

Initiatives supported by Building Safer Communities Fund in Burnaby

The City of Burnaby is utilizing nearly \$3 million in federal funding to launch a comprehensive suite of programs and initiatives to enhance community safety and prevent the proliferation of gangs and guns in our community.

Partner agency programs:

Burnaby Neighbourhood House - Neighbourhood Youth Connections Micro-Grant Program

A youth-led, community building and well-being program designed to engage youth to improve Burnaby neighbourhoods. Through the provision of a limited number of micro-grants, the program would facilitate greater civic engagement, enhanced pride of place, and enhanced connections between youth and their community.

Burnaby Neighbourhood House - Youth Engaged Program

A year-round program that focuses on helping youth to develop relationships and develop life skills that will help them to engage actively in their communities. The program will focus on establishing positive relationships with staff and older youth mentors, creating a safe and supportive space, building skills and experiences that strengthen resilience and engaging in outdoor experiences that help them to push their boundaries.

SD41 - Mental Health Liaison, Vulnerable Youth Focus

This initiative supports the hiring of a Mental Health Liaison worker in the Burnaby School District to focus on youth in Grades 4 to 12 with mental health issues, who also have risk factors that increase their vulnerability to gang recruitment.

Burnaby Primary Care Networks - Youth at Risk Prevention and Intervention Community of Practice

A multi-disciplinary stakeholder group, intended to increase the community's capacity for early identification of, and effective intervention for young people from 9 to 24 years old who are at risk of engaging with the gang and gun lifestyle.

Purpose Society - Burnaby Youth Empowerment Program

Our Purpose: To create the city that we all want to live in and be in.

A strengths-based life skills and mental health program for Burnaby youth identified as being at-risk of, or involved in, the gang and gun lifestyle. Using a wraparound approach, a dedicated BYEP Counsellor will support program youth and their families to facilitate healthy, pro-social life choices to reduce vulnerabilities and potentially harmful high-risk behaviours.

St Leonard's Youth & Family Services Society – Community Connections Program

A wrap-around support program which provides vulnerable youth with a qualified, trained youth worker who will provide support through individualized case management, connecting them to community resources, education, natural supports and establishing a care team to provide ongoing case management.

City of Burnaby programs:

Changing Colours Art of Empowerment

A youth-driven community public art program designed to increase positive social connections by providing pro-social mentoring and engendering a sense of civic responsibility and community engagement among participating youth.

Community Safety Plan update

The City of Burnaby will undertake the creation of a refined and redesigned comprehensive Community Safety Plan to further enhance and develop the City's work to address the impacts of local gun and gang violence. This broad-reaching work will also feature the creation of a new Gangs and Guns strategy within the broader Community Safety Plan.

Burnaby Gang and Guns Prevention Video Project

This project will seek to build public education and awareness to prevent and deter the risks associated with this anti-social, violent lifestyle. Using professionally created digital content, the series of four to six videos will be developed for audiences of youth and caregivers, as well as other concerned community groups.

Research initiatives:

Exploring the role of the Burnaby RCMP Gang Enforcement Team (BGET) in gang intervention and disruption - Jennifer Wong and Chelsea Lee

This project will explore the role of the Burnaby RCMP Gang Enforcement Team (BGET) in gang intervention and disruption.

Documenting and assessing the impacts of SD41 (Burnaby) school gang prevention and intervention activities - Jennifer Wong and Zachary Rowan

This project will document and assess the impacts of SD41 school gang prevention and intervention activities.

Examining the role of Youth Section Officers in gang prevention and intervention in SD41 schools - Jennifer Wong and Zachary Rowan

This project will focus on the role of Youth Section Officers in gang prevention and intervention in SD41 schools.

Building Safer Communities in Burnaby: Addressing Gun and Gang Violence - Evan McCuish, Martin Bouchard, Jennifer Wong, Zachary Rowan, Shannon Linning, & H. Nguyen

A multi-year research project aimed at better understanding the factors which influence at-risk youth who ultimately engage with the gangs and guns lifestyle.

Media Contact:

Chris Bryan
Manager, Public Affairs
Public Affairs Office
604-570-3616 | Chris.Bryan@burnaby.ca