Winnipeg Committee for Safety

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2020



Winnipeg Committee For Safety

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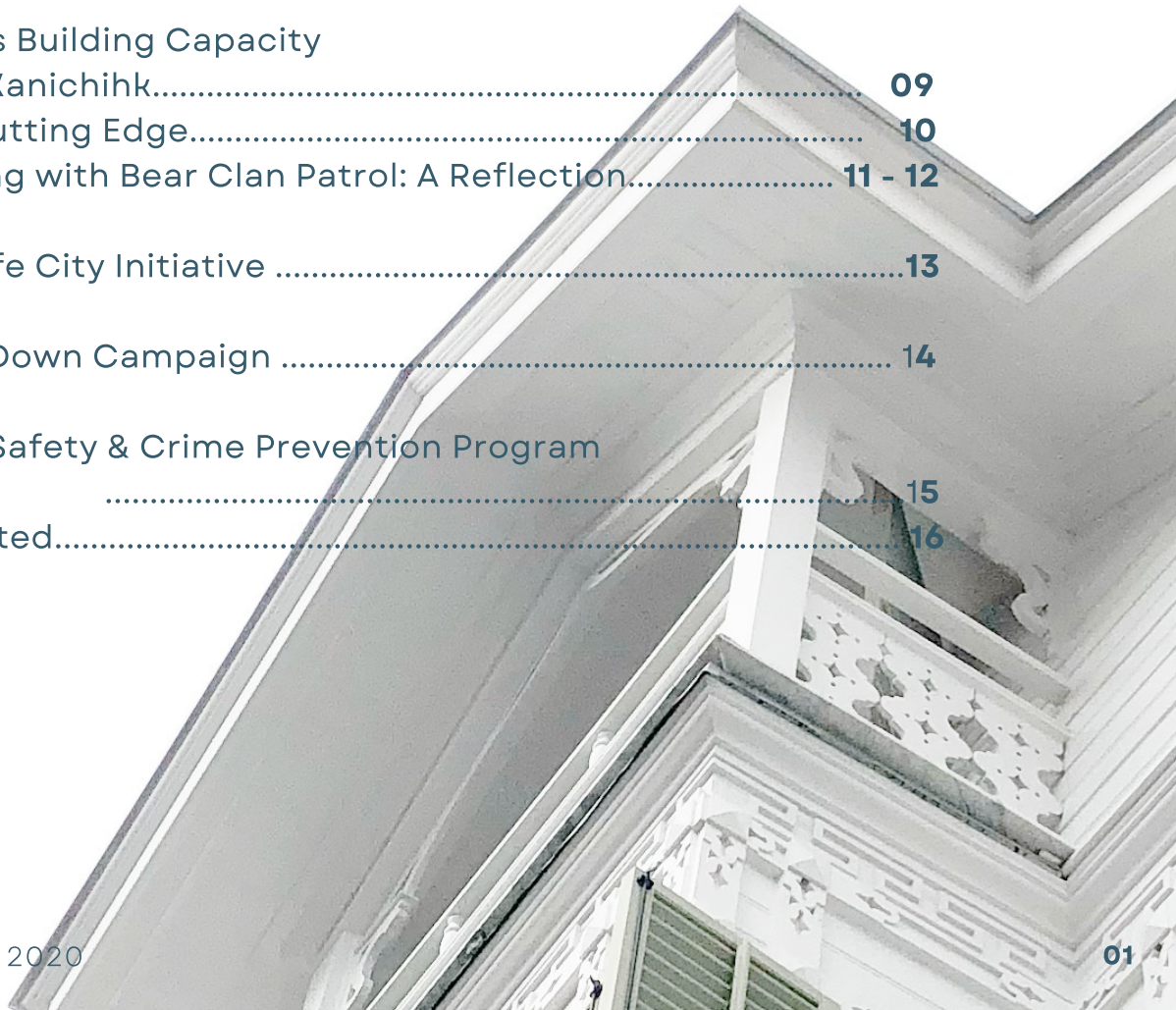

Message from (Outgoing) Chairperson - Councillor Cindy Gilroy



It goes without saying that 2020 was a year unlike any other. What began as a regular year soon resulted in systematic overhauls to the way we all work, interact, and ensure collective safety. While we were all swimming in the same waters of the global pandemic, we were not all in the same boat. Unequal access to reliable public transportation and safe housing became even more pronounced and urgent. Despite the deepening of social and economic inequalities, it quickly became even more clear how interdependent we all really are.

