



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Report # 2025-40

To: Mayor and Council
From: Kerry Costello, Clerk
Date: April 23, 2025

Committee of the Whole Date: April 28, 2025

Title: Smiths Falls For All Committee Interim Report, April 2025

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachment 23 Pages

Recommendation: THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls receive the Smiths Falls For All Interim Report, April 2025 and provide direction to staff.

Purpose: To provide Council with an update on the discussions/activities of the Smiths Falls For All Committee and offer some items for Council's consideration.

Background: The Smiths Falls For All Committee was tasked with continuing with the great work done by the previous Racism and Discrimination Task Force and expand their mandate. This committee is responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equity to all its citizens. The inaugural meeting of the Smiths Falls For All Committee was held on September 14, 2023.

The committee has been actively meeting monthly and has engaged with many delegations, discussed many issues, planned events, and thought about the future work of this committee. The committee has discussed the mandate, outlined priorities/objectives and ways to reach the objective and prioritization of the tasks.

Analysis and Options:

Currently in the Terms of Reference includes the following four pillars of the sustainability framework (as per the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities):

1. Economic Sustainability
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Social Sustainability
4. Cultural Sustainability

After much consideration the Committees is looking to amend the current Terms of Reference to reference the Four (4) Priorities developed by the Committee: (Housing, Poverty, Food Insecurity, Inclusivity). The group feels this better aligns with Council's Strategic Priorities and better aligns with our community.

The committee also is requesting a minor change to the name of this committee to Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee. This better reflects what the committee is trying to accomplish.

Option 1: Recommended

THAT Council authorize the following:

- Receive the report for information.
- Change the name of the committee to Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee.
- Amend the current Terms of Reference to reference the 4 Priorities developed by the Committee (Housing, Poverty, Food Insecurity, Inclusivity)

Option 2: Not recommended

THAT Council receive the report only.

Option 3: Not recommended

THAT Council receive the report and only one of the requests for Council's consideration..

Attachment: Smiths Falls for All Interim Report, April 2025

Budget/Financial Implications: \$5,000 has been allocated in the 2025 budget.

Link to Strategic Plan:

Vision: Helping marginalized people move out of poverty

Guiding Principle Integrity and Honesty: Ensuring inclusivity

Guiding Principle Integrity and Honesty: Treating everyone equally and equitably.

Guiding Principle Respect: Treating everyone equally and equitably.

Guiding Principle Respect: Caring for the community and its people.

Strategic Priority #2- Housing: Support more diverse built housing stock to ensure all our citizens have a home they can afford.

Existing Policy: Bylaw 10457-2023 (Adopting the Terms of Reference)

Consultations: Smiths Falls For All Committee Members

Notes/Action (space for Council Member's notes):

Respectfully submitted by:
Original signed by:

Kerry Costello
Clerk

Approved for agenda by CAO:
Original signed by:

Malcolm Morris, CMO
Chief Administrative Officer

SMITHS FALLS FOR ALL

INTERIM REPORT, April 2025

PURPOSE

This committee will be responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equity to all its citizens.

This committee will make recommendations designed to enhance immigration into our community, to develop actions that will diminish prejudice, racism and discrimination and help advance Smiths Falls as a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community.

BACKGROUND

The issue of racism, discrimination and prejudice throughout the world is not new but it has certainly taken on heightened prominence recently. The municipal role in combating this social ill has also expanded, particularly in larger urban cities where diversity of cultures has historically been more profound. The Town of Smiths Falls wishes to take the necessary steps to promote building a community that is welcoming and inclusive to all members of society.

On June 15, 2020, Council proclaimed:

.....that racism, bigotry, and discrimination in all forms will not be tolerated in Smiths Falls; and further, that we stand united with this commitment.

The Racism and Discrimination Task Force (11 members) met regularly from May 2021 until late 2022. The members shared ideas and discussed options in order to fulfill the mandate and scope of work as outlined in their Terms of Reference.

The Smiths Falls Racism and Discrimination Task Force was a committee of Council that work in partnership with the Smiths Falls community, organizations, businesses, stakeholders, and the Town to:

- Understand local realities and develop a plan of action to foster inclusion.
- Identify barriers and areas of opportunity, in order to enhance the shared experience and opportunities afforded to racial minorities and those impacted by discrimination and prejudice.
 - Identify and coordinate opportunities for stakeholder and community engagement.
 - Provide input and recommend action on matters relating to the provision of anti- racism and discrimination initiatives including education within the community.
- To make a recommendation to Council regarding membership and commitment to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination.
 - Increase trust, loyalty, and respect within the community by promoting greater equality and inclusion.

