

THE ENVIRONMENT FOR POLICING IN WINNIPEG

2021



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Environment for Policing in Winnipeg 2021 Report (Report) is intended to summarize factors that impact policing in Winnipeg and inform citizens about what guides the Winnipeg Police Board (Board) in developing strategic priorities for policing.

The Winnipeg Police Service (Service) reports regularly to the Board to support transparency and provide an understanding of the successes, partnerships and challenges that are part of the backdrop for policing in Winnipeg.

This Report includes information on population, economics, policing, crime, legislative and technological trends. This year, the Report includes information related to the COVID-19 pandemic and an appendix with information on community supports. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a range of unexpected and unique challenges for police services and is one of the biggest factors setting the backdrop for policing in Winnipeg in 2021. Citizens have quickly adapted to the use of technology, refocused on relationships and learned to live and work without the usual human to human contact. Accompanying this is the shared experience of increasing social activism in our virtual and lived world. The vibrancy of the community and the will to work toward a culture of safety for all has never been more evident.

The Board encourages citizens to provide their input on public safety and their feedback on community expectations. This Report is intended to support that dialogue. Data informing this Report was gathered from various sources, including the most recent census (2016), the City of Winnipeg, the Conference Board of Canada and Statistics Canada. The most recent national census was conducted in May 2021 and the results are expected to be released in 2022.

POPULATION TRENDS

Data released by Statistics Canada indicates that Winnipeg's population growth is slowing as people move to other cities in Canada and international immigration has slowed.

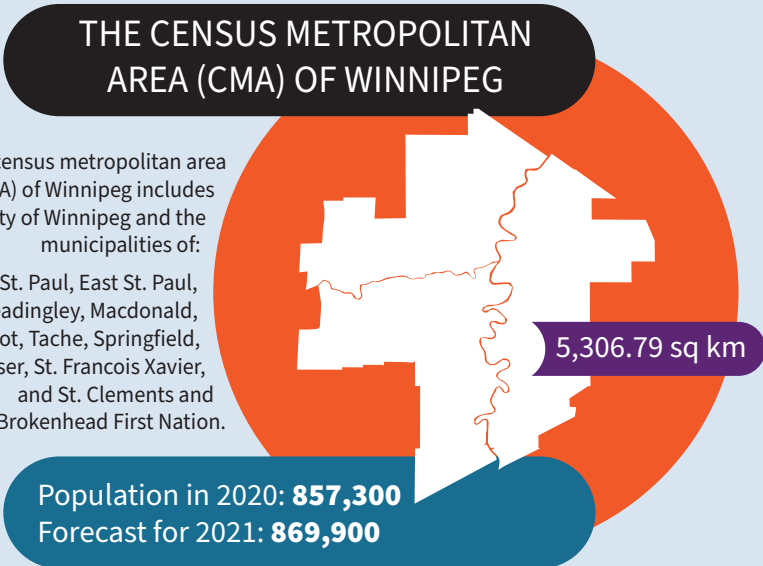
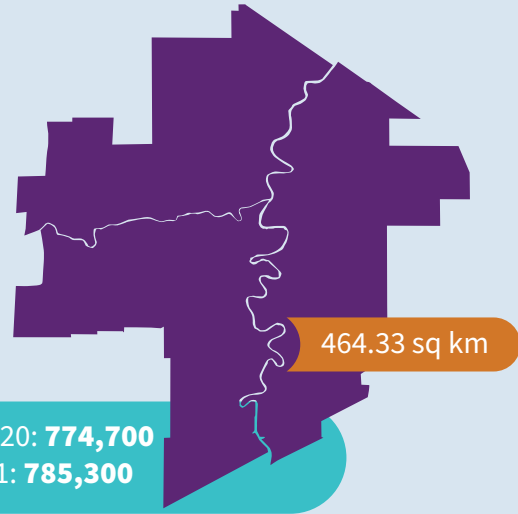
In 2019, Winnipeg's population did grow, but its losses were equally due to deaths and people moving to other provinces. During that year, 48 per cent of Winnipeg's population growth was due to international immigration; 37 per cent came from births.

The provincial nominee program has accounted for much of Winnipeg's growth since 2000. The number of individuals leaving Winnipeg for other jurisdictions may have been affected by COVID-19 due to the current health and safety restrictions. International immigration has been affected due to the travel restrictions imposed during the pandemic which may lead to a slower rate of population diversification.

