COUNTER EXPLOITATION
WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

2018

Presentation Outline

- Counter Exploitation Unit Background
- Enforcement Activities
- Prevention/Intervention Activities
- Community Collaboration

BACKGROUND

Demographics of Winnipeg and WPS

- City of Winnipeg - 705,224 citizens [2016 census]
- Highest percentage of urban Indigenous population in Canada (11% Indigenous)
- Winnipeg Police Service
  - 1383 sworn members; 526 civilian members
  - 9% of sworn members have self-identified as Indigenous

GOAL 2: **ENGAGED COMMUNITIES**

OBJECTIVE

Sustain Commitment to the Indigenous Women and Girls Safety and Protection Strategy

The Service continues to dedicate resources to address the victimization of vulnerable citizens including a commitment to focus strategic activities toward the safety of Indigenous women and girls. To make a greater impact the Service will continue to leverage partnerships to address the root causes of victimization, and has also adopted a five pillar protection strategy involving investigations, enforcement, prevention and intervention, community engagement, and research.

OWNER: Superintendent of Investigations

LEAD: Inspector of Division 41

ACTIONS

- Continue commitment toward the Indigenous Women Safety and Protection Strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the high risk missing youth reporting process
- Continue counter-exploitation efforts
- Explore project devote reform to include missing person and counter-exploitation operations and initiatives
- Continue participation in Block by Block project (Thunderwing)

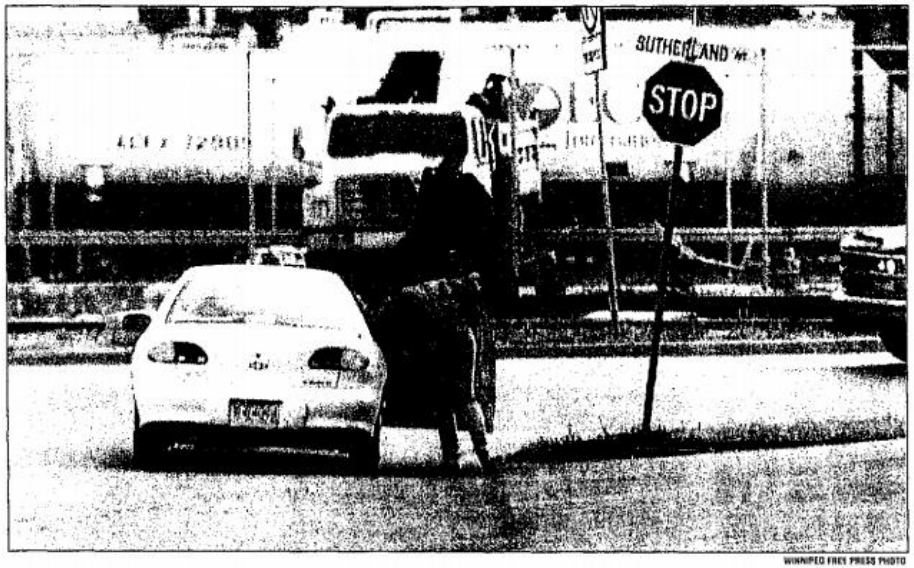
Evolution of the Counter Exploitation Unit

- Transition from Vice- Morals Unit to Counter-Exploitation Unit

- 2017 merging of Counter-Exploitation and Missing Person Unit

Project "So Long John"

- Date: Spring 2003 to October 2003
- Goal: change from traditional enforcement which focused on arresting the exploited to arresting the exploiters
- Result: 73 arrests and over 74 vehicles seized



WINNIPEG FREE PRESS PHOTO

A prostitute discusses business with a potential john. Police are hoping sweeps will help curb such activity.

Police hope more sweeps will end child prostitution

By Mary Agnes Welch

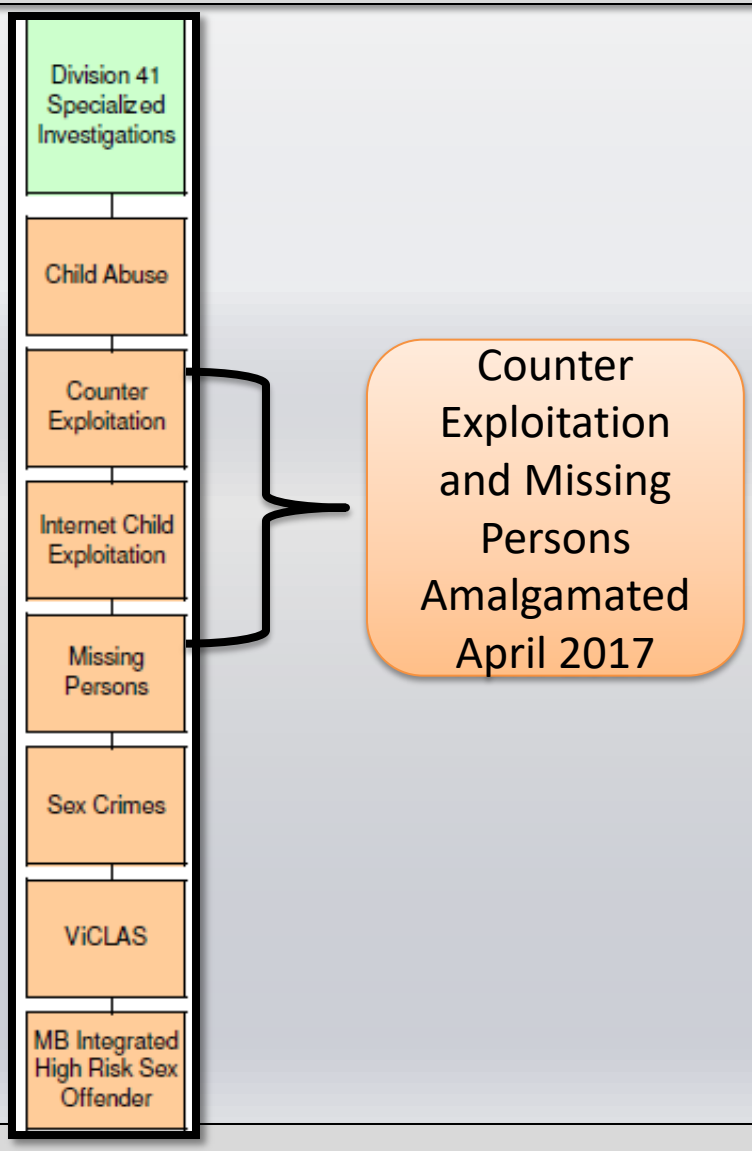
POLICE Chief Jack Ewatski wants to combat child prostitution, in part by boosting the number of police sweeps.

