



2016 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

MEETING AT NEEGINAN CENTRE

May 11, 2016

MEETING ATTENDANCE	
Community Members: 9	
Winnipeg Police Board	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Scott Gillingham, Board Chair • Councillor Ross Eadie, Board Member • Leslie Spillett, Board Member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Tuckett, Board Vice Chair • Mallory Richard • Gwen Kist
Winnipeg Police Service	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Devon Clunis • Deputy Chief Danny Smyth • Inspector Gord Friesen • Staff Sergeant Andy Golebioski 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Chief Art Stannard • Superintendent Bruce Ormiston • Superintendent Gord Perrier
Facilitators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Kehler • Lindsay Allen • Nikki Halley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Robideaux • Andrew Wychnenka • Josh Brandon
Winnipeg Police Board's Indigenous Council on Policing and Crime Prevention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim McPherson 	

OPEN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

- In the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls for action there's a section on justice – how are those calls to action reflected in the strategic plan? In which sections of the strategic plan do they show up?
- Are there any details on the Police Service's plans for supporting restorative justice that you can share at this point?

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The comments below are a compilation of the feedback provided in discussions involving citizens spread across four different tables. The Winnipeg Police Board used table discussions as a way of giving every citizen an opportunity to be heard. Where there is a number in parentheses, it refers to the number of people who expressed a particular idea.

- 1. Are there any parts of the Winnipeg Police Board's strategic plan that stood out for you?**
 - Engaged Communities
 - The importance of collective action, because people at the bottom of the economic ladder are struggling
 - Failing to invest in society deprives us of opportunities to prevent crime through social development
 - Enhancing community relationships (2)

- It's hard for people to have good relationships with police if they only interact with one another in negative situations, how are relationships built and improved?
- As a child, my experiences with police were negative
- When police have negative attitudes, that affects how they interact with and are perceived by the community
- The police should use their position of power to provide support, build healthy relationships
- More action is needed to support the community engagement priority, improve public trust that this is a priority
- Still too much mistrust from community members, feel that trust has been broken
- If parents don't trust police, their kids won't, either
- People's memories of events from decades ago still affect their trust in police
- There needs to be more regular and culturally appropriate engagement
- Police attending positive events like round dances and solstice events improves trust
- People aren't attending events organized by police and the board, so police should go to events people are already attending
- What does implementation of the strategic plan look like in practice?
- Is the budget allocated in a way that supports the strategic priorities?
- Seeing restorative justice in the strategic plan is exciting, would like to see more details
- Understand how important it is for police to take violent crime seriously, but more emphasis on diversion is needed
- Drug and mental health courts have been very successful
- Diversion saves the justice system money but needs up-front investment
- Police can help get public buy-in for restorative justice by promoting it

2. What are the biggest safety challenges in your community?

- Vulnerable girls and sexual exploitation
- Homelessness and issues with access to housing
- Females feeling unsafe, rape, objectification of women
- Domestic violence, violence against women – crosses all socioeconomic groups
- A strategy for preventing violence against women is overdue, we need to rethink domestic violence, protection orders are not very effective
- Mental illness
- Getting the community, hotels, to get involved with stopping sexual exploitation
- Children going missing
- Gangs
- Prostitution
- People being afraid to report family members involved in illegal activity because they don't have faith the justice system will help their family members heal, exit gangs, etc.
- Safety issues are different in different parts of the city
- Victimization of vulnerable people
- The Bear Clan does good work, police should support it
- Too little community feeling in the downtown area because residents are tenants, highly transient
- How representative was the Police Service's phone survey if it relied on landlines?
- People avoiding downtown because they don't feel safe

- We need to correct misperceptions, provide more accurate information about crime in Winnipeg
- Traffic violations, unsafe drivers
- Why do police intervene when people are loitering? Why are some people asked to move on but others aren't? People shouldn't be complaining about people who are just standing around and police can play a role in explaining that
- Police shouldn't play a role in marginalizing people who are already marginalized; they should help protect sex-trade workers, people with mental illness or addictions
- More safe spaces are needed

