Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - June 30, 2010

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Winnipeg Committee for Safety - 2009 Annual Report
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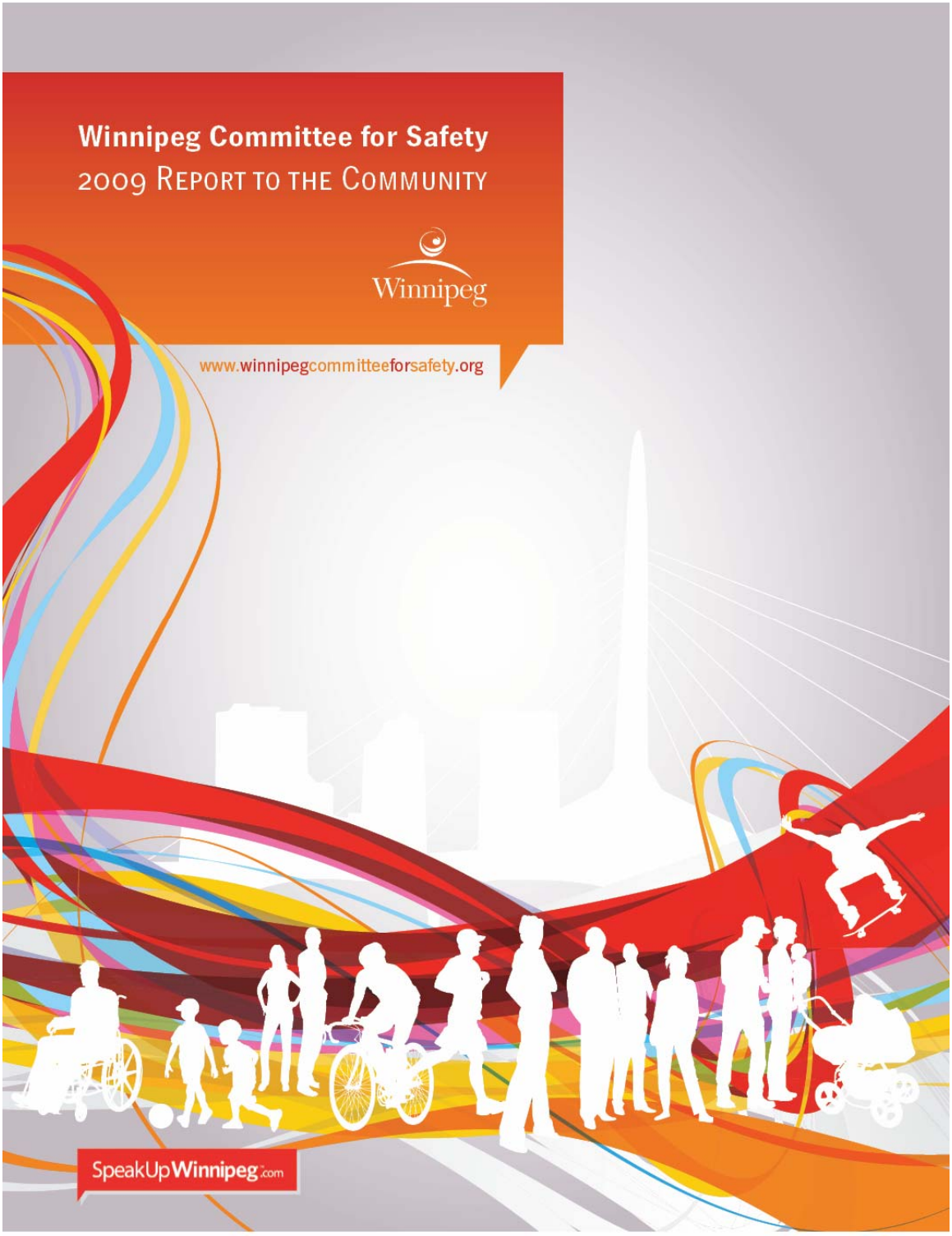
WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY RECOMMENDATION:

On May 21, 2010, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety approved its 2009 Annual Report and forwarded same to the Executive Policy Committee for information.


Winnipeg Committee for Safety
2009 Report to the Community
Winnipeg
www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org
SpeakUpWinnipeg.com

WCFS leads OurWinnipeg safety initiative

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) is proud to be one of the leads in the OurWinnipeg project, designed to bring the city into the forefront of Canadian municipal development.

