July 5, 2024

Dear Mayor Gillingham and Members of the EPC,

Thank you for returning to the table to commit the necessary funds for the Community Grants Program. These grants support money saving services.

There is a clear correlation between providing youth with recreational activities, food security and safe spaces and the reduction of youth crime. The Community Grants Programs increase community safety resulting in cost savings to both police intervention and the incarceration of our youth.

Winnipeg Police Service Supt. Dave Dalal is recently quoted saying, “We can’t arrest our way out of this problem, we need other solutions that are addressing the root causes.” Community Service Programs are the solutions and the most effective tool we have to combat this crisis and rising crime rate.

Community Services Programs are an alternative to addiction, homelessness, hunger and boredom. These vital programs provide our underserviced children a place to belong and to learn how to become contributing members of our city.

It's time to increase funding to Community Programs. The more we invest in our community the more the city saves in intervention.

Respectively,
Shawn Kettner