

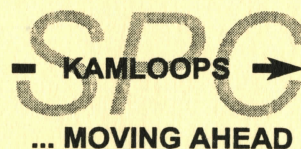
City of Kamloops

Social Plan



Prepared by:

City of Kamloops with the assistance of the Kamloops Social
Planning Council



MARCH, 1996

City of Kamloops

Social Plan



Prepared by:

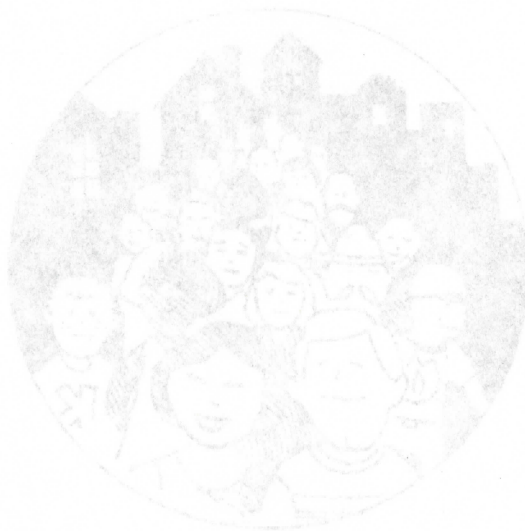
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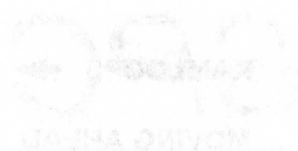
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MARCH 1991

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Preamble</i>	i
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SECTION I - KAMLOOPS SOCIAL PLAN

PLAN PURPOSE	3
MISSION STATEMENT	4
PRINCIPLES	4
GOALS	5
OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS	9

SECTION II - BACKGROUND

SOCIAL PLAN PROCESS	20
Local Social Planning Initiatives	21
Social Planning Council Workshop	22
Community Social Providers Workshop	23
OCP Conference	23
Community Social Priorities	24
COMMUNITY TRENDS	26
Population	26
Age Distribution	27
Household Characteristics	28
Employment & Income	29
Housing	31
Crime	32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	
1	SECTION I - KAMLOOPS SOCIAL PLAN
2	PLAN PURPOSE
4	MISSION STATEMENT
4	PRINCIPLES
6	GOALS
9	OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS
	SECTION II - BACKGROUND
20	SOCIAL PLAN PROCESS
21	Local Social Planning Initiative
22	Social Planning Council Workshop
23	Community Social Providers Workshop
23	OCP Conference
24	Community Social Priorities
26	COMMUNITY TRENDS
28	Population
27	Age Distribution
28	Household Characteristics
29	Employment & Income
31	Housing
32	Crime

Preamble

The City of Kamloops Social Plan consists of two components:

- ***Section I*** outlines the general principles, goals, specific objectives and actions to direct Social Planning in the City of Kamloops.
- ***Section II*** outlines the background information consisting of the process, issues and community trends that led to the preparation of ***Section I***.

Kamloops City Council approved the Social Plan, in principle, on March 27, 1996.

Preamble

The City of Kamloops Social Plan consists of two components:

- Section 1 outlines the general principles, goals, specific objectives and actions for the Social Plan in the City of Kamloops.
- Section 2 outlines the background information and findings of the process, issues and community trends that led to the development of Section 1.

Kamloops City Council approved the Social Plan in principle on March 21, 1995.



SECTION I

CITY OF KAMLOOPS SOCIAL PLAN

- ▶ Plan Purpose
- ▶ Mission Statement
- ▶ General Principles
- ▶ Goals
- ▶ Objectives and Actions

SECTION 1

CITY OF KAMLOOPS SOCIAL PLAN

- Plan Purpose
- Mission Statement
- General Principles
- Goals
- Objectives and Actions

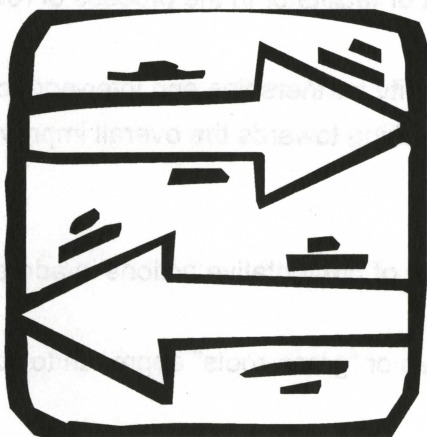
SOCIAL PLAN PURPOSE

In response to increasing social demands and in recognition of the need to become more pro-active in social planning, City Council approved a Social Action Strategy in February 1993. The first actions taken by Council were the formation of a Social Planning Council and the hiring of a Community/Social Planner. The mandate of the Social Planning Council and the Planner has been to assist the community, senior government agencies and City Council in addressing social issues. These issues have been difficult to prioritize without first being placed within the context of overall community needs and resources. To achieve this context, the Social Planning Council undertook the preparation of a Social Plan.

The purpose of the Social Plan is to:

- Reaffirm the social planning goals and objectives established by the Social Planning Council;
- Review current trends and needs in the community;
- Confirm the role and involvement of the City in social planning, relative to other levels of governments and social service providers
- Identify key municipal strategies to address specific community needs;
- Develop specific action strategies to guide social planning in the city.

The process of preparing the Social Plan was consultative, relying heavily on input from a number of sources including the general public, government ministries and local social service providers. The plan is the result of an overall process of analysing social trends and issues, identifying a number of general principles and goals, and preparing specific objectives and actions to guide social planning initiatives in Kamloops.



MISSION STATEMENT

The social planning mission statement of the City of Kamloops and the Kamloops Social Planning Council is:

**TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ACTION STRATEGIES
THAT STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE WELL BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY**

SOCIAL PLAN PRINCIPLES

The City of Kamloops' pro-active approach to social planning has several underlying principles that will direct its involvement in future community social planning initiatives. These are:

1. To recognize that senior levels of government have the primary responsibility for social services planning and programming.
2. To recognize the City's limited revenue base when determining an appropriate level of involvement in addressing social issues.
3. To serve as a catalyst or facilitator in the process of resolving social issues.
4. To encourage community partnerships and inter-agency involvement in the exchange of issues and ideas in working towards the overall improvement of the community's quality of life.
5. To support the concept of preventative actions in addressing social issues.
6. To support a bottom-up or "grass-roots" approach to social planning.

SOCIAL PLAN GOALS

The City of Kamloops has developed goals to assist in addressing the following identified social issues:

Issue #1: Education

Education was identified as a top priority for the community. Kamloops has shifted from a resource based economy built on higher paying, stable jobs to a service based economy having lower paying, fewer and less stable jobs. Additionally, the city and region has had a structural unemployment rate hovering at the 12 % mark for several years. With the arrival of the information age, future jobs will require even higher levels of training. The accessibility and appropriateness of education programs are important considerations for the education system.

Goal:

To encourage and support the development of programs and initiatives that produce a wide range of opportunities aimed at meeting the educational needs of the entire community.

Issue #2: Children & Youth

Children and youth issues are a major concern in Kamloops. Issues related to suicide, violence, crime, effective parenting, things to do and places to go, unemployment, child abuse, and prostitution were consistently highlighted as concerns throughout the planning process. Children and youth are considered to be a community's most precious resource. As Kamloops grows and changes over time so too will its youth population. Resolving these issues will require significant time, effort and a community-wide collaborative approach.

Goal:

To ensure that our children and youth are afforded the appropriate resources, protection and encouragement to become successful, independent and valued contributors to society.

Issue #3: Employment

Relative to other BC communities, Kamloops has a diversified economy with no one sector dominating the labour force. This trend is a significant shift from the early 60's when four major sectors drove the economy: mining, forestry, transportation/utilities and the public service. The redistribution of the economy toward fewer, lower paying jobs in the service sector is of major concern because of the long term social implications for our youth, the underemployed and the unemployed.

Goal:

To encourage the development of a strong, diversified and sustainable economy that will provide expanded opportunities for employment, support community growth, and foster community pride.

Issue #4: Health

Health related issues, including health care services, co-ordination of community social services, and social service reform, are of major concern to the community, particularly as senior governments initiate social service reform and cut the cost of administering health care and social services. As well, a population that is aging and continually experiencing job loss contributes to rising health care cost. Doing more with less, co-ordinating resources, and re-targeting budgets and programs to meet the needs of the community will become important considerations by the community.

