

# **COMMUNITY PLAN FOR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING**

***LANARK COUNTY  
AND  
THE TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS  
2025 PROGRESS REPORT***

**PRESENTED BY THE  
COMMUNITY PLAN  
FOR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**





## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

---

---

We acknowledge Lanark County is situated on sacred land that has a rich Indigenous history extending back for more than 10,000 years. This land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. We are grateful to the Algonquin ancestors who cared for the land and water in order that we might live here today.

Before the arrival of settlers, the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations peaceably shared and cared for resources under the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant. After the settlers arrived, the territory was subject to the Three Figure Wampum Belt, which commemorates the sharing of this land between the English, French and Indigenous Nations under natural law.

We know these covenants have been broken and acknowledge the harm it has caused. We understand we must reconcile with all of our relations and work towards healing and strength together.

We are grateful for the knowledge shared by the Algonquin Peoples and their many contributions, past and present, to our communities. This territory is home to many other Indigenous peoples, and we extend respect to all First Nations, Inuit and Metis people. Together we must care for this sacred land and each other, and work to understand our shared history in order to build a peaceful future together that is mindful of generations to come.

**CONTENTS**

---

---

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ..... 2**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND..... 4**

**AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE THEME ..... 7**

**HEALTH THEME..... 14**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS THEME ..... 18**

**PRIORITY POPULATIONS AND DIVERSITY THEME ..... 22**

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

---

---

Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) plans are mandated for municipalities to complete under the *Community Safety and Policing Act* (2019). Lanark County municipalities and the Town of Smiths Falls approved their first plan in 2019 and began the process of updating it in 2023 under the direction of the multi-sectoral CSWB Advisory Committee. The current plan was adopted by the municipalities in 2025, including Beckwith Township, Town of Carleton Place, Drummond/North Elmsley Township, Lanark Highlands Township, Municipality of Mississippi Mills, Montague Township, Town of Perth, Town of Smiths Falls and Tay Valley Township.

The overall purpose of the plan is to identify assets in the community, assess risks and develop strategies to mitigate those risks and gaps, leading to enhanced community safety and well-being. Consultation included surveys of the community and agencies, interviews and meetings with sector leaders and stakeholders, an examination of data and reports, and several focus groups, as well as a review of the existing plan. Four theme areas supported by a range of pillars were developed for the updated plan, with an overview of assets and issues in each pillar along with goal statements, measures and strategies. Overall outcome statements set the stage for the vision of community safety and well-being in Lanark County and Smiths Falls as follows:

- Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community of opportunity and equity for its diverse populations.
- Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community where citizens have access to the basic needs of housing, a liveable income and nutritious food.
- Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community where its residents respect the legacy of stewardship by the Indigenous people who lived here before us and continue to care for the Earth in a way that will sustain it for seven generations.
- Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community of collaboration, where service providers work together for the benefit of residents in order to prevent harm.
- Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community offering a robust range of health and social services that are accessible in various formats within a period of time that is reasonable to prevent emergency or crisis situations.
- Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community of healthy relationships and respectful and welcoming neighbours, where people look out for one another and where residents are safe from violence in all its forms.

Assets, risks, goals, measures and strategies are set out for the pillars in each of the theme areas shown below. The advisory committee and additional partners are working to implement the strategies in order to achieve the goals and outcomes in this living document. This report outlines progress highlights for 2025. The overall plan will be revisited in four years. The full plan can be found at [lanarkcounty.civicweb.net/document/182921/](https://lanarkcounty.civicweb.net/document/182921/)

THEMES AND PILLARS	
<b>Affordability and Quality of Life:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income and Employment</li> <li>Housing and Homelessness</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Food Insecurity and Food Access</li> <li>Climate Change and Environment</li> <li>Belonging and Civic Engagement</li> </ul>	<b>Health:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Health (including access to care – primary, long-term care, end-of-life care)</li> <li>Mental Health and Substance Use</li> </ul>
<b>Violence Against Persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Gender-Based Violence</li> <li>Hate-Motivated Crime</li> <li>Children, Elderly and Other</li> </ul>	<b>Priority Populations and Diversity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and Youth</li> <li>Seniors and Elderly</li> <li>Indigenous</li> <li>2SLGBTQIA+</li> <li>New Canadians and immigrants</li> <li>Accessibility</li> </ul>