WINNIPEG

FAST FACTS

- 8th** largest metropolitan area in Canada
- 1518.8** average people per square kilometre
- 3148** kilometres of roads in Winnipeg
- 61.6%** of all dwellings in Winnipeg are single detached houses
- 67.8%** of Winnipeg residents speak English as their first language
- 5.3%** speak the second most widely spoken language which is Tagalog (Filipino)
- 3.2%** of residents speak French as their first language



- 51.2%** of Winnipeg residents are female
- 48.8%** of Winnipeg residents are male
- 28%** of Winnipeg's population was born outside of Canada
- 12.2%** of Winnipeg's population are Indigenous people
- 30%** of Winnipeg residents identify as members of a visible minority





ECONOMIC TRENDS AND SOCIAL FACTORS

Economic trends and comparators provide a general profile of who lives in our city and the successes and challenges that affect vibrancy and full participation in community building activities. In the Report, information related to social supports and partnerships within the community is included as a potential resource and to describe some of the momentum in building Winnipeg into a welcoming and inclusive city. There have been two major events that have had an impact on the social fabric of Winnipeg and in fact across the world; the pandemic and the increased focus on anti-racism, particularly in the context of policing as a result of the death of George Floyd in the United States. In June 2020, the largest anti-racism rally on record in Winnipeg was held at the Legislative grounds in support of Justice for Black Lives movement.

WINNIPEG

ECONOMIC FAST FACTS



The average selling price of a home **\$325,700** (2019)

The vacancy rate for rental accommodation **3.1%** (2019)
Average monthly rental rates for an apartment **\$1,030** (2019)



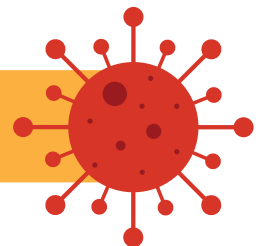
Median individual gross income **\$38,446.60** (2019)
Median household income **\$47,824** (2019)

The rate of unemployment is **5.3%** (2019)
The current workforce is **469,600** (2019)



15.9% of Winnipeg residents had low-income status (2016)
The Canadian low-income threshold for a person living alone in 2018 was **\$21,481.00** after taxes

Full economic effects of Covid 19 will not be known for some time but it has definitely increased unemployment, shelter and food security emergence



Social Impact of Calls to End Racism

There have been many calls to take new steps to combat racism in all spheres of Winnipeg. The City has committed to several initiatives aimed at eliminating racism in its programs and policies. The Service has also made commitments in regard to increased mandatory training and reinforcement of core values and beliefs. The Service reports annually on Bias Free Policing to the Board. The renewed efforts for this work began in 2020 and will continue into the foreseeable future. There has been negative public sentiment in regard to policing as it is strongly felt that systemic racism must be eradicated from all public institutions. Indigenous people are over represented in many government systems, including criminal justice, child welfare, addiction treatment and wellness programming. Work on the issue of over representation, relative to the population ratio, is ongoing.

Action on Poverty

The City estimates that 1 in 8 Winnipeg residents live in poverty. Poverty can represent a disconnect from community and activities that support vibrant, healthy relationships. The remedial costs of poverty related to lost productivity, lost opportunity, criminal justice, social services and health are substantial.

Winnipeg has many poverty reduction non-government organizations and councils, all working toward the same goal of addressing underlying issues. The Appendix to this report illustrates that significant resources are being directed to create an environment where the needs of all residents of the City can be met. Efforts are being made to better align access to many of these resources through important partnerships within the community. The following are a few agencies working on this endeavor:

- The Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council (WPRC) brings together leaders from a variety of sectors to work together to address the underlying causes of poverty.
- Pathways to a Better Future – Manitoba’s Poverty Reduction Strategy , resulted from an estimated 2,000 Manitobans taking part in public consultations, sharing their thoughts and ideas about preventing and reducing poverty in Manitoba.
- Winnipeg Without Poverty – Calling on the City to Lead was produced by Make Poverty History Manitoba. It is a compilation by organizations and individuals with knowledge and expertise to develop a community-based poverty reduction plan for Winnipeg .
- The City of Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy is to become the foundation of the city’s work in poverty reduction. The strategy will clarify the City’s role, identifying priorities for short and long-term actions while setting out an implementation plan that will be reviewed and renewed. A stakeholder engagement summary is available on their website. The Poverty Reduction Strategy is expected to be complete in winter 2021.
- Rapid Housing Initiative aims to create new affordable housing for people and populations who are vulnerable.

Experiencing Homelessness

For those experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting public health restrictions and closures meant that city services and businesses that were frequently visited were not available. Many of the shelters were still available to serve those without a place to sleep but programming was limited due to capacity restrictions. Self-isolating safely for those experiencing homelessness created a housing issue and the Province responded with the Alternative Isolation Accommodation (AIA) which included the addition of a 138-room site to primarily serve Winnipeg's shelter population to meet the unique needs of individuals who have, or are suspected of having, COVID-19. The AIA program provides daily health and wellness checks to its participants and on an as needed basis, online consultations with primary-care providers/specialists and on-site visits from paramedics.