Ewatski was speaking to council's protection and community services committee yesterday after a request by Coun. Harvey Smith to report on the force's progress in battling pros-

including a 13-year-old and a 15-year-old.

That paints "a pretty bleak picture," said Ewatski, but police have been taking advantage of new legislation and more help from local social services agencies to get more prostitutes off the street.

Using new provincial legislation, the morals unit towed or seized 74 cars last year belonging to johns, but Smith


Division 41 Specialized Investigations
Child Abuse
Counter Exploitation
Internet Child Exploitation
Missing Persons
Sex Crimes
ViCLAS
MB Integrated High Risk Sex Offender
Counter Exploitation and Missing Persons Amalgamated April 2017

Current State

- Division 41- Specialized Investigations
- Counter Exploitation Unit and Missing Persons Unit merged in 2017
- 12 Constables, 3 Detective Sergeants, 1 Sergeant, 4 Civilian Staff
- Cover day/evening shifts 7 days a week

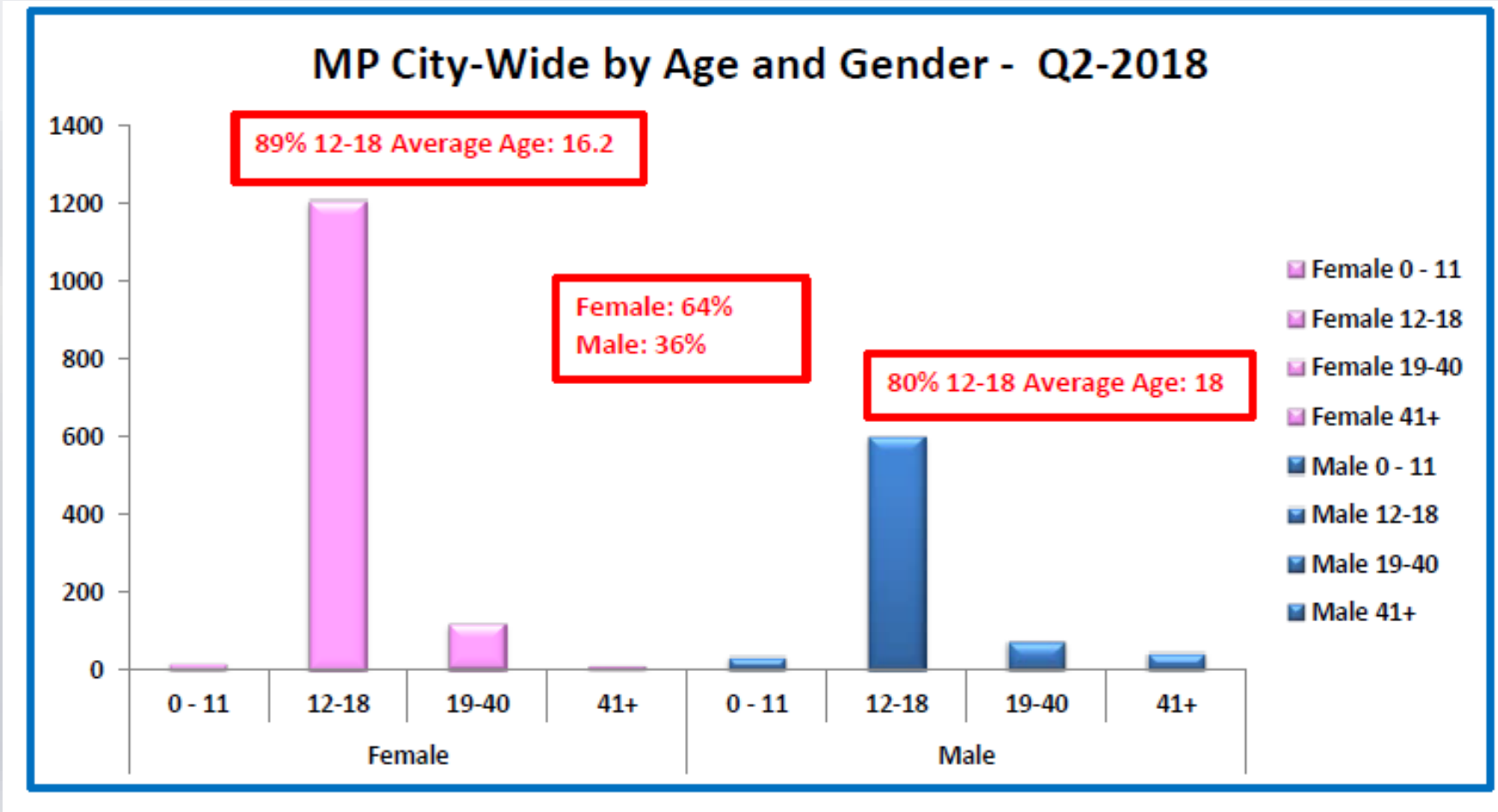
Counter-Exploitation Unit

- Mandated to focus on:
  - Enforcement related to sexual exploitation in Winnipeg including street level sexual exploitation, sexually exploited youth and children, escorts and agencies, common bawdy houses (brothels) and massage parlours
  - Internet undercover investigations
  - Human trafficking
  - Community collaboration and public education

