Winnipeg Committee for Safety 2015

Winnipeg

| Winnipeg Committee For Safety

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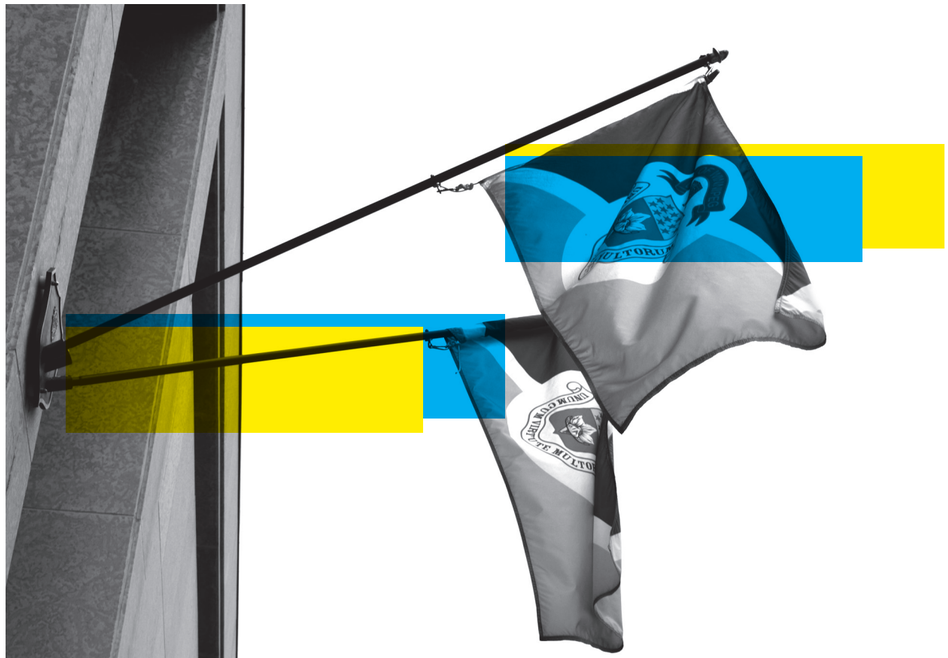
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Who We Are





The WCFS works with citizens and local organizations to make Winnipeg a safe and healthy city.

Comprising volunteer citizen members who offer diverse and passionate perspectives, The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is mandated to advise the Mayor and Council on safety issues as they impact City of Winnipeg policies, procedures and services. The WCFS' ongoing role is to provide information, formulate recommendations and monitor progress regarding safety issues within our communities.

Since 1999, the Committee has brought people together from across the city to brainstorm ideas, share information, set priorities, build networks among residents and agencies and empower residents to take action in their own neighbourhoods.

Our mandate is to support, assist, stimulate and mobilize the community. We aim to stay ahead of the curve and lead community initiatives proactively and with forward thinking.

Message from the Chairperson



The Winnipeg Committee for Safety believes that safety is a fundamental human right and that all people deserve to have this right respected.

- Councillor Jason Schreyer

2015 marked an exciting and revitalizing year for our committee.

With that, we understand that safety is not a one-size-fits all concept. The meaning of safety can be as diverse as the communities we serve. Safety measures that work in one community may not be as effective in another. Recognizing this, we are committed to engaging with community members and organizations whose work fosters the growth necessary for a safer and inclusive Winnipeg.

2015 marked an exciting and revitalizing year for our committee. We were pleased to welcome two new members, Narendra Mathur and Laurie Monk, whose wide range of professional experience contribute to our continually evolving knowledge base. Combined with the insights and commitment of our existing committee members, our newly established team led us into a bright future of establishing Winnipeg as a safe city to work, live and play in.

Our committee aimed to empower local organizations whose vision is to make our communities safer and healthier for all. Through meaningful engagement, information sharing and network building, we continued to strive towards being the conduit between Winnipeg's diverse communities and City Council. By hearing the concerns, challenges and successes across the city, we remained committed to solidifying our position as Winnipeg's knowledge hub on a variety of safety concerns.

