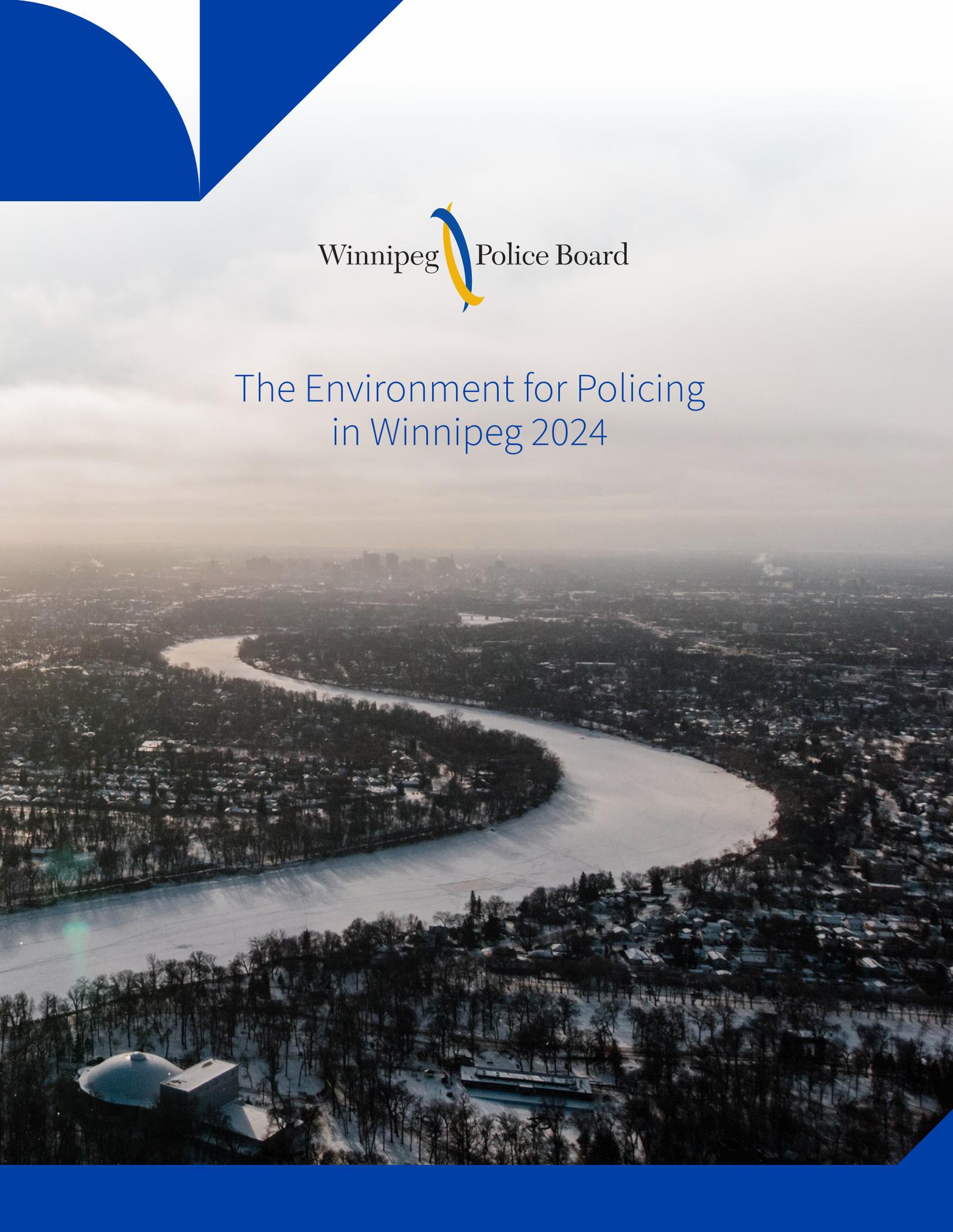




# The Environment for Policing in Winnipeg 2024



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The Winnipeg Police Board has a mandate to establish priorities and objectives for the Winnipeg Police Service, and ensure adequate policing that meets the community's needs and expectations.

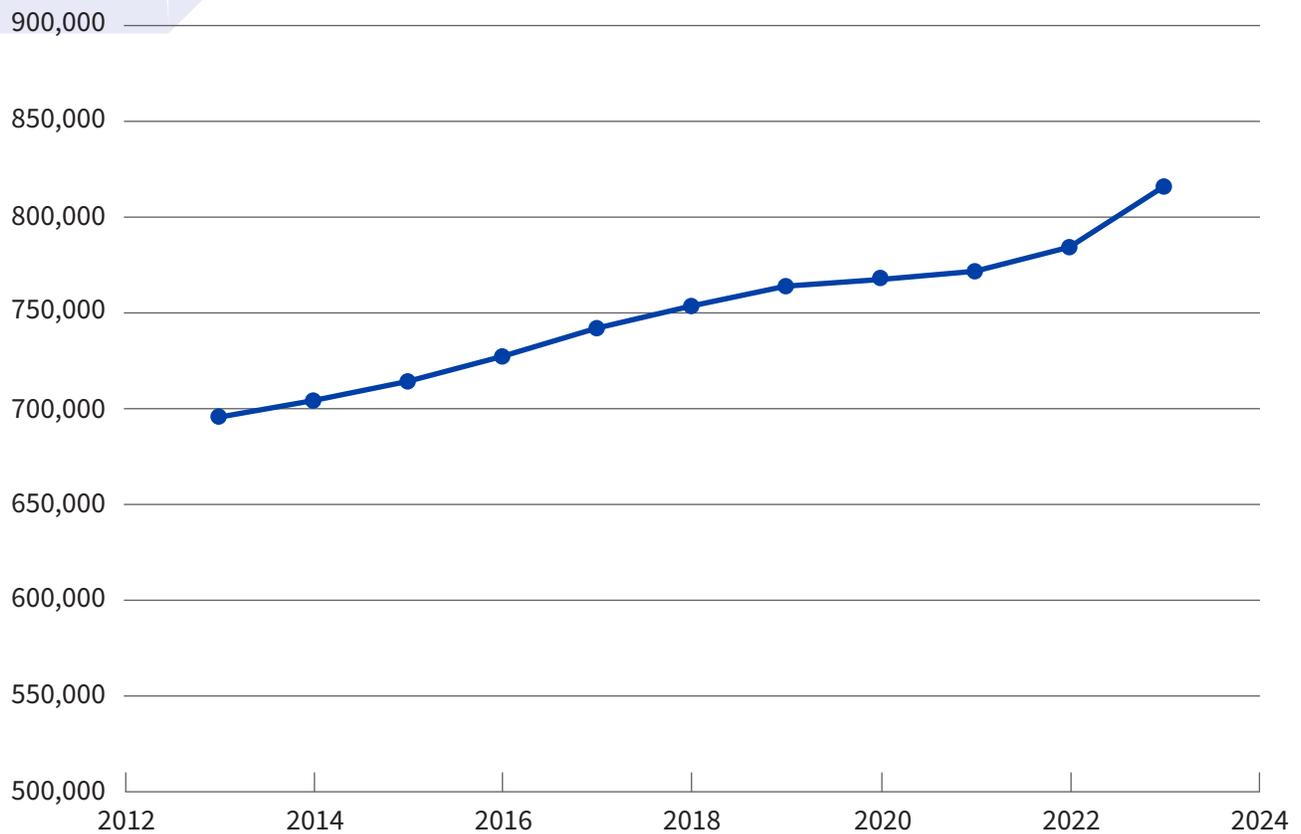
Every year, the Board publishes a report to capture the Board's understanding of the priorities and issues that matter to residents of Winnipeg.