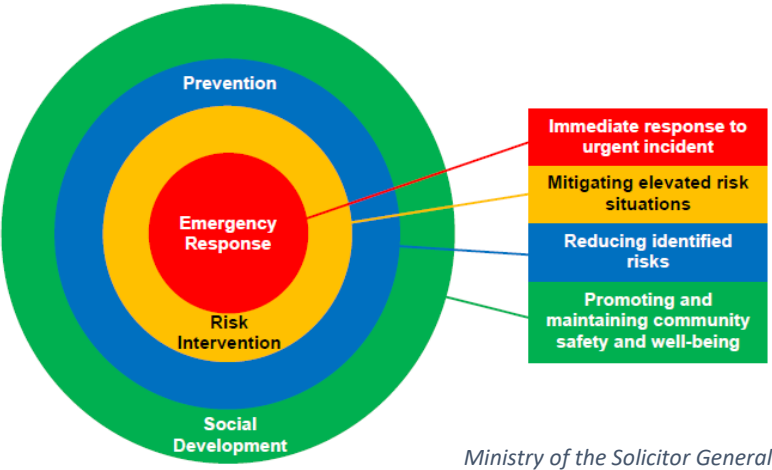
The *Community Plan for Safety and Well-being for Lanark County and Smiths Falls (2025 to 2029)* represents the work and ideas of agencies and individuals in the community. In 2025, the advisory committee was comprised of the following representatives from a range of sectors:

SECTOR	AGENCY	REPRESENTATIVE
Justice	Lanark County OPP	Insp. Kerlous Tawdrous
	Smiths Falls Police Service	Chief Jodi Empey
Community Organizations	United Way	Lisa Jackson
	Perth & District Community Foundation	Victoria Gibb-Carsley
Youth	RNJ Youth Services	Rachel Burns
	Family and Children’s Services	Erin Lee Marcotte
	Open Doors LCY/Planet Youth	Nicki Collins
Health Care	Health Unit	Daphne Mayer
	Lanark County Mental Health	Garry Laws
	LLG Addictions and Mental Health	Jordan Blanchard
	Rideau Community Health Services	Cristina DiTomaso
	Lanark County Paramedic Services	Breanne Lapointe
Social Services	Lanark County Social Services	Brooke Coutts
Victim Services	Lanark County Interval House	Erin Lee
Education	UCDSB	Josh Harrison
	CDSBEO	Selina Mackie

Culture and Diversity	Indigenous	Larry McDermott
	Queer Connection Lanark	Elizabeth Snyder
	Smiths Falls for All Diversity Committee	Mitra Ghaffari
Local Government	Lanark County Council	Brian Dowdall
	Smiths Falls Council	Peter McKenna
Climate/Environment	Lanark County (Climate Environmental Sub-Department)	Elizabeth Boldt
	Coordinator	Stephanie Gray

The advisory committee meets regularly to review progress on the plan. For the period from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, some performance measures in Community Safety and Policing Grant funding (Local and Provincial Priorities Streams) received for Lanark County programs were tied to making progress in the CSWB Plan. Strategies with an asterisk (\*) were set as priorities for 2025, as are their corresponding progress updates. Many measures in the plan will be updated following the receipt of new Census data.

At a time of significant global uncertainty adding to identified challenges, many people wonder how they can possibly make a difference. This plan serves to underline the importance of recognizing our ability to help closer to home and the impact we can have at a local level when we work together. Collaboration is a key local strength. Thank you to the members of the advisory committee, councils, agencies and those with lived experience for your work to make things better in Lanark County and Smiths Falls.



*Ministry of the Solicitor General*

## AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE THEME

### OUTCOMES

- ↳ Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community where citizens have access to the basic needs of housing, a liveable income and nutritious food.
- ↳ Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community where its residents respect the legacy of stewardship by the Indigenous people who lived here before us and continue to care for the Earth in a way that will sustain it for seven generations.

<b>PILLAR: Income and Employment</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
1. Reduce levels of poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer households receiving less than \$40,000 annually</li> <li>• Reduced poverty gap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased income will help to address other risk areas, including housing, food security, health/mental health.</li> <li>• Advocate for increased income through Basic Income and/or increased Ontario Works and Ontario Disabilities Support Program rates.*</li> <li>• Collaborate to increase housing affordability in communities.</li> <li>• Continue and enhance existing community supports that address immediate access, e.g., Snowsuit Drive, food drives, etc.</li> </ul>
2. Nurture local employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor median employment income between men and women</li> <li>• Monitor living wage in Lanark County</li> <li>• Monitor unemployment rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local employers to pay workers a living wage.*</li> <li>• Share information related to education about employment programs.</li> <li>• Monitor and address pay equity issues.</li> <li>• Continue working to increase local and varied employment opportunities.*</li> </ul>
3. Increase availability and accessibility of affordable child care and supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced child care wait lists</li> <li>• Increased alternate programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for any necessary adjustments to Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program and support efforts to expand locally.</li> <li>• Collaborate with community partners to ensure effective communication of available programs for families and children</li> </ul>

