Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 12, 2024

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – March 6, 2024

Item No. 2 Update on 'Places to Go' Framework (2023) and Downtown Washroom Initiatives

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the report be received as information.

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 12, 2024

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – March 6, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Duncan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 6, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services did not concur in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the report be received as information.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 14, 2023, Council adopted the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services:

1. That an extension of time of 90 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the following:

    A. "Places to Go" – Public Restroom Strategy Annual Report.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – March 6, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

On July 23, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That the three-tiered Places to Go Framework as detailed herein be approved and direct the Public Service to:

    A. work with external stakeholders to:

        i. conduct a public restroom facility analysis to determine existing gaps and high-needs areas;

        ii. determine best locations for installation of public restrooms, for all Winnipeggers inclusive of vulnerable persons on a priority basis; and

    B. work with external stakeholders to create a program and criteria to encourage private and public building owners to provide public washroom access; and

    C. identify all potential barriers within City By-laws, processes or procedures inhibiting the establishment of public restroom facilities, along with any proposed amendments to address same and report back in December of 2020 to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks.

2. That the Public Service report back annually on the matter commencing in December 2021.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

On March 23, 2023, Council adopted the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That the Public Service be directed to prepare text amendments for the Winnipeg Zoning By-law No. 200/2006 and the Downtown Winnipeg Zoning No. 100/2004 to facilitate the development of new public washroom facilities, as set out in Attachment 1.

2. That the Public Service be directed to renew efforts within Tiers 1 and 2 of the Places to Go Framework, and report back on this matter in March 2024.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – March 6, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

3. That, subject to Council approval of the 2023 Operating Budget, the number of temporary washrooms provided by the City of Winnipeg in areas of identified need be reduced from six units to three units, and that the residual funds (estimated $20,000), be provided to Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to increase the 2023 grant from $200,000 to $220,000 for peer support services at the permanent public washroom facility, Amoowigamig (715 Main Street), through an amendment to the current grant agreement.

4. That the funding necessary to expand the provision of peer support services at Amoowigamig from 10 hours per day to 24 hours per day, estimated at a minimum of $650,000 per year, be referred to the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Process.

5. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to maintain a sole source agreement with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre for the provision of peer support services at Amoowigamig, and to engage Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in exploring options to reduce the cost of on-site services, particularly between 6pm and 6am.

6. That the Public Service be authorized to explore a shared funding model with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority for the continued provision of Peer Supports at Amoowigamig.

7. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Update on 'Places to Go' Framework (2023) and Downtown Washroom Initiatives

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Penner C. Brens	C. Fernandes	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to two different, but related, motions of Council. First, on July 23, 2020, Council approved the Places to Go Public Restroom Strategy that provides a three-tier framework to improve access to public restrooms:

- Tier 1 - Advertiser-funded public restrooms.
- Tier 2 - Public-Private Partnerships with local businesses and Business Improvement Zones (BIZs).
- Tier 3 - Removing red tape for private businesses to install their own temporary public restroom facilities.

As part of this motion, the Public Service was directed to report back on this matter every year starting December 2021.

Secondly, on March 23, 2023, Council approved a report on *The Status of Downtown Public Washroom Initiatives*. This report was an update of Winnipeg's downtown permanent public washroom called 'Amoowigamig', as well as the temporary washroom project. Council directed the Public Service to renew efforts within Tiers 1 and 2 of the Places to Go Strategy Framework and report back on this matter in March 2024.

On November 20, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services approved a request from the Community Services Department to combine the above-noted dispositions into one report to simplify reporting.

