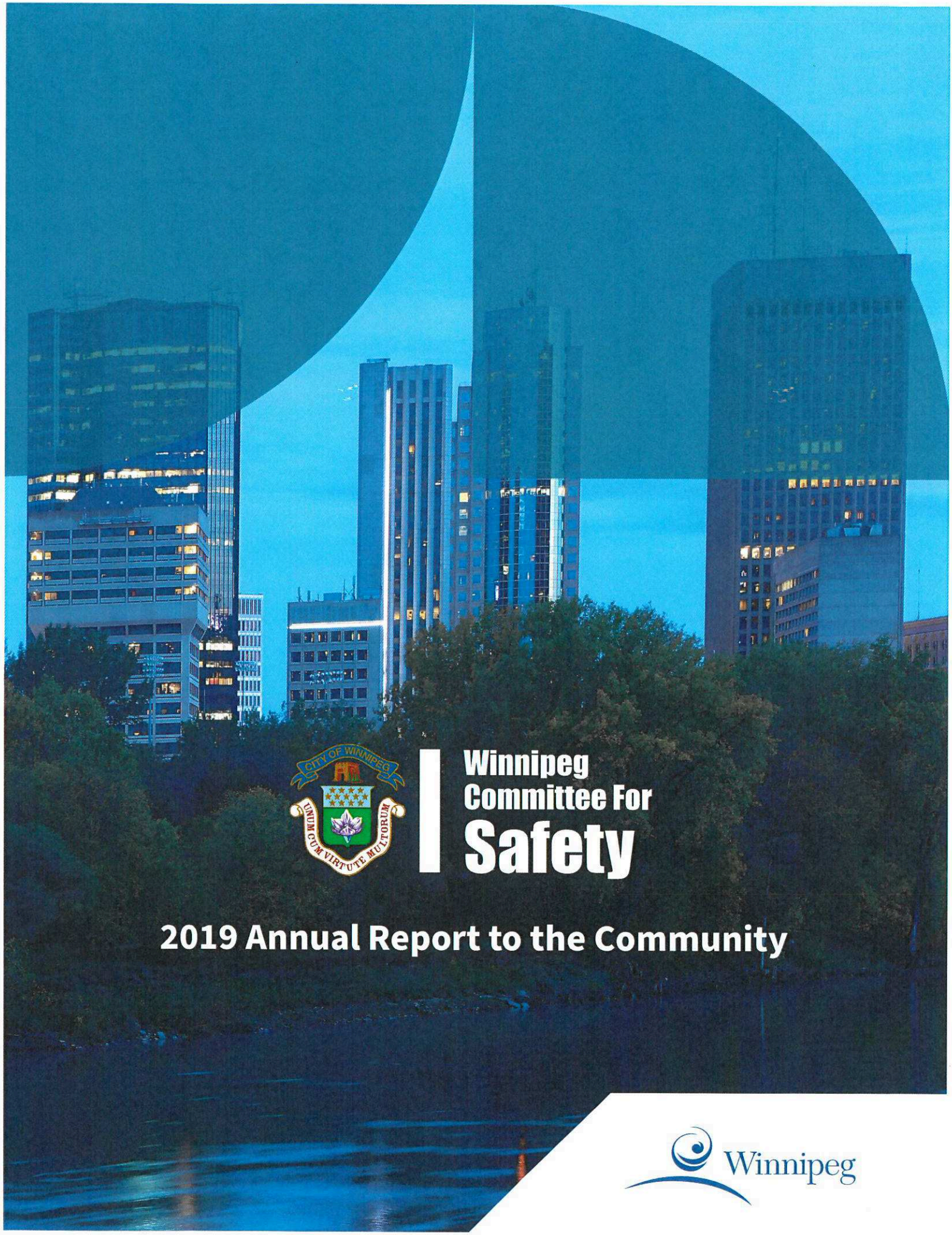
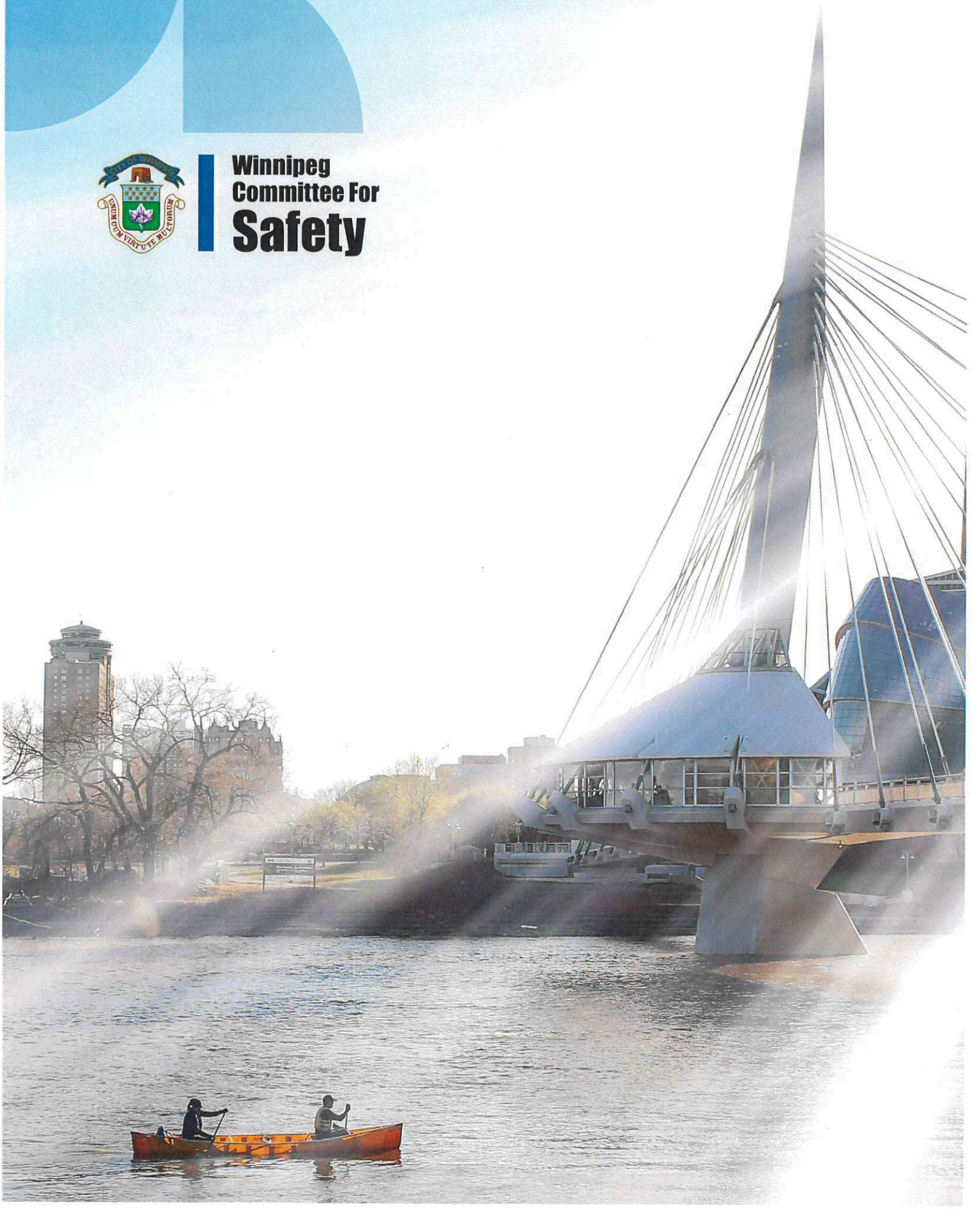


