# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>Pg.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Coordinator</td>
<td>Pg.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Buffalo Community Plan in Action</td>
<td>Pg.2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Funding</td>
<td>Pg.2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Funding</td>
<td>Pg.4 &amp; 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trends &amp; Opportunities</td>
<td>Pg.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort McMurray Statistics</td>
<td>Pg.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Buffalo Homeless Awareness Initiative</td>
<td>Pg.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ways you can help</td>
<td>Pg.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectives for 2002</td>
<td>Pg.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Reporting</td>
<td>Pg.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Operations &amp; Fund Balances</td>
<td>Pg.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule of Revenues</td>
<td>Pg.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule of Projects</td>
<td>Pg.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes to Financial Statement</td>
<td>Pg.15 &amp; 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>Pg.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

2001 What a year! The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (R.M.W.B.) rises to the opportunity to assist the community in addressing priorities in the Community Plan on Homelessness (C.P.H.).

The R.M.W.B. operates as the community based organization addressing priorities in the C.P.H. The C.P.H. was accepted by Regional Council, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta in December 2001. The R.M.W.B. began addressing the priorities outlined in the Community Plan in partnership with local non-profit organizations, the United Way, Government of Canada, and the Province of Alberta. Information sessions are held in the community each year prior to the call for proposals for operational and capital funds.

The C.P.H. for the R.M.W.B. was developed with the assistance of the Homeless Initiatives Steering Committee. Upon completion of the plan, it was recommended to Regional Council that the Community Services Department take the lead role in partnering with the community to address the priorities in the plan. The Community Services Department is well known for developing partnerships. All three levels of government working together was yet another opportunity to further develop community partnerships.

Message from the Project Coordinator

The first annual report of the Community Plan on Homelessness reported a very successful year in implementing many of the priorities identified. The R.M.W.B. commends the community on coming together to address the highest priorities in the C.P.H.

The C.P.H. has brought individuals, agencies and government together to reach out. New partnerships are always being explored.

As a result of the partners working closely together, a Multi-Disciplinary Case Development Team has evolved. Agencies work together to address individual clients' needs with a focus on securing living accommodations.

The Homeless Awareness Initiative has proven to be successful in raising awareness and the profile of homelessness. Attached are samples of homeless awareness material that has been distributed.
Wood Buffalo Community Plan in Action...

Community Plan on Homelessness Funded Agencies

OPERATIONAL

Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society

Unity House received operational funds for operating six beds for homeless single females and their children. The program provides the clients with a safe place to sleep on a temporary basis. Clients are encouraged to participate in services available such as counseling, assistance with finding housing, referrals for job search, etc.

2001 has been a year of learning and development for Unity House. Administration has worked hard to ensure that the needs of the existing program for abused women were not compromised and the needs of the homeless were identified. Overall the two programs blended successfully.

Ongoing core operational funds have been secured through a partnership with Human Resources & Employment and United Way of Fort McMurray.

Salvation Army Emergency Men’s Shelter

The Salvation Army received funds for operating six beds for homeless men. The funding covered a portion of the costs associated with the operation of the men's shelter. At the time, the Salvation Army received no core operational funds from the Provincial Government. The funds received were nominal from clients who could afford to contribute. Those in need the most were sometimes refused access due to a lack of funds. Funding the six beds built a stronger partnership between the Salvation Army, the Municipality, Human Resources & Employment and United Way. The Salvation Army has restructured the management of the facility to allow for an increase in services. Out of 32 beds for the most part, all beds are used nightly.

Ongoing core operational funds have been secured through a partnership with Human
"Out of the Cold"

**Salvation Army Mat Program**

The Salvation Army received operational funds for the development and operation of the Mat Program. The Mat program is providing for up to 20 men and women who are absolute homeless or those clients which are “hard to house”. Prior to the Mat Program, the clients were not accepted into current shelter services. The program was established in the fall of 2001 and continued until May 31. Initially, the Mat program was a pilot program. The program is expected to operate from October 1 - April 30 each year. The intent of the program is to keep the clients safe from the harsh winters of Fort McMurray. The Salvation Army is exploring the possibility of operating the program all year.

Client usage exceeded the number of mats due to the fact that not all stayed the entire night. This allowed for more than one person to use the mat. The mats for the program were purchased by the Baptist Church through a capital grant provided by the C.P.H. Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives (S.C.P.I.). The Salvation Army operates the MAT program however consults with the Baptist Church regarding issues arising from the program. The agencies are connected through their commitment to assist those less fortunate individuals in our community.