Goal:

To ensure that health related services and programs meet the needs of the community, are properly targeted and do not overlap.

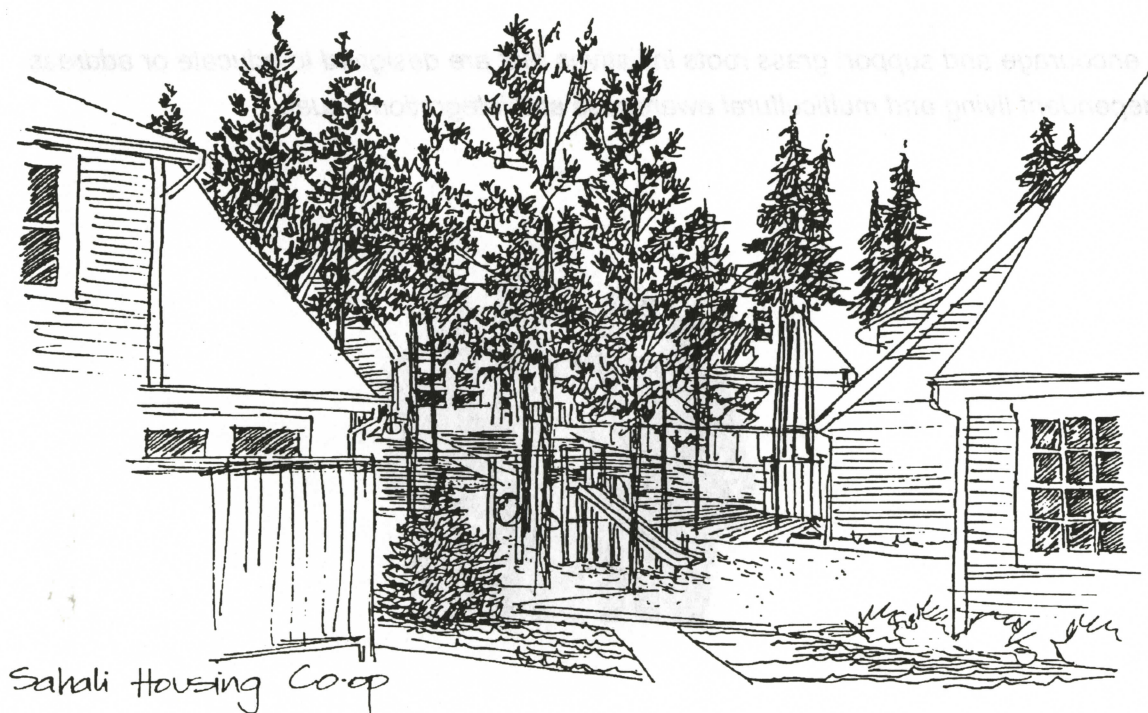
Issue # 5: Housing

Affordable housing has emerged as a critical issue in Kamloops. There is a general feeling that incomes are not keeping pace with the cost of housing, and that home ownership and affordable housing are no longer achievable, particularly for young families, lone parent families, and single persons.

Affordable housing is affected by a number of factors: interest rates, consumer confidence, supply of land and market housing, and government sponsorships of social housing projects. In the past, federal and provincial governments have been responsible for social housing, with at least 30 projects completed in the city. More recently, the City has implemented policies of encouraging a mix of housing in each new development, encouraging the provision of large amounts of serviced land, and fast tracking social housing projects. The City has also provided some City-owned land at less than market value for social housing projects, however the supply of unencumbered land is limited.

Goal:

To ensure that an adequate supply and range of housing opportunities are available to meet the needs of existing and future residents.



Issue # 6: Quality of Life

The majority of Kamloops residents feel safe and are comfortable with their overall quality of life. Continued urban expansion and redevelopment of older neighbourhoods generates concerns for the erosion of our quality of life. The issues range from a perception that the city's streets may not be as safe as they once were to a lack of green space, parks and recreation programs, good school programs, transit systems, and policing. Quality of life is related to how we feel about ourselves, our community around us, our public safety, and our sense of security.

Goal:

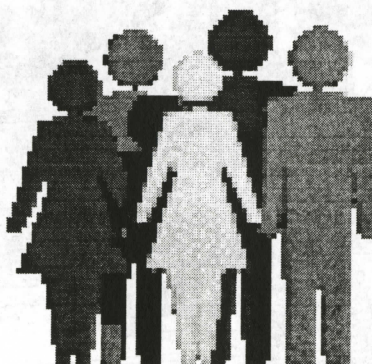
To support initiatives and programs that increase, maintain or enhance quality of life aspects for all residents in the community.

Issue # 7: People:

There is a general feeling that more needs to be done for specific groups of people in our community. As the community ages and makes greater demands on health and housing, and as a changing economy may cause financial and social disruption to disadvantaged groups, government programs and initiatives at all levels will come under increased scrutiny. Meeting a demand for new services will be hampered by the government's current direction to reduce the cost of social programs.

Goal:

To encourage and support grass roots initiatives that are designed to educate or address independent living and multicultural awareness and integration issues.



SOCIAL PLAN OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

The City of Kamloops has developed specific objectives, actions, key participants and time lines involved in addressing the identified social issues and goals. In arriving at these objectives and actions, several key elements should be considered prior to their review:

1. The objectives and actions are intended to provide direction to City Council, the Social Planning Council, and other community groups, agencies and social service providers.
2. Where implementation of specific tasks have been identified for action by the City or for committees of City Council, it is with the understanding that these tasks may fall within the mandate of an existing agency or social service provider, or that other groups in the community are currently working on the issue. The City's intent is not to assume direct responsibility for solving the issue, rather it is an attempt to reflect the principles of facilitation, partnering or inter-agency involvement.
3. The objectives and action steps are not static. Monitoring and modifications will occur based on ever-changing social demands. With continued growth, changes in demographic and socio-economic trends, and senior government down loading, the community may be forced to increase its involvement in social service areas.

The priority ranking given each action was based on the public input sessions and from direction by the Social Planning Council, City Council and City Administrative staff. The priorities have been ranked high, medium or low and are based on a 5 year time horizon. Priorities will be monitored and reviewed annually by the City and the Social Planning Council. New issues and corresponding actions will be added annually in response to a changing community.



ISSUE # 1	EDUCATION
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Goal: *To encourage and support the development of programs and initiatives that produce a wide range of opportunities aimed at meeting the educational needs of the entire community.*

OBJECTIVE: To identify initiatives that encourage youth to stay in school.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. To initiate a meeting/workshop with Youth, School District #73, and the RCMP to: a) Identify roles and specific "stay-in-school" projects Youth, the SPC, Ministry of Children & Families, the RCMP and the School District can continue to participate in; b) Evaluate existing "stay in school" and CAPP curriculum.	CITY - SPC/MCF/ SD#73/ RCMP	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE: To strengthen Community/School partnerships.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. The City and School District to continue reviewing long term planning needs for joint schools/park opportunities and requirements.	CITY/ SD#73	Ongoing/ High
2. The City and School District to continue identifying schools where the community school program may be appropriate. Apply to the appropriate Ministry for grant funding.	CITY/SD#73	Ongoing/ High
3. Ministry of Health and School District to: continue reviewing opportunities to initiate Healthy Schools program; continue to increasing public involvement in school issues and community partnerships.	Min. of Health/SD#73/ Parent Advisory Groups	Low
OBJECTIVE: To encourage on-site child care in schools.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Agencies to review issue and identify potential schools where there is greatest need. Implement findings of Community Child Care Needs Assessment.	SD#73/ Min. of Children & Families/ Min. Of Womens Equality	Medium
2. To continue identifying potential funding sources (both public and private) which would initiate the program.	SD#73/ Min. of Children & Families/ Min. Of Womens Equality	Medium

ISSUE # 2**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Goal: *To ensure that our children and youth are afforded the appropriate resources, protection and encouragement to become successful, independent and valued contributors to society.*