This report provides an update on renewed efforts within Tiers 1, 2, and 3 of The Places to Go Strategy, a general update on both downtown public washroom initiatives, and recommends the development of an incentive program to further support Tiers 1 and 2. To do so, this report is divided into four sections:

1) A brief history and context of public washrooms in Winnipeg and a discussion of the rationale for these facilities;

2) A current status update on Amoowigamig, Winnipeg's Downtown Permanent Public Washroom;
3) An update on Tiers 1, 2, and 3 of the Gotta Go Strategy Framework; and
4) Identifies and describes the recommendation of the Public Service to reallocate existing funds to develop an incentive program to support Tiers 1 and 2 of the Places to go Strategy Framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Public Service be directed to explore and develop a public washroom incentive program and report back with recommendations within 90 days.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On July 23, 2020, Council approved the Places to Go, Public Restroom Strategy. As part of this motion, the Public Service was directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks on this matter annually commencing in December 2021.

On March 23, 2023 Council directed the Public Service to report back in March 2024 with an update on renewed efforts in Tiers 1 and 2 of the Places to Go Strategy Framework.

On November 20, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services approved an extension request from the Community Services Department to combine the above-noted dispositions into one report and report back at its March 2024 meeting.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no immediate implications as a result of the Recommendations of this report.

Recommendation 1 may result in the development of a new washroom program. The intent is to reallocate existing resources for temporary washrooms to increase and enhance washroom access by leveraging external facilities and services.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Background and Context:

Public restrooms in Winnipeg have a long history, beginning with washroom facilities known as 'comfort stations' in City parks and other city-owned land in the mid-1900s, followed by their closures and eventual demolition. Winnipeg residents have had increasingly less access to public washroom facilities since these stations were closed. Access was further reduced following the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in further restrictions to public spaces and public washrooms.

Limited access to public washrooms can result in a number of negative impacts on public health, equity, and human dignity. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Impacts to public health:** Lack of public washrooms can result in public urination and defecation. This biological waste is unsanitary and poses a health hazard, raising concerns about public health and safety in public spaces such as parks, open spaces, public rights-of-way (i.e. sidewalks) or transit shelters.
- **Access to water and sanitation is a basic human right:** As recognized by the United Nations, all people should have access to safely managed water and sanitation. Public washrooms are a component of this, and help to foster equitable and livable neighbourhoods that are inclusive and accessible.
- **Impacts on vulnerable people:** Reliable accessible and universal washrooms disproportionately impact vulnerable people, including seniors, young children, people with disabilities, people who are pregnant, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, women and girls, and people experiencing homelessness.

Since the early 2000s, the City of Winnipeg has explored different methods to provide greater access to public washrooms. This has included looking to stakeholders and other jurisdictions for funding models and approaches. A detailed history of research and programming efforts was presented by the Public Service to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks on July 10, 2020, in its report entitled Places to Go: Public Restroom Strategy. The Places to Go strategy outlines a framework aimed at improving access to public restrooms for Winnipeg residents, with three tiers:

- Tier 1 - Advertiser-funded public restrooms.
- Tier 2 - Public-Private Partnerships with local businesses and Business Improvement Zones (BIZs).
- Tier 3 - Removing red tape for private businesses to install their own temporary public restroom facilities.

On July 23, 2020, Council approved the Three-Tiered Framework. As part of its approval, Council also directed the Public Service to report back on this matter annually commencing in December 2021. After the most recent update to Council on March 23, 2023, the Public Service renewed efforts within Tiers 1 and 2 of the Framework, while also adjusting its approach to align with the changing social and economic trends, best-practices, and community need.

As part of this work, and as outlined in greater detail below, the Public Service also continued two Downtown Public Washroom Initiatives that were started in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support vulnerable people. During the start of the pandemic, the lack of availability of public restrooms became more apparent, with the most significant impact on vulnerable people, particularly community members who are experiencing homelessness. Two initiatives were led for public washroom provision; the permanent public washroom, Amoowigamig, located at 715 Main Street with peer support services; and temporary washrooms using portable toilets on a temporary-basis in key locations. The following sections of this report provide updates on these initiatives, as well as work related to Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 of the Places to Go Strategy Framework.