Winnipeg Committee For Safety

2019 Annual Report to the Community

Winnipeg

Winnipeg Committee For Safety



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WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY 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
www.winnipegsafety.ca

2019 WCFS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Councillor Cindy Gilroy, Chairperson
- His Worship Mayor Brian Bowman, ex officio
- Narendra Mathur
- Kerry LeBlanc
- Tracey Proctor
- Muuxi Adam, Province of Manitoba
- Kathleen Bell
- Gary (Gaz) Black
- Jaideep Johar
- Bridget Whipple
- Bonnie Thompson

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE

- Crystal Van Den Bussche, Committee Coordinator
- Jennifer Ridge, Clerk, City Clerk's Department
- Karen Beaudin, Community Resource Coordinator
- Constable Chika Modozie, Winnipeg Police Service
- Constable Maria Buduhan, Winnipeg Police Service


COMMUNITY
WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY
COUNCIL
CITY ADMINISTRATION

LETTER FROM THE WCFS CHAIRPERSON



In recognition of ongoing safety concerns throughout the City of Winnipeg, the 1998-2002 City Council approved the formation of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS). Positioned as a conduit between communities, City Administration and City Council, this small but mighty citizen-advisory committee has impacted safety issues big and small throughout its 20-year tenure. Although safety concerns in Winnipeg look and feel quite different in 2019, the WCFS continues to stay informed and connected in order to mobilize our diverse communities.

In 2019, represented by our Coordinator, the WCFS continued to expand its reach within the City of Winnipeg and contribute to its varying projects. For example, our knowledge of community organizations and their needs assisted in making final selections in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Program. We were also able to participate in the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee, contributing our expertise to the development of the Taxicab Pre-Payment Pilot Project launched in September 2019. We continued contributing a significant portion of our operating budget towards our Community Grants Program, enabling us to stay informed on the changing challenges and opportunities at the grassroots level.

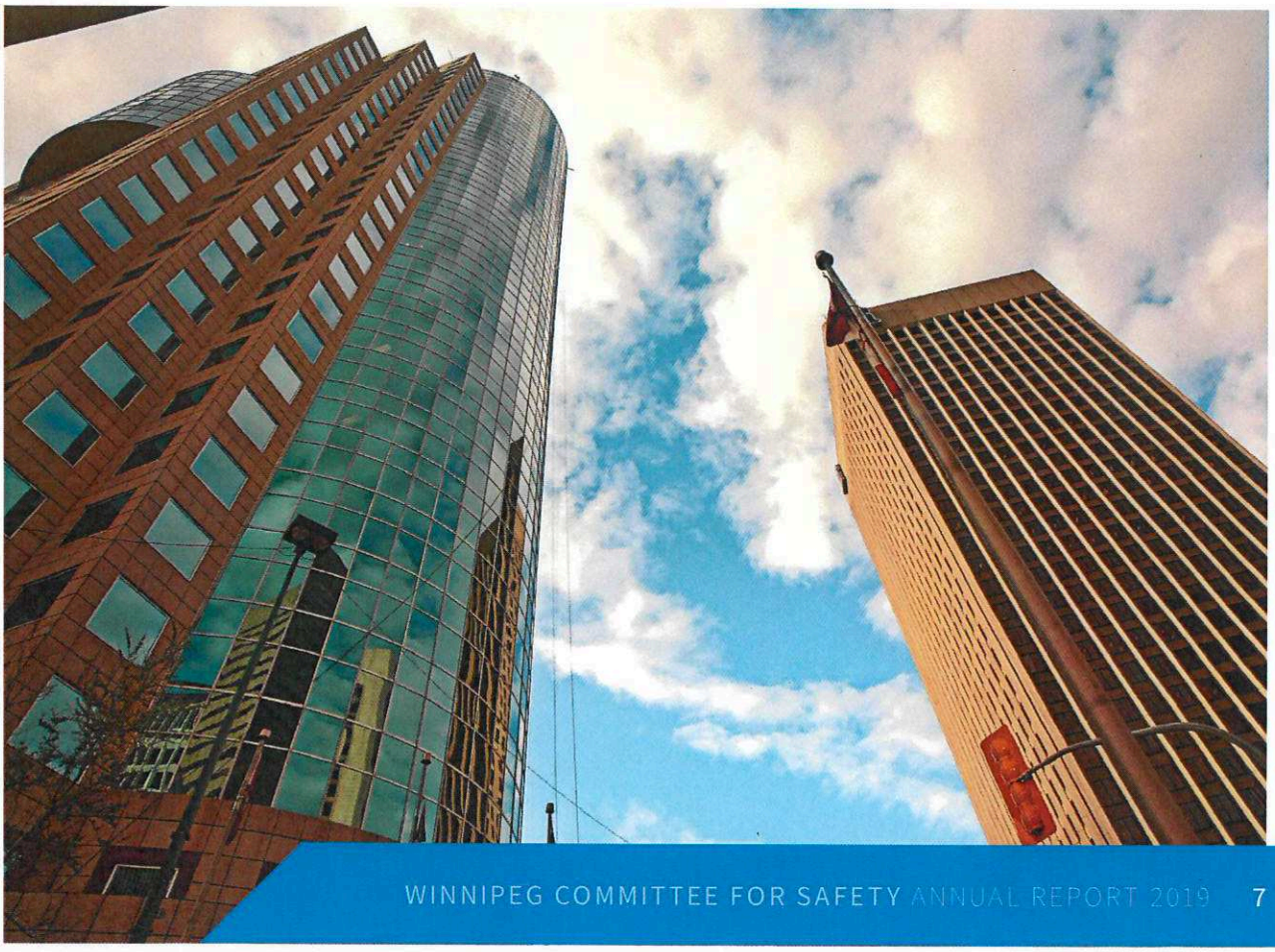
As successful as 2019 was, it also had its difficulties. For many it will be remembered as a challenging year in which our City faced a dramatic increase in the sale, distribution and use of methamphetamines, commonly known as Crystal Meth. We saw an increase in meth-induced psychoses, overdoses and related deaths. There was also an increase in property crime as well as an additional strain on public services, including emergency departments. The WCFS was pleased to learn from community advocates working on the frontlines of the crisis who helped us situate these problems in the context of poverty, mental health and gaps in support services. While no one organization is equipped to tackle these issues alone, it quickly became clear these concerns require a community and systemic approach.

We continue to work with community organizations and voice their concerns throughout our various spheres of advocacy and influence. It continues to be a pleasure supporting the evolution of the WCFS, which will remain a critical component of our City for years to come.

Sincerely,
Councillor Cindy Gilroy
City Councillor for Daniel McIntyre

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2019

2019 WCFS	2019 BUDGET	2019 Actuals	Balance
Revenues:			
Council Funding	$66,880.00		
Expenditures:			
Contract Fee - ENCUMBERED Crystal Van Den Bussche	$44,000.00	$44,000.00	$-
Communication/ Community Outreach	$16,380.00	$16,780.73	-$400.73
Winnipeg Safe City Initiative	$1,500.00	$3,000.00	-$1,500.00
Education and Training	$2,000.00	$300.00	$1,700.00
Meeting Costs	$2,000.00	$1,464.34	$535.66
Office Expenditures	$1,000.00	$1,229.65	-$229.65
Total	**$66,880.00**	**$66,774.72**	**$105.28**



