Winnipeg

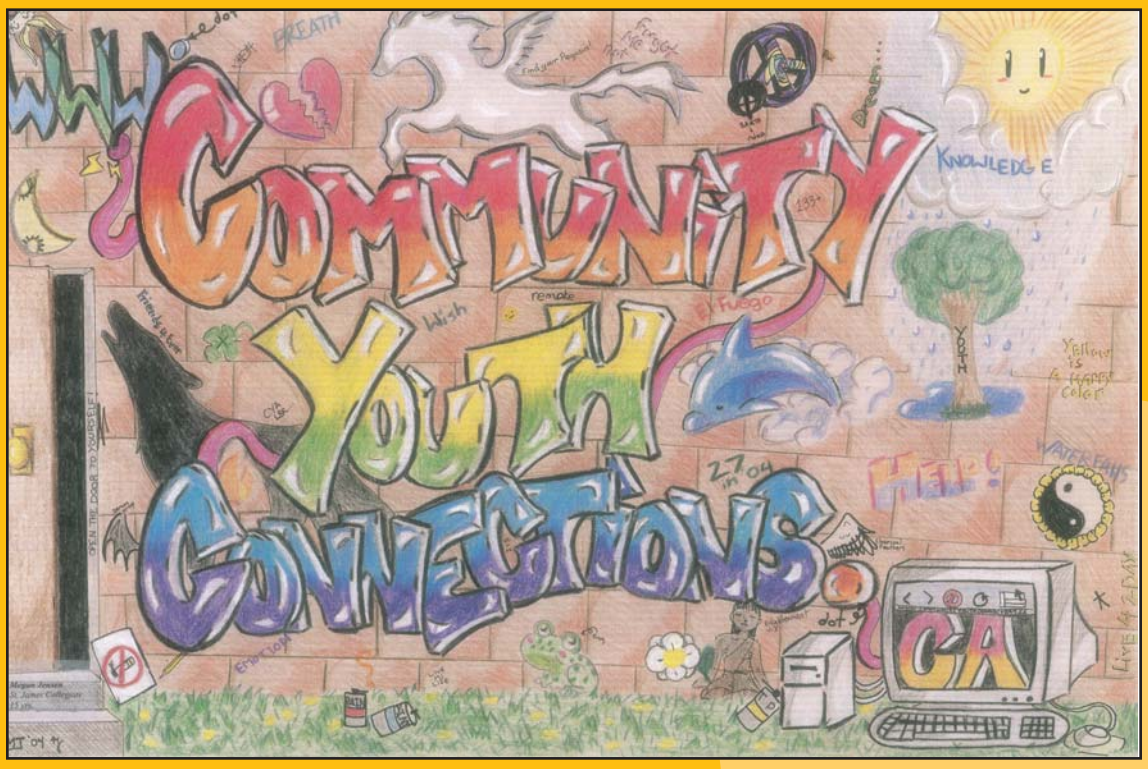
Winnipeg Committee For Safety

Annual Report 2004



Meagan Jensen from St. James Collegiate won the Youth Website poster contest and accepts award from Councillor Mike Pagtakhan.

This poster contest was organized through Winnipeg junior and senior high schools to promote our new website launch. Approximately 70 entries were received and four talented winners were presented with awards and prizes at our annual neighbourhood forum.



A New Youth Website!

www.communityyouthconnections.ca

Our Website

www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org

Our Purpose

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety was created to support, assist, stimulate and mobilize the work of Winnipeg's neighbourhoods on safety concerns.

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety (WCFS) is community based and community driven. Approximately 20 people volunteer their time to encourage safety. Representatives from the Winnipeg Police Service, Community Services, Manitoba Justice, and the City Clerk's Department are also represented on the committee.

Our Highlights

New Youth Website - www.communityyouthconnections.ca

- provided Winnipeg youth with a safe, electronic place to go when they need information on issues facing them today.
- linked youth with accurate information and up-to-date help available from local resources. Most importantly, it allows them to do so anonymously.
- developed a wallet sized ***Youth Crisis Resource Card*** listing many of these same agencies and resources our teens can turn to when seeking help for youth who do not have a computer.