The report is intended to start a dialogue between the Board and the community about these issues, and encourage residents to participate in discussions about the future of policing in Winnipeg.

Citizens are encouraged to provide their input to the Board by appearing as a delegation at the Board's quarterly public meetings, by written submission or by contacting the Board directly via email, mail or phone. For more information, please visit the Board's website, [www.winnipegpoliceboard.ca](http://www.winnipegpoliceboard.ca).



# Demographics and Population Trends



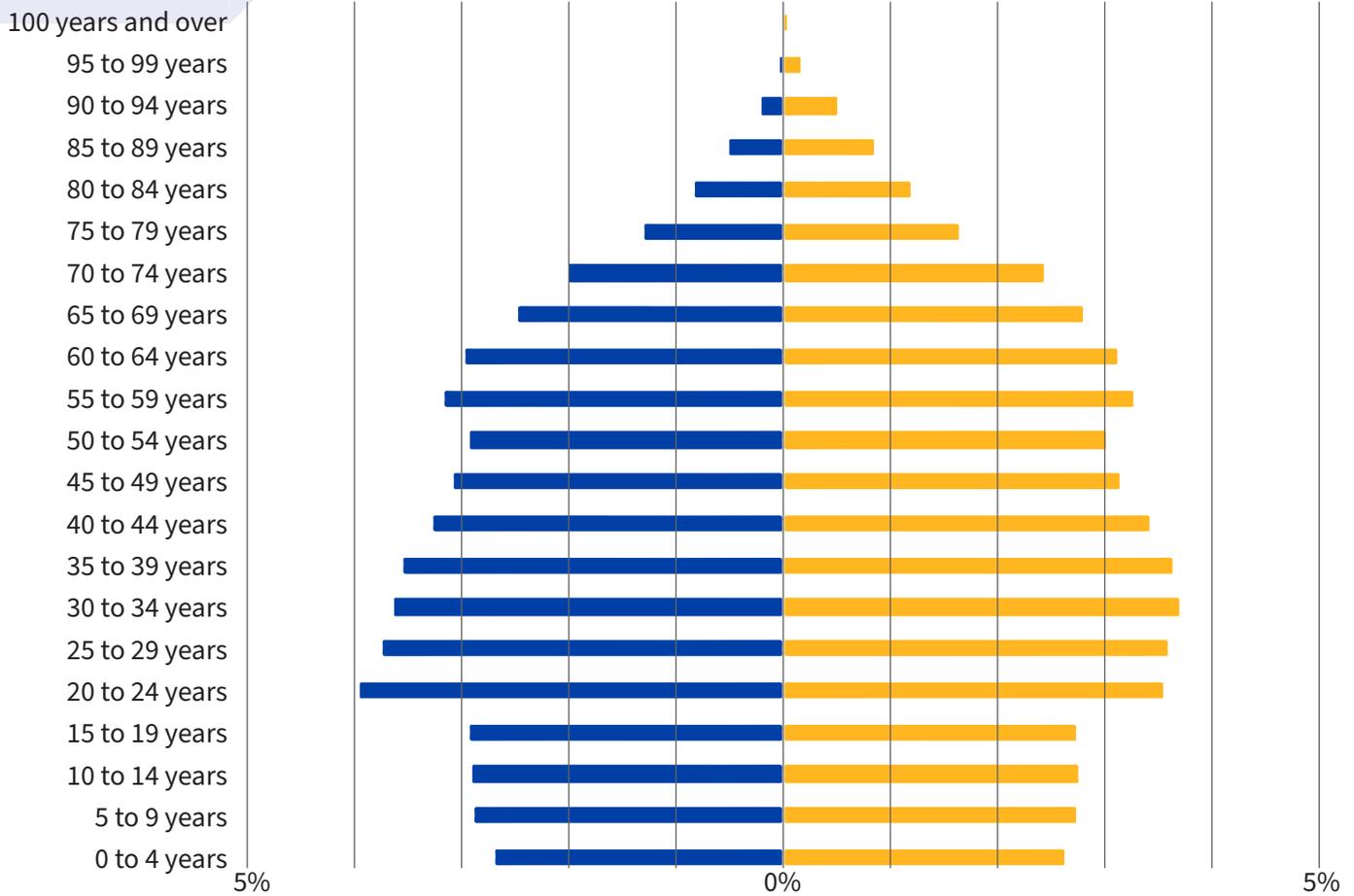
## Population Increase

	2013	2023	% Change
<b>City of Winnipeg</b>	695,436	815,599	17.3% Increase
<b>Winnipeg CMA</b>	770,051	910,240	18.2% Increase
<b>Manitoba</b>	892,011	1,052,122	18.0% Increase
<b>Canada</b>	35,080,992	40,097,761	14.3% Increase

The Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Winnipeg covers an area of 5,285 km<sup>2</sup> that includes the City of Winnipeg and the municipalities of: West St. Paul, East St. Paul, Headingley, Macdonald, Richot, Tache, Springfield, Rosser, St. Francois Xavier, and St. Clements and Brokenhead First Nation. Policing in these municipalities is provided by their own local service or the Manitoba RCMP.

- The populations of the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Census Metropolitan Area, and the Province of Manitoba all grew significantly faster than the population of Canada between 2013 and 2023.

## Winnipeg Population By Age



### Winnipeg- Visible Minorities (2021 Census)

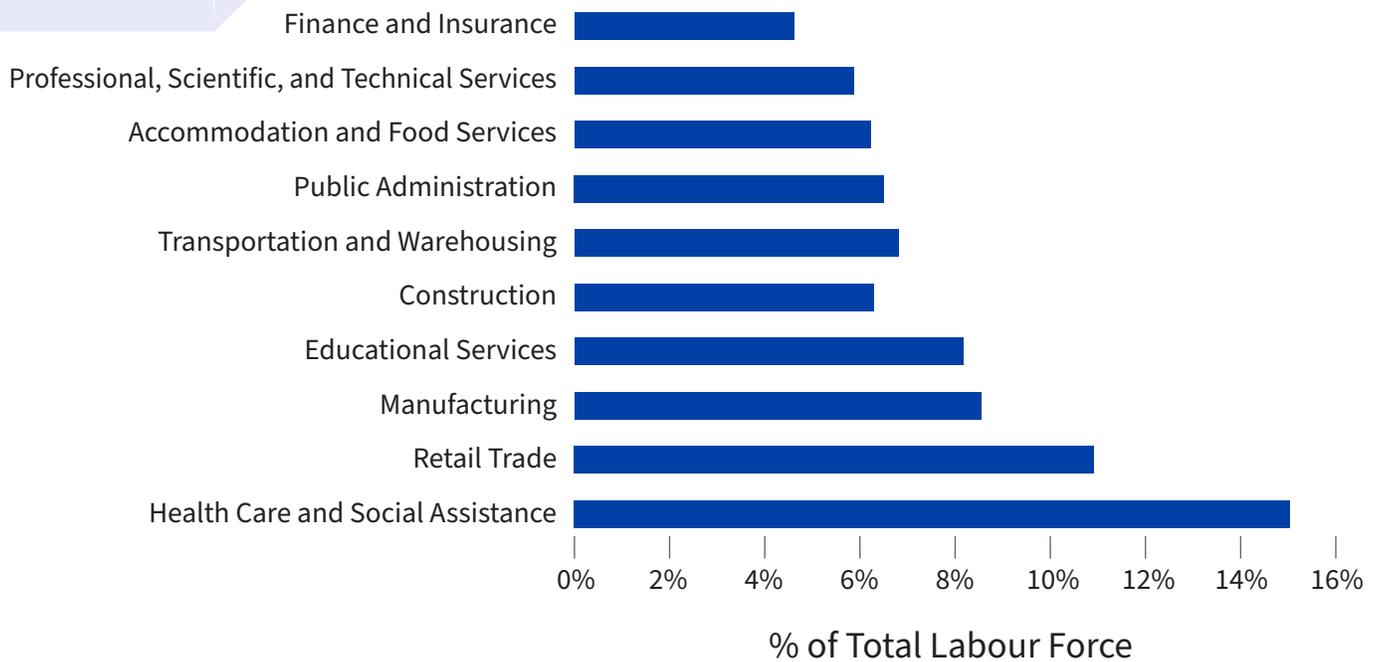
Filipino	10.3%
South Asian	7.8%
Black	5%
Chinese	2.8%
Southeast Asian	1.3%
Not a Visible Minority	68.5%