Where we've been

20 YEARS OF THE WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY

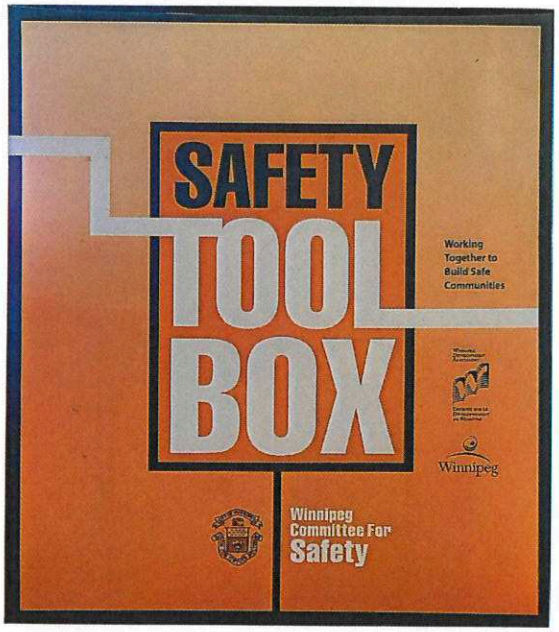


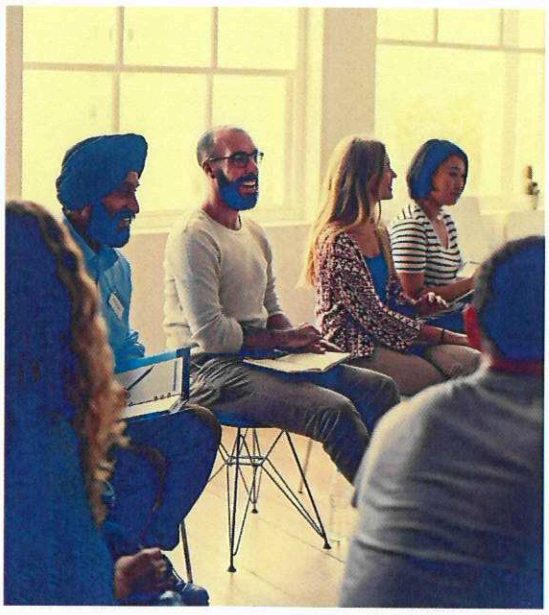
YOUTH

Understanding that youth play a crucial role in the future of our city, the WCFS began hosting numerous workshops by youth and for youth - to help navigate their safety concerns and envision what a safer city looks like for them. The WCFS has created Youth Working Groups (2001), hosted Youth Forums (2001) and created Youth Crisis Resource cards (2004). The WCFS also conducted Youth Surveys about safety concerns to develop both crisis and non-crisis safety resources- 314 inner city youth between 10 and 24 years from the Downtown, North End/Point Douglas, Tyndall Park, and Elmwood areas were surveyed in July and August, 2003.

SAFETY TOOL BOX

A Safety Tool Box binder (2001) was developed to hold a number of resources to equip the community members with tools in the implementation of safety processes and activities within their own neighbourhoods. Resources included focus on Conflict Resolution Skills, Hosting Community Conversations, a Who Do I Call? map, and How to Conduct a Safety Audit. These binders were available free of charge for community organizations/citizens who were interested in mobilizing their neighbourhoods.



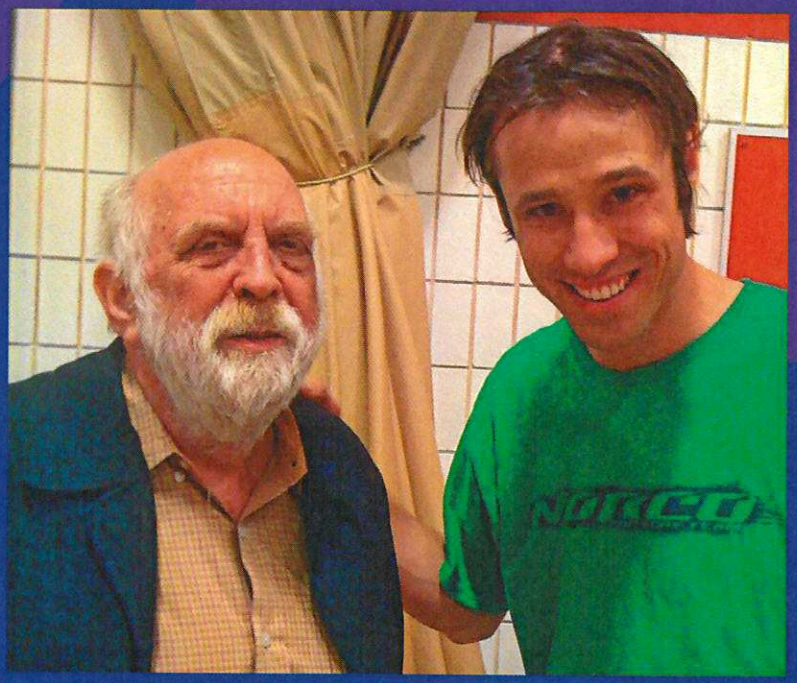


PUBLIC EDUCATION

The WCFS supports the notion that knowledge is power. Raising awareness of pertinent social issues like prejudice (2003), domestic violence (2003), hate (2004), and sexual violence (2017, 2018, 2019), the WCFS has produced many public education materials over the years and continues to stay informed on how social issues impact our sense of individual and collective safety.

Trials of Life (2010)

Knowing the value of positive role models for youth, the WCFS invited Ryan Leech, professional mountain biker to visit Winnipeg schools and present an interactive motivational speaking engagement series ***Trials of Life.***



Councillor Harvey Smith (2010 WCFS Chairperson) and *Trials of Life* ***keynote speaker Ryan Leech.***



A packed junior high auditorium engages in a Trials of Life presentation. Key themes discussed included goal-setting, determination, self-efficacy, overcoming obstacles and the power of a positive mindset.

BUILDING NETWORKS

A consistent challenge in community safety is the tendency to work in silos. Recognizing this, the WCFS has brought together residents for numerous neighbourhood forums including, but not limited to, *Domestic Violence Forum: Practical Ideas, Everyday Solutions (2003)* and *Safety! The Challenge (2004)* to exchange ideas, learn from each other, strengthen their efforts and make a collective impact.

Community Conversations events (2009) were held with over 800 residents in the areas of Issac Newton, Gilbert Park, River Osborne and Brooklands Weston. These conversations helped build contacts within the community between residents and agencies with similar goals for building a safer community. There was widespread interest and support for having continued local conversations and taking immediate local action on safety concerns and neighbourhood improvements.



