


WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY

# ANNUAL REPORT | 2016



DESIGN BY | NHURLEY.COM

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# WHO WE ARE

**THE WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY (WCFS) WORKS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, CITIZENS AND CITY COUNCIL AND STRIVES TO MAKE WINNIPEG A SAFE AND HEALTHY CITY FOR ALL.**

The WCFS is mandated to advise the Mayor and Council on safety issues as they impact City of Winnipeg policies, procedures and services. We are comprised of volunteer citizen members whose eclectic professional and personal experiences inform and guide our work. Our ongoing role is to provide information to local organizations, citizens and City Council and to monitor progress regarding safety issues within our communities.

## OUR MANDATE

**SUPPORT** - We aim to empower local organizations that wish to make our communities safer and healthier for all. Through meaningful engagement, the WCFS strives to be a conduit between the community and City Council. We may also offer in-kind support for organizations seeking the funding necessary to carry out their impactful work.

**ASSIST** - Navigating the complex systems within the municipal government structure can be a daunting task. Because we are positioned to be Winnipeg's knowledge hub on a variety of safety concerns, concerned citizens and/or organizations may contact us as their first point of entry. Conversely, we are available to assist City Council by connecting them to various community resources. This strengthens communication and enhances collaboration.

**STIMULATE** - Organizations and citizens often know exactly what they their objectives and goals are. Through information sharing and network building we aim to build upon the inherent capacity within our diverse communities.

**MOBILIZE** - Through connecting various stakeholders and developing a strong network of community action, we aim to mobilize and empower neighbourhoods and community groups across Winnipeg.

We are active on Twitter and communicate daily with citizens, organizations, City Councillors, other government officials and media!

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @WPGSAFETY**
**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE – WINNIPEGSAFETY.CA**


CITY OF WINNIPEG
UNUM CUM VIRTUTE MULTORUM

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



**IF YOU WERE TO ASK TEN PEOPLE WHAT SAFETY MEANS TO THEM, YOU WOULD LIKELY HEAR TEN DIFFERENT ANSWERS.**

**- COUNCILLOR JASON SCHREYER**

Even though safety can be defined subjectively, the core principles of the concept remain the same. Safety means having a place to call home. Safety means belonging to a community. Safety means having a support network. Safety means having reasonable access to resources. Safety, in all its definitions, is at the heart of healthy relationships and thriving communities.

As a citizen-advisory committee, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) is well-positioned to be a conduit between City Council and communities throughout Winnipeg. The WCFS aims to bridge gaps and foster cohesion through the shared goal of achieving and maintaining safety. We acknowledge that many citizens and grassroots community organizations already have the knowledge needed to achieve success. Recognizing this, we use a significant portion of our budget to give back to the community through our accessible Small Community Grants program. From mentoring youth to raising awareness to working with other City of Winnipeg affiliates like the Winnipeg Police Service, we are always pleased with the results of assisting the community. Indeed, it is the community that teaches us the value of safety time and time again.

Although our focus has expanded considerably throughout the years, advocating for people's right to live a life free from violence has always been at the heart of our foundation. In 1999, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety was formed in response to the ongoing concern of violence against women. In line with that cause, the highlight of 2016 was when the WCFS became an active member of the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative, a chapter of the UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme. The City of Winnipeg was the first city in Canada to join this important initiative whose aim is to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces. The WCFS contributed to research that asked tough questions about the climate of sexual violence in Winnipeg and focused on women whose lived experience continues to shed light on the issue. Our work with Winnipeg Safe City continues to grow as we form multi-sectorial partnerships, raise public awareness, and stick to the principles of achieving a culture of safety for all.