Current Status Update on Amoowigamig:

Operations and Facility Enhancements

Since its opening, the permanent public washroom, Amoowigamig at 715 Main Street, has experienced increasing use and access by community members with positive impacts on health and social outcomes. The partnership between the City of Winnipeg and Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre (Ma Mawi) allows for the delivery of a service model that meets the unique needs of the community members in the neighbourhood. Peer support provided by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata offer important cultural and harm reduction services and resources for vulnerable populations, particularly Indigenous unsheltered community members. With Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata's involvement, Amoowigamig is open and staffed seven days a week, 16-hours per day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. These hours were extended from the previous 10-hours per day operations, a result of a financial contribution from Winnipeg Foundation in May of 2023.

Throughout 2023, the Public Service coordinated a number of upgrades to the facility to support the safety and wellbeing of staff and community members, as well as enhanced programming provided by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata. These upgrades include:

- **Supply drawer:** A supply drawer connecting the interior and the exterior of the facility was installed to provide community members with access to harm reduction, hygiene and wellbeing supplies, without needing to admit people into the building.
- **Air conditioning:** Due to needed safety protocols that require closed and/or locked doors, opening the facility's overhead doors to allow for more airflow and natural cooling was not possible. An air conditioner unit was installed in the summer to create a more comfortable space and reduce health risks related to high temperatures.
- **Lighting:** Lighting upgrades were done to increase visibility and enhance safety, particularly to support operations during the evening and night.
- **Lockbox machines:** Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata has installed two large machines that will function as secure lockboxes for harm reduction supplies and prescribed medications. The lockboxes are an extension of harm reduction programming to support positive health and social outcomes, and aimed at improving access to healthcare services for unsheltered residents. The pilot is still in development and the lockboxes are not yet operational.

Public Use and Peer Support Services:
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata operates on-site peer support services, with staff who routinely provide visitors with referrals and access to cultural connections, applications for housing, connections to health services, and life-saving overdose intervention. In terms of use, and as outlined in Figure 1 below, in 2023, Amoowigamig had a total of 32,276 visitors, or an average of 2,690 each month. In the first quarter of 2023, Amoowigamig had an average of 1,164 visits per month to access toilet facilities alone, with an increase to an average of 3,644 visits per months in the last quarter. What's most notable, is that people visit Amoowigamig more often for peer support services than for using the toilet. As depicted in Figure 2 below, and reported by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata to the City, in 2023, 29,445 people visited Amoowigamig for peer support services, while slightly fewer, 29,335 people, visited to access toilets or urinals.