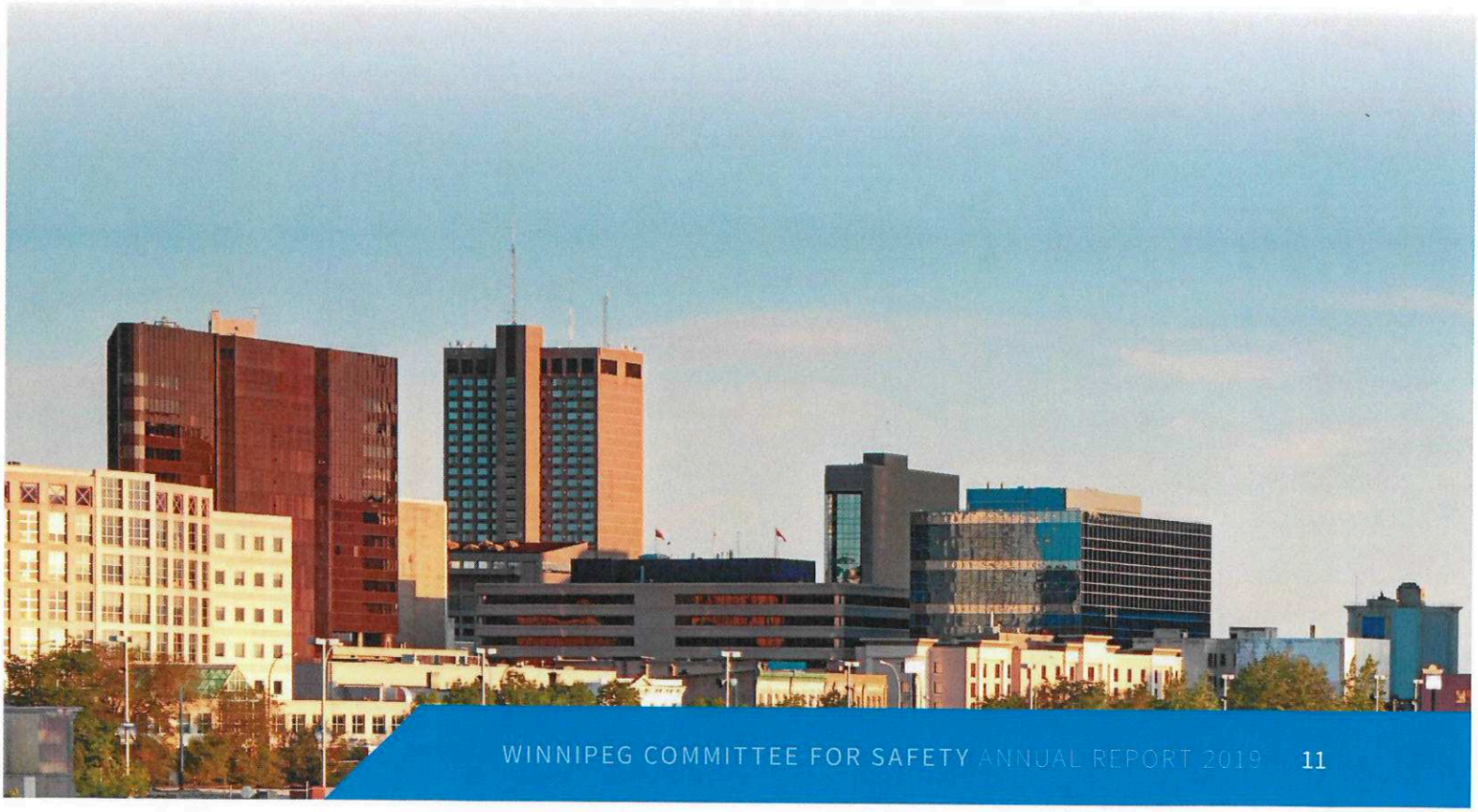
Residents gather for a community safety brainstorming session, identifying key areas of concern and opportunities for growth

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN (2013)

An Environmental Scan is a tool that enables decision-makers to both understand the external environment, and the interconnections amongst its parts, in order to conduct planning and decision-making processes. Assessing the climate of community safety and crime prevention is an extensive undertaking. In partnership with the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, the WCFS produced a comprehensive database of crime prevention programs for the City of Winnipeg.

This scan was executed through a variety of research methods, including online research, phone interviews, face-to-face meetings, email correspondence, and review of published documents. A snowball methodology was used to uncover the maximum number of programs. Several recommendations were made to enhance the City of Winnipeg's agenda for crime prevention and reduction. They included:

- Stable and continuous funding is important to maintain current successful operating programs.
- Moving away from short-term start-up funding from various funders, towards on-going stable funding partnerships helps ensure program success and continuity. Increasing crime prevention partnerships and networks is also important.
- Crime prevention partnerships and networks of organizations covers more area and is a more efficient and effective approach to crime prevention.
- Community member participation through safety forums can be beneficial for neighbourhoods. Community members should be at the forefront of identifying what issues need to be addressed as each neighbourhood has different challenges.
- Capacity building through diverse programming is an effective approach to crime prevention. A mix of programs, initiatives, local efforts, and community and government engagement can more effectively tackle different issues and provide better results.



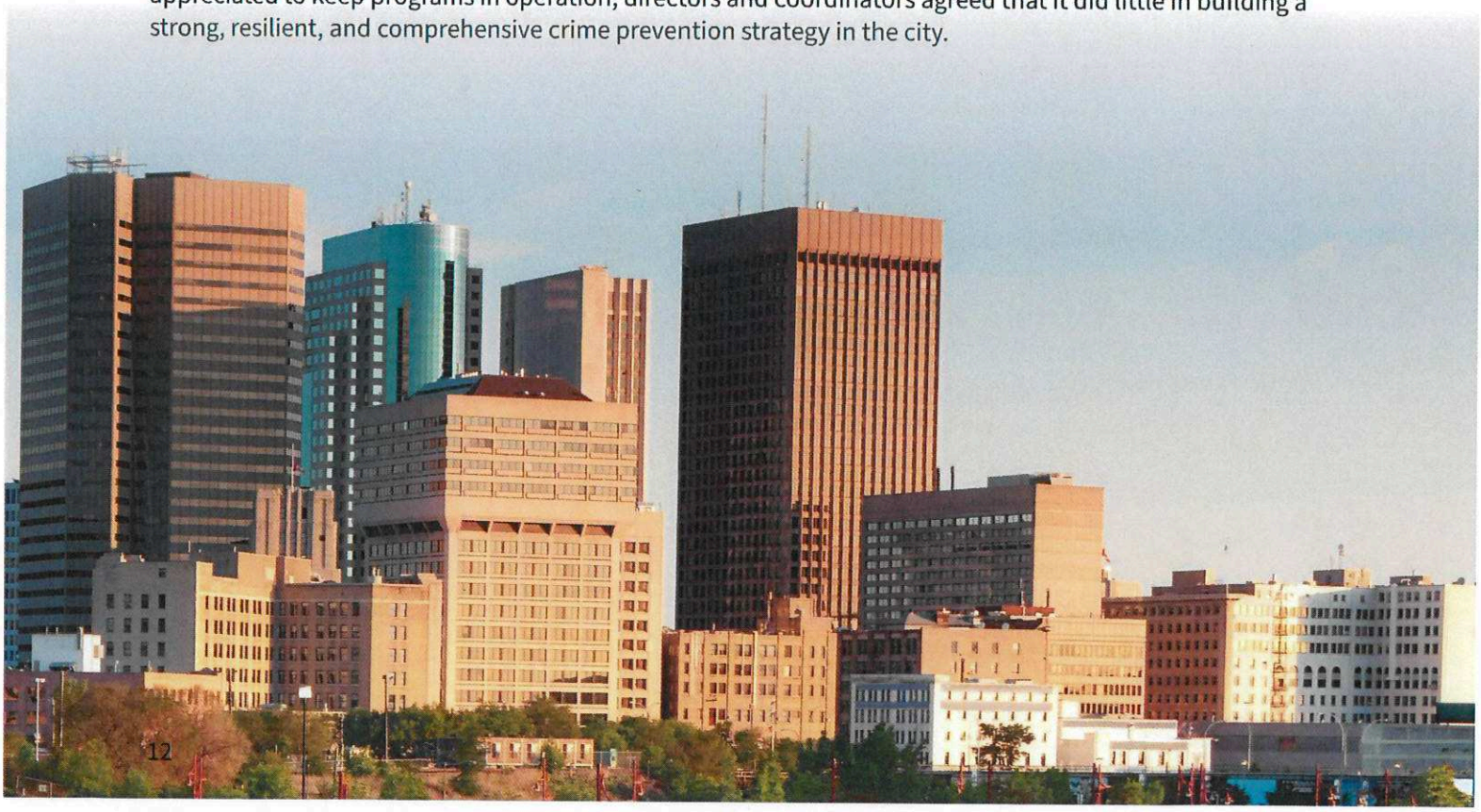
Data collected includes the cataloguing of existing external conditions; but more importantly, environmental scans reveal new or emerging data, define strengths or threats, and reveal opportunities and trending changes. The purpose of this Environmental Scan is to discover what crime reduction / crime prevention programs are operating in the City of Winnipeg, and to gather basic information on these programs.

