



scəwəθən məsteyəx^w
TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

Community Safety Strategy

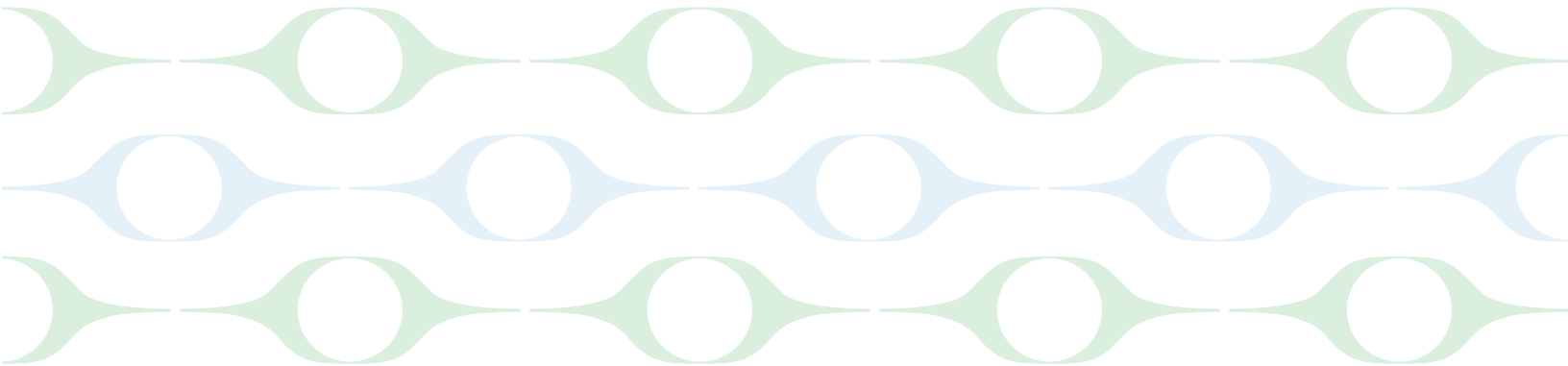
Panel Report

March 2026



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Acknowledgments

The panel gratefully acknowledges the many people whose contributions made this report possible. Our work built on the existing CSS and the substantial efforts already undertaken to implement it.

Community members contributed their experiences, concerns, and solutions; staff added critical operational knowledge and largely defined the recognized needs in each house post. Together their input forms the backbone of this report.

We are thankful for the insight and guidance provided by:

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Executive Summary

Background

In 2013, Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) developed its first Community Safety Strategy to address illicit activities through counselling, environmental design, and enforcement. A decade later, TFN recognized the need for an updated, holistic strategy reflecting current community needs. In response, Executive Council established a Steering Committee and engaged an expert Panel to guide the development of a renewed strategy grounded in community voices, Indigenous law, and best practices. This report and the recommended strategies it contains are the result of the Panel's work under the guidance of the Steering Committee.

Approach

The Panel undertook extensive community engagement from 2022–2025, including at workshops, Members' Gatherings, health fairs, and targeted family and youth sessions. These were complemented by research into other First Nations' approaches, academic literature, and Coast Salish legal principles.

Guiding Principles

The Panel's work is anchored in Tsawwassen snəweyət (teachings) uncovered through this process: siʔémstəxʷ (respect), čəčəwítəl (help one another), 0əʔit teḡənt (gratitude), ʔl (love), ʔəwə0ət (healing), nəčəʔmat (working together as one), and xʷtetəlqt (accountability).

Structure

The report and recommended strategies are organized around four inter-related and interdependent foundational sḡéxtəkʷ or house posts, each of which is essential to a safe and healthy community: I) ʔəwə0ət (Health and Wellness); II) ʔə0ət (Safe Housing); III) ʔəqʷmát (Physical Infrastructure); and IV) ḡxʷkʷecxənəm (Public Order and Safety).

Recommended Strategies

The Recommended Strategies set out immediately following this page were developed to provide a comprehensive, community-driven framework to strengthen health, housing, infrastructure, and public order in Tsawwassen. Rooted in Tsawwassen and Coast Salish legal traditions and contemporary best practices, they are intended to set a pathway for safer, healthier, and more resilient futures—fulfilling the TFN government's constitutional commitment to improve the quality of life for all Members.

The Report

Following the summary of recommended strategies is a comprehensive report supported by detailed appendices, both of which can be referred to in order to explain and augment each of the recommended strategies.



House Post 1

Health and Wellness – ɬaɬəwəθət

Recommended Strategies

1. Responsive and Adaptive Healthcare System

- 1.1 Undertake a detailed study to understand and plan for current and future healthcare needs.
- 1.2 Implement feedback mechanisms to gather patient experiences and refine service delivery, keeping it responsive and relevant to assure that needs are being met in a culturally safe manner.
- 1.3 Host regular community health fairs or wellness events to raise awareness about available services, encourage preventive and supportive care, and foster community engagement.

2. Coordinated Service Delivery

- 2.1 Partner with Fraser Health Authority, BC Emergency Health Services, and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to leverage resources, share expertise, and create efficiencies that enhance service provision.
- 2.2 Work to better analyze the urgency of responses for services at intake and to develop appropriate triage mechanisms (emergent, urgent, and non-urgent).
- 2.3 Establish clear guidelines for Health and Family Services (HFS) transportation services to facilitate healthcare access, ensuring proper licensure, insurance, and communication of availability and emergency processes.
- 2.4 Define and communicate available patient navigation and case management services, enabling healthcare professionals to fully utilize their clinical licenses and to facilitate patient access to the right resources.
- 2.5 Set up formal feedback mechanisms with partners to ensure that collaborations continue to meet TFN's needs and adapt to changing circumstances.
- 2.6 Appoint a liaison officer to manage partnerships and ensure alignment with community objectives, providing ongoing oversight to enhance the effectiveness of joint efforts.

House Post I – Recommended Strategies – Cont.

3. Staff Wellness and Training

- 3.1 Support staff to care for themselves while caring for others, and to model work/life balance.
- 3.2 Establish and reinforce clear job roles, boundaries, and accountabilities for HFS staff, with a system for regular role assessments and feedback to ensure responsibilities align with evolving community demands and adequate staffing levels.
- 3.3 Provide ongoing training for HFS staff to maintain licensure, develop skills, and ensure up-to-date, high-quality service.

4. Cultural Safety and Trauma-Responsive Care

- 4.1 Integrate trauma-responsive, culturally safe practices across all health services to respect the unique cultural and historical context of TFN Members, making services more effective and sensitive to community needs.
- 4.2 Embed trauma-responsive, culturally safe practices in regular staff training at all levels to strengthen the cultural sensitivity of service delivery, including administrative roles.
- 4.3 Integrate Coast Salish healing practices alongside conventional models of care to reinforce community values and build Members' trust in the health services provided.

5. Problematic Substance Use, Toxic Drug Supply, and Harm Reduction

- 5.1 Develop a clear policy on harm reduction.
- 5.2 Adopt a compassionate, public health-oriented approach to problematic substance use by treating it as a health issue and prioritizing life preservation and dignity. This includes the provision of a range of accessible harm reduction services, and mobile outreach programs, to support those who use substances - without stigma.
- 5.3 Integrate peer support workers (i.e. people with lived experience with drug use and healing from problematic substance use) into substance use programs to build trust, foster engagement, and create supportive relationships between community members and health service providers.
- 5.4 Develop public health education initiatives, such as community workshops and seminars, to destigmatize problematic substance use and build broader community support for harm reduction measures.

House Post I – Recommended Strategies – Cont.

- 5.5 Make harm reduction supplies available in a low-barrier way to all who need/want them. Make training on the use of materials like naloxone kits and substance detection strips frequently available.
- 5.6 Expand access to clinical medicine and research the utilization of home detoxification support, with a focus on family and clinical assistance. Consider contracting with a recovery support medicine specialist to provide service on TFN lands.
- 5.7 Continue to support private treatment options for Members and explore the potential for a local culturally based treatment center.
- 5.8 Improve access to after-care services for individuals who have completed treatment. Consider the availability of sober-living accommodations and regular support programs (for example, Wellbriety, Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous, DUDES Club) and ones that include family (Alanon and other models).
- 5.9 Consider the example of Nations who use cultural ceremony to welcome Members home from treatment, such as blanketing/feasting.
- 5.10 Provide supports for home-based treatment options where possible.
- 5.11 Allocate comprehensive financial, health, and social support to families opting to facilitate non-medical detox at home.
- 5.12 Offer comprehensive support for families providing stabilization care at home, enabling them to assist family Members transitioning back into the community after treatment.

6. Family and Community Engagement

- 6.1 Emphasize family and community responsibility in health and wellness programs, supporting wellness through communication campaigns that reinforce shared obligations and provide pathways to healing.
- 6.2 Develop intergenerational programs to strengthen family and community bonds and to promote cultural sharing between the generations, supporting wellness and connection.
- 6.3 Provide specific and easily accessible supports for young parents, especially those parenting without a partner.
- 6.4 Support food security programs with active community involvement, addressing food access as a foundational aspect of wellness.

House Post I – Recommended Strategies – Cont.

- 6.5 Address family violence, interpersonal violence, and lateral violence openly with appropriate responses, emphasizing safe and supportive community environments. Support the development of a “tell someone” communications campaign.
- 6.6 Expand programming for men’s wellness, cultural engagement, maternal/child wellness, and LGBTQ+ youth, enhancing support for family wellness, child development, and diverse community needs.
- 6.7 Adopt a relational confidentiality approach supported by staff training, to ensure respectful information-sharing that prevents harm while supporting collaborative care for individuals, families, and the community.

7. Vulnerable Populations

- 7.1 Provide targeted support for vulnerable groups, such as youth and Elders, individuals with disabilities and those suffering impacts of poverty, through dedicated programming and facilities that address their specific needs and include them fully into community life.
- 7.2 Create intergenerational initiatives that bring youth and Elders together, fostering mutual respect, cultural continuity and community cohesion while sharing wisdom and perspectives.
- 7.3 Expand mental health support for youth by offering peer-led support groups and mentorship opportunities for youth, including programming specifically for LGBTQ+ youth, enhancing their support network and sense of belonging within the community



House Post II

Safe Housing – laʔθət

Recommended Strategies

8. Housing Variety and Density

- 8.1 Expand higher density housing options, including options with mixed-use spaces for dynamic community use.
- 8.2 Engage community members in planning these developments to align with their needs and preferences, incorporating sustainable building practices and cultural aesthetics.
- 8.3 Engage in strategic planning and partnerships to secure additional land for Member housing, prioritizing both current and future generational needs led by the Hələləm Collective in collaboration with government agencies, private sector partners, and community stakeholders to identify and acquire suitable land, ensuring that housing developments align with TFN values and cultural practices.

9. Smaller Living Units for Youth and Elders

- 9.1 Build smaller living units, including studios and one-to-two-bedroom homes, tailored to the needs of youth and Elders and reflective of TFN's cultural values.

10. Elder Autonomy and Community-Based Assisted Living

- 10.1 Strengthen supports for Elders to live comfortably in their own homes, and for families who want to welcome aging family members into their homes.
- 10.2 Establish a grant program that helps families adapt homes to the changing physical and mental needs of Elders.
- 10.3 Ensure support is available from TFN's HFS department, including respite support.
- 10.4 Develop a culturally tailored and community-operated assisted living facility that enables Elders to remain within their community while receiving the care they need.

11. Members Building and Maintaining their Own Homes

- 11.1 Transfer development of single-family homes to the Hålelām Collective.
- 11.2 Collaborate with the Hålelām Collective to offer more frequent, accessible workshops on the process of building a house and obtaining a mortgage on TFN lands.
- 11.3 Work with the Hålelām Collective to implement a comprehensive home maintenance support program to assist TFN homeowners with routine upkeep and repairs.

12. Culturally Safe Treatment and Detox Options

- 12.1 Collaborate with neighboring Nations, non-profit organizations, and the Fraser Health or First Nations Health Authority to establish a culturally safe treatment and detox facilities.

13. Supportive Housing

- 13.1 Establish clear supportive housing policies.
- 13.2 Ensure the new facility is ready for occupancy as scheduled and provide clear information about its operational model.
- 13.3 Safeguard Transitional Housing for Women and Children
- 13.4 Provide safe, culturally supportive transitional housing for women and children escaping violence, off TFN lands.
- 13.5 Continue to acquire rental housing for women and children escaping violence, ensuring immediate and secure options are available when needed.
- 13.6 Explore partnerships with neighboring communities to expand support networks and address the long-term goal of helping Members return to a safe, culturally affirming home in the TFN community.



House Post III

Physical Infrastructure – **ᐱᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ**

Recommended Strategies

15. Community Concerns in Addressing Road Safety and Implementing CPTED

- 15.1 As the government works to improve physical infrastructure to address issues related to both road safety and crime prevention, consider exploring and implementing measures to mitigate the significant concerns in the community about the safety of pedestrians and the dangers of speeding.



House Post IV

Public Order and Safety – šx^wk^wecxənəm

Recommended Strategies

16. Point of Contact for Enforcement Services

- 16.1 Provide a clear, single point of contact for those seeking enforcement of laws; ensure that it is consistently and widely publicized.

17. Major Incident Communications

- 17.1 Put in place a system that allows for mass texting to residents to provide updates about major incidents and other emergencies in the community.

18. DPD Knowledge of TFN Community

- 18.1 Work with the Delta Police Department to ensure that decisions about moving officers on and off the TFN Service Team are made purposefully and implemented in a way that maintains continuity on the Team as much as possible (ie. staggering departures of experienced members and ensuring adequate time for onboarding new members).
- 18.2 Make arrangements for TFN to provide cultural training on an ongoing basis (every 1-2 years) to new Delta Police Department members.

19. Mental Health Workers to Support DPD TFN Service Team

- 19.1 Develop a policy, in partnership with Delta Police Department, to allow TFN to be involved in de-escalating responses to calls involving mental health crises.

20. Actions in Respect of Properties Detracting from Community Safety

- 20.1 Expand the activities that give rise to fencing to include trafficking in vulnerable persons, violent crimes and weapons offences.
- 20.2 Provide public education explaining the fencing program to community members.
- 20.3 Provide communications materials to neighbours of properties subject to a fencing order explaining the nature of the order and the prohibitions in place in respect of the property.

21. Exclusion of Members who pose a Threat to Community Safety

- 21.1 Banishment of Members is not recommended. If banishment is to occur, it must be in a context where the legal framework meets a strict set of criteria designed to ensure all legal requirements are met and community approval is given before such a law is enacted.
- 21.2 Consider measures short of banishment (such as banning a Member from attending particular locations or events for a period of time) that could be implemented in respect of a Member engaging in behaviour that is putting the safety of others at risk. This must be done in a legal framework that appropriately protects the rights of all involved.

22. Exclusion of Non-Members

- 22.1 Expand the activities that give rise to banishment of non-Members to include other serious offences such as trafficking in vulnerable persons, violent crimes and weapons offences.
- 22.2 Consider measures short of banishment (such as banning an individual from attending particular locations or events for a period of time) that could be implemented in respect of a non-Member engaging in behaviour that is putting the safety of others at risk.
- 22.3 Ensure principles of fundamental justice and procedural fairness are provided for in the legal processes for exclusion of non-Members.



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