REPORT TO
THE COMMUNITY

WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY



WINNIPEG ART GALLERY
300 MEMORIAL BOULEVARD

SPECIAL THANKS TO
CLARKHUOT/COCOON

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JERRY GRAJEWSKI

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WEST

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

"WITHOUT A SENSE OF CARING, THERE CAN BE NO SENSE OF COMMUNITY."

Anthony J. D'Angelo



The Winnipeg Committee for Safety believes that safety is a basic right, and we're not alone in our thinking. Indeed, safe communities begin with caring and committed individuals and groups, working together toward a shared goal. More and more Winnipeggers are recognizing the benefits of forward-thinking solutions and planning with regard to safety, and seeing how they can make a safer community a reality.

Our city is at an important juncture in its history, where cooperation between people and organizations is critical to maintaining the energy and revitalization that's occurring across Winnipeg, especially in the Downtown. Nurturing connections between these organizations is key to ensuring that safety continues to improve.

The Committee has worked with numerous groups throughout the year, offering support, counsel, and coordination on plans and initiatives dedicated to improving and securing the safety of our citizens. Some of these organizations include the City, the RCMP, WRHA, Winnipeg Police Service, various BIZ organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and grassroots community groups. It is because of caring, like-minded people like this that long-range plans for a safer city, like OurWinnipeg, LiveSAFE, and others, can truly be realized.

We have always taken the lead in the area of safety and security, working on initiatives that provide citizens with the skills to help make the city safer for themselves, their families, and their communities. In particular, municipal crime prevention has been one of our major areas of concern and attention in 2011. Some of the areas we've focused on this year are; addressing the root causes of gang activity among young people; working with a variety of groups to identify and neutralize hotspots for neighbourhood crime; and finding innovative solutions to safety concerns that affect some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Speaking of vulnerable citizens, I found myself to be just one of those on January 31 of this year, when I slipped on an icy patch on Main Street. I fractured my leg, leading to some of the worst pain of my life. Ironically, this was the same week that the SureFoot Winter Walking Conditions initiative launched – a groundbreaking new resource in protecting those with mobility issues, especially seniors. My own experience aside, I think anyone in our community who's slipped on winter ice can appreciate the importance of this new service. Forewarned is forearmed.

The Committee continues to work toward improving the safety and security of our city, and we are excited to do even more – leaders cannot sit still. As always, we continue to challenge ourselves to find new and innovative solutions to our city's safety concerns and are proud to be in a position that allows us to play a role in activities that will have a great impact, and lead Winnipeg into a bright, vibrant, and safe future.

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Councillor Harvey Smith

"DEVELOPING COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO PROMOTE A PREVENTIVE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFETY IS WHAT THIS COMMITTEE IS ALL ABOUT." *Harvey Smith*



130 GALT AVENUE




SPOTLIGHT ON
CRIME
PREVENTION
ALEXANDER AVENUE

In 2011, crime prevention and public safety continued to be one of the main priorities and concerns of our citizens. In any city, safety is one of the most important aspects in building a healthy and prosperous community.

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

Through our Safety Audits (that measure safety and security issues city-wide, using benchmarks from OurWinnipeg as a framework) WCFS provides Council with the relevant information needed for making decisions that affect safety and security.

The key to crime prevention is proactivity. It begins by consulting with the community to determine specific needs, potential and existing crime issues, and available community resources. Community leaders can select priority issues to remedy in the community, and analyze these problems. With this information, leaders can then brainstorm prevention ideas and strategy options for their community that will both combat the actual crime rate, and help residents feel more secure in their homes and neighbourhoods.

If these prevention ideas are not something that a community leader can carryout his or herself, they can appeal to city administration. Hearing from community members informs us of how to better serve the public. We work with city police officers to make every citizen feel safe, and knowing what a neighbourhood's specific areas of concern are lets us create more effective initiatives and prevention tactics.

Overall, collaboration within neighbourhoods is key. By working together as a community to solve crime issues, we not only determine what the community at large is most concerned about, but also establish social relationships between neighbourhoods. Then, if there is an instance of crime, the victims will have neighbours and friends to call on for aid, and safe places to stay until they can receive police assistance and/or return home.

