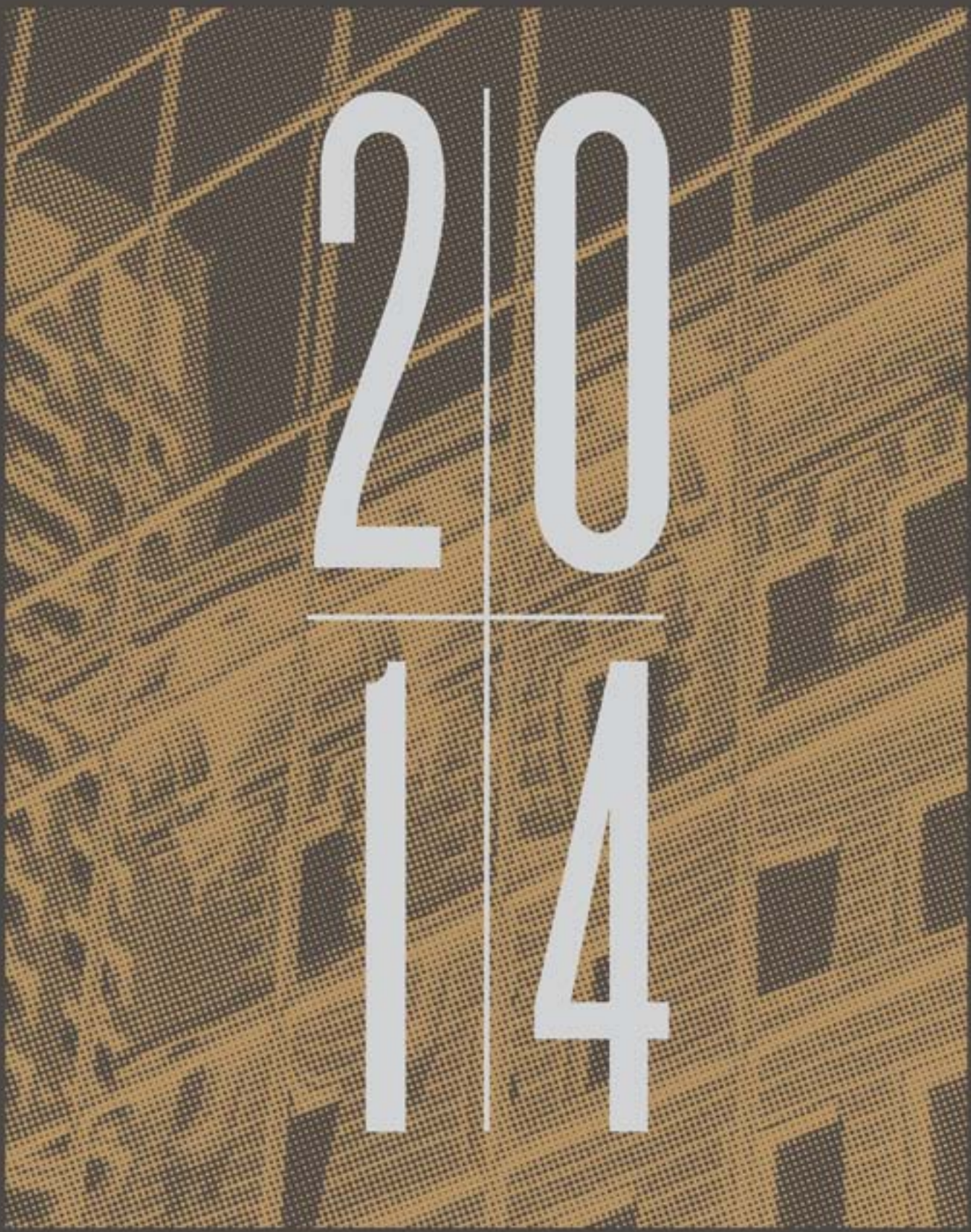


Winnipeg
Committee
For Safety

Report
to the
Community

WCFS

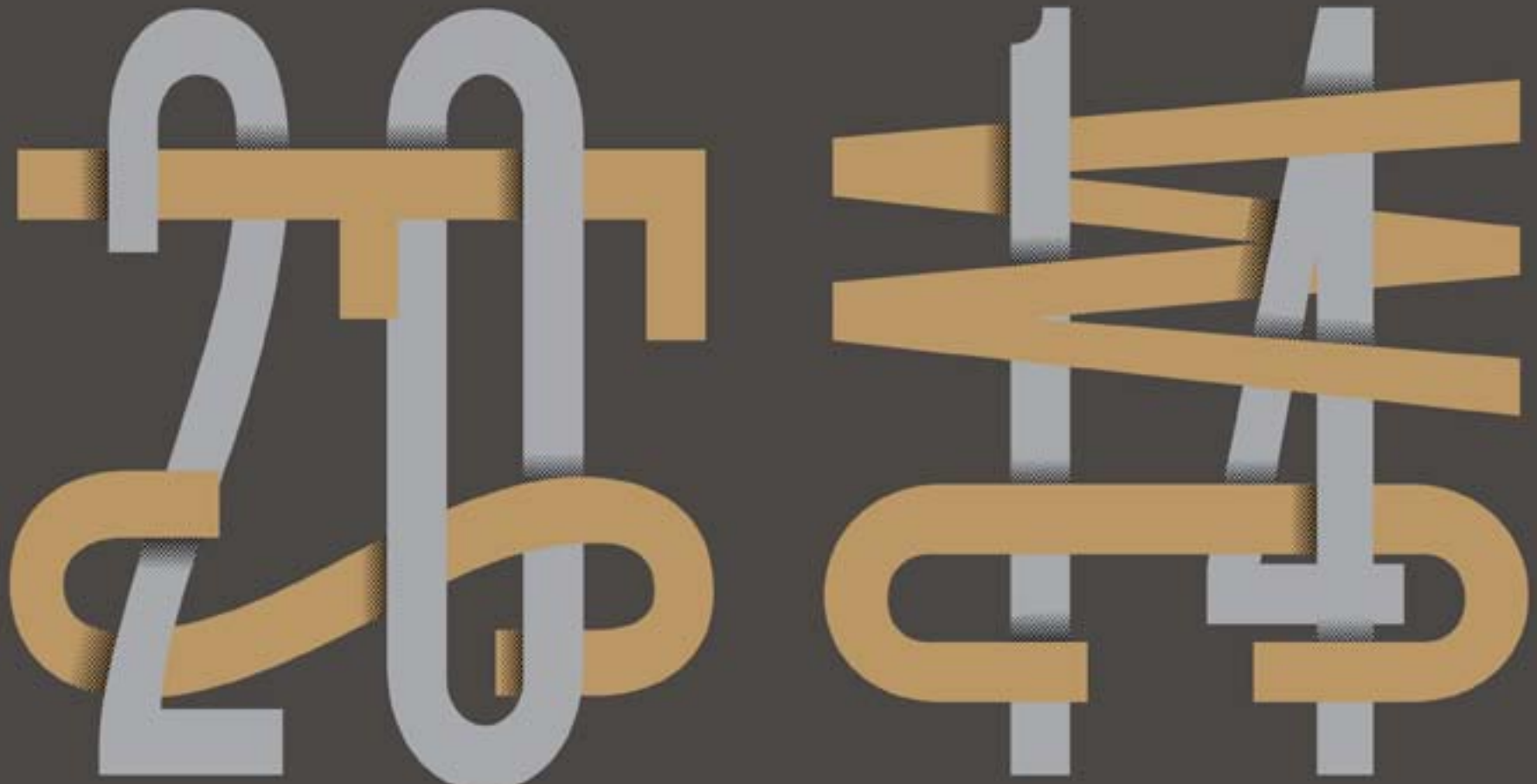


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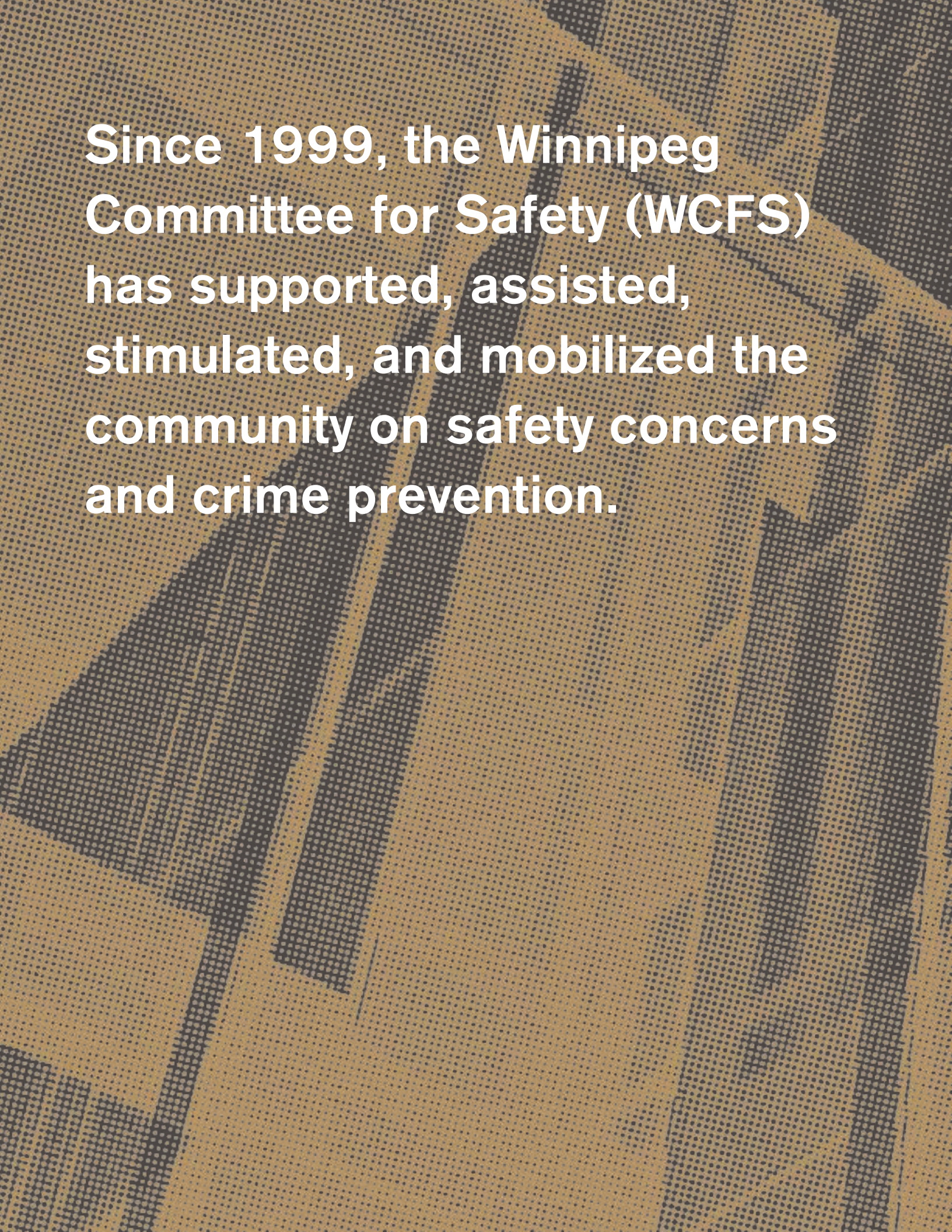
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Photography by
Steven Ackerman
& Jerry Grajewski



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

We are a leader in this respect, both locally and nationwide, with representation from citizens, City departments, the Winnipeg Police Service, business, community organizations, and other orders of government.

We aim to work proactively to maintain and improve the safety of each of our citizens.

Message from the Chairman



"This committee is concerned with one thing above all: increasing the safety of our city and each of our citizens. That is what we do."

-Councillor Jason Schreyer

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.

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.