Figure 1. Number of Visitors to Amoowigamig Monthly in 2023

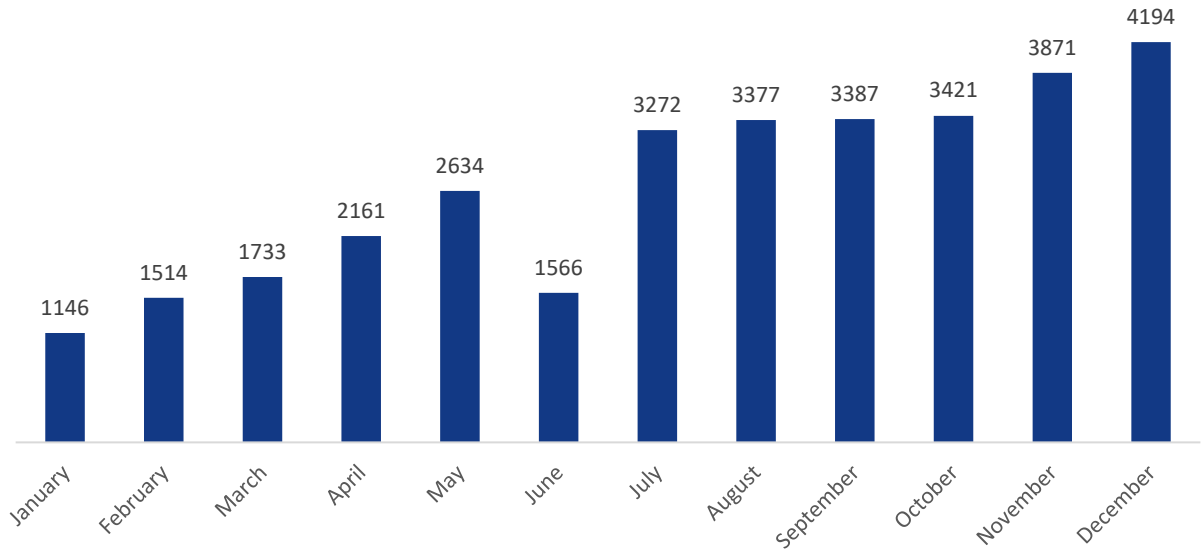


Figure 2. Monthly Comparison of Access to Peer Support Services and Access to Toilets/Urinals in 2023

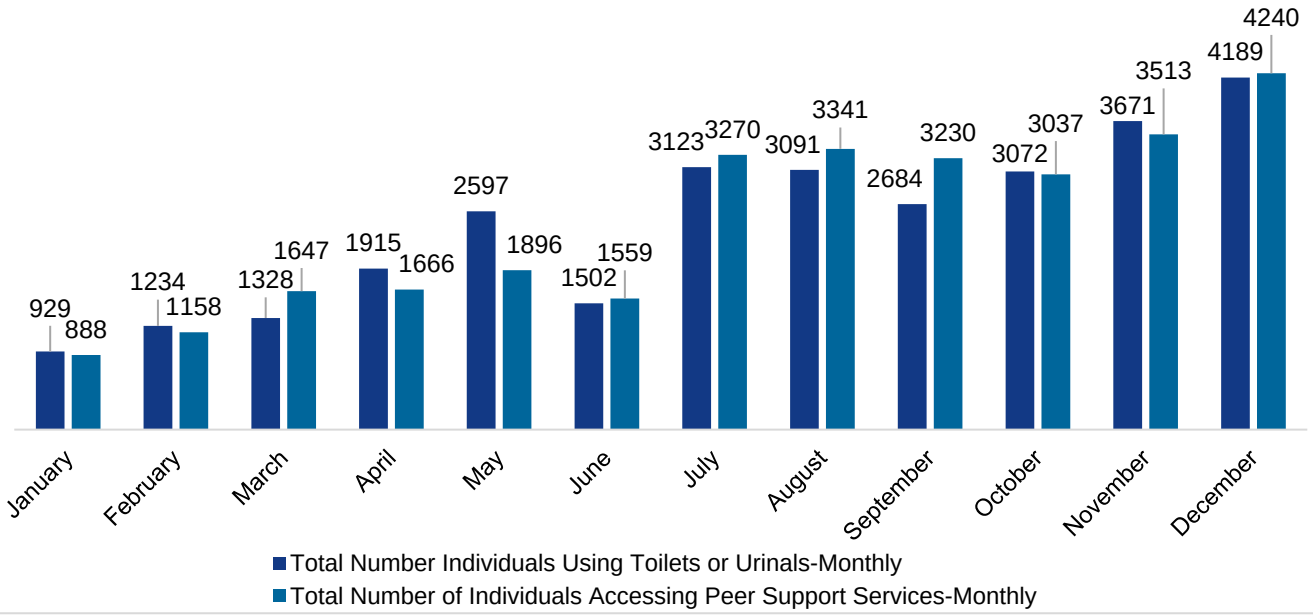
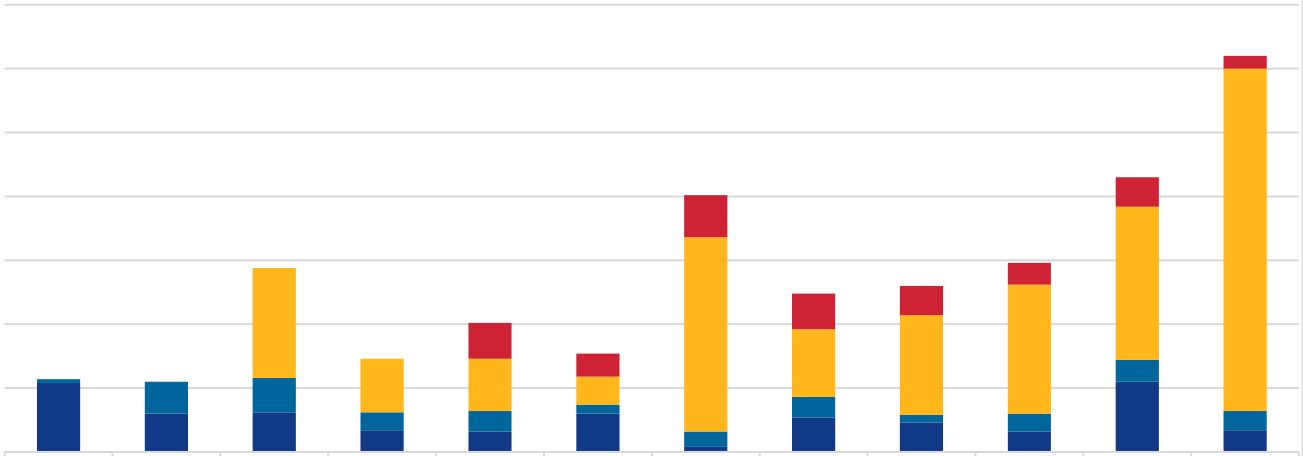