We recognized the vital role youth play in leading our communities into a safe and successful future. The highlight of 2015 was emphasizing the importance of youth engagement through a variety of social programs that instilled the value of social cohesion and connectedness. Indeed, crime prevention through social development has proven to be an effective strategy for building capacity and forging new community leaders. It is through the passion and vitality of community organizations that this important work was carried out. We were delighted to be a part of fostering a culture of safety across our great city and look forward to another year of promoting safety for all.



Members

Councillor Jason Schreyer, Chairperson | **His Worship Mayor Brian Bowman, Ex-Officio**

Laurie Monk, Province of Manitoba | **Sonja Musto** | **Douglas Smith** | **Jacquie Habing**

Ray Ali | **Angela Falk** | **Jesse Gair** | **Kerry LeBlanc** | **Narendra Mathur**

Winnipeg Public Service

Sergeant Boyd Spence - Winnipeg Police Service | **Constable Brad Sparrow** - Winnipeg Police Service

Constable Carolina Knutt - Winnipeg Police Service | **Karen Beaudin** - Community Resource Coordinator

Jennifer Ridge - Clerk, City Clerk's Department



Contract Fee *Encumbered	**$33,846.16**
Communications/Community Outreach	**$29,560.80**
Education and Training	**$400.00**
Meeting Costs	**$1661.56**
Office Expenditures	**$659.42**
TOTAL	**$66,127.94**

Youth Engagement

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety was pleased to be a part of several remarkable projects at the community level that foster youth engagement, social cohesion and strong leadership.

Youth Agencies Alliance Rotary Leadership Program

During the 6-week program, youth from the Youth Agencies Alliance led community service projects, community beautification projects, volunteered at local organizations and participated in job preparation activities.

- Eighteen sites participated and 165 youth graduated from the program having acquired valuable experience.
- Youth Leaders reflected upon their own personal highlights of the summer that included going to Siloam Mission and having the opportunity to bond with one another and build new friendships.
- Other sites hosted fundraisers over the summer and raised money to donate to a charity of their choice, often the organizations they had volunteered at.
- At the conclusion of the program, Youth Leaders were presented with certificates and 3 youth were selected as 2015 valedictorians for exemplifying the program's goals and reaching above and beyond program expectations.

The 2015 program enjoyed a major success – the introduction of "Art City" as a new Rotary Leadership site! YAA is continually trying to diversify the funding for the program to ensure its sustainability, and securing the funding from the Winnipeg Committee for Safety was a step towards achieving that goal.



The WCFS believes that empowering youth is imperative to building strong and healthy communities for the future.

Promoting Injury Prevention through Exercise & Education

Bike Together Winnipeg Coalition 2015

Bike Together Winnipeg (BTW) was formed in 2014, as a coalition of community partners committed to promoting safe cycling as a transportation mode and as a healthy recreational activity for children through education and reinforcement of safety behaviours for cyclists. The target was children and youth from lower income families living in multiple-dwelling housing complexes and communities where IMPACT has observed low helmet use (IMPACT, 2013). These children and youth were provided bikes, helmets and locks and were taught the skills to become safe, responsible cyclists.

Partnering with various stakeholders across Winnipeg including (but not limited to) the Winnipeg Committee for Safety, Sport Medicine & Science Council of Manitoba, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (IMPACT), Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service and the Headingly Correctional Centre, Bike Together Winnipeg Coalition 2015 ran another successful incentive program for children.

Bike Together Winnipeg met on a monthly basis. Part of its ongoing strategy to utilize best practices for cycling safety consisted of developing a literature review group who reviewed current evidence for cycling safety. This group was led by the WRHA Injury Prevention team and key findings from their extensive review were incorporated into the 2015 project.

The one-day bike safety event consisted of six stations:

AS EACH CHILD COMPLETED THE ACTIVITIES OF EACH STATION, THEIR POSTCARD WAS STAMPED AND ENTERED INTO A GRAND PRIZE DRAW.

STATION 01 Registration and an awareness campaign including distribution of a “Bike Together Winnipeg” post card kicked off the event.

STATION 02 Children who did not own a bike were provided a refurbished bike and new lock. Children who brought their own bikes were provided with a lock and their bikes were given a safety inspection and necessary repairs.