### Winnipeg- Languages Spoken Most Often at Home (2021 Census)

English	77.0%
Tagalog	4.0%
Punjabi	3.7%
Mandarin	1.2%
French	1.1%

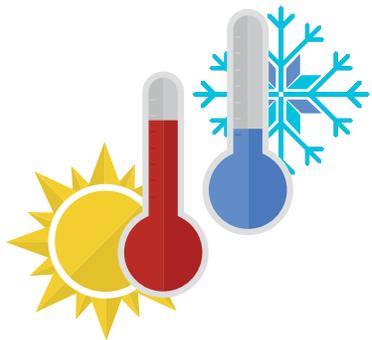
- From 2016 to 2021, the Indigenous population in the Winnipeg Census Metropolitan Area increased by 9.4 percent. In 2021, Winnipeg had the largest Indigenous population at 102,080 people.

## Top Industries in City of Winnipeg (2021 Census)



### Natural Environment

- Winnipeg experiences extreme temperatures in both summer (12 days with Humidex over 35 degrees and 13 days with a max temperature greater than 30 degrees) and winter (72 days with a minimum temperature below -15 degrees).



### Built Environment

- Winnipeg has 5,030 km of local streets, 1,720 km of regional streets, and 900 km of alleyways.
- Winnipeg covers 462 km<sup>2</sup>, giving the city a population density of 1,623 people per square kilometer.

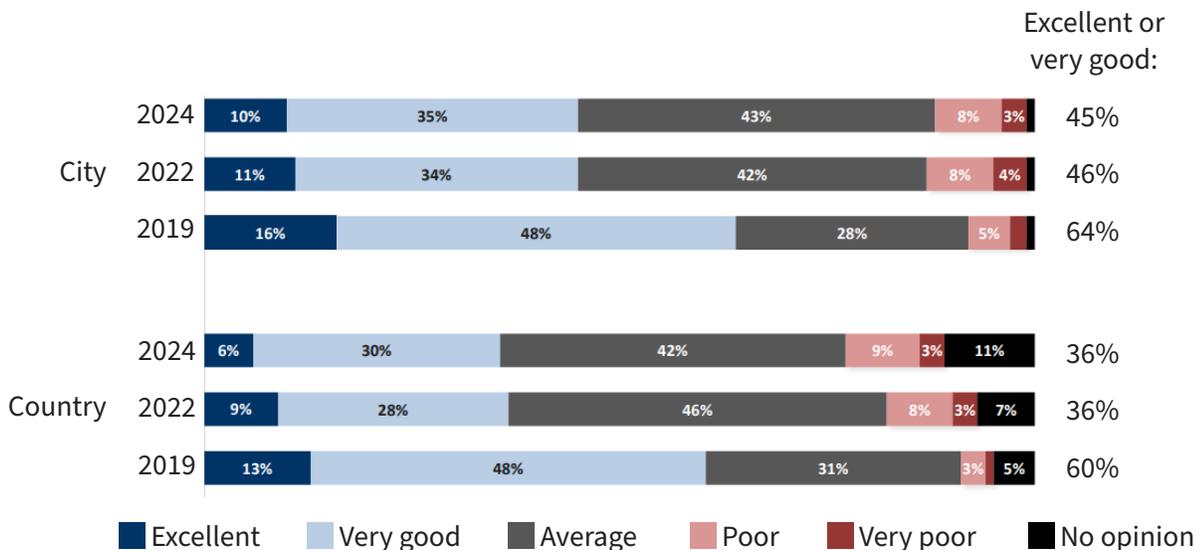


# 2024 Citizen Survey Highlights

## Overall satisfaction with WPS

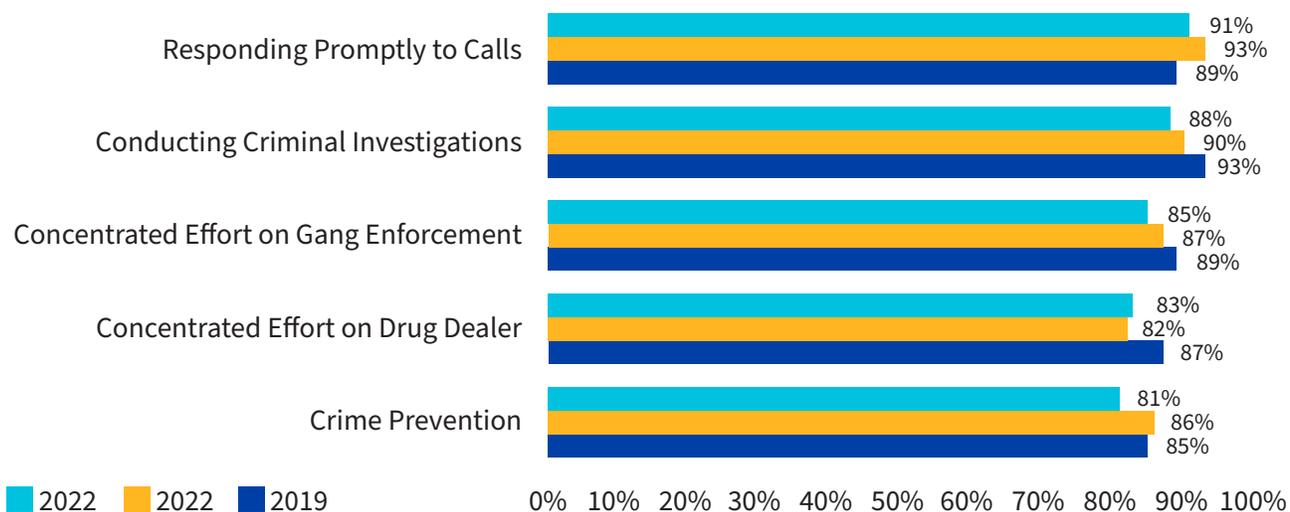
Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this city are doing?

Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this country are doing?



- In 2024, 45 percent of Winnipeggers think the Winnipeg Police Service is doing an excellent or very good job. When asked about the overall quality of police service in Winnipeg, 54 percent rated it as excellent or good.

