational challenges in schools, including lack of resources and support services.
- Social issues such as substance abuse, bullying, and peer pressure affect youth and community stability.
- Low attendance at public meetings indicates community engagement challenges.
- Coordination issues among local organisations impact community initiatives.

Opportunities

- CBQM radio station serves as a platform for educational programs, cultural preservation, and community announcements.
- Economic development initiatives support entrepreneurship and traditional crafts.
- Successful community tourism projects enhance cultural awareness and economic prospects.
- Leadership development programs empower youth for future roles.
- Collaborative efforts to develop a community wellness plan promote healthy lifestyles and community ownership.

Threats

- Funding shortages pose challenges for implementing essential workshops and programs.
- High unemployment rates and limited job opportunities affect community well-being.
- Skills gaps and safety certification issues hinder employment prospects.
- Budget cuts jeopardise ongoing program sustainability.
- Social issues like child apprehensions and mental health challenges require targeted interventions.
- Decline in Gwich'in language and cultural practices necessitates revitalization efforts and community support.

This SWOT analysis guides Fort McPherson in leveraging its strengths, addressing weaknesses, seizing opportunities, and managing threats to foster a resilient and thriving community.

Future Goals and Aspirations

In looking ahead, our community has articulated a collective vision for the future:

- Maintain and expand extracurricular activities across recreation, schools, and the Justice program.
- Foster inclusive sports programs for all age groups and create more opportunities for travel.
- Enhance communication through email/mail and bolster support groups for parents.
- Increase information dissemination via CBQM and deepen engagement with elders.
- Provide comprehensive resources and host more workshops on traditional lands.
- Implement initiatives like "Adopt a Kid" or "Adopt an Elder" and promote traditional food preparation.
- Offer workshops on traditional medicine and secure funding for snowshoe making workshops.
- Utilize young musicians to promote community through initiatives such as CDs and enhance suicide prevention training.
- Recruit more volunteers and develop programs for parent intervention.
- Promote education and mentorship programs for the younger generation.
- Foster partnerships among organisations and increase leadership involvement.
- Encourage positive community approaches and improve communication among all organisations.

- Advocate for student career counsellors and Youth and Family Counselor workers from the Government of the Northwest Territories and other agencies.
- Expand on-the-land training programs involving elders, youth, and families, focusing on traditional and cultural skills.
- Advocate for the establishment of a daycare home in collaboration with the Education, Culture, and Employment department.
- Increase drug/alcohol-free active living opportunities for youth, families, and elders.
- Collaborate with the Recreation Department to diversify recreational options for families.
- Establish a crisis line for elder abuse, family violence, suicide, bullying, substance abuse, addiction, and gambling.
- Maintain ongoing community dialogues on wellness to ensure it remains a priority across all organisations.

This forward-looking agenda reflects our community's ambitious goals and commitment to enhancing quality of life and sustainable development in Fort McPherson.

Strategic Implementation

To achieve our community's goals, the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council will:

- Embrace organisational ideas and facilitate funding applications to support wellness programs.
- Integrate community strategies into the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council's operational plans.
- Collaborate with local agencies to secure funding and seek program sponsorships from businesses.
- Reflecting on the past five years of Community Wellness funding, Fort McPherson has made significant strides in addressing key issues. Looking ahead, sustained funding will enable continued proactive measures to tackle ongoing challenges and ensure lasting community benefits.
- Teetl'it Zheh seeks ongoing Wellness funding to foster constructive collaboration and positive community development. Addressing persistent challenges requires sustained efforts, and we are committed to achieving positive outcomes for all residents of Teetl'it Zheh.

This strategic approach aims to secure resources and partnerships necessary for sustainable community development and improvement in Fort McPherson.