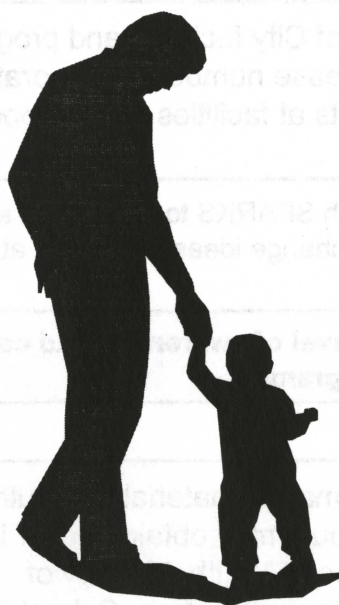
OBJECTIVE: To review the extent of Youth crime and Crime against children.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Initiate focus group of Youth/School District/RCMP and SPC to implement youth safety in community (RCMP school liaison program).	RCMP/SD#73	Ongoing
2. Initiate Youth Crime Stoppers program in local schools involving RCMP, Youth, School District, business community.	RCMP/SD#73	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE: To provide locations and activities for children and youth.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. The City to make available City facilities as potential locations where children and youth can meet on an informal basis.	CITY- PRS & SPC	Ongoing/ High
2. Assemble a directory for youth identifying locations and organizations in their area where they can participate (i.e. church youth groups, community organizations, city facilities)	CITY - SPC & PRS	Medium
3. The City to continue its review of City facilities and programs for potential to establish or increase number of corporate sponsored youth and teen nights at facilities like the pool, ice rink, etc.	CITY - PRS & SPC	Ongoing/ High
4. Consolidate the Youth Council with SPARKS to provide an avenue for youth to express concerns, exchange ideas and arrive at solutions for youth-related issues.	CITY - SPC & PRS	High
OBJECTIVE: To improve the level of awareness and coordination of existing youth facilities and programs.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Initiate the organization of information material for youth, help counselling and areas where youth may obtain shelter in the community, utilizing a committee of Youth, Ministry of Children & Families, Attorney General's office, School District and Corporate sponsors. This may include the concept of a "one stop shop" where youth may obtain information on services.	Min. of Children & Families	High
2. Establish an emergency Youth Shelter in the community for youth at risk.	Min. of Children & Families	Ongoing/ High

ISSUE # 2

CHILDREN AND YOUTH (cont'd)

Goal: *To ensure that our children and youth are afforded the appropriate resources, protection and encouragement to become successful, independent and valued contributors to society.*

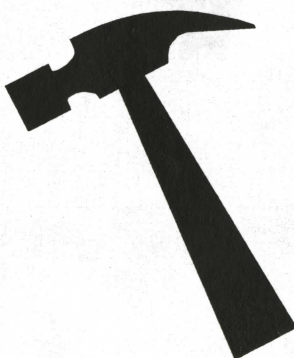
OBJECTIVE: To Improve safety in school zone areas		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Initiate dialogue with School District, RCMP, local Parent Advisory Committees, for areas where school zone problems have been identified and review increased RCMP presence, school crossing guards and other potential solutions.	SD#73/ RCMP/ Parent Advisory Groups	High



ISSUE # 3**EMPLOYMENT**

Goal: *To encourage the development of a strong, diversified and sustainable economy which will provide expanded opportunities for employment, support community growth, and foster community pride.*

OBJECTIVE: To encourage employment training for youth and unemployed or under-employed.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Kamloops Economic Development Corporation initiate discussions with Federal government, industry leaders, Community Future Corp. and University College to investigate education and employment linkages and shortages, and to encourage employment equity practices in all economic sectors.	Kedco/ Employment Ministries - Federal & Provincial	High
2. Identify potential opportunities for government coordination and funding (Industrial Adjustment Program, Western Diversification Program)	Kedco/ Employment Ministries - Federal & Provincial	High
OBJECTIVE: To encourage affordable daycare for parents currently in or are contemplating entering the workplace.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. The City to continue its review of the zoning bylaw with the intent of identifying opportunities for inclusionary zoning for daycares and group homes as permitted uses.	CITY - DSD	High
2. Daycare providers and appropriate Ministries to prepare a terms of reference for a Child Care plan for the community.	Min. of Children & Families /Min. Of Womens Equality	High

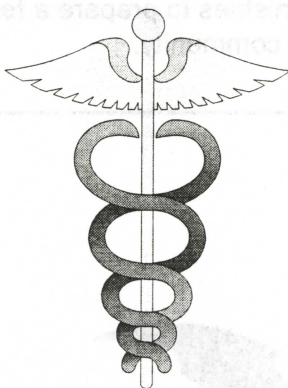


ISSUE # 4

HEALTH

Goal: *To ensure that health related services and programs meet the needs of the community, are properly targeted and do not overlap.*

OBJECTIVE: To improve the coordination of social service delivery programs.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Liaise with community health and social service providers to investigate opportunities to improve program coordination and to enable agencies to meet on a regular basis to continue cooperation and collaboration.	SPC/CHC/ Social Services	High
OBJECTIVE: To ensure local needs are identified and addressed when provincial departments and agencies plan and design programs.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Establish an annual Community Health issues conference with community groups, provincial health and social service providers, and the public.	Regional Health Board	Medium



ISSUE # 5**HOUSING**

Goal: *To ensure that an adequate supply and range of housing opportunities are available to meet the needs of existing and future residents.*

OBJECTIVE: To determine the needs and demands for affordable housing in the community.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Prepare an Affordable Housing study which will identify the present housing trends, define affordable housing, the type and amount of affordable housing, and further develop a strategy to address the community needs and demands. The study will also determine the amount and need for temporary housing for transient population and shelters.	Kamloops Community Mapping Project/CITY - DSD	Ongoing/ High
OBJECTIVE: To encourage affordable housing through municipal bylaws.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Consider amending the zoning bylaw to allow increased density (density bonusing) when affordable housing units are provided in multiple family and mixed use developments.	CITY- DSD	High
2. The City to continue its review of the zoning bylaw to examine secondary suites and corresponding regulations in certain zones.	CITY - DSD	Ongoing/ High
OBJECTIVE: To increase public awareness for the need to maintain the supply of affordable housing.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Coordinate a public workshop/conference to increase awareness and promotion of ideas for affordable housing. Workshop/conference to include public, development community, and community organizations.	CITY - DSD	Medium
OBJECTIVE: To provide a mix of housing types within each area of the City in order to accommodate a broad range of housing needs, incomes and life styles.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. To continue to ensure new development plan areas and redevelopment plan areas address the need to provide the full range of housing types.	CITY - DSD	Ongoing/ High

ISSUE # 6**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Goal: *To support initiatives, programs and policies that increase, maintain or enhance quality of life aspects for all residents in the community.*

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that City of Kamloops cultural & recreation programs & facilities are available and meet the needs of as many people as possible.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Inventory existing cultural and recreational facilities and programs, identify new initiatives and sponsorships, and, if necessary, consider re-programming/re-targeting to meet the needs of the community.	CITY - PRS	High
2. Establish a "Rainbow of Opportunities" program where community groups and corporate sponsors fund activities to provide opportunities to those who would normally not be able to afford the participation in a cultural or recreation program.	CITY - PRS	Medium
OBJECTIVE: To increase the sense of community and cooperation in our neighbourhoods.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Within the OCP, identify components/standards of what makes a livable neighbourhood.	CITY - DSD	High
2. Establish a Terms of Reference for the implementation of a "Partners in Parks" program. The program would solicit resident and community groups time and resources to improve or develop neighbourhood and community parks.	CITY - PRS	Medium
3. Continue to encourage and promote Neighbourhood Associations.	CITY - DSD	Ongoing/ Medium
4. Apply for Healthy Community funding to establish a Community Development worker to work with neighbourhoods at risk in becoming more independent.	SPC/ DSD	High
OBJECTIVE: To identify and implement methods of reducing violence in public spaces and our neighbourhoods.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Review with RCMP specific public locations in the City which are prevalent to crime due to specific urban design faults or lighting issues and establish a program and ongoing budget to correct.	CITY -DSD/ RCMP	High
2. Review with resident groups and RCMP, neighbourhoods where community policing may be desired or implemented.	RCMP/ Community Policing	Medium
3. Establish and implement in OCP and other bylaws, neighbourhood design guidelines or street-proofing multiple family buildings and neighbourhood subdivision designs. Use RCMP as a referral for new development applications (ie. CPTED program).	CITY- DSD/ RCMP	High

ISSUE # 6

QUALITY OF LIFE (cont'd)

Goal: *To support initiatives, programs and policies that increase, maintain or enhance quality of life aspects for all residents in the community.*

