

## Town of Windsor

### Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Focus Group Session

Social Pillar (was held in conjunction with the Cultural Pillar (which is captured in separate notes)

June 19, 2018 / 6:30 – 9:10pm, Windsor Council Chambers, 100 King St., Windsor, NS

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## 2.0 SOCIAL FOCUS GROUP

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### Participants:

Louis Coutinho	Town of Windsor, CAO
Shelleena Thornton	Town of Windsor, Municipal Clerk
Troy Burgess	Town of Windsor, Superintendent of Operations & Traffic Authority
Dianne Levy	Town of Windsor, Manager of Recreation Programs
Anna Allen	Town of Windsor, Mayor
Laurie Murley	Town of Windsor, Deputy Mayor
Jim Ivey	Town of Windsor, Councillor
Shelley Bibby	Town of Windsor, Councillor
John Bregante	Town of Windsor, Councillor
Brad Carrigan	Pisiquid Canoe Club
Wanda Graves	Realtor, Remax
Barry Braun	Happy Community Project
Adrienne Wood	Windsor Business Enhancement Society (WBES)
Ashley Langille	Windsor Business Enhancement Society (WBES)
Conrad Gilbert	Royal Canadian Legion, Hants County Br. 009
Amber Walker	Halifax – NS Health Authority (NSHA) Public Health, Central Zone
Nora Dickson	Fall River – NS Health Authority (NSHA) Public Health, Central Zone
Danny Everson	Mermaid Theatre
Johnnie Monette	Citizen

## 2.1 ASSETS/FEATURES

### *Geographical*

- Proximity to Halifax, the Valley, the Hants Shore, East Hants, and the South Shore (prime location to bustle with employment, activity, etc)
- Can see and access Windsor right from the highway
- Lake Pisiquid
- Urban/rural diversity mix
- Fort Edward Historical Site
- Friendly, small town atmosphere
- Walkable and has trails
- Park land
- Cyclist friendly/Blue Route is coming
- Minas Basin/Tidal
- “Share the Road” support

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#### *Health Care & Safety*

- Hants Community Hospital offers a lot
- Has recruited new doctors
- Excellent paramedical practitioners
- Community supports healthy living
- Offers, provides a lot for seniors, the physically disabled and mentally challenged, and has homes for Community Services
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) support at the Cedar Centre
- West Hants Wellness Team connects people and services
- Many support groups (i.e. New Mom Support, etc)
- Abundance of complimentary wellness
- Has own Police, Fire and EHS

#### *Municipal Services*

- New waste water treatment facility
- Have lit sidewalks
- Snow clearing is good & timely
- Shared municipal cooperation with the Municipality of the District of West Hants
- Bill 177 and Commercial Development District (CDD)
- Treated water (drinking water)
- Nice crosswalks
- Joint Tourism Strategy with East Hants and West Hants
- Actively enforcing the Dangerous or Unsightly By-law
- Windsor rarely loses power/electricity
- Gerrish Street upgrades is an improvement

#### *Recreation*

- Mermaid Theatre
- Trails (active transportation)
- Concerts/rich music opportunities (lessons, waterfront concert series, stores, etc)
- Disc Golf Course
- Four Cadet Corps (Navy League, Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, King's-Edgehill School Army Cadets)
- Multiple sporting opportunities
- Excellent and diverse recreation programs/opportunities for all ages
- Skatepark
- New Farmers' Market
- Coin Club
- Library
- Games Night (at the library)
- 'MAKERS' (a place where the community can make, learn, teach, tinker, gather, collaborate, share, innovate, socialize, build, create, buy and sell)

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- Pisiqid Canoe Club (only Canoe Club outside of Halifax Regional Municipality)
- New public docks on Lake Pisiqid at Pisiqid Canoe Club
- Avon Valley Golf Course
- Many facilities and playgrounds (i.e. Hants Aquatic Centre, Elmcroft Park, Waterfront Exercise Equipment, etc)
- New arena in Brooklyn (Newport) and new proposed arena for Windsor
- Proximity to Ski Martock and On-Tree (outdoor adventure park)
- Fishing

#### *Volunteers / Service Organizations*

- Happy Community Project
- Community has a healthy “wanting to help” base (without obligation to commit to particular timeframes)
- Many social service groups for young & aged (MAKERS, Gyros, Lions Club, Rotary Club, West Hants Ground Search and Rescue, etc)
- Windsor Business Enhancement Society (WBES)
- Communities in Bloom
- Royal Canadian Legion (which is also a ‘comfort centre’ in emergency situations)

## 2.2 CHALLENGES/NEEDS

#### *Geographical*

- Needs affordable public transportation (no transit)
- Need to promote proximity to HRM (many don’t realize Windsor is only 45 minutes from Halifax; many think Windsor is a couple of hours away)
- Need an Economic Development Officer (Valley Regional Enterprise Network (REN) will help)
- Proximity to the city (Halifax) and increased crime
- People travel to the city to shop rather than shopping local

#### *Health Care & Safety*

- Drugs
- Lack of Provincially sponsored support for mental health issues (can be intimidating)
- More compassion for those facing/having different challenges
- Should have dialysis in Windsor
- Need doctor recruitment
- More accessibility (ramps, etc)
- Statistics reflect 1 in 4 children go to school hungry

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#### *Municipal Services*

- Need more waste containers and education programs on waste/source-separation and littering
- Public expectation (for taxpayers and non-taxpayers) and demand on municipal services
- Have a re-branding initiative for Windsor
- Beautify areas
- The “Town of Windsor” needs to communicate better (incl. social media communication)
- Should raise Windsor’s profile on the internet (ensure accurate and up-to-date)

#### *Housing*

- Need more affordable housing (defined as 30% of gross income)
- Need high-end housing
- Enforcement of the Dangerous or Unsightly Bylaw
- The CAP (Property Tax Assessment)

#### *Recreation / Active Transportation*

- Lake Pisiquid water levels
- Lack of youth gathering places
- Need more bike racks

#### *Volunteers / Service Organizations*

- Volunteer burn-out (many people like to help when they can but unable to commit to certain days/hours)

## **2.3 REQUIRED ACTIONS**

- Better communication
- Promote all Windsor has to offer
- Need more bike racks
- Establish Windsor’s identity and market it to the world (a NEW identity)
- Need affordable public transportation
- The ‘larger’ community (not just the “Town of Windsor”) engage with the Province of NS land-use of Lake Pisiquid (used for recreation, fire protection, etc)

## **2.4 DESIRE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR...**

- All Windsor has to offer geographically, services & programs, culture, etc
- Passion, pride and strong sense of community (town-spirit/community spirit)
- It’s diverse recreational opportunities
- Potential opportunities
- Family lifestyle