

**JOINT MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND WELL BEING PLAN
2021 – 2026**



Township of Macdonald, Meredith, and Aberdeen Additional
and Township of Laird

Contents

Message from Council	3
Acknowledgements	4
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic	5
Executive Summary	6
Introduction	7
1.0 Community Safety and Wellbeing Framework.....	7
2.0 Municipal Background	7
3.0 Community Risk	8
3.1 Violent Crimes.....	8
3.2 Property Crimes	8
3.3 Domestic Disturbances	8
3.4 Mental Health Occurrences	9
3.5 Drug Related Occurrences	11
4.0 Limitations	11
5.0 Strategic Plan	11
6.0 Municipal Funding	11
7.0 Youth Services	12
8.0 Poverty	13
8.1 Workforce Entry	13
8.2 Housing	14
8.3 Food Security	15
9.0 Education and Awareness	15
10.0 Conclusion.....	16

Message from Council

Early this year, our councils made it a priority to develop and present this Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB). Our municipalities embarked on a collaborative initiative to identify solutions to the challenges members of our communities face to improve the overall quality of life for our residents.

Our main goal is to unite and strive to achieve safety and well-being for all of the Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and Laird communities. Through collaboration between our community, partners and councils we can strive to achieve these goals.

We as a community pursue engagement and participation, alongside the values of work and living. With many experienced backgrounds, we have a diverse range of abilities and resources within our two municipalities. We are confident that this plan will be beneficial to all persons and organizations.

Our residents and their needs are our highest priority. The purpose of this plan is to strengthen our community, increase our assets, and live worry-free.

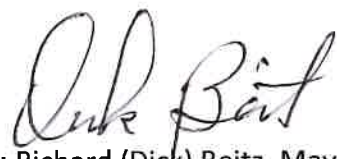
Council recognizes the predominant risks occurring within our community and spares no effort in acknowledging the supportive actions and precautions that can be made. There are hopes for this to brighten the problem areas and reduce risk in our townships.

If all members of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and Laird Townships work together with their councils, we can successfully improve well-being and create safer place for all.



Signed: Lynn Watson, Mayor

Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Add'l



Signed: Richard (Dick) Beitz, Mayor

Laird Township

Acknowledgements

Thank you for the support from each of the following partners in the creation of this plan:

- ❖ Kelly Rowlinson – Child Care Algoma
- ❖ Nancy McLean – Algoma District Services Administration Board
- ❖ Kristy Harper/Liliana Bressan – Algoma Public Health
- ❖ Scott Purnis/Jason Kennedy – Echo Bay Public School
- ❖ Tom Headrick – Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen
Additional Police Service Board
- ❖ Shelly Bailey – Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional
Police Service Board
- ❖ Jennifer Errington – Clerk, Township of Laird
- ❖ Lynne Duguay – Clerk, Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen
Additional
- ❖ Manuela Byrnes – OPP – Detachment Commander, Sault Ste. Marie
- ❖ Laurie Graham – OPP – Sargent, Sault Ste. Marie

Thank you to all of the volunteers within the community who assist at our local food banks, service clubs, churches and youth recreation programs.

We would also like to recognize the input and commitment from all the organizations that have contributed to this community safety and well-being plan.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended most aspects of daily life in the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and Laird Township—not to mention globally. A state of emergency was first declared in March 2020 to combat what would soon become a global pandemic. COVID-19 had an immediate and resounding impact in our community. More than one year later, we continue to feel the effects—and will for many years to come. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented restrictions on everyday life. Loneliness and feelings of isolation are being felt by many. As the pandemic has unfolded, only some of the potential impacts on community safety and well-being have been realized—including crime, physical and mental health, public safety, security, and risk prevention. The COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic disruption will have large-scale effects in areas of social and health determinants, highlighting inequalities in labour markets that have disproportionately affected individuals within priority populations, including those who are marginalized and most vulnerable. Many vulnerable populations in the region have more acutely experienced the economic impacts of the pandemic. Social and economic recovery from the pandemic requires a new tethering of police services to the broader economic logic of social investment. Through proactive harm reduction and social inclusion, our CSWB Plan can help to advance our recovery.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this community safety and well-being plan is to be able to build on our assets and community strengths in order to improve the health and well-being for all who live in the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional (MMAA) and the Laird Township.