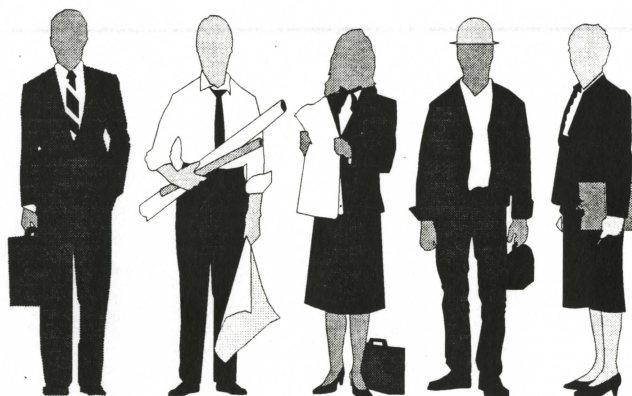
OBJECTIVE: To specifically identify and address local poverty issues in Kamloops.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Coordinate meeting/workshop with provincial agencies, non-profit groups (i.e. food banks), and community churches to review existing efforts of providing food, clothing and shelter to the poor. Identify potential opportunities to coordinate or "pool" resources to provide more efficient service.	Min. of Min. of Children & Families/Min. Of Human Resources	Medium
2. Ensure Affordable Housing study identifies issues and opportunities for housing those in poverty.	CITY-DSD/ CMHA/ Community Groups	High
OBJECTIVE: To better manage our community resources (land, water, air and infrastructure) and thereby reducing the negative impacts of growth and urban sprawl.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Ensure coordinated growth management efforts between the TNRD growth management plan and City Official Community Plan process.	CITY-DSD/ Thompson-Nicola Reg.Dist.	Ongoing/ High
2. To continue with, and monitor Official Community Plan growth management policies.	CITY-DSD	Ongoing/ High
Objective: To provide grassroots direction to community health and social service providers to ensure that the community's needs are met		
1. To provide copies of the Social Plan to all agencies and community organizations.	CITY - SPC	Ongoing/ High

ISSUE # 7

PEOPLE

Goal: *To encourage grass roots initiatives that are designed to educate or address independent living and multicultural awareness and integration issues.*

OBJECTIVE: To initiate at the local level, opportunities for promoting independent living for those who require institutional care.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Coordinate a meeting among health care providers and seniors groups to review present programs and identify opportunities for improving at home care and facilities utilizing existing funding sources.	Min. of Children & Families/ Min. of Health	Medium
OBJECTIVE: To promote understanding and acceptance among all people in Kamloops.		
ACTIONS:	BY WHOM	PRIORITY
1. Initiate a workshop comprising existing groups (Kamloops Race Relations Committee/School District) and government agencies to investigate methods of promoting cultural awareness and understanding among all people of the community.	CITY - Race Relations Committee/ SD#73/ Community Ethnic Organizations	Ongoing/ Medium

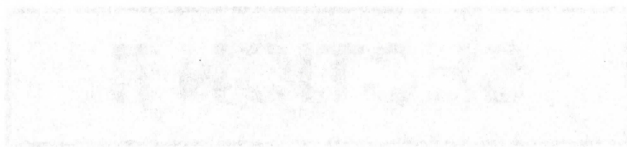




SECTION II

SOCIAL PLAN BACKGROUND

- ▶ Plan Process
- ▶ Community Priorities
- ▶ Community Trends



BACKGROUNDS SOCIAL PLAN

- Plan Process
- Community Priorities
- Community Trends

PLAN PROCESS

The Social Plan was prepared and adopted following the process and time line highlighted below:

Social Planning Council Workshop
with Community Social Service Providers
(November 1994)



Background Research Report
(August 1995)



Social Plan Workshop
(September 1995)



Official Community Plan Forum
Addressing Social Planning Issues
(October 1995)



Draft Social Plan
(December 1995)



Draft Plan Review - Social Planning Council
(December/January 1995)



Final Draft Plan
(March 1996)



Plan Circulation to Agencies
(March 1996)



Social Plan Adoption (in-principle) - City Council
(March 1996)



Social Plan/OCP Public Review
(June 1997)

Local Initiatives

The adoption of a Social Action Strategy was perhaps the strongest recognition by the City in taking an active role in social planning. The Social Action Strategy, authorized by City Council in 1993, initiated:

1. The establishment of a Social Planning Council with the following as its mandate:
 - "feel the pulse" of the community and provide recommendations to government agencies on the allocation of funds and the direction of social development programs; and
 - assist in the identification of the major social issues of the community.
 - encourage and assist in the development of strategies which strengthen and enhance the well-being of Kamloops.
2. Specific actions such as:
 - the preparation of a Community Social Plan;
 - the establishment of a Youth Advocacy Council with representation from youth throughout the City;
 - the allocation of a Ministry of Social Services social worker to assist the City's Community/Social Planner in the implementation of the Social Action Strategy
 - the allocation of a social work practicum student from the University College of the Cariboo to assist in the implementation of the social action strategy;
 - the hiring of one social development worker to assist neighbourhoods with social problems through an inter-agency funding arrangement;
 - the development of a process to assess community social grant applications; and
 - the coordination of an annual social issues conference, with the 1993 theme focussing on youth

The Social Planning Council completed several components of the original strategy, including:

- establishing and working with the City's first Youth Advocacy Council
- hosting two successful social issues conference: 1994 - Youth Talks ... Bridging the Gap; 1995 - Kamloops Tomorrow - Social Issues Workshop
- reviewing and revising the Community Grant process
- compiling past research on social issues as a background report to assist in the preparation of the Social Plan
- preparing an informational brochure for distribution
- supporting agencies on various community initiatives

The Social Plan represents the Social Planning Council's continued efforts to refocus and implement many of the strategies already started in the established goals.

There have been a number of other initiatives that have taken place in recent years and have served as background information to the Social Plan process. These initiatives have included the preparation of such documents and reports as:

- Kamloops Community Needs Assessment
- Housing Kamloops, Committee for People with Disabilities
- Kamloops Alcohol and Drug Prevention Planning Initiatives
- Youth Talks ... Bridging the Gap, Youth Advocacy Council Conference

- Mayor's Task Force on Children & Youth: Our Youth - Our Future
- City of Kamloops Rental Housing Strategy
- City of Kamloops Adaptable Housing Strategy
- City of Kamloops Social Housing Policy

The City of Kamloops has identified a number of initiatives based on its 1994 Corporate Strategic Plan. These include:

- Review of the Official Community Plan
- Parks Master plan
- Civic Facilities Strategy
- Preparation of a Social Plan and Social Action Strategy
- Strategies on Affordable Housing Growth Management
- Reviewing impacts of down loading from Senior Governments

Social Planning Council Workshop

A component of the Social Planning Council's original 1993 Social Action Strategy included meeting with the various social service providers and community organizations. This workshop was held in November of 1994 and assisted the council in determining the key issues that would guide its priorities and establish its mandate for the 1995 social action strategy, as well as providing important background work to the preparation of the Social Plan.

Background Research - August, 1995

Prior to the 1995 workshop sessions, the Social Planning Council initiated a study to research, review and summarize all relevant documents, reports and past efforts to address community social issues. The study, completed in August 1995, identified a number of issues which were then grouped into 13 topic areas. The topic areas identified were:

- Quality of Life
- Housing
- Children & Youth
- Public Safety and Sense of Security
- Health
- Coordination of Services/Social Service Reforms
- Community Planning
- Education
- Employment
- Seniors
- Aboriginal People
- Ethnic Groups
- People with Special Needs

The topic areas identified and their corresponding issues were then presented at two workshops. The first workshop, for Community Social Providers, was held to prioritize and refine the issues and then try to establish some action steps. The second workshop was to obtain community feedback and refine and

further clarify actions to the issues identified, and to have the public also prioritize the topic areas. The second workshop was held as part of the Official Community Plan Workshop Sessions.

Community Social Providers Workshop - September, 1995

The Social Planning Council, the local social service providers and members of the general public participated in the City of Kamloops Social Plan Workshop held on the 27th of September 1995. In the short time during the workshop, participants tried to capture the key issues and topics considered important in guiding social planning initiatives in Kamloops. Once this was completed, participants identified a number of action steps for the purpose of achieving the identified objectives for the most important social planning issues.

