Winnipeg Committee For Safety



2017 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



Photo credit: Mike Peters

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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!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Safety remains the foundation from which we stand up and face the complexities of our ever-changing and fast-paced world. From tangible items like street lighting to the sense of safety one feels by belonging to a community, safety encompasses many aspects of our daily lives. Safety can be met by recognizing the inherent strengths of people, families, groups and communities. When we act in this way we are better equipped to tackle our challenges together and build upon our assets.

In November 2017, I had the honour of being appointed as the Chairperson for the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS). This opportunity allows me to connect with a diverse group of volunteer citizens, whose collective goal is to foster community safety and wellbeing across our great city. Through their Community Grants Program and their continued focus on crime prevention through social development, the WCFS remains a valuable part of information-sharing, networking and capacity-building for both the community and City Council.

We know that the strength of our communities can be measured by the safety and security of its women and children. As co-chair of the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative (WSCI), I am pleased to further strengthen the partnership between WSCI and the WCFS. We continue to work together to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls in Winnipeg's public spaces through public awareness, increasing resources specific to women and by engaging men and boys as allies. These partnerships are essential in creating a more just and equitable society where everyone can thrive and reach their full potential.

Regardless of a person's social location, we all have the right to be safe. Through meaningful engagement with the WCFS, I look forward to continuing to learn about the ways in which safety impacts individual citizens and community organizations. Together we can ensure that Winnipeg is at the forefront of measurable outcomes and best practices and is, at its heart, a vibrant and safe place to live for all. ■

2017 MEMBERS
Winnipeg Committee for Safety

Council

Councillor C. Gilroy, Chairperson
Councillor J. Schreyer
His Worship Mayor Bowman, Ex-Officio

Citizen Members

Ray Ali
Kathleen Bell
Gary Black
Angela Falk
Cailin Hodder
Kerry LeBlanc
Narendra Mathur
Christene Ostapczuk
Cassandra Dokken, Province of Manitoba
Muuxi Adam, Province of Manitoba

Winnipeg Police Service

Karen Beaudin, Community Resource Coordinator
Sergeant Boyd Spence, Winnipeg Police Service
Constable Brad Sparrow, Winnipeg Police Service
Constable Poul Thagard, Winnipeg Police Service
Constable Chika Modozie, Winnipeg Police Service

Clerk

Jennifer Ridge, City Clerk's Department

Coordinator

Crystal Van Den Bussche

2017 WCFS
FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues:	2017 BUDGET	2017 Actuals	Balance
Council Funding	$ 66, 880.00		
Expenditures:			
Contract Fee	$ 40,000	$ 40,000	$ -
Communications/Community Outreach	$ 21,880.00	$ 22,130.00	$ (250.00)
Education/Training	$ 2000.00	$ 1856.30	$ 143.70
Meeting Costs	$ 2000.00	$ 1172.40	$ 827.60
Office Expenditures	$ 1000.00	$ 1604.88	$ (604.88)
Total	**$ 66,880.00**	**$66, 763.58**	**$ 116.42**

Crime Prevention through Social Development

Crime and subsequent victimization are costly to everyone, directly and indirectly. In Canada, harm from interpersonal crime (such as loss of property and wages, health care costs as well as pain, suffering, and trauma) costs approximately $55 billion annually. In the municipal context, for every 10,000 people, the accumulated costs due to crime are estimated at $15 million – for a municipality of 1 million people, crime costs total about $1.5 billion. The economic benefits of crime prevention are clear and the social costs are almost immeasurable.[1]

The foundation of crime prevention through social development (CPSD) is simple: as a society we can help prevent crime by engaging people in meaningful and culturally-appropriate activities that foster skill development, enhance individual strengths and instill a strong sense of community pride, belonging and responsibility. When we reduce the conditions that make engaging in criminal activity a viable and attractive option, we are able to lessen crime and victimization. Because we know that often times perpetrators of crime were once victims themselves, crime prevention through social development also involves victim advocacy and supports, to lessen the likelihood of perpetuation. By empowering victims and addressing their needs, crime prevention through social development aims to break these destructive cycles.

Effective crime prevention strategies must involve collaboration from a variety of partners. The City of Winnipeg is proud to be a part of the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP), a national body that connects Canadian municipalities, enabling each jurisdiction to share best practices and innovative, locally-owned approaches. Through comprehensive and strategic planning, municipalities in the network are well-positioned to be the necessary collaboration hubs whose role is to improve data collection and better coordinate existing resources towards evidence-based solutions.