This scan focused on programs that address street-level crime such as violent crime, vandalism, and gang activity.

The categories included:

- Neighbourhood Safety..... 28 programs
- Youth Programming..... 10 programs
- Gang Prevention ..... 10 programs
- Foot Patrols ..... 5 programs (+12 citizen patrols)
- Graffiti Removal..... 7 programs
- Transitional / Settlement Support ..... 4 programs
- Recidivism Prevention ..... 4 programs
- Mentorship ..... 2 programs
- Information / Education..... 6 programs
- Other Crime Prevention..... 2 programs
- Informal Initiatives..... many

The concern for long-term funding was shared in 2013 and continues today. While the short-term funding is appreciated to keep programs in operation, directors and coordinators agreed that it did little in building a strong, resilient, and comprehensive crime prevention strategy in the city.

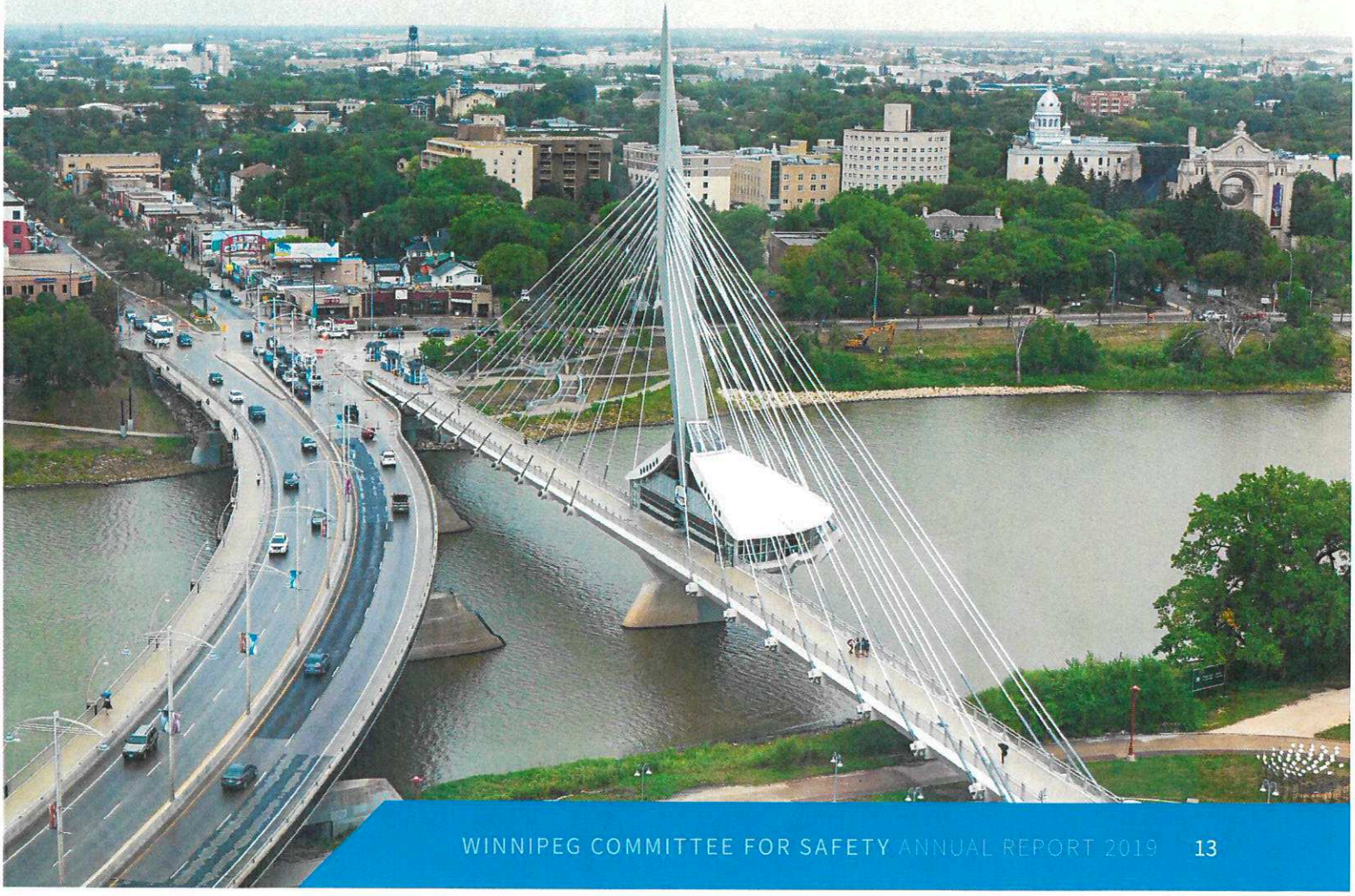


Where we're headed

The WCFS continues to evolve with the changing needs of the communities we serve. As such, we acknowledge that diversity of our citizen members is critical for expanding our perspectives and the scope of our work. We aim to have accurate representation that reflects our communities.

We have pivoted towards supporting and assisting the crucial work done at the community level. Whether it's through our Community Grants Program or by regularly engaging with community groups and organizations that educate us about the realities they face, we aim to stay as informed as possible on city-wide concerns, challenges and opportunities. We offer in-kind support in the form of Letters of Recommendation/Support for organizations to receive ongoing funding, connecting community members/ organizations with City departments and voicing their concerns through the development of City policies and procedures.

We collaborate with several other City departments and committees including (but not limited to) the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative, the Winnipeg Parking Authority, Community Services Department, the Winnipeg Police Service, Property, Planning and Development, Public Works, Winnipeg Transit, Indigenous Relations Division and the Human Rights Committee of Council.





MSP FUNDRAISER

The Winnipeg Committee was proud to provide sponsorship for the Main Street Project's Annual Fundraiser – *Bringin It in from the Streets*. All proceeds from the event went to Main Street Project's many programs and services including (but not limited to) their food bank, outreach van, and addiction and mental health services.

From L-R: Tracey Proctor (citizen member), Councillor Cindy Gilroy, Jaideep Johar (citizen member), Crystal Van Den Bussche (Coordinator), Narendra Mathur (citizen member) and Gaz Black (citizen member).

2019 COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS

Central Park Foot Patrol	$3000.00
Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin (OPK) - Lateral Empathy Project	$3000.00
Shaughnessy Park School - Walking School Bus	$1000.00
Elmwood Community Resource Center - Awakening Women's Empowerment	$1000.00
Winnipeg Outreach Network - Resource Assistance for Youth (RAY)	$2,000.00
Total:	**$10,000.00**



ELMWOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Awakening Women's Empowerment Project



The power of connecting and relating with others is a driving force for individual and community safety.

Beginning in the spring of 2019, the Awakening Women's Empowerment group gathered weekly to address pertinent topics such as self-esteem, domestic violence, parenting skills, and coping with anger, grief and loss. Participants were referred to the group by the Elmwood Community Resource Center (ECRC) staff or the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Family Physician.

Having a sense of ownership over the direction of the group was crucial to active participation and meaningful change. Participants expressed their interest in certain topics to explore as well as what direction the arts programming would take. Participants were able to appreciate their unique talents and skills that built on self-esteem and a sense of self-efficacy through writing, crafting and painting. Recognizing these strengths led to an increased acknowledgment of other strengths and resiliency that helped these women overcome a variety of obstacles in their lives.

Utilizing a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach, participants were offered the opportunity to use therapeutic art such as writing, crafting and painting. Not only do these modes facilitate the ongoing development of participants' innate talents, research demonstrates that they can be especially useful in processing trauma in ways that cannot be done through verbal language.