As this year of change rolled on, it was time for the leadership of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) to change as well. Councillor Vivian Santos (Point Douglas ward) accepted her appointment as Chairperson for the WCFS in November 2020. As a strong community advocate and passionate leader, Councillor Santos is well-suited to serve the WCFS.

It's been my pleasure to serve as the Chairperson since 2017. Some of my highlights include launching the Please Slow Down campaign and directly supporting grassroots organizations through our Community Grants Program. I listened to a multitude of perspectives about the meth crisis which expanded my understanding to include supporting person-centered harm reduction measures. Last but not least, it was an honour to support the WCFS in finding innovative ways to address the Calls for Justice outlined by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry.

I extend a sincere thank you to the members of the WCFS for volunteering their time and energy to improving the safety of all Winnipeggers. As Margaret Mead once said, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". May you continue to work with renewed passion for equity in our ever-changing city.

Respectfully,

Councillor Cindy Gilroy
Daniel McIntyre Ward

Message from Chairperson - Councillor Vivian Santos



In 2020, I was elected by my Council colleagues as the new Chair of the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS). With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it proved to be quite an introduction to the committee.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly altered our communities due to lockdowns and isolation requirements that have made it difficult to gather with friends and family. Social Isolation coupled with a significant economic slowdown has exacerbated homelessness, suicide and drug overdose. 2020 might have been one of the most difficult years for our City's most vulnerable population. However, we must be reminded of the fact that all of these issues around poverty and homelessness have existed in our City for decades. The COVID-19 pandemic has just made these issues more visible.

As we continue through this pandemic, I am amazed to see how strong our community organizations have responded. So many grassroots offices have remained open and have continued to help those who require assistance. In my role as Chair of WCFS, I worked closely with these organizations, who have stepped up in a significant time of need. I would like to thank all of the numerous employees and volunteers that have worked tirelessly during the pandemic to ensure that wrap-around supports are available to those who want it.

I would also like to thank our board who have graciously given their time and energy to making our City safer, all while juggling their work and family responsibilities throughout this uncertainty. I am excited to announce that our new goal is to develop an inclusive and innovative five-year strategic plan to inspire, guide and inform committee work with clear priorities and a committee work plan guided by measurable goals and targets.

Moving forward, the role of WCFS will be even more important to ensure that City Council can be ready for new challenges that present themselves over the course of the years to come.

Sincerely,

Vivian Santos
A/ Deputy Mayor - City of Winnipeg
City Councillor - Point Douglas Ward



M A N D A T E

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 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!

For updates on projects and safety-related content across Winnipeg, follow us on Twitter - @wpgsafety

Want more content? Check out our webpage!
https://www.winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgCommitteeForSafety/default.stm

Winnipeg

WCFS Members
2020

Council Members (Voting)

- Councillor Cindy Gilroy (outgoing Chairperson)
- Councillor Vivian Santos, Chairperson
- His Worship Mayor Brian Bowman, ex officio

Citizen Members (voting)

- 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 (non-voting)

- Crystal Van Den Bussche (Committee Coordinator)
- Jennifer Ridge, Clerk (City Clerk's Department)
- Karen Beaudin (Community Resource Coordinator)
- Omar Abdullahi (Community Development Coordinator)
- Cst. Chika Modozie (Winnipeg Police Service)
- Cst. Maria Buduhan (Winnipeg Police Service)

Honouring Karen Beaudin



Karen started out her career with the City of Winnipeg as a Dental Assistant then took on the role of a Community Development Worker. In 2002, she started the City's Aboriginal Employee Group. She also co-chaired Seven Oaks Parents in support of Aboriginal Education for a number of years, where the group was successful in obtaining funding to provide after school programming in the Seven Oaks School Division. She served as a Community Resource Coordinator for the Community Services Department since 2007.

