

North Cowichan encampment and public safety response

Presentation to North Cowichan Committee of the Whole

October 7, 2025

About this presentation

- This is a draft outline of a North Cowichan-specific response for encampments and public safety.
- This response includes some framework for a new Safer Community Plan
 - *That plan will require further input and approval from Cowichan Tribes and City of Duncan, as well as a review with community partners*
- Input and feedback heard tonight will help inform our next steps

Situational context

Year-over-year changes in enumeration across 56 Canadian communities

	Change (percentage)			
PiT count year comparison	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Transitionally housed	Total enumeration
2018 to 2020-22	+95%	+3%	-22%	+11%
2020-22 to 2024	+107%	+71%	+62%	+79%

2019 Safer Community Plan

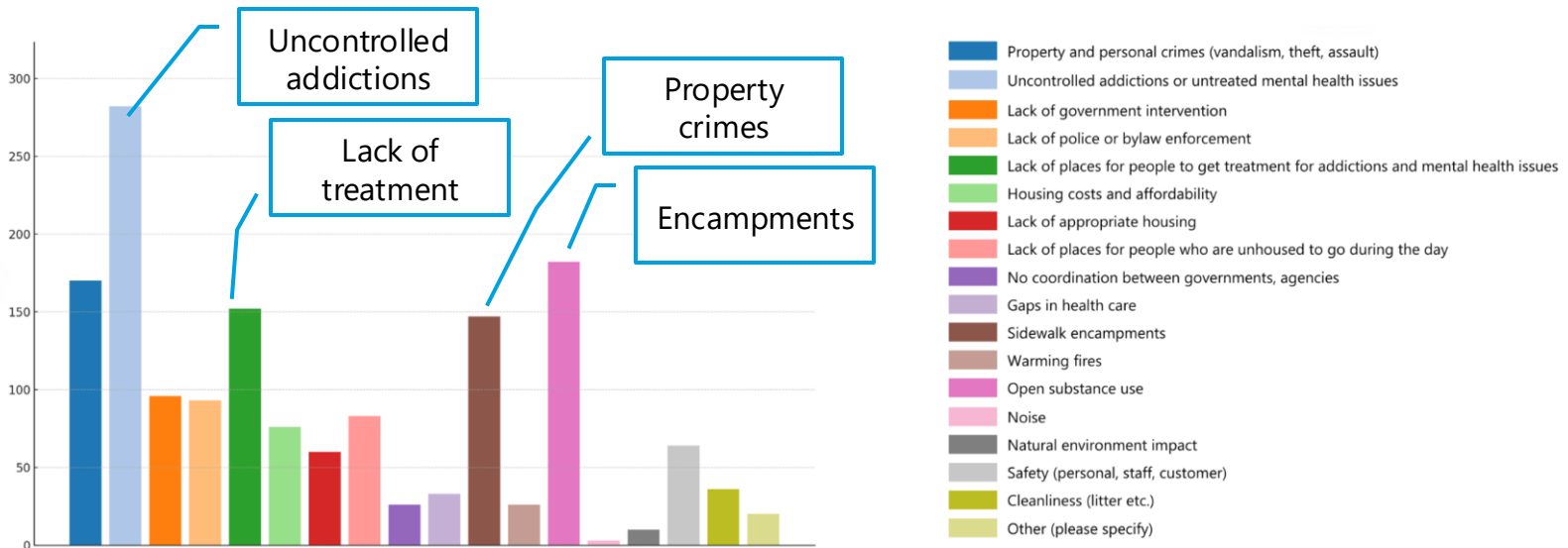
- The current plan is that we are working with City of Duncan and Cowichan Tribes
- The report tonight references some of the elements you might expect to see in a finalised plan
- A revised Safer Community Plan is underway in collaboration with our partners

Combined Initiatives

- SAFER Working Group (monthly meetings)
- Private security patrols
- Community policing
- Harmonize bylaws across jurisdictions