## Public Priorities and Emerging Needs



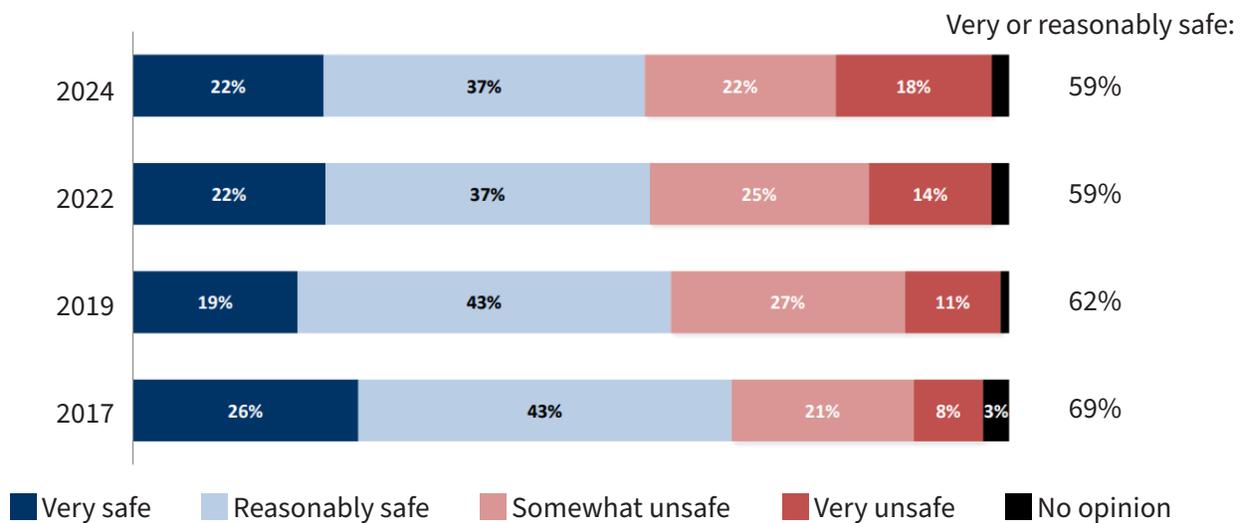
- Winnipeggers identified the same top five priorities for police in 2019, 2022, and 2024.
- Responding quickly is seen as the most important aspect of policing for Winnipeggers in 2024; 91 percent rate it as important.

## Perceptions of Safety

- Perceptions of downtown safety during the day decreased from 2022; 50 percent say they feel very or reasonably safe walking alone in downtown during the day. Nine percent of respondents indicated they feel safe walking alone at night.

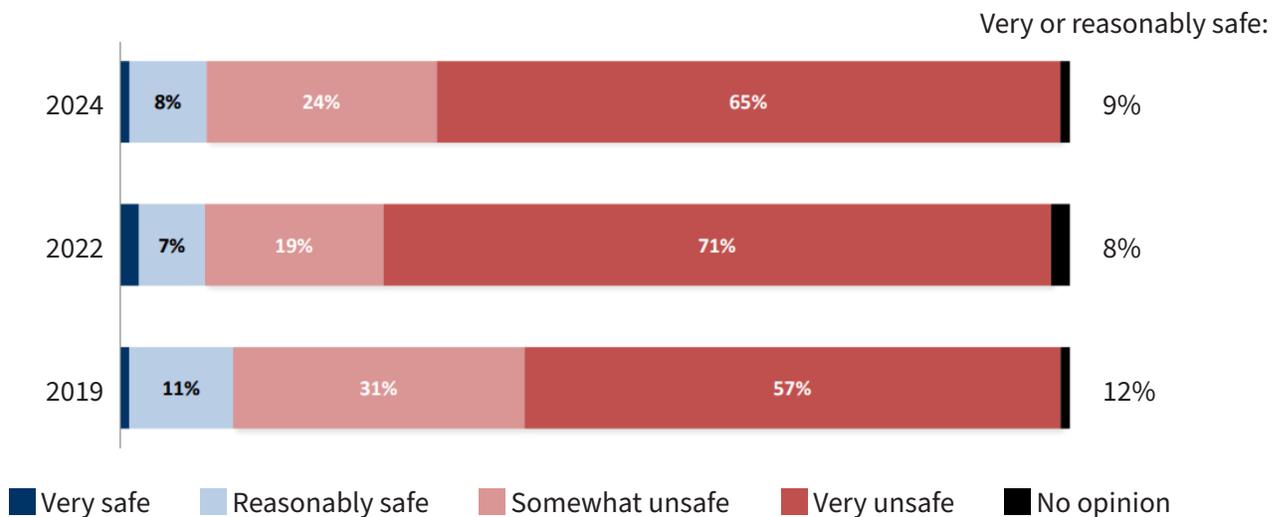
## Neighbourhood Safety at Night

How about walking alone after dark in your neighbourhood? Would you feel...?



## Downtown Safety at Night

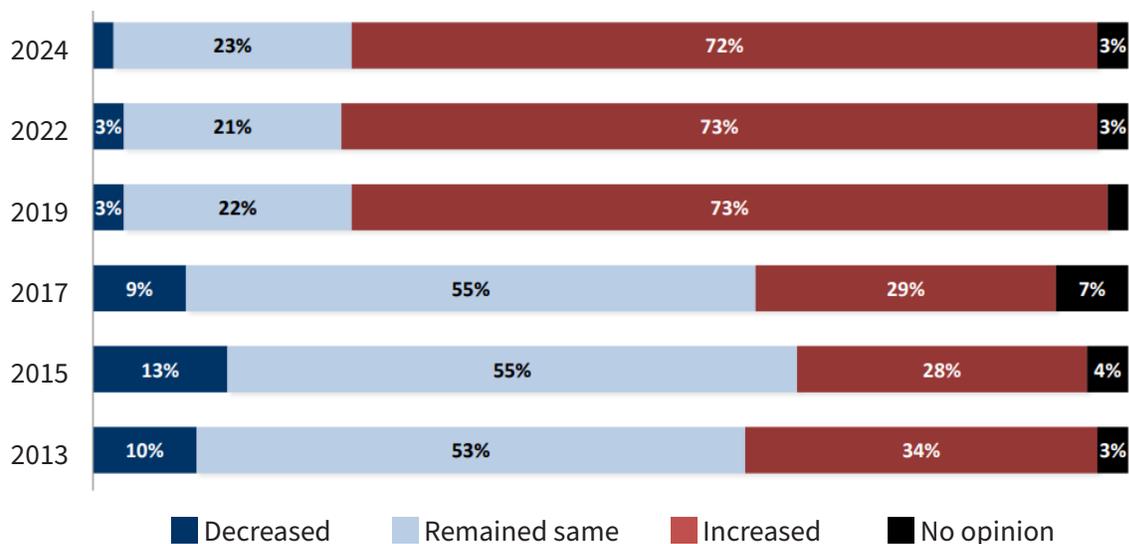
How about walking alone downtown after dark? Would you feel...?



- People report that property-related crimes and drug use are the most serious problems in their neighbourhood. The highest concern is for theft of property from vehicles, with 31 percent of respondents rating it as an extremely serious or very serious concern. Those living in the inner city often rate problems as more serious in their neighbourhood.
- More Winnipeggers feel safe walking in their neighbourhood during the day (91 percent) or night (59 percent) than in downtown during the day (50 percent) or at night (9 percent). Although the proportion who feel safe in their neighbourhood during the day is similar to previous years, the proportion who rate it as very safe (56 percent) is the lowest to date. There has also been a consistent decline in perceptions of safety walking downtown during the day.