# 2016 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## MEMBERS

**Councillor Jason Schreyer** - Chairperson

**His Worship, Mayor Brian Bowman** - Ex-Officio

**Laurie Monk** - Province of Manitoba **| Cassandra Dokken** - Province of Manitoba

**Angela Falk | Jacqui Habing | Jesse Gair | Kerry LeBlanc | Narendra Mathur | Ray Ali | Sonja Musto**

## WINNIPEG PUBLIC 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

**Crystal Van Den Bussche** - Coordinator, Winnipeg Committee for Safety

# 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH | $21,880.00 |
| EDUCATION & TRAINING | $2000.00 |
| MEETING COSTS | $2000.00 |
| OFFICE EXPENDITURES | $1000.00 |
| CONTRACT FEE | $40,000.00 |

**TOTAL** **$66,880.00**

# GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The WCFS recognizes that secure and stable funding is a consistent obstacle for many small, grassroots community organizations. Through our bi-annual Small Grants Program we are able to assist important organizations as they work to foster community safety and wellbeing throughout Winnipeg. Whether funding is one-time only, project-specific or required for ongoing program delivery, the WCFS is committed to developing partnerships and empowering our communities.

## 2016 FUNDING RECIPIENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| BEAR CLAN PATROL | $2000.00 |
| FORT RICHMOND/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION | $500.00 |
| LARRY MORRISSETTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP | $500.00 |
| MOSAIC - LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAM | $2400.00 |
| ROTARY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE | $2500.00 |
| SIERRA LEONE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT INC. - SWIMMING PROGRAM | $2500.00 |
| THUNDERBIRD HOUSE | $2995.63 |
| WEST END BIZ SAFETY GUIDEBOOK | $2400.00 |
| WINNIPEG CRIME STOPPERS | $1000.00 |

**TOTAL** **$16,795.63**

# MOSAIC LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAM

Moving to a new country and learning about its culture can be an exciting and challenging time. Newcomers who dared to embrace the chilling Winnipeg winter found Mosaic's Learn-to-Skate Program to be welcoming and educational. 29 newcomers from 15 countries including (but not limited to) Syria, Nigeria, China and Ethiopia attended the 10-week class in Central Park. With great enthusiasm they learned basic skating skills such as how to fall safely, glide, turn, skate backwards and do cross-cuts. Some participants expressed that they had been dreaming of learning to skate like a Canadian ever since they moved here.

This accessible program was offered free-of-charge. In partnership with the Knox United Church who provided child-minding, Mosaic provided a skating instructor with a background in English as a Second Language teaching. This undoubtedly made the participants feel welcome and comfortable. City of Winnipeg workers were quick to assist and prepare the ice for a smooth skate. Members of the Winnipeg Police Service joined the newcomers for a couple of skating sessions and this showed that our police officers are helpful and community-minded, while establishing positive relationships.

The continued success of this program is a testament to sustaining healthy and welcoming communities. Not only do newcomers learn a uniquely Canadian pastime that they are able to share with their children, they are also able to connect with other community members and share their experiences, challenges and successes. Indeed, part of the fun is learning about each other's culture. These connections build trust, empathy and understanding – the very principles of a healthy and thriving community.



SOURCE: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

# THUNDERBIRD HOUSE

Located in the heart of the inner city, the Circle of Life Thunderbird House is a sacred center rooted in Indigenous pride, values and identity. It is host to many Indigenous-led programs and brings together youth and Elders alike. The incredible architectural design is the backdrop for many community organizations to host cultural events and healing ceremonies. It is an invaluable sacred space to celebrate Indigeneity and foster community peace and wellbeing.

Ensuring that community members feel safe to access the space means improving safety in the surrounding area. To deter illegal activities from occurring on the exterior of the building, the Thunderbird House installed surveillance cameras at each of its entrances. Staff and volunteers are able to use the cameras for monitoring the grounds and to mitigate any potentially illegal activity.

Staff may also work in cooperation with the Winnipeg Police Service when necessary. This has led to a noticeable decrease in loitering around the entrances, increased the overall sense of safety and resulted in greater attendance for programming and events. The Circle of Life Thunderbird House continues to be a peaceful and safe refuge for many community members, allowing its welcoming atmosphere to continue to flourish.




