Winnipeg Police Board

Report from the Executive Director
September 11, 2026

Below is a summary of the activities that board staff have undertaken since March 6, 2026.

Date	Activity
June 12	Presented the Winnipeg Police Service and Winnipeg Police Board first quarter budget reports to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development.
June 17	Canadian Centre for Safer Communities Presentation – Decision Maker Buy-In: Getting Elected Officials On Board with Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning
June 19	Committee of the Whole Board – 2027 Winnipeg Police Service and Winnipeg Police Board Preliminary Budget Proposals
June 19	City of Winnipeg National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
June 24	Canadian Police Knowledge Network Webinar Series – Bulding Trust with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Communities
June 25	Along with the Board Chair, met with the Chair of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Board of Directors
July 2	Along with members of the Board, met with Mayor Gillingham to discuss policing and public safety priorities, budget priorities, and matters of shared interest.
July 8	Committee of the Whole Board – Private Meeting with the Police Chief
July 22	Attended the 121st Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
July 29	Attended the Canadian Association of Police Governance quarterly meeting of police board staff.
July 31	Met with the First Nations Police Governance Council.
August 6	On behalf of the Board, attended a media announcement with the Winnipeg Police Service and community organizations at Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre regarding enforcement and collaborative efforts to address open drug use.

August 12-14	Attended the Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference in Edmonton, AB.
August 24	Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
August 27	Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Winnipeg Police Board 2026 Business Plan

At the March 6, 2026, meeting, the Board adopted its 2026 Business Plan to guide the Board's work for the year. The plan contains 27 action items in four areas:

- Governance, Procedure, and Policy
- Budget and Risk Management
- Strategic Plan Implementation and Evaluation
- Liaising between the Community and the Winnipeg Police Service

Progress on achieving the action items is summarized in a separate report attached to the meeting agenda.

Public Engagement and Communications Coordinator

Over the last several months, an extensive recruitment process has been undertaken to fill a new position in the board office – a dedicated public engagement and communications coordinator to guide and facilitate the board's legislated role of being the liaison between the Winnipeg Police Service and the people of Winnipeg. The final steps in the process are near completion and the successful candidate is expected to begin in the role later this month.

As the Board strives to ensure that policing in Winnipeg is delivered in a way that is consistent with the community's needs, values, and expectations, invitations to meet with community groups, business, and others are welcomed. Requests can be sent via the contact link found on the Board's website: www.winnipegpoliceboard.ca or email wpb@winnipeg.ca.

Canadian Association of Police Governance 37th Annual Conference – Navigating Complexity: Police Governance in an Era of Competing Pressures

Last month, along with the Board Chair, I had the opportunity to attend this national forum that brings together police governance colleagues from across Canada. The conference was a valuable opportunity to hear from board members, police leaders, researchers, and governance professionals about the pressures facing policing and the role police boards can play in responding to them.



Three themes stood out and will be useful in informing the Board's future work:

Police Governance Structures

Cal Corley from the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance delivered a keynote focused on the structural challenges facing police boards in Canada. His central message was that boards have significant responsibilities, but the structures, mandates, and resources available to support them have not always kept pace.

Unclear mandates can make it difficult for boards to know how they are expected to act or meet public expectations in an environment where community members, police services, governments, and other partners all have a strong interest in public safety.

Mr. Corley spoke directly about the need for properly resourced boards, stating that "a system where the governed are stronger than those governing is not a governance system at all." His remarks reinforced the importance of boards having access to independent administrative, legal, research, analytical, and communications capacity.

He also highlighted the value of skills-based appointments. As board vacancies arise, appointments should reflect the skills, experience, perspectives, and governance needs of the board at that point in time.

Making Policing 'Fit for the Future'

Blair Gibbs, a leader in policing policy in the United Kingdom, spoke about the need for police boards and police services to think ahead and work together to ensure policing remains responsive, sustainable, and relevant to the communities they serve.

He emphasized that boards and police services share risks, exposure, and opportunities to make a positive impact. This means the Board's role is not limited to reviewing issues after

they arise; it also includes setting strategic direction, asking forward-looking questions, and supporting work that prepares the police service for emerging community needs.

A panel discussion on member wellness reinforced this point. Panelists drew a clear connection between the wellness of police members and overall organizational performance.

The panel also highlighted the importance of connecting with newer generations of police members. Boards and police executives need to understand changing expectations about recruitment, career development, workplace culture, mental health, and the supports required to sustain long and productive careers in policing.

Meaningful Public Engagement

A recurring message throughout the conference was that public engagement is an important governance responsibility. Mr. Gibbs emphasized the Board's role in leading engagement with the community and ensuring community perspectives help guide strategic direction for police services.

This requires more than responding to individual concerns or holding one-time consultations. Boards need meaningful and ongoing ways to understand community sentiment, including what residents are experiencing, what they expect from policing, where confidence is strong or declining, and what issues may be emerging.

Strong engagement helps boards provide informed direction, strengthens public accountability, and supports policing that better reflects the needs and priorities of the community.