Challenges arose for the Salvation Army in securing a facility to operate the Mat Program. Once again, the Salvation Army stepped forward to meet the challenge. The Salvation Army renovated the basement of their Family Service Centre.

The Salvation Army received a capital grant through the C.P.H. (SCPI) to renovate the basement. The renovations allowed the Salvation Army a permanent location for the seasonal Mat Program.

**Salvation Army Soup Kitchen/Drop-In Centre**

The Salvation Army received an operational grant to extend the hours of operation at the men’s shelter and to provide a soup kitchen/drop in centre for those in need. The program was very well received and the statistics indicate a need to continue this service. The Salvation Army is currently reviewing the program.
Wood Buffalo Community Plan in Action...

Community Plan on Homelessness Funded Agencies

CAPITAL

Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation

A Partnership with Unity House allowed construction of 4 second stage housing units for women and children fleeing an abusive situation. (4 families)
A Partnership with the Association for Community Living allowed construction of 1 supportive housing unit with 4 bedrooms for shared accommodations for homeless or near homeless females with mental health issues.

Fellowship Baptist Church

Soup Kitchen - The Fellowship Baptist Church received a capital grant to upgrade the soup kitchen, purchase commercial appliances, as well as purchase 20 mats for the emergency shelter for the absolute homeless.

The capital contribution allowed the church to operate the soup kitchen more effectively by maximizing volunteers’ time by using commercial appliances. This allowed them to purchase and/or receive food in bulk. The commercial dishwashers reduced the number of volunteers needed daily. The overall efficiency allowed the church to partner with other churches to increase the soup kitchen from two days a week to five days a week. The client base also increased from approximately 20 individuals to 80 daily. The church also provides counseling upon request.
Salvation Army MAT Program

Renovations were made for the MAT program to the basement of Salvation Army Family Service Centre. The program accommodates up to 20 “hard to house” men and women who have issues with alcohol and drugs, mental health, etc. The MAT program operates during the fall and winter to ensure safety of clients during the cold winter months. The renovations included a sleeping area, common area and shower facilities for clients.

Salvation Army - Soup Kitchen/Drop In Centre

The Salvation Army Family Service Centre was renovated to upgrade the kitchen sink to accommodate the increase in clients accessing the soup kitchen. The “three sink method” is required for sanitation reasons under the Alberta Environmental Health Standards.

Salvation Army START Program

The Salvation Army START Program is constructing a special needs home for their clients with developmental disabilities. The capital grant contribution from the Community Plan on Homelessness was to assist in covering some of the start up costs required to initiate the project.
The objective of the Community Plan is:

- Increase the number of emergency shelter beds and transitional and long-term supportive housing units to begin filling the gaps identified.
- Expand and initiate the supportive and preventative support services identified consistent with the Continuum of Support System.
- Develop a communications strategy that increases community awareness and support for the Community.

Trends and Opportunities

Trend
- Increase in usage of shelter beds

Opportunity
- Obtain core provincial operational funding
- Develop partnerships to provide second stage and supportive housing

Trend
- Increase in usage of community kitchens

Opportunity
- Advocate on behalf of providers to increase awareness and funding

Trend
- Increase in rental rates

Opportunity
- Utilize rental rates from the Landlord & Tenant Advisory Board Survey to lobby for an increase in affordable rental units

Trend
- Increasing number of clients on Fort McMurray Housing Authority waiting list

Opportunity
- Advocate on behalf of low income clients for an increase in number of subsidized rental units
Fort McMurray Statistics

Baptist Church Soup Kitchen
• Served 3,077 meals

Unity House Homeless Shelter beds
• Admissions were 155 Women and 49 Children

Fort McMurray Housing Authority
• 201 on waiting list for social housing
• 43 of 201 are high priority
• Highest need is 89 one bedrooms

Salvation Army MAT Program
• 254 clients served (22 Women & 232 Men)
• A total of 2,419 meals served (average 20 per night)
• A total of 2,048 mat nights (average 17 mats per night)

Salvation Army Emergency Men’s Shelter
• The six beds funded for this year were full every night
• A total of 4,156 bed nights were provided by the men’s shelter