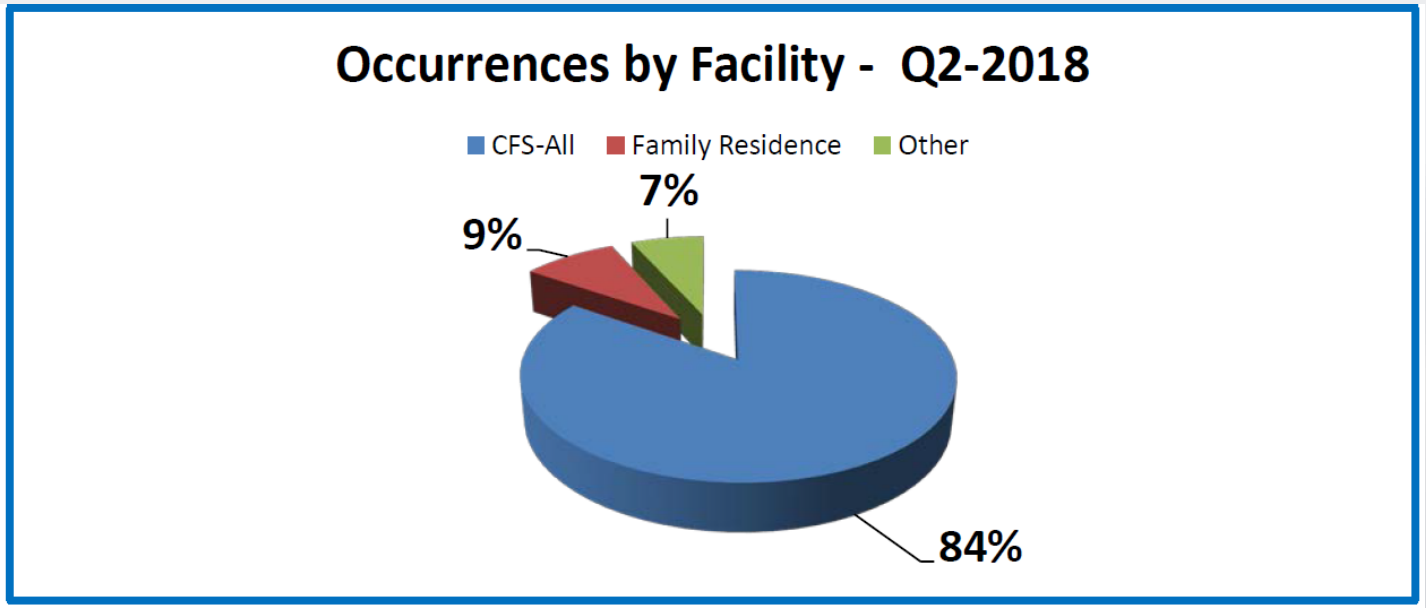
Missing Persons Unit

- Mandated to focus on:
  - Missing children, youth and adults
  - Abductions/Disappearances
  - High Risk/Chronic Missing Youth
  - Providing a timely and coordinated response to reports of missing people in Winnipeg
- High correlation between chronic/repeat missing youth and those at risk of exploitation

Missing persons incidents in Winnipeg



Missing persons incidents in Winnipeg



Facility Type	*MP Incidents*
CFS**	64
Foster Home**	272
Group Home**	1,424
Family Residence	180
Other*	139
Grand Total	2,079

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement (2018)

- **Arrests** – Over 107 individuals have been charged with Canadian Criminal Code 286.1 – Obtaining Sexual Services for Consideration this year (to Sept 30, 2018)

- **Vehicle Seizures** – Over 70 vehicles have been seized from exploiters this year (to Sept 30, 2018)

Vehicle Seizures (Manitoba)

Exploiters using the services of sex trade workers are liable to varying consequences such as:

- Seizure of the vehicle used in the commission of the offence under the Highway Traffic Act Section 242.2(3)

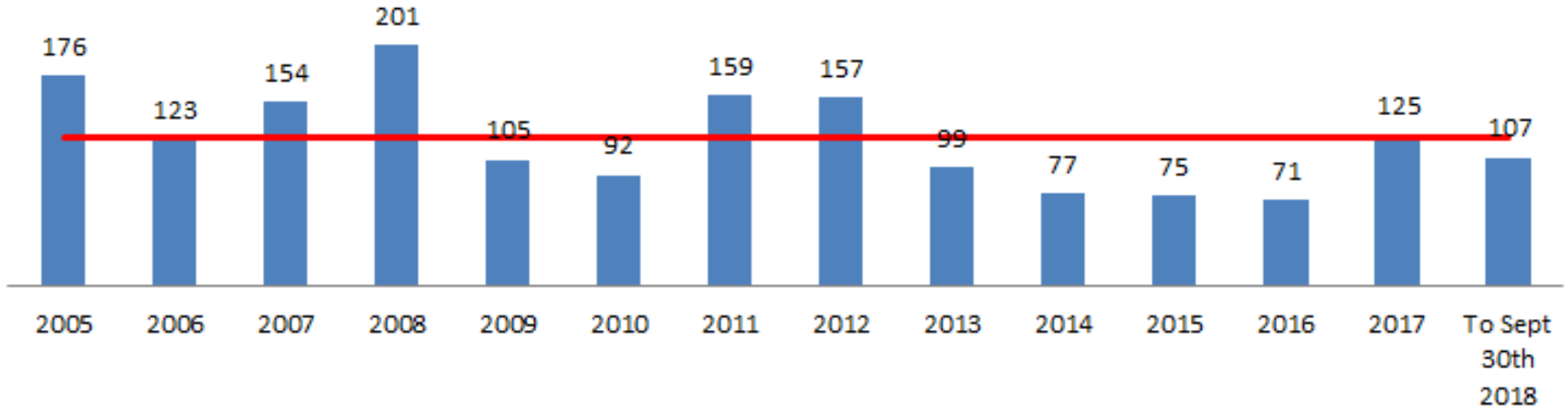
- Vehicle ultimately forfeited to the crown upon conviction in court

- Driver's Licence suspended for one year upon conviction, and upon a second conviction for 2 years.