She has also served as a member of many boards and committees, including the Winnipeg Committee for Safety. She has somehow found time to volunteer as a soccer coach, teach square dancing lessons and to attend and participate in countless community events.

She is a mother and a foster parent who believes in the capacity of Indigenous youth to be leaders, advocates and change-makers. Through her down-to-earth and non-judgmental attitude, she has the ability to shine light into the dark corners where pain, and the resilience that grows from it, resides.

In 2015, Karen was one of 12 people who received the Order of Manitoba - the highest honour in the Province. It recognizes those who have made invaluable contributions to the social, cultural, or economic well-being of Manitoba.

Karen is a true example of a leader who 'walks the talk' with grace and humility. The WCFS has been fortunate to have had Karen share her work and insights for the last 12.5 years. She has challenged us to think outside the box and stood in the truth that no matter who we are or where we come from we are all equally deserving of opportunity. She has helped inform numerous WCFS projects throughout the years, always advocating for the inherent knowledge of communities to heal and grow and thrive.

We are fortunate to have had her with this committee along the way and are excited for the next chapter. Miigwetch, Karen!

LEADING by example

During the beginning of the Covid-19 global pandemic, WCFS members shared their personal and professional reasons for wearing masks on the WCFS Twitter account: @wpgsafety

"As a responsible public servant working for Transport Canada, I follow public health orders because they protect Manitobans and Canadians' health and safety" - Jaideep





"I follow public health orders because I care about my community" - Bonnie

"I wear a mask to save others" - Kerry





"I wear a mask because its an easy way to keep you and I safe" - Kathleen

"I wear a mask to protect myself and others because it is the right thing to do" - Gaz



WCFS Financial Report 2020

2020 WCFS BUDGET

COUNCIL FUNDING			$66, 880.00
	ACTUALS	BALANCE	REVENUES
Expenditures:			
Contract Fee - ENCUMBERED Crystal Van Den Bussche	$46,000.00	$46,000.00	$0.00
Communication/Community Outreach	$12,280.00	$8,318.23	$3,961.77
Winnipeg Safe City Initiative	$5,000.00	$7,000.00	$2,000.00
Education and Training	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00
Meeting Costs	$1,300.00	$431.00	$869.00
Office Expenditures	$1,300.00	$4,570.53	$(3,270.53)
Total	$66,880.00	$66,319.76	$560.24

Ka Ni Kanichihk, Inc

Among the many Indigenous-led programs offered by Ka Ni Kanichihk ("those who lead") is a "Community Store" where community members can pick up household goods and non-perishable groceries, free of charge. The Community Store has been especially critical during the Covid-19 pandemic where many people lost employment and/or did not have access to basic goods otherwise. To support their community outreach efforts, the WCFS donated the following items:

48 re-usable cloth face masks
12 pairs men's socks X 4
Toe warmers - 2 pk x 4
Kids' masks - 8 pk x 5
adult unisex masks - 8 pk x 5
regular pads - 96 per pk x 20
overnight pads - 96 per pk x 20
tampons- 96 per pk x 20
panti-liners 200 per pk x 15



Councillor Santos visited Ka Ni Kanichihk's Community Store which is available to people who are in need of household supplies and non-perishable groceries.

Ka Ni Kanichihk continues to lead the community through impactful programming that addresses cultural, social and leadership development, an Indigenous-led daycare center, building employment skills for single mothers, peer mentorship, and its newest addition - Velma's Safe Space.

For more information about Ka Ni Kanichihk, please visit: https://www.kanikanichihk.ca/

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Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.
"those who lead"

The Cutting Edge

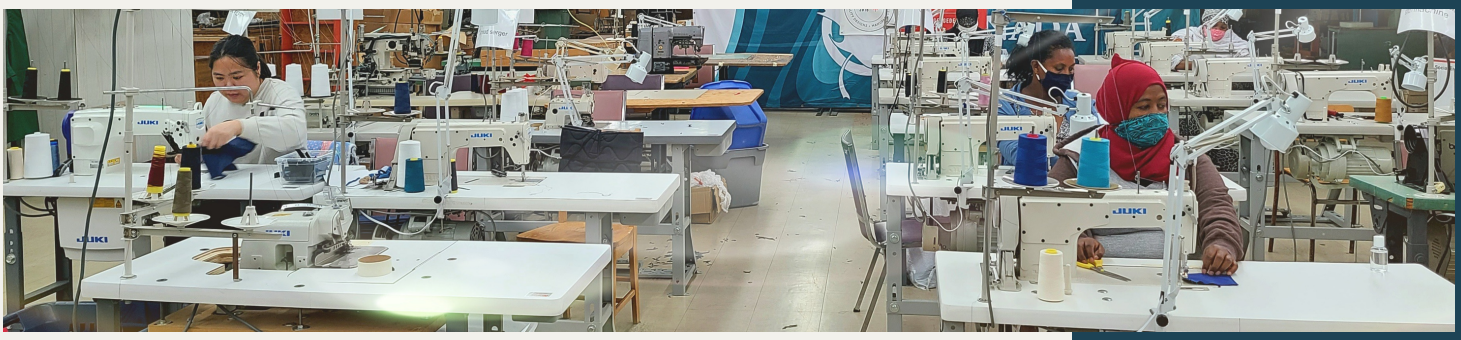
As a social enterprise program of the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute, The Cutting Edge offers programming and training for Newcomer women to enhance their skills as sewing machine operators. Newcomer women are employed full-time at the Cutting Edge and the profits accrued are reinvested into the training program.

- Current and innovative curriculum
- English for Employment training
- Education related to Canadian workplace culture
- Support in applying and transitioning to their preferred employer
- A safe and welcoming environment to build their skills and advance their careers
- A supportive social environment with peers who can relate to the experience of being a newcomer woman in Canada.

Unlike a standard for-profit business, the social enterprise model seeks to earn profit and fulfil their social mission(s). By supporting people who face barriers to employment, the Cutting Edge promotes and contributes to an inclusive and socially responsible local economy. Their ongoing focus of environmental sustainability was especially welcome during the Covid-19 pandemic in which face masks were mandated in public spaces. By providing high-quality reusable masks, the Cutting Edge continues to help reduce the impact on the environment. For more information, please visit: https://thecuttingedgedesigns.ca/



The WCFS donated high-quality reusable face masks to local non-profits who provide direct support to community members. who may not otherwise have access.



Skilled workers produce high-quality garments such as face masks, children's clothing, purses, headbands, and napkins. Part of the proceeds are directly invested back into the program.

WALKING with BEAR CLAN PATROL Inc.

A reflection

Nestled in the heart of Selkirk Ave in Winnipeg's North End, a group of neon-orange reflective safety vests sit piled in the corner of "the Den". Some of us strangers, most of us not, we stand inside the small indoor meeting space of the Bear Clan Patrol. Seasoned patrol members know the drill. Rookies like me fidget with anticipation, only to be softened by the sweet smell of sage floating through the air. We take turns signing in and our leaders give us the run down of our routes. Most importantly, they review our mission - to be kind, non-judgmental, and helpful community members.

We're instructed to walk in pairs but as a group - already solidifying that there is strength in numbers. First stopping across the street at Bear Clan's community walk-in fridge, we load up the back-packs with fresh juice boxes and fruit to offer the people we are about to cross paths with. The sound of radio static scratches through the Walkies Talkies as each group splits into two. "You take East, we'll take West", one of the leaders declares. He walks with a confidence gained from not only knowing the physical area but understanding the strengths and complexities experienced by the people who call it home.

Two teens on bikes ride by and say hello to the group. It's clear from their warm initiation that they and the group are not strangers. A young couple saunters by us with their baby sleeping in a stroller. "Hi, do you guys want a couple of oranges?", a patroller offers. "Sure, thanks!" they reply. Fruit is given and received. A elderly man waves from across the street and says "no thanks" to the next offer. Traffic passes by carrying a few warm smiles. A car honk leads to waves and hellos between those on foot and those on wheels. All feels well as the sun sets down in this part of the city I have barely driven through, let alone set my feet on before.

We pick up litter and the occasional used needle on the ground. Care and respect for the earth is so woven into the fabric of the Bear Clan's attitude that it seems instinctive. There is genuine love and care and respect here. Not due to status, or what people can get out of one another, but just for the mere fact that we are just as human as the person next to (or who feels like a million miles apart) from each of us.

The warmth of this moment is jarred open as we come across a family holding a vigil. It is being held for a community member, a young Indigenous mother, who was found murdered here just three days ago. Candles flicker as people comfort each other on the steps in the front of the building. We stand back in silence and respect. Only one local media outlet is present and appears to be wrapping up their story. The leaders check in with the group, ask if they need anything. They decline and say "Miigwetch". As we walk on, I overhear, "its normal for us to come across vigils around here", a somber fact given by one of the leaders.

A reflection, continued

This makes sense as I recall that the Bear Clan Patrol was re-instated in response to the death of Tina Fontaine, a 15-year-old Indigenous girl, whose body was found near the banks of the Red River. This, the obvious poverty, lack of safe housing and other systemic injustices continue to fuel the Bear Clan's goal to build back community capacity. It is clear that they do not carry this sacred responsibility lightly.

"People can tell right away if you're judging them so we just meet people where they're at. Even if we don't know each other, we are still all relatives", one of the members advises as we come across a housing complex. Kids run out as soon as they see the patrol and accept the offerings. Their high-pitched voices take turns saying "thank you!" as they run back to playing in the shared yard.

We continue walking and are advised not to separate as we make our way onto Main Street. A warm summer evening in August is bound to invite many people outside. We see people walking their dogs, waiting at bus stops, standing outside bars. One man is lying on the concrete, so intoxicated he cannot open his eyes. A leader introduces herself to him as we stand back. He moves slightly in response to her voice and she informs him that she will be calling the paramedics to make sure he's ok. A couple of members stay with her and we are instructed to continue the walk. So we carry on.

The contrast of the glaring suffering and the deep well of hope is striking. This is a place, like any other, filled with both light and shadow. Not in opposition to each other but as layers so connected and intertwined it is difficult, especially for an outsider like me, to piece them apart. These contradictions rest against a backdrop of Indigenous spirituality and knowledge that both ground and call people to action. It is by 'walking the talk' that the Bear Clan has come to earn such widespread respect in and outside of this community.

We return to the Den and place our safety vests in a new pile. The lingering smell of sage welcomes us back. Side conversations take place and eventually we all say our farewells. As my friend and I pull back onto Main Street and head home, I see that same man now standing up on his own. Although the Bear Clan shift is over, the leader and members remain close to his side, in case he falls. I wonder when they will be able to go home and if their families are wondering where they are. I wonder about the man too. What led him here? And where is he going next?

- Anonymous WCFS Member

For more information about the Bear Clan Patrol, please visit:
https://bearclanpatrol.org/

BEAR CLAN PATROL Inc.

Winnipeg Safe City Initiative

Whether it be in a taxicab, personal transportation provider (PTP), on a transit bus, or simply waiting at a bus stop, women's safety on public transportation continues to be a safety concern both locally and globally. Feedback from focus groups interviewed for the Winnipeg Safe City Scoping Study (2016) strongly recommended improved safety measures for women using public transportation. This includes improved education for operators.

As a partner in the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative (WSCI), representation from the WCFS participates in informing and guiding public transportation measures that focus on safety and equity for women and girls. For more information about the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative, please visit: https://winnipeg.ca/Clerks/boards/WpgSafeCity/default.stm

Taking Transit differs significantly for women than it does for men. Women are more likely to:

- Trip chain
- Accompany children and/or elders
- Be targeted by sexual harassers

Transit Advisory Committee

In early 2020, representation from WSCI presented to the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) about the myriad of impacts that a safe, efficient and reliable Transit system has on women's lives. A gender analysis clearly demonstrates that women (and other people who are marginalized) tend to experience Transit in nuanced ways. For example, women are more likely than men to "trip-chain" (making multiple stops along one trip due to household/childcare responsibilities), are more likely than men to accompany small children and/or elders while using Transit, and are more likely to be sexually harassed and assaulted than men are.

