WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY

ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY

2021



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Message From Our Chairperson



"The Winnipeg Committee for Safety is the 'hidden gem' of City Hall" - Councillor Santos

As Chairperson for the Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS), it did not take long for me to realize that this group is the 'hidden gem' of City Hall. With committed and impassioned volunteer citizens, the WCFS is well-positioned to positively influence policy and be champions of change for communities.

The benefit of their flexible position between Council and community is the freedom to be responsive to the ever changing political tides and community concerns. One of the drawbacks was a lack of a succinct identity, focus, purpose and direction. Thus, a comprehensive search for an external entity to lead the WCFS on a multi-year strategic plan began in Spring 2021. Of the many qualified candidates who submitted an outstanding proposal, the WCFS chose the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP) who challenged us to answer the questions of 'who are we?', 'what are we doing?' and 'where are we going?"

It was my pleasure to lead this discussion with the WCFS and CMNCP in late 2021. The WCFS' multi-year strategic plan is set to be completed in Spring 2023. I look forward to learning about the insights gained as well as the meaningful direction the WCFS will take with City Council and Winnipeg, perhaps making this 'hidden gem' not so hidden after all.



MANDATE

The WCFS believes that safety is a fundamental human right. Safe communities begin with a shared goal of capacity building, derived from working together towards common objectives.
Our mission is to work proactively to maintain and improve the safety of each of our citizens for the advancement of community well-being.

Support - We aim to empower local organizations that wish to make our communities healthier for all. 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 important and impactful work.

Assist - Through information sharing and network building, we seek to solidify our position as Winnipeg's knowledge hub on a variety of safety concerns and approaches while promoting community capacity and a culture of safety.

Stimulate - By being aware of best practices utilized in municipalities across Canada and internationally, we seek to stimulate our own communities with pro-active safety approaches.

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.

WCFS Members | 2021

THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS WORK

COUNCIL MEMBERS (Voting)

- 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
- Omar Abdullahi, Community Development Coordinator
- Staff Sargeant Brian Chrupalo, Winnipeg Police Service

The WCFS offers a special thank you to outgoing members Bridget Whipple, Jaideep Johar and Kerry LeBlanc for their years of dedication and service.

With well over a decade of volunteering, Kerry has been an integral part of the WCFS' evolution - the longest standing citizen advisory committee in Winnipeg City Hall history. When not providing his insights and passion at the WCFS table, Kerry could be found raising funds for local organizations, dressed as Santa and delivering Christmas gifts on his winter bike or standing on top of a literal mountain.



Kerry LeBlanc poses on behalf of Brothers of the Fork who raised $10,000 for local organizations such as Resource Assistance for Youth (rAY, Willow Place, Red Road Lodge and SSCOPE, Inc.

Financial Report | 2021

2021 WCFS		2021 BUDGET	2021 Actuals	Balance
Revenues:				
Council Funding	$66,880.00			
Expenditures:				
Contract Fee - ENCUMBERED				
Crystal Van Den Bussche		$ 50,000.00	$50,000.00	$0.00
Communication/Community Outreach		$10,580.00	$12,745.00	-$2,165.00
Winnipeg Safe City Initiative		$3,000.00		$3,000.00
Education and Training		$1,000.00	$2,516.25	-$1,516.25
Meeting Costs		$1,000.00	$13.35	$986.65
Office Expenditures		$ 1,300.00	$1,605.40	$ (305.40)
Total		**$ 66,880.00**	**$66,880.00**	**$ -**

Acknowledgements

Recognizing the importance of focusing on women's safety, the WCFS allocated a portion of their budget to the Winnipeg Safe City Initiative. Their consideration and generosity is appreciated.

We are grateful to City Council who has voted to fund the Winnipeg Committee for Safety since its inception in 1999.