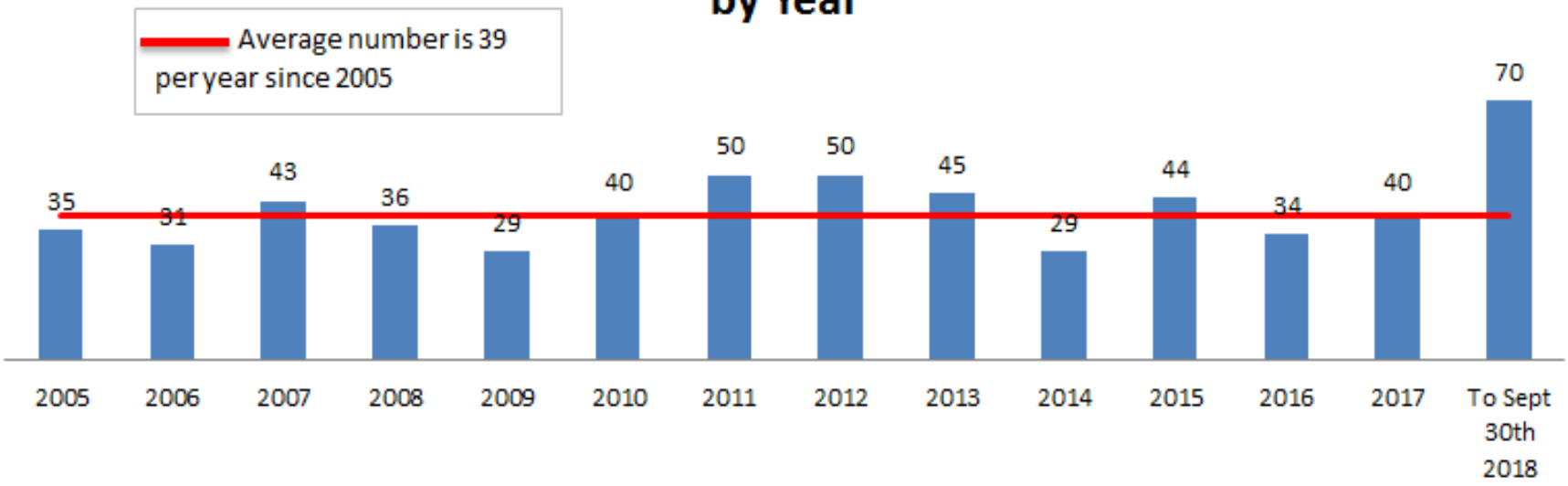
- Penalties of a fine and/or imprisonment upon conviction

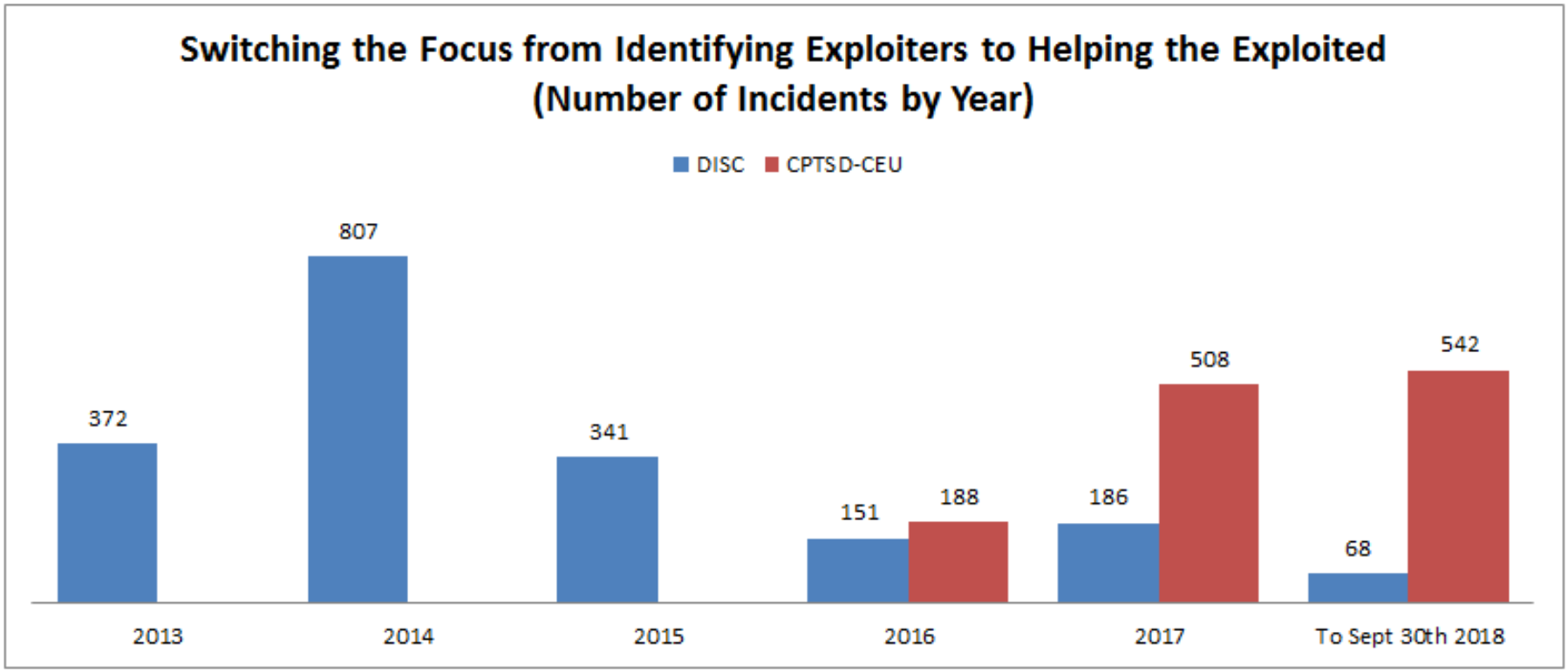
- Diversion to Prostitution Offender Program, at the expense of the exploiter

Number of Exploiters Arrested/Charged by Winnipeg Police by Year



Number of Vehicles Seized by Winnipeg Police from Exploiters by Year




Switching the Focus from Identifying Exploiters to Helping the Exploited
(Number of Incidents by Year)
DISC
CPTSD-CEU
372
807
341
151
188
186
508
68
542
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
To Sept 30th 2018

Project "Create"

- Date: Started November 2013 and has continued
- Goal: Shift away from criminalizing the sexually exploited and instead focusing on charging exploiters.
- Results: Exploiters arrested, Vehicles seized, Support provided to the exploited

How police made 26 arrests in a recent sex trade sting



By: Katie May
Posted: **08/27/2015 8:15 PM** | Comments: 0

Winnipeg police are tackling exploitation on city streets by earning sex workers' trust.

On August 10, police arrested 26 men between the ages of 19 and 77 and seized 18 vehicles after a two-week investigation into sex-trade activity in Winnipeg's North- and West-End neighbourhoods.

The sting, dubbed Project Create, came after the police service stopped charging prostitutes and those selling sex on city streets. For the past two years, just before prostitution was decriminalized in Canada, investigators have been solely targeting johns and pimps, calling them "exploiters."