During the workshop, the identified topic areas were prioritized and combined where they were felt to be of common concern. The following are the topic areas listed in order of priority:

1. **Education** - issues pertaining to the coordination of our education system and to opportunities it creates
2. **Health & Social Service Reform** - issues pertaining to our health care system, coordination of government services and dealing with social service reform
3. **Youth Issues** - relating to children and youth of our community
4. **Employment** - issues pertaining to employment opportunities in the public and private sector
5. **Housing** - issues pertaining to accessibility and affordability of houses
6. **Quality of Life** - issues pertaining to the quality of our life, the level of public security and the level of our sense of security and the way we plan our community
7. **People** - issues related to seniors, aboriginal people, ethnic groups and people with special needs

The information gathered from this workshop was used to further refine the issues and action steps used for the October 21st Official Community Plan Public Session.

OCP Conference - October, 1995

On October 21, 1995, the City, the Social Planning Council and members of the public participated in the City of Kamloops Official Community Plan Conference - Kamloops Tomorrow :Planning for the 21st Century. The purpose of the conference was to provide public input to a number of Official Community Plan topics, one of which was social issues. During the conference session, the public responded to and suggested actions necessary to address the issues identified in the topic areas.

The session results were recorded and used to confirm the priority topic areas and further refine the actions, as well as to provide direction to the City on their Official Community Plan.

Based on both the Community Social Providers workshop and the OCP Conference workshop sessions, a final order of priority for the topic areas was determined. The primary social topic areas in priority were as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Education | 5. Housing |
| 2. Children and Youth | 6. Quality of Life |
| 3. Employment | 7. People |
| 4. Health | |

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PRIORITIES

The Social Planning Council's efforts to collect research on community social issues; interview social interest groups; conduct a conference on youth issues; and hold workshops with Social Service providers and the community have identified and prioritized the following topic areas and primary social issues:

Topic Areas

Issues

1. Education

- initiatives to encourage youth to stay in school
- strengthening of community/school partnerships
- promote healthy schools
- on-site child care
- job training programs and career path counselling for youth
- education that provides a multicultural and multiracial perspective

2. Children & Youth

- violence and crime committed by and against children and youth
- parenting and inter-generational programs
- place for children and youth to go and things for them to do
- accessible and affordable transportation
- increase level and awareness of counselling and shelter facilities
- better policing of school zones

3. Employment

- employment/training programs for the under-employed and unemployed which ensure a balance of effective and coordinated programs in the community
- affordable daycare for all parents
- job development - planned corporate and small business development which facilitates job creation
- coordination between education providers and employers
- provision of community social services/programs designed from the "bottom up"

4. Health (Health & Coordination of Services/Social Reform)

- coordination of overlapping programs and program delivery gap
- address poverty issues and social detriments of health
- maintain R.I.H. as a regional facility governed by the community
- down loading of service responsibility to the provincial and municipal governments
- maintain standard of care services

5. Housing
 - availability and accessibility of affordable housing
 - livable neighbourhoods that provide community parks and open spaces
 - legalization and improved safety of secondary suites
 - accessible temporary housing for youth handicapped, abused and transient
6. Quality of Life
(Quality of Life, Community Planning, Public Safety & Sense of Security)
 - maintaining broad spectrum of accessible and affordable cultural and social recreation programs/facilities
 - create livable neighbourhoods
 - reduction of violence in homes and public spaces
 - street-proofing our neighbourhoods
 - poverty issues including lack of food, clothing and shelter
 - controlled and managed growth
 - ensuring new developments are assessed for their potential environmental, social and visual impacts
7. People
(Seniors, Aboriginal People, Ethnic Groups and People with Special Needs)
 - independent living with support of the health care system and other private initiatives
 - integration of seniors in neighbourhoods
 - alcohol and drug abuse
 - promote and educate from a multicultural and multiracial perspective

Additional Community Priorities

The Federal Government's attempt to restructure social policy and program areas will have a profound affect on service delivery of existing programs in Kamloops and the rest of Canada. A direct impact is the push to transfer the responsibility and funding of social programs delivery to the provincial and municipal level.

The Federal Government, and subsequently the Provincial Government restructuring has resulted in new legislation which provides the authority to municipalities to administer specific social planning areas. Recent amendments to the Municipal Act, as an example, now provide legislative direction for municipalities to administer housing agreements and mandate secondary suites. These changes clearly represent a shift of delegated responsibility from senior governments to local authorities with little change in financial structure.

Down loading, and its inherent costs, were concerns constantly raised by the community throughout the process.

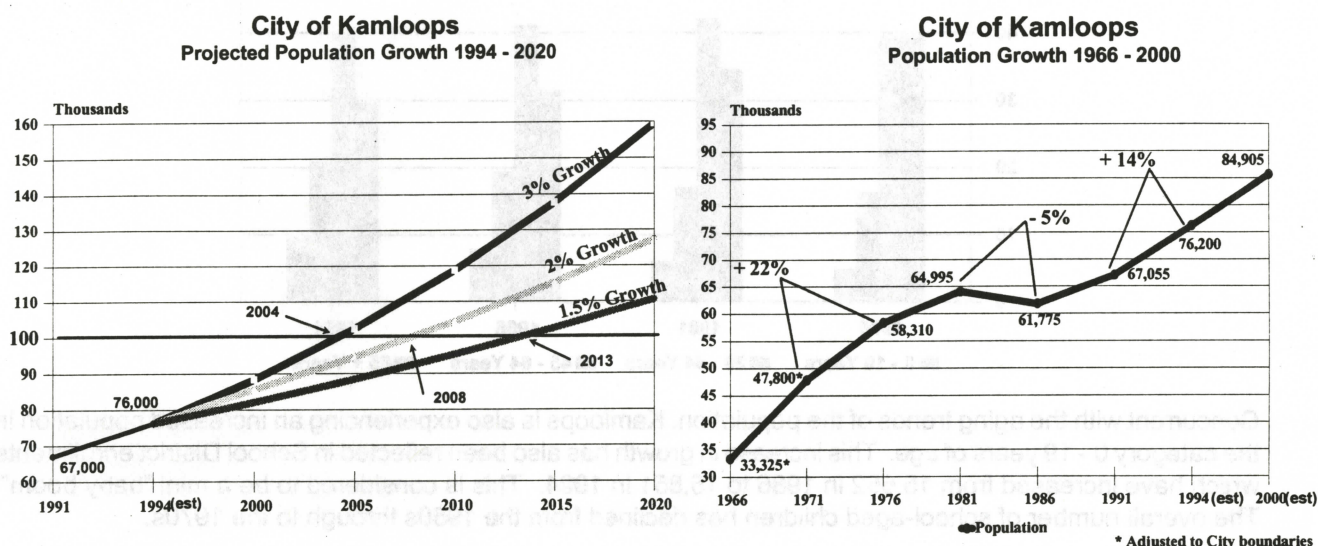
COMMUNITY TRENDS

The Social Plan planning process must not only analyse the existing situation and issues, but anticipate future trends which may impact the quality of life in Kamloops.

The trends that have been examined in this section represent these indicators, which affect our quality of life -- namely our ability to feed, house, provide the basic necessities of life, and maintain our health and safety.

Population Trends

Over the past 30 years, Kamloops has experienced a cycle of growth and decline. The initial growth period peaked in 1981, at a population of 64,995. This was followed by a population decline of approximately 5% or 3,000 people between 1981 and 1986.



The population since 1986 to 1994 has rebounded to an estimated population of 76,500. The population trend forecasted for the next 25 years is for moderate growth to continue in the range of 1.5% to 2% per year, or about 1,000 - 1,500 people per year.

Potential Impact:

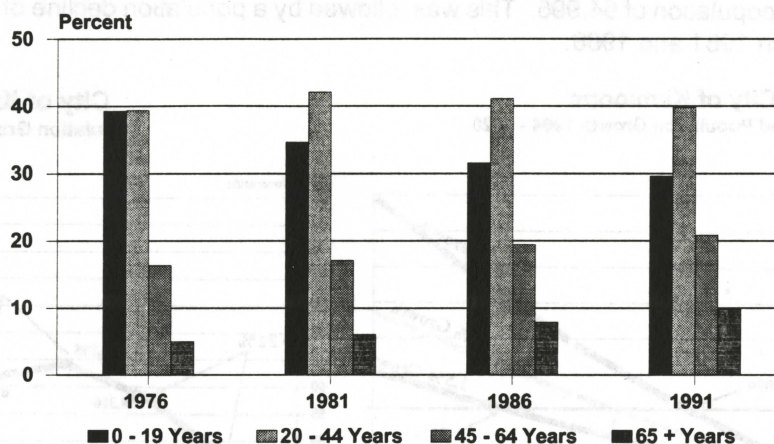
Continued population growth could make significant demands on our quality of life and neighbourhood standards. For instance, with growth comes additional pressure on neighbourhoods to accept increased density and a more diverse mix of housing and residents. As this change is typically resisted for a variety of reasons including perceptions of reduced personal/home security, or reduced mobility and access to green space, it may be necessary to examine the issue of growth as it relates to neighbourhood liveability.