End Homelessness Winnipeg is an organization that is leading the shift from managing homelessness to ending it. The organization is making significant efforts in its implementation of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The City of Winnipeg, in collaboration with Winnipeg Biz, commissioned the Downtown Public Restroom Strategy back in 2010. "The 2010 report indicated that lack of public restrooms could lead to negative impacts on public health, social inequity, and human dignity, while also contributing to economic losses, including potential lost revenue to downtown businesses and the City due to negative impacts on downtown livability and public image. Additionally, the City would invariably continue to bear the costs, including actual clean-up and maintenance costs for public urination sites." In 2018 and 2019, the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and Bridgman Collaborative Architecture partnered to develop the Pop-Up Public Toilet Initiative to address the need for public restrooms.

Recently, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, through a grant from the Canadian Medical Association Foundation, provided the City of Winnipeg with a \$670,000 grant to assist in the funding to build one or more public washrooms to help cope with public health concerns during the coronavirus pandemic and into the future.

Effects of COVID-19

The first presumptive case of COVID-19 was confirmed on March 12, 2020. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been significant challenges in terms of Winnipeg's economy. Many businesses were forced by health and safety restrictions to scale back their operations or in some cases close entirely at the end of March 2020 when the initial state of emergency became effective. The province issued a new public health order, closing non-critical businesses starting on April 1, 2020. For the balance of 2020 and into 2021 many businesses were heavily restricted to minimize the risks associated with the pandemic. The damage to the economy was already being felt before the end of the year.

Throughout 2020, public health orders shifted, causing all public institutions to revise business procedures and respond to changing conditions and restrictions, including the police. Families were separated, social norms such as family celebrations were curtailed, raising tension and giving rise to more calls for mental health supports. Police and by-law officers along with provincial employees were tasked with enforcing public health orders by educating and/or issuing tickets to individuals and groups for non-compliance.

Effective vaccines have been developed and are being distributed on a priority basis. According to the latest projections from the Province of Manitoba, the full population vaccination may be completed as early as the end of 2021. This means that some public health restrictions will likely remain in effect for some time to come.



Community Health and Well-Being During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way in which we live, go to school and work. Public health orders are keeping more people at home more often and the resulting changes to our behavior are creating impacts. The nature of safety has shifted as people are at home, businesses are shuttered and methods of committing crimes change as well.

There continues to be consistent signs across the country that certain crimes have seen increases during the global pandemic. The biggest reported increases seen have been in violent crimes, particularly murder, aggravated assault, and shooting incidents.

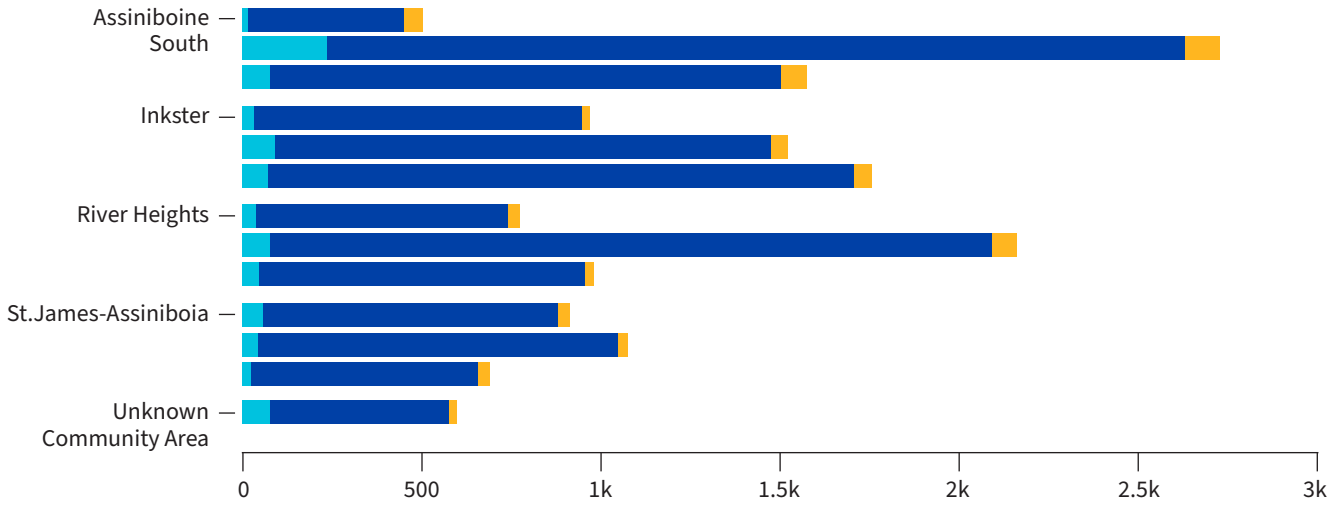
Due to the COVID-19 virus and the World Health Organization recognizing the health emergency as a pandemic, police services will continue to adjust how they interact with the public in non-emergency situations while continuing to meet public safety needs. Changes already implemented include: limiting public attendance at headquarters; closing district stations; and asking that some reports be made on-line, over the phone, through video or be delayed. Community events, social gatherings and training sessions will continue to be postponed. When attending calls for service, members will continue to maintain physical distance when possible and/or don personal protective equipment to protect the health and safety of witnesses, suspects and the members themselves. Pandemic preparedness applies to all first responders. Though vaccines were introduced in late 2020, the full impact of COVID-19 will not be known for some time.