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen/Drop in Center
• Approximately 300 clients were served. This includes men, women and children
• Average apartment rents for a bachelor, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom & 3 bedroom range from:

  bachelor                      $ 400 - $ 950
  1 bedroom                    $ 740 - $ 1,100
  2 bedroom                    $ 850 - $ 1,498
  3/4 bedroom                  $1,000 - $ 1,698
Wood Buffalo Homeless Awareness Initiative

The agencies involved in the Homeless Awareness Initiative are:

Salvation Army Men’s Emergency Shelter, Salvation Army ‘START’ program, Fellowship Baptist Church, United Way, Alberta Seniors, Alberta Human Resources & Employment, Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society, Fort McMurray Association for Community Living, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Wood Buffalo Homelessness Awareness Initiative Highlights

• Over 5000 awareness brochures were sent out to homes. Information details on Ways You Can Help and a list of local agencies and their services.
• 300 posters were distributed to 150 community bulletin boards and non-profit agencies.
• Coordinated several agencies attendance on morning line (CJO K) - to raise profile of agency's role in respect to services to homeless and near homeless.
• Regional Municipality partnered with Fellowship Baptist Church and are to host a guest speaker, George Coppus from the Calgary Homeless Foundation.
• Fellowship Baptist Church hosted their annual fund raiser for the community kitchen in March 2001.

Did You Know:

• That up to 80 individuals are using the Baptist Church soup kitchen on a daily basis
• That the 52 beds available at the Salvation Army shelter operate at up to 100% occupancy on any given day during the winter months
• That rent in our city for a one bedroom apartment can cost up to $1100
• That the vacancy rate has been less than 1% for nearly all of the past decade
• That there are approximately 201 people on the waiting list for low income housing and that the list continues to grow
• That the six beds at Unity House, for homeless women and their children, operate at 100% occupancy on any given day in the year
Ways You Can Help:
Donate, Educate, Volunteer and Share.

Our Local Agencies and Their Services:

Fellowship Baptist Church Soup Kitchen
Phone: 743-3747
Email: pastor@telusplanet.net
The soup kitchen operates Monday through Friday, September to June from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, providing hot meals to all those in need.

Fort McMurray Association for Community Living
Phone: 791-3009
Email: choices.ftmac@shawlink.ca
A mental health advocate dedicated to supporting homeless people within our community. Our new program will provide transitional housing and support for homeless women who have mental health issues.

Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society - Unity House
Phone: 743-1190 (Crisis Line)
Phone 743-4698 (Admin)
Email: fcs.director@shawcable.com
A safe haven for women and children in the Fort McMurray region experiencing crisis. We offer a 21 bed facility, 6 of which provide shelter to homeless women and their children.

Alberta Human Resources and Employment
Phone: 743-7192
Emergency Line: 1-800-638-0715
Email: diane.durnford@gov.ab.ca
Provides short term financial assistance to eligible individuals who are unable to meet their basic needs and who have exhausted all other resources.

The Salvation Army Community Services Centre
Phone: 743-4135
Email: sa.community@shawcable.com
The Mat Program operates from September to April and accommodates up to 20 men and women with behavioural issues and addictions. An additional 32 beds are available for men at the emergency shelter. A community soup kitchen is also available on Saturdays and Sundays. Support services are provided for those in need.

Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation
Phone: 743-7952
Email: gillest@woodbuffalo.ab.ca
Providing adequate shelter for people with demonstrated needs to enhance quality of life for all.
Objectives for 2002

- Assist community in establishing supportive housing for adult females with mental health issues.

- Assist community in establishing second stage housing for women & children leaving an abusive situation.

- Increase support services for local community kitchen to continue 5 days a week.

- Advocate/lobby provincial funders for core funding of new initiatives under C.P.H and Wood Buffalo Housing Awareness Initiative.

- Continue raising awareness of homelessness through the initiative.

- Assist in building community capacity by community development to address gaps in C.P.H.
The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo gratefully acknowledges the support and assistance of the following:

The Government of Canada
The Province of Alberta
Wood Buffalo Housing Development Corporation
The United Way
Wood Buffalo Homeless Awareness Campaign

All Wood Buffalo individuals, agencies, steering committees, businesses and governments working to assist residents who are homeless / near homeless.

Report Submitted by:
Norma Shaw
Project Coordinator
Community Plan on Homelessness
Community Services Department

2001 Annual Report