Age Distribution Trends

While the overall population trends indicate a steady increase in the number of persons living in Kamloops, the age distribution trends indicate a change in character of that population. The current trends reflect a steady increase in the amount of persons in the age categories of 45 - 64 and 64+ years old.

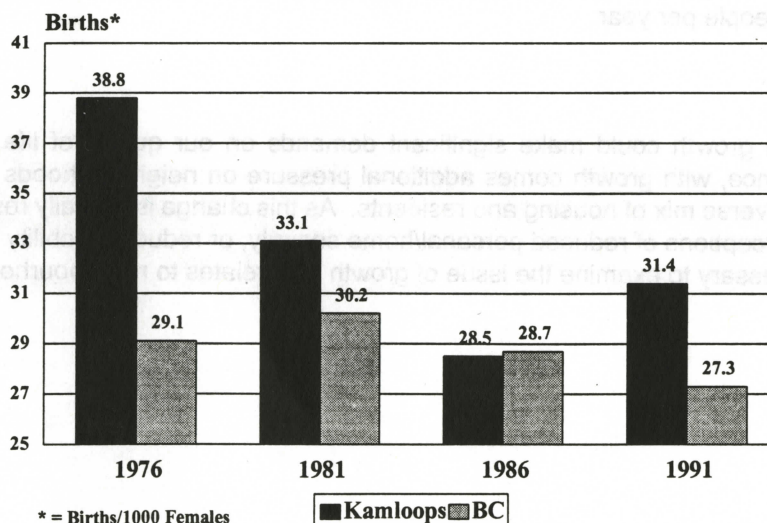
This trend is consistent with national trends which reflect the aging of the "baby boomers". This is also consistent with the increasing average age of the Kamloops population. In the last 20 years, the average age of a Kamloops resident has increased from 25.8 years old in 1976 to 34.7 years old in 1994.

**City of Kamloops
Age Trends 1976 - 1991**



Concurrent with the aging trends of the population, Kamloops is also experiencing an increased population in the category 0 - 19 years of age. This increase in growth has also been reflected in School District enrollments which have increased from 15,652 in 1986 to 16,851 in 1994. This is considered to be a mini "baby boom". The overall number of school-aged children has declined from the 1950s through to the 1970s.

**City of Kamloops
Birth Rates 1976 - 1991**



Potential Impact:

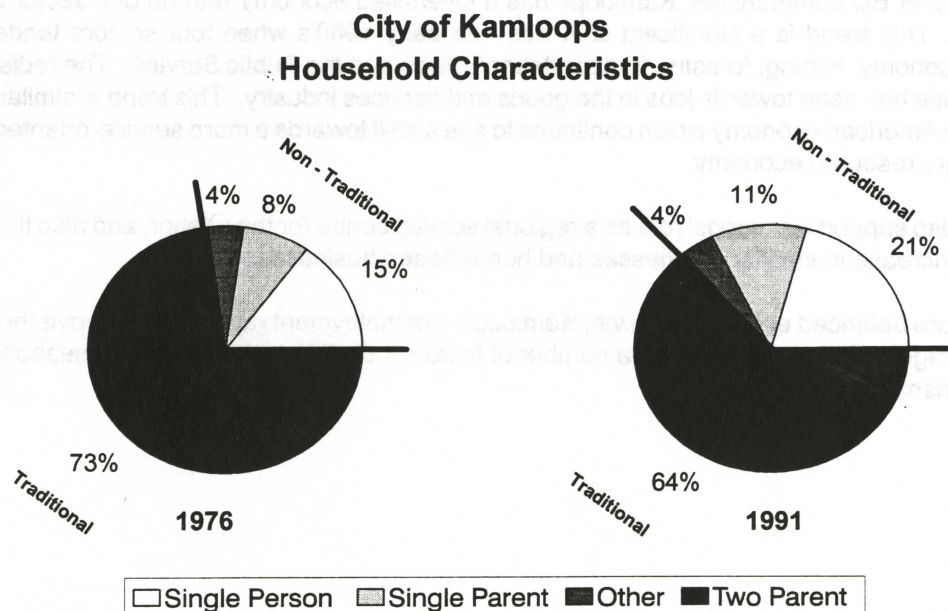
The age distribution trends examined represent changes to our community. These changes could be exhibited in the community in the form of increased social demands and needs, including:

- an increasing seniors population, and the increasing age of the Baby Boomers bulge, will have a direct impact on future housing and transportation needs. Affordability, housing types and accessibility issues may become more prevalent;
- issues relating to daycare for the "mini boom" children, different kinds of care for the elderly, the concept of aging while staying at home, and caring for the needs of the physically challenged are also becoming prevalent; and.
- an increase in younger age groups will impact schools and youth/young adult oriented services and programs.

Household Characteristics

The traditional household (two parent "nuclear family") still remains the predominant family lifestyle found in Kamloops. The trend however, indicates that the dominant traditional lifestyle is changing as the amount of single person and single-parent households increases. The figures reflect a 9% increase of non-traditional family households over the period between 1976 to 1991. The majority of single-family parents continue to be female (84%).

The trend in household size has stabilized during the past 20 years. In 1976, the average household size was 3.1 persons per household. The figure declined to 2.7 persons per household in 1986. Since that time, the average household size has stabilized at 2.7 persons per household. Given the trends in traditional family structure and the percentage increase in the amount of persons between the ages of 45 to 65+ years of age, the overall trend in family household size will decrease as we approach the year 2020.

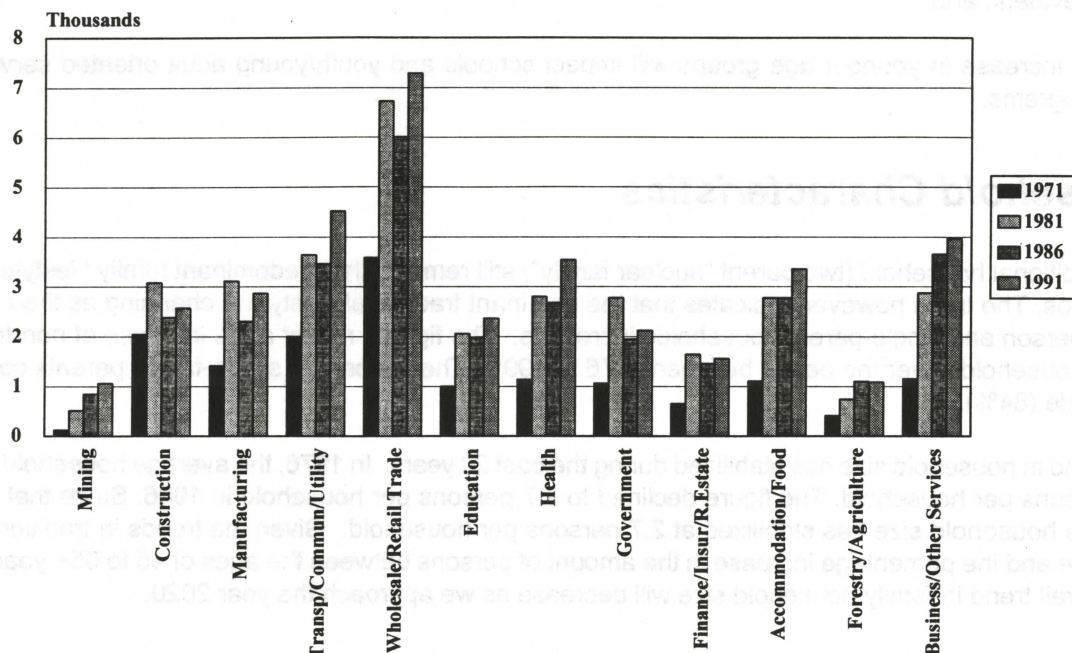


Potential Impact:

The overall increase in lone parent families, particularly those households headed by low income moms, are vulnerable to affordability and accessibility of community services and programs. The range of impacts tend to relate to housing, leisure time and programs, daycare, employment opportunities and overall quality of life.

