

COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS & LAND STEWARD BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Community Safety Officer Program is a Kwanlin Dün First Nation pilot program and is part of the nation's broad, community-wide Community Safety Initiative. The \$1.4 million in funding from the Government of Yukon was announced in May 2016.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation has also funded a Land Steward position to work outside of the community to monitor the use of traditional territory land.

Training: Kwanlin Dün Department of Justice with the Justice Institute of British Columbia developed and delivered a five-week training course. Upon the successful completion of the course, the graduates received an *Associate Certificate in Community Safety*. The officers and land stewards were trained in;

- First Aid
- Community Safety & Conflict Resolution
- Understanding the Criminal Justice System
- Dealing With Hostility
- Intergenerational Trauma and Trauma Informed Practices
- Mental Health
- Addictions
- Child, Youth and Family Dynamics
- Suicidality
- Investigation and Case Management
- Report Writing and Bylaw Interpretation
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Patrol & Traffic

The Community Safety Officers and Land Steward are also receiving additional training on assessing hazards, the workplace hazardous material information system (WHMIS), all-terrain vehicle safety, and understanding and implementing the policy and procedure manual.

Role in the community: The Community Safety Officer's role is to support the day-to-day safety of citizens; to be visible, active and involved in the community; and, to build and maintain trust and a positive relationship with citizens and external partners.

They are responsible for responding to incidents, providing support and intervention where appropriate and acting as a referral agent and point-of-contact for citizens, internal and external partners and agencies, such as the RCMP, Bylaw, conservation officers and environmental monitoring officers. They will be involved with citizens experiencing crisis, supporting investigations and enforcement.

The Land Steward will monitor the Kwanlin Dün Traditional Territory. They will educate citizens and visitors on the appropriate use of and respect for the land. The Land Steward will record information on structures, illegal and legal activity and settlements, fish and wildlife habitat and traplines. They will work closely with the Department of Lands and Resources and collaborate with the Community Safety Officers.

The Community Safety Officers and Land Steward do not carry weapons and will patrol in partnership with external enforcement officers such as RCMP, Bylaw, conservation and environmental protection officers.

Kwanlin Dün Community Safety Initiative: was developed over two years ago and its implementation began in phases starting in 2015. The initiative involves all Government of Kwanlin Dün departments and is led principally by the departments of Health, Community Services, and Justice.

The initiative is rooted in a commitment to service rooted in culture and incorporates traditional values of respect and trust. It demonstrates Kwanlin Dün principles of inclusiveness, wholeness, acceptance, and compassion. It promotes knowledge and wisdom through cultural and mainstream experience and expertise.

The Kwanlin Dün Community Safety Initiative includes three broad components:

1. **The establishment of an inter-agency working group** to support collaboration with each agency's security and safety work within the community and to strengthen inter-agency relationships. This group was established two years ago and includes agencies from the governments of Yukon, Canada, Whitehorse and Kwanlin Dün. The group meets regularly to discuss common concerns, practices and successes and includes RCMP, justice department representatives from KDFN, Yukon and Canada, City of Whitehorse Bylaw and non-governmental organizations.
2. **Crime prevention through environmental design** to examine and make physical changes to the community to support a culture of hope, empowerment and pride. Much has been done over the last two years with the support of citizens, staff and community partners. Actions include, a major community clean-up to remove tons of large debris, removal of bush-party sites, reduced speed limit, clearing of trails to improve site lines, improved lighting, regular *Let's Keep Talking* community meetings on safety and security, the establishment of a TIPS Line, and periodic road-side stop checks.
3. **Community Safety Officers Program** established to support the day-to-day safety and security of citizens. Announced on June 23, 2017, the officers are a professional, visible and proactive point-of-contact for citizens in need of safety and security support. The officers will be responsible for developing and maintaining trust and positive relationships with citizens and community partners. They are the eyes and ears of the community on safety and security issues and will be a voice for Kwanlin Dün with external enforcement officers. They will act as referral agents and points of contact for citizens, external partners and stakeholders.

The evaluation of the program and analysis of its challenges and successes will strengthen the government of Kwanlin Dün's longer-term direction toward a peacekeeping model of community justice.