We hope to achieve the ideal state of a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, and access to services, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

Under the Sault Ste. Marie Ontario Provincial Police Detachment, the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and the Township of Laird are the only two organized townships within their jurisdiction. These two communities share resources such as an elementary school, Algoma District Services Administration Board, Algoma Public Health, Volunteer Fire Department, and Police Services.

A collaborative approach will create a strong plan that will address local priorities that are shared between the two municipalities. The key points that will be recognized within this plan are (a) identifying risk factors, (b) determining evidence based strategies to address the risk factors, and (c) determining measureable outcomes to ensure that the strategies implemented are successful at enhancing community safety and wellbeing. Developing strategies that are preventative as opposed to reactive will ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the safety and well-being of our communities.

Our strategies will be developed by assessing and leveraging community strengths and further establishing what resources are available to our communities. Once risks are prioritized, we can identify what outcomes are intended for each risk. From here, we will create measureable and achievable outcomes based on these resources.

The two most common risks recognized within our two communities are property crimes and domestic disturbances. Other offences that have needed police involvement in the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and the Township of Laird are violent crimes, drug related occurrences, and mental health and family disputes. The data from 2017-2019 provides us with a visualization of the spike in property crimes that occurred in 2018. This was the most significant issue within our municipalities over these three years of recorded police involvement. Instead of issuing more law enforcement, our community desires to invest in prevention and draw more focus to youth opportunity. This will assist in creating a safer, more supportive, and welcoming community.

Introduction

Under the Police Services Act, it has been regulated that all municipalities must have a Community Safety and Well Being Plan (CSWP) in place and must be adopted by council as of July 2021. This framework adheres to the collaboration between several different stakeholders to identify and prioritize risk factors within our community and determine how we can successfully minimize these risks and provide our residents with a safer community.

1.0 Community Safety and Well Being Framework

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is designed to assess our current issues recognized within our municipalities. From 2017-2019 there were 311 reported offences to the OPP within our communities under the sections of violent crimes, property crimes, domestic disturbances, drug related occurrences, mental health occurrences, and family disputes. With knowledge of these statistics, we can create a plan to prevent and control these incidents from occurring within our jurisdiction. From conclusions of a survey poll, it was determined that Canadians prefer to invest in prevention and education instead of more law enforcement and punishment. This statement is significant in our municipalities where our citizens appreciate the joint effort from one another to limit these actions and disturbances.

2.0 Municipal Background

The Township of MMAA is comprised of a rural setting, cottage area, and the village of Echo Bay being the hub of the community. This includes multiple parks, Sportsplex arena, boardwalk, bird viewing, recreational fields, a local business area, community halls, lending library, museum, an elementary school and daycare.

The Township of Laird is primarily rural with the Hamlet of Bar River. They provide an outdoor rink, Laird Fairgrounds, Laird Raceway, recreational fields, bird viewing, parks and a museum.

These two townships have a combined population of 2656 citizens. About 65% of our population consists of those between the ages of 15-64. Our youngest generation comprises less than 17% and the eldest is near with almost 18%. The average age in MMAA is 42.1 years old while Laird averages 43.7 years of age.

The majority of our population has received post-secondary education or higher. Less than 8% of residents have no certificate. We have a mainly English speaking population, with just over 6% being both English and French speaking. Over 70% of residents in Laird and MMAA are of European origin and 11.3% are of Aboriginal descent. In addition, 3.9% of our residents are immigrants and only 0.8% are of a visible minority.¹

¹ Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population.

3.0 Community Risks

Within recent years, the village of Echo Bay has shown a consistent level of crime related offences. Some situations have required more police involvement, which allows us to conclude that we as a community need to improve our prevention initiatives.

3.1 Violent Crimes

In our community from 2017-2019, we averaged approximately 14 violent crimes requiring OPP response annually. This statistic shows no significant increase or decrease, and fluctuations can be attributed to random variation. It is also possible that these acts could be linked to rising concerns with substance abuse and/or mental illness within the community. This is reason enough to focus on these issues and provide assistance and resources for mental health and substance abuse.