## Perceived Changes in Winnipeg Crime in the Past Year

Thinking of the last year or so, do you think that crime has increased, decreased, or remained about the same in the city of Winnipeg

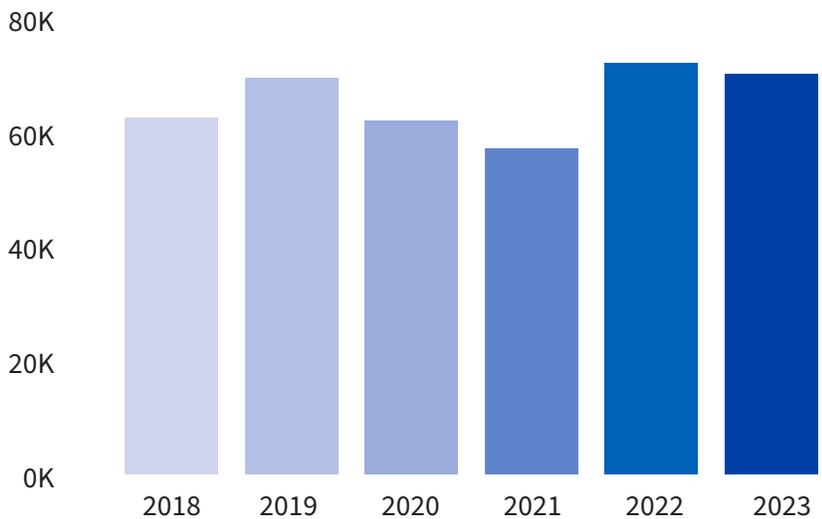


- About 13 percent of Winnipeggers said they were a victim of crime in the past year and did not report it to the WPS. This number has remained relatively constant since 2019.
- Property crime was the type most frequently unreported. The most common reasons for deciding not to report were “I didn’t think the police could/would do anything” and “[the crime] wasn’t serious enough to report.”

# 2023 WPS Statistical Report Highlights

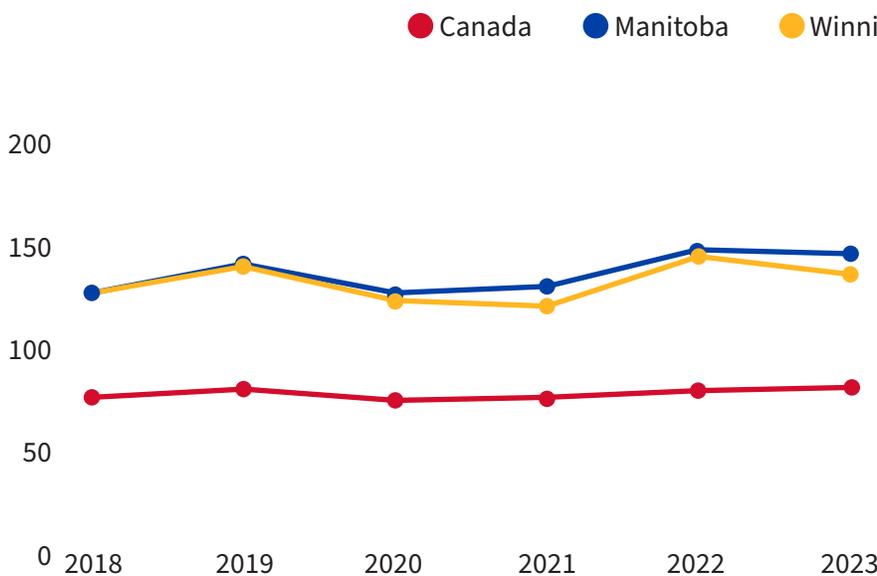
- The total number of crimes decreased in 2023 (-2.2 percent) but remained above the five-year average (+8.6 percent).

## Crimes in Winnipeg (All Types)



- The decrease in total crimes was driven primarily by a reduction in property crimes (-6.7 percent). Violent crimes (+12.1 percent), other crimes (+4.7 percent), traffic crimes (+2.8 percent) and drug crimes (+10.9 percent) all experienced year-over-year increases in 2023.

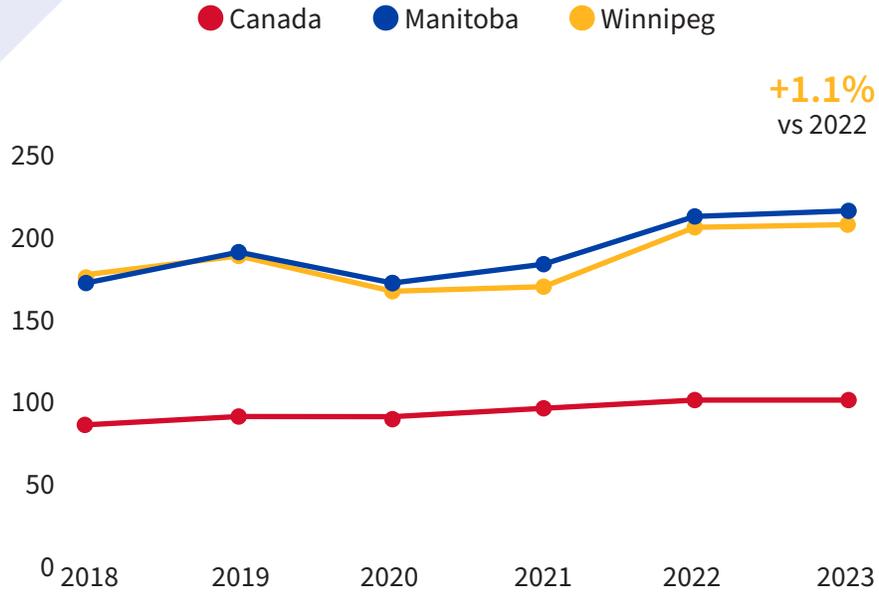
## Total Crime Severity: 2018-2023



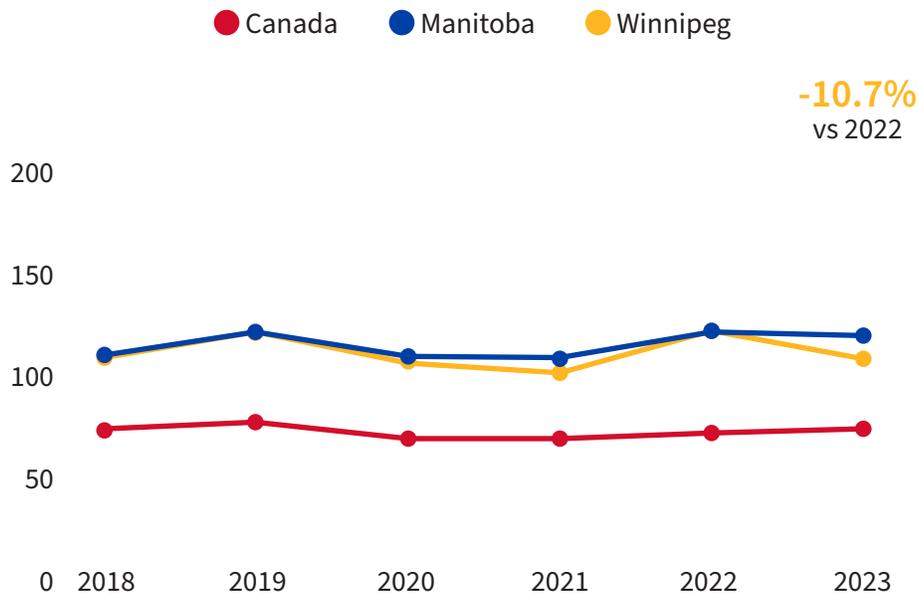
**-5.9%**  
vs 2022

- Total crime severity decreased over 2022 (-5.9 percent), driven primarily by a reduction in non-violent crime-severity (-10.7 percent). Violent crime severity continued to trend upward in 2023 (+1.1 percent vs 2022).