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.

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.

The fact of the matter is that no single program or initiative can fully prevent crime. As crime itself is a complex and multi-layered issue, so must be crime prevention initiatives. From community involvement to increased police presence, youth engagement to neighbourhood watches, preventing crime relies on all of these initiatives working together to directly prevent crimes from occurring, provide alternatives for those at risk of falling into crime-driven lifestyles, and imbue communities with a sense of security and peace.

Effective planning centers around one thing, proactivity - acting, rather than reacting. It starts with meeting with the community, and speaking with them about their concerns, potential and existing issues, and the resources available to them. We work to determine the priority issues that require attention at the community level, and brainstorm ideas and options that will aid residents in feeling safe and secure in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Hearing from members of the public helps us learn how to best serve the citizens of our city. Knowing what specific neighbourhoods need allows us to create plans that are as effective as possible. It is through this interconnectivity that allows The Winnipeg Committee for Safety to be a salient information centre.

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.

This committee is concerned with one thing above all: increasing the safety of our city and each of our citizens. That is what we do.

Councillor Jason Schreyer

— 01

Fifteen Years of Championing Community-Centred Approaches

2014 marked the 15th anniversary of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety. Since 1999, the WCFS has supported, assisted, stimulated, and mobilized the community on safety concerns and crime prevention.

