



City of Victoria Neighbourhood Development Program Grants Policy

"Committed to a vision of a strong Downtown and **strong neighbourhoods**, the City of Victoria, in partnership with the community, will through open, responsive government enable citizens to live in a socially responsible, environmentally responsible, artistically rich, and people-oriented city that is economically viable."

Mission Statement, City of Victoria

I. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Neighbourhood development is a process whereby local people are effectively involved in the continuing determination of those decisions, policies, and programs that affect all their lives. Neighbourhood development is a shared process in which the City and the neighbourhood work together. These partnerships will maximize this involvement and determination in order to satisfy neighbourhood needs and aspirations in the context of overall City goals.

II. PRINCIPLES FUNDAMENTAL TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Self determination requires local involvement in change and preservation.

Identification of needs and aspirations to be satisfied and the potential solutions are generated primarily from within the neighbourhood.

Diversity of a neighbourhood is fully recognized.

The differences within its borders provides the basis for the strength of the whole neighbourhood.

Inclusiveness incorporates all people in neighbourhood development.

Neighbourhood richness results from the participation of all its people and the response to their needs and aspirations. It is important to reach out, for example, to children, women, minorities, disabled, First Nations people, and those with low incomes, and to develop mutual projects for community betterment.

Empowerment results from involvement.

People who have lacked power, both personal and in the system, when successfully taking on new responsibilities, realize their potential and gain greater access to and control over valued resources.

Self sufficiency enables local access to valued resources.

Neighbourhoods provide services and facilities for meeting and gathering, shopping, recreation, learning, health, employment and transit. Ideally these mixed uses cluster around neighbourhood nodes.

Sustainability maintains "quality of life" conditions for future generations.

As part of the larger Victoria community, the neighbourhood will move towards integrated sustainability of all its biologic, economic and social systems.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Physical Identity - The neighbourhood's perception of itself as a place or group of places guides the definition of its physical boundaries, and thereby defines it for purposes of all its relations with the larger community.

Social Identity and “Culture” –The outward expression of the unique blend of the neighbourhood’s people, place and history. Deliberate efforts to identify and enhance neighbourhood culture can be accomplished through activities such as celebrations and special events. Neighbourhood identity develops a sense of belonging and cohesiveness.

Organization - A neighbourhood develops groups, associations, organizational structures and procedures to reconcile differences, establish agreements through consensus, connect neighbours and represent its diversity.

Communications and Connections - The neighbourhood maintains communication methods that enable its organizations and associations to include all residents in their representation, identity and goals. The neighbourhood encourages connections between people with such elements as: front porches, clotheslines, group projects, informal networks, community newsletters, cycle and pedestrian paths, benches and community celebrations.

Safety & Health - A neighbourhood should foster a personal and collective sense of security, both in the home and in the street. A healthy community is one in which people’s skills and capacities are fully utilized by the neighbourhood, and the neighbourhood’s resources (citizen talents, local associations and institutions) are maximized.

Accessibility - Safe movement within and between the neighbourhoods by pedestrian and cycle modes and easy access to public amenities are priorities. Movement of people takes precedence over movement of traffic. Traffic calming measures are encouraged within the neighbourhood.

Planning & Programming - As well as being involved in the updates to neighbourhood plans, residents participate in the consideration of day-to-day land use and social issues. Overall planning strategy for the Downtown and the whole City involves local neighbourhoods. Recreational, social and educational programming is responsive to neighbourhood priorities with new programs being developed and facilitated by the appropriate agency, in response to gaps in existing service.

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