

RE: Community Safety and Well-Being Review and Update

Dear Mayor Leatham and Members of West Elgin Council,

Ontario's Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 requires that all municipalities adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan and review it every four years. The Town of Aylmer, City of St. Thomas, and County of Elgin developed a joint CSWB Plan in 2021, which was adopted by all the participating municipalities, including the Town of Aylmer, City of St. Thomas, and County of Elgin.

Under Ontario Regulation 414/23, municipalities that adopted their CSWB Plans before July 1, 2021, must complete a review and update before July 1, 2025. The updated Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas CSWB Plan is now complete and attached for your review.

The updated Plan reaffirms our commitment to the original five priority areas:

- Education and Skills Development
- Housing Security
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Public Safety
- Substance Use and Addiction

This review was led by the CSWB Integration Table, with input from each Action Table representing the five focus areas. The update reflects progress made, identifies ongoing challenges, and emphasizes the need to address root causes—such as poverty and workforce readiness—through prevention and collaboration.

The Integration Table is a cross-sectoral group made up of local leaders and community partners, including:

- Warden Grant Jones, County of Elgin (Co-Chair)
- Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas (Co-Chair)
- Mayor Jack Couckuyt, Town of Aylmer
- Chief Marc Roskamp, St. Thomas Police Service
- Chief Kyle Johnstone, Aylmer Police Service
- Acting Inspector Tyler Holmes, Elgin County OPP
- Danielle Neilson, Housing and Homelessness Action Table
- Heather Sheridan, Housing and Homelessness Action Table
- Christine Sansom, Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network

- Marcia Van Wylie, Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee
- Petrusia Hontar, Elgin St. Thomas Workforce Development Network
- Deanna Huggett, Elgin Ontario Health Team
- Meagan Lichti, Age-Friendly Strategy for Elgin and St. Thomas
- Lisa Higgs, City Manager, City of St. Thomas
- Blaine Parkin, CAO, County of Elgin
- Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives, County of Elgin

We recognize that time is limited for detailed feedback prior to submission. However, we are planning a Community Safety and Well-Being Forum in Fall 2025 and strongly encourage all local councils and senior staff to attend. This forum will provide a comprehensive update, highlight opportunities for collaboration, and offer an opportunity for feedback on how we move forward together.

To meet the legislated deadline, we respectfully request that your Council pass a resolution of endorsement. A sample resolution is provided below:

THAT the Council of the Local Municipality hereby endorses the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Community Safety and Well-Being Plan update;

AND THAT a copy of the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and the 2025 update be posted on the municipality's website.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Warden Grant Jones, County of Elgin

Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas

Co-Chairs of the Aylmer-Elgin-St. Thomas Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table

Attachments:

- Updated CSWB Plan – June 2025
- Original CSWB Plan – 2021
- CSWB Data Package – July 2020