SUCCESS STORY

Through the process of sharing their experiences, the shame and stigma of their struggles was lifted. As the women began to relate to one another and offer each other encouragement, a positive network of support was established.

Over the course of the 20 week sessions, and through individual counselling, one participant showed significant growth in her self-esteem and healthy coping skills. She took the initiative to mentor other women within the group as well. As a survivor of domestic violence, she worked diligently to understand the effects of trauma on her mental wellbeing. Motivated by her young son, she was able to provide a safe and healthy environment for him.



She also volunteered to share some of her story at ECRC's annual general meeting in September 2019. She spoke about how attending the Awakening Women's Empowerment program had greatly impacted her life. She continues to share her experience about the program with others and hopes many more women are able to attend and benefit from this group.

RESULTS

- 45 different families were served
- 20 therapeutic group sessions were offered
- 95 % of women attending reported an increased knowledge of what family violence is
- 83 % of women attending reported an increased knowledge of what child abuse is
- 80 % of women attending reported increased ability to deal with conflict/anger in a non-violent and constructive manner
- 93 % of women attending reported increased feeling of belonging in the community
- 92 % of women attending reported increased willingness to introduce positive changes in their lives
- 97 % of women attending reported increased sense of well-being and empowerment

The ECRC partnered with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba to deliver this program. Two medical students co-facilitated the groups which provided them with valuable experience in understanding the intersections of mental health, community belonging and physical wellbeing. The Winnipeg Committee for Safety was proud to provide funding for programming supplies and materials. ECRC continues to partner with their Parent-Child Coalition to refer families to their respective programming.

SHAUGHNESSY PARK SCHOOL

Walking School Bus

When we think of school safety, we often think of what happens in the classroom and on the playground. But what about on the way to and from school? That's where initiatives like the Shaughnessy Park Walking School Bus come in...



The idea for a Walking School Bus program was borne out of the growing concern within the Shaughnessy Park School community that students were not making it to school safely - or at all. It was clear that there was a community need. Once monitors were selected, staff held a training session and a separate meeting for parents. Expectations for students and parents were covered as well as any questions parents had. Parents, students and monitors all signed contracts which outlined protocol and their respective roles and expectations. Then, a meeting with students was held to introduce them to their Monitors.

The success of these 4 initial routes led to 2 additional routes and 4 more Monitors being hired. Biweekly monitor meetings were held to provide ongoing reflection for the success and challenges of the program. A Facebook page was also set up for continual communication and to address any concerns from parents, making the program accessible to all.

RESULTS

- Approximately 60 students participated
- 88% of WSB Monitors were Indigenous women from the school community, who built leadership capacity
- 4 routes, with 15 students per route were established
- increased demand for more routes to be established
- increased involvement in Parent Room
- ongoing recognition and appreciation of the WSB program from parents
- improved school attendance
- decline in after-school incidents
- overall positive impact for the Shaughnessy Park School community
- an increased in community capacity to tackle issues that directly affect students and families
- increased recognition of the value of the school, families and community working together

CENTRAL PARK FOOT PATROL

An urban park, a diverse neighbourhood and a densely populated community, Central Park lies in the heart of Winnipeg's downtown core. It is often called home for refugees and immigrants who resettle from their countries of origin and contribute their strengths and community knowledge to the vibrancy of the area.

The Central Park Foot Patrol (CPFP) was established in 2019 in recognition of the need to deepen connections between community members, help foster a sense of belonging and improve community safety. The foundation of this grassroots approach is to build respectful relationships based on compassion and non-judgment. This is a welcome resolution, especially for people who may otherwise be met with disregard due to systemic barriers to employment, education and housing.

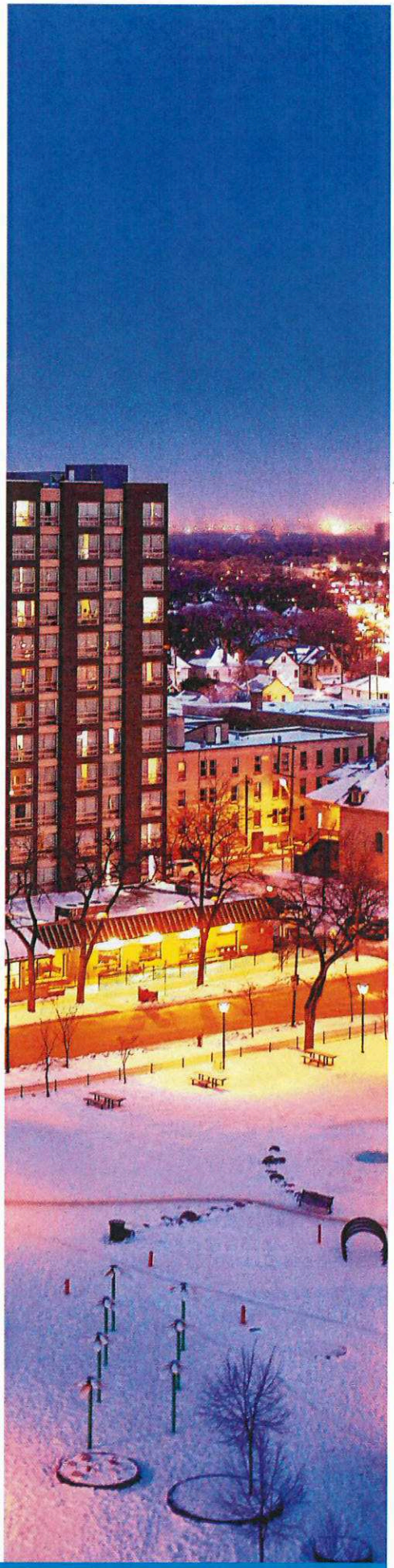
Ongoing community interest led to the development of the CPFP, with 40 adult volunteers ranging in ages and abilities. Notably, most of the volunteers live in or near the Central Park neighbourhood and are deeply invested in its wellbeing. Because this grassroots organization is created by the people and for the people, it is grounded in valuable community knowledge. People with lived experience are an incredible asset, offering special expertise that guides the overall mindset of the patrol.