We are working towards developing a report available to all stakeholders that will serve as an educational and motivational resource for the public, furthering OurWinnipeg's commitment to an integrated and community-centered approach, and continuing to transform WCFS into an important knowledge hub.

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MOBILIZING AGAINST GANGS

The Committee was proud to support the Community Mobilization Against Gangs conference in September, hosted by the Old St-Boniface Residents' Association, in partnership with the RCMP. The conference aimed at giving parents, families, and communities hope for children involved in gang activity. WCFS will continue to sponsor and support initiatives like the conference that work for the safety of all our citizens.

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REVITALIZING STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

One of the main issues Winnipeg has faced in recent years is public sentiment that our Downtown is not as safe as it could be. WCFS places considerable importance on this. The health of any city depends on a vibrant downtown. The city centre is a place where citizens gather to interact, share, and experience. If pedestrians don't feel comfortable downtown, and lessen visits to the area because of that, the city altogether suffers. Business suffers, entrepreneurship declines, tourism lessens, development and improvement stalls, all of which serve to worsen public perception, beginning the cycle anew. WCFS supports and encourages the City of Winnipeg's work to improve our downtown, reignite our city centre, and support likeminded organizations and people who share that goal.

Any city depends on its downtown to thrive and grow, and if recent city initiatives to improve downtown safety and activities signify the beginning of a trend, Winnipeg is on an upward incline.

"I'M A REAL FAN OF WHAT'S GOING ON DOWNTOWN AND ALL OF THE CHANGES THAT ARE GOING ON. THE ENERGY IS GREAT AND I WANTED TO BE A PART OF THE REVITALIZATION."

John MacDonald, President, Canada's Web Shop

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

The WCFS is responsible for conducting CPTED analysis of developments and properties throughout the city. In most instances, we are contacted at the development stage before construction and work with developers, as well as Planning, Property and Development and the Winnipeg Police Service, to ensure CPTED principals are used in their design. We also conduct CPTED analysis of existing properties to help building owners find ways to reduce crime affecting them and/or increase the perception of safety. Whenever possible, we make every effort to include property owners, residents, and interested community members throughout the design process. In 2012, we will be working closely with the University of Manitoba in the development of CPTED workshops and assignments for City Planning students, and we're also examining the possibility of running CPTED workshops for the general public. CPTED is an integral piece of OurWinnipeg and is included in the Winnipeg Police Services "Roadmap".

WATERFRONT DRIVE





PREVENTING FALLS

A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH

TO PREVENT WINNIPEGGERS FROM INJURING THEMSELVES OR OTHERS IN FALL-RELATED INCIDENTS, SAFE COMMUNITIES WINNIPEG HAS ESTABLISHED THE SUREFOOT AND PLAYGROUND SAFETY INITIATIVES.

PREVENTING WINTER FALLS

Winnipeg has some of the most extreme weather conditions in the world. Each winter, we are faced with ice and snowstorms, melting and refreezing on roads and sidewalks, and other hazards. The Falls Sub-Committee has developed a fall alert index designed to help people make informed decisions about road/sidewalk conditions.

Multiple strategies to help reduce the number of injuries due to falls include:

- ***Researching Winnipeg's climate patterns and precipitation levels;***
- ***Developing a Fall Alert Notification System, SureFoot similar to the Highway Road Conditions, UV index and Air Quality Reports;***
- ***Using the alert system to help notify the public when preventive measures are needed to ensure their safety in regards to the weather and road/sidewalk conditions.***

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A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: INTRODUCING SUREFOOT

Earlier this year, Safe Communities Winnipeg launched the SureFoot Winter Walking Conditions Bulletin – a program that will provide the public and local media with free daily updates on general winter walking conditions in our City.

Initially called the "Falls Alert Index," SureFoot is the world's first program designed to inform the public about winter pedestrian travel conditions.