SOURCE WWW.WINNIPEGARCHITECTURE.CA

# ROTARY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The Rotary Leadership Circle (RLC) program believes that all youth have the capacity to positively contribute to their communities and develop leadership skills. Their 20 years of success makes them one of the most in-demand leaders in crime prevention through social development programming in Winnipeg. RLC believes that all youth should have access to quality programming. Because cost can be a factor for many families in choosing summer programming, the RLC is proud to offer their program to participants at no cost.

Running for six-weeks over the summer, the RLC program is geared towards youth ages 10 – 14. Youth volunteer and learn about the history of their communities, engage with residents and learn about new places, local programs and employment resources. By engaging in community service and neighbourhood beautification youth develop a sense of appreciation, pride and belonging within their communities. Their eagerness to give back to their communities is admirable to other youth and adults alike.

RLC also offers practical skills like money management and leadership training – both of which contribute to their future employment opportunities. It is clear from their willingness to participate and give back that when youth are given the support, guidance and opportunity to thrive, they make positive choices for their own futures and for the world around them.

RLC operated 18 different program sites in 14 under-served communities in Winnipeg. Many of these sites collaborated on projects of their choosing, including fundraising for charities of their choice and painting a mural. Some sites that are geographically distant made connections with each other and helped youth feel a sense of belonging in communities outside of their own.

To celebrate another successful summer, RLC held a graduation ceremony and honours each of the youth for their participation, personal development and positive contributions. The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is proud to have contributed funding to this important work. The WCFS wishes to thank RLC staff and volunteers for their mentorship and the youth who will undoubtedly carve their own paths forward, become leaders and make our city a safer and better place for us all!



# WINNIPEG SAFE CITY




In 2013, Winnipeg was selected as the first city in Canada to join the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme. This initiative aims to reduce and prevent sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. After signing onto the initiative, the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Status of Women and community and government representatives established a local UN Safe Cities "chapter" – and the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative was formed. The WCFS was proud to become a member of the Winnipeg Safe City Steering Committee in 2016, expanding the institutional capacity for the City of Winnipeg.

Defining the continuum of sexual violence, addressing myths and validating survivors' experiences are important parts of fostering a culture in which sexual violence is no longer tolerated. The WCFS implemented a social media strategy for Winnipeg Safe City to raise public awareness of the harsh reality that many women face. By bringing sexual violence to the forefront, the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative aims to challenge the stereotypes and myths that allows sexual violence to flourish. It also aims to reduce the stigma of formally reporting and enhance survivor-centered support services.

Effectively addressing the root causes of sexual violence and developing local prevention strategies requires a comprehensive assessment on national, provincial and local levels. As a strong research partner, the WCFS contributed to the Winnipeg Safe City Scoping Study, released in September 2016. This extensive research project utilizes both quantitative and qualitative data and prioritizes the voices of marginalized women (ie: Indigenous women and newcomer women) who are most likely to experience sexual violence in public spaces. Their recommendations for improving women's safety in Winnipeg's public spaces have been key to the ongoing Winnipeg Safe City strategic plan.

Creating and enhancing safe public spaces requires nothing less than a collective impact approach. Local Winnipeg Safe City partners include (but are not limited to) the Winnipeg Police Service, Klinic Community Health Centre, Ka Ni Kanichihk, Inc, Winnipeg Transit, Crime Prevention – Province of Manitoba, Victims Services – Province of Manitoba, Southern Chiefs Organization and community representatives.

