

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Sep17\_2019**

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****2019 Social Summit: From Isolation to Connection****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the Social Summit prior to the event on December 9-10, 2019.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

**Report**

Strathcona County is inviting community leaders, innovators and change agents from across Alberta to attend its first Social Summit, themed From Isolation to Connection.

The two-day conference will take place in the Agora on December 9-10, 2019, and features renowned speakers including Cheryl Strayed, author of "Wild", Timothy Caulfield, Canada Research Chair in Health and Policy, along with Jody Carrington, speaker and author of "Kids These Days". These leaders will address the impacts of isolation and loneliness, while also sharing strategies for creating and enhancing connection.

Loneliness and social isolation are an emerging public health problem, on par with smoking and obesity as a key contributor to shortened lifespans and poor quality of life. An increasingly digital society is presenting additional challenges to meaningful connection. Addressing the emerging problems of loneliness and social isolation could also be one of the strongest steps towards reducing crime, poverty, addiction and improving relationships, productivity and building stronger neighbourhoods and communities.

Summit participants will come away with research-supported insights, confidence to try something new and a commitment to one new action to address social inclusion in their community. Through this important work, communities can build intentional practices to create places where people are connected to one another.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Social Framework

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

**Enclosure**

1                      Inaugural Social Summit Presentation