Youth Safety Meetings

Meetings were held on March 25, 2004 at West Broadway Neighbourhood Community Centre, April 13, 2004 at Turtle Island Community Centre, and November 25, 2004 at Chalmers Community Club. Youth were part of a path process for youth and safety in Winnipeg which included discussion of safety councils, our new website and our resource card.

www.communityyouthconnections.ca

Youth Recreation

Coalition of Community Agencies 982-4946

General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres.....475-5008

Youth Employment Training

Youth Employment Services.....987-8661

Inner City Youth Alive.....582-3842

Job Works 774-3839

www.communityyouthconnections.ca

Youth Resources

Teen Touch Helpline (24 hr) 783-1116

Kids Help Phone (24 hr) 1-800-668-6868

Klinic Sexual Assault Line (24 hr) 786-8631

Youth Moblie Crisis Unit (24 hr) 949-4777

Mount Carmel Clinic 582-2311

Operation Go Home 783-5617

Ma Mawi 925-0300

Ndinawee.....586-2588

Addictions Foundation.....944-6235

Rainbow Resource Centre 284-5208

Working Groups

The WCFS has five working groups; Youth Committee, Downtown Winnipeg Committee for Safety, Safety Tool Box, Neighbourhood Forum Committee, and Conflict Resolution Training Committee.

Neighbourhood Forum Committee

"Safety The Challenge!"

A free neighbourhood forum was held Saturday April 17th, 2004 at R. B. Russell High School.

Approximately 120 people attended this conference style forum that featured speakers and workshops addressing important social issues including: Seniors' Safety; Youth Safety; Bullying; Domestic Violence; Non-Violent Crisis Intervention; Conflict Resolution; Safety Patrols and more.



WCFS members - Linda Williams, Coordinator, Carolyn Buffie, Pauline Riley, Dina Juras and Sharon Wiens.

Eric Mellon from Safety Aid





Turn About Justice in Neighbourhood Forum Committee Section

Safety Audit Award Winners

Safety Audit Teamwork Award
Safety Aid
Community Safety Award
William Whyte Residents Association
Community Building Safety Award
Lord Selkirk Aboriginal Women's Group
Youth Justice Commitees



Councillor Mike Pagtakhan presents Safety Awards to Karen Delaronde and Dan Trottier of the Lord Selkirk Aboriginal Women's Group.

Downtown Winnipeg Committee For Safety

Aggressive Panhandling Related Initiatives

- The Downtown Winnipeg committee for Safety (DWCFS) partnered with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ to discuss proposed changes, and alternatives, to the Obstructive solicitation By-law, and how these aggressive panhandling issues reflect on our City's efforts for rejuvenating downtown.

MTS Centre Safety & Security

- The DWCFS partnered with City departments and downtown property owners to coordinatge a safe and comfortable opening strategy for the MTS Centre.

Weather Protected Walkway System

- In cooperation with safety and security stakeholders along the Weather Protected Walkway System, the DWCFS participated in a comprehensive study of this system. The group provided feedback outlining existing conditions within the system, and recommended changes to improve the safety and comfort of walkways users. Five key recommendations were adopted by Council on
May 19, 2004.

Conflict Resolution Training Committee

We provided free Conflict Resolution Training facilitated by Quartet Consulting on the weekend of June 12 & 13.

Training was available to groups and individuals actively involved with safety initiatives in their communities. Participants received certificates for completing this training workshop.

Although a weekend workshop did not appeal to everyone, Manitoba Housing decided to contact Quartet Consulting to conduct a training workshop for their staff as a result of our workshop.

Restorative Justice Week 2004

WCFS participated in this annual event which takes place during Manitoba's Crime Prevention Month every November. Federal statistics revealed that:

- the new Youth Criminal Justice Act discourages locking up children in prison facilities;
- Corrections Service of Canada has indicated 60% of crime occurs between people who have some prior relationship;
- Manitoba (Winnipeg) has the second highest rate of incarcerating children in Canada;
- it is the opinion of WCFS that it is extremely important to pursue the application of the restorative justice framework to address youth crime in neighbourhoods, which includes developing youth programming to ensure youth are participating in constructive, rather than destructive activities.