Thousands of Winnipeggers are admitted to hospitals each year because of falls. In many instances, elderly people do not fully recover from bone fractures and may wind up in long-term care facilities. In Manitoba, falls account for over $164 million in healthcare spending. At a total cost of $5,000 in grants, SureFoot has no operating costs – the program utilizes information already being gathered, which is simply reported by a city communications officer.

The program is an innovative and cost-effective way to promote safer choices leading to fewer slip and fall injuries.

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PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Playgrounds have been identified as the leading cause of Emergency Room visits for injury in children, with approximately 776 cases each year. For this reason, the Falls Sub-Committee has decided to take prevention-oriented steps toward reducing the number of accidents children face at playgrounds.

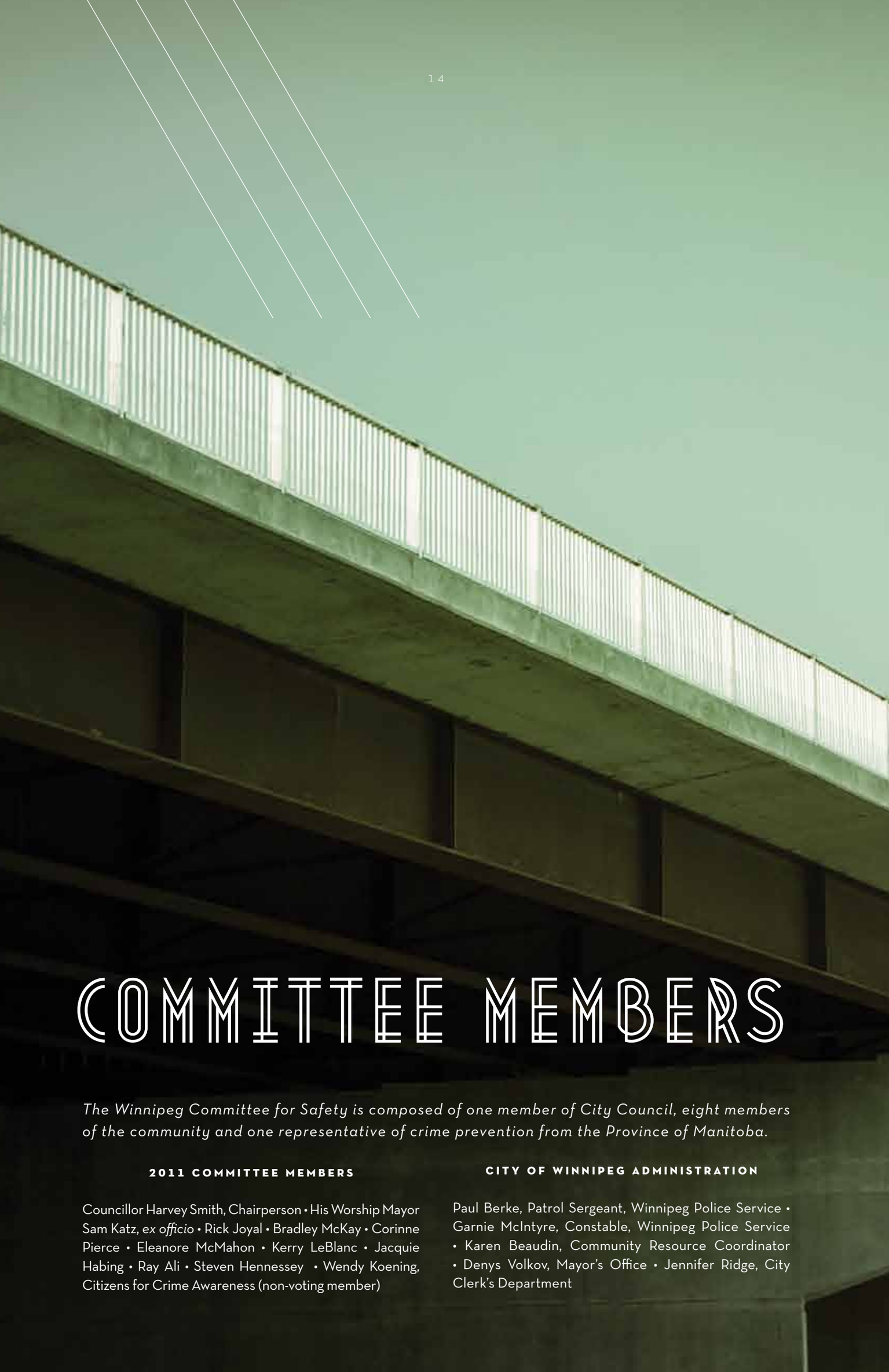
Most initiatives taken by the Falls Sub-Committee will be directed towards individuals responsible for supervising children and/or involved in the safe operation and maintenance of playground equipment. This may include parents, playground owners/operators, childcare workers, parent councils, and playground inspectors, among others.

