Health and Well-Being

Context

The City’s goal of building a healthy city for all means that we are creating and continually improving the conditions that enable all of us to enjoy the highest level of health and well-being possible. Achieving a healthy neighbourhood for all in the Downtown Eastside means addressing significant health and social inequities and working to secure social assets, which will require everyone working together. A strong sense of belonging, inclusion, and dignity are fundamental to well-being, and everyone is entitled to have their basic needs met.

Building Blocks of a Healthy City For All

Inclusion, Belonging, and Safety

Emerging Directions

- Enhance all residents’ sense of safety and actual safety
- Maximize benefits for the low-income community in new developments (e.g. housing, food assets, jobs)
- Protect low-income assets from gentrification and displacement
- Implement recommendations from the City’s Task Force on Sex Work and Sexual Exploitation and the Murdered and Missing Women’s Inquiry

QUICK-START ACTIONS

- Support projects that promote inclusion and sense of belonging through grant funding
- Completed pilot workshops for City staff on awareness training for working with sex workers
- Hiring underway for 2 sex worker liaison positions to enhance safety
Health and Well-Being

Emerging Directions:
- Increase equitable access to quality and inclusive health, social, and community services
- Support organizations working with vulnerable residents

Access to Food
Emerging Directions:
10-Year Objective: Improve the access, quality, and nutrition of charitable food, and increase non-charitable food assets by 50% (city-wide)
- Explore more local/sustainable and nutritious food at key high-volume food kitchens
- Help to create jobs in the food sector
- Explore local food production and growing opportunities
- Encourage more affordable and inclusive restaurants and food retail businesses through social enterprise or co-operatives

Quick-Start Actions
- Pilot a healthy corner store program and mobile vending (green grocer) projects
- Increase access to nutritious food preparation for tenants in existing and new SROs and social housing

Children, Youth, and Families
Emerging Directions:
10-Year Objective: Decrease child vulnerability from 51% to 15% (EDI)
- Create more affordable childcare and after-school care
- Increase services and service coordination for vulnerable youth

Quick-Start Actions
- Create more affordable childcare spaces through partnerships (Woodward’s: 37 new spaces planned)
- Work with the public and community partners to increase services for youth who are transitioning out of care