Our Activities in Progress

- hosting our annual Neighbourhood Forum Safety: The Challenge! on Saturday, April 23, 2005, at R.B. Russell High School. The Neighbourhood Forum promotes safer communities and has keynote speakers, information booths, and workshops on: community safety; drug and gang awareness; non-violent crisis intervention; conflict resolution; bullying; and more…

- presenting the WCFS Safety Audit/Activity Awards to those involved in safety improvements and activities for everyone in the community. These Awards empower people to take direct action on safety issues in their own neighbourhoods. The Award categories are: Community Safety Award; Safety Audit Teamwork Award; and Community Building Safety Award.

- upgrading our new youth website by developing four separate three minute video clips on joyriding (stealing cars); sexually exploited youth; gangs; and alcohol and drugs. The video clips will contain information about these topics as well as interviews with youth who have been adversely affected by these issues.
- conducting youth safety meetings to promote the development of Youth Safety Councils in Winnipeg. Meetings have been held with youth at Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre; Chalmers Community Club; and, Broadway Neighbourhood Community Centre.
- participating in the Lord Selkirk Park Community Advisory Committee. Meetings, community patrolling, and a summer barbecue have held to encourage residents to become involved in neighbourhood safety. A result of these activities is the establishment of a COPPS program in the area.
- chairing the Central Youth Justice Committee of central downtown Winnipeg. Currently considering a restorative justice framework to address youth crime in neighbourhoods on a proactive, preventative basis.
- assisting in the development of a new Neighbourhood Resource Network of neighbourhoods across the city established by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.
- expanding a library of safety information accessible to the public through the WCFS's website and CDs.

Thank You

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety would like to thank the following:

- The Provincial government for the involvement of representatives from the Department of Justice;
- The Downtown Winnipeg BIZ for their contribution to the Downtown Winnipeg Committee for Safety;
- The agencies and organizations that send representatives to the WCFS meetings and working groups- *Michele Benoit and Ron Johannson, Winnipeg Police Service; Dina Juras, National Crime Prevention Centre; Shauna Neiser, Manitoba Public Insurance; Dan Prokopchuk, Community Services; Jennifer Ridge, City Clerk's Department; Angie Shurb, Downtown Safety Coordinator, Planning, Property and Development Department; Kimberly Johnson, Mt. Carmel Clinic; Denise Marks, Achieving Justice in our Communities; Wendy Scheirich, Prevention & Intervention of Child & Youth Sexual Exploitation; Gary Swanson, Community Services; Steve Wilson, Graffiti Art Programming Inc.; Fredo Ali Kamara, Christophe Audette Catherine , Social Work Practicum Students; Gil Pruden, Database and Resources Clerk.*

Committee Membership

Chair - Councillor Mike Pagtakhan

Ex-officio - Mayor Glen Murray (January - May)
Mayor Sam Katz (June - December)

Committee Coordinator - Linda Williams

Committee Members

Carolyn Buffie
Pat Holbrow
Margot Lavoie
Barbara Palace
Pauline Riley
Jack Slessor
Lauri St. Germain
Greg Slobodeski
Sharon Wiens

Financial Report

Revenues

Council Funding	$69,000

Expenditures

Contract Fees	$40,000
Fee for Service	$10,000
Office and Committee Supplies	$ 5,000
Working Groups and Subcommittees	$ 7,000
Web Maintenance	$ 1,000
Education & Training	$ 6,000
Total	$69,000

Contact Us

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EMAIL ADDRESS: lwilliams@winnipeg.ca
WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.winnipegcommitteeforsafety.org

You are invited to attend

Safety: The Challenge!

April 23, 2005

A Free Neighbourhood Forum
R.B. Russell High School –
contact WCFS for details