The Smiths Falls Racism and Discrimination Task Force was tasked with identifying and implement actions to fulfill the following goals and objectives:

- Work towards the reduction/elimination of racism and discrimination.
- To identify existing systemic barriers for racial minorities and those impacted by discrimination, and develop/provide opportunities to address these barriers, provide education, and effect change.
- Improve our practices to promote social inclusion.
- To promote human rights and diversity.
- Produce an action plan and report to Council within six months of the inaugural meeting to identify primary goals, measurement tools, implementation plans, timelines, and budget.
- Build partnerships and share resources with like-minded organizations to maximize benefit, be aware of global best practice, to reduce potential for overlap of services and initiatives.
- Be inclusive of all community residents at all levels and abilities.
- Engage stakeholders, businesses, and cultural organizations as partners in the delivery of initiatives.

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION TASK FORCE SUCCESSES

Reviewed and recommended that Council support Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents and private members Bill C-313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act. On September 30, 2021, Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener passed a resolution with respect to Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents and private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act; and

WHEREAS on June 15, 2020, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed a resolution proclaiming "that racism, bigotry and discrimination in all forms will not be tolerated in Smiths Falls; and further, that we stand united with this commitment." and

WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls established a Racism and Discrimination Task Force to understand local realities, development of a plan of action to foster inclusion, identify barriers and areas of opportunity to enhance experience and opportunities afforded to racial minorities and those impacted by discrimination and prejudice; and

WHEREAS MP Peter Julian's motion M-84 Anti-hate crimes and incidents and private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act is an opportunity to make all Canadians feel safer in the communities that they live;

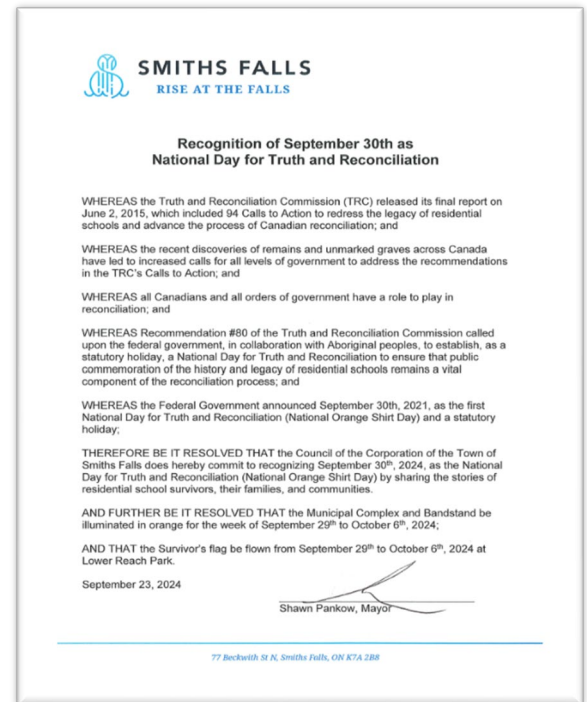
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls support the City of Kitchener's resolution endorsing MP Peter Julian's private member's bill Bill-C 313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act.

AND THAT the Federal Government conduct a comprehensive review

of all possible symbols of hate and discrimination and consider developing a law that would prohibit hate within our country.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clark, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Parm Gill, MP Scott Reid, MPP Randy Hillier, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities Ontario and all other municipalities in Ontario.

Upon recommendation from the Racism and Discrimination Task Force, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls proclaims and recognizes September 30th of every year, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by sharing the stories of residential school survivors, their families, and communities. The Bandstand and Municipal Complex are lighted up orange in commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. Every Child Matters flag is also flown to honour the innocent lives lost.



A recommendation was also made to seek approvals from Parks Canada to allow for the space to be erected on Duck Island. A Healing Circle was installed in September 2024 and was officially welcomed into the community on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation September 30.

