

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL- BEING PLAN: 2026- 2030

February 23, 2026



SAULT STE. MARIE

WHY THIS PLAN MATTERS NOW

- Sault Ste. Marie is required under provincial legislation to have a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- Residents and community partners identified safety concerns tied to mental health, substance use, and visible distress
- Fragmented responses across systems are contributing to inconsistent outcomes and avoidable escalation
- Housing instability and homelessness are placing sustained pressure on emergency and frontline services



THE PLAN BEFORE COUNCIL

- A legislatively required Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- A plan developed through local data, community engagement, and cross-sector input
- A shared framework that sets priorities, roles, and coordination across systems
- A five-year plan focused on prevention, early response, and system alignment



HOW THE PLAN WAS BUILT

- Public Community Safety and Well-Being Survey responses from more than 1,200 residents
- Youth survey findings and Algoma Public Health insights on wellbeing, substance use, and risk factors
- Perspectives from Indigenous partners, service providers, community organizations, and frontline staff
- Local data from police, EMS, health care, housing, and homelessness systems
- Priorities were shaped by bringing these voices and data sources together, rather than any single perspective



HOW THE CSWB FOCUSES ON ACTION

- Aligns multiple systems around shared priorities, not parallel efforts
- Shifts response efforts earlier and upstream to reduce escalation and crisis demand
- Establishes clear leadership and coordination across focus areas
- Builds in accountability and learning through outcomes and indicators
- Is supported by dedicated coordination capacity, through a Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator role



THE FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

From immediate safety and response to long-term stability and prevention

**SAFER SHARED
PUBLIC SPACES**

**EARLY OUTREACH
& SUPPORT**

**HOUSING STABILITY
AND REDUCED
HOMELESSNESS**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
BELONGING,
PREVENTION, &
STRUCTURED-TIME**



PRIORITY 1: SAFER SHARED PUBLIC SPACES

This priority focuses on coordinated, culturally safe approaches to safety and diversion.

Focus Area	Implementation Lead
Coordinated Presence in Shared Public Spaces	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Community Standards in Shared Public Spaces	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Culturally Safe Engagement & Indigenous Navigation	Sault Ste. Marie Indigenous Friendship Centre
Justice Diversion & Early Stabilization	SSM Police Service and Sault Area Hospital (Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team)
Environmental Design & Public-Space Improvements	City of Sault Ste. Marie (Parks, Public Works)

** Each focus area includes specific actions, outcomes, and indicators detailed in the Implementation Framework.*



PRIORITY 2: EARLY OUTREACH & SUPPORT

This priority focuses on earlier, more coordinated outreach and engagement to reduce crisis escalation and improve access to supports.

Focus Area	Implementation Lead
Earlier, More Consistent Outreach Response	Canadian Mental Health Association Sault Ste. Marie and District (Community Outreach)
Predictable & Expanded Outreach Coverage	Canadian Mental Health Association Sault Ste. Marie and District (Community Outreach)
Indigenous-Led Outreach & Cultural Navigation	Indigenous organizations
Crisis Diversion & Non-Criminal Response Integration	Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (SSM Police Service and Sault Area Hospital)
Youth-Focused Outreach & Prevention (IPM / Planet Youth)	Algoma Family Services and Algoma Public Health

** Each focus area includes specific actions, outcomes, and indicators detailed in the Implementation Framework.*



PRIORITY 3: HOUSING STABILITY & REDUCED HOMELESSNESS

This priority focuses on preventing housing loss, strengthening housing stability, and supporting clear pathways out of homelessness, as further outlined in the updated Homelessness Strategy.

Focus Area	Implementation Lead
Housing Loss Prevention & Early Intervention	DSSAB
Stabilization Supports for Housing Retention	DSSAB
Culturally Safe Housing Pathways (Indigenous Led)	Indigenous organizations
Clear Pathways Out of Homelessness	DSSAB
Supportive Housing Expansion & System Capacity Building	DSSAB

** Each focus area includes specific actions, outcomes, and indicators detailed in the Implementation Framework.*



PRIORITY 4: CHILDREN AND YOUTH BELONGING, PREVENTION & STRUCTURED TIME

This priority focuses on strengthening belonging, early prevention, and positive structured-time opportunities for children and youth.

Focus Area	Implementation Lead
Children and Youth Belonging & Connection	Algoma Family Services
Prevention Through Positive, Structured-Time Opportunities (IPM-Aligned)	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Youth Mental Health & Early Support Pathways	Algoma Family Services
Culturally Safe Youth Supports & Indigenous Youth Pathways	Indigenous organizations
Youth Spaces, Accessibility & Safe Environments	City of Sault Ste. Marie

** Each focus area includes specific actions, outcomes, and indicators detailed in the Implementation Framework.*



A SHARED SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK

- Connects safety, outreach, health, housing, and prevention into a single, coordinated approach to improved safety and wellness outcomes
- Aligns responses across organizations while respecting existing mandates and roles
- Creates shared reference points for standards, priorities, and decision-making across the system
- Supported by a Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator role that convenes partners, tracks progress, and maintains momentum over time



WHAT THIS PLAN PUTS IN MOTION

- A shared, community-wide direction for enhanced safety and well-being in Sault Ste. Marie
- More predictable, proactive and coordinated responses across systems
- Reduced escalation and clearer pathways for people experiencing distress
- Stronger crisis prevention and stability over time



QUESTIONS