TOOLKIT

In Spring 2021, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety launched the Community Safety and Wellbeing Toolkit. Understanding that "community safety" is an inherently broad term, the committee set out to create public awareness regarding a variety of issues including (but not limited to) how best to support community members living with Dementia, conflict resolution between neighbours and taxicab safety. Below are some examples of materials distributed through the community:

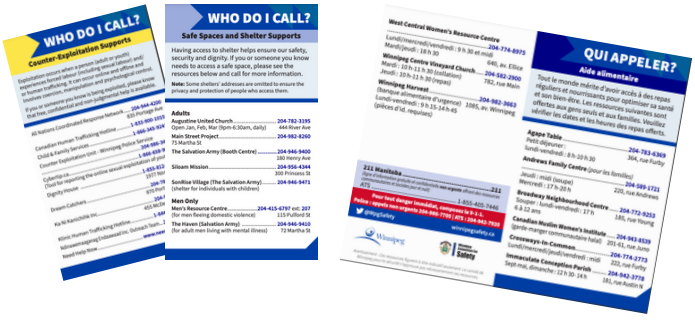
WHO DO I CALL? cards

Sifting through information through internet search results can be overwhelming and cumbersome. And while many of us have the benefit of the internet at our fingertips, many community members do not have the same luxury. Because access to information is a key barrier in connecting to appropriate services, the *Who Do I Call?* card series was created to fill the gap by making key information accessible.

Demographic topics include resources for Parents/Caregivers, Youth and Seniors. Social services topics include resources for Counter-Exploitation, Meal Supports, Mental Health, Safe Spaces/Shelters and Sexual Violence.

These 3" x 5" cards (available in English and French) are designed to be small enough to carry in a wallet, notebook or placed on a fridge. Each card is available for download from our website. Community organizations that wish to receive **hard copies in bulk** may email their request to: crimeprevention@winnipeg.ca

We continue to get requests for the cards from libraries, businesses and community organizations alike, proving that this simple resource is valued in the community.



LIVING SAFELY WITH DEMENTIA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF MANITOBA, THIS GUIDE OFFERS HELPFUL TIPS INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA. TO VIEW THE COMPLETE GUIDE PLEASE VISIT WINNIPEGSAFETY.CA

Dementia is an overall term for a set of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. Symptoms may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language, severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities.

DEMENTIA MAY BE A POSSIBILITY WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL:

- Appears confused and disoriented
- Does not understand the current situation or is unable to sort out the obvious, such as their name and address, where they are, or where they are going
- Has no idea about the time of day or how much time has passed since leaving home
- Must be told repeatedly who you are and what you want
- Appears fearful, agitated, angry or is crying
- Provides inappropriate responses to simple questions, or does not respond at all
- May have a blank facial expression or one that is inappropriate to the situation
- Is dressed inappropriately, perhaps overdressed in the summer months or underdressed during cold weather

Some approaches can help communicate more effectively with a person with dementia.

COMMUNICATION TIPS

1. Identify yourself, e.g., "My name is… I'm here to help you get home."
2. Approach the person from the front.
3. Move slowly; face the person or maintain eye contact.
4. Address the person by name; speak slowly and clearly.
5. Present one idea at a time.
6. Repeat/rephrase responses to clarify what he/she is trying to tell you.
7. Ask questions requiring "yes" or "no" and allow time for a response.
8. Back up your words with actions using gestures.
9. Listen actively and acknowledge the person's emotional state.
10. Touching too roughly or quickly could cause increased stress.

Alzheimer Society MANITOBA
Dementia Care & Brain Health

Winnipeg Committee For Safety

Winnipeg

ADDRESSING RACISM & ALLYSHIP

IN CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF RACISM, THIS RESOURCE IS A STARTING POINT TO UNDERSTANDING THE MANY HARMS OF BEING RACIALLY PROFILED. IT ALSO INCLUDES ACTION STEPS FOR BECOMING AN ALLY.

ABC - Action Steps

We all have a role to play in understanding implicit bias & ending racial profiling.