STATION 03 Bike helmets were provided to children who did not own one. All children were taught how to fit a helmet correctly.

STATION 04 Children attended the “Safety First” station where they learned the importance of wearing a helmet and reflective gear, hand signals, traffic rules, shoulder checking and bike maintenance.

STATION 05 Bike Rodeo – children went through 5 scenarios practicing the skills they were just taught including using hand signals, stopping at crosswalks, stop signs and railroad crossings.

STATION 06 Children were asked questions about helmet fitting, hand signals and general cycling safety. They were provided with Bike Together Winnipeg bags full of swag and asked to report what they learned during the course of the event on their post cards. Each post card was entered into a grand prize including a prize bag and tickets to a Winnipeg Goldeyes game!

To reinforce the learned cycling safety behaviours, Bike Together Winnipeg sites ran a “Caught You Using Your Head” incentive campaign for the duration of the summer. Programming occurred at three Manitoba Housing Complexes (Plessis Road, IRCOM & Blake Gardens) which are situated in communities that have the lowest bike helmet use rates in Winnipeg. The program also ran at three community centres: Norquay, Broadway Neighbourhood and Ralph Brown. Site staff received training on helmet fit and bike safety. In order to positively reinforce children or youth who are caught wearing their helmet or demonstrating good bike safety behaviour, small prizes will distributed multiple times through each week. Dangerous behaviours and poor helmet fit were corrected and non-helmet use addressed.

Just TV Summer Music Camp

Broadway Neighbourhood Centre

Over the course of the summer of 2015 the Just TV Summer Music Camp, hosted by the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, enjoyed many successes. Participants were youth leaders from the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sports Achievement Centre (WASAC) and were selected by leadership at WASAC.

The purpose of the camp was to focus intensively on hip hop music creations, mixing and mastering music and getting the youth performance ready. The week long camps focused on introduction to music making as well as skill development, expression and cooperation. The activities served as the foundation for youth to further explore these areas in their lives in the future. The tangible goal being the creation of an original hip hop song and music video. Youth participated in an exercise where they wrote a 3-minute song – all youth were challenged to write without overthinking and to throw themselves into the process – many youth reported that this exercise was a highlight of their time in the camp.

A few local musicians served as mentors for the youth including Tom Dutiaume, Murray Pulver, Sheena Grobb, Jay Bodner and Ali Fontaine. Mentors taught and encouraged participants to learn the basic concepts of music creation, lyric writing and production.

The music camp was fantastic! Youth shared that they were excited to write a song (for many of them it was their first time) and to record in studio. The youth truly looked up to the music mentors – who were fun, encouraging and patient.

The edited compilation video – capturing footage and interviews of all the camps was given to all participants as a keepsake.

Overall the music camp was a great success; youth shared that they enjoyed being in front of the camera and the majority listed the video shoot at Aspire Studio as the highlight of the camp. The youth learned that in order to be a leader you need to push yourself outside of your comfort zone and try something new in an unfamiliar environment in order to grow.

Along with community members, relevant stakeholders, staff and proud parents/caregivers, all of the WASAC youth were invited to attend the Summer Celebration on September 9th, 2015 – marking and celebrating the accomplishments of the youth in the music camps over the summer.

Indigenous Model of Safety

The Bear Clan Patrol



History

The Bear Clan Patrol embodies a rich history of grassroots activism within the North End and inner city communities of Winnipeg. The original formation began in 1992 when concerned citizens joined forces to patrol the streets with the aim of providing a sense of safety to people in the community. The group eventually disbanded. Following the discovery of the body of Tina Fontaine on August 17th, 2014, a group of residents and organizers, with the permission of the founding members of the original patrol, brought the Bear Clan back to the streets of Winnipeg. Driven by their passion to protect and empower community members, and with a renewed sense of community activism, the Bear Clan Patrol turned this tragedy into a collective sense of empowerment and resiliency.