		<p>(e.g., extra curriculums, students at risk, after-school options, Champions for Kids Foundation, Critical Hour Programming, youth centres).*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate equitable access to programs and activities, not dependent on income.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Support efforts to increase availability of good, reliable, affordable access to digital resources critical to quality of life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased connectivity stats (EORN)</li> <li>Surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor activities of Eastern Ontario Rural Network to increase cell and broadband connectivity in Lanark County.*</li> <li>Advocate for improved connectivity if needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connections made to enable advocacy for Basic Income.*</li> <li>Community partners are participating in update for Lanark County’s 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.</li> <li>Lanark County moved forward with Official Plan policy recommendations from “Municipal Tools to Support Affordable Housing Report” (2022).</li> <li>Research initiated into living wage and cost of living with Labour Market Group.*</li> <li>Every Kid In Our Community releases “Municipal Toolkit: Building Developmental Assets to Foster Resilience &amp; Mental Well-Being in Children &amp; Youth.”*</li> <li>Child care space expansion in Mississippi Mills underway (78 spaces) to open in late 2026.</li> <li>New centralized waitlist for child care to launch in Winter 2026.*</li> <li>Committee monitoring EORN progress related to increased connectivity.*</li> </ul>		

<b>PILLAR: Housing and Homelessness</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
<p>1. Eradicate homelessness in Lanark County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced number of homeless</li> <li>Monitor and address unoccupied unit rate</li> <li>Monitor short-term rental rates</li> <li>Increased number of supportive housing units/beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with partners to continue/encourage incorporating Housing First model strategies.*</li> <li>Explore creation of programs to encourage reduction of unoccupied units (e.g. vacant property tax, use of short-term rentals).*</li> <li>Determine need for specific supportive housing for vulnerable populations.*</li> <li>Ensure safe housing options for youth over 16.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Increased affordable housing options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Lanark County Housing and Homelessness report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Lanark County Housing and Homelessness Plan and collaborate to support where relevant.*</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in wait times for housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate to give municipalities more power to direct affordable housing needs with developers.</li> <li>Encourage modest homes and modest units that are affordable, secondary units and more density in urban areas.</li> </ul>
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**2025 Progress:**

- Grant funding for 2025/2026 supported the Housing Based Case Manager with Lanark County, the Housing First for Youth Case Manager with Cornerstone Landing Youth Services and training for Lanark OPP officers related to youth homelessness. Ninety-eight per cent of youth served by Cornerstone Landing’s case manager were stably housed. The Housing Based Case Manager supported 21 individuals with housing, mental health and/or substance use issues, and seven have found stable housing so far.\*
- Lanark County report demonstrated statistically small numbers for short-term rentals in local municipalities; to be explored further.\*
- Need for ongoing supported housing demonstrated through ongoing programs such as Bridge House, Lanark County Interval House transitional housing and case management through Homelessness Response Team and Cornerstone Landing.\*
- Cornerstone Landing Youth Services (CLYS) Housing First For Youth Caseworker provided individualized guidance and trustee services for 16- and 17-year olds to help them access and manage financial supports, stabilize their housing and strive for long-term independence.
- 2025 Housing and Homelessness report is pending.

<b>PILLAR: Food Insecurity and Food Access</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
1. Address root causes of food insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Unit annual food insecurity report</li> <li>Reduced number of individuals relying on food banks</li> </ul>	<p>Follow the South East Health Unit, formerly the LGLDHU lead on addressing root causes:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Advocate for social assistance rates and minimum wage that provides for basic costs of living.</li> <li>➤ Support and expand tax filing initiatives targeted at low-income households to increase access to government subsidies.</li> <li>➤ Ensure access to safe, affordable housing, child care and transportation.</li> <li>➤ Implement basic minimum employment standards to reduce precarious employment and encourage businesses and agencies to become Living Wage employers.</li> </ul>

**2025 Progress:**

- Began exploring advocacy to have municipalities declare a state of emergency on food insecurity.\*
- Annual income tax clinics through ConnectWell Community Health continued.\*
- Received 2025 Cost of Living Report from Labour Market Group.\*

**PILLAR: Transportation**

Goal	Measures	Strategies
1. Increase transportation options for access to health care, employment, school and other activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of available transportation options</li> <li>• Community survey to monitor gaps and improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor transportation feasibility study results for opportunities.*</li> <li>• Develop and communicate comprehensive list of transportation options available, including active transportation.</li> </ul>
<b>2025 Progress:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lanark County and Smiths Falls have completed a feasibility study on transportation with recommendations and are exploring an on-demand service.*</li> </ul>		