Employment & Income Trends

City of Kamloops
Labour Force Profile 1981 - 1991

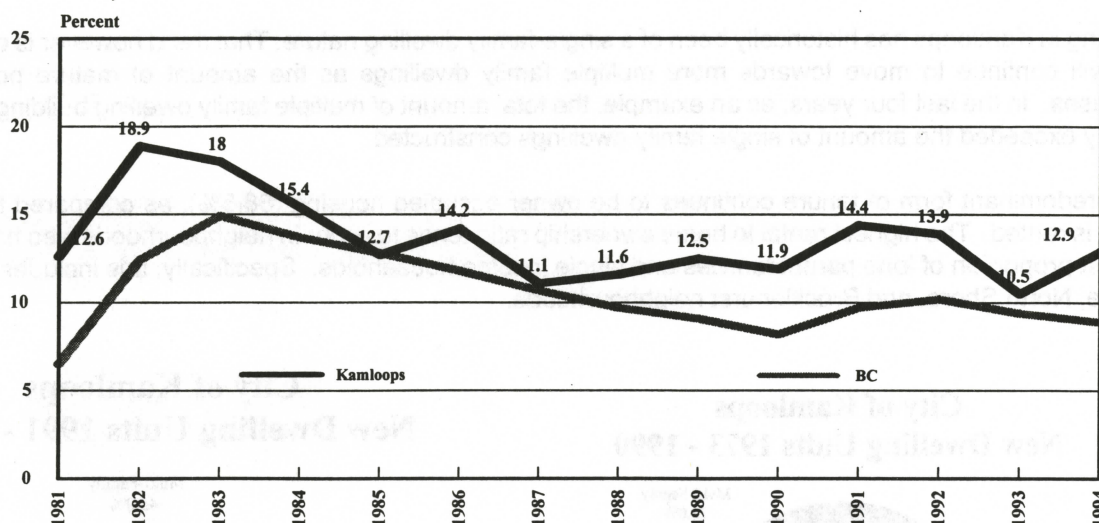


Relative to other BC communities, Kamloops has a diversified economy with no one sector dominating the labour force. This trend is a significant shift from the early 1960's when four sectors tended to drive the Kamloops economy: mining, forestry, transportation/utilities and the Public Service. The redistribution of the economic base has been towards jobs in the goods and services industry. This trend is similar to our general overall North American economy which continues to see a shift towards a more service-oriented society rather than a primary resource economy.

The trends also support Kamloops' role as a regional service centre for the interior, and also the national trend towards an increase in smaller businesses and home-based businesses.

Despite a more balanced economic growth, Kamloops' unemployment rate remains above the provincial and national averages. This trend is due to a number of factors including immigration and seasonal employment from the tourism sector.

City of Kamloops **Annual Unemployment Rate 1981 -1994**



Another important employment trend includes the number of mothers in the labour force. There is a participation rate of 62.1% of working mothers in Kamloops, which exceeds both the provincial and national trends.

An emerging trend relative to employment is level of income. The increase in lower paying personal service employment jobs, combined with the decrease in the relative number of higher paying resource sector jobs reflects a household income (\$44,440) which is below the provincial average (\$46,910) and the national average (\$46,140).

The trend of low income (percentage of families or single persons below an established low-income figure) for city-wide families, dropped slightly from 15% in 1986 to 13% in 1994. The level of low income single persons increased slightly from 40% in 1986 to 42% in 1991.

Social assistance recipients are on the increase. In 1991, roughly 10% of the City's population were receiving income assistance. In 1994, this figure increased to 14%. About 1 in 5 children (4,000), the largest single group of recipients, are living in families receiving assistance.

Potential Impact

Lifestyle, lower costs, climate and overall attractiveness of the community have contributed greatly to Kamloops' growth over the last 10 years. However, jobs have not been the driving force as was the case in the 60's and 70's. The trend to lower paying, less stable jobs and continued high levels of unemployment, translate to a less affluent community. Issues such as affordability and accessibility in housing, reduced service levels and poverty may become more prevalent.

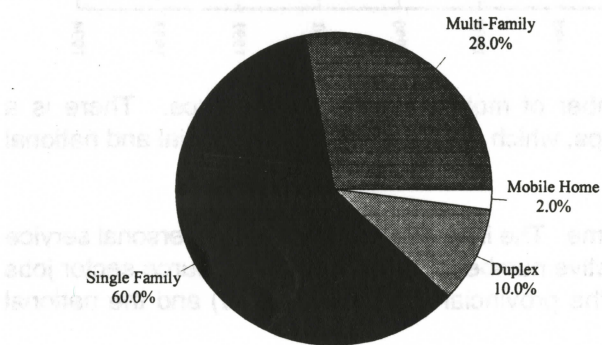
The shift to dual income households combined with an increase in lone parent families, places additional pressure on child care spaces and child care affordability.

Housing Trends

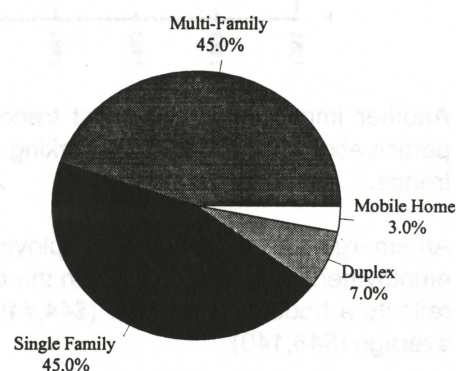
Housing in Kamloops has historically been of a single-family dwelling nature. That trend however is changing and will continue to move towards more multiple family dwellings as the amount of mature population increases. In the last four years, as an example, the total amount of multiple family dwelling building permits slightly exceeded the amount of single family dwellings constructed.

The predominant form of tenure continues to be owner occupied housing (68.5%), as compared to 31.4% which is rented. The highest rental to home ownership ratio tends to occur in neighbourhoods also having the highest proportion of lone parent families and single income households. Specifically, this includes the City Centre, North Shore, and Brocklehurst neighbourhoods.

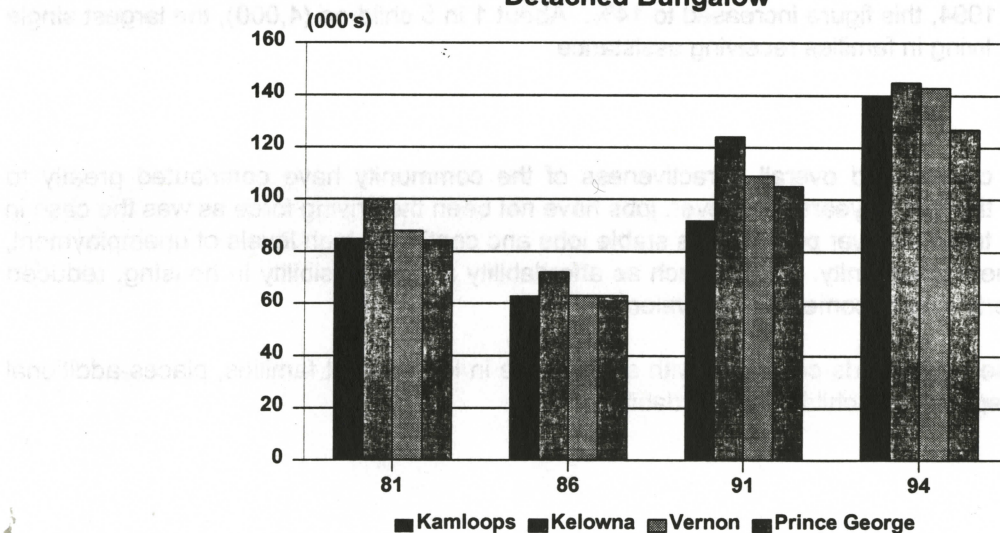
**City of Kamloops
New Dwelling Units 1973 - 1990**