Over the past fifteen years the WCFS has repeatedly been sought out to take lead roles in key initiatives. LiveSAFE recognizes that successful crime prevention interventions involve all sectors within the community, including levels of government-- the private and non-profit sectors, community groups and citizens. The Committee continues to serve in an advisory role to LiveSAFE, ensuring that community groups and citizens are an integral part of LiveSAFE processes.

The WCFS led the City of Winnipeg in its pursuit of a Safe Communities designation; in November 2008 this was achieved. This designation places Winnipeg among world leaders in safety promotion and aligns Winnipeg with other designated communities dedicated to reducing the rate of injury and promoting a culture of safety.

When the City of Winnipeg put together its 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.

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

Whether it's a long-term or short-term program, the underlying theme of our work is that every program works to solve a portion of the issue, relying on the existence of other programs to combat the entirety. Be it youth engagement programming, anti-gang programs, or community unifying initiatives, each program is a continuation into another, which acts as a key component to make our city safer.

This understanding has enabled us to position ourselves not just as the monikers of safety for Winnipeg, but has also given us the ability to see the strength and importance of a renewed focus on community, social, and youth development. It is through social and community development programs that we foster empowerment, resilience and independence. By improving engagement, integration and connection to the community we help to develop skills, knowledge, talents, creativity and strengths that positively impact the well being of the community.



— 02

Supporting our Communities



The Winnipeg Committee for Safety strives to enhance interconnectivity amongst community organizations as evidence suggests that safe neighbourhoods best occur through strong and informed partnerships.

In 2014, the WCFS lent its support to numerous efforts, including: *Gang Action Interagency Network* (GAIN). GAIN is a network of agencies, government and law enforcement officials, working on grassroots solutions to the gang problem in Winnipeg. It's network committed to taking action to address and solve the gang problem by building on research, current practices, and developing the resources needed to prevent youth from joining gangs and help youth get out of gangs. On September 17, 2014, GAIN released its "Community Assessment of a Gang Exit Strategy."

One of the identified needs the Committee is supporting is an accessible database where all relevant resources, programs and agencies can be listed and easily accessed by at-risk youth, families and service providers. This database will organize the information by pertinent category (i.e. housing, recreation, counselling, etcetera), provide agency contact information and where possible, provide hours of operation, target group and a brief description of services.

The anticipated benefits of this database include: Better connection between service providers and those in need of services Increased referrals by service providers working with at risk youth and families

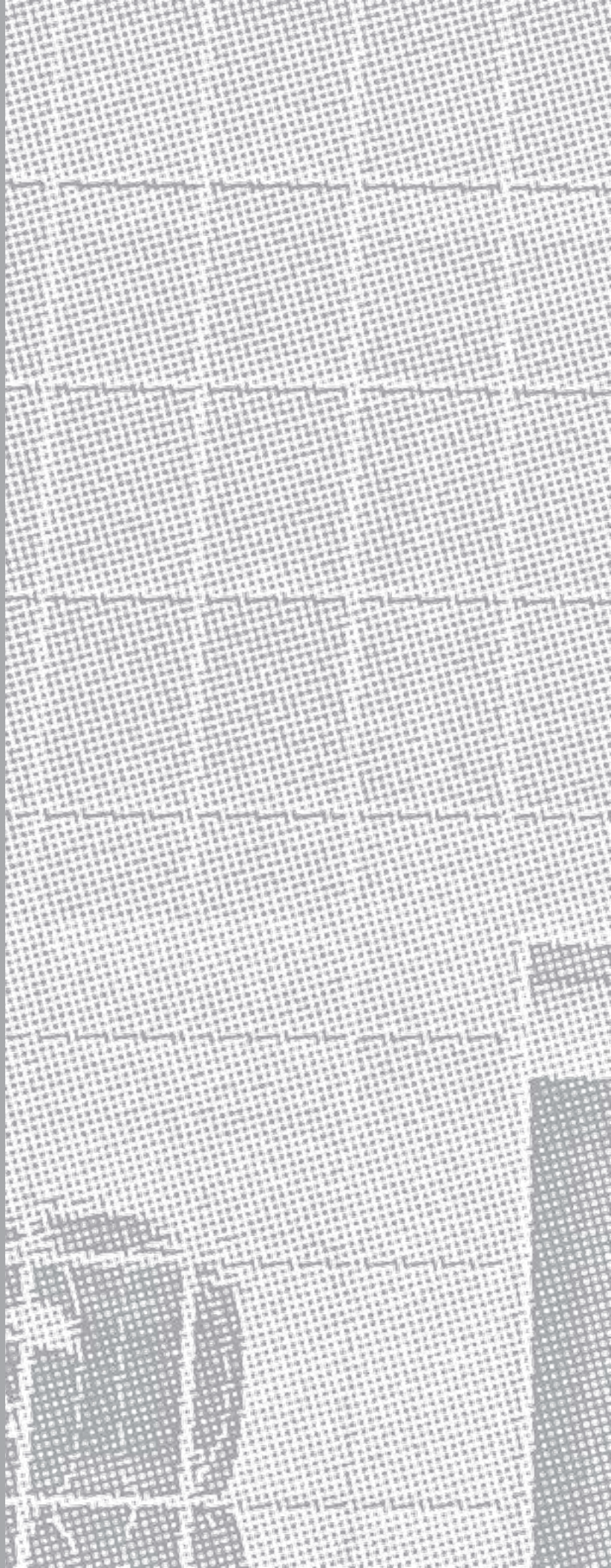
Further, the database will provide a bird's eye view of resources; help to identify strengths and opportunities to better align resources and will identify gaps in services. The Committee is steadfastly committed to supporting community efforts that fill in the gaps and can ultimately lead to safer neighbourhoods.