**PILLAR: Climate Change and Environment**

Goal	Measures	Strategies
1. Undertake comprehensive action on climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse gas emission reductions</li> <li>• Monitor environmental protections</li> <li>• Monitor greenspace and encroachment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Lanark County, local municipalities and community groups to encourage climate action through various existing plans.</li> <li>• Encourage completion of climate change emergency plans for municipalities and communication of plans to the public.</li> <li>• Monitor changes to environmental protections at other levels of government and determine actions/advocacy that may be needed.</li> <li>• Have new housing meet climate targets.</li> <li>• Advocate for strengthened electrical grid and better infrastructure for electric cars.</li> <li>• Assess recycling and compost programs for possible improvements.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage reuse/repair centres.</li> </ul>
2. Increase community involvement in climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community survey</li> <li>• Increased active transportation opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public education about climate change and what individuals, families and businesses can do to help.</li> <li>• Offer opportunities and information about emergency response training.</li> <li>• Advocate for or offer increased incentives to participate in climate actions, e.g., heat pumps, home upgrades/retrofits, air conditioning.</li> </ul>
3. Create understanding of our relationship with the Earth through Indigenous teachings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of community strategy and actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local Indigenous communities to create greater understanding of teachings (e.g., Dish With One Spoon, natural law) and how they can be applied to climate change and sustainability in the context of land stewardship.*</li> <li>• Seek funding to work with Indigenous communities to develop a community strategy and to share knowledge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lanark County released its 2025 Climate Action Plan report card. Numerous corporate and community actions were completed related to education, buildings and energy, energy retrofits and updates through the Lanark County Housing Corporation, transportation and equipment, natural heritage and resources, waste diversion and management, and planning.</li> <li>• Through its Climate Action Group, Smiths Falls has made progress in developing its Climate Action Plan following the model for municipalities.</li> <li>• In 2024/25, Lanark County started a vulnerability and risk assessment with various stakeholders for a Climate Adaptation Plan. This included collecting vulnerability and risk data from Community Emergency Management Coordinators and the Executive Management Team through various workshops. The goal is to update Emergency Plans to include protocols for major natural disasters and weather events (e.g., evacuation routes, shelter locations, etc.).</li> <li>• Lanark County added green infrastructure assets to its Asset Management Plan (e.g. watersheds, wetlands, forests, lakes, etc.)</li> <li>• In 2024/25 Lanark County participated in ICLEI Canada's Building to Net Zero Cohort. The aim over four years is to create building energy performance frameworks aligned with national model energy codes.</li> <li>• In 2025, Lanark County staff advocated for continued electric vehicle charging rate reductions to make its goal of increasing EV uptake and local charging infrastructure for public access more feasible. The county's Municipal Climate Action Grant has been used to support the purchase of an electric fleet vehicle in one municipality and to install public charging stations.</li> </ul>		

- Through Circular Materials, the province has taken over recycling to shift responsibility from municipalities to organizations that produce the packaging (extended producer responsibility recycling system).
- In 2024/2025, Municipal Climate Action Grants enabled Carleton Place residents to access Just Good Compost services at subsidized rate.
- Funding through Lanark County’s Community Climate Grant and Municipal Climate Grant funded climate projects.
- The Better Homes Lanark incentive was launched to encourage climate actions related to retrofits and upgrades for homeowners
- Lanark County initiated a Natural Heritage System workplan with the Natural Heritage System Working Group to encourage land stewardship. A request for proposals was issued to hire someone to complete a natural heritage study and strategy in 2026. There is Indigenous representation on the working group.\*

<b>PILLAR: Belonging and Civic Engagement</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
1. More people are aware of and connected to local services and activities to reduce isolation and increase social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of local services (health, mental health, transportation, leisure activities, etc.) by establishing or connecting to resource lists and promoting them.</li> <li>• Work with community agencies to enhance engagement of youth in recreational/social activities.</li> <li>• Encourage municipalities to support engagement activities through community grants (incentivize groups that are collaborating and align with plan priorities).*</li> <li>• Use municipal strategic plans to look at how communities can be bridged – look for weaknesses and opportunities.*</li> <li>• Encourage greater participation and belonging in municipal activities and inspire citizens to become leaders; work to increase trust in research, data and leadership in order to foster greater civic engagement.</li> <li>• Work with libraries to encourage technical support for activities.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase representation of Indigenous populations in services.</li> </ul>
2. Increased volunteerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and agency survey</li> <li>• Statistics from Volunteer Connector database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Volunteer Connector database for non-profits and citizens to access and provide ongoing communication to promote it.*</li> </ul>
3. Increased connection between municipalities and CSWB Plan objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reports</li> <li>• Council survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include CSWB Plan in council orientations.*</li> <li>• Explore ways to increase links to CSWB Plans (e.g., when making recommendations, increased communications to councils, quarterly updates to councils, standing item on agendas).*</li> <li>• Work with county government relations committee on advocacy planning strategies and share with community partners; continue to engage with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.*</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Advisory Committee has begun working with 211 to increase awareness of local services and the need to update listings.</li> <li>• Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) was highlighted as a theme in the Lanark County Community Grants program.*</li> <li>• Preliminary work to undertake increased engagement with local municipalities related to the CSWB Plan, including council orientation, was started.*</li> <li>• Volunteer Connector soft launch with Lanark County as a regional partner was set for early 2026.*</li> <li>• DEI training was held for councillors and a DEI-focused collaboration meeting was held for the county with community partners.*</li> <li>• Lanark County Council (through the Government Relations Working Group) planned for two delegations at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in January 2026. One was to seek increased and sustained base funding for the Mobile Crisis Response Team (with the Ministry of the Solicitor General) and the other was with the Ministry of Health to discuss methods to divert low-acuity paramedic calls away from ambulance resources and emergency rooms.*</li> </ul>		

\*Denotes activities prioritized in 2025

## HEALTH THEME

### OUTCOMES:

- ↳ Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community of collaboration, where service providers work together for the benefit of residents in order to prevent harm.
- ↳ Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community offering a robust range of health and social services that are accessible in various formats within a period of time that is reasonable to prevent emergency or crisis situations.