**City of Kamloops
New Dwelling Units 1991 - 1994**

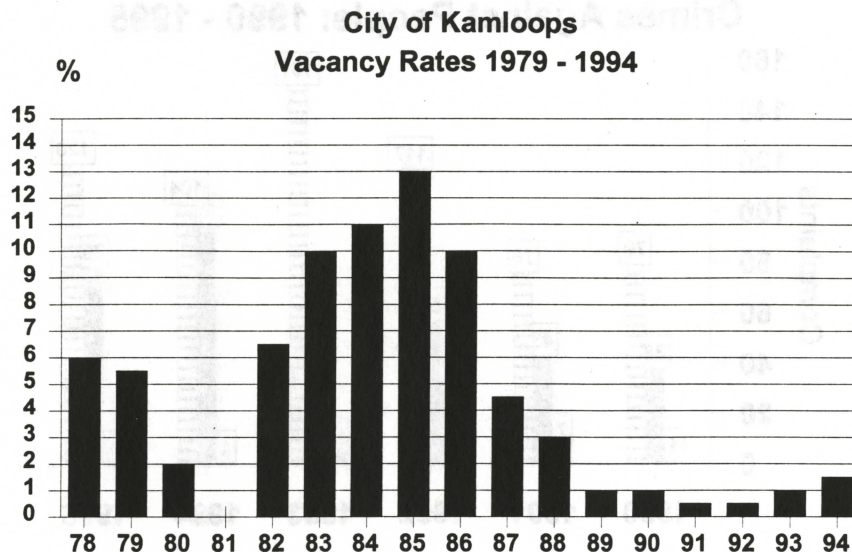


**Survey of B.C. House Prices
Detached Bungalow**



The cost of housing has been low when compared to similar markets in the interior. This price differential has diminished in recent years with in-migration from the lower mainland and other parts of the country. The price of housing is expected to continue to remain competitive with other interior cities as long as Kamloops remains a desirable community for relocation and the costs to develop new housing remain high.

Since the late 80's, the availability of rental accommodation (or the vacancy rate) has remained low. This has caused a steady increase in the price of rental accommodation. As an example, the cost of renting a two-bedroom unit has increased 55% and a three bedroom unit has risen 70% over the past 5 years.



The rapid increase of rental prices combined with the low vacancy rates signifies that those who are unable to purchase their home may in fact be unable to find suitable affordable rental housing. The segment of the population most affected by the continued rise in rental prices are those dependent on social assistance and single parent families.

Potential Impact:

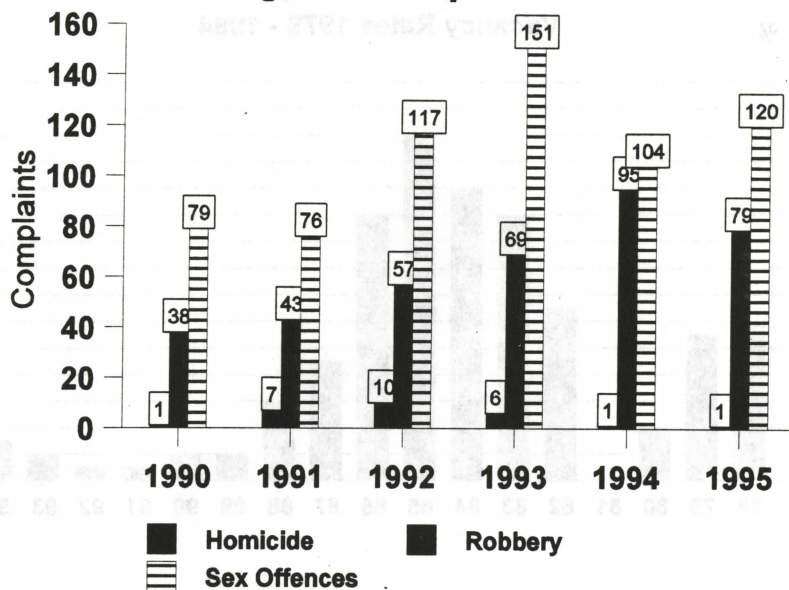
The rapid escalation of rental housing prices, combined with the traditionally low vacancy rates, could mean that certain segments of the population, such as single parent families, may have difficulty finding suitable housing. Historically, a large proportion of government dollars have subsidized the cost of housing for seniors, which has left a gap for special needs individuals and low income singles and families. This is particularly true for the growing number of people dependent on income assistance.

The trend to lower income, single parent/single person renters residing in specific areas of the City has tended to have perceived impact the overall liveability or quality of life in those neighbourhoods.

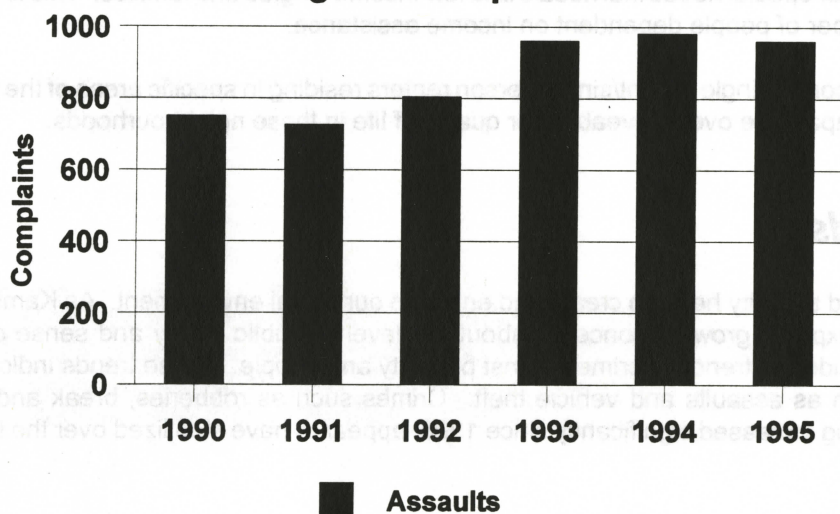
Crime Trends

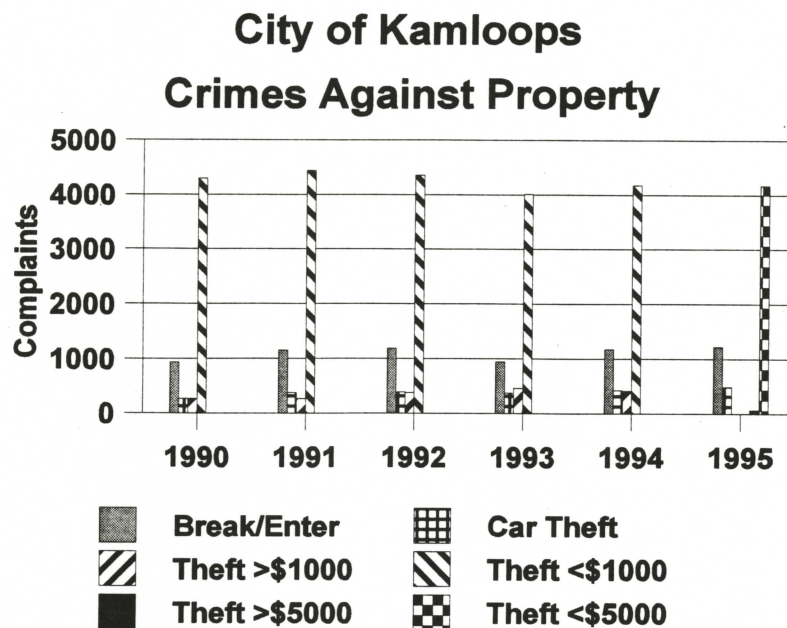
A sense of safety and security helps to create and enhance our social environment. As Kamloops continues to grow, residents express growing concerns about the level of public safety and sense of security. The attached charts provide the trends in crime against property and people. These trends indicate an increase in criminal acts such as assaults and vehicle theft. Crimes such as robberies, break and enter and sex offenses, while having increased significantly since 1990, appear to have stabilized over the last two or three years.

City of Kamloops Crimes Against People: 1990 - 1995



City of Kamloops Crimes Against People - Assaults





Potential Impact:

The perception that crime is on the increase can generate concerns for the erosion of a City's quality of life. In particular, issues ranging from personal/home security to youth concerns can directly impact the provision of policing and youth related programming in the community. Public safety or the community's sense of security are important issues that must be addressed.

City of Knoxville Crimes Against Property



Potential Impact

The potential impact of crime is on the increase and presents a serious threat to the quality of life in the community. Crime is a major concern of the community and the police department. The police department is working to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the community. The police department is working to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the community. The police department is working to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the community.

