

# Building Safer Communities: Brantford's 2024-2026 Action Plan

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## Project Overview

The Building Safer Communities project is funded by the Government of Canada and is intended to support communities in addressing and preventing gun and gang violence among youth.

Youth-related gun and gang violence is not prevalent in Brantford, however this project provides an excellent opportunity to invest in Brantford's youth through prevention and awareness programs.

Working closely with community partners and youth-serving organizations, the Action Plan 2024-2026 address risk factors associated with gun and gang violence by increasing physical and psychological well-being, cultivating a sense of belonging, and introduce youth to positive relationships and experiences.

## Developing the Plan

The Action Plan was developed in consultation with Brantford Police Services and Laurier's Centre for Research on Security Practices (CRSP), with input from a variety of stakeholders including youth-serving agencies from various sectors including, education, justice, and health and community services.

Moving forward, the City will continue to seek out and collaborate with stakeholders in the development of projects, programs and awareness campaigns.

## Action Plan 2024-2026

### Focus Area #1: Youth at Risk of Gun and Gang Involvement

Actions within this Focus Area are intended to identify and support youth that may be at greater risk of gun and gang involvement. This will include programs to support mental health and well-being, expand social development, and enhance youth connection to services and community resources.

- 1.1 PreVenture Program to promote mental health and delay substance use among youth
  - 1.2 Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) Teaching children and families effective emotional regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills
  - 1.3 Healthy Parent Child Communication Program
  - 1.4 Arts Therapy Program
  - 1.5 CBT Program for Young Survivors of Sexual Violence
  - 1.6 Youth Domestic Violence outreach and prevention program
  - 1.7 Youth Outreach Initiatives – Developing a knowledge base to better understand youth involvement in Gun and Gang Activities
  - 1.8 Police and Youth Mentorship - Building Positive Relationships through Recreation
  - 1.9 Youth Training and Employment Program
  - 1.10 Laurier CARE Lab- Afterschool Peer Mentorship Program
  - 1.11 Youth Inclusion Initiative – Providing comprehensive support and resources for street involved youth
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## **Focus Area #2: Support the Unique Needs of Youth**

The Actions within this Focus Area are intended to engage youth from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives that may be at greater risk of marginalization or social isolation because of race, culture, identity or other factors. These programs will aim to foster a positive sense of self-identity, promote community connection and cultural learning.

- 2.1 Cultural Land-Based Learning Program
- 2.2 Envisioning the Future: Indigenous Youth Consultation Project
- 2.3 Indigenous and New Canadian Cultural Learning
- 2.4 Youth Cultural Sports Exchange
- 2.5 Youth ChangeMakers Program
- 2.6 Youth Inclusion Summit
- 2.7 Peace Mural Project
- 2.8 Youth Peer-to-Peer Conversations Video Series

## **Focus Area #3: Education and Awareness**

The Actions within this Focus Area are intended to create community awareness about how to prevent youth involvement in violence and crime. These programs will include campaigns targeted at youth, families, service providers and community.

- 3.1 SAFE GROWTH: Empowering communities initiative
  - 3.2 Gang Recruitment Public Awareness Campaign
  - 3.3 Youth led - Gun and Gang Violence Media Campaign
  - 3.4 Community Connections Training – Cultural Training for Staff
  - 3.5 Mental Health First Aid Training for Youth Service Providers
  - 3.6 Trauma Informed Training for Service Providers
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