Figure 3. Individuals Accessing Hygiene, Medications, Naloxone and Housing/EIA Monthly in 2023



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Naloxone					28	18	33	28	23	17	23	10
Hygiene			86	42	41	22	152	53	78	101	120	268
Housing EIA	3	25	27	14	16	7	12	16	6	14	17	15
Medications	54	30	31	17	16	30	4	27	23	16	55	17

As depicted in Figure three above, through the peer support services offered at Amoowigamig, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata is meeting basic needs for vulnerable Winnipeggers, including access to medications, naloxone, and referrals to housing or Employment Income Assistance. In addition, each month hundreds of people accessed harm reduction supplies, including clean needles and condoms, as well as water. The addition of peer support services offered by Ma Mawi Wi Chi

Itata at the washroom have enhanced the overall service delivery at the facility, transforming the site from simply a place to use the toilet, to an important resource centre and a hub for healing, health, and support. A factor in the success of the facility, and the on-site programming, is that Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata has fostered trusting relationships with the community through other programs off-site, contributing to mutual trust and respect for peer support staff and community members.

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata also routinely reports on programming challenges and successes, describing interactions with community members and peer support staff. Included below are some of the notable themes and trends identified in 2023:

- **Demand for Peer Support:** Overall increase throughout the year in the number of people seeking peer support services and resources, such as food, referrals to housing, or Employment Income Assistance.
- **Harm reduction and naloxone is saving lives:** Access to naloxone at the facility, both for people to take with them and to administer to people in the facility if needed, has been an important anti-overdose measure to prevent fatalities from overdose and save lives both inside the facility and in the immediate vicinity.
- **Culture of caring:** Programming being delivered by Amoowigamig shifted seasonally to provide community members with additional care to support mental health, such as providing gifts over the holidays in December. This approach to service delivery is an important way to establish stronger relationships and support mental health for people who are in difficult situations.
- **Enhanced Safety protocols:** Operations were adjusted based on fluctuating needs and trends in the community, to ensure the ongoing safety of both staff and community members; changes were in response to difficult behaviours, ranging from verbal threats to physical assault. New protocols include: limiting the number of people into the space at one time; keeping doors locked so staff are able to control the number of people in the facility and/or provide one-on-one support; temporary suspension for community members presenting violent behaviours; and an increase in staff on-site to ensure safety protocols are met.
- **Demand for hygiene and wellbeing supplies:** Demand for bottled water and other wellbeing supplies is high, and additional support and donations from community organizations and residents are currently helping meet the need. In 2024, menstrual supplies will be provided at Amoowigamig through the City of Winnipeg's project to provide free menstrual products on a permanent basis. Amoowigamig is one of nine established locations approved by the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development on January 11, 2023.