## Violent Crime Severity: 2018-2023



## Non-Violent Crime Severity: 2018-2023



## 2022 Crime Severity Index by CMA

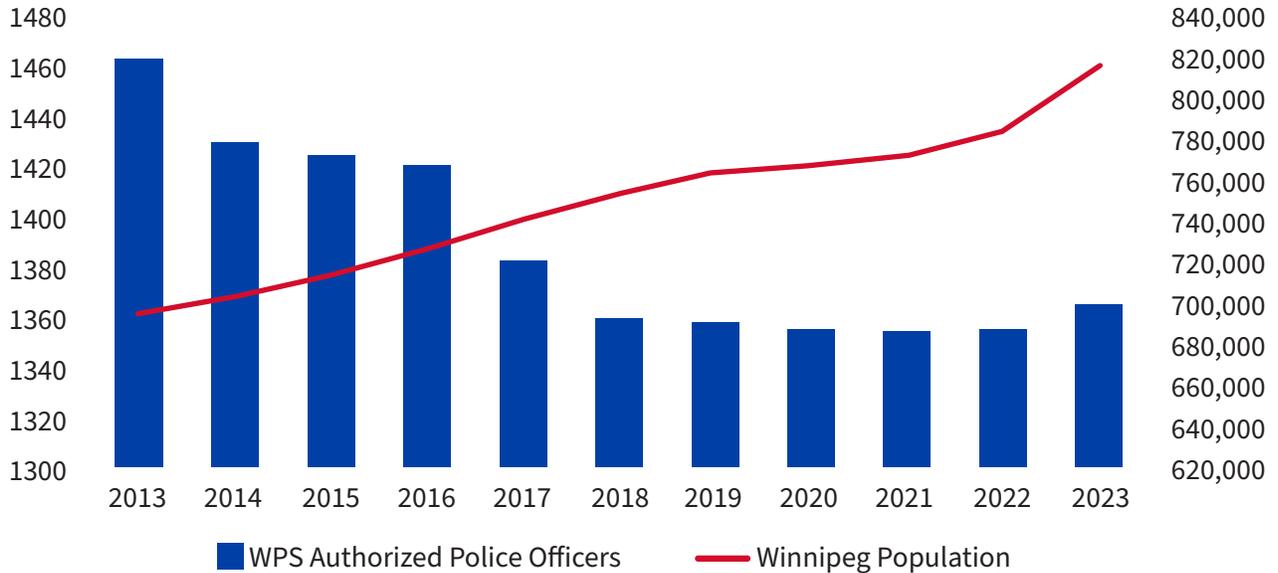
Ottawa	52.9
Toronto	51.9
Montreal	61.4
Halifax	72.2
Victoria	75.0
Calgary	75.2
Vancouver	92.4
Thunder Bay	103.5
Edmonton	100.4
Regina	106.9
Saskatoon	113.5
Kelowna	128.0
Winnipeg	136.6

The Crime Severity Index for Winnipeg in this table differs slightly from the graphs above as it includes the entire Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Winnipeg, not only the municipality. The Winnipeg CMA covers an area of 5,285 km<sup>2</sup> that includes the City of Winnipeg and the municipalities of: West St. Paul, East St. Paul, Headingley, Macdonald, Richot, Tache, Springfield, Rosser, St. Francois Xavier, and St. Clements and Brokenhead First Nation. Policing in these municipalities is provided by their own local service or the Manitoba RCMP.



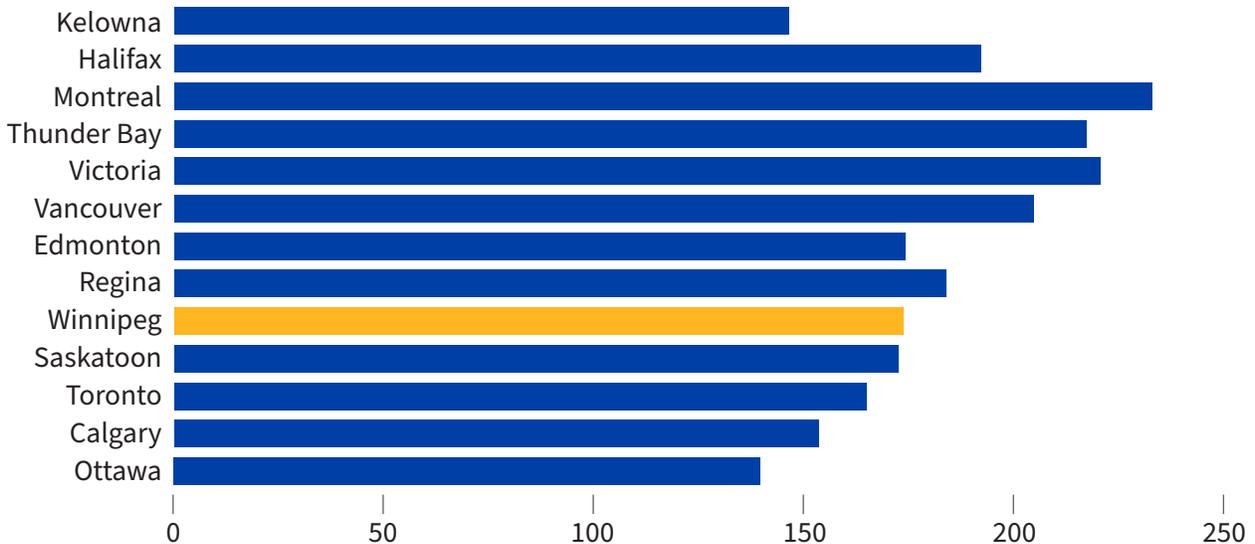
# Policing Operations and Public Safety Partners

## Population and WPS Officer Complement



- The population of the Winnipeg has increased by 17.3 percent since 2013, while the number of authorized WPS officers decreased by 6.6 percent over the same period.

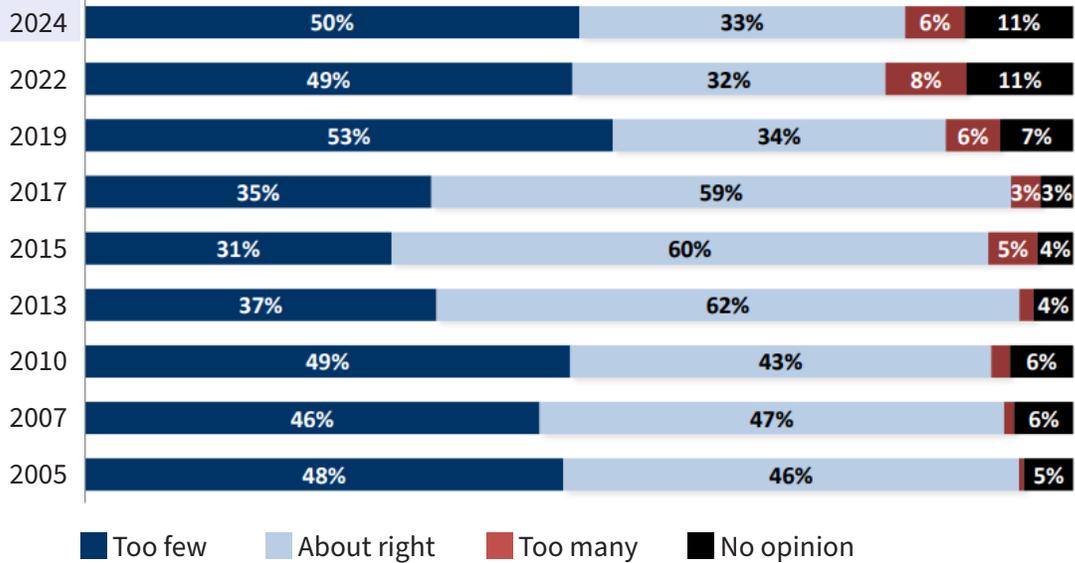
## Authorized Police Officers per 100,000 Population (2023)



The Authorized Police Officers per 100,000 Population figure for Winnipeg in this graphic differs slightly from the graph above, as it has been calculated using the Statistics Canada methodology. Using this methodology here allows for a more accurate comparison with other municipalities who report their officer complements through Statistics Canada.