Indigenous Model

The Bear Clan Patrol of today works to create a culture of safety and change perceptions about the communities they serve from the inside out. Their safety model utilizes traditional teachings that encourage respect for self, family, community and the environment. Aiming to protect women, children and Elders they lead by example and build capacity within the patrol and self-sufficiency within communities. Bear Clan volunteers are encouraged to value and celebrate Indigenous knowledge system(s) and in doing so, are empowered to embrace Indigenous ways of being. The overall operation of the Patrol is driven and led by a council comprised of Indigenous women and other community stakeholders including, (but not limited to) the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC), the Dufferin Residents' Association (DRAW) and the North Point Douglas Women's Centre (NPDWC) advancing their ability to provide support and harm reduction services in direct response to the needs of these respective communities.

Culture of Safety

The Bear Clan patrols the Lord Selkirk Park, Dufferin, and North Point Douglas communities from Thursday to Sunday evenings, rain or shine. Even the harsh winter temperatures are not enough to deter these committed volunteers. Averaging approximately 12 volunteers per shift, the Bear Clan Patrol interacts with community members in a supportive and non-violent manner.

By fostering a culture of safety in the inner city and the North End, their work exemplifies a community-based crime prevention strategy. In addition, they strive towards reconciliation, as is evidenced by their continued partnerships with units of the Winnipeg Police Service. This highlights the incredible resiliency of a community that aims for collaboration, cooperation and reconciliation. Indeed, the standards from which the Bear Clan Patrol operates have the capacity to teach and reach communities well beyond the inner city and the North End.

Raising Awareness

Sexual Exploitation Awareness Campaign: Addressing Demand

Serious safety issues such as sexual exploitation through prostitution tend to sit on the social periphery. Despite this, sexual exploitation through prostitution continues to be a major issue in Winnipeg. Since 1998, the Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services (SACJS) have been working to address the demand side of prostitution through their Prostitution Offender Program. Part of their efforts included producing a sexual exploitation booklet distributed in 2006.

In 2014, the Canadian government established new laws against the solicitation of prostitution and as such, the SACJS recognized the need to revise their previous booklet and adapt it to reflect the new legalities. In 2015, as part of an ongoing strategy to raise awareness amongst men who pay for sex, the Sex Trade Reality Check poster and booklet was produced and distributed across Winnipeg. The campaign's key sentence - "buying sex is illegal in Canada" - was translated into the 13 most commonly spoken languages (French, Cree, Ojibway, Tagalog, Punjabi, German, Urdu, Arabic, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Chinese, and Spanish) in Manitoba. The aim was to ensure that people of various backgrounds and nationalities would be able to understand that buying sex is a criminal offence and not welcome in Winnipeg or across Manitoba.

Winnipeg was proud to host the 103rd Grey Cup Festival from November 25th- 29th, 2015 that attracted many enthusiastic visitors to our great city. The majority of visitors and residents positively contributed to the overall success of hosting such a big event. However, it was imperative to address the small yet influential number of people who utilize the opportunity to attempt to and/or partake in sexual exploitation. As such, an awareness campaign consisting of government agencies, the Winnipeg Police Service, community agencies and individuals with experiential knowledge on the dangers of sexual exploitation formed the Manitoba Sporting Events Safety Working group. On Oct. 29, 2015 the working group launched the Buying Sex Is Not A Sport Awareness Campaign together with a human trafficking hotline.



As part of this campaign, the Sex Trade Reality Check booklet and poster highlighted the negative implications that prostitution has on the people that are exploited, our communities and the individuals who pay for sex. Importantly, the booklet also contained resources for those who seek help to change their behavior. They were widely distributed to community agencies that come across individuals who were (potentially) engaging in prostitution as exploiters. The booklet dispelled myths about the sex trade industry including the relationship between victims and perpetrators, the risks incurred for all parties and the damaging effects that sexual exploitation has on individual victims as well as the community. Lastly, a detailed overview of the criminality of sexual exploitation was provided.

The revisions were made by a committee of members of the Winnipeg Police Service, Crown Attorney, RCMP, Manitoba Status of Women, Klinic Community Health and the Salvation Army. The Winnipeg Committee for Safety was proud to be amongst other funders such as Manitoba Status of Women, Klinic and The Salvation Army. The materials were used by all the agencies involved as printed versions as well as for online purposes e.g. websites and social media. This awareness campaign proactively engaged audiences and made specific calls to action in the hopes of eliminating sexual exploitation in Winnipeg.