— 03

Designing Out Crime

The WCFS works with City of Winnipeg departments to conduct Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis of developments and properties throughout the city. In order to achieve the goal of designing out crime and fostering safe spaces, efforts are made to engage with developers, as well as Property, Planning 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.

The Committee has worked closely with the University of Manitoba in the development of CPTED workshops and assignments for City Planning students, and we also host CPTED workshops for the general public. CPTED is an integral piece of OurWinnipeg and is included in the Winnipeg Police Service's "Roadmap".





— 04

How CPTED Works

CPTED is an approach to planning and development that reduces opportunities for crime and can enhance the areas' perception. Communities, neighbourhoods, individual homes, and other buildings, streets, and parks can all be made safer through the application of design principles that make it more difficult to carry out inappropriate activities.

CPTED can reduce crime and fear through:

01

Territoriality

fostering residents' interaction, vigilance, and control over their neighbourhood

02

Surveillance

maximizing the ability to spot suspicious people and activities

03

Activity support

encouraging the intended use of public space by residents

04

Hierarchy of space

identifying ownership by delineating private space from public space through real or symbolic boundaries

05

Access control/ target hardening

sing physical barriers, security devices and tamper-resistant materials to restrict entrance

06

Environment

a design or location decision that takes into account the surrounding environment and minimizes the use of space by conicting groups

07

Image/Maintenance

ensuring that a building or area is clean, well-maintained, and graffiti-free

— 05

Committee Members

- Councillor J. Schreyer, Chairperson
- His Worship Mayor Bowman, Ex-Officio
- Ray Ali
- Angela Falk
- Jesse Gair
- Jacquie Habing
- Steven Hennessey
- Kerry LeBlanc
- Sonja Musto
- Douglas Smith

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE:

Karen Beaudin, Community Resource Coordinator

Sargent Ben Haegeman, Winnipeg Police Service

Constable Pat Chabidon, Winnipeg Police Service

Jennifer Ridge, City Clerk's Department

— 06

Financial Report

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contract Fee	$40,000.00
Communications/Community Outreach	$25,438.50
Education and Training	$250.00
Meeting Costs	$1,307.65
Office Expenditures	$923.16
TOTAL:	$67,919.31



— 07

A Model for Revitalization

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is dedicated to helping nonprofit community development organizations transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity—good places to work, do business and raise families.