The Racism and Discrimination Task Force worked with Mr. Chuck Commanda to prepare a Land Acknowledgement that is now read at every Council, Committee and Board Meeting. The inaugural reading of the Land Acknowledgement took place at the September 27, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

June is proclaimed as PRIDE Month annually in The Town of Smiths Falls. The Mayor and Council encourage residents to reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality members of the LGBTQ+ community face and to celebrate the contributions that enhance our municipality. The PRIDE flag also is proudly displayed in front of the Municipal Complex.

EVOLUTION OF THE SMITHS FALLS FOR ALL COMMITTEE

The formation of the Smiths Falls For All Committee is to continue with the work done by the Racism and Discrimination Task Force and expand their mandate. This committee supports the principals of further developing a community where racism, discrimination, prejudice, and bias will not be tolerated and are silenced by overwhelming support for an equitable, diverse, and welcoming environment.

Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls adopted the Terms of Reference for the Smiths Falls For All Committee in June 2023. The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on September 14, 2023. This committee is responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equity to all its citizens.

This committee is to make recommendations designed to enhance immigration into our community, to develop actions that will diminish prejudice, racism and discrimination and help advance Smiths Falls as a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community.

Membership is comprised of:

- a) A maximum of two (2) Council members
- b) Representation from the health sector and social services.
- c) Up to eight (8) citizens members
- d) Up to two (2) youth members youth(s)
- e) One member of the Smiths Falls Police Service shall be appointed.

In Year 1, the committee was to research and prepare a mandate and feasible work plan that outlines the committees' priorities/objectives, ways to reach the objective, prioritization of the tasks, assignment of a pillar and the proposed timeframe for completion (i.e., Year 1, Year 2, etc..). The workplan was to include the following four pillars of the sustainability framework (as per the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities:

1. Economic Sustainability
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Social Sustainability
4. Cultural Sustainability

The committee has been actively meeting monthly and has engaged with many delegations, discussed many issues, planned events, and thought about the future work of this committee.

In year 2 through 5, the committee will work through the listing of objectives with bi-annual reports to Council. The Task Force shall prepare a final report to Council outlining recommendations for the future.

DELEGATIONS

November 2, 2023

Dionne Nolan (Traditional Name is Zoogipon Ikwe)
Indigenous Navigator at the Cancer Centre in Kingston

December 14, 2023

John Reid & David Sompi
Planet Youth Lanark County

Rob Rainer, Chair of the Steering Committee for Lanark Basic Income Network.
Basic Income

January 11, 2024

Amber Coville, Business Development & Program Officer
Valley Heartland

Linda Alexander, Lanark and Renfrew Counties Shared Recruitment &
Settlement Coordinator, Rural Inclusion Pilot Project

April 11, 2024

Julia Crowder, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism
Departmental overview, initiatives underway, communications, etc...

May 9, 2024

Ramsey Hart, Falls Food Hub and The Table Community Food Centre

June 13, 2024

Anne Armstrong & Pauline Levesque/Bridges out of Poverty

Karl Grenke, Manager of Development Services/Steps and Actions Town has
taken to assist with Affordable Housing

July 11, 2024

Michelle Toop, Employment Services Manager
ontrac, Smiths Falls

October 10, 2024

Natalia Soteroff, Executive Director
Smiths Falls Community Food Bank

February 20, 2025

Dana Douglas, Registered Dietitian and Public Health Nutritionist, South East Health Unit (Food Insecurity)

Elaine Power, Professor, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies Queen's University & Brandon Tozzo, City of Kingston Councillor (Food Insecurity/Declaration of Emergency, City of Kingston)

March 13, 2025

Karl Grenke, Manager of Development Services (Additional Residential Units & Community Improvement Plan)

SUCSESSES

Pink Bench/Inclusive Corner Established

With the refresh of the pride crosswalks, a new pink bench was installed at the corner of Beckwith and Church Street as part of a new inclusion corner within the downtown. The colour pink was chosen as it is a recognized colour for anti-bullying across Canada.

The pink bench suggestion was first brought forward by Community Services Coordinator, Tana Torch. "My hope is that the inclusion corner can become a focal point for our community engagement, where individuals from different walks of life can come together to celebrate diversity, share experiences, and foster understanding. But ultimately, the pink bench represents a celebration of love, acceptance, and diversity, reminding everyone who passes by that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of who they are or who they love."