OurWinnipeg is City Council's long-range policy plan intended to make the city leading-edge by addressing its broad physical, social, economic and environmental conditions, strengths and challenges.

As lead in the area of Safety and Security, WCFS is working with the city to implement LiveSAFE. This is an integrated crime prevention strategy that relies on community action, policing and proactive plans to address the root causes of crime in Winnipeg and take steps towards a safer, less crime-affected community.

Based on feedback drawn from the SpeakUpWinnipeg website and public consultation process, the City set priorities and, with the help of WCFS and other advisors, is taking action on seven directions:

- Continue supporting and fostering relationships with-and between-community organizations, service providers, institutions, community leaders and other service organizations to develop public safety strategies
- Take leadership in addressing gang violence
- Plan for crime prevention in the built and natural environments
- Take a broad-scaled complete and collaborative approach to crime prevention
- Implement an approach to safety and security that is collaborative and involves the community
- Help people and communities make safe places in safe neighbourhoods
- Build community safety capacity



WCFS will continue to work with the city to push the success of LiveSAFE and its subsequent initiatives and looks forward to seeing changes in the community as we make Winnipeg a safer place – for today and tomorrow.



A Message from the Chairperson

Safety is a basic right.

When the Winnipeg Committee for Safety formed in 1999, we believed that fact implicitly. And while we were certainly not alone in our thinking, it took some time for others to recognize the importance of proactive planning and to embrace our vision of a safer, friendlier community.

We have spent the last 10 years working hard to enhance the safety of all Winnipeggers and are now seeing results – but that doesn't mean we can sit back and rest on our laurels. We continue to provide funding and administrative support to Safe Communities Winnipeg – an initiative of the WCFS – which is making waves in the area of policy, programming and community well-being.

And now that change is happening and people are paying attention, leadership, hard work and forward thinking are more important than ever. We have challenged and will continue to challenge ourselves to find new, innovative solutions to our city's safety concerns and are proud to now be in a position that allows us to steer major activities that will have major impact.

We recently joined forces with OurWinnipeg – City Council's long-range plan for a better, stronger and more sustainable city – and are breaking ground as a lead in the area of Safety and Security. Over the last year, we worked hard to help identify priority areas and look forward to driving the strategy and watching it take flight.

Notably, we were involved in facilitating the purchase of a Triax surface-testing machine for playground safety – the only one in Manitoba.

We also helped launch two other training initiatives that provide Winnipeggers with a range of proactive skills to help make the city a safer place. New violence prevention and playground safety workshops promise to create a generation of forward thinkers who we believe will lead their own communities into a safer way of life.

The Safe Communities subcommittees have also been hard at work planning for new initiatives including the world's first fall index warning program designed to help Winnipeggers plan safer walking in inclement weather.

To say we were busy in 2009/10 would be a gross understatement – but we wouldn't have it any other way. Leaders cannot sit still, and we are proud to be leading the city to safety.

Councillor Harvey Smith
Chair, Winnipeg Committee for Safety



"We will continue to challenge ourselves to find new, innovative solutions to our city's safety concerns."
~ WCFS Chair Coun. Harvey Smith

New initiatives promise safer playgrounds

Winnipeg is now a leader in playground safety with the purchase of a new surface testing machine.

The Triax 2000 Surface Impact Tester allows playground operators to measure the impact of a fall from any surface on a site, was purchased with funds from IMPACT, University of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA). The machine produces data that can help planners construct safer structures and play areas – a priority strategy for WCFS and Safe Communities Winnipeg, as fall-related injuries are the leading cause of emergency room visits for Winnipeg children.

The City is now loaning the machine – the only one in Manitoba – to playground operators for a small user fee and has facilitated Triax training sessions for those who want to use the device to make their playground safer.

The training included hands-on lessons in machine use and classroom lessons that teach operators how to read the information provided by the Triax to plan and maintain safer facilities.

In addition to Triax training, Winnipeg also saw Safer Playgrounds Workshops introduced this year. These are designed to help community centres, daycares, schools and other recreation facilities keep children safe on their sites by teaching practical information on inspections, risk identification and maintenance.