## Public Perception of the Number of WPS Officers

How would you rate the number of officers in the City of Winnipeg?



## Demand for Service

### Total Calls to the Communications Centre



- There were over 780,000 calls to the WPS Communications Centre in 2023, an average of over 2,000 calls every day. This represents an increase of 9.8 percent over 2022, and 20.1 percent over the five-year average.

## Total Dispatched Events



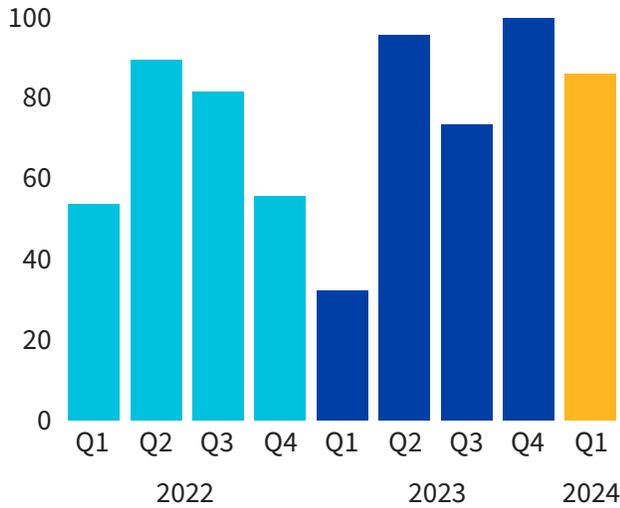
- The number of dispatched events reached a historic high in 2023, increasing by 5.6 percent over 2022 and by 6.2 percent over the five-year average.

## Non-Dispatched Events

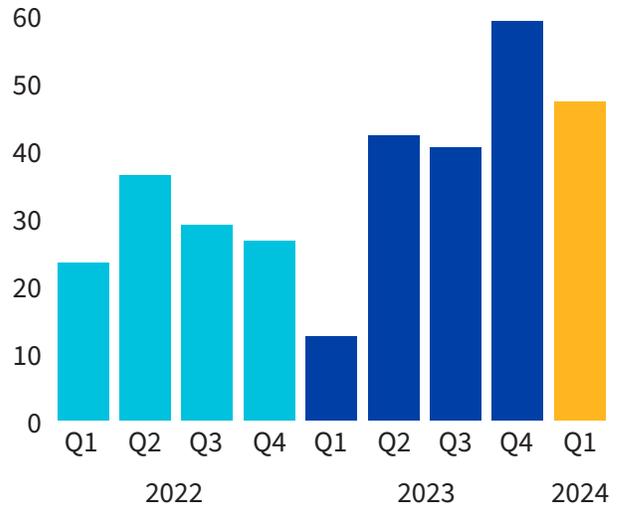


- Non-dispatched events increased for the third year in a row, also reaching a historic high. Non-dispatched events represented 11 percent of total events in 2023.
- Both the severity and volume of violent crime continued to trend upward in 2023, driven primarily by year-over-year increases in robberies (+21.9%) and assaults (+17.3%). These more severe crimes often require a greater response in terms of the number and type of WPS assets dispatched (i.e. a single event may require multiple patrol vehicles and specialized units). This means that it is not only the volume of crimes, but also their severity, that contributes significantly to the challenge of responding to calls for service.
- The WPS received nearly 40,000 online reports in 2023. In addition to online reporting, officers used video technology to take reports rather than dispatching a patrol car to respond in person. The number of Virtual Police Responses (VPR) continued to trend upward in 2023.
- Two out of every five crimes (43 percent) were reported online in 2023, including a majority (61.2 percent) of property crimes.

**Events monitored by the Special Events Unit**



**Special events attended by police resources**



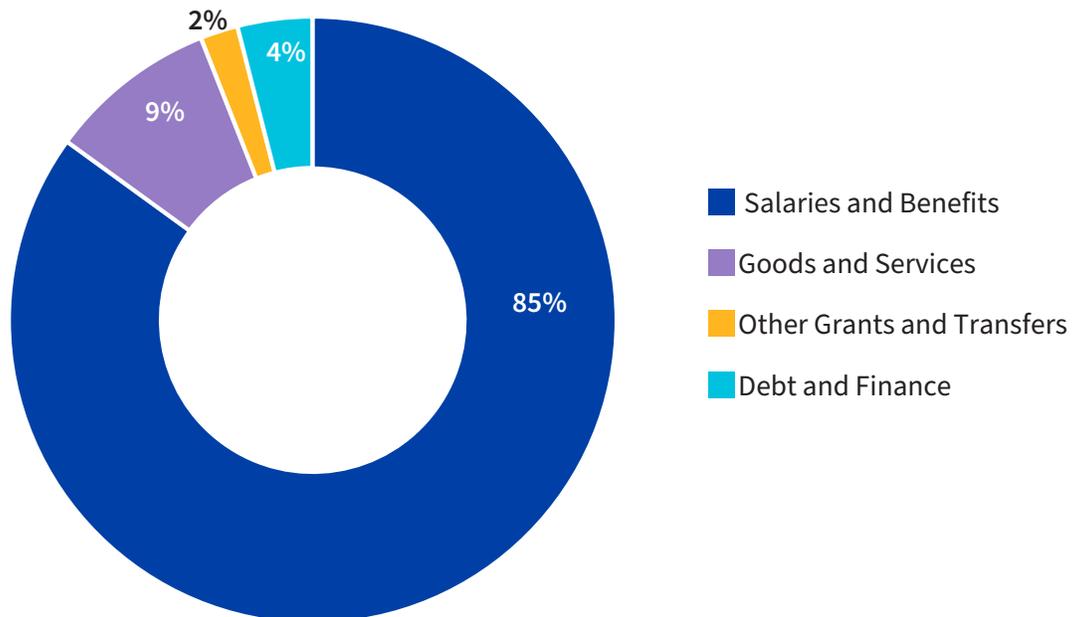
- The growing number of special events, including demonstrations, is putting additional pressure on police resources.

# 2024 Adopted Budget

Operating Budget (in millions of \$)	2022 Actual *	2023 Budget *	2024 Adopted Budget	Expl.	2025 Projection	2026 Projection	2027 Projection
Service revenue	26.340	26.607	23.957	1	24.233	24.318	24.399
Provincial funding (service specific)	22.399	19.064	30.385		30.493	27.290	26.875
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>48.739</b>	<b>45.671</b>	<b>54.342</b>		<b>54.726</b>	<b>51.608</b>	<b>51.274</b>
Salaries and benefits	280.030	286.763	284.220		294.765	304.400	309.812
Services	18.450	19.325	21.496		22.668	23.002	24.328
Materials, parts, and supplies	7.908	6.680	7.377		7.227	7.267	7.415
Assets and purchases	2.422	1.805	2.349		2.349	2.349	2.349
Grants, transfers and other	11.343	2.649	5.645		5.276	5.286	5.301
Recoveries	(0.481)	(0.653)	(0.655)		(0.657)	(0.659)	(0.659)
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>319.672</b>	<b>316.570</b>	<b>320.431</b>		<b>331.628</b>	<b>341.645</b>	<b>348.545</b>
Transfer to Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Debt and finance charges	9.077	10.421	11.894	13.372	14.400	15.081	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>328.748</b>	<b>326.991</b>	<b>332.325</b>	<b>345.000</b>	<b>356.045</b>	<b>363.626</b>	
<b>Mill Rate Support/(Contribution)</b>	<b>280.009</b>	<b>281.320</b>	<b>277.983</b>	<b>290.273</b>	<b>304.436</b>	<b>312.352</b>	
<b>Full-time Equivalent Positions</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>1,962</b>	

