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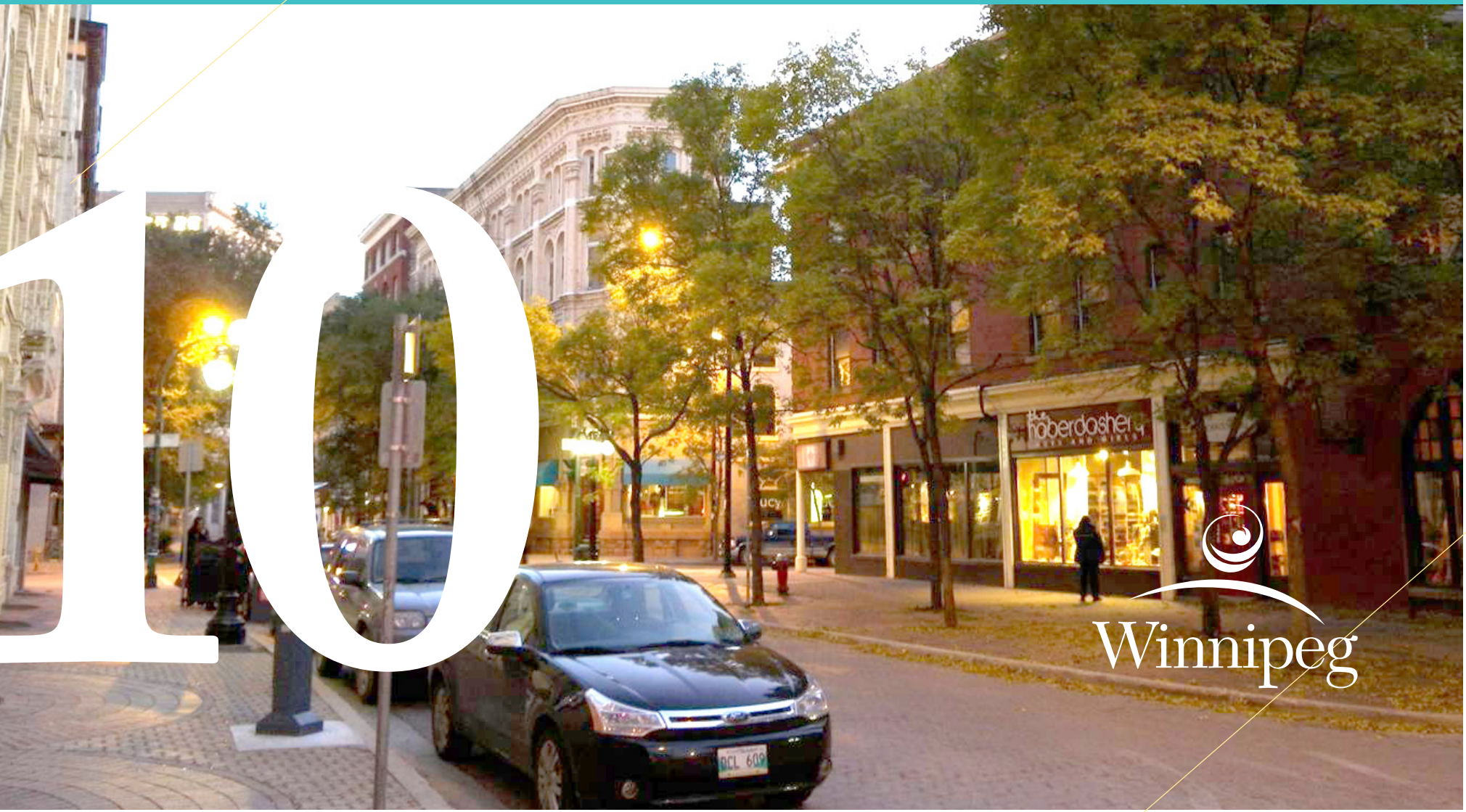
winnipeg committee for safety
2010 report to the community



WCFS

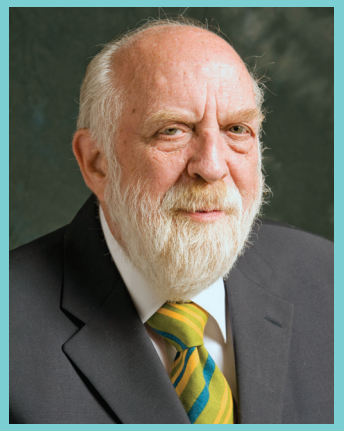
Since 1999, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) has supported, assisted, stimulated and mobilized the community on safety concerns.

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.



message from the chairman



The Winnipeg Committee for Safety believes that safety is a basic right. 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.

With changes underway and people paying greater 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 be in a position that allows us to play a role in some major activities that will have a great impact.

We have been working with OurWinnipeg, City Council's long-range plan for a better, stronger and more sustainable city, and we have found ways to integrate our goals into the 25-year plan. We are taking the lead in the area of safety and security and we are poised to implement a new strategic plan that will not only aid City Council, but also have a direct hand at educating and motivating citizens.

