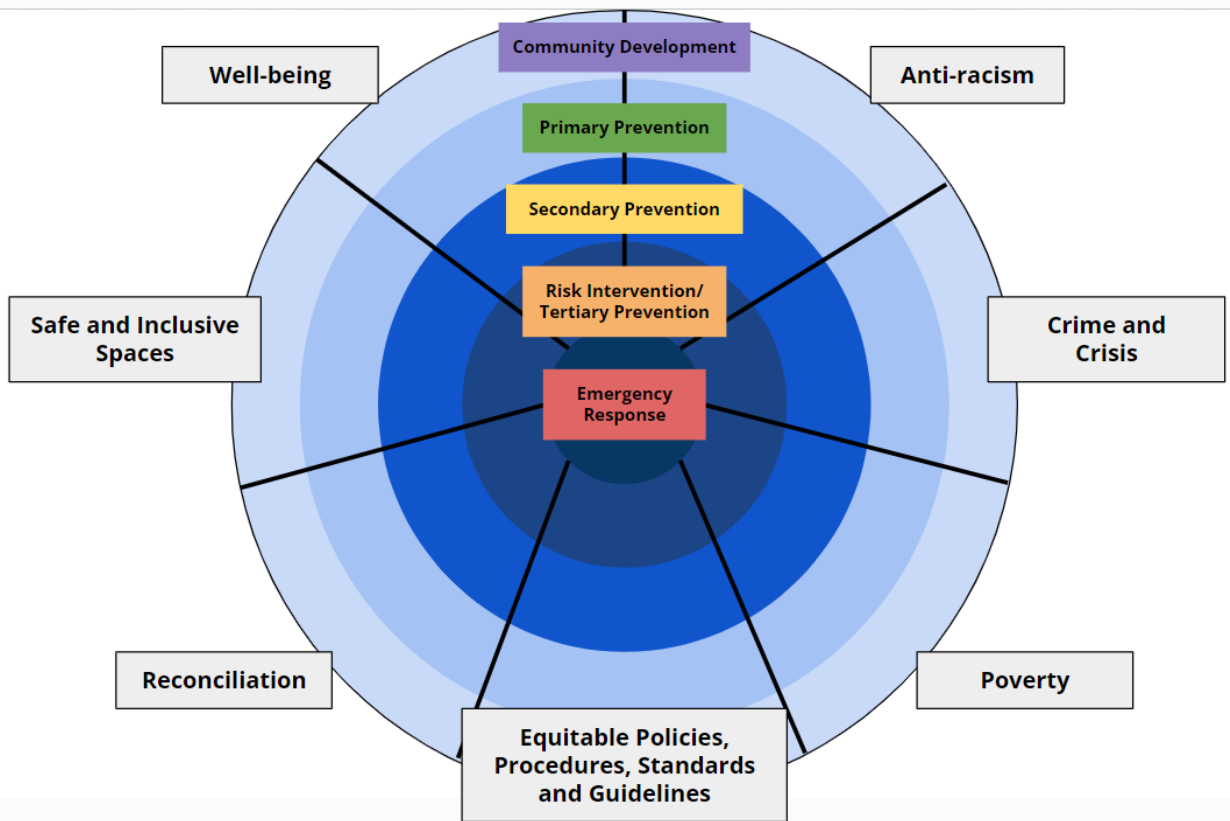## Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy Spectrum of Action

The Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy utilizes the Ontario Ministry of Solicitor General's Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework[1] to identify the continuum of responses that are needed to meaningfully respond to complex challenges such as houselessness, mental health, safety concerns and racism.

[1]https://www.ontario.ca/document/community-safety-and-well-being-planning-framework-booklet-3-shared-commitment-ontario/section-2-community-safety-and-well-being-planning

The continuum includes:

Emergency Response	Includes immediate and reactionary responses that may involve a sense of urgency like police, fire, emergency medical services or a person being apprehended under the Mental Health Act.
Risk Intervention (Tertiary Prevention)	Intensive interventions that provide support or treatment to those already affected by a problem or issue to address immediate needs and to reduce the impact of the issue after it has occurred. Tertiary prevention typically involves targeted or individualized activities for people or groups experiencing a specific problem
Secondary Prevention	Occurs when protective factors address or modify risk factors before restorative supports are required.
Primary Prevention	The active pursuit of individual, family and community protective factors that help individuals, families, and communities build resiliency and lead to the well-being of self and others.
Community Development	Is the practice of building connections and capacity with people so they can work together on common issues and opportunities

While each category of response is important and necessary for a holistic response to safety and well-being challenges, evidence and research demonstrates that the most effective permanent solutions are preventative in focus. This means averting or lessening harm and risk, rather than solely responding after harm occurs.

Examples of prevention within each of the Pillars include:

Pillar	Community Development/Prevention Examples
Anti-Racism	• Providing anti-racism training to empower and educate individuals about unconscious biases and address discrimination and racism before it happens.
Reconciliation	• Recognizing and promoting Indigenous practices, ways of knowing, language and traditions to help strengthen Indigenous identity and community, as detailed in the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report.
Safe and Inclusive Spaces	• Proactively investing in public spaces and infrastructure aimed at increasing the number of and improving safe and inclusive spaces.

Equitable Policies	• Utilizing an equity-based and anti-racist approach to developing policies, programs and services to address systemic barriers and promote cultural diversity and inclusion.
Poverty	• Increasing the supply of affordable housing and other housing supports to prevent houselessness.
Well-Being	• Investing in and developing accessible and equitable programs and services focused on promoting connection to culture, recreation, connection and community.
Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention	• Providing early childhood-focused programs and services. Studies indicate that high-quality early learning and child care has positive effects on child cognitive and social development, including self-control and other behaviours that may impact criminal involvement later in life.[2]

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[2] Anders, John, Andrew C. Barr, and Alexander A. Smith. 2023. "The Effect of Early Childhood Education on Adult Criminality: Evidence from the 1960s through 1990s." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 15 (1): 37-69. DOI: 10.1257/pol.20200660