Minutes – City Centre Community Committee – June 23, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 8 Addressing Winnipeg's Drug Poisoning Crisis, Public Safety Challenges, and Community Impacts

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The City Centre Community Committee received the matter as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

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 Rollins,

WHEREAS There is growing consensus that governments should formally recognize the current situation as both a public health and public safety emergency, enabling a coordinated and accelerated response across departments and agencies.

AND WHEREAS Transparency of outreach services, public health and justice as governments respond to the crisis is needed. This should include regular public reporting on actions taken, measurable outcomes achieved, and next steps, facts on the record are needed to ensure momentum and accountability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Centre put on the record its support for the following emerging framework of actions:

1. Recommendations for the City of Winipeg:

    A. Expand Street Outreach Teams by increasing staffing, resources, and operating hours throughout Winnipeg.

    B. Restore and enhance daytime shelter and cooling/warming spaces, and provide coordinated sanitation, garbage collection, and maintenance at known hotspots.

    C. Review and reform current encampment response practices that displace people to commercial lobbies, doorsteps, rest and break-time areas, parking lots and back alleys.

2. Recommendations for the Province of Manitoba:

    A. Expand 24/7 access to downtown and community-based addictions medicine, withdrawal management, recovery support, treatment services, and mobile overdose response resources.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

B. Ensure fairness in public safety investments. While the Province has chosen to fund Institutional Safety Officers for provincial workplaces, and crown corporations, our businesses, non-profits, local schools, childcare centres, and community organizations continue to absorb significant security costs associated with the drug poisoning crisis. We call on Manitoba to extend comparable support through a broader public safety strategy that protects all workplaces, not only those funded by government.

C. Fix the enforcement and resourcing gaps in the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* that prevent effective action against known drug trafficking and exploitation sites. Winnipeg businesses and residents should not be forced to repeatedly report the same criminal activity while enduring ongoing retail theft, disorder, and safety concerns. Temporary pilots and complaint-driven responses have proven insufficient. Governments must provide sustained resources, visible enforcement, and coordinated intervention to address chronic criminal activity and protect neighbourhoods, workers, customers, and local businesses.

3. Recommendations for all governments:

A. Formally recognize the drug poisoning crisis as both a public health and public safety emergency and use all available resources and authorities to coordinate a rapid response.

B. Provide regular and joint public updates on actions taken, outcomes achieved.

C. City Centre creating an informal working group to ensure information, solutions and actions are flowing from neighbourhoods, front line providers to Council.

Carried