The Smiths Falls For All Committee discussed the initiative at a recent committee meeting, and were in full support of the inclusion corner and what it represents. The Smiths Falls For All Committee is responsible for advancing the Town's efforts to further develop a diverse and inclusive community that provides equality to all its citizens. "With the assistance and support from the Town, we are hoping to implement various initiatives throughout the term that support our mandate", noted Mayor Pankow, chair of the committee. "An inclusive environment promotes empathy, respect for human rights, and freedom, creating a harmonious society where everyone feels valued and free to contribute positively. When there's diversity and inclusion in our community, it significantly strengthens social cohesion."



Newcomer Event

Held a Successful Newcomer Event on June 22nd, 2024. The committee hopes to build on the success of the 2024 event and plan a bigger event for 2025.



Many organizations that would benefit newcomers set up booths and had information handy to assist with any questions. The Heritage House Museum staff had cotton candy, popcorn and face painting for the children. There was a free BBQ and kites and other swag for children.

Basic Income

Mr. Rob Rainer, Chair of the Steering Committee for Lanark Basic Income Network. Basic Income was a delegation at our December 2023 meeting where he discussed Basic income and how is money distributed to eligible people, regularly, reliably, and without work requirement, and which, absent other income, should meet basic human needs. The Smiths Falls For All committee passed the following resolution:

Moved by: C Cutler

Seconded by: E Halladay

THAT the proposed motion drafted by Rob Rainer regarding Basic Income be presented to Committee of the Whole for their consideration.

In turn, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed resolution 2024-04-074 in April 2024 supporting the concept of a basic income guarantee for working-age adults to help combat low income and economic vulnerability within our community. Council called upon the federal and the provincial and territorial governments to collaborate on the design, introduction, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of a national basic income guarantee program for working-age adults. This resolution was distributed to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, federal ministers, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MP Scott Reid, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, relevant provincial ministers and to Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MPP John Jordan, calling on these orders of government to collaborate on the design, introduction, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of a national basic income guarantee program for working-age adults. This was also shared with all Ontario municipalities, Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Development of our Circular Flow Chart

In January 2024, the group undertook a SWOT analysis. In strategic planning a SWOT analysis is a decision-making technique to help us understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in Smiths Falls and what is standing in the way of having an equitable, diverse, and welcoming environment. See attached analysis – Appendix A.

From the SWOT analysis the committee developed “Circular Flow Chart” that they feel are more relevant and practical for our community.

A circular flow chart demonstrates the interconnectedness of poverty, housing, food security and inclusivity and shows how they affect the other. In a broad sense, a circle symbolizes unity, wholeness, infinity, and the cyclical nature of life. The circle's lack of beginning or end, and its continuous form, makes it a powerful symbol of unity, completeness, and oneness. The circle can represent inclusion, connection, and community, as anything within the circle is part of the whole.



Under each priority there are initiatives and tasks. [See attached listing – Appendix B.](#) This list will evolve and be updated as this committee progresses through their mandate.

A survey was then launched with questions that touched on each of the pillars. Feedback on the survey is to help the committee prepare recommendations to enhance immigration into our community, to develop actions that will diminish prejudice, racism and

discrimination and help advance Smiths Falls as a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community. Survey questions and results attached.

2025 & BEYOND

Allyship Pamphlet

The committee is currently working on an Allyship Pamphlet.



Rainbow Registry

Rainbow Registered is a national accreditation for 2SLGBTQI+ friendly businesses and organizations. When you see a Rainbow Registered symbol, you know the business or organization meets a stringent set of standards to ensure that 2SLGBTQI+ customers feel more welcomed and accepted. Currently looking at the registration process, costs and the awareness sessions that they conduct. The committee would like to support the corporation to become Rainbow Registered and support businesses in our area to become Rainbow Registered and join a network of businesses committed to inclusive practices.