Amoowigamig is a strong example of success for operating a public washroom. As a direct result of the peer support services, the facility has become a community resource with positive impacts on community health, wellbeing and safety, and contributing to positive health outcomes for vulnerable people. In addition, the facility itself has experienced limited instances of structural damage or vandalism such as broken windows. Continued partnership with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata and dedicated funding is needed to deliver the current service model, with necessary operational and programming services to ensure the long-term success, sustainability and safety of the permanent public washroom facility.

Funding and Long-term Operations:
Council provided $250,000 in 2022 for the facility operations and peer support services of Amoowigamig, and this amount was increased to $270,500 in 2023 for a 10-hour operating model. At the May 31, 2023, meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata announced their organization would receive a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation of $225,000 each year from 2023 to 2026, a total of $900,000, for the provision of peer support services, intended to further expand hours of operations. This investment provided the resources needed to move to 16-hour operations mid-2023.

It is important to note that in 2024, 2025 and 2026, the Winnipeg Foundation's funding is conditional upon the City of Winnipeg maintaining its current level of funding for peer support services at Amoowigamig. Community stakeholders continue to express a need and desire for the facility to be open and staffed 24/7. Extending hours to 24 hours per day would require a total annual budget of $650,000 at minimum, for all staff and maintenance expenses. Based on the recommendation of the Public Service, in March 2023, Council referred this financial consideration to the 2024-2027 budget review process.

Current State of the Three-Tired Framework:
Since the Places to Go Three-Tiered Framework was adopted in 2020, the social and economic context within Winnipeg has evolved, largely due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, many pre-pandemic conditions that informed the Three-Tier Framework have changed. These changes have required a reframing of the Tiers to better reflect the needs of communities and the social and economic realities within Winnipeg.

Tier 1: **Advertiser-Funded Public Washrooms:**
In its first phase of execution, Tier 1 entailed a review of the practicality of installing temporary restroom facilities (e.g. port-a-potty units) within City-controlled spaces and/or rights-of-way, which were to be funded through advertising. Since inception, however, there has been limited or no interest by private business or others to leverage temporary washroom facilities as potential advertising space. However, as detailed by the Public Service in its March 2023 report on the Status of Downtown Public Washroom Initiatives, in 2020 the City was successful in launching a pilot of temporary washrooms as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Six portable toilet units were distributed to locations based on recommendations of End Homelessness Winnipeg to support unsheltered residents. Aside from providing access to washroom facilities, the pilot has also highlighted important insights related to the challenges of Advertiser-Funded Public Washrooms. Key issues include:

- **Placement and visibility**: units are strategically placed in areas that are less public and somewhat discrete, with minimal foot traffic, to provide privacy for people using the facility.
- **Destruction and damage:** temporary washroom units are frequently and consistently subject to vandalism, fire, theft of internal components, and other damages, despite ongoing efforts and involvement of host agencies and City staff.
- **Temporary nature:** the units are frequently relocated as community needs change, or based on seasonality. This makes selecting one specific location challenging.
- **Signage:** practically, there are limited ways in which advertising can be affixed on a temporary toilet. In addition, the City does not own the temporary toilets, but contracts this service for the placement and cleaning of all temporary washrooms.

Considering the above, and building off the experience of the pilot, the Public Service has shifted their efforts in Tier 1 towards publicly funded washrooms. Advertising as a funding

source can be revisited in the future, but should only be considered related to more permanent facilities.

In terms of the ongoing implementation of the Temporary Washroom initiative, in March 2023, Council approved the continuation of the portable washrooms project, reducing the number of units from six to three, based on an evaluation of the suitability of locations. Evaluation of the units was based on use, overall impact and benefit to the community, and the extent of challenges or issues. Since the last update in March 2023, temporary washrooms have been located at the sites outlined in the table below, monitored by corresponding host agencies.

Location	Community Host Agency	Total Units	Notes
185 Young Street	Broadway Neighbourhood Centre	1 unit	Current
505 Furby Street	Spence Neighbourhood Association	1 unit	Current
400 Cumberland Ave.	Knox Day Nursery	1 unit	Current
685 Maryland Street	Spence Neighbourhood Association	1 unit	Relocated
469 Selkirk Ave.	Bear Clan	1 unit	Relocated
1 Granite Way	None (monitored by City of Winnipeg)	1 unit	Relocated
1 Fowler Street	None (monitored by City of Winnipeg)	1 unit	Relocated

Similar to previous years, there have been mixed results with each location. Reports from host agencies demonstrate that the temporary washrooms continue to be subject to vandalism, structural damage, fire, depository of sharps and other waste, and the theft of internal components (i.e. toilet paper holders, the urinals, and toilet seats). The Public Service collaborates with host agencies and the vender to relocate units if a site becomes incompatible, either due to limited use or ongoing challenges.

Two of the locations, 185 Young Street and 685 Maryland Street, have had more success due to the support and influence of the community host agencies. The host agencies have invested significant time and resources to maintain the units and support the safety of community members using the washroom. Agencies regularly provide maintenance to the unit, including new toilet seats, toilet paper holders, and cleaning, and build relationships with community members to provide additional resources and support. Similar to Amoowigamig, the temporary washrooms are more successful when they are operated using a peer support or similar model.

Tier 2: Public-Private Partnerships with local businesses and BIZs:

Tier 2 of the Places to Go Strategy Framework seeks to develop partnerships to encourage and incentivize private businesses to open their washrooms for public use with funding for this program to be generated through incremental advertising revenue from Tier 1. The Public Service collaborated with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ to assess the level of interest of private businesses in opening washrooms for public use.

In 2019, the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ contacted 350 businesses, and found that at that time 46 businesses and organizations offered public washrooms to non-customers, and over a dozen were suitable candidates for a pilot to open washrooms for public use. However, through the pandemic response and the recovery period since, many businesses' capacity and interest in providing washrooms for public use has changed. The Downtown Winnipeg BIZ revisited this issue to reassess the feasibility of a pilot at the end of 2023.

Based on exploratory conversations with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, there is potential for a pilot incentive program. This program is dependent upon funding support to cover some additional staff, supplies, and cleaning costs. A public-private partnership to pilot public

washrooms would also need to include establishing safety plans and building the capacity for local small-businesses and entrepreneurs through enhanced training related to harm reduction, cultural competency and non-violent crisis intervention. Similar to Tier 1, the public-private partnership model requires public funding to leverage existing washroom infrastructure within downtown businesses. As advertising revenue from Tier 1 has never been realized, and cannot be relied on to support this initiative, additional funding would need to be provided by the City or from another source.

Tier 3: Removing Red Tape for Public Restroom Facilities:
The third tier aims to support and facilitate provision of public restrooms in the downtown by removing regulatory barriers to developing or operating public stand-alone washrooms, with a focus on aiding the development of permanent buildings that are more suitable to Winnipeg's climate. Specific barriers were identified in the March 23, 2023, report include zoning bylaws, regulations on advertising, and permitting processes. Details on these regulatory barriers can be found in Attachment 1.

The City will also encourage public washrooms through policy in the draft CentrePlan 2050, in alignment with this report and additional community engagement feedback. The Public Service will explore additional incentive programs (e.g. reduced business taxes, waived permit fees) for businesses, non-profits and new developments to encourage washrooms for public use.

Discussion and Future Planning

Public Washroom Incentive Program:
As experienced through the success of Amoowigamig, the peer support model is effective in delivering public washrooms in a way that is safe, dignified, and equitable. A limitation of both Tier 1 and Tier 2 is that host agencies are not provided with funding to offer more robust oversight. Currently, the portable toilet units are formally being operated by the City of Winnipeg, with in-kind support from host agencies through informal arrangements. Private businesses to date have not been offered incentives or support by the City to develop a public private partnership related to public washrooms.