COVID-19 Cases in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (as at January 18, 2021)

Cases by District of Residence

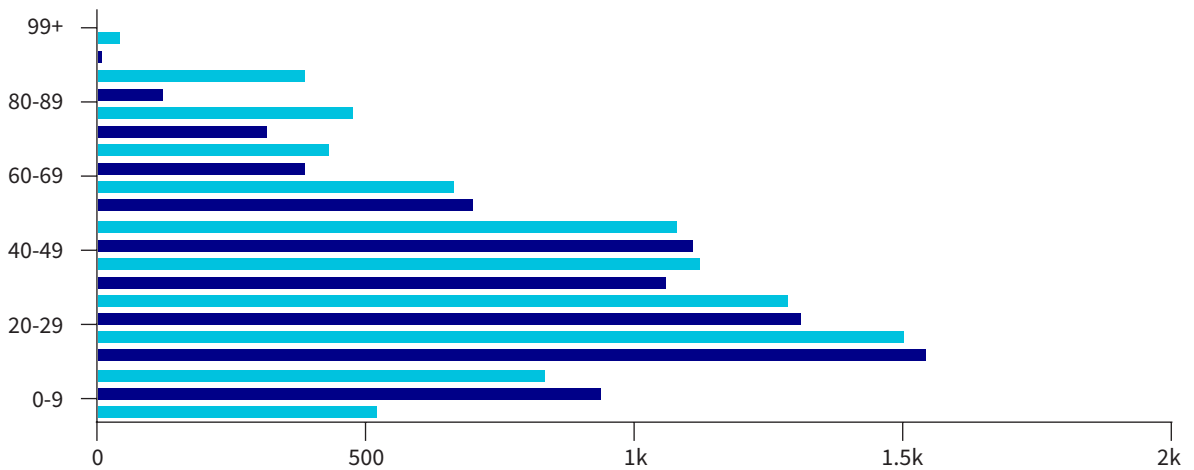
Active Cases Recovered Deaths

Only districts with 1 or more reported cases are shown



Cases by Age-Sex Group

Female Male



Community Economic Support Programs During COVID-19

All levels of government announced supports for citizens throughout 2020 and many are included in the resource section of this Report.

Mental Health

It has been reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the mental health of citizens, significantly changing their lives by restricting their daily movements in support of efforts to contain and slow the spread of the virus.

People report experiencing fear, worry and stress from the uncertainty about the virus, the effects of unemployment or under employment, financial uncertainty, shelter and food security. Many essential workers do not have paid sick leave or have depleted it to self-isolate compelling them to choose between attending work while ill or risking loss of a necessity of life. Social media has played a role in spreading confusion and misinformation, making it more difficult to manage day to day living. It is important that citizens look after all aspects of their health including mental health despite facing the realities of the loss of loved ones, loss of employment, working remotely, home-schooling children, and lack of physical contact with family, friends and work colleagues.

Addictions

Those that smoke tobacco, cannabis or vape, as well as those with opioid and methamphetamine addiction can be vulnerable as the COVID-19 virus attacks the respiratory system. The pandemic can also influence alcohol and cannabis consumption and cause the users to be more vulnerable to the virus due to underlying conditions. Individuals with an addiction are more likely to experience homelessness or incarceration and these circumstances pose unique challenges regarding transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. The disruption of services for those struggling with addiction due to the pandemic, even with the relaxed government regulations, has caused limited access to treatment and facilities and cancelled programs.

Violence and Well Being

Calls for service for assistance from the Winnipeg Police continue to increase. In 2020, the city recorded 43 homicides. All forms of violence have damaging short and long-term effects on mental, physical and spiritual well-being and so does living with violence, or in fear of violence. Exposure to violent events can be traumatic and can negatively impact multiple factors such as development, academic functioning, coping skills and relationships. Children are not only being exposed to violence within their communities but also through technology.

In Canada, violence has not yet been clearly identified as a priority health issue nor addressed in the design and delivery of community health services or health promotion efforts.



