



Media Release

July 30, 2020

Local Community Safety Initiative Moves Forward into Important Second Phase of Planning

In 2019, the municipalities of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan; Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards; Madawaska Valley; and South Algonquin committed to working collaboratively to develop and implement a Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) plan.

In order to fully focus and respond to the immediate needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, the initiative was temporarily suspended in March. Accordingly, the planning deadline was extended until July 1, 2021. This extension reflects the *Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020*, which was passed by the Government of Ontario and allows extra time beyond the initial deadline of January 1, 2021.

After a four month postponement, the planning is now moving forward. “We are excited to announce that we are now entering the community consultation phase of the initiative” the CSWB Coordinator Dr Meara Sullivan said. “This stage is essential to ensure that the plan reflects the insights and lived experience of the communities.” The primary focus of this survey is upon the local area while recognising the need for partnerships across all areas of government. The objectives of the community consultation are:

- To learn how local residents, feel about their safety and well-being;
- To determine risk factors and gaps in services; and
- To continue to keep the public informed about the CSWB planning, and to obtain their support.

A survey will be made available in September, and will run until November. This broad survey will be made available in both print and electronic formats. After all submissions of the survey have been received and analysed, the results will be shared publicly, and will aid in directing the CSWB plan.

The community consultation phase precedes the successful completion of the first phase which included the establishment of a coordinating committee comprised of CAO/Clerks from each Municipality, the creation of a new multi-sector advisory committee with community partners, and local service providers survey. Currently, 22 service providers surveys have been submitted.

If you have any questions or comments on the Community Safety and Well-being planning please contact Meara Sullivan at mearasullivan@hotmail.com. Thank you for your continued contribution and support.