<b>PILLAR: Physical Health (including access to care – primary, long-term care, end-of-life care)</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
1. Increased diversion from emergency medical responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced calls to paramedics</li> <li>• Increased diversion to non-emergency alternatives</li> <li>• Increased number of residents attached to primary care</li> <li>• Community paramedicine stats, number of new clinics, number of hospice beds, number of palliative beds, number of respite beds, number of alternate locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community partners regarding possible increased resources for seniors to reduce 911 calls to paramedics.*</li> <li>• Consider alternative care models (paramedicine, nurse practitioners, telemedicine, group medical appointments, other) to increase diversion from emergency.</li> <li>• Work with OHT regarding health care accessibility and pathways.</li> <li>• Offer a diverse range of service provision methods to address needs, including accessibility (online, in-person, accessible, transportation availability).</li> <li>• Advocate for consistent, stable, increased funding, staffing and training in order to provide sufficient resources.</li> <li>• Increased education about alternative health-care options/resources available.</li> <li>• Work with partners to increase supports for caregivers.</li> <li>• Continue/enhance education about health at a young age, including mental health and healthy relationships.</li> </ul>
2. Have wide-ranging information sharing about available services for the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of resource list and communication strategy about sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a communication strategy to provide education about what is available to the public and to sector workers.*</li> </ul>

<p>public and for sector workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey of public and agencies to determine improved system navigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore ways to centralize referral platforms and create awareness of available programs.*</li> <li>• Use libraries to help with technical support for system navigation.</li> <li>• Strengthen work between municipalities (and partners) and public health and build into mandates to increase allyship over common goals.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Improved communication about wait times and expectations for a range of services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a communication strategy</li> <li>• Survey of public to assess improved wait times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with OHT and other partners to monitor wait lists for a range of services (e.g., primary care; mental health and addictions services; home care, long-term care and end-of-life care) and flag trouble areas for follow-up.</li> <li>• Offer a range of expected service times and articulate limitations through improved communication.</li> </ul>

**2025 Progress:**

- Planning for two delegations with the province took place related to funding for the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) with the Ministry of the Solicitor General and with the Ministry of Health to discuss methods to divert low-acuity paramedic calls away from ambulance resources and emergency rooms.\*
- A new ambulance dispatch system that began in 2025 has provided a more accurate representation of the nature of ambulance calls and has shown that low-acuity calls use a significant amount of paramedic and emergency room resources, which led to a delegation request with the Ministry of Health to seek advice and support from the ministry in its pursuit of programs to improve response times, reduce resource impacts to emergency rooms and provide support to residents who don't have a primary care provider by focusing paramedic resources on prevention and high-acuity calls.\*
- MCRT statistics for 2025/2026 showed an increasing percentage of encounters resolved on scene, which helps with diversion from hospital. Of those occurrences that resulted in attending hospital, an increasing number resulted in admission, reflecting strong evidence for hospitalization as opposed to people being taken to hospital unnecessarily. The addition of a case manager aims to reduce the number of repeat contacts with MCRT through intervention and connection to services.
- The LIFT (Lanark Integrated Frontline Team) initiative began, which is a community-driven program designed to connect individuals – especially those facing barriers to traditional services – with essential health and social supports. LIFT is a collaborative partnership between Lanark County Mental Health, Lanark County Paramedic Service, Lanark County, and Southeast Public Health.

- Diverse services include Telehealth, 811, 211 and crisis lines, and mobile service such as the Lanark Integrated Frontline Team and the Mobile Crisis Response Team. The Advisory Committee has begun work with 211 related to Lanark County services.\*
- The Advisory Committee plans to further explore centralized referral platforms.\*
- Grant funding allowed for youth conferences to be held on topics related to healthy relationships. Community partners also hosted Wellness Fairs at local high schools.
- Smiths Falls Police Service received provincial funding to support its call centre. Once fully implemented, it will make it easier to provide additional details about emergency situations, such as video from scene or text 911 for immediate assistance. It will also give dispatchers the ability to identify the location of a call using GPS thus resulting in a safer, faster and more informed response to the emergency call.