Recognizing the importance of a gender lens in improving Transit services, WSCI joined TAC and continues to inform safety-related and equity-based policy development.

Vehicle for Hire Advisory Committee

The Vehicle for Hire Advisory Committee was established to advise the Winnipeg Parking Authority on community-based issues effecting the industry, including women's safety. Important updates to Driver Refresher Training were established in 2020, including (but not limited to) the Criminal Code definition of sexual assault, appropriate and professional conversation topics, warning signs of sexual exploitation and the ongoing issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). These additions will enhance the existing mandatory driver training and enhance the quality of service offered across the city.

Please Slow Down Campaign



On May 19, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works directed the Winnipeg Public Service to:

1. Approve an ongoing allotment of up to 100 "Please Slow Down" campaign lawn signs to each member of Council for the 2020 year, to be funded from the Road Safety budget.
2. Report back on the efficacy of the “Please Slow Down” (PSD) campaign sign program to the Standing Committee at its April, 2021 meeting.

Residents who received PSD signs in 2019 and 2020 were asked to fill out a short, 2-minute survey about their experience with the PSD campaign. Feedback will be used to determine campaign effectiveness.

Since 2018, the demand for PSD signs has remained steady across the city. This, as well as increased advocacy and support from grassroots organizations, clearly demonstrates the need for more permanent and effective solutions to residential speeding.

FAST FACTS

A pedestrian has a 90% chance of survival when struck by a car travelling 30km/h or below, but less than 50% chance of surviving an impact at 45km/h.

Residential speeding only saves a matter of seconds on a driver's commute.

Fines for travelling 10 km/h over the posted speed limit start at $181.50 (MPI, 2020)



Councillor Santos and her daughter installing PSD signs around the neighbourhood in 2019.

Community Safety & Crime Prevention Program

In its second year of operation, the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Program (CSCP) recognizes the strengths and vision of many local organizations who remain committed to community safety. By building community capacity and encouraging open communication between residents, these organizations strengthen what is already apparent - that communities hold the expertise needed to prevent crime.

The CSCP Program Award Selection Committee is made up of representation from Community Services, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety and the Winnipeg Police Service - Community Support Division. A total of 23 community organizations were awarded grants, with a maximum of $5000 per grant. To see the 2020 complete list of recipients, please visit: https://winnipeg.ca/cms/pdfs/2020_community_safety_recipients.pdf

Recipients for the 2020 CSCP Program include (but are not limited to):

	Organization Name	Activity Focus	Funded Amount
1	Holistic Ongoing Opportunities Development Facilitation and Management Services Inc.	Newcomer Safe Space Program Support	$5,000
2	Point.powerline Inc.	Increasing Program Capacity	$4,582
3	Holy Names House of Peace	Facility Health and Safety Upgrades	$2,230
4	Filipino Seniors Group of Winnipeg	Support for Community Safety Seminars / Drop-In & Self-Defense Programs	$3,945
5	The WRENCH	Bike Locks for Bike Bazaar / Community Events	$5,000
6	William Whyte Citizens on Patrol Program	Patrol Program Enhancements	$3,000
7	Central Park Foot Patrol Inc.	Patrol Program Enhancements	$5,000
8	SISTARS Economic Community Development Co-op	Security Lighting & Surveillance Upgrades	$3,500
9	NorWest Co-op Community Health	Safe Space Program Supports	$3,500
10	Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc.	Youth Safety Awareness Project	$5,000
11	Altered Minds Inc.	Safety Information Sessions	$5,000
12	William Whyte Neighbourhood Association	Outdoor Solar Security Light Program	$5,000

To learn more about the program, including how to apply, please visit: https://winnipeg.ca/cms/community_safety.stm

STAY connected



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https://www.winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgCommitteeForSafety/default.stm

Have questions or concerns? Email crimeprevention@winnipeg.ca to connect

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