Although the root causes of crime are multi-faceted and intersecting, Winnipeg is rich in its capacity to address local needs, mobilize leaders and capitalize on its strengths. By seeking new partnerships and building upon existing capacity, our communities will be safer and we can better equip youth with the brightest futures they deserve. ■

For more information about the Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP), please visit: **http://safercities.ca/home**

[1]Munger, Felix. "Rethinking Crime Prevention at the Municipal Level." Municipal Voice, Fall 2017, pp. 14-15.

Supporting our Neighbourhoods: Community Grants Program Overview

The WCFS recognizes that secure and stable funding is a consistent obstacle for many small, grassroots community organizations. Through our Community 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. ■



Photo credit: Jen Kostesky

2017
WCFS Community Grant Recipients

Community Grant Recipients	Amount
Aberdeen Swimming Program (Boys & Girls Club)	$3000.00
Bear Clan Patrol	$2000.00
Candace House	$3000.00
Parent Support Circles (GAIN - Gang Action Inter-agency Network)	$2,250.00
Heart Medicine Lodge (Ka Ni Kanichihk)	$2065.00
Mama Bear Clan Patrol (North Point Douglas Women's Center)	$2065.00
Learn to Skate Program (MOSAIC)	$1500.00
West Central Women's Resource Center	$6000.00
Total	**$21,880.00**



Photo Credit; Assiniboine Park Conservancy

ABERDEEN SUMMER PROGRAM

The Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg has a long history of providing fun and engaging activities to youth in Winnipeg and the Aberdeen Summer Program was no exception! This program was offered free of charge to youth (ages 6 - 13) in the William Whyte community.

With a focus on social inclusion, skill-building, physical activity and positive social interaction, youth were able to explore new opportunities for recreation and learning in a safe space. In total, 54 children participated in the program which offered them the opportunity to make meaningful connections with each other, staff and take pride in their community. Skill building was fostered through both the weekly Cooking Program and the Baseball Program. In these programs youth also learned about communication, teamwork and built positive relationships. This helped each child feel emotionally and physically safe, respected and valued. Parents were welcomed to take part in their hard work by attending monthly 'family dinners' which gave youth a chance to showcase the skills they learned while enjoying a nutritious meal with their caregivers.

Youth were given the opportunity to provide input into the community activities they attended and chose a swimming outing, a Winnipeg Goldeyes game and the Canada Summer Games as well. The success of the program was underscored by youth who took the initiative to offer staff help and stepped into a leadership role. This proved once again that when youth are given the safety they need, they are able to thrive as team members, role models and leaders. ■



Gang Action Inter-Agency Network (GAIN)

PARENT SUPPORT CIRCLES

Winnipeg's Gang Action Interagency Network (GAIN) is a network of government and not-for-profit agencies, community organizations, and law enforcement officials, who work collaboratively on grassroots solutions to the gang problem in Winnipeg. GAIN builds on research, current practices, and develops the resources needed both to prevent youth from joining gangs and help youth exit gangs.

Having a youth involved in gangs can be a challenging and stigmatizing experience. By recognizing that parents/caregivers of gang-involved youth need supportive spaces to share their experiences and learn from others in similar situations, GAIN created and hosted a series of 6 *Parent Support Circles* and an *Information Session* for interested members of the newcomer and Indigenous communities, respectively. Through community consultation, GAIN was able to tailor the meetings to meet the needs of participants. For example, when requests for specific information were made, GAIN coordinated presentations from Winnipeg Police Service members to help educate newcomers about the Canadian justice system.

Partnerships were key to the success of the project. By partnering with organizations like Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and Newcomers Education and Employment Development Services (NEEDS), GAIN was able to provide comfortable and accessible spaces, child-minding and rides to and from the program. Parents/caregivers found the circles to be very supportive, safe and informative. The success of this pilot project has led NEEDS to host the circles for newcomers, proving that collaboration is necessary in strengthening community and building capacity. ■

For more information about GAIN, please see: **https://www.gainmb.org/**

For more information about Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, please see: **http://www.mamawi.com/**

For more information about NEEDS, please see: **http://www.needsinc.ca/**



West Central
Women's Resource Centre

WEST CENTRAL WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Located in the heart of the West End, the West Central Women's Resource Center (WCWRC) is a valuable and community-driven space for where women can connect with each other, build skills, utilize basic resources and connect with other resources throughout the city. The following chart represents how often WCWRC resources were accessed, in the last quarter of 2017 alone. These numbers represent an almost 40% increase over the same period in the previous year. In total, over 5000 women utilized the center during this time.

Resource Accessed	**Total # of Uses**
Laundry appointments	282
Community Computers	1240
Safe Shower Facilities	169
Essential Hygiene Products	400 +
Nutritious Meals	3061

Community members' participation is vital to the ongoing success of the center. Participants contributed valuable feedback through surveys and meetings which guide program development and implementation. Throughout this process, new relationships are developed which ensures a sense of safety and belonging for staff, volunteers and participants. WCWRC intends to offer more of a focus on educational programming and community-building events in the future.

Along with enhancing social safety, physical safety plays an important part of providing an accessible and inviting space. Direct funding from the WCFS helped WCWRC to install outdoor lighting on all sides of their building, lighting up the sidewalk and surrounding area. Interior safety precautions were also installed to ensure anyone who accesses the center can take comfort that staff and volunteers can quickly take action in the event of an emergency. These changes were made in response to participants' feedback and have since increased the sense of physical safety that is required to engage in the community and capacity building WCWRC is known for. ■



Members of the Mama Bear Clan gather, 2017

MAMA BEAR CLAN

Mama Bear Clan's presence in the community fosters a sense of belonging, safety and community ownership

Hosted out of the North Point Douglas Women's Resource Centre, the Mama Bear Clan Patrol is a 300 plus female-led, community-driven foot patrol that walks through the North Point Douglas area every Friday and Sunday evening from 6 pm to 8 pm. As the 'eyes and ears' of the community, Mama Bear Clan knows that crime is more complex than simple crime statistics. They understand and see how the intersecting root causes of crime (ie: poverty, marginalization, addictions and homelessness) contribute to community safety.

This female-led volunteer group works from the foundation of the Seven Sacred Teachings: Wisdom, Respect, Truth, Honesty, Humility, Love and Courage and considers each person they encounter to be a relative. Whether they are sharing care packages, making sure people are safe, properly disposing of used needles or contacting other resources when required, the Mama Bear Clan's valuable presence in the community fosters a sense of belonging, safety and community ownership.

Their reputation as a trusted resource continues to grow. They have been counted on to provide support, safety and guidance during many community-led events including the Take Back the Night March, International Day to End Violence to Sex Trade Workers, Aboriginal Youth Opportunities (AYO!) Community Safety Night, the 7th Annual Communities March for Peace, and a variety of events at the Thunderbird House and schools in the area. The wisdom inherent in their direct actions and leadership will continue to empower staff, volunteers and the surrounding community for years to come. ■

To connect with the Mama Bear Clan, please see:
https://www.facebook.com/Mama-Bear-Clan-1699671170294271/



Members of the Mama Bear Clan Patrol, 2017

WINNIPEG SAFE CITY INITIATIVE

In 2013, Winnipeg was proudly selected as the first city in Canada to join UN Women's Global Safe Cities Initiative. This global initiative works collaboratively with multi-sectoral partners 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 the Winnipeg Safe City Steering Committee. Membership continues to evolve as priority areas are developed and addressed. 2017 membership included:

Co-chairs: Councillor Cindy Gilroy (Daniel McIntyre Ward); Beth Ulrich (Executive Director, Manitoba Status of Women)

Government of Manitoba
Manitoba Status of Women
Manitoba Justice, Crime Prevention
Manitoba Justice, Victims Services

City of Winnipeg
Winnipeg Committee for Safety
Winnipeg Police Service
Winnipeg Transit

Community Organizations
Independent Living Resource Center
International Institute for Women's Rights, Manitoba Chapter
Ka Ni Kanichihk, Inc (Heart Medicine Lodge)
Klinic Community Health Center
Southern Chiefs' Organization
West Central Women's Resource Center

The Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to examine current priorities and policies, create partnerships, foster public awareness and strategize innovative solutions in ending sexual violence against women and girls. For more information please visit the Winnipeg Safe City website: **http://winnipeg.ca/Clerks/boards/WpgSafeCity/default.stm** and follow us on Twitter @WpgSafeCity. ■



Members of the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative Steering Committee, *from L to R:*

Kelly Dennison *- Winnipeg Police Service*
Jerra Fraser *- Klinic Community Health Center*
Marie-Lynn Hamilton *- Independent Living Resource Center*
Randy Tonnellier *- Winnipeg Transit*
Rejeanne Caron *- Winnipeg Police Service*
Councillor Cindy Gilroy *- City of Winnipeg*
Laura Capabianco *- UN Women Global Advisor*
Beth Ulrich *- Manitoba Status of Women*
Jeannette Montafur *- Manitoba Women's Advisory Council*

WINNIPEG SAFE CITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUPPORTED INTERVENTIONS

December 2013 ■ City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba jointly sign on to *UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Program* [first city in North America to sign on]. Link to News Release.

January 2014 ■ City of Winnipeg/Province of Manitoba establish a steering committee with representatives from the provincial and municipal government, health and law enforcement, and organizations and institutions committed to women's rights, public safety and security and women's health.

2014 ■ Winnipeg Police Service redesigns website to clarify resources available for sexual violence survivors. Winnipeg Police Service - Division 41

January 2014 – September 2014 ■ Steering committee meets frequently to build relationships, determine guiding principles/objectives and plan for the initiative (initial focus: site selection and planning the research process for the Scoping Study).

September 2014 - March 2015 ■ Winnipeg Safe City stakeholders held focus groups with women from diverse backgrounds who shared their experiences and perceptions of safety, public spaces and sexual violence against women.

2014-2016 ■ Steering committee members support the research and development of the Scoping Study. As part of their commitment to the initiative, Winnipeg Police Service agreed to undertake and share detailed analysis of sexual violence in the intervention area.

October 2014 ■ Steering committee strikes a transportation subcommittee, chaired by the City of Winnipeg

December 2014 ■ Province of Manitoba partnered with Ka Ni Kanichihk to develop the first Indigenous-led program in Canada – *Heart Medicine Lodge* – for women who have experienced sexual violence. Service delivery commenced in Spring 2016. http://www.kanikanichihk.ca/programs/heart-medicine-lodge/

February 2015 ■ University of Winnipeg Students' Association hosted a Forum on Sexual Violence where students shared their experiences and perceptions of safety and gender-based violence, and the importance of developing a culture of consent on campus.

June 2015 ■ Province of Manitoba hosted the *Sexual Violence Knowledge Exchange*. The event was attended by approximately 200 people from across Canada.

June 2015 ■ Manitoba Status of Women and others from the Winnipeg Safe City steering committee met with Mayor Brian Bowman to share ongoing work, including the relevance of strategic partnerships for addressing sexual violence against women, the utility of human rights and gender-based analysis frameworks.

June 2015 ■ Manitoba Status of Women and Winnipeg Police Service attended the 2015 UN Women's Global Forum in New Delhi, India, on behalf of the Steering Committee. The forum included more than 120 Safe Cities participants from 24 countries and provided an opportunity to share experiences and learn from other participating cities.

September 2015 ■ University of Winnipeg launched their *Sexual Misconduct Protocol* which includes a 24-hour Helpline, Sexual Misconduct Response Team, workshops about sexual consent and an awareness campaign - *Sex: Ask First, Ask Always* University of Winnipeg Sexual Misconduct Protocol

November 2015 ■ Province of Manitoba ran the *Who Will You Help* public service advertisements about sexual assault and harassment.

December 2015 ■ Manitoba Status of Women partnered with young women to host a panel discussion at the Legislative building about sexual violence on post-secondary campuses

December 2015 ■ Winnipeg Police Service released its 2016 Business Plan - *A Culture of Safety for All* - which includes support for the Winnipeg Safe City program. Actions to support the program include data collection and the development of new strategies for reducing and preventing sexual violence against women in public spaces. Link to Business Plan PDF.

December 2015 ■ Winnipeg Safe City stakeholders released the first Winnipeg Safe City brief which highlights the purpose of the initiative, the partners involved, and early achievements and supported interventions. The brief filled a void in public knowledge about this collaborative work. Link to Winnipeg Safe City brief (PDF).

January 2016 ■ Ka Ni Kanichihk hosted the *Ending Violence Core Training* session(s) for individuals and organizations to learn about gender-based violence, colonization and the importance of culturally-appropriate services for survivors of sexual violence.

January 2016 ■ Province of Manitoba released a website on sexual violence - *You Are Not Alone* - which contains information and resources, including links to available services and supports for survivors of sexual violence. Link to You Are Not Alone website.

September 2016 ■ Winnipeg Safe City Steering Committee announced the release of the Winnipeg Safe City Scoping Study – a comprehensive report on the prevalence of sexual violence in Winnipeg. This study was co-led by the City of Winnipeg and Manitoba Status of Women. Link to Scoping Study (PDF).

September 2016 ■ Province of Manitoba partnered with the Southern Chiefs' Organization and released Taxicab Safety brochures, available in English, French, Cree, Ojibwe, Tagalog and Arabic. Link to Taxicab Safety brochures (available for download).

September 2016 ■ Winnipeg Transit re-launched the *Request Stop Service* which allows transit riders to request to be let off at any street along the designated route after 7:00 pm. This will allow women to get off the bus closer to their home or desired location. Link to information about the Request Stop Service (Winnipeg Transit).

September 2016 ■ City of Winnipeg in partnership with the Winnipeg Committee for Safety launched the Winnipeg Safe City website and twitter account (@WpgSafeCity) on behalf of the Steering Committee. Link to website.

September 2016 ■ The Winnipeg Safe City Steering Committee held a Women's Safety Gathering focused on transportation safety for newcomer, immigrant and Indigenous women at Ka Ni Kanichihk. The gathering was facilitated by Southern Chiefs' Organization. Winnipeg Transit participated and shared information about Winnipeg Transit safety initiatives, including the Request Stop program

November 2016 ■ Province of Manitoba and Ka Ni Kanichihk participated in UN Women's GLOCAL Exchange on *Addressing Challenges Related to Implementing Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Initiatives* on behalf of the steering committee.

January 2017 ■ Ka Ni Kanichihk hosted *Ending Violence Core Training* which focused on the structural links among different forms of violence and the importance of utilizing an anti-oppression approach when working with individuals who have experienced gender-based violence.

January 2017 ■ Winnipeg Safe City participates in the Femifesto's *Use the Right Words Campaign: Media Reporting on Sexual Violence in Canada*. The steering committee nominates journalists who report stories about sexual violence through a survivor-centered and trauma-informed lens.

February 2017 ■ Minister Squires and Mayor Bowman provided video greetings on behalf of Winnipeg Safe City to UN Women for the Global Meeting of Mayors on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (held in Mexico City). Link to Video.

March 2017 ■ City of Winnipeg presented the Winnipeg *Safe City Initiative* to the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention on behalf of the Steering Committee. Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention

April 2017 ■ Manitoba Status of Women presented to the *Downtown Safety Strategy* on behalf of the Steering Committee

April 2017 ■ Winnipeg Committee for Safety ran a social media campaign on behalf of the steering committee as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month
@WpgSafeCity

April 2017 ■ JustTV partnered with Winnipeg Safe City to record five videos with male leaders from the community on the topic of consent. Link to videos.

April 2017 ■ Winnipeg Safe City steering committee members partnered with community members to host the first of a series of workshops with men and boys on the topic of consent.

April 2017 ■ Province of Manitoba updated the You Are Not Alone website.

April 2017 ■ Province of Manitoba held two panel discussions as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month:

(1) *Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence – What You Need to Know* [Winnipeg];

(2) *Creating a Culture of Consent: Experiences from Working with Kids, Youth and Adults* [Brandon].

In total, over 130 people attended these two events.

June 2017 ■ Councillor Gilroy forms City of Winnipeg subcommittee which meets to review how respective City of Winnipeg departments can work to reduce and prevent sexual violence in public spaces.

September 2017 ■ On behalf of Winnipeg Safe City Steering Committee, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety participated in a focus group and submitted recommendations to City of Winnipeg as they embark on assuming responsibility for Vehicles-for-Hire Industry.

October 2017 ■ October 4th marked the inaugural *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Honouring and Awareness Day* in Manitoba. Events, ceremonies and feasts were held across Manitoba.

October 2017 ■ Steering Committee hosts Laura Capabianco, (Global Advisor - Safe Public Spaces - UN Women). Ms. Capabianco also meets with Mayor Bowman to discuss City of Winnipeg's participation in Winnipeg Safe City and UN Women's Sustainable Development Goals

November 2017 ■ Winnipeg Committee for Safety, Citizen Equity Committee and Winnipeg Safe City Initiative host Lunch & Learn: *Harassment: What It Is, What It Isn't and How to Tell the Difference* presented by Gaz Black, counter-violence educator and advocate.

November 2017 ■ Mayor Bowman creates video message for UN Women's *16 Days of Activism*, calling upon community members to speak out against harassment and violence and for men to model healthy masculinity.

November 2017 ■ Councillor Gilroy rises at Council and calls upon Council colleagues and the public to challenge victim-blaming and promote and support women's safety resources throughout the City.

Ongoing ■ Steering committee meets approximately 10 times per year.

Committee membership is fluid (new members added as gaps are identified, etc).

Ad hoc subcommittees are created as needed.

EFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE AND RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS REQUIRES STRONG ROLE MODELS



We must recognize that violence against women is not solely a women's issue. It is a human rights issue that concerns everyone. As men, we must challenge sexist language and sexual harassment in our workplaces and in our communities. As fathers, we must demonstrate that healthy masculinity means treating women as equals. As community members, we must show survivors that they are supported and believed. Every action, big or small, brings us one step closer to ending violence against women and creating a culture of safety for all.

– Mayor Brian Bowman



I encourage each of you to help promote resources for survivors of violence within your wards, speak up if you see harassment, challenge victim-blaming when you hear it and to continue to break the silence on violence against women.

– Councillor Cindy Gilroy's message to Council members on November 15th, 2017 in honour of UN Women's 16 Days of Activism



***Mayor Bowman** and **Councillor Gilroy** meet with **Laura Capabianco** - Global Advisor, UN Women in October, 2017*

BUILDING A CULTURE OF CONSENT
Men Speak about Sexual Violence

Recognizing that men and boys have a big role to play in fostering a culture of consent, the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative set out to amplify the voices of local male allies in honour of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April 2017. The WCFS proudly partnered with JustTV, a Broadway Neighbourhood Centre program that offers youth a safe space to explore their creativity and enhance their multimedia skills, to produce the Consent Video Project. Each participant shared their own message about what consent means and the roles that men can play in preventing sexual violence. The project was a success and the videos have been used in various workshops throughout Winnipeg!

Special thanks to Faith Gore, Renier Dumadag, Bernal Delos Santos and Suru Birehanu Bisha from the JustTV crew for their talent and guidance. Thank you to our video participants - Carson, Muuxi, Abdikheir, James and Inspector Kelly Dennison for leading by example. ■

To view the videos please visit: **http://winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgSafeCity/Awareness.stm**

"You have to have consent from your partner to engage in sexual activity. It is mandatory" - Muuxi

"Consent means that everybody's body belongs to them" - Carson

"We need to stand with our sisters, our mothers, our daughters and our friends. We need to speak out when we hear jokes and statements that put women down and objectify them." - James

"Sexual violence is nothing to joke about. Once you start speaking out, others will join you" - Abdikheir

"We want survivors to report and get the help they need" - Inspector Kelly Dennison, Winnipeg Police Service



Honouring Harvey Smith

With a passion for education, Harvey Smith began his teaching career in rural Manitoba, later moving to Winnipeg and working as a librarian at Tech-Voc High School. His career pursuits then turned to politics and he was elected to Winnipeg City Council in 1980, representing the Sargent Park Ward for six years. In 1986 he was elected as a NDP MLA for the Ellice Constituency for a two-year term. In 1998 he was re-elected to City Council and served four consecutive terms as City Councillor for Daniel McIntyre Ward until 2014.

During his time at City Hall, Harvey served as Chairperson of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) for nearly a decade. He viewed the WCFS as an agent of change that the community could access to voice their concerns to elected officials. Although he recognized the WCFS' challenge of addressing and balancing city-wide safety issues, his firm belief that 'knowledge is power' influenced his resolve to foster community engagement. He was a part of community forums, helped to fill in funding gaps where possible and advocated for equitable services.

Throughout his career he was committed not just to the community he served, but to all citizens. He championed social justice issues and advocated for accessible public services, affordable public transit, community policing, safety and much more. One of his proudest accomplishments was obtaining City Hall's support to invest in and preserve the Sherbrook Pool. This essential community gathering place will continue to serve the citizens of the West End, and all Winnipeggers, for years to come.

Always equipped with a sense of humour, Harvey Smith will be remembered for his tireless advocacy and passion for community. ■

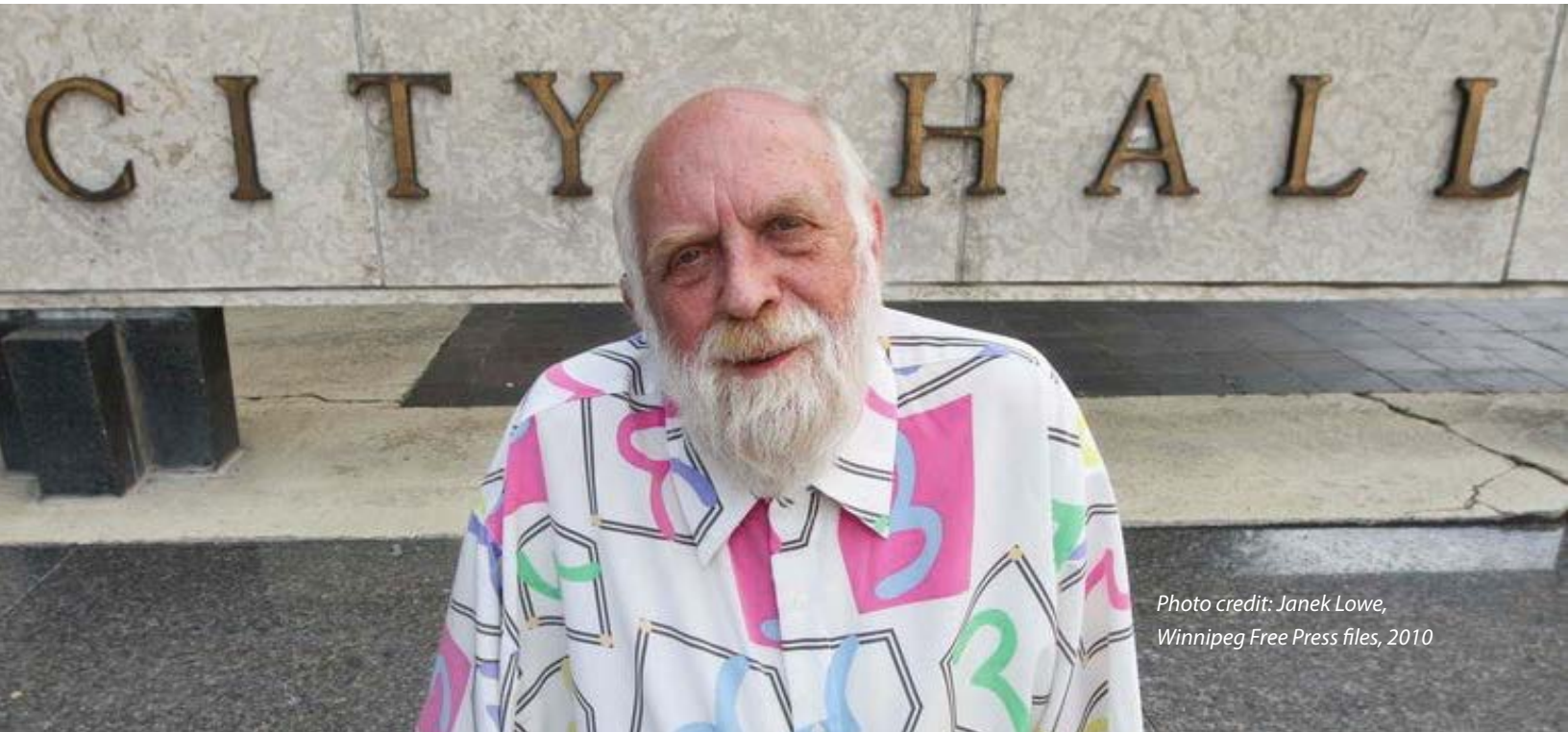


Photo credit: Janek Lowe, Winnipeg Free Press files, 2010



Photo credit: Dan Harper

Winnipeg Committee For Safety

www.winnipegsafety.ca • 204-986-7924
510 Main Street • Lower Level • Council Building • Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1B9