**PILLAR: Mental Health and Substance Use**

Goal	Measures	Strategies
1. Increased resources for complex mental health or addictions, including prevention and management of addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of supported housing beds</li> <li>• Decrease in fatalities related to substance use</li> <li>• Increased number of detox and treatment beds</li> <li>• More space in treatment programs for addictions and mental health</li> <li>• Planet Youth data on substance use in young people</li> <li>• Health unit stats on substance use; lower rates of heavy drinking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts to bring withdrawal management program to Lanark County.*</li> <li>• Explore need for safe usage sites.</li> <li>• Increase education and social programming for young people to reduce reliance on substances.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of opioid management and harm reduction strategies.</li> <li>• Increased prevention awareness and reduced stigma for FASD diagnoses.</li> <li>• Explore additional funding and resources for hoarding situations.</li> </ul>
2. Improved reported mental health in children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics Canada measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community partners to assess pressures on children and youth and strategize additional supports needed.*</li> </ul>

**2025 Progress:**

- Lanark Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health's 17-bed HART Hub in Smiths Falls opened on Dec. 8, 2025. It is funded by the Ministry of Health and provides low-barrier access to addictions and mental health supports, with pathways to long-term recovery and, in some cases, housing stability. Their Brockville location, opening in 2026, will include withdrawal management. The HART Hub serves ages 16 and older.\*
- The Ontario Government has ended funding for safe consumption sites.
- Planet Youth Lanark County is working on upstream prevention initiatives with support from the Youth Substance Use Prevention Program. This includes collaboration with Lanark County youth centres, focusing on youth sleep health research and initiatives (Sleep Intervention Logic Model), and strengthening protective factors to impact youth substance use.\*

- The Lanark County Child and Youth Services Collaborative established a Community Safety Working Group to develop collaborative crisis communication planning in situations involving youth.\*

**\*Denotes activities prioritized in 2025**

## VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS THEME

### OUTCOMES:

↳ Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community of collaboration, where service providers work together for the benefit of residents in order to prevent harm.

<b>PILLAR: Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (SADV), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Gender-Based Violence (GBV)</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
1. Supports are in place to reduce SADV/IPV/GBV and to continue to support victims/survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rates of SADV/IPV/GBV</li> <li>• Survivor feedback</li> <li>• Number of participants in programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase support, information, services and education for boys and men struggling with relationships and perpetuating gender-based violence.*</li> <li>• Continue to seek funding for program supports for victims and for prevention (including staffing, training).*</li> <li>• Explore restorative justice options for SADV/IPV offences.</li> </ul>
2. Lanark County becomes a Zero-Femicide community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a protocol and strategies</li> <li>• Number of femicides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with provincial groups to establish protocols and strategies on becoming a zero-femicide community.*</li> <li>• Address issues around basic needs (income, housing, food security) and health/mental health to a) reduce pressures leading to domestic and other violence, and b) help survivors to be able leave abusers.</li> <li>• Enhance, develop and promote support for other community agencies and municipal partners to increase collaboration and build relationships with the sector in order to reduce violence.</li> <li>• Advocate for including “femicide” wording in Criminal Code of Canada.</li> </ul>

**2025 Progress:**

- Lanark County Interval House and Community Support trained 74 coaches from 34 teams/associations and 9 teachers/coaches from 3 schools as part of the Coaching Boys Into Men program.\*
- Through 2025/2026 Community Safety and Policing Grant with Lanark County OPP, Victim Advocate provided ongoing support for IPV victims, participated in IPV refresher trainings for police, participated in education activities and two youth conferences. Pivotal Health offered workshops related to healthy relationships and other topics. Smiths Falls Police Service used this grant to support victims of violence and human trafficking, and to provide training for officers and workshops/presentations from partners.\*
- Lanark OPP report between 2023 and 2025, violence rates in Lanark County increased 27%.\*
- Two grant applications were submitted for victim support and prevention funding by Lanark County and one was successful. The Town of Smiths Falls (for Smiths Falls Police Service) received grant funding for victim supports and prevention in 2025. Priorities included restorative justice, trauma-informed training for officers, technology upgrades for interviewing, a youth conference and translation services.\*
- Lanark County Community Justice hosted two community events featuring Shannon Moroney that focused on restorative justice, trauma, advocacy and the role of community in supportive healing and accountability. Sixty-seven people attended and 201 information materials were distributed. The events contributed to community awareness and discussion around restorative approaches to harm, particularly in relation to victim and survivor experiences.
- There were no provincial updates related to the Zero-Femicide Community in 2025.\*
- Gender-based violence organizations gathered on Parliament Hill after the Take Back The Night March on Sept. 18, 2025 for a "Take Back the Budget" rally, asking the federal government to: 1) Maintain and increase WAGE (Women And Gender Equality) funding, including reinstating core funding. When project funding sunsets, services disappear, and survivors lose support; 2) Declare intimate partner violence an epidemic, recognizing it as a public health and safety crisis; 3) Create an independent GBV watchdog to hold governments accountable to their promises, no matter who is in power; 4) Prioritize prevention and early intervention, especially in communities targeted by sexual and gender-based violence; 5) Fix broken systems that trap survivors in cycles of violence, including the housing crisis, income insecurity, and legal barriers. Lanark County Interval House and Community Support indicates WAGE funding was maintained.
- Collaboration with community partners on issues related to violence prevention has continued in general and also through specific grant programs.