POLICING IN WINNIPEG

Calls for Service

Dispatched Calls for Service

(increase of 11% from 5 Yr. Avg. 2015-2019) 5 Year Avg is 217,629

241,795

Police Initiated Events

(increase of 20% from 5 Yr. Avg. 2015-2019) 5 Year Avg is 74,430

89,373

Citizen Generated Events

(increase of 6% from 5 Yr. Avg. 2015-2019) 5 Year Avg is 143,199

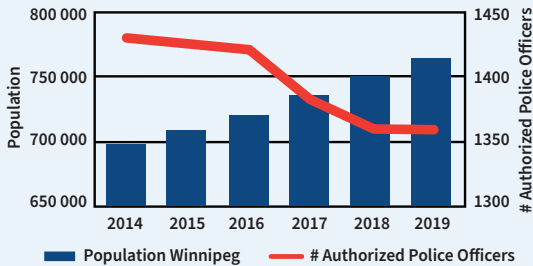
152,422

Total Calls to Communications Centre

(increase of 3% from 5 Yr. Avg. 2015-2019)

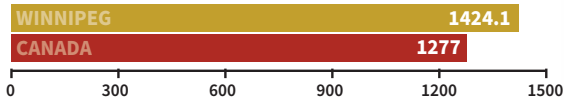
610,788

Population vs. Police Officers

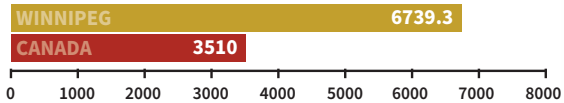


Crime Rates

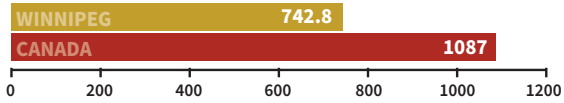
Violent Crime



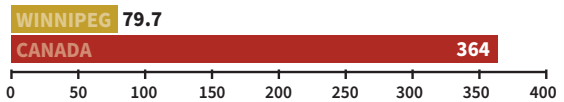
Property Crime



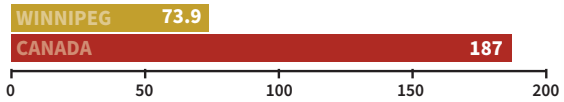
Other Crimes



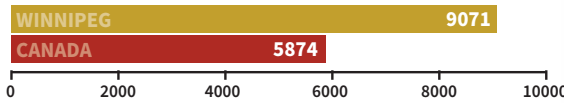
Traffic Offences



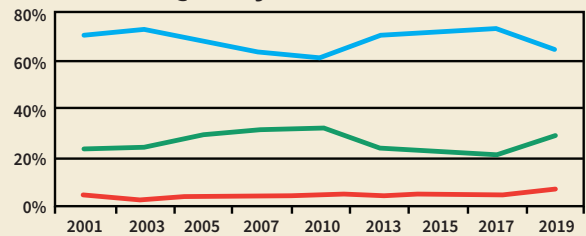
Drug Crime



Total Crime



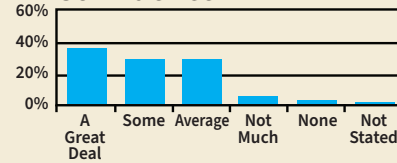
Overall Quality



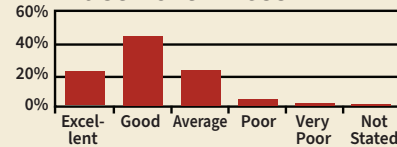
2019 SURVEY RESULTS



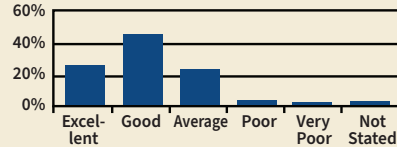
Confidence



Trustworthiness



Professionalism



LEGISLATIVE & POLICY TRENDS

How police services are delivered in Winnipeg is affected by new legislation, policy, funding and precedent-setting court decisions. Recent initiatives include:

The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Immediate Roadside Prohibitions – IRP)

This amendment came into effect in December 2019. The legislation provides tougher sanctions for impaired drivers and adopts a more efficient and timely approach for dealing with lower level impaired drivers. The IRP approach gives police more time for law enforcement and has been shown to improve road safety.

Manitoba’s Policing and Public Safety Strategy

Announced in May 2019, the provincial strategy aims to reduce and prevent crime through collaborative, proactive and intelligence-led policing.

Manitoba’s Guns and Gangs Suppression Strategy

Funding from the Government of Canada is equipping police agencies with the tools, equipment and capacity to disrupt and suppress gun and gang activity in Winnipeg and throughout the Province.

Tripartite Illicit Drug Task Force

The primary goal of the task force was to identify recommendations to reduce the use and effects of illicit drugs in Manitoba communities.