Here are action steps we can take if we have racially profiled someone:

- **A**cknowledge and own up to our actions.[7,8] Strong emotions such as defensiveness, anger, guilt and shame are common. It is important to recognize these and try our best not to fester in feelings that keep us stuck.
- **B**e open to being corrected by people with lived experience. Embrace the potential discomfort. Communicate with compassion and respect for ourselves and others.
- **C**onsider the inherent dignity of the person who was profiled. Put yourself in their shoes. Have you been ever been unfairly judged based on your (perceived) identity? How did this impact you?
- **D**evelop an understanding that it is not the responsibility of the person/people who have been profiled to comfort, educate or forgive others. Racialized people are preoccupied with surviving and managing the ongoing effects of discrimination.
- **E**ducate ourselves. [7,8] Seek counter-narratives to challenge implicit biases about groups we do not identify with/relate to. We are all learning and when we know better - we do better.
- **F**ocus on what those who are profiled need to feel safe. Ask them what, if anything, they need from you. Listen to and respect their wishes. They are the experts.
- **G**ive ourselves permission to examine and challenge our implicit biases. Because they are learned, they can be unlearned too.
- **H**elp out where and how we can (i.e.: donate, raise awareness, challenge racist "jokes" and assumptions, advocate for policy changes, volunteer.) These small actions add up to big differences.

Being an ally is:

an active, consistent, and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person in a position of privilege and power seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group. [8]

Only people in a marginalized group can define who is an ally.

Allyship & Educational resources

Anti-Racism Resource List
https://tinyurl.com/y8hv2lqn

Guide to Allyship
www.guidetoallyship.com/

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
https://tinyurl.com/j6hrvrs

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry - Calls for Justice
https://tinyurl.com/y8k7yeek



VEHICLE FOR HIRE SAFETY

AS A MEMBER OF THE VEHICLE FOR HIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE WCFS ADVISES ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES RELATED TO SAFETY WITH TAXICAB/PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS (PTP).



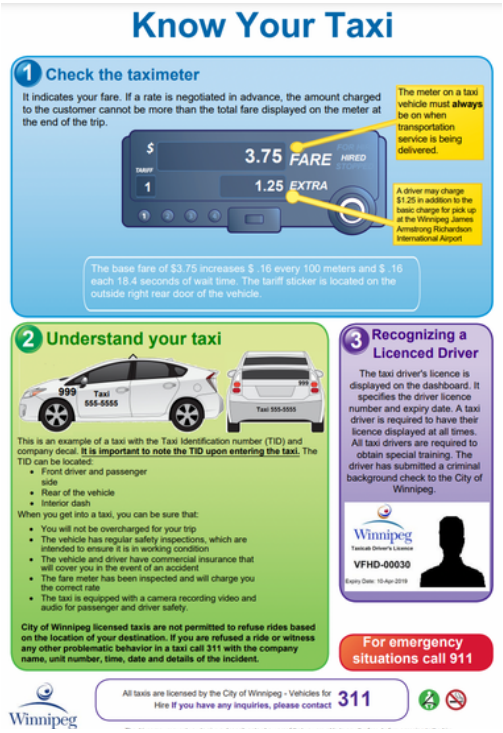
The City of Winnipeg became the regulatory body overseeing the Vehicle-for-Hire (VFH) industry in 2017. Public education about the industry continued to be a priority in 2021. By enhancing public awareness of the rights and responsibilities of both operators and passengers, the City of Winnipeg aims to make the VFH industry as safe and equitable as possible.

Reporting Process

All VFH operators are required to be registered with a dispatch company and all must have a complaints resolution process in place in order to be licensed. The City of Winnipeg requires regular reporting on complaints received and how they are resolved.

If a customer wishes to report a complaint about their experience with a VFH, they may contact the dispatcher company, 311 or both.