**PILLAR: Hate-Motivated Crime**

Goal	Measure	Strategy
1. Increase cultural competency in community in order to reduce incidents of hate-motivated crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incidents of reported hate crime</li> <li>• Participation in anti-hate programming for students</li> <li>• Participation in community outreach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and enhance existing supports for newcomers.</li> <li>• Develop a repository of information and training to help municipalities and community organizations to incorporate anti-oppression/anti-racism and/or</li> </ul>

		<p>equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) protocols into their work. Consider a Lanark County position to develop the information and implement the training.*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek opportunities to work with school boards and other youth-serving organizations to a) combat racism, homophobia, misogyny, etc., and b) gain feedback from youth from marginalized groups on the impact of these issues.*</li> <li>• Work with teachers, coaches and other youth-serving individuals on constructive intervention strategies to combat issues that arise.</li> <li>• Utilize Lanark County Community Justice to expand the options to address hate-motivated crimes.</li> <li>• Continue to seek funding opportunities for programming to address hate-motivated crime.</li> </ul>
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**2025 Progress:**

- As part of the Proceeds of Crime Grant (2023-2026), Lanark OPP report an 86% decrease in reported hate crimes from 2024/2025 to 2025/2026. Initiatives undertaken in 2025/2026 included training and education for officers, the continuation of the “Safe and Inclusive Schools Officer Visits and Books” program featuring readings to Grade 2 students and 12 anti-hate/bullying presentations to Grade 5/6 classes, and a significant Black History Month project by PDCI students.
- RNJ Youth Services worked with Smiths Falls Police Service through their Proceeds of Crime Grant to complete educational presentations on hate, discrimination, inclusivity, bullying, online safety, relationship education, consent, and more. The work was done with Grade 4 to 8 students at Smiths Falls schools and also WAK Youth Program and included other engaging activities for youth. In 2025/26 they held 15 workshops (a total of 30 hours) and reached 456 youth.
- Plans were made through the Lanark County IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Committee to increase communications and develop a repository of EDI and anti-racism/oppression training connections.\*
- A discussion was held with community partners about ways to share existing data related to marginalized youth in order to prevent survey fatigue.\*
- Lanark County Interval House and Community Support trained 74 coaches from 34 teams/associations and 9 teachers/coaches from 3 schools as part of the Coaching Boys Into Men program.

<b>PILLAR: Children, Elderly and Others</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the incidence of crime victimization in general and in specific populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates of child abuse</li> <li>Rates of elder abuse</li> <li>Rates of violent crime</li> <li>Rates of adults charged (to monitor adverse outcomes for children and families)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support use of early intervention programs for youth, such as Intersections.</li> <li>Use restorative justice as a mechanism to reduce recidivism.</li> <li>Advocate for longer-term grants for preventive programs.</li> <li>Encourage trauma-informed approaches when working with both victims and perpetrators; seek ways to enhance trauma-informed trainings/supports where needed.*</li> <li>Increase education about the cycle of violence across sectors.</li> <li>Advocate for more investment in sectors such as child welfare, mental health, etc.</li> <li>Support and enhance education around elder abuse, scams, fraud, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2025, RNJ Youth Services served more than 7,000 individuals across Lanark, Leeds and Grenville. The Rebound Choices program was delivered in more than 20 schools (empowers students to make positive decisions and build resilience). They delivered 70+ presentations on topics such as hate and discrimination, online safety, bullying, racism, healthy relationships and consent. They connected more than 450 youth to supports such as mental health and addictions, employment resources, access to basic needs and more.</li> <li>Lanark County Community Justice indicates the recent 5 years show 6% more total cases and 11% more charges coming to them than the 10-year average.</li> <li>Multiple Lanark County human-service agencies have incorporated trauma-informed approaches into their work. Emergency Management Ontario's Trauma-informed care sessions presented by ATTCH Niagara were held across Ontario and promoted locally, with several local participants.*</li> </ul>		

\*Denotes activities prioritized in 2025

## PRIORITY POPULATIONS AND DIVERSITY THEME

### OUTCOMES

↳ Lanark County and Smiths Falls is a community of opportunity and equity for its diverse populations.

PILLAR: Children and Youth		
Goal	Measure	Strategy
1. Children and youth are supported in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of belonging survey (Planet Youth Lanark County)</li> <li>• School board surveys</li> <li>• Other feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate system navigation, opportunities to intervene earlier, and availability of complex care services to prevent children and youth from needing to be in Family and Children’s Services care – provide advocacy and look for opportunities within community.*</li> <li>• Support efforts to recruit foster families and kin providers.</li> <li>• Support efforts by community partners (e.g., youth centres and Planet Youth Lanark County) to engage with youth and address risks/barriers associated with living in a rural community.*</li> <li>• Collaborate with schools to address issues of overt and casual racism, homophobia, misogyny, bullying, etc. in schools to encourage youth and families to stay in community.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to increase community resources for children, youth and families.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for collaboration between schools and community partners to provide supports for youth related to topics such as navigating conflict, addiction, academic challenges, healthy relationships, mental health, child exploitation, body image, social media, gender diversity, familial stress, and more.</li> <li>• Work to address issues around basic needs in order to further support families.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help parents to establish connection with services that can help.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System navigation exploration is ongoing.*</li> <li>• Planet Youth Lanark County is working on upstream prevention initiatives with support from the Youth Substance Use Prevention Program. This includes collaboration with Lanark County youth centres, focusing on youth sleep health research and initiatives (Sleep Intervention Logic Model), prioritizing creating safer spaces, and strengthening protective factors to impact youth substance use. They are also working on Health Canada's Agenda Gap program to equip youth for advocacy skills for system change.*</li> <li>• Through the Proceeds of Crime Grant, in 2025/2026 Lanark County OPP collaborated with local schools to provide early intervention related to overt and casual racism, homophobia, misogyny, bullying and more through school reading programs and presentations. Through the Community Safety and Policing Grant (Provincial Stream), in 2025/2026 Lanark County Interval House and Community Support held two youth conferences for seven local high schools on theme of “Big Feminine Energy” to build confidence, strengthen critical thinking and safely navigate online spaces. Work continues on the See It Name It Change It campaign through materials, billboards and presentations. Public education activities through Lanark County Interval House and Community Support (LCIHCS) also include the Coaching Boys Into Men program and IPV prevention activities. RNJ Youth Services delivers presentations on topics such as hate and discrimination, online safety, bullying, racism, healthy relationships and consent.</li> <li>• Southeast Public Health released “Municipal Toolkit: Building Developmental Assets to Foster Resilience &amp; Mental Well-Being in Children &amp; Youth.”</li> <li>• Smiths Falls Police Service received Youth in Policing Grant funding to support four local youths by providing hands-on experience with law enforcement and community engagement. It aims to enhance the relationship between the police service and the community, particularly in areas of diversity.</li> </ul>		

<b>PILLAR: Seniors and Elderly</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
1. Seniors and elderly are supported in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and agency surveys</li> <li>• Increased number of volunteers</li> <li>• Development of municipal age-friendly community plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts to increase volunteer recruitment and retention in this sector.*</li> <li>• Advocate for increased funding to support staffing (e.g., RPNs, PSWs) and examine ways to pool resources.</li> <li>• Develop strategies to support kin-less seniors in community (e.g., around decision making).</li> <li>• Explore creating more age-friendly communities in Lanark County.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage more and provide education around being a welcoming and safe community.</li> <li>• Work with QCL and Lanark County IDEA Committee to identify gaps and strategies.*</li> <li>• Promote and encourage community partners to be more visibly engage, i.e., by participating in Pride parade.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queer Connection Lanark (QCL) held three training sessions with hospice volunteers.</li> <li>• QCL encouraged parents with trans kids in Almonte to form a support group and would like to duplicate in other communities.</li> <li>• Successful documentary "There Is a Place for Me" released.</li> <li>• Working with Lanark Immigration Partnership about being a welcoming and safe community.</li> <li>• newpact report to Lanark County IDEA Committee identified need for consistent coordination of DEI work and suggested partnership with equity-focused learning partner and to have equity advocate and community liaison roles.*</li> <li>• Pride events promoted widely.</li> </ul>		

<b>PILLAR: New Canadians and Immigrants</b>		
<b>Goals</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
<p>1. New Canadians and immigrants are welcomed and supported in the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More newcomers arrive and stay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategies to increase participation of these populations in community events (determine why they are or are not participating), including strategies to break down the isolation with those who identify from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.</li> <li>• Work with the Local Immigration Partnership and community partners to communicate services, supports and system navigation for newcomers.</li> <li>• Assess needs related to a trauma-informed approach with newcomers and work to identify and eradicate barriers encountered (e.g., language/lack of local interpreters, cultural stigma); share strategies with partners.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Lanark County IDEA Committee and community partners to identify gaps and strategies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work of Lanark and Renfrew Immigration Settlement Services (LRISS) and Local Immigration Partnership to engage newcomers.</li> <li>• Settlement Services program established through funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for three years.*</li> <li>• Mississippi Mills working on Inclusion Charter.</li> <li>• Worked with LRISS to develop plan for “Bridging Conversations” events with newcomers to help with system navigation.*</li> <li>• Service coordination meetings for settlement services have been completed so service providers can connect with one another.*</li> </ul>		

<b>PILLAR: Accessibility</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
1. People with disabilities are supported in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and agency surveys</li> <li>• Consultation and feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure accessible locations for services (both visible and non-visible).</li> <li>• Work with Lanark County IDEA Committee, community partners, Accessibility Committees and stakeholders to identify gaps and strategies.*</li> <li>• Encourage community at large to address the need for improved accessibility.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2025 Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• newpact consultant report and Lanark County IDEA Committee meetings helped to identify gaps and strategies with items identified in a workplan for 2026.*</li> </ul>		

\*Denotes activities prioritized in 2025