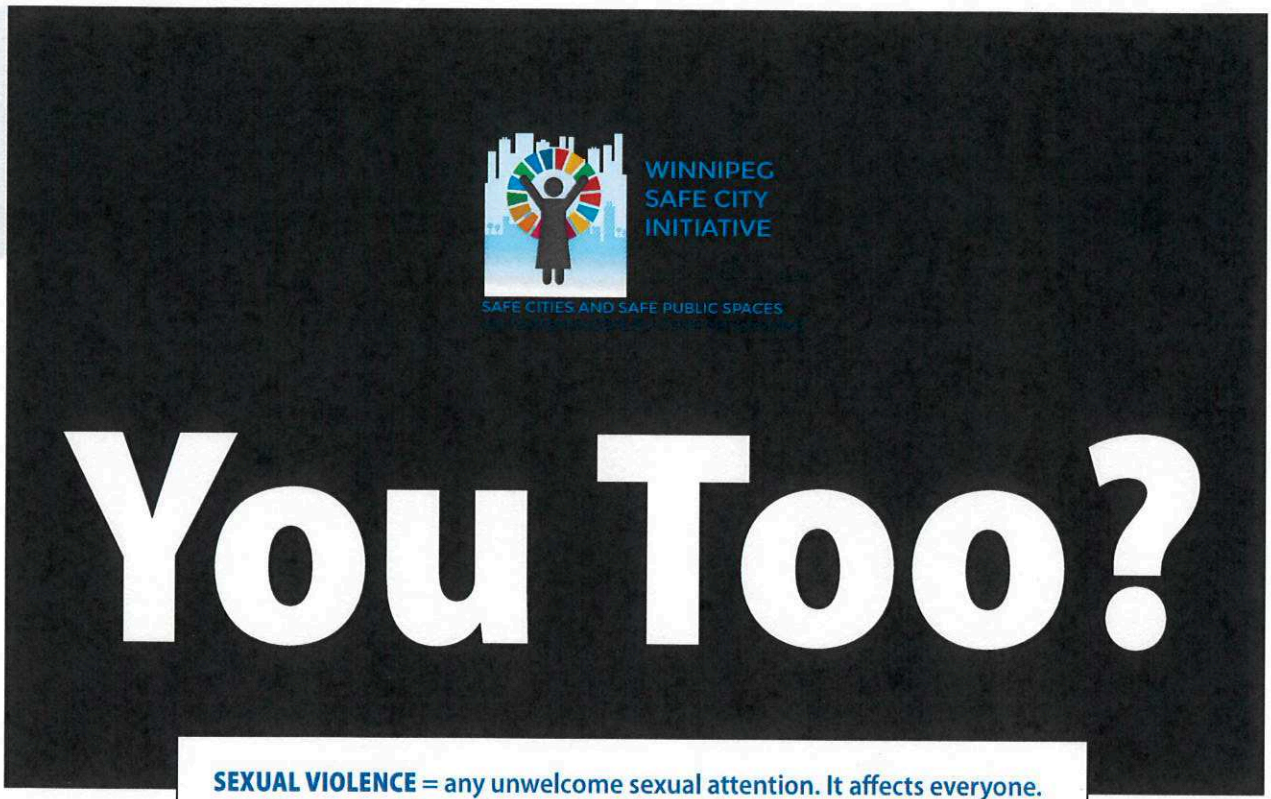
The CPFP Board of Directors is comprised of 6 community members whose volunteer/lived experience and expertise provide valuable guidance. In 2019, CPFP contributed to 10 Central Park community events, solidifying their presence and contribution to the community.

CPFP volunteers received comprehensive training including First Aid/CPR, crisis deescalation skills, incident report writing skills, safe sharps collection, and mental health/ harm reduction education. Not only does CPFP offer food, drink, and harm reduction supplies to those in need, they continue to build connections through friendly greetings and eye contact - simple actions that go a long way in helping people to feel seen and valued. These interactions also expand understanding of how important basic needs like food, shelter, water and access to washrooms are to the dignity of each person they meet.

In 2019 alone, CPFP also safely discarded over 2000 used needles and turned 15 weapons over to the Winnipeg Police Service. While these actions are not the focus of their work, they contribute to cleaning up the area and making it safer for individuals, children and families to enjoy these public spaces.

In the future, other neighbourhoods and communities may look to the CPFP as a positive example of how to meet people where they are at and enhance the strengths and inherent value of a community that continues to grow and thrive.





THE WINNIPEG SAFE CITY INITIATIVE

STREET HARASSMENT IN WINNIPEG

Street harassment is an umbrella term that includes catcalling, leering, stalking, whistling, and receiving sexually suggestive comments, often disguised as compliments. A 2013 survey from Hollaback! Winnipeg revealed that 63% of people self-identifying as female, gender-queer or transgender experienced street harassment at least once per month, and 94% have experienced sexual harassment at some point in their lives.[1] The risk and actual experience of street harassment literally restricts a person's mobility, forcing people who are targeted to alter their daily routines, travel patterns, and to remain hyper-vigilant, especially at night. This reality impedes freedom of movement and impacts access to opportunities including education, employment and recreation. The psychological toll of consistent unease in public spaces is immeasurable.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN WINNIPEG

Of the 1,356 sexual assault cases in Manitoba reported to police in 2015, 50% or 680 cases occurred in Winnipeg. Between April 2012 and October 2015, 1285 survivors of sexual assault accessed the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program at the Health Sciences Center. Klinic Community Health, which provides a broad range of health services including a 24-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line, received approximately 2500 calls from 2011-2016. Nearly 50% of sexual assaults reported to Klinic occurred in a public space. [2]

WHO IS AT RISK?

While the number one risk factor for experiencing sexual violence is being perceived as female, certain demographics of women are more likely to be targeted. For example, Indigenous women are at a significantly higher risk of all violence, including sexual violence, than non-Indigenous women.[3] Women with disabilities are twice as likely to be victims of sexual assault than women who do not have disabilities.[4] The intersections of racism, colonization, able-ism and sexism increase the risk of being targeted for sexual violence, creating a heavy burden on people who live at the crossroads of systemic oppression.

Survivors of street harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault experience a wide range of reactions. Common responses to being violated sexually include anger, sadness, denial, shame, fear, guilt and stigma. These and other factors may lead many survivors to keep the experience a secret. This may perpetuate feelings of shame and secrecy which can significantly impact a person's mental health and wellbeing.

Around the world, the #MeToo movement has inspired survivors of sexual violence to share their experiences and shed light on the darkness of this pervasive societal issue. As a result, Canadians are shifting their perspectives on sexual assault and their attitudes towards gender equity.

The Winnipeg Safe City Initiative (WSCI) wanted to acknowledge the work of the #MeToo movement while supporting survivors of sexual violence in Winnipeg. Recognizing the importance of accessing trauma-informed healing, as well as services that are culturally-led, WSCI produced You Too? Cards with information about supportive resources for survivors. These cards were designed for people who do not have regular internet or Smartphone access as well as those who may be in situations in which Googling resources may put them at further risk. The cards were distributed throughout Winnipeg to many community organizations, businesses and at public events like Festival du Voyageur.

If you or your organization would like copies of "You Too?" cards, please email crimeprevention@winnipeg.ca

[1] Crane, Meg. "Unwanted Attention on Winnipeg Women: Hollaback! Winnipeg Study Shows Street Harassment Is a Major Problem." *The Uniter*, 21 Mar. 2013, http://uniter.ca/view/unwanted-attention-on-winnipeg-women.

[2] Winnipeg Safe City Initiative. *Winnipeg Safe City Scoping Study*. 2016, pp. 1–100, https://winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgSafeCity/pdfs/WinnipegSafeCityScopingStudy.pdf.