Supporting Actions:

- Provide information and access to upstream mental health resources and supports for mental wellness.
- Provide information and access to rehabilitation/treatment facilities.
- Continue to invest in youth opportunities and programming for a sense of community engagement, belonging, and mental health development.
- Provide public education on the determinants of violent crimes and strategies for prevention

3.2 Property Crimes

The largest portion of our municipalities' offences is property crimes. The OPP dealt with 166 occurrences of property crimes over three years' time, averaging 27 property crimes per annum. In 2020, the average dropped to 20 property crimes. This is a 26% decrease in property crimes and shows promising data that provides optimism for the continuation of reducing our community's property crime rate.

Supporting Actions:

- Continued investment in youth opportunities and programming
- Public Education

3.3 Domestic Disturbances

Another highlighted issue within our townships is domestic violence. We experienced 59 occurrences from 2017-2019 for an average of 20 occurrences per annum. The data shows an increase in these offences, and is becoming more of a concern in our community.

Domestic violence is identified as violence in intimate relationships, including those between the opposite-sex and same-sex partners. Relationships vary in duration and legal formality and encompass current and former dating partners, common-law, and married couples. Although both women and men can be victims of domestic violence, the overwhelming majority of domestic violence involves men abusing women. Domestic violence crimes are often committed in a context where there is a pattern of assaultive and controlling behaviour. This violence can involve physical assault, and emotional,

psychological, and sexual abuse. It can also include threats to harm past or present partners, children, other family members, pets, and property. Violence is used to intimidate, humiliate, or frighten victims, or to make them feel powerless. Domestic violence may include a single act of abuse or several acts, which may appear minor or trivial when viewed in isolation, but collectively form a pattern that amounts to abuse. Exposure to violence and experiences of abuse can lead to poor physical and mental health outcomes and potentially lead to injury or even death. An intersection of individual, family, community, and societal factors can influence whether an individual experiences family violence. For example, a history of child abuse or neglect, substance abuse, family conflict, poverty, and gender norms can all contribute to the risk of family violence.²

Supporting Actions:

- Increase the understanding and awareness of domestic and family violence as an issue
- Accept and Support “The vision for Child Welfare in Ontario”

Ontario is building a child and family services system that ensures more families stay together and that children and youth in care have the support they need to be safe, succeed and thrive. The child welfare redesign focuses on transforming child and

family services to strengthen families and communities through:

- Prevention
- Early intervention, and
- Finding more permanent homes for children and youth in care when they cannot stay in their own homes or communities

3.4 Mental Health

Over three years the Ontario Provincial Police responded to 17 mental health related occurrences in the Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and Laird Townships. This seems to be a rising concern amongst our communities. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic with distanced learning and remote working, children and adults have been exposed to an unprecedented increase in screen time, and reduced in-person involvement. This has been a large contributing factor for poor mental health for individual’s nation-wide. In Canada, 1 in 5 youth struggle with mental health. For those that experience mental health challenges, 70% are onset in childhood. This is why positive social deterrents in life are so important. Early life experience, education history, race, sexual orientation and many other factors are significant to one’s mental health.³ Growing up with social and cultural expectations can carry large amounts of stress on an individual to meet these points or to express themselves in their own way. In the adult class, aspects such as food insecurity, poor working conditions or unemployment, and discrimination can have a severe

² Government of Canada. (2016). The Chief Public Health Officer’s report on the state of public health in Canada 2016 - A focus on family violence in Canada

³ Mental Health. (2021). Canadian Mental Health Association.

negative impact on one's mental health as well. By the time Canadians reach 40 years of age, studies have shown that 1 in 2 have or have had a mental illness.

It can be a surprise to some that up to 30% of Ontarians aged 65+ have a mental health issue, even though young people aged 15 to 24 are more likely to experience mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders than any other age group. In Ontario 48% of high school students indicate a moderate or serious level of anxiety and depression. People with a mental illness are twice as likely to have a substance abuse problem compared to the general population. At least 20% of people with a mental illness have a co-occurring substance abuse problem. Similarly, people with substance abuse problems are up to three times more likely to have a mental illness, leading to 15% of people with a substance abuse problem have a co-occurring mental illness. This is the reason that those with mental illness and addictions are more likely to die prematurely than the general population.

