



City of St. Albert  
**CITY COUNCIL POLICY**

Social Development

AUTHORITY	APPROVED	Res. No.	mm dd	REVISED	Res. No.	mm dd
City Council		C-04-2015	01 12		AR-19-003	01 21

## Purpose

The Community's Social Master Plan "Cultivating a Community for All", reflects the identified key social issues and themes, providing a roadmap to address priorities. This Council Policy comprises a set of values that will be used as a tool for planning, resource allocation and decision-making.

## Policy

The City of St. Albert believes in the advancement of a fair and equitable society that promotes respect for all citizens, strengthens the community, reduces causes of disadvantage and inequality and ensures that all residents in St. Albert thrive and enjoy the best quality of life possible.

The City and the community have a role in social sustainability to ensure that all residents of St. Albert are knowledgeable with respect to the priority social issues and furthermore are empowered to contribute to the social fabric of the community.

The Social Master Plan and its initiatives shall continue to align to the Province of Alberta's Social Policy Framework.

## Definitions

"Diversity" means to encompass acceptance and respect, understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing individual differences in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

"Financial Security" means a condition whereby individuals and families have the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain economic self-sufficiency and participation in society.

"Preventative Social Services" means services that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families through promotion or intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity.



“Province of Alberta’s Social Policy Framework” means a document completed in 2013 that is a vision for social policy defining who we are as people and communities and reflecting aspirations for its citizens’ highest possible quality of life.

“Service Providers” means non-profit, government-funded organizations that provide a service or a resource to the community.

“Social Master Plan” means a high level plan that represents the views and ideas of the people who live in St. Albert and works to guide the creation of a thriving, caring and connected community that takes care of its most vulnerable citizens while providing opportunities for everyone to realize their full potential.

“Social Policy” means the laws, actions, regulations, values and guidelines designed and used to protect vulnerable people, improve equality and create a system of supports for individuals and communities for the good of society. It influences how members in a society live, work and spend their time and determines how human needs are met such as housing, employment, education, recreation, leisure, health, safety and the care of children.

“Social Sustainability” means the ability of a community to develop processes and structures which not only meet the needs of its current members but also support the ability of future generations to maintain a healthy community.

“Stakeholders” means any individual or organization that has an interest in the delivery of services to the community.

“Values” means an ideal or value that is actively pursued through goals, actions and ultimately outcomes.

## **Responsibilities**

1. City Council is responsible for:

- a. Using the identified values and expected outcomes to guide Council’s decision-making with respect to the funding of current and future operations, initiatives and projects within its purview.
- b. Advocating to the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and the St. Albert community in order to further the outcome of increased social sustainability in St. Albert.
- c. Measuring the impact of work undertaken to further the values identified in the Social Master Plan, “Cultivating a Community for All”.
- d. Ensuring that any Community Services Advisory Board recommendations to Council with respect to FCSS Funding and or Policy are aligned with the values of the Social Master Plan.



2. Chief Administrative Officer or designate(s) is responsible for ensuring that:
  - a. A comprehensive Corporate action plan is in place within the resources allocated to support implementation of the Social Master Plan.
  - b. The development and review of policies and procedures that are required to guide and support the Social Master Plan's values and initiatives.
  - c. An annual engagement symposium or consultation is undertaken with residents, partners, service providers, community groups, local businesses and residents to realize the goals of the Social Master Plan.
  - d. An annual report is provided to Council with respect to outcome achievements, the implementation of actions identified within the Social Master Plan and recommendations for updates to the Plan.

## **Standards**

### 1. Values

City Council supports and is committed to the following values as identified in the Social Master Plan:

- a. **Sense of Community and Connectedness:** Communities are strongest when residents know their neighbours and feel connected to the community. As residents become better connected, an increased sense of belonging and a reduction in isolation occurs. Through fostering a better awareness of one's neighbours and surroundings, people feel safer, have a sense of belonging and take greater pride in their community.
- b. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Communities are strongest when they bring together a diverse set of voices, perspectives and backgrounds. There are long-term impacts when people are excluded from participating in the community, be it a result of social, societal or economic pressures.
- c. **Social Responsibility and Engagement:** Communities are strengthened when residents are actively involved and feel that they have an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the community and to be involved in the decisions that impact their lives. All residents have a role to play in addressing the issues that we face as a community; residents need to be informed of the many ways in which they can get involved in building a vibrant community.
- d. **Healthy Lifestyle and Well-Being:** The overall well-being of the community is impacted by the physical, emotional and mental health of its members. As community members move through the various stages of life, it is important that a strong system of supports is in place to ensure all residents remain active and are able to engage in the community.



- e. Capacity Building: Social Programs do not simply respond to immediate crises but must build the skills and strengths that an individual will need to better manage any future crisis. By building capacity within our community through residents, service providers and community groups, we build a social safety net that is strengthened over time – building a community where residents feel supported, know where to turn for help and are able to offer support to their neighbours and fellow community members.

## 2. Expected Long Term Outcomes

The five values that comprise this Policy and which are identified in the Social Master Plan will provide direction to Administration and the community with respect to future plans and initiatives. The long term expected outcomes of such work include the following:

- a. St. Albert is a community where residents know their neighbours, feel safe and have a sense of belonging.
- b. St. Albert is a community where diversity is embraced, where residents are able to live free from bullying, where all residents have a place to live, where accessibility for all is ensured.
- c. St. Albert is a community where individuals and families are able to meet their basic needs and achieve financial security, where residents are engaged and participate in a vibrant community and where all residents are free from domestic violence.
- d. St. Albert is a community where residents are actively engaged and supported in healthy living, are provided with foundations necessary to succeed and have timely access to services.
- e. St. Albert is a community where residents are aware of the social issues and successes that exist in our community, have access to a coordinated network of resources and services and where the Social Master Plan “Cultivating a Community for All” is a catalyst for action.