Canada has numerous hotels, restaurants, and attractions that openly embrace diversity and inclusion. They have committed to do more than put a Pride flag in a window. Rainbow Registered businesses have gone through a rigorous process to become accredited as 2SLGBTQI+ friendly with the only certification endorsed by the Federal government of Canada. Being Rainbow Registered demonstrates a commitment and consistent effort to provide a welcoming and accepting experience for 2SLGBTQI+ customers through progressive policies and practices.

www.rainbowregistered.ca

Diversity & Inclusivity Training for Managers, Staff and Committees/Boards

Diversity refers to the range of differences within a group, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, and disability. In the workplace, diversity can bring a myriad of perspectives, experiences, and ideas. It can lead to more creativity, innovation, and problem-solving. When people with different backgrounds come together, they bring diverse ways of thinking and approaching challenges. Inclusion, on the other hand, is about creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and included, regardless of their differences. It's about making sure that all voices are heard and that everyone has equal opportunities to succeed. Inclusion is equally important, as it ensures that all employees feel respected, valued, and included in the workplace. When employees feel included, they are more likely to be engaged, motivated, and satisfied with their work.

Launch a Smiths Falls For All Page on the Town's Website

The committee wants to prepare a page on the Town's website and create an online presence for Smiths Falls For All. Information can be posted about the group and links to useful resources.

- Community Events Calendar
- Links to resources
- Minutes/Agendas of meetings
- Terms of Reference
- Link to Apply to be a member
- Surveys
- Link to their rights as a tenant
- Link to Landlord Tenant Workshop
- Food Bank/ Food Bank hours
- Visual of all food resources available
- Include auditory reader
- Map/Address and pertinent organizations/resources.

Open House Event

Open to everyone – not just newcomers. Have organization(s) that are affiliated with each priority present. A working group has been established with the committee to start the organization of this event.

Food Insecurity / Declaration of Emergency

The Smiths Falls For All Committee has proclaimed "Food Insecurity" as one of four priorities that the committee believes needs to be addressed to assist in creating an inclusive and equitable community. The Town of Smiths Falls continues to support the concept of a basic income guarantee program for working-age adults to help combat low income and economic vulnerability within our community. The committee has drafted a resolution to present to Council with the hopes that Council will declare food insecurity an emergency in the Town of Smiths Falls. The drafted resolution is requesting the Provincial Government immediately increase its base funding to existing school food programs and increase its financial commitment to enable the expansion of school food programs to additional schools to build a universal school food program as well as raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs. The Provincial and Federal Governments need to act to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Liveable Basic Income include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies.

Assist with the Smiths Falls/Canada-Ukraine Twin Cities Initiative

The hope is that the Smiths Falls For All committee can help in coming up with ways to build bridges with the people in the Ukraine.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

1. Budget. \$5000 has been placed in the 2025 budget. These funds will assist in printing material, the newcomer event, training and advertising.
2. Change the name of the committee to Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee. The committee feels this better reflects what the committee is trying to accomplish.
Support minor amendment in the Terms of Reference
3. Amend the current Terms of Reference to reference the 4 Priorities developed by the Committee (Housing, Poverty, Food Insecurity, Inclusivity) and not the four pillars of the sustainability framework (as per the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities: Small and Rural Municipalities (Economic Sustainability, Environmental Sustainability, Social Sustainability and Cultural Sustainability).

STRENGTHS

Collaboration

LIP - Local Immigration Partnership

Rural Inclusion Project with Lanark County and Renfrew County

EDI Working Group ; Lanark County Child and Youth Services Collab

BBBS LC - Reigniting our Potential

Lanark Queen Connect

Strong Chamber of Commerce and BIA who champion our town

“Small Town” friendliness

Fabulous Town Staff

Far seeing Mayor

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Smiths Falls situated between major urban centres - Ottawa and Kingston

Continue to strive towards welcoming each member who comes to our community (disability, cultural issues)

We have a desire to have a community that is inclusive.

Welcoming and caring community / desire to embrace and welcome persons who are newcomers to this area

Multitude of health and social services agencies that support our community

New affordability housing initiatives through Carebridge
Community Support and Lanark County

Food Hub

Affordable homeownership program

Single tier municipality, which allows us more autonomy to make
our own decisions

Own police service / during community events we see presence
of police - they are visible and supporting the town.

Cleanliness of the town

Downtown is a safe area to walk

Local businesses do not look at their own benefits, but rather
support one another for the greater good of the Town

Youth-focused town

Education system is amazing - all teachers and administration
have a great passion for children

Library that is working actively in community

Good connection with the community through website and social
media.

Lots of events / almost every event is free and inclusive

WEAKNESSES / CHALLENGES

Underdeveloped transportation availability

Small part of our population that is resistant to change

Long neglected capital improvements that are now costing us money

Affordable lodgings/housing

Collaborations with Indigenous Communities within the Smiths Falls community.