Providing details around the complaint, including the dispatcher company, the driver's name, ID or taxicab drivers license number, the pick-up and drop off location, the vehicle identification number (a 3-digit number on the car and dashboard of the vehicle), the nature of your concern may assist with addressing the complaint.



Information about important industry standards such as the Know Your Taxi infographics were widely distributed to the community.

COLLABORATION WITH JAY PITTER

"THE PRACTICE OF PLACEMAKING REQUIRES AN EMBRACE OF DISCOMFORT" - JAY PITTER



Jay Pitter, MES, is an award-winning placemaker whose practice mitigates growing divides in cities across North America. She spearheads institutional city-building projects specializing in public space design and policy, forgotten densities, mobility equity, gender-responsive design, inclusive public engagement and healing fraught sites. More information about Jay's work can be found at http://www.jaypitter.com/

In partnership with leadership from the Property, Planning and Development Department, as well as support from Councillor(s) Gilroy, Rollins and Santos, the WCFS organized a series of virtual workshops with international, equity-based placemaking expert Jay Pitter.

Over 50 City staff from a wide range of departments attended the workshop series, including (but not limited to) Winnipeg Transit, Community Services, Indigenous Relations, Public Works, Urban Planning, Corporate Communications, Strategic Planning, and Land Development. Not only was this an opportunity to learn from Jay's urban design expertise, it was also a rare opportunity for City staff to connect across disciplines.

Jay's experience shed light on different types of community engagement and how to meet people where they are at. Her work unpacked the assumption that individuals and communities are inherently disempowered and challenged participants to pair place-making with "embracing discomfort". Doing so necessitated acknowledging and addressing systemic power imbalances and barriers, as well as opportunities for collaboration, resolution and joy in these processes.

It is the hope of the WCFS that this workshop series cultivated new perspectives and practical opportunities for staff to meaningfully engage and co-create public spaces with communities. In doing so, a social-equity lens can be applied to policies that make public spaces safe(r), celebratory and joyful for all.

Partnering with

Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention

RÉSEAU MUNICIPAL CANADIEN EN PRÉVENTION DE LA CRIMINALITÉ
Ensemble pour des villes canadiennes plus sécuritaires

CANADIAN MUNICIPAL NETWORK ON CRIME PREVENTION
Together for Safer Canadian Cities

With over 15 years of experience and expertise leading and supporting municipalities across Canada, the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP) is a well-established leader in community safety. Their vast expertise ranges from evidence-based policy and practice recommendations, collaborative partnership development and creating and implementing community safety and wellbeing strategic plans. Selecting the CMNCP to guide the WCFS in a multi-year strategic plan was an easy choice.

Being an external entity to the Winnipeg context provided an opportunity for leadership from CMNCP to learn about the many challenges and strengths of Winnipeg. Our work together began in late 2021, with a comprehensive proposed work plan including data collection, assessing strategic goals and priorities, thematic analyses, and collaboratively identifying the WCFS' purpose, identity, values and objectives.

It was clear from the beginning of this partnership that the CMNCP offers a strengths-based approach to their work. While they did not dismiss the intersecting systemic challenges that Winnipeg faces, including (but not limited to) poverty, homelessness, racism/sexism/ableism, lack of mental health supports and ongoing gang recruitment of youth, CMNCP's approach asserts that embracing Winnipeg's unique strengths will also lead to better outcomes.

In addition, their exceptional approach involves recognizing that many community members often feel excluded, uncomfortable or unsafe engaging with government-adjacent entities. To address this, CMNCP proposed DIY community consultations wherein community organizations that have established, trustful relationships with community members will lead engagement.

Over the course of several meetings with the WCFS, the DIY consultations as well as leading a large consultation with service providers, the CMNCP is integral to development of the WCFS' policy recommendations and impact. The WCFS' multi-year strategic plan is set to be published in early 2023.

For more information about the CMNCP, please visit: http://safercities.ca/

STAY CONNECTED

winnipegsafety.ca

T: @wpgsafety

E: crimeprevention@winnipeg.ca

