Winnipeg

City of Winnipeg

2018 Open Government Annual Review



Vision

To be a vibrant and healthy city which places its highest priority in quality of life for all its citizens.

Corporate Mission

Working together to achieve affordable, responsive and innovative public service.



Photo: Aaron Cohen, courtesy Tourism Winnipeg
Cover Photo: Roger Harris, courtesy Tourism Winnipeg

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Photo: Mike Peters, courtesy Tourism Winnipeg

Open Government Initiatives at a Glance



NEWS RELEASES

ENGLISH	443
FRENCH	140



2,226
MEDIA INQUIRIES



winnipeg.ca



925
MEDIA INTERVIEW REQUESTS *(English)*

23,335,815
TOTAL VISITS



457
MEDIA INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED *(English)*

63,933.74
AVERAGE VISITS PER DAY



12
MEDIA INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED *(French)*

141,324
TOTAL PAGEVIEWS *(winnipeg.ca/francais)*



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

PROJECTS **53**
PROJECTS *(French)* **17**
EVENTS **93**
SURVEYS **54**
NEWLETTERS **24**



OPEN DATA

15
NEW DATASETS THROUGHOUT 2017

3rd
RANK IN THE LIST OF CANADA'S MOST OPEN CITIES FOR 2017



FIPPA REQUESTS

859
FIPPA APPLICATIONS PROCESSED IN 2017

2017 Statistics

City of Winnipeg Governance

City Council (Council) is the governing body of the City of Winnipeg (the City) and the custodian of its powers, both legislative and administrative. The City may exercise only those powers granted to it by legislation.

Policymaking at the local level is limited and controlled by provincial government statute. *The City of Winnipeg Charter* (the Charter) provides the majority of powers and authority to the City. However, other statutes extend additional authority to Council in its decision making process.

The composition of Council is legislated under Part 3 of the Charter and consists of 15 Councillors and the Mayor. Each Councillor represents an individual ward while the Mayor is elected by a vote of the city-at-large. Members of Council are accountable to the people of Winnipeg, and hold office for four-year terms.

Councillors have a dual role: they are members of Council, where decisions affecting the whole city are made; and members of the Community Committees, where decisions affecting local community issues are made.

Council exercises its powers either by by-law or resolution passed at a regular or special meeting when a quorum is present.

Pursuant to the Charter, Council has the authority to establish committees of Council, and Council may delegate a power, duty, or function to a committee of Council.

Currently, there are six Standing Committees of Council whose chairpersons are appointed by the Mayor. These include the Standing Policy Committee on Finance; the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works; the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks; the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage, and Downtown Development; the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment; and the Standing Policy Committee on Innovation.

These Standing Policy Committees provide policy advice to Council, and consider and report to Council through the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) on matters respecting their areas of jurisdiction. The Standing Policy Committee chairpersons and the Mayor collectively form EPC, with the Mayor chairing the committee. EPC formulates and presents recommendations to Council respecting policies, plans, budgets, by-laws, and other matters that affect the city as a whole; ensures the implementation of policies adopted by Council; recommends to Council the appointment, suspension, or dismissal of statutory officers; supervises the Chief Administrative Officer; co-ordinates the work of committees of Council; and receives reports of other committees of Council and forwards them to Council with its own recommendations.

City of Winnipeg's Open Government Policy

City Council approved the City of Winnipeg's Open Government Policy in February 2017, which provides a framework to continue to move towards being more open, transparent, and accountable.

Winnipeggers seeking to be more engaged with their local government have more tools than ever at their disposal to access information and become involved in the political process. Council and committee meetings, as well as Board of Revision hearings are live-streamed online, and are recorded for later viewing. Hansard and disposition documents created for, and shared through the Decision Making Information System are available in machine-readable format.

Residents are able to register as delegations where they can provide opinions and feedback on matters before committees and Council. Information on how to appear as a delegation is now available online.

One of the objectives set out in the Open Government Policy is to proactively release information through Open Data. Open data is information that is widely available in a format that can be read by a computer and is made available for anyone to use, transform, or republish without restriction. It normally only requires that the data source be cited. The practice of providing open data must respect all legislation and regulations regarding freedom of information and protection of privacy. In total, the City released 15 new datasets throughout 2017. The City ranked third in the list of Canada's Most Open Cities for 2017.

As part of its commitment to greater transparency and accountability, the City also publishes records of interest to the public both proactively and in response to requests submitted under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). The City processed 859 FIPPA applications in 2017, which marked a slight increase from the 856 processed in 2016.

Open Government Core Principles

The City's Open Government Policy (Policy) sets a framework to make the Public Service more open, accountable, and responsive to residents. The objectives set out in the Policy are to be achieved by applying four core principles of Open Government to specific action items, established by the Open Government Partnership, which may be implemented to further those objectives.

Transparency: This includes publication of all government-held information (as opposed to only information on government activities); proactive or reactive releases of information; mechanisms to strengthen the right to information; and open access to government information.

Accountability: There are rules, regulations and mechanisms in place that call upon government to justify their actions, act upon criticisms or requirements made of them, and accept responsibility for failure to perform with respect to laws or commitments. Commitments on accountability should typically include an answerability element, i.e. that they are not purely internal systems of accountability but involve the public.

Participation: Governments seek to mobilize citizens to engage in a dialogue on government policies or programs, provide input or feedback, and make contributions that lead to more responsive, innovative and effective governance.

Technology and Innovation: Governments embrace the importance of providing citizens with open access to technology, the role of new technologies in driving innovation, and the importance of increasing the capacity of citizens to use technology. E-government initiatives are welcome, but in order to be relevant to OGP, action plans should explain how these initiatives advance government transparency, accountability and/or public participation.[i]

Open Government Objectives

Open Government means different things to different people, and is perhaps best understood by reference to its desired objectives.

The City provides an annual summary of the work that has been done on Open Government, and outlines the work that is ongoing and planned for the future.

The following sections detail the key objectives for the last year, ending in September 2018, and how they relate to the City's Open Government Policy's core principles.

[i] Open Government Partnership, *OGP National Action Plan Guidance Note.*

1. Establishing Greater Trust in Government

CORE PRINCIPLES: Transparency & Accountability



COMPLETED

Granted public access to the Mayor's schedule of monthly meetings. Proactive disclosure webpage created. Content of all requests for general information proactively disclosed. Central dedicated Access and Privacy Office to coordinate responses and implement process changes established.



COMPLETED

Created voluntary lobbyist registry.



COMPLETED

Created role of Integrity Commissioner.



ON-GOING

Continued focus on proactive, rather than reactive, releases of information.



ON-GOING

Prioritize information which has value to citizens for release.



ACTION ITEMS

Provide real-time tracking of freedom of information requests.

2. Ensuring Better Outcomes at Less Cost

CORE PRINCIPLES: Accountability, Technology & Innovation



COMPLETED

Itemized expenses for Mayor and Councillors released to the public.



ON-GOING

Increase openness and accessibility of public procurement processes.



ON-GOING

Explore partnerships with different levels of government and citizens, using shared open data.



ON-GOING

Identify cost-saving opportunities which arise through new technologies.



ACTION ITEMS

Support processes that permit citizens to order and track service delivery electronically.

3. Raising Compliance Levels

CORE PRINCIPLES: Accountability & Participation



COMPLETED

Established a new Access and Privacy Administrative Standard, setting out framework for managing access and privacy issues facing the City.



COMPLETED

Established an office expenditure policy.



COMPLETED

Established the Whistleblower Protection Act for civic employees with the support of the province.



ACTION ITEMS

Provide training and resources to employees to manage information in accordance with principles of Open Government.

Review City policies to ensure consistency with Open Government principles.

Work with stakeholders to establish benchmarks for assessing effectiveness of Open Government practices.

4. Ensuring Equity of Access to Public Policy Making

CORE PRINCIPLES: Participation, Transparency, Accountability, and Technology & Innovation



COMPLETED

Standing Policy Committee reports of public interest easily accessible on City's website. Agendas, minutes, dispositions and by-laws posted online on Decision Making Information System (DMIS).



ON-GOING

Use plain language in public communication and City documents.



ON-GOING

Provide sufficient notice for participation in public decision-making.



ON-GOING

Increase number of platforms on which information is available.



ACTION ITEMS

Provide background documents for technical information (such as budgetary figures).

5. Fostering Innovation and New Economic Activity

CORE PRINCIPLES: Participation and Technology & Innovation



COMPLETED

City Council and EPC meetings and Mayor's media scrums livestreamed. Open data portal created.



ON-GOING

Continued expansion of open data portal.



ON-GOING

Explore community engagement opportunities which make use of open data, such as hackathons and codefests.



ON-GOING

Use new technology to promote real-time sharing of information with citizens.

Seek input from citizens and businesses as to best practices and innovative approaches for using new technologies.



ON-GOING

Offer open data training for citizens.

Expand public access to technology.



ACTION ITEMS

Develop information infrastructure which allows for easy input, classification and access to data.

Continue development of new service delivery methods (e.g., Web 2.0, apps, etc.).

6. Enhancing Effectiveness by Leveraging Knowledge and Resources of Citizens

CORE PRINCIPLES: Participation, Accountability, and Technology & Innovation



COMPLETED

Office of Public Engagement (OPE) created to support all City activities and projects through consultation and engagement; ensure consistency and transparency in sharing information with citizens about City projects; and direct public consultation activities of major City projects. Departmental listings of public engagement opportunities provided.



ON-GOING

Implement measures to increase public participation in Council deliberations.



ON-GOING

Increase readability, understandability and accessibility of publicly available information using organization and search tools.

Expand cross-platform public engagement methods (e.g., website, social media, town hall, telephone, mail-out, etc.).



ON-GOING

Continue development of digital platforms which share information with citizens.

Obtain feedback about datasets which are desired by citizens, rather than presenting information in a one-way flow.



ON-GOING

Engage City employees in information sharing and feedback process.

Provide data in a universal standard.



ACTION ITEMS

Publish information which clearly explains the roles and responsibilities of the City, its departments and its employees.



More Information

For more information regarding the City's Open Government Policy, please see: **winnipeg.ca/opengovernment**



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