Welcome Wagon / Systems navigation

Food insecurity

Does not meet committee members needs for accessibility-this creates a barrier in our community as well as for the citizens.

Lack an understanding of the importance of updating customer service training in all areas so employees can be culturally aware of safety factors for newcomers who have dealt with trauma.

Need to start thinking outside the box of how we communicate everyone is fully informed to get best overall response.

Not enough awareness and education.

lack of media support (we do have the Record Journal, along with Ottawa Valley and radio as well).

Lack of an indigenous leadership locally to provide advice to various organizations

Lack / need more communication and advocacy about anti-racism

Need for more support for small businesses or family businesses, which could include some bonuses or welcome package

Insufficient funding for mental health agencies, and lack of access to withdrawal management and patient addiction treatment facilities.

Shared services through Lanark County with Social Services

Integration of new families to Smiths Falls and families already here who would like children involved in activities within the town.

Lack of support for single working mothers looking for employment - long waiting lists for daycare.

OPPORTUNITIES

Desire to welcome newcomers

Opportunity to help solve an ongoing integration problem

UWEO leads the EARN, HIO tables, United for All and IELAT

Community education

Small - Med Business / mom and pop shops

Better education on an annual basis for Town employees and committee members (anti-racism training).

Create an ambassador program (newcomers will not understand our governance). How that governance can affect depending on their experience in their homeland (indigenous people due to colonial legacy)

Make sure honesty, integrity and dignity are in every statement – even if it is a difficult truth. Crucial we admit our failings in order to combat this.

THREATS

Bias's

Lack of capacity for organizations

Potential pushback by people not sharing the goals of the committee

Loss of interest by committee members - fatigue when things take too long or go too slowly

If we keep ourselves educated and aware by doing training, keeping updated on disabilities act, human right commission, we are lessening our chances of having to face media attacks.

If we can't say we have made mistakes, we know we need to continue to grow – that is why this committee was created.

Racism / Prejudice

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Housing

Preamble: Housing is a Strategic Priority for Smiths Falls Town Council. SF4All will assist and support Council as they work to accomplish for a more diverse built housing stock to ensure all Smiths Falls citizens have a home they can afford.

Housing Task Force made 17 Recommendations that SF4All can continue to work on.

Transitional Housing at the old Willowdale.

44 Chambers Street project took 5 years to pull together.

Proposed Robinson Street housing project

Look at rent supplements

Partner with nonprofits or give money to nonprofits to create these programs as they can keep affordable units as affordable.

SF4All to make recommendation to Smiths Falls Town Council regarding Federal money to Province for housing being cut. This will affect the County who supplies housing in the Town of Smiths Falls.

Waiving planning fees

Advertise the Tax Abatement Program (Community Improvement Program)

Educational campaign on what secondary units are and the process to have one (i.e. building requirements)

Reduce stigma that plays a role in homelessness.

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Food Security

Preamble: Smiths Falls has an active food bank and the Falls Food Hub and The Table Community Food Centre. Food insecurity amongst our population has increased significantly over the years. SF4All will promote and assist existing supports.

Provide supports for the Falls Food Hub

Promotion of Food Baskets available through the Lions Club.

Promote/assist with Community Gardens (one currently at the Heritage House Museum and one at the REAL Deal Store property).

- people providing space in their own backyard
- gardening tool rentals (free/minimal costs) free rentals?
- gardening Club could support this.

Council considering allowing chickens within town boundaries. Currently going out for public consultation.

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Poverty

Preamble: Our community has a high level of poverty. 40% of our households try and manage on an income of \$50,000 or less.

Although poverty is a complex issue, SF4All will endeavor to have strategies and tools to help reduce and prevent poverty.

DRAFT

Smiths Falls For All “4 Strategic Pillars”

Inclusivity

Preamble: Smiths Falls Town Council and Town staff are dedicated to building a sustainable and vibrant community that is welcoming and inclusive to all members of society. SF4All supports the principals of further developing a community where racism, discrimination, prejudice, and bias will not be tolerated and are silenced by overwhelming support for an equitable, diverse, and welcoming environment.

Pride celebrating on June 29th.

Pride Flag raising on June 1st

Pride Crosswalk to be repainted for June 1st

Pink Bench installed at corner of Beckwith St/Church St. Created “Inclusive Corner”