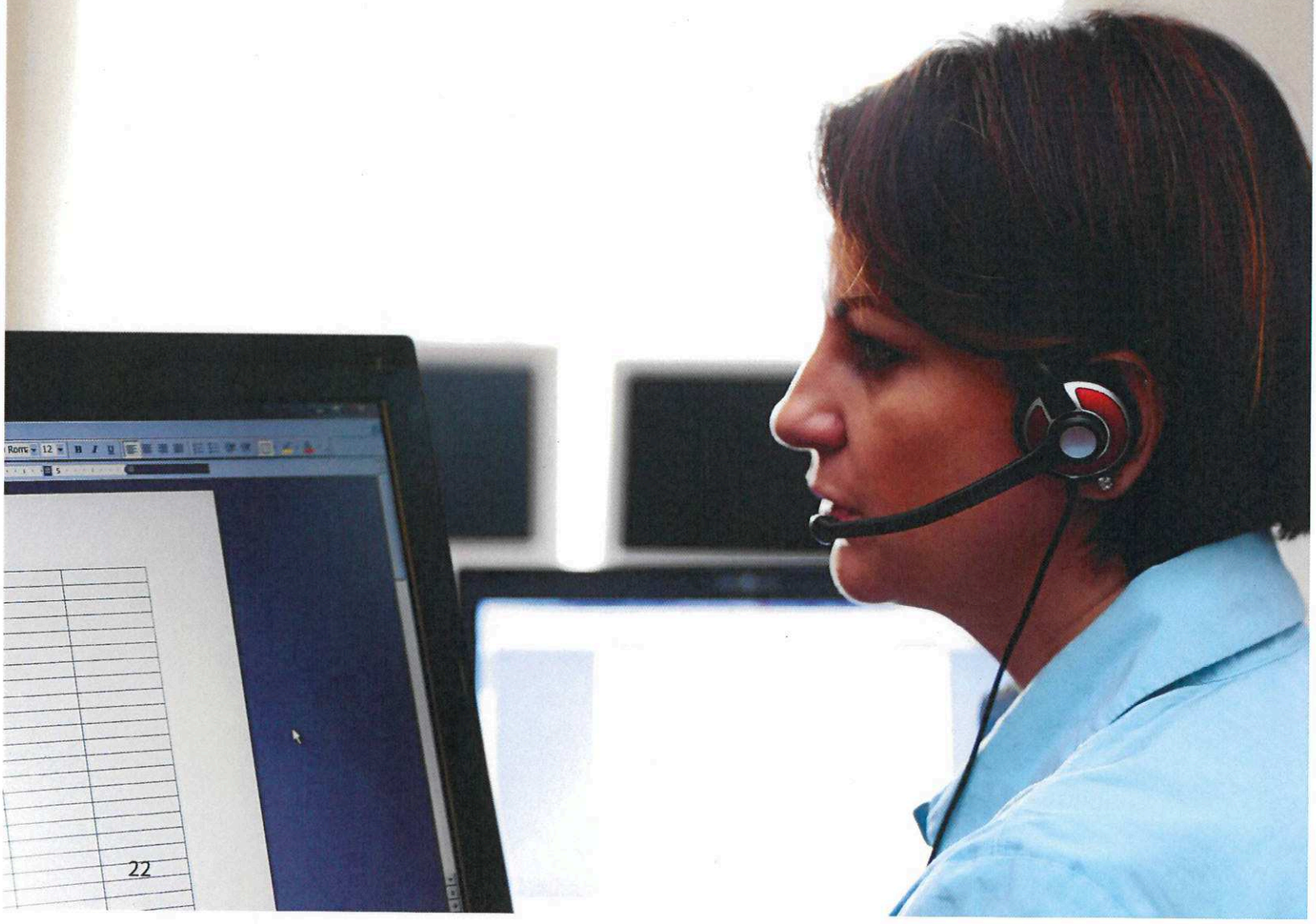
[3] National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. 2019, https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf.

[4] DisAbled Women's Network of Canada. *Girls Without Barriers: An Intersectional Feminist Analysis of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities in Canada*. May 2020, p. 148, https://dawncanada.net/media/uploads/page_data/page-64/girls_without_barriers.pdf.

TRAUMA-INFORMED RESPONSES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Traumatic experiences, such as sexual assault, are challenging to navigate. It can take a lot of strength and courage to ask for support. The responses survivors receive have a big impact on if and how a survivor moves forward.

Recognizing this, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety partnered with the City of Winnipeg's 311 Department to ensure that 311 staff are equipped to respond to citizens' calls regarding information about sexual assault. 311 staff attended Klinic Community Health's Compassionately Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault workshop. As a result of this training, 311 updated their scripts according to guidelines developed in partnership with Klinic. Not only are citizens who call about sexual assault given information about appropriate resources, they are met with language that demonstrates support and compassion. This approach is one small but important step in supporting survivors access the healing they deserve.



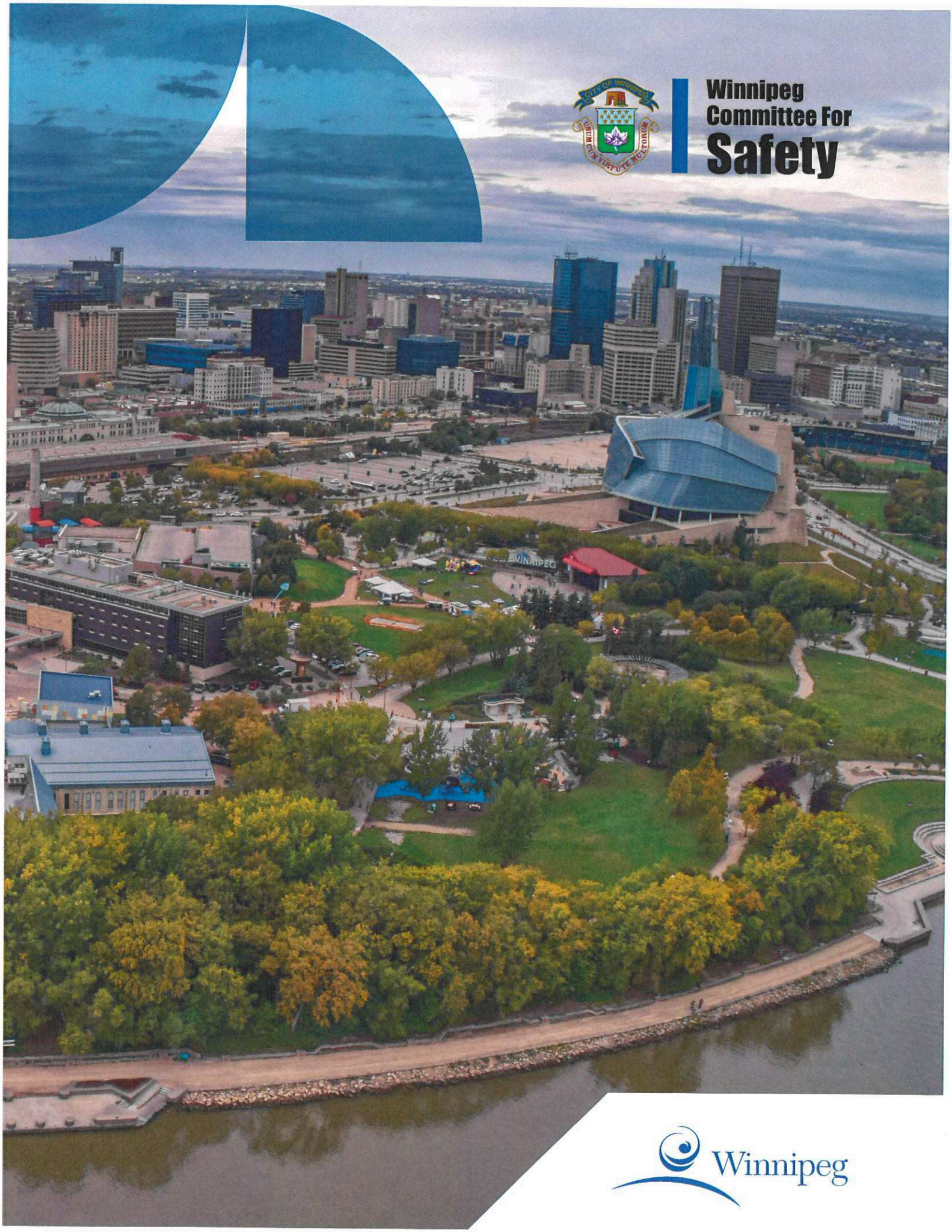


At the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) Inc, Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman announces the 23 community groups and organizations that were awarded funding for their efforts in reducing crime and helping to support vulnerable citizens. Some of the 2019 recipients include Fearless R2W, Mama Bear Clan, Jibstop, Inclusion Winnipeg, Knowles Centre Inc. and the IRCOM Neighbourhood Watch Program.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

With an ongoing commitment to community safety, Mayor Brian Bowman launched the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Program, enabling community organizations and groups to access grants to strengthen local crime prevention efforts, promote the exchange of information between community residents and help build closer relationships between communities and the Winnipeg Police Service.

The WCFS Coordinator was selected as a member of the Program Award Selection Committee. 64 applications were received and assessed in collaboration with the Community Services Department and Winnipeg Police Service.


Winnipeg
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