We've continued our work on training initiatives that provide Winnipeggers with a range of proactive skills to help make the city a safer place. The violence prevention workshop that we launched in 2009 was booked to capacity in 2010 and we persist in developing new strategies for preventing, managing and coping with violence.

We want to teach our children to be safe while also inspiring them to be fearless about pursuing their dreams. To help do this, we brought in former Cirque du Soleil performer and competitive bike professional Ryan Leech to talk to some of our middle schoolers. After giving them a rousing performance on his bike, he taught the kids important guidelines for protecting themselves while on the road.

As our city changes, so do we. The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is evolving and growing. We have a renewed outlook for 2011 and new major project—an annual report on the state of safety and security— in its planning stages. We have done much good in improving the safety and security of our city, and we are excited to do even more.

As OurWinnipeg's new set of directions around safety start taking shape, we are looking forward to playing a vital role in collecting the necessary knowledge and insight to take Winnipeg into a bright, vibrant and safe future.

Councillor Harvey Smith

ready for the future

With OurWinnipeg coming into effect and a renewed sense of direction, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety is ready for the future.

In 2010, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety brought in communications strategist, David Pensato to help develop a strategy that will guide our activities and projects in the years to come, a strategy rooted in the City's own vision for the future.

When the City of Winnipeg put together its new municipal development plan, OurWinnipeg, the WCFS played a key role in working together with other stakeholders in understanding Winnipeggers' hopes around safety and security issues.

With this plan as its base, the WCFS is setting its course for the future with a clear understanding of the role it can play in promoting and furthering the City's Direction Strategies for safety and security.

By taking up an important role in finding integrated and community-centred approaches to safety and security, the WCFS is poised to become a knowledge hub and connecting point for City departments and initiatives, City Council and relevant stakeholders.

Together, we are fine-tuning the committee's role as an advisory group that can provide knowledgeable and timely information to city council on issues of safety and security. The best way to do this, we discovered will be to narrow our focus and expand our reach by becoming an accessible knowledge hub for safety and security issues in Winnipeg.

To do this, we are developing a new project – an annual comprehensive report that measures safety and security issues city-wide, using benchmarks from OurWinnipeg as its framework. This report will ultimately provide city council with the relevant information needed for making decisions that affect safety and security.

Rather than duplicating efforts, our initial approach will be to work with relevant departments and initiatives to gather and compile the information that already exists, identify some key metrics to get started and to build from there. By taking this approach, we hope the report will also serve as resource material for City staff and administration, helping to reduce duplication of efforts and furthering OurWinnipeg's commitment to an integrated and community-centred approach.

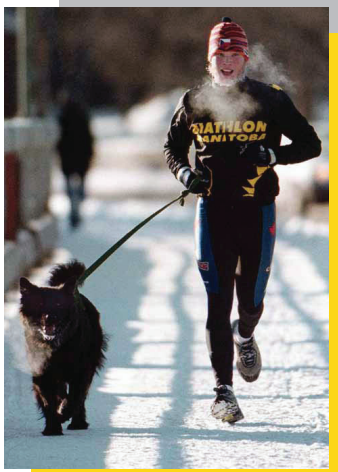
Eventually, we want to make this report available to all stakeholders and to have it serve as an educational and motivational resource for the public.

This will help transform the WCFS into an important knowledge hub, helping to identify areas of success, areas of need, possibilities for collaborations and partnerships.

Together with our partner organizations and committee members, we hope that by next year, you will be reading a new kind of annual report from us—one that paints a clear picture of where Winnipeg is at and where it is going with safety and security.

boosting pedestrian safety

Safe Communities Winnipeg is looking to boost pedestrian safety thanks to the Falls Alert Index Subcommittee. The committee has been 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.

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.

2010 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

financial report

Contract Fee	$40,000.00
Communication/Community Outreach	$23,167.98
Education and Training	$ 567.75
Meeting Costs	$1172.00
Office Expenditures	$1982.44
TOTAL	$66,890.17

bike pro wows and inspires young winnipeggers



Professional cyclist and ex-Cirque du Soleil performer Ryan Leech wheeled into a few Winnipeg schools last year, pumping up his audience of 6-8 graders with signature bike moves across riding obstacles.

His bike was not the only thing he sent soaring through the gymnasium, the professional athlete also sent the hearts and self-esteems of his young audience soaring with a highly-motivational speech about decision-making, success, how to overcome obstacles and how to handle criticism.

The professional trails rider also gave the kids tips on how to ride safely and how to protect themselves when on their bikes, emphasizing that the stunts he performed took years of practice and should not be tried without proper equipment and training. (*Photo by Tommy Bause. Courtesy of www.ryanleech.com.*)

full capacity workshop leaves winnipeggers better prepared

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 helped 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.

This year, the workshop was run at full capacity. Participants gained knowledge in the areas of hazard identification and risk assessment, particularly in relation to assaults and attacks.

The Violence and Disorderly Conduct Subcommittee also will continue in 2011 to develop plans and programs targeted at proactively reducing violence in the community, workplace and home.