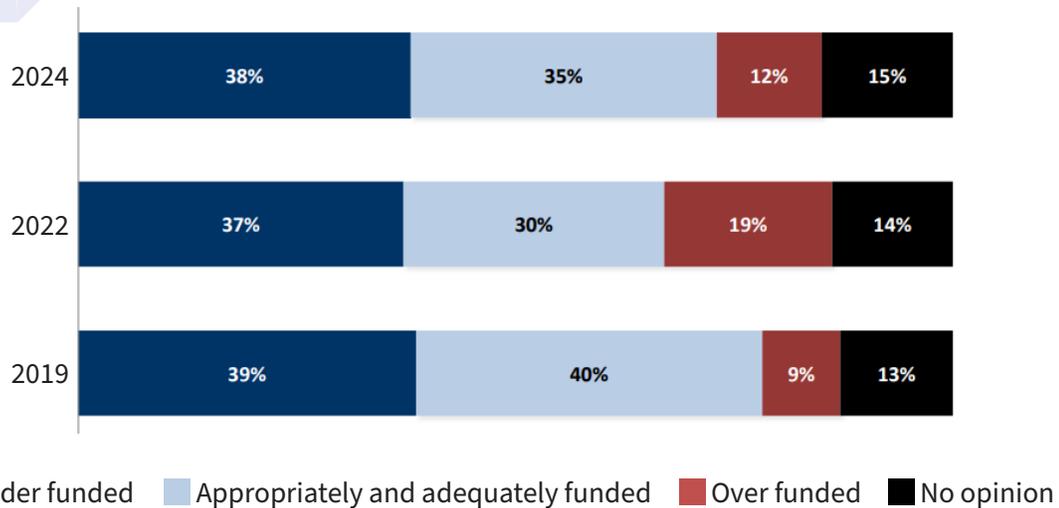
The contributing departments are 99.9% Police Service and 0.1% Winnipeg Police Board, under City Clerks.

## 2024 WPS Budget Overview



## Funding of Winnipeg Police Service

How would you rate the level of funding received by the Winnipeg Police service?



- In 2024, 50 percent of Winnipeggers say there are too few police officers in the City of Winnipeg and 38 percent of Winnipeggers believe the Winnipeg Police Service is underfunded, compared to 12 percent who say it is over funded.

## Collaborative Partnerships

- Along with police, the wellbeing of our city requires government, community-based organizations, business groups, service providers and other entities to work together to improve public safety.
- The Winnipeg Police Service's partnerships in a number of key initiatives are outlined in the Service's [2024 Business Plan](#). Updates are provided to the Winnipeg Police Board in a [publicly-accessible report](#) published each quarter.



# Government Commitments

## Government of Manitoba

The Government of Manitoba's 2024 Budget allocates a total of \$288 million for police service funding, including an increase of \$13.7 million to urban policing grants. \$6.3 million is allocated for the implementation of the public safety strategy with a focus on youth crime prevention.

The Government of Manitoba supports a number of Winnipeg Police Service initiatives, including the Manitoba Integrated Violent Offender Apprehension Unit and Manitoba Integrated Missing Person Coordination Centre

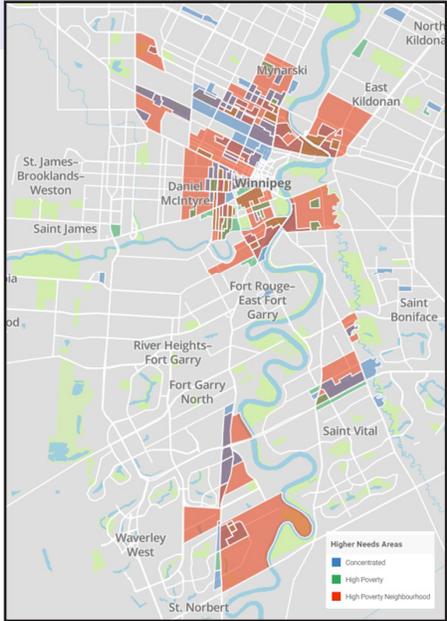
## Government of Canada

**Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence (ITAAGGV)** – In May 2023, the Government of Canada announced a five-year plan to invest \$390 million in programs to help stop gun crime and gang violence before it starts. Manitoba has been allocated \$23.1 million under the ITAAGGV for the 2023-2028 period, an increase of 73 percent from 2018-2023.

**Firearms Buyback Program** – In 2020, the Government of Canada announced a prohibition on assault-style firearms. Since then, an Amnesty Order has been in place to protect lawful owners of these firearms. The amnesty period is currently in effect and will expire on October 30, 2025. As part of the ban on assault-style firearms, the Government of Canada is developing a buyback program to provide fair compensation for eligible businesses and individuals who possess these prohibited firearms. Engagement on this program continues with stakeholders, including police agencies.



# Socio-Cultural and Economic Factors

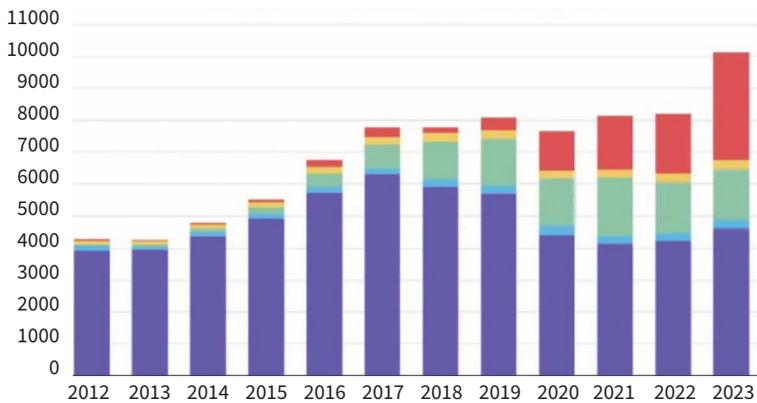


## Poverty

- In 2021, the median household income in the Winnipeg Census Metropolitan Area was \$77,000.
- The Economic Region of Winnipeg (as defined by Statistics Canada) has an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent as of July 2024.
- Poverty is not confined to one area of the city. In November, 2023, Winnipeg City Council approved its Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2027. The implementation plan includes 103 specific actions across City departments.

## Addictions and Mental Health

### Substance-related calls to Winnipeg emergency services



Calls in which the chief complaint reported by a patient is substance-related. Some calls may be substance-related but the patient's chief complaint was a symptom (such as dizziness); those calls are not included in this data, so the overall number of substance-related calls is likely higher than reported in this data.

This data is provided by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

■ Alcohol ■ Cocaine ■ Crystal meth ■ Marijuana ■ Opioids

- The Manitoba government is providing \$727,000 to support the development of an Indigenous-led supervised consumption site in Winnipeg in partnership with the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg (AHWC). The Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre will lead the service design and delivery of the new site, and a new coordinator with Shared Health will ensure service integration with the broader provincial mental health and addiction system.

## Homelessness

- 20 percent of households in Winnipeg spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. The average value of a primary residence is \$348,932, and the average rent cost in the Winnipeg CMA is \$1,354 per month.
- The Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers outlines six goals to help support people experiencing homelessness:
  1. Create Housing
  2. Increase Income Supports
  3. Implement Coordinated Access
  4. Enhance Outreach
  5. Open Additional 24/7 Safe Spaces
  6. Continue the Interim Strategy and Rights-Based Approach Throughout the Implementation Phase of All Other Recommendations

## Technological Factors