Recommendations: <https://www.winnipeg.ca/cao/pdfs/2019-Illicit-Drug-Task-Force-Report.pdf>

Criminal Justice System Modernization Strategy March 2018

The province continues to provide statistics on the Modernization Strategy and to work with justice stakeholders to provide innovative services that meet the needs of Manitobans. Some initiatives include:

- More effective use of diversion options
- Establishment of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) disposition docket in Winnipeg
- Transition of court security and prisoner transport duties

Independent Review of the Manitoba Police Services Act

In its 2018 throne speech, the provincial government committed to conducting a review of this Act. In October 2019, the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance (CSKA) was chosen to lead stakeholder consultations and a broad review of *The Police Services Act* (PSA). In November 2020, the report was released and is being reviewed by the provincial government. All Manitoba municipalities will have an interest in a modern framework for policing. An implementation team is leading further research and consultations with a variety of stakeholders, including First Nations.

The Highway Traffic Act – Photo Enforcement Review

In 2019, the provincial government committed to conducting a review of the current automated enforcement policy, legislation and program frameworks. As of December 2020, the review was paused due to the pandemic and, as of the date of this Report, has not been reinitiated.

Criminal Code

In 2019, new provisions of the Criminal Code (Bill C-75) modernized and clarified bail provisions and release conditions that can be imposed on an accused person by police. The intention of the amendments is 1) to ensure an accused person is released after arrest without conditions whenever possible; and 2) to favour release at the earliest opportunity on the least onerous grounds.

REPORTS AND INQUIRIES OF INTEREST

Reconciliation

Provincial Initiatives include:

- Hiring of a Director of Indigenous Services
- Reclaiming Our Identity Program (ROI)
- Restorative Justice Centre North
- Learning Events to inform provincial employees about the Treaties
- Victim Services establishing a smudging room for victims of crime
- Receipt of gift of more than 40 Eagle Feathers from members of the Indigenous Communities

Child Welfare Reforms

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Manitoba government is proclaiming legislation and implementing related regulatory changes to reduce red tape and enable child-care providers to continue to protect Manitobans by meeting the needs of parents and children.

Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

The City of Winnipeg participated in a review to suggest solutions to challenges that are currently being faced. The initiative strives to inspire and strengthen city leaders and to equip cities across the world with the tools necessary to innovate, change, and grow. The City chose to use the review to find ways to better direct 'right' services to individuals that need support. This may reduce the dispatch of police resources to calls for service which could be better addressed through other means. The City received the results of the review in late 2020 and the report highlights a number of significant challenges to reforming the response system. The Chiefs of the Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service have been charged with developing the ideas and models in response to the Bloomberg Harvard review.

Independent Reports

1. Broken Promise Stolen Futures – Child and Family Poverty in Winnipeg
2. In 2019, the federal government launched a nationwide poverty reduction strategy with a vision of a Canada without poverty.
3. Winnipeg Health Region, Community Health Assessment Report 2019
4. Downtown Safety Study, Manitoba Police Commission
5. The Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg – April 2014

POLICE OVERSIGHT

The Law Enforcement Review Agency is a provincial body that is authorized to investigate public complaints about police conduct. The Independent Investigation Unit is a provincial body that investigates serious incidents involving police officers in Manitoba. Both agencies have mandates that empower them to investigate the Service when warranted. The Board's oversight role is specifically in regard to strategic goals, allocation of the budget and evaluation of the police chief.

The Province of Manitoba, having undertaken a review of *The Police Services Act*, may introduce legislation at a future date that would strengthen the Manitoba Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) and address gaps in the current legislation.

COURT DECISIONS

Decisions made by the courts can influence how police agencies investigate criminal cases and participate in the prosecution process. Some key judicial decisions that affect policing include:

- *Langenfeld v. Toronto Services Board*, (2019 ONCA 716) (CanLII) - Sets out that it is reasonable to perform security screening on individuals wishing to attend Police Board meetings in the Toronto Police Services facilities.
- *John Howard Society of Manitoba, Inc. v. The Government of Manitoba*, 2019 MBQB 170 - Sets out that granting standing in an inquest is dependent on the presiding judge's decision.
- *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation v Canada (Attorney General)*, 2019 MBPC 59 (CanLII) - Sets some boundaries for police regarding redaction and sealing of Information to Obtain (ITO) orders and records of the court related to ITOs. Establishes court responsibility for protection of certain private information within such orders.
- *R. v. Y.G.*, 2020 MBPC 8 - Sets out that members of the Winnipeg Police Service are not biased as expert witnesses simply as a result of their status as police officers but that the test is their individual, particular expertise and their participation in particular investigations. In this case, the defense argued that their expert testimony was biased as a result of their institutional role(s).
- *Walker v. Winnipeg Police Service* (2020 MBQB 16) - Clarifies the standard police must make in preservation of personal property that is evidence, furthering of evidence such as weapons testing

There are several cases that include references to systemic racism and police conduct in Canada.