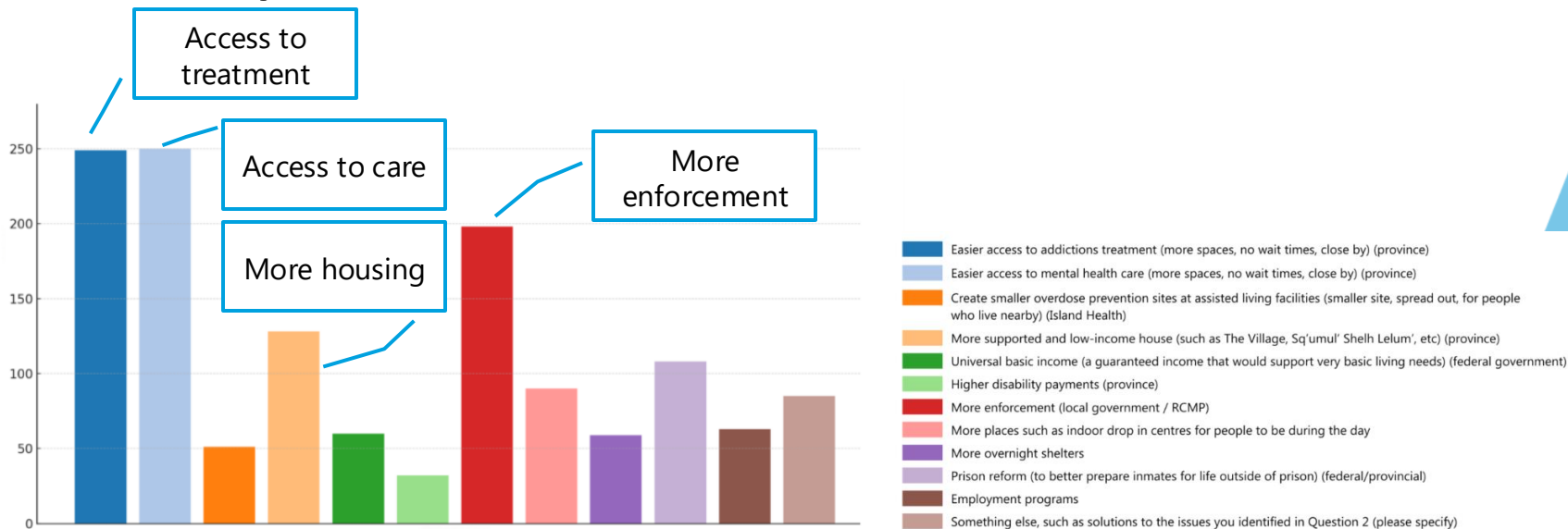
What we heard report (2024)

Top issues



What we heard report (2024)

Best ways forward



Issues and responses

A prioritized response plan to address each issue

1 Existing response + resourcing

3 Very enhanced response

2 Enhanced response

4 Very very enhanced response

1: Addictions

- 1 Advocate for provincially funded treatment beds
- 2 Post-treatment residential living
- 3 Site for a substance use treatment facility
- 4 Two sites for substance use treatment facilities

2: Untreated mental illness

- 1 Advocate for provincial mental health programs
- 2 Institute 'Car 40' program
- 3 Advocate province for an involuntary care facility

3: Open substance use

- 1 Bylaw review for open substance use
- 2 Advocate federal crown counsel for more prosecution for illicit substance use

4: Property and personal crimes

- 1 Continued deployment of RCMP to corridor
- 2 Additional dedicated RCMP for corridor

5: Sidewalk encampments

- 1 Continue with existing bylaw and clean team presence
- 2 Encampment dismantling
- 4 Sanctioned and managed space (day/night)

6: Lack of police and bylaw officers

- 1 Continue with existing staffing resources
- 2 3 Additional staffing resources
- 4 (bylaw officers, community safety officers, clean team members, RCMP officers)

7: Lack of appropriate housing

- 1 Continue with existing supported housing
- 2
- 3 Wellness Plan housing and shelter solutions
- 4 (village site(s))

8: Public urination

- 1 Continue with current clean team response
- 2 Provide additional resources to support power washing
- 3 Provide portable toilets at high traffic sites

9: Noise

- 1 Continue with current RCMP response (evenings)
- 2 3 Provide adequate overnight shelter beds

10: Personal safety

- 1 Continue with current RCMP/bylaw response
- 2 Develop a community safety officer program

11: Voice for impacted people

- 1 Continue with existing bylaw and police response
- 2 Create a safety and solutions advisory group for residents and businesses to engage in dialogue

Next steps

- Hear North Cowichan Council's feedback
- Share Safer Community Plan draft with North Cowichan, Duncan, Cowichan Tribes councils
- Regroup with advocacy groups, partners, etc.
- Further develop our encampment response
- Clarify our role with the Cowichan Vision for Wellness
- Develop terms of reference for groups