Canadians in the lowest income group are three to four times more likely than those in the highest income group to report poor to fair mental health. Mental illness is a leading cause of disability in Canada. While mental illnesses account for 10% of the burden of disease in Ontario, it only receives 7% of health care dollars. The mental health care in Ontario is underfunded by nearly \$1.5 billion. The Mental Health Strategy for Canada recommends raising the proportion of health spending that is devoted to mental health to 9% by 2022. The economic burden of mental illness in Canada is estimated at

\$51 billion per year. This includes health care costs, lost productivity, and reductions in quality of life. Of Canadians aged 15 and older who report having a mental health care need in the past year, one third state that their needs were not fully met. An estimated 75% of children with mental disorders do not access specialized treatment services. Wait times for counselling and therapy can be long, especially for children and youth. In Ontario, wait times of six months to one year are common.

In any given week, at least 500,000 employed Canadians are unable to work due to mental health problems. This risk can reduce income and lead to poverty.⁴

We need better access for individuals facing mental health challenges. Additionally, we should focus on maintaining a warm and welcoming environment and sense of community for our youth to thrive by providing them with multiple opportunities for participation, employment, advice and care.

Supporting Actions:

- Educate the public to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and make it a welcoming and safe community for all
- Improve access to mental health and addiction services by supporting the efforts in Sault Ste. Marie for a recently approved expansion of Residential Withdrawal

⁴Mental Illness and Addiction: Facts and Statistics. (2021). CAMH.

Management & Safe Beds services in Sault Ste. Marie.

- Continue investing in recreational and youth opportunities in our community
- Provide mental health resources information to all community members.

3.6 Drug Related Occurrences

Algoma Public Health had reported an increase of opioid-related harms in the region. In 2020, an arrest was made for a crime in our region for a manslaughter charge in relation to an opioid overdose. This is part of the ripple effect that comes as a result of the ongoing opiate crisis occurring in our neighboring city of Sault Ste. Marie. The highest rates of opioid mortality since the pandemic are those in Northern Ontario including Sault Ste. Marie. In 2019 the opioid-related death rate was 14.9 per 100,000 and in 2020 the rate increased to 46.5 per 100,000 (APH). The economic cost of substance use in Canada in 2014 was \$38.4 billion. This includes costs related to healthcare, criminal justice and lost productivity. Elements of health, poverty, lack of secure housing, and occupational issues amongst others are significant reasons that there has been an increase in substance abuse in this area.

By supporting the City of Sault Ste. Marie in their effort to battle the opiate crisis we can proactively try to prevent and reduce the ripple effect of drug related crime and offences from spreading into our rural municipalities. Between the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and Township of Laird

municipalities, there have only been two drug related occurrences requiring police involvement over these three years. While there is evidence of miniscule drug related issues within our community, we cannot ignore the fact that the issue is still actively occurring and by proactively combating drug use and crime, we can positively affect our community.

Supporting Actions:

- Educate the public about naloxone and make naloxone more accessible
- Improve access to mental health and addiction services by supporting the efforts in Sault Ste. Marie for a recently approved expansion of Residential Withdrawal Management & Safe Beds services in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Continue investing in recreational and youth opportunities in our community

4.0 Limitations

Not all experienced risks have been covered in this plan due to the limited amount of consultation in the community in result from the COVID-19 pandemic measures. The majority of this plan covers information on those in the working age group, limiting the child population. By focusing on early childhood support and education, we hope this will lead to better statistics for the labour force in later years. If we cannot focus on children to develop into positive adults, our community will not benefit.

5.0 Strategic Plan

In this generation of technology and growing equality, mental health has become an important focus for all persons. If we target this, we can increase our sustainability and assist in increased quality of life. Another big area to target will be to establish community programs, safe spaces, and to provide hotline information to assist with family and domestic disputes, and coping with trauma.

6.0 Municipal Funding

Interpersonal crime does \$55 billion in harm to citizens annually. The total harm to Canadian victims of crime suggests that tangible losses such as property loss, wages, and costs of health care are close to \$10 billion each year. Intangible losses such as pain, suffering, and loss of quality of life due to trauma of crime result in nearly \$45 billion, which is equivalent to 2% of Canada's GDP. The annual budget in the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional for municipal policing is \$304.81 per citizen or \$157.04 per household per year and \$267.75 per citizen or \$139.79 per household in the Township of Laird.

