Councillor Pagtakhan's Message

It's my pleasure to be appointed the incoming chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety.

My community work and conversations with hundreds of people have shown me that people want to take ownership of their community. Safety is improtant to them, and they are prepared to make positive changes to create safer neighbourhoods.

Perception plays a part in how safe a person feels. The more discussion that takes place and the more education the community has, the more likely their perception of safety is to increase. With strong resources like the Safety Tool Box, building community partnerships and expanding our current contacts will help us to reach more people.



There's a lot of work to be done, but I'm ready and willing to rise to that challenge. I'm eager to contribute my creativity and leadership to this already storng committee to mobilize communities in creating a safer Winnipeg.

Our Purpose

The ***Winnipeg Committee for Safety*** (WCFS) was created by City Council in 1999 with an identified mandate: *to* ***support, assist, stimulate*** and ***mobilize*** the work of the community on safety concerns.

The WCFS bridges the community with City Council, Civic Administration and the community itself. The Committee reports to the Executive Policy Committee.

Approximately fifteen people with an interest in crime prevention and safety volunteer their time for monthly meetings, networking and other activities to encourage safety. The City Administration - the *Winnipeg Police Service, Community Services*, the *Chief Administrative Office Secretariat* and *City Clerk's Department* - and provincial representatives from the Department of Justice are also represented on the Committee.

The Committee has three working groups: the **Youth Working Group**, the **Safety Tool Box Working Group**, and the **Downtown Winnipeg Committee for Safety** (DWCFS).

Our Highlights

To address an intricate issue like safety, partnerships, educational resurces and community effort are necessary.



Councillor Mike Pagtakhan, Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety, is a prize winner at a North End residents' Safety meeting.

To ***support*** community activities, the WCFS has:

- participated on the Central Downtown ***Youth Justice Committee***. This alternative measures program is for first and second time offenders between the ages of 12 and 17. In the year 2001, approximately 144 new cases were diverted to this committee in the central downtown area.
- responded to the report prepared after the WCFS hosted a Youth Forum in 2001 by creating a ***Youth Working Group*** to address the contribution youth can make to create safer communities.
- networked with a variety of community organizations, residents and businesses. These links help encourage dialogue about safety.
- commented on crime prevention thru environmental design (CPTED) for downtown developments and renovations
- participated on the Coordinated community Capacity Building Committee of the Social Planning Council. This advisory Committee is responsible for the ***Healthy Community Summer Institute***, which is held each year.

To ***assist*** with public education and awareness, the WCFS has:

- attended a workshop on CPTED through the Police Training Academy.
- hired a consultant to evaluate the Committee's operation, outreach and educational resources.
- hosted a workshop during Restorative Justice Week to present the film ***Hollow Water.*** This film demonstrates the concept of restorative justice – a model of justice that focuses on healing and harmony.
- helped inform the public about the "Help Key", a Union Gospel Mission initiative to address panhandling concerns in the downtown area.
- established an inventory of articles, videos and resources for people to borrow regarding exploitation in the sex trade and domestic violence.

To ***stimulate*** interest using the best possible information, the WCFS has:

- assisted the West Broadway Neighbourhood Housing Resource Centre with the drafting of a resource called "Tenant and Landlord Cooperation: Guide to Good Management of Inner City Buildings for Landlords and Tenants". This guide will be available in 2003.
- distributed over 1000 Safety Tool Boxes and thousands of pamphlets to build community capacity.
- redesigned the look of the WCFS website ***(www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org)*** to more accurately reflect a community based and community driven Committee.
- produced and distributed the updated Safety and Security Guide Call Card 2002/2003, a list with phone numbers to call about safety and security concerns.
- developed and sent out a survey targeted to our over 700 contacts to assess our materials and outreach.

To ***mobilize*** people to take action, the WCFS has:

- delivered presentations to promote citizen involvement to further neighbourhood stabilization.
- liaised with the Winnipeg media to help increase understanding regarding safety issues.
- organized 340 Princess Tenant's Association to encourage their interaction with the Downtown Resident's Association
- encouraged residents, community organizations and Street Patrols to do regular Safety Audits and liaise with WPS regarding concerns.

Our Goals

While each person's effort to improve safety makes a difference, there are many things we can do to make Winnipeg a safer city. In the year 2003, the WCFS will:

- present the Safety Audit Awards to recognize neighbourhoods, businesses, organizations and residences for implementing CPTED.
- organize a Domestic Violence FORUM to be held on March 7, 2003 at Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (430 Langside at Ellice), from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m..
- promote the Committee's willingness to comment on CPTED for new developments and renovations, particularly in the downtown area.
- partner with Mediation Services to develop and present conflict resolution workshops.
- incorporate information from the evaluation and survey into a strategic planning session to identify short and long-term goals for the Committee.
- explore the possibility of developing training to support community policing programs in neighbourhoods, like Street Patrols and Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP).
- encourage agencies and organizations to work together to address safety issues
- work with community groups to look at expanding the "Help Key" concept.
- develop an inventory of social services agencies where people can call if they have safety or security concerns in the downtown area.

Our List of Resources

Are you interested in what you can do to create a safer Winnipeg? We have a number of educational resources to inform and motivate you.

▸ *Safety Tool Box*

This living document incorporates several components to inform people about how to prevent crime through social development and environmental design. Manuals include information about: ***Crime Prevention, Community Conversations, Safety Audits, and Conflict Resolution.***



Coordinator of the WCFS, Linda Williams, at a Tenants' Association meeting at 340 Princess Street.

▸ *Who Do I Call?*

This diagram provides contacts at a glance for common safety concerns.

▸ *Articles and Videos*

We have up to date information about exploitation in the sex trade and domestic violence.

▸ *Safety and Security Guide Call Card 2002/2003*

This quick reference list of phone numbers and resources indicates the appropriate place to contact with urgent and non-urgent safety and security concerns.

▸ *Pamphlets*

Prejudice and Hate
Homophobia and Anti-Homophobic Violence
Conflict Resolution

www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org