> "The workshop was very informative... and the day has already proven to be invaluable."
>
> ~ Safer Playgrounds participant Lindsay Kolt, Facilities Consultant (Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Sport)

Participants at the first Safe Playgrounds session – held in July – left the workshop informed and with action items to take back to their respective sites. Many left behind words of encouragement.



Falls Alert Index

Winnipeggers will soon be on higher – or at least safer – ground thanks to the work of the Safe Communities Winnipeg Falls Alert Index Subcommittee.

The subcommittee is developing an original and unique program that will advise the city of the risk level for falls during periods of inclement weather and throughout the winter months.

The Falls Alert Index aims to help all residents – particularly those at higher risk of falling – make safer decisions and protect themselves against injury and incident.

The project is the first of its kind in the world and has already generated a great deal of unsolicited attention from across Canada and as far away as Norway.

It is now through the research phase and – if reports show promise for development – the program will be piloted in early 2011.

> "We are proud to be in a position that allows us to steer major activities that will have major impact."
>
> ~ WCFS Chair Coun. Harvey Smith

Violence Prevention Workshop

Winnipeggers are more prepared to handle violent situations thanks to the Workplace Violence Workshop presented by Safe Communities Winnipeg in partnership with the Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Centre.

The Safe Communities Violence and Disorderly Conduct Subcommittee worked with Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Centre to develop the workshop and help reduce the number of Manitobans injured in incidents of violence at the workplace – currently an estimated 200 per year.

Participants gain knowledge in the areas of hazard identification and risk assessment, particularly in relation to assaults and attacks.

To date, more than 200 Winnipeggers have participated in the workshop, which will be remounted in Fall 2010.

The Violence and Disorderly Conduct Subcommittee also will continue in 2010/11 to develop plans and programs targeted at proactively reducing violence in the community, workplace and home.



SpeakUpWinnipeg.com

Winnipeg

Partnership promises rewards for students, committee

Education and safety planning are moving into new territory with the development of a groundbreaking partnership between Safe Communities Winnipeg and Red River College (RRC) that has students and instructors developing and delivering projects for the City.

The project kicked off in Spring 2009 and will run through June, 2010.

The students are from Accounting, Business and Creative Communications backgrounds and will receive eight full credit hours for their work.

The students' first task was performing a gap analysis of injury prevention and neighbourhood safety programs. From this, they developed recommendations which now are undergoing a feasibility study for use in an economically sustainable business case.

Through the course of their work, the students will also develop and deliver marketing and communication strategies, locate new revenue streams and create new partnerships – all in the hope that together, WCFS and the college will create a safer, more sustainable Winnipeg using sustainable and innovative techniques.

> "Leaders cannot sit still, and we are proud to be leading the city to safety."
>
> ~ WCFS Chair Coun. Harvey Smith

2009 WCFS BUDGET

Revenues:	2009 Actuals
Council Funding	69,000.00
Expenditures:	
Contract Fee	39,999.70
Communication/Community Outreach (Includes Safe Communities Expenditures)	14,808.54
Education and Training	3,507.18
Meeting Costs	928.12
Office Expenditures	4,197.85
Total	63,441.39

2009 Committee Members

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is composed of one member of City Council, eight members of the community and one representative of crime prevention from the Province of Manitoba.

2009 Committee Members

Councillor Harvey Smith, Chairperson
His Worship Mayor Sam Katz, ex officio
Rick Joyal
Bradley McKay
Corinne Pierce
Eleanore McMahon
Zoran Vicovac
Jacquie Habing
Fiona Shiells
Wendy Koening, Citizens for Crime Awareness (non-voting member)

City of Winnipeg Administration
Paul Berke, Patrol Sergeant, Winnipeg Police Service
Garnie McIntyre, Constable, Winnipeg Police Service
Karen Beaudin, Community Resource Coordinator
Krista Boryskavich, Mayor's Director of Policy and Agenda Management
Jennifer Ridge, City Clerk's Department



Since 1999, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) has supported, assisted, stimulated and mobilized the community on safety concerns. We are a leader in our city and Canada, with representation from citizens, City departments, the Winnipeg Police Service, business, community organizations and other orders of government. We aim to constantly stay ahead of the curve and lead safety initiatives proactively and with forward thinking.

Questions? Comments? Ideas? We're listening.
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