1. *Mcdougall (Re)*, 2016 CanLII 95034 (MB PC), <https://canlii.ca/t/gwvvgq> 2016/03/17
2. *R. v. Morris*, 2018 ONSC 5186 (CanLII), <https://canlii.ca/t/hv19g> 2018/09/11
3. *R. v. Odle*, 2020 ONSC 3991 (CanLII), <https://canlii.ca/t/j8f69> 2020/06/26

TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS

Rapidly-evolving technology provides police with new tools to enforce laws and investigate crimes. It also affects crime by creating new opportunities for illegal activity. New technology has also created more ways for the community to engage with police services.

At the end of 2020, the Service is looking to enhance police on-line reporting through the development and launch of a smart phone application which will allow the public to report crimes and the Service to provide notifications to the public. The Service is currently working on a multi-year project to upgrade the current 911 system to allow text, video and audio submissions in the Next Generation 911. The drone technology and program continues to be used in a wide range of tasks to enhance public and officer safety.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the provincial restrictions, employees had to physically distance and work remotely while still providing the services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

This year as in previous years, the Service continues to take advantage of all social media platforms in order to communicate trends, cautions and successes. Police reports can be completed online for certain crimes using live video feeds in order to facilitate quicker responses and to allow for better use of police resources. The use of technology to improve service and to maximize the use of resources is in keeping with public expectations of the Service.

CONCLUSION

The Winnipeg Police Board produces this document to describe the social and environmental factors that exist in our City. There are many resources aimed at supporting a vibrant, healthy community where all can thrive. Policing is one part of the puzzle. Though there is cultural diversity, multiple languages and ethno-cultural groups represented, we are one community in many ways. Winnipeg is home to the National Research Centre on Indian Residential Schools, the city is on a path to reconciliation, there is a growing awareness and voicing of concerns related to racism and social justice and there is movement. COVID 19 has shed light on many inequities and it has also shown that a community can come together to support one another in difficult and trying times. Public safety has come to mean much more than it did and police services are part of the front line engaged in the work of contributing to our collective safety. There are significant challenges in providing the same level of support with limited resources as demands change and grow. The effects of COVID-19 will be felt for some time into the future. Police are part of the fabric of the City and are dedicated to meeting the needs, values and expectations of the residents of Winnipeg.

Feedback on this Report or comments for the Board can be provided by attending one of the Board's community consultation meetings (postponed until public health orders allow large gatherings) or a public Board meeting or by contacting the Board by email, mail or phone. For more information, please visit the Board's website, www.winnipegpoliceboard.ca

REFERENCES

The City of Winnipeg's participation in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative
<http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=20536&SectionId=&InitUrl=>
(accessed January 2021)

End Homelessness Winnipeg
<https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/resources/research-and-reports/>
(accessed December 2020)

World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
(accessed December 2020 and January 2021)

APPENDIX

This is not an exhaustive list of programs and initiatives taking place in Winnipeg. The intention is to provide information that will give a fuller picture of work that is being done to increase the level of public safety in our City. It is collaborative; police are directly linked to work going on in the community but the institution of policing is only one component of our web of public safety.

Ongoing Initiatives and Programs

- The Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council (WPRC) brings together leaders from a variety of sectors to work together to address the underlying causes of poverty.
- Pathways to a Better Future – Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy , resulted from an estimated 2,000 Manitobans taking part in public consultations, sharing their thoughts and ideas about preventing and reducing poverty in Manitoba.
- Winnipeg Without Poverty – Calling on the City to Lead was produced by Make Poverty History Manitoba. It is a compilation by organizations and individuals with knowledge and expertise to develop a community-based poverty reduction plan for Winnipeg .
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- Rapid Housing Initiative aims to create new affordable housing for people and populations who are vulnerable.
- At the end of 2020, the Federal Government Initiative called Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy announced it is giving over \$1 million to agencies in Winnipeg that are helping to end homelessness.

The following 17 Winnipeg agencies have been awarded funding through the initiative:

- 1 Just City: *Weekend Drop-in*
- Agape Table: *Food Distribution*
- Ka Ni Kanichihk: 24/7 Safe Space and COVID-19 Community Response
- Life's Journey: Preventing Homelessness for Winnipeggers with Neurodiversity's
- Main Street Project: COVID-19 Shelter Cleaning and Shelter Diversion Case Work
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itala Centre: Biindigen Drop-in
- Ndinawemaaganag Ednaawaad: Ndinawe's Community Response
- Oak Table: COVID-19 Response
- One88 Community Church: Community Program
- Rossbrook House: 24/7 Safe Space
- Salvation Army: Transport and Weetamah Daytime Drop-in
- Siloam Mission: Rapid Re-Housing Staff and Coordinator
- Spence Neighbourhood Association: COVID-19 Winter Emergency Response
- Union Gospel Mission: UGM Drop-in
- Wahbung Abinoonjiiag: COVID-19 Basic Needs for Women and Families
- Freedom House: Drop-in Centre
- West Central Women's Resource Centre: Housing Supports for Women during COVID-19