Just some of the Winnipeg Safe City partnerships, achievements and supported interventions include:

- Holding various focus groups, speaker panels and forums by and for women to share their experiences of sexual/gender-based violence and recommendations for future interventions
- You Are Not Alone website is launched by the Province of Manitoba http://www.gov.mb.ca/youarenotalone/index.html
- Stop Request Program re-launched by Winnipeg Transit

- The Heart Medicine Lodge, the first Indigenous-led program for survivors of sexual violence in Canada, is implemented by Ka Ni Kanichihk, Inc.
- Province of Manitoba partnered with the Southern Chiefs' Organization and released Taxicab Safety brochures, available in English, French, Cree, Ojibwe, Tagalog and Arabic
- Winnipeg Police Service announced a research partnership with RESOLVE at the University of Manitoba examining sexual assault victims' interaction with the justice system

Connecting with partners near and far enhances collaboration. Winnipeg Safe City is proud to welcome Edmonton as the second Canadian city to join the UN Global Programme.

For more information about the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative and a list of resources please visit:

**WINNIPEG.CA/CLERKS/BOARDS/WPGSAFECITY/DEFAULT.STM**
**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @WPGSAFECITY**

By participating in events like the UN Women Glocal Exchange, Winnipeg Safe City is able to expand its reach and connect with other sister cities like Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and Washington, D.C. to address challenges, share successes and bring our work to an international level. Winnipeg Safe City will continue to establish strong partnerships, increase awareness and support survivors through policy, programming and advocacy support.



Members of the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative gather at Ka Ni Kanichihk, Inc on September 30th, 2016 to launch the release of the Winnipeg Safe City Scoping Study. (L – R) – Elizabeth Pilcher, (Superintendent, Winnipeg Police Service); Councillor Cindy Gilroy, (City of Winnipeg – Daniel McIntyre); Hon. Rochelle Squires (Minister Responsible for Status of Women, Province of Manitoba); Crystal Van Den Bussche, (Coordinator, Winnipeg Committee for Safety); Rachel Bach, (Coordinator, Heart Medicine Lodge, Ka Ni Kanichihk, Inc).

# HONOURING LARRY MORRISSETTE

**LARRY MORRISSETTE, ALSO KNOWN AS SINGING WOLF FROM THE BEAR CLAN, DEVOTED MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF HIS LIFE AS A SOCIAL WORKER TEACHING AND WORKING IN THE INNER CITY AND NORTH END OF WINNIPEG.**



Larry was a Sundancer, an Elder, fire-keeper, sweat lodge conductor, pipe carrier, community leader, activist, author, and mentor. A tireless advocate on behalf of Indigenous people, Larry spoke truth to power by continually raising awareness about the ongoing effects of colonization through his work in the community. His multimedia work explored the complexity of colonization, street gangs, Indigenous identity and resistance. He was part of developing many urban and inner city organizations and programs whose continued success is a testament to his spirit.

As a devoted father and grandfather, Larry's greatest love, pride and inspiration came from his family. He believed that the Medicine Wheel's teachings would guide and empower them and the Indigenous community as a whole.
Over the years he collaborated with many other activists and organizations and always had the courage and honesty to challenge the status quo. For example, in the late 1980's he was a part of the Thunder Eagle Society which believed that embedding Indigenous teachings within public education was crucial in affirming Indigenous culture.
In 1991, after years of activism, "Children of the Earth" high school officially opened. It continues to be a leader in academics, language and identity for Indigenous youth in the community and across Canada.

Larry co-founded the Bear Clan Patrol, a grassroots neighbourhood patrol that holds great respect for the Elders, women and children of the North End and Point Douglas areas. Centered on Indigenous teachings, it aims to improve community safety and wellbeing. After a hiatus, Larry and his fellow Bear Clan members would revitalize the patrol in 2015, gaining local and national recognition for their approach and for bridging the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This work inspired the later formation of the Mama Bear Clan Patrol, led by women in the community.

In 2000, Larry was part of forming Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin (OPK) which translates from Ojibway into young warriors living a good life-moving forward. Larry was a strong mentor for young men trying to escape the gang life and integrate back into society through work programs. Larry's wisdom and gratitude for ceremony and teachings were integrated into the program and helped men find employment and connect back to spirituality and identity.

After his death on September 20th, 2016 Larry was honoured with a plaque for his family by MLA Kevin Chief in the House of Commons. Later that year, the University of Winnipeg set up a scholarship fund to assist one Indigenous student per year with tuition and bring them one step closer to fulfilling their educational dreams.

Larry taught a community to love, heal, forgive, and be proud to be Indigenous. With humility and honesty, he lived and breathed reconciliation. He believed that regardless of a person's past, healing and honour came through telling one's story. His community continues to honour his time in this world through love and respect for one another. Through ceremony, his legacy will remain with the people and his spirit will empower those who knew him for generations to come.

**Special thanks to Larry's friend Ryan Nash for his thoughtful contributions.**

TO ME SAFETY MEANS THAT I HAVE A PLACE

TO GO TO LET MY GUARD DOWN AND BE MYSELF

- SONJA MUSTO

SAFETY MEANS GIVING ALL YOUTH THE

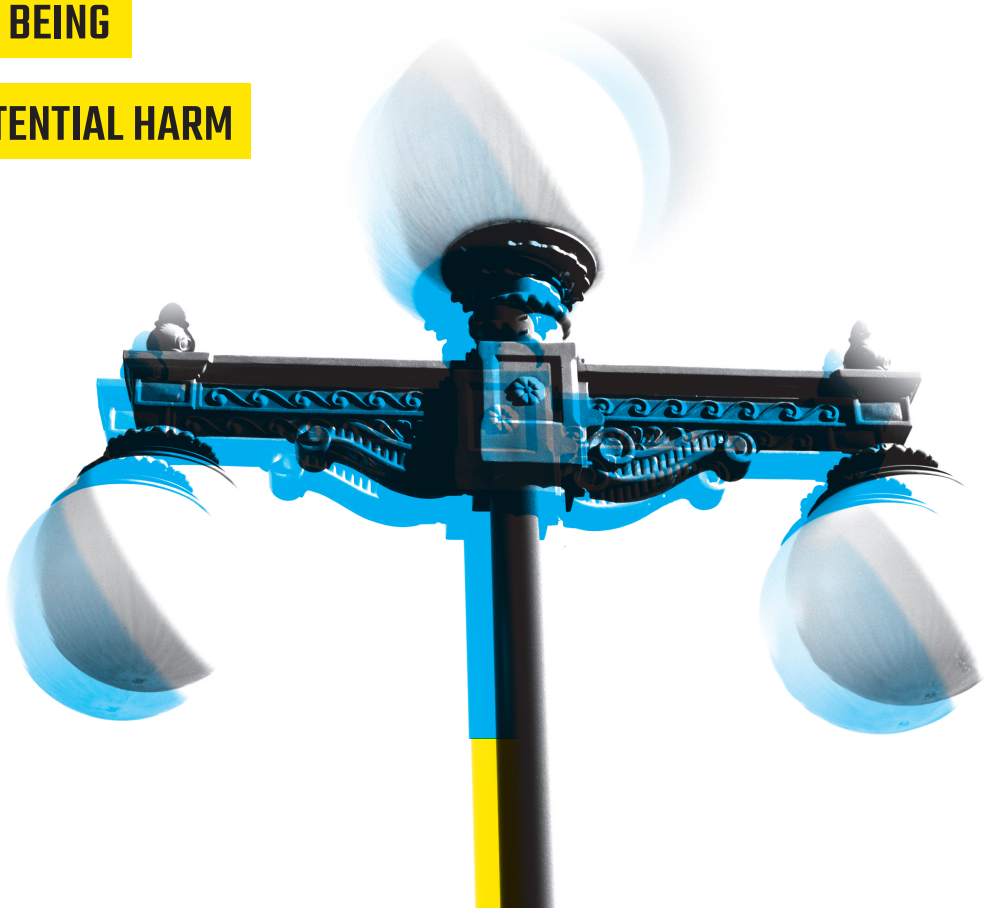
OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, TO PLAY AND TO GROW

- JESSE GAIR

SAFETY IS A STATE OF BEING

PROTECTED FROM POTENTIAL HARM

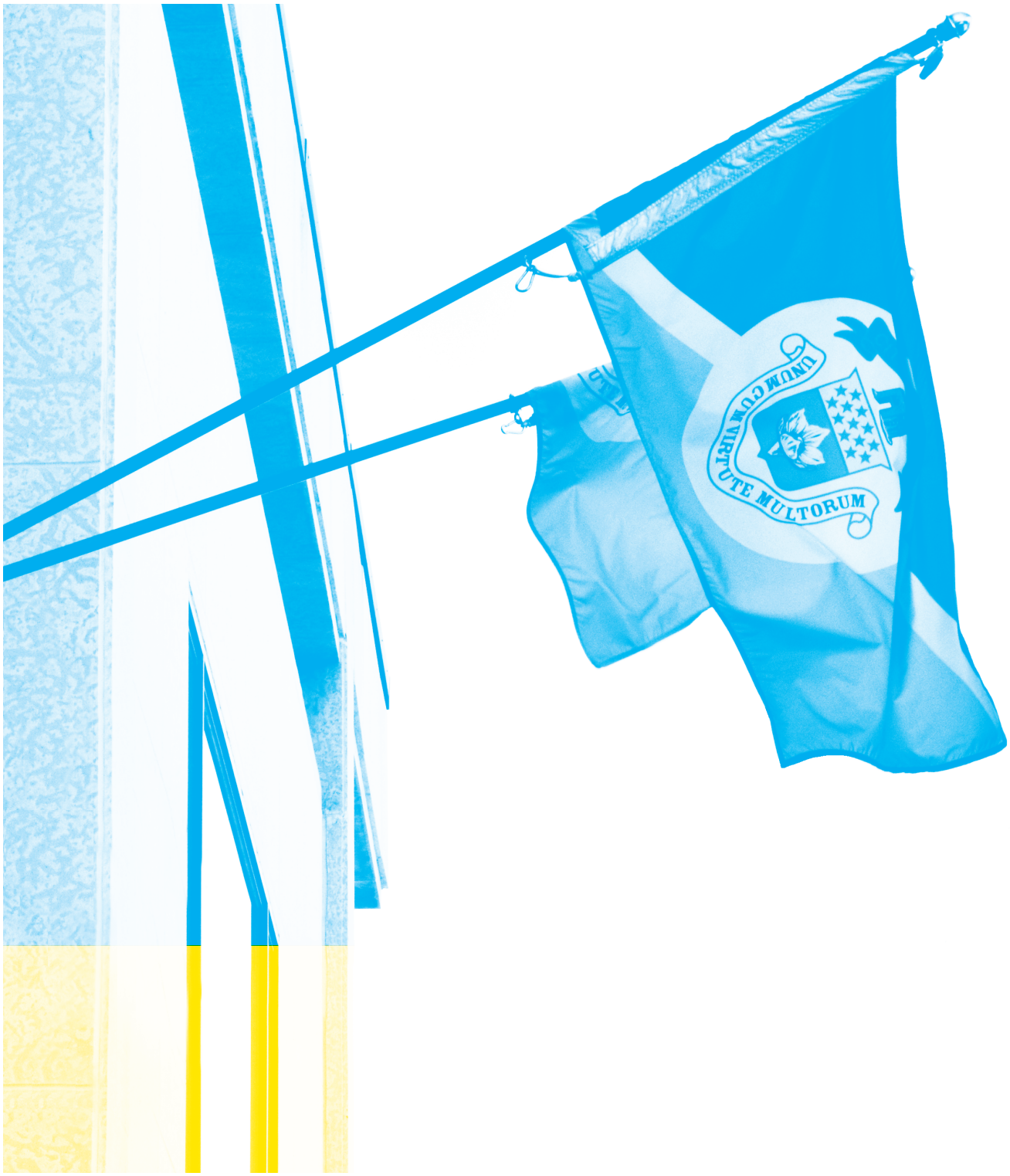
- JACQUIE HABING



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Winnipeg

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