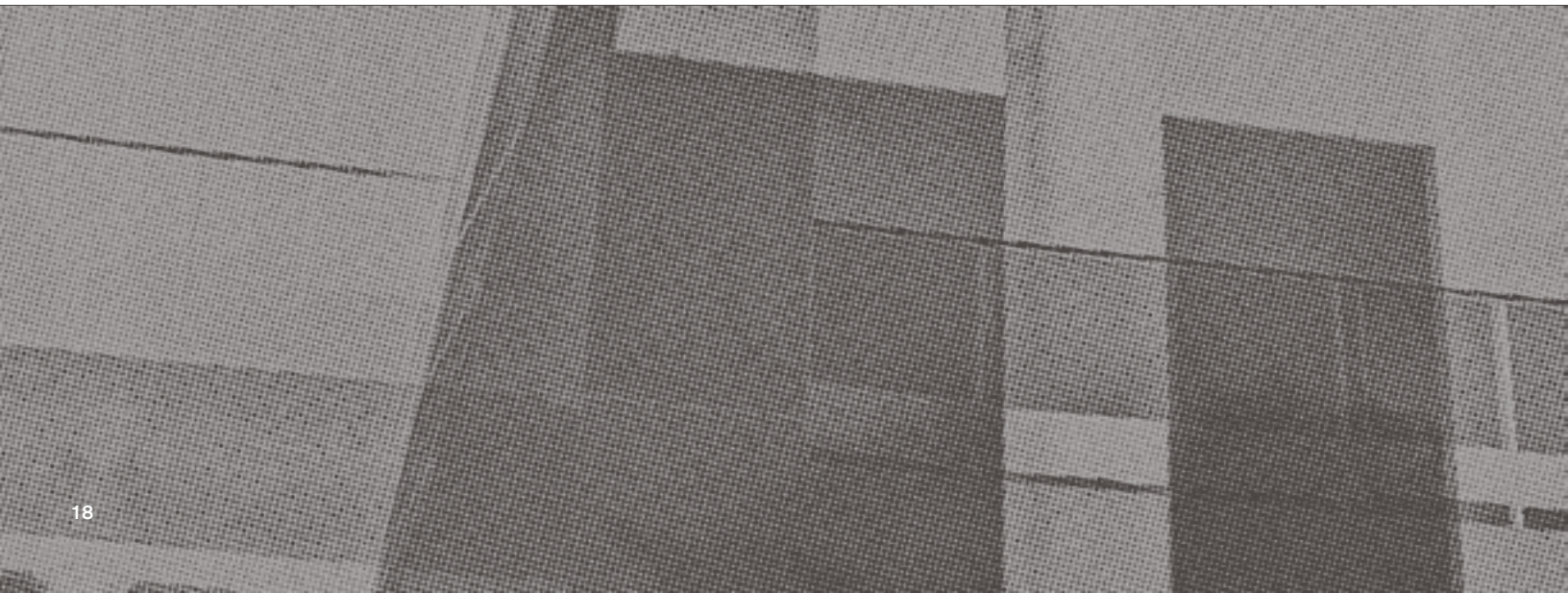
Effective crime prevention centers around one thing, proactivity. With the community we determine the priority issues that require attention in their neighbourhood, and discuss these. We work with the community to brainstorm prevention ideas and options that will both combat instances and frequency of crime, and aid residents in feeling safe and secure in their homes and neighbourhoods.

In the event that these prevention ideas are not something the community can carry out themselves, they can then appeal to city administration for assistance. Hearing from members of the public helps us learn how to best serve the citizens of our city. We work with the Winnipeg Police Service to make our city safe, and knowing what specific neighbourhoods need to increase their sense of security allows us to create crime prevention plans that are as effective as possible.

Another major contributing factor to community safety is collaboration within the community. By working together to solve crime issues, we not only determine what the community members are most concerned about, but we also establish a working relationship between neighbourhoods. Then, if crimes do occur, the victims will have neighbours and friends they can contact for help, and safe places to stay until they receive police assistance.

The Committee promotes strategic alliances between community developers, law enforcement and other key stakeholders in troubled neighborhoods. By sharing resources and integrating strategies, these partners reduce persistent crime and disorder, spur economic investment and create healthier neighborhoods for youth and families.

Building on lessons from programs such as SafeScape and Situational Crime Prevention, WCFS promotes an integrated and holistic way to develop, plan and implement strategies as a neighborhood-based process. The Committee has developed a step-by-step method to create a plan of action for spurring on the safe revitalization of a community or target area.



Six Elements of Effective Safety Planning

PHASE 1

Establishing a Community Voice: Form A Safety Panel

PHASE 2

Creating a Neighborhood Profile: Data Collection

PHASE 3

Forming Local Priorities: Develop A Plan

PHASE 4

Encouraging Community Engagement: Invite Resident Input

PHASE 5

Implementing a Plan: Execute Strategy

PHASE 6

Ongoing Assessment: Adapt the Plan According to Community Needs

Community revitalization is about creating a strong, prosperous and safe environment where people within the community can identify problems and work with community-based organizations to help solve those problems.

— 08

A Vision for Merchants Corner

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. Spearheaded by the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC), a coalition of over 20 North End organizations joined 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.

“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


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Winnipeg
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