



# Media Release

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## **Newly Expanded Community Safety and Well-being Initiative Moves Forward**

### Local Stakeholders Invited to Participate

The municipalities of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan; Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards; Madawaska Valley; and South Algonquin have reconfirmed their commitment to a joint community safety and well-being (CSWB) initiative and announced the addition of Bonnechere Valley. The five municipalities will work collectively to enhance the provision of services, and quality of life across the area.

Three years ago, in response to a government mandate, Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan; Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards; Madawaska Valley; and South Algonquin chose to make community safety and well-being (CSWB) a priority, and to work together on a regional CSWB plan. The planning process included the creation of regional coordinating and advisory committees, consultation with the public and service providers, research on local data, and asset mapping. The initial plan was completed in the summer of 2021 and approved by each council.

### **Moving Forward**

The original four municipalities have reconfirmed their commitment to the joint initiative. Bonnechere Valley has now been welcomed into the collective. Annette Gilchrist the CAO/Clerk/Treasurer of the Township of Bonnechere Valley said, “Bonnechere Valley Council has passed a resolution approving the plan, its priorities and the regional approach and collaboration.” Gilchrist added, “At this time we would like to thank all the coordinating municipalities, CSWB Committee and Coordinator Meara Sullivan for giving us the opportunity to join in and be a part of this project and its ongoing implementation.”

As Gilchrist indicated, the CSWB initiative has retained Dr. Meara Sullivan as the Coordinator. Sullivan has worked with the initiative since its inception and will lead the implementation. She said, “After a couple years of planning, it is very exciting to be moving forward.” Sullivan added, “While Bonnechere Valley did not participate in the initial planning or consultation, they are also a rural municipality in Renfrew County, and local data shows that they have similar concerns and demographics. The addition of Bonnechere Valley to the collective, helps build community and strengthens our approach to community safety and well-being across the area.”

### **Invitation to stakeholders**

As the CSWB initiative moves forward it is transitioning from planning to implementation. The coordinating committee would like to invite stakeholders working within community safety and well-being to contact Dr. Sullivan. She noted, “Invitations will be sent out shortly to a joint meeting to discuss the implementation process. We recognise that there are a substantial number of professionals working across the area, and we want to ensure that all are included. I would ask that all existing advisors and

new associates working within community safety and well-being get in touch and share their current contact information.”

If you have any questions, or would like to participate in the stakeholders meeting, please contact Dr. Meara Sullivan at [mearasullivan@hotmail.com](mailto:mearasullivan@hotmail.com).