Strategies to help reduce the number of playground injuries include:

- ***Testing playgrounds to measure the resiliency of the playground surface using a TRIAX machine;***
- ***Developing a Playground Inspection Course so more front line people have the knowledge to identify and correct problems;***
- ***Creating public awareness while reaching those parents who are responsible for playground supervision.***



THE AVENUE BUILDING



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.

2011 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Harvey Smith, Chairperson • His Worship Mayor Sam Katz, *ex officio* • Rick Joyal • Bradley McKay • Corinne Pierce • Eleanore McMahon • Kerry LeBlanc • Jacquie Habing • Ray Ali • Steven Hennessey • 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 • Denys Volkov, Mayor's Office • Jennifer Ridge, City Clerk's Department

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES	
COUNCIL FUNDING	$69,000.00
EXPENDITURES	
CONTRACT FEE	$40,000.00
COMMUNICATION/ COMMUNITY OUTREACH	20,752.20
MEETING COSTS	2,250.00
OFFICE EXPENDITURES	4,629.79
TOTAL	**$67,927.16**



HENDERSON HIGHWAY



SELKIRK AVENUE



RENEWAL SPURRED BY MERCHANTS PROJECT

The Merchants Hotel, on the corner of Selkirk and Andrews Street, has long been considered a blight on the street and a magnet for crime. Spear-headed by the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC), a coalition of over 20 North End organizations are joining forces to breath new life into the historic building and the neighbourhood, including the Selkirk Avenue BIZ, Andrews Street Family Centre, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, University of Winnipeg, Red River College and SEED Winnipeg.

As late as the mid-70s, Selkirk Avenue was a major artery of North End culture and commerce; a hub of activity with bustling shops, bakeries, restaurants, and services. Local community groups are confident that by removing a major liquor vendor in a dense residential neighbourhood and replacing it with a mix of retail, educational space, and housing, the area will see a reduction in crime and begin to move forward again.

The Merchants Hotel initiative is a superb example of community-minded organizations working together to take decisive action against the underlying causes of crime and violence in our city.

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"SURE THERE'S A DIFFERENT LOOK TO THE STREET NOW — BUT AGENCIES AND BUSINESS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO MOVE FORWARD."

Arthur Gunn, co-owner of Gunn's Bakery and vice-president of the Selkirk Biz



275 PORTAGE AVENUE



HOW COMMUNITIES **CAN** TAKE

ACTION

Citizen's Action Network (CAN) is a network formed by the Winnipeg Police Service in conjunction with the City of Winnipeg Community Services Department as a way of safely receiving information from the public. Winnipeg Committee for Safety worked with both Services in the development of the program.

A CAN Coordinator is designated by members of the community to represent an area and voice neighbourhood concerns. These problems include things like derelict vehicles/housing, overflowing garbage bins, and other neighbourhood issues. The CAN Coordinator then forwards the information to WPS, "311", or Manitoba Justice - Public Safety as applicable. The information received is not to be of an emergency nature, in progress, or meant to bypass any current reporting procedures. CAN is the only community information network endorsed by the Winnipeg Police Service.

In addition to the initial program development, WCFS also assisted in the training of community coordinators for CAN, and have been working with community organizations and encouraging residents to participate in the program.



ARLINGTON BRIDGE



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