Through a survey, 60% of Canadians preferred to control crime through investments in education and crime prevention rather than police, lawyers, and jails. Currently, the costs of policing has doubled to 13.5 billion since 2000, rising 43% above inflation. We utilize 200 officers per 100,000 residents and 60% of this cost is paid by municipalities. If we invest the equivalent of 10% of what we currently spend on policing, courts, and corrections in

effective crime prevention, we can reduce crime sustainably by as much as 50%.

7.0 Youth Services

The Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional and the Township of Laird have been very active communities and provide many new opportunities for all.

In the summer months, we offer summer camps at an affordable rate for kids to be able to socialize, learn new skills, and stay active. Along with these summer camps, we provide a summer reading program every week free of charge. This is a great opportunity for all families to be able to bring their children out without having to decide on giving them these experiences or putting food on their table. For low-income families, these decisions can be difficult on both the parents and the children.

For ages 3 and up we also offer affordable baseball and soccer programs. As an active community, most parents like to see their kids enjoy the same things that they did when they were growing up. The village of Echo Bay has always had friendly competition when it came to sports and we have developed many great athletes who find pride in their sporting accomplishments, whether it is at the elementary school or high school level, or if they go on to further their abilities. Having access to these team events and by coaching our youth we can positively influence a child's mental and physical health, as well as their behaviors and demeanor as they grow. This provides our youth with something to focus on and look forward to in a healthy and positive way, as

opposed to being isolated, feeling detached from their community, or partaking in harmful health and social behaviors.

Our municipalities also provide the opportunity for adults to participate in baseball leagues at our local Echo Bay Elk's Lodge recreation fields. This provides a sense of belonging to people in our community and the feeling of being welcome. It is something to look forward to each week and assists in alleviating stress after a long workweek. Offering recreational activities for people of all ages plays a significant role in the social, mental and physical health of residents in our community.

Collectively our municipalities and community partners have worked together to provide a number of recreational activities to members of our communities. The Echo Bay Elks Lodge has invested in a new baseball fields, as well as new playground equipment in their park. Both municipalities have continually invested in their recreational infrastructure such as their parks and arena. These continued investments have been widely welcomed by those in our community, as it provides a safe and pleasurable opportunity for participation, which encourages and assists with overall health, both physical and mental.

Another new addition that is being developed in the Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Municipality is a new multi-use outdoor sports facility with three separate recreational courts. This Sport Court can be utilized in many different ways to fit the desires of all people, of all ages, abilities

and backgrounds. It is a great way to promote activeness, friendships, and overall healthy lifestyles.

Since we are such a small rural community, it is not feasible to provide every single amenity that can be found in larger cities. However with continued investment we can continue to provide a sense of community and a warm, welcoming, and a safe place to live, work and play.

8.0 Poverty

Some areas highlighted as a necessary area of CSWB plan focus are housing, food security, and workforce entry. These attributes in our townships have been noticed and we are commencing the development of beneficial resolutions.

8.1 Workforce Entry

We have a working population of 2211 persons. Among this group the unemployment rate is 8.7%, while 62% are in participation and 56.1% are employed. Our working class varies between full time and part time workers in fields of all variety. The majority of our citizens travel to work in another town or city such as Sault Ste. Marie. As a small rural town, we have few available places of employment within our business sector.

Although the majority of persons must travel for work, it does not appear to be an issue within our community for residents to be able to find employment. For those with obstacles involving travel or family commitments, our town's business sector includes a gas station, restaurants, post office, municipal businesses, hair dressers,

bakery, hardware store, farming supply store and recreation. These provide great opportunity for summer students starting out in the labour force, co-op placements for students, as well as part-time and full-time positions for those interested.

Between the Township of Laird and the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional, the average after-tax income that residents receive is approximately \$38,000. For those who work full time, the average amount is \$59,000. This closely reflects the average salary one will receive as a worker across Canada.

In our working age group, there are 6.8% of individuals classified under low-income after taxes. With 8.7% of our labour force population currently unemployed, we can conclude that majority of our employed citizens have a beneficial and livable wage.

Supporting Actions:

- Raise awareness of the living wage to our local businesses and recognize employers who have adopted the living wage rate of pay, which is currently \$16.16/hour
- Continue to provide summer employment opportunities to the youth in our community.
- Educate members of our community about employment assistance programs available to them.