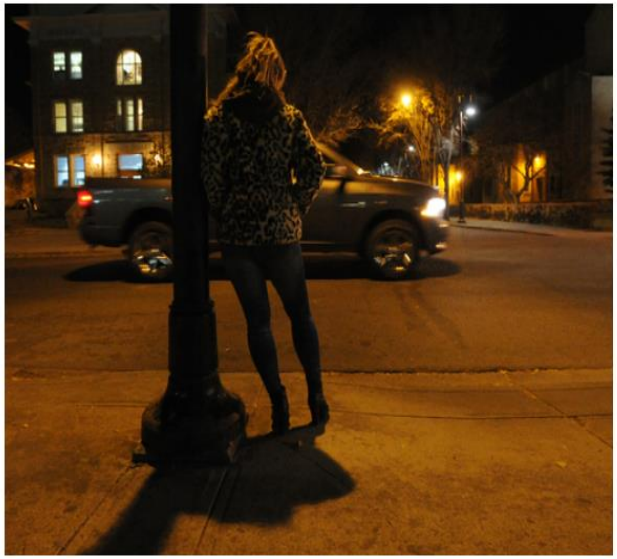
Johns arrested as part of police bust

Winnipeg Sun

Published:
August 27, 2015

Updated:
August 27, 2015 4:52 PM CDT

Filed Under:
Winnipeg SUN › News › **Winnipeg**



Winnipeg police are taking their aim away from women in the sex trade and focusing instead on the men who exploit them.

As part of Project Create, a strategy aimed at sex trade activity and targeting "exploiters" of vulnerable women, Winnipeg police said Thursday they arrested 26 men and charged them with obtaining sexual services in just the past two weeks.

Project "Hook"

- Date: June 2018
- Goal: Target individuals luring children under 14 for a sexual purpose through internet sites, social media and social apps
- Results: 7 men charged with child luring, making sexually explicit material available to a child, invitation to sexual touching and possession of methamphetamine

7 men charged with child luring after investigation in Winnipeg

Project Hook targeted individuals luring children under 14 for a sexual purpose

CBC News · Posted: Sep 14, 2018 12:38 PM CT | Last Updated: September 14



An undercover operation led the arrests of seven men in Winnipeg for child luring. (Getty Images)

A three-month investigation into child exploitation in Winnipeg has resulted in charges against seven men.

"Operation Northern Spotlight"

- Date: From 2014 to the Present
- Goal: Outreach operation that proactively targets vulnerable persons in an effort to identify and assist them as they may be at risk of human trafficking or sexual exploitation
- Results: Human Trafficking suspects arrested, vulnerable persons offered support services

Northern Spotlight nabs exploiters

Jim Bender

Published:
October 18, 2016

Updated:
October 18, 2016 6:34 PM CDT

Filed Under:
Winnipeg SUN › News › Winnipeg

Winnipeg police arrested five people as the result of a week-long human trafficking investigation in a phase of the Operation Northern Spotlight that has been sweeping across North America for five years.

The five in Manitoba were among 32 people facing a total of 78 offences. All five were charged with obtaining sexual services for consideration. The Counter Exploitation Unit (CEU) interviewed a total of 22 women aged between 19 and 44 in areas known to be frequented by sex trade workers, such as hotels and massage parlours, in the city during the investigation.

Police did not identify those who were arrested.

Winnipeg police help shine light on Canadian sex trafficking

54 police institutions across Canada, as well as FBI, arrest 32 human trafficking suspects

CBC News · Posted: Oct 18, 2016 6:15 PM CT | Last Updated: October 18, 2016



Winnipeg police working with FBI on human trafficking investigation



By Shannon Cuciz

Host, Global News Morning Global Winnipeg

Comments | Facebook | Twitter | Email | Print | ...



Creating a Culture of Safety for All

Project "Return"

- Date: Started in 2011 and occurs 2 to 4 times a year
- Goal: To locate and take high risk children and youth off the streets so they won't be exploited. Collaboration between police and community organizations
- Results: Vehicle seizures, Exploiters arrested, At-risk youth returned home

Winnipeg Police Service

Johns arrested, cars seized during Winnipeg police anti-exploitation blitz

By Sharon Pfeifer
Online Producer Global News

Comments 1 | Facebook 401 | Twitter | Email | Print | ...



Winnipeg police and community resource groups ran a joint project aimed at protecting at-risk youth March 16-18.

File / Global News

Listen

- AA +

Joint Winnipeg taskforce locates 8 missing at-risk teens

Project Return marshals support from police, community groups to help youth at-risk of sexual exploitation

CBC News · Posted: Jun 19, 2018 10:01 AM CT | Last Updated: June 19



Police and member agencies of Project Return helped find missing youth and handed out harm reduction kit and other supplies last Friday. (CBC)

Eight missing youth were located over the weekend in the latest street sweep by Project Return, a joint project that marshals support from police and community groups to help teens at-risk of being sexually exploited.

Creating a Culture of Safety for All

- Video Embedded here

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION

Intervention

- **Service wide**
  - **Deter/Identify Sex Trade Consumers (DISC):** a database to track and identify exploiters

- **Counter Exploitation Team**
  - **CPTSD – CEU:** between July 2016 and Sept 2018 there have been 1238 contacts made.

Counter Exploitation Team

Counter-Exploitation Team

On November, 2013 the Winnipeg Police Service announced the formation of the Counter Exploitation Team (C.E.T.).

The C.E.T. operates from within the Division 41 Counter Exploitation Unit. The C.E.T. actively patrols the areas known for high levels of sexual exploitation for the purpose of engaging the persons involved in sexual exploitation, which includes both the exploited and the exploiters.

One of the main objectives is to identify the circumstances and situations that may have led to or increase someone's likely hood of being sexually exploited and work with government and non -government organizations assist the person in obtaining resources or programing that will make them less susceptible to exploitation. The C.E.T. is also involved in, education regarding awareness of sexual exploitation.

The Counter Exploitation Unit works collaboratively with several other WPS units; Sex Crimes, Street Crimes, Missing Persons, Child Abuse, ICE, Community Support Units and Crime Stoppers. This unit is actively involved with numerous Community Services including; Sage House, Salvation Army, Child Exploitation Protection Services, Klinic, CFS, Employment Income Assistance, CBSA, Safer Streets and TERF (Transition, Education, Resources for Females).

- Video embedded here

Creating Community Awareness

- Working with evacuees and those transitioning to Winnipeg
- School presentations
- Educating businesses and hotels

Working With Communities

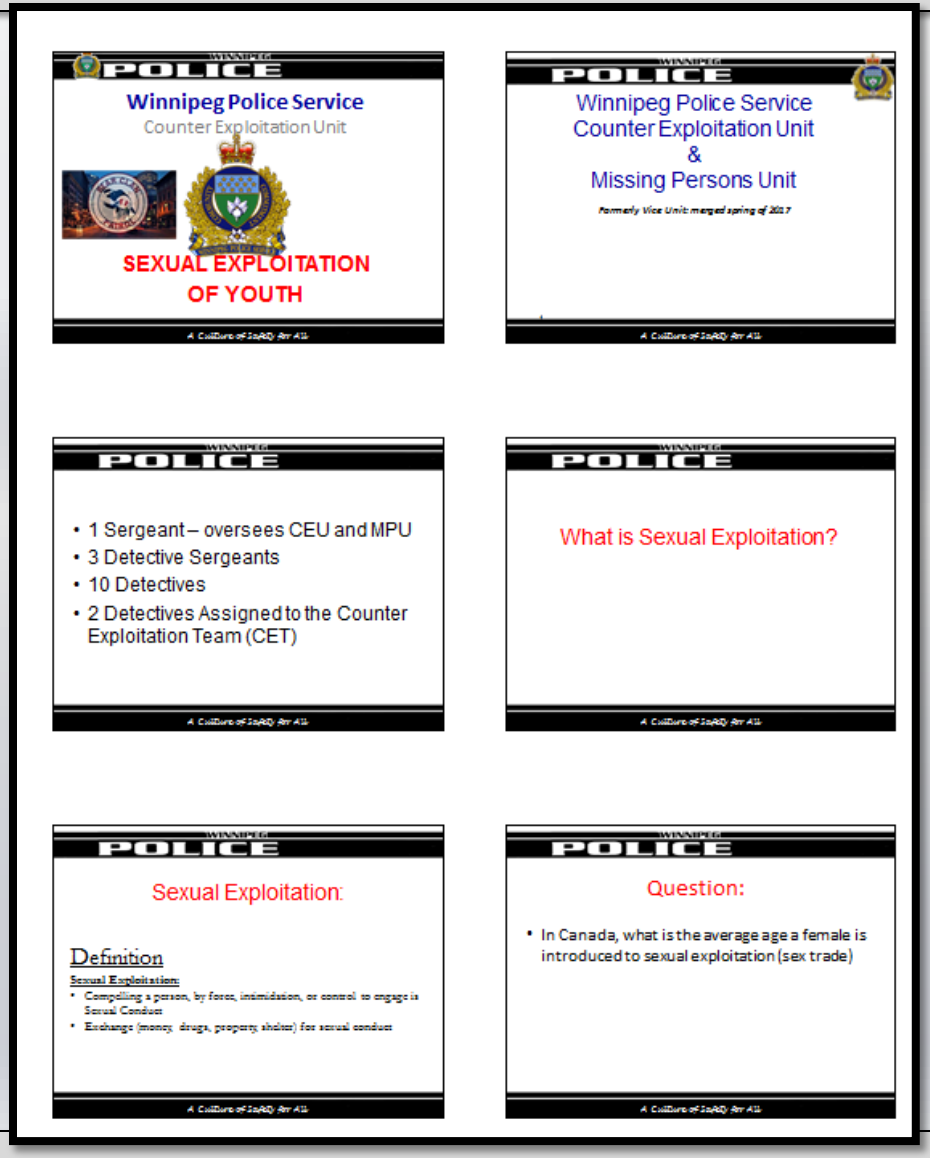
Northern and Rural Communities are often evacuated due to fire or flooding. Evacuees are frequently flown to Winnipeg

Up to 10 homes, buildings burn down in Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Interlake

8 fires destroy Interlake houses and outbuildings as burn bans remain in effect for much of southern Manitoba

Bryce Hoye · CBC News · Posted: May 08, 2018 9:28 AM CT | Last Updated: May 8





Sample Slide Presentation

Public Awareness – Hotels/Businesses

Police visit airport-area hotels to raise awareness of sex trade

Hotel staff and operators urged to recognize signs of exploitation of children, vulnerable adults

Bartley Kives · CBC News · Posted: Mar 10, 2017 12:40 PM CT | Last Updated: March 10, 2017



Chief Danny Smyth called an effort to engage the hospitality industry a first for the Winnipeg Police Service. (Jeff Stapleton/CBC)

The Winnipeg Police Service conducted a sweep of airport-area hotels to raise awareness of the signs of sexual exploitation.

Winnipeg police checking into hotels to counter human trafficking



The Winnipeg Police Service's Counter Exploitation Unit visited 43 hotels in February as part of Project Check-In, to educate staff and management about the signs of exploitation. (File Image)



Jeff Keele, Political Reporter
@jeffkeelectv

Published Tuesday, March 7, 2017 10:41AM CST

Police are checking into Winnipeg hotels in an attempt curb prostitution and human trafficking.

The Winnipeg Police Service's Counter Exploitation Unit visited 43 hotels in February as part of Project Check-In, to educate staff and management about the signs of exploitation.

Educating other Organizations

- Working with Sexually-Exploited Youth Course
  - CFS
  - Support Workers

- Topics include:
  - Missing Persons and Exploited Youth
  - Overview of Counter Exploitation Unit
  - Proactive approaches
  - Criminal Code Offences
  - Internet Luring
  - Case Studies
  - Internet Child Exploitation

Educating our Members

- Internal intranet system

Human Trafficking

Exploitation of persons or "modern day slavery" which can range from forced labour to forced prostitution and sexual exploitation.

Legislation on Human Trafficking is relatively new, and these types of investigations can be extremely complex due to the fact the offenders will use force, threats, coercion, deception and fraud to violate their victim's human rights. Many victims may not even know they are being trafficked and violations can occur in private, in public, involving single victims or multiple. Public education is an extremely valuable tool in combatting this rising issue. As a citizen you can play an important role in bringing this issue to the forefront.



Intelligence Led, Proactive Bulletins

North District S.P.I. HOTSPOT Bulletin

Bulletin # 2018-07-301-008 [redacted]

Occurrence Date: Ongoing since May 2018 [redacted]

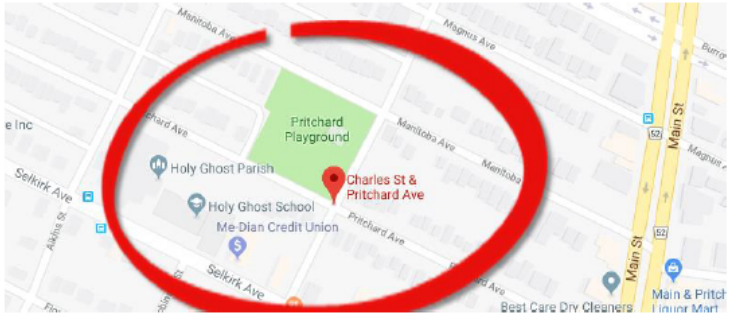
Related Cr: C180131055

FIELD EVENT: SPIHOTSP

COMMENTS: Include the Exact Bulletin # and Location listed above for your field event. Add comments detailing your findings. Created 18-07-31

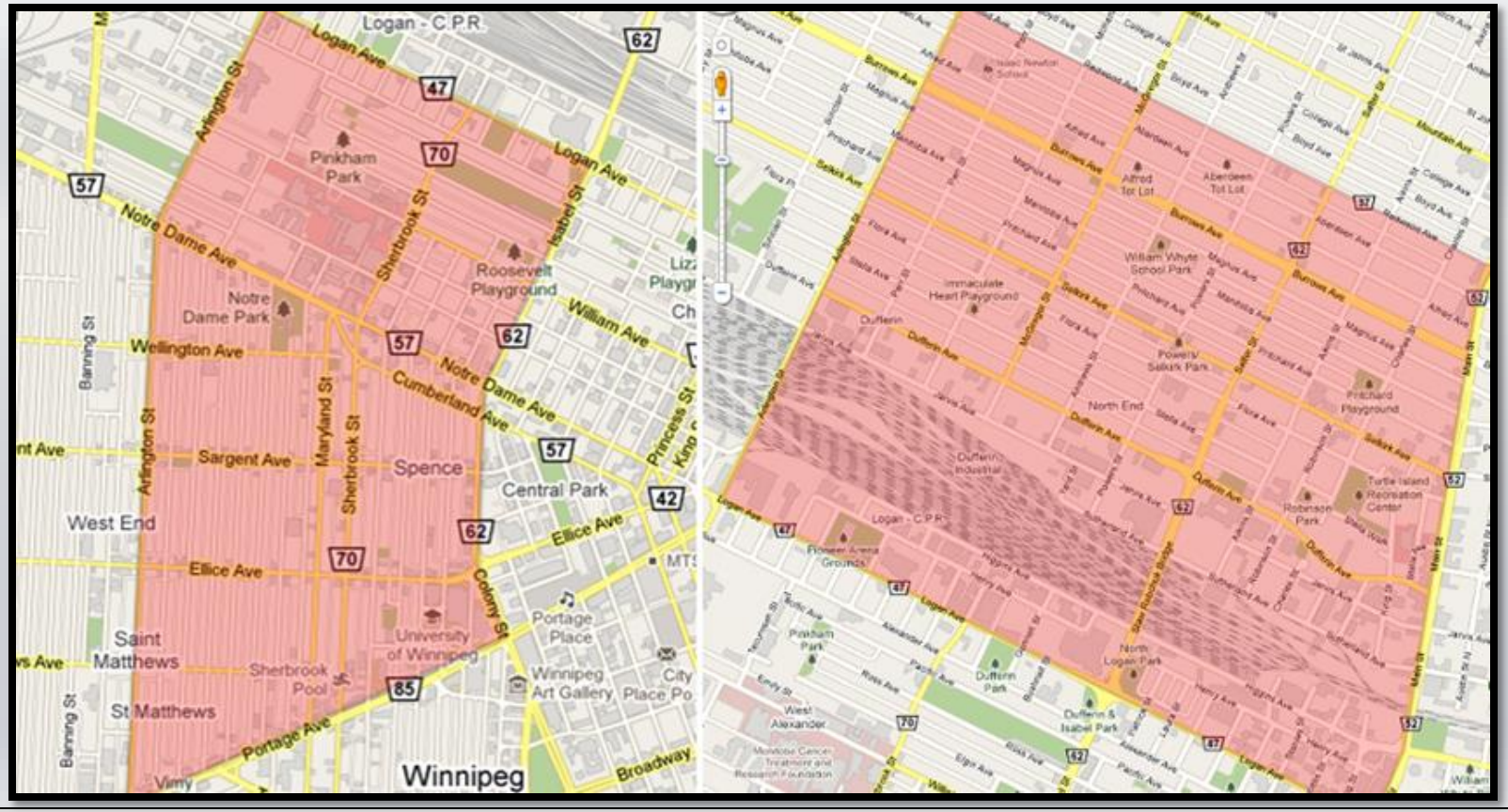
1301 CC AREA

The Counter Exploitation Unit (CEU) has received numerous complaints from area residents in regards to the Pritchard Park Playground, and the surrounding area (see map below), being used by [redacted] occurring in the evening hours as well as early mornings between 6-8 AM. In Particular CEU members feel that [redacted]



We are requesting units to put themselves off on a SPIHOTSPOT at this location and if any related t-stops or spotchecks occur change the call type to a DISC, update the comments accordingly with names, DOB's, address &, plate numbers. Advise the individual of the Hotspot and the continued plan for police presence with zero tolerance in the area and [redacted] CEU with any further details.

Locations where women and young girls are targeted and exploited



High Risk Missing Persons

- To help those most at risk of exploitation
- Each investigator is assigned a group of high risk youths and they work within a multi-stakeholder system to intervene and bring them to safety.
- Tactics involved in the strategy included:
  - Pairing WPS investigators and social workers for the most at risk group.
  - Forwarding missing person information to social agencies for inclusion in their files. This information assists greatly in joint work.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE

We all work together to help one another.

Winnipeg Police Service is involved with Ma Mawi through their Sexual Exploitation Programming, Hands of Mother Earth, Honoring the Spirit of our Little Sisters and the North End Hockey Program

- Video embedded here

SEY Coalition

Supporting Winnipeg's Sexually Exploited Youth

SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH COMMUNITY COALITION

50 organizations who meet bi-weekly to work together to address contributing factors, root causes and safety and protection of sexually exploited youth in Winnipeg

Organizations Involved

- The 595
- APA
- AICC
- AMC
- ANCR
- B&L Resources for Children
- Beyond Borders
- Canadian Red Cross
- CEO
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- Children's Advocate
- City of Winnipeg
- Connex
- DMSMCA
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- FSCA
- HLYS-HCMO
- Manitoba Government
- Family Services and Housing
- Gang Awareness for Parents
- Justice
- Ka Ni Kanichihk
- Klinic
- Laurel Centre
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata
- Macdonald Youth Services
- Manitoba Coalition of Experiential Women
- Manitoba Status of Women
- Marymound
- Metis CFS
- Micah House
- Mount Carmel
- Project Neechiwan
- Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad
- New Directions
- North Point Douglas Women Centre
- Northern Authority
- Public Health
- RAY
- Rossbrook House
- Sage House
- SERC
- Social Justice Inter-Community Group
- Southeast Family
- Southern Network
- Spence Neighborhood Association
- Street Reach
- West Broadway
- West Central Women Resource
- West End Women
- Winnipeg Police Service

WINNIPEG OUTREACH NETWORK

Made up of 18 service providers and support agencies that reach out to anyone street involved including youth, exploited persons, homeless, gang-involved and children in care/not in care.

Winnipeg Outreach Network launches new guide for street-involved youth and adults

Winnipeg, MB (April 17, 2018)... The **Winnipeg Outreach Network** (WON), made up of 18 service providers and support agencies, is launching a new and much-needed resource for street-involved youth and adults entitled *The Winnipeg Street Guide*.

"The Winnipeg Police Service is committed to a goal of less crime and victimization to the most vulnerable as well as engaged communities," said **Chief Danny Smyth** of the **Winnipeg Police Service**. "By partnering with the Winnipeg Outreach Network and assisting with the resource guide we are all strengthening our efforts to the benefit of our entire city."

The are 18 agencies involved in WON, which started in 2006. If you need support, you can contact them. Street outreach numbers are available on the resource guide.

- Ndinawe Drop In Centre – street outreach
- RAY inc. (Resource Assistance for Youth) – street outreach
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre – street outreach
- West End Drop In Centre – street outreach
- Sage House – street outreach
- Daniel McIntyre/ St.Matthews Community Association – street outreach
- Street Connections – street outreach
- North End Women's Centre – street outreach
- Winnipeg Booth Centre – street outreach
- ANCR (All Nations Coordinated Response) – abuse investigators
- End Homelessness Winnipeg
- WRHA (Winnipeg Regional Health Association)
- Winnipeg Police Counter Exploitation Unit and Missing Persons Unit
- V.O.I.C.E.'s – for youth aging out of care
- Canadian Centre for Child Protection– advocates for families
- Salvation Army – adult shelter
- MacDonald Youth Services – youth shelter
- Mount Carmel Clinic – drop in

KA NI KANICHIHK INC





EAGLE URBAN TRANSITION CENTRE

Gateway for Indigenous people transitioning into an urban centre

EAGLE Urban Transition Centre

The EAGLE Urban Transition Centre (EUTC) was created by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in 2005. The primary goal of the EUTC is to act as a culturally relevant and non-discriminatory gateway for Indigenous people transitioning into an urban centre. The EUTC office is focused on providing a single window from which clients receive support, advocacy and access to needed programs in their efforts to achieve independent living.

EUTC believes that Indigenous people experiencing transitional issues should have access to resources that support a healthy balanced life and wellness in the areas of: physical, mental, spiritual and emotional.



BEAR CLAN

The group has expanded from 12 members in 2014 to having inspired groups spanning across 24 different communities in five provinces.

Winnipeg Police Service

Bear Clan and Winnipeg Police Service patrol together



During the patrol, members safely disposed of a used syringe discovered along a residential street. (Source: CTV News)

0 0

CTV Winnipeg
Published Thursday, October 13, 2016 6:25AM CST

Members of the Winnipeg Police Service and the Bear Clan joined forces Wednesday night to patrol Winnipeg's North End.

Mayor, WPS chief patrol streets with Bear Clan



Patrol co-founder James Favel said Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman and Winnipeg Police Service Chief Danny Smyth were made honorary members of the organization. (Source: Bear Clan Patrol Inc./Facebook)

CTV Winnipeg
Published Thursday, April 6, 2017 12:03PM CST

The Bear Clan Patrol welcomed some honorary members to its ranks Wednesday.

Patrol co-founder James Favel said Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman and Winnipeg Police Service Chief Danny Smyth joined them for their scheduled patrol through the North End.

Update for 2019

Course offered to outside agencies: CFS, social workers, other Gov't agenices & NGO's

WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION COURSE

Wednesday September 11 to Friday September 13
08:30 to 16:00
Winnipeg Police Training Academy,
WPS HQ, 5th floor, 245 Smith

Topics Covered:

- Sexual Exploitation in Winnipeg
- Sexual Exploitation by Organized Crime
- Human Trafficking
- Child Abuse
- Internet Child Luring
- Internet Child Exploitation
- Criminal Code Offences
- Victim & Suspect Interviews
- Polygraph testing
- Missing Persons
- Victim Services

JFO with Brandon Police Service

Obtaining Sexual Services for consideration —

Sexual Exploitation Countermeasures —

The Counter Exploitation Unit is part of the Winnipeg Police Service's Specialized Investigation Division. The unit's priority is the safety and wellbeing of those involved in sex trade, whether directly or indirectly and to the enforcement on those who seek out and purchase sexual services.

On July 26 & 27, 2019, the Brandon Police Service, together with the Winnipeg Police Counter Exploitation Unit members, conducted a project Beckon, centred in Brandon. The project's aim was to target those preying on vulnerable individuals being exploited in the sex trade.

As a result, X were arrested and charged with Obtaining Sexual Services for Consideration.

Exploitation knows no boundaries and victims are often forced to participate in the sex trade in more than one city of town, moving around a regular basis. With this joint force operation approach investigators can focus on building safer, long term strategies while balancing the needs of everyone involved.

Signs a victim is being exploited include being escorted and/or watched, not speaking on their own behalf, limited knowledge of area/city they are in, tattooing or "branding" to indicate ownership, and signs of depression or fear.

In Feb/2019 CEU members were invited by MKO Hilda Anderson-Pyrz to present at this Forum which was held in Thompson, MB.



END