Community Resources

- The Winnipeg Outreach Network is an important part of Winnipeg's support framework. It produces a pocket guide of resources mapped across the city and the guide is available to view at the following link: <https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/20201212-WON-GUIDE.pdf>
- As well, the winter safety sheet with prevention info and warm spaces can be found at the link: <https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201214-Outdoor-Tips-Sheet.pdf>
- A list of local housing providers and housing support services can be found at: <https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/201911-Housing-Resources-1-sheet.pdf>
- The City of Winnipeg Committee for Safety designed "The Who Do I Call" card series to provide easy access to a variety of resources available in Winnipeg. The cards provide information on phone numbers to call in regards to resources after a fire, for counter exploitation, meal supports, mental health, for parents/caregivers, for seniors, for youth, shelter/safe spaces and street outreach as well as other topics. Further information about the Committee can be found on their website: <https://www.winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgCommitteeForSafety/default.stm>

- Manitoba citizens have access to a 211phone service and mb.211.ca. The service is a free, confidential information navigation service that connects people to critical government and community-based health and social services in their community. Funding for this service was provided by the Government of Canada. United Way Winnipeg leads the 211 Manitoba service in collaboration with Volunteer Manitoba and includes a multisector Advisory Committee. <https://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/211-phone-service/>

COVID-19 Resource Programs

Conservation and Climate Fund (local green initiatives)
 Temporary Ban on Commercial Evictions
 Manitoba Back to Work Wage Subsidy
 Summer Student Recovery Plan
 Tax Payment Filing Extension
 Temporary Exception to Employment Standards Layoff Rules
 Postponement of Eviction Hearings
 Freezes on Rent Increases
 Childcare for Essential Workers
 Suspended student loan repayment
 Paid administrative leave for Healthcare Staff
 Workers Compensation Board Surplus return and additional supports
 Support for small and medium sized business
 Manitoba Public Insurance Rebates
 Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)
 Summer Student Recovery Plan
 Seniors Economic Recovery Credit
 Relief for vehicle registration
 Building Sustainable Communities Program
 Increased Investment in the 2020-2021 Canada-Manitoba Jobs Grant Program

Relief for small liquor producers
 Safer Schools Fund
 Support for quality early learning and child care
 Mask Use Mandated at Hospitals and Health Centres
 Emergency Measures Act Orders
 Manitoba Investing in Care Homes
 Support for Recycling and Waste Division
 Support for Homeless Shelters
 Home Nutrition and Learning Program
 COVID Alert App
 COVID Testing
 2020-2021 Budget Implementation Bill
 Flu Vaccine Campaign
 Tax relief
 Electronic Business Submissions
 Safe Restart Funding
 Changes to halt the spread (#Restart MB Pandemic Response)
 Youth Futurpreneur Project
 Job Protected leave
 Increased Enforcement of Public Health Orders
 Access to Mental Health
 Virtual Care Options



Mental Health and Addiction Initiatives and Programs

At the end of 2019, the Province of Manitoba announced initiatives to improve mental health and addictions services throughout the city of Winnipeg including:

- Expanding the distribution of Thrival Kits
- Increasing support for the NorWest Youth Hub
- Expanding Project 11. Established by the True North Youth Foundation, this is a school-based mental health promotion program for students in kindergarten to Grade 8.
- Implementing the Métis CART pilot project.
- Expanding the community schools' program.
- Investing in a collaboration between StreetReach Winnipeg and the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre.
- Expanding Neecheewam's Winnipeg facility.
- Expanding services at Klinik Community Health Centre and Laurel Centre.
- Enhancing access to mental health assessments and treatment for children and youth
- Recruiting, training and employing community helpers
- Issuing a request for proposals to add 100 supportive recovery-housing beds to help those who have received addictions treatment successfully transition back into the community.
- Enhancing access to school-based mental health and addictions supports,
- Investing in a new initiative to provide peer and family support services, led by the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society.
- Investing in a one-year pilot project to launch Granny's House.
- Providing education programs offered by the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba for individuals living with dementia and their families.
- Investing toward the capital construction costs at the Bruce Oake Recovery
- Providing Siloam Mission, Riverwood Church Community Inc. and Tamarack Recovery Inc. with support to develop 70 supportive housing units including on-site support services for people completing their addictions treatment.
- Investing to provide more community-based trauma services for newcomers and refugees suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Investing in PAX Dream Makers, a successful youth engagement and leadership initiative that will provide two years of training and engagement to an additional 88 youth from northern First Nation communities, Rolling River and other school divisions.
- Investing to expand eating disorder programs at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg, as well as create a safe nutrition clinic for people living with eating disorders.
- Investing to create a new unit and hire additional addictions, mental health and security staff at Health Sciences Centre (HSC) 24. Issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to create community drop-in space for adults with addictions and mental health issues to ensure services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Winnipeg.