3. What are your ideas for making your community safer?

- More community involvement
- Building a new system [of social supports] instead of fixing a broken one, there is no sustainable funding so projects and programs lose their funding just when things get going and start working
- Restorative justice, changing the justice system with a process that works for us, the community, to make something sustainable and dynamic that meets the needs of the community
- Changing the system, decolonization, working with all people
- There are micro aggressions that make it hard to see the progress people say has happened so far
- Police should be less apathetic about investigating crimes involving Indigenous victims; a person's lifestyle, personal challenges, involvement with drugs don't preclude them from needing protection, justice
- Targets and timelines to improve the inclusiveness of the Police Service so that it's more representative of newcomer, LGBTQ communities, etc.
- Improving relationships between the Police Service and Indigenous communities so that an Indigenous person can become a police officer without other people in their community seeing it as a "betrayal"; Indigenizing practices of the Police Service could help
- Is having a criminal record a barrier to becoming a police officer?
- The health care system is an example of trying to create culturally safe spaces
- Cultural proficiency is very important
- The community needs to feel empowered in dealings with the police, not intimidated
- Is the bias-free policing policy working [since it was adopted in April 2016]?
- Change the culture of the Police Service
- Better communication on the things the Police Service is doing well
- Are the helicopter and the armoured vehicle ("tank") good uses of police resources?
- A lack of transparency does not instil confidence
- The results of the review into the effectiveness of the helicopter should be publicized
- The Police Service should help people understand their rights when interacting with police

4. Police budgets have increased across the country, including Winnipeg. What are your thoughts in regard to policing costs?

- The budget does not make sense to me
- Recognition of how hard it seems to be to provide the necessary resources "upstream" for prevention and promoting community safety through social development
- We are caught in a negative cycle where spending on intervention and suppression means there isn't enough funding for prevention

- How does Winnipeg compare to other cities in terms of policing costs? Numbers of officers?
- There should be more partnerships with volunteer organizations, like the Bear Clan

5. What should the Police Service do to earn greater trust and confidence?

- Get rid of the bad eggs in the Police Service
- Engage with communities, such as newcomer communities
- I have good experience with officers participating in mediation with accused persons, working to create understanding and restore relationships
- Community forums, looking at working together to mend relationships and prevent relationships through sharing circles or small gatherings
- Officers need to be approachable, body language matters
- Police need to share their processes and have honest conversation
- Need something cultural for Indigenous communities
- Spending more resources on evidence-based approaches and research
- Resources and commitment to crime analysis, mental health, cultural training
- Police could come out strongly in favour of progressive policies and practices that are not necessarily in their realm such as supporting social enterprises because they create sustainable employment and so there will be less crime

6. When we report back on our progress a year from now, what do you want to hear?

- Progress on restorative justice, a plan for implementation, information
- More people at the public consultation meetings next year
- A consultation process where you go to the people where they already are, give them some information about the plan and invite them to feedback sessions
- One session is too much for people to take in all the information, more than one presentation would be better
- The consultation meetings should offer childminding and include a smudge or other cultural practice to ease the anxiety of speaking to authority

7. Are there any issues that you would like the Indigenous Council on Policing and Crime Prevention to raise with the Winnipeg Police Board on your behalf?

- LERA complaints processes
- Work with the Winnipeg Police Board and the Taxicab Board on treatment of those who feel vulnerable but still must take a cab
- Are “starlight tours” still happening?
- Random checks, even if for good reason, adds to the popular belief that people are charged for “walking while Indian”
- Racism is real in the Police Service and it needs to be dealt with
- Input on how the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action are implemented within the Police Service
- Decolonizing the Police Service

8. Do you have any other comments you would like to share?

- It would be a good idea to meet with seniors to discuss community safety, connecting with different demographic groups
- Use social media to spread knowledge of consultation events, the turnout should be higher

- Work closely with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Support for the Bear Clan
- Community members wanted to emphasize that while their comments might come across as negative, criticism, it is all about improving; they appreciate the work of the Police Service and realize it is truly difficult
- Transparency is important, we want to know what kind of training officers receive
- Questions about the Law Enforcement Review Agency
- The “We believe” statement in the Board’s strategic plan should read “We believe in the worth of the individual *and* in the reality...” instead of “... *but* in the reality”