In an effort to continue to move forward Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the Places to Go Strategy Framework, as stated in Recommendation 1 the Public Service recommends exploring the development and launch of an incentive program for community agencies and private businesses to foster more meaningful involvement in hosting temporary washrooms or providing public access to private washroom facilities.

Through an incentive program, the City would collaborate with the non-profit sector and Business Improvement Zones to solicit organizations to participate in offering public access to existing washrooms within their organization or business, or to host a temporary washroom on their property. In return, participating organizations would receive funding for staffing, supplies, and maintenance requirements. Within this program, the Public Service would support organizations in creating safety plans, additional training for staff, and other capacity building as needed. The Public Service would no longer directly rent temporary washrooms from an external vendor, but instead would leverage the 2024 budget for temporary and/or permanent washroom provision.

The benefits of an incentive program such as this include:

- Enhanced access to public washrooms in areas of high poverty and the downtown with minimal budgetary impacts;
- Greater use of a peer support model with public washrooms through more meaningful involvement of participating agencies;
- Building capacity for non-profits and small businesses through training and safety plan development;
- Strengthening relationships between the Public Service and stakeholders;
- Increased communication and collaboration between downtown agencies and businesses, thereby supporting downtown recovery and revitalizations efforts as a whole.

A potential approach to a Public Washroom Incentive Program is included as Attachment 2 of this report. However, additional work is required to further develop this model and identify locations, partners, and operational planning.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** February 9, 2024

Project Name:

Update on 'Places to Go' Framework and Downtown Washroom Initiatives

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report. Upon approval of recommendtion 1, the Public Service will explore and develop a public washroom incentive program and report back with recommendations accordingly.

Ozzy Garrett CPA, CGA - Feb 9, 2024
Ozzy Garrett CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Planning, Property & Development Department
- Downtown Winnipeg BIZ
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata
- Spence Neighbourhood Association

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The information in this report align with the following OurWinnipeg 2045 goals as follows:

Leadership and Good Governance

- Objective 1: Establish and implement priority actions through evidence-informed decision-making processes. Evidence-informed actions require transparent and accountable decision-making to determine the long-term public interest and the appropriate trade-offs in levels of service, taxation, and budget priorities.
- Objective 3: Achieve community-responsive service delivery through an aligned, integrated, collaborative and results-oriented organizational culture.

Good Health and Well-being

- Objective 1: Enable access to basic needs for good physical and mental health.
- Objective 2: Support positive health outcomes through the built and natural environments.
- Objective 3: Proactively identify and address threats to community safety and well-being.

Social Equity

- Objective 1: Uphold human rights so that no one is left behind. Objective 2: Build social cohesion through community development solutions, coordinated, effective partnerships, and responsive service delivery.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as the whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan, and it was determined that it is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information in this report aligns with and advances the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021-2031) as follows:

They embody the following Guiding Principles:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- We will Address Systemic Oppression, Trauma and Social Inequity
- We will Promote and Maintain the Welfare of All Residents

- We will Develop Trust and Meaningful Partnerships to find solutions and drive change.

Goal 4: Community Well-Being Supports for those in Greatest Need are Increased 10-year Objective:

- A: The immediate needs of residents experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are met through collaboration with community partners and other levels of government.

Action 4.4.1 of the Implementation Plan: Expand the focus of the Places to Go Public Restroom Strategy three-tiered framework beyond downtown to include other areas of high poverty and review the current framework to provide opportunity to include innovative solutions and best practices from other jurisdictions, with emphasis on improving toilet and washroom access for vulnerable populations.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Community Development Division
Prepared by: Denae Penner, Chris Brens
Date: February 5, 2024
File No: CMS-2024-3

Attachment 1: Update on Regulatory Barriers

Attachment 2: Public Washroom Incentive Program