8.2 Housing

Concerning housing, 100% of dwelling distribution in Laird is single-house, while Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional contains 92.4% single-house, 6.8% other attached, and 0.8% movable.

The Township of Laird has analyzed that 3.8% of the population spend more than 30% income on housing. In Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional we conclude that 12.5% must spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Laird does not have many renting opportunities for housing whereas Macdonald has apartments and houses for tenants, as well as two Algoma District Service and Administration Board owned seniors complexes and seven Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services units. This poses a limitation for some citizens who cannot afford to own a home, but do not have access to other options. Currently 58.5% of residents utilize mortgages in the payment of their homes. It is not evident at this time that there are any persons experiencing homelessness within our municipalities.

Supporting Actions:

- Work in collaboration with Ontario's Housing Supply Action plan and amend municipal by-laws to allow for second dwelling units, i.e. tiny homes, granny flats, in-law suites, etc.
- Continue supporting our Algoma District Services Administration Board with our two senior's complexes.

8.3 Food Security

All individuals have unique circumstances and some may find they have more expenses than they do income. A solution we gathered from this information and sought for need included the establishment

of a community food bank. This food bank is entirely confidential and is there to be utilized for any and all in need. Our community comes together as a whole to make donations and volunteer their time at the food bank to be able to provide our residents in need with food, beverages, and toiletries. Harvest Algoma provides us with fresh deliveries each week to ensure there is a plentiful stock of fresh foods in the food bank. We create family and singles bins consisting of non-perishable items as well as fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, bread, eggs, and anything else that may have been delivered or donated. These resources have been greatly beneficial to our community and our citizens in times of need. We also have Meals on Wheels through Dr. Trefry Centre that provides meals for anyone recuperating on a short or long-term basis, those over 60 and those with limiting disabilities. We collaborate with Child Care Algoma to provide “Kids Can Cook” programs and Community Crockpot Kitchens, all of which offers families the opportunity to learn how to make nutritious meals that will save time and money. While enjoying a delicious crockpot supper parents will have the opportunity to discuss topics such as food safety, healthy meal menus choices, family budgeting and dealing with a picky eater. Following supper, families will prepare a meal to take home and enjoy. Crockpots will be provided to those families who do not have one. Older children are encouraged to participate in the cooking experience.

Supporting Actions:

- Expand community food bank hours of operation as needed.

- Increase community awareness about our food security, and educational resources we have available.
- Communicate with Laird residents that they are also able to access the Echo Bay and Area Food Bank located in the Macdonald Township.

9.0 Education and Awareness

As a community, we need to inform residents with accurate knowledge on these problematic situations that have been acknowledged. The highest priority will be to reduce stigma around mental health disorders and substance use and how they are linked to income, housing, and food security. It will also be important to educate on the impacts of social determinants of mental health, as well as the health and social implications of substance use disorders and mental health.

We strive to maintain a high rate of employment and opportunity within our community alongside creating healthy environments and positive atmospheres for all.

10.0 Conclusion

The Townships of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and The Township of Laird's joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan requires the coordinated efforts of all community stakeholders to ensure that the plan is responsive to the prevailing and developing social and economic risks facing our community members. The Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan is a working document that will be subject to regular review by our communities and stakeholders. The inherent variations and emerging social risks facing communities today reiterate the need for regular and adaptation to our CSWP.

Local Resource Contact Numbers:

FOR EMERGENCY - CALL 911

Sault Area Hospital - 705-759-3434

Sault Area Hospital Crisis - 705-759-3398

Sault Ste. Marie City Police - 705-949-6300

Sault Ste. Marie O.P.P. – 705-945-6833

Algoma Public Health – 705-942-4646

Wellness Checks Withdrawal Management -(Detox) - SAH- 705-942-1872

Addictions Treatment Clinic -123 East Street 705-759-6684

H.A.R.P. HIV/AIDS Resource Program- 705-759-5690

OAHAS – Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy - 705-822-8910

Pauline's Place - 705-759-4663

St Vincent - 705-253-2770 ext. 200

Woman In Crisis - 705-759-1230

Crisis Shelter Rankin - 705-941-9054

John Howard Society - 705-759-1703

OATC - 705-759-8080

Echo Bay United Church Echo Bay and Area Foodbank – 705-248-2891

Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional – 705-248-2441

Township of Laird – 705-248-2395