



United Way
Maritimes

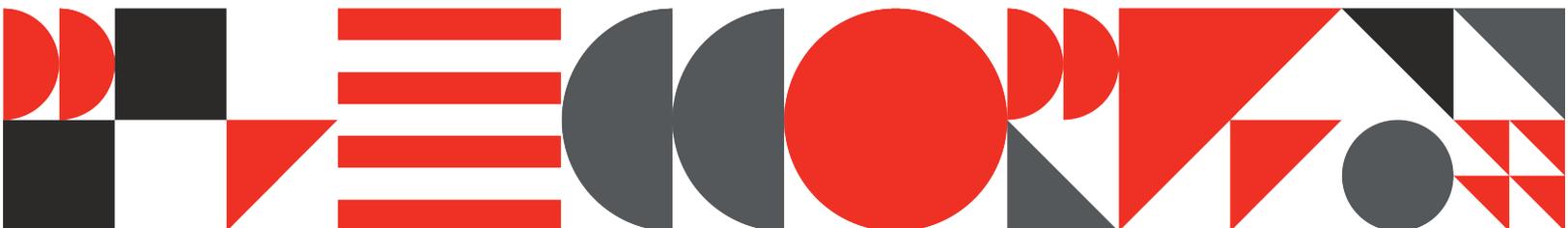
Fredericton

Building Safer Communities

Strategy Summary



DATE: December, 2025



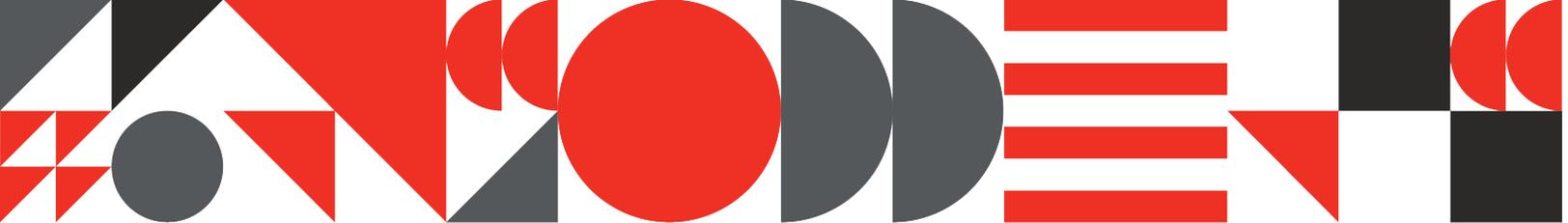


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Building Safer Communities Strategy summary document

The “City-wide Guns and Gangs Prevention Strategy” (hereby referred to as ‘the Strategy’) is a collaboratively developed document which identifies the current youth crime prevention priority matters (based on rate of occurrence or level of seriousness) and outlines aligned projects or subsequently determined action items which the City of Fredericton, Government of New Brunswick, and partner community organizations are currently undertaking or agree to undertake over the following calendar year in order to address and mitigate these concerns.

The Strategy was developed through Public Safety Canada’s Building Safer Communities Fund and in collaboration with the City of Fredericton and United Way Maritimes.

How was the strategy developed?

An advisory committee, composed of 12 members, met four times to discuss the current circumstances surrounding youth involvement in criminal activity, identify the main issues and risk factors contributing to youth involvement in criminal activity, establish priorities to address crime prevention, and determine actionable responses to these priority issues.

Data was collected and research was conducted with respect to each of the initial 9 youth crime prevention matters of concern raised by the advisory committee. These were then narrowed based on level of concern and level of frequency. Data (both local and national) and research guided priority item selection and further information regarding each selected priority can be found in the full strategy document.

What are the youth crime prevention priorities?

1. Access to mental health and addictions services
2. Safe spaces for youth
3. Child/ parent programming
4. Mentorship for youth
5. Cultural disconnection

What is being done to address these priorities?

New programs funded by Building Safer Communities:

1. La Maison des jeunes l'acAdo inc. After school program

Description: La Maison des jeunes l'acAdo inc. is currently offering an after-school program aimed at supporting middle and high school students (grades 6 and up) through engaging and positive activities that focus on crime prevention, personal development, and community building. The program will run 2 days per week for 3 hours per day from September 2025 – March 2026.

Priorities addressed: Safe spaces for youth

2. John Howard Society of Fredericton - Strengthening Families Program

Description: The Strengthening Families Program is an evidence-based family skills training program for high-risk and general population families that is recognized both nationally and internationally. Parents and youth have separate class training for the first hour, followed by a joint family practice session the second hour. Classes cover content such as family communication, problem solving, stress and anger management, goal setting, drugs and alcohol, prosocial values, and prosocial peers. The program will run for 7 weeks from October – December 2025.

Priorities addressed: Child/parent programming

3. Wolastoqey Tribal Council Inc. (WTCI) - Empowering Youth: Strengthening Cultural Connections and Support Systems program

Description: This drum-making workshop is designed to address key challenges faced by Wolastoqey youth, providing them with tools and opportunities to thrive in a supportive and culturally enriched environment. The program aims to reconnect participants with cultural traditions and identity through drumming, while also fostering mentorship opportunities and empowering Wolastoqey youth with tools to navigate challenges, build resilience, and contribute positively to their communities. This program will run for 7 weeks from January - February 2026.

Priorities addressed: Cultural disconnection, Mentorship for youth

These action items will be monitored and evaluated over the following year to assess the impact and effectiveness on the priorities identified.

Existing programs funded by BSC which align with and address the priorities listed:

4. New Brunswick African Association Right Relations Youth Service Hub

Description: The NBAA Right Relations Youth Service Hub has been funded by BSC since December 2023. The hub provides a safe and culturally enriching space for diverse groups of youth and offers a wide range of activities designed to empower, educate, and support young individuals while fostering a strong sense of cultural identity, cross-cultural understanding and community engagement through crime prevention activities.

In 2024/2025 over 100 youth consistently attend NBAA youth service hub programming. The youth service hub has operated from two locations, one on the north side of the city and one on the south side to serve a larger number of local youth across the Fredericton region. The youth service hub has offered daily programming in 2024-2025, including activities such as STEM clubs, leadership intensives, wellness circles, cultural festivals, tutoring, and sports programs. Parents, educators, and partners reported stronger relationships between youth and adults, decreases in behavioral incidents, and youth showing more pride in identity and community.

Addresses: Safe spaces for youth, Cultural disconnection

5. CRMHAA Youth Wellness Hub

Description: Capital Region Mental Health & Addictions Association's Youth Wellness Hub offers regular afterschool youth programming. The Youth Wellness Hub provides a safe, inclusive space for youth to gather, engage in programming, and seek help as needed from a trained peer support worker. The Youth Wellness Hub will prioritize mental health support through opportunities that strengthen life skills and emotional development. The hub also serves as a resource navigation pathway to connect and refer youth to other services and organizations. There was a considerable increase in youth attendance during the 2024-2025 project year, with monthly attendance of 28- 49 youth per month in April -June of 2025.

Addresses: Access to mental health and addictions services, Safe spaces for youth

6. Fredericton High School - Parenting on Purpose web series

Description: Fredericton High School developed a series of five 10-15 minute long education and resource navigation videos addressing the following topics:

- Addictions
- Accessing parenting resources
- Victoria Health centre
- Accessing youth mental health
- and Sextortion, Youth trends, and Violence

The videos have received a total of 755 views to date.

To view the web series please visit - [PARENTING ON PURPOSE | Introducing the Series](#)

Addresses: Access to mental health and addiction services, Child/ parent programming

7. John Howard Society of Fredericton- Youth Connections program

Description: The Youth Connections program accepts referrals from the Fredericton Police Force for youth who are at risk of gun and gang violence and would benefit from community connections/ services. The Youth Connector staff works on an individual basis with the youth and refers them to a variety of services which address individual, family, peer, education, and community risk and/or protective factors. Building Safer Communities funded one additional staff for this program, who is able to serve 7 additional youth.

In 2024-2025 74 referrals were made for the 7 youth under the BSC funded portion of Youth Connections and 31 of these referrals were utilized by the youth. Additionally, data from the end of the 2024-2025 year shows a drastic decline in the number of interactions between Youth Connections clients and police over time, with 79.52% fewer police calls than in the first 3 months of being in the Youth Connections program.

Addresses: Access to mental health and addiction services, Child/ parent programming

8. Partner For Youth- Youth Works program

Description: Uniquely developed for at risk youth and youth in/from custody, Youth Works includes workshops and mentoring that engage youth in career development, education, and employment readiness skills; including job searching, job profiling, interview skills, and resume writing. These workshops are offered in conjunction with mentoring and a formal experiential education component that prioritizes group development and social and emotional learning.

In 2024-2025, 208 youth participated in Youth Works career development education and 208 youth participated in experiential activities that reinforce the career development education. Additionally, 99 youth received 1:1 mentoring to focus on career development and employment and 88% of the youth in the program received additional mental health supports and other wrap around services.

Addresses: Mentorship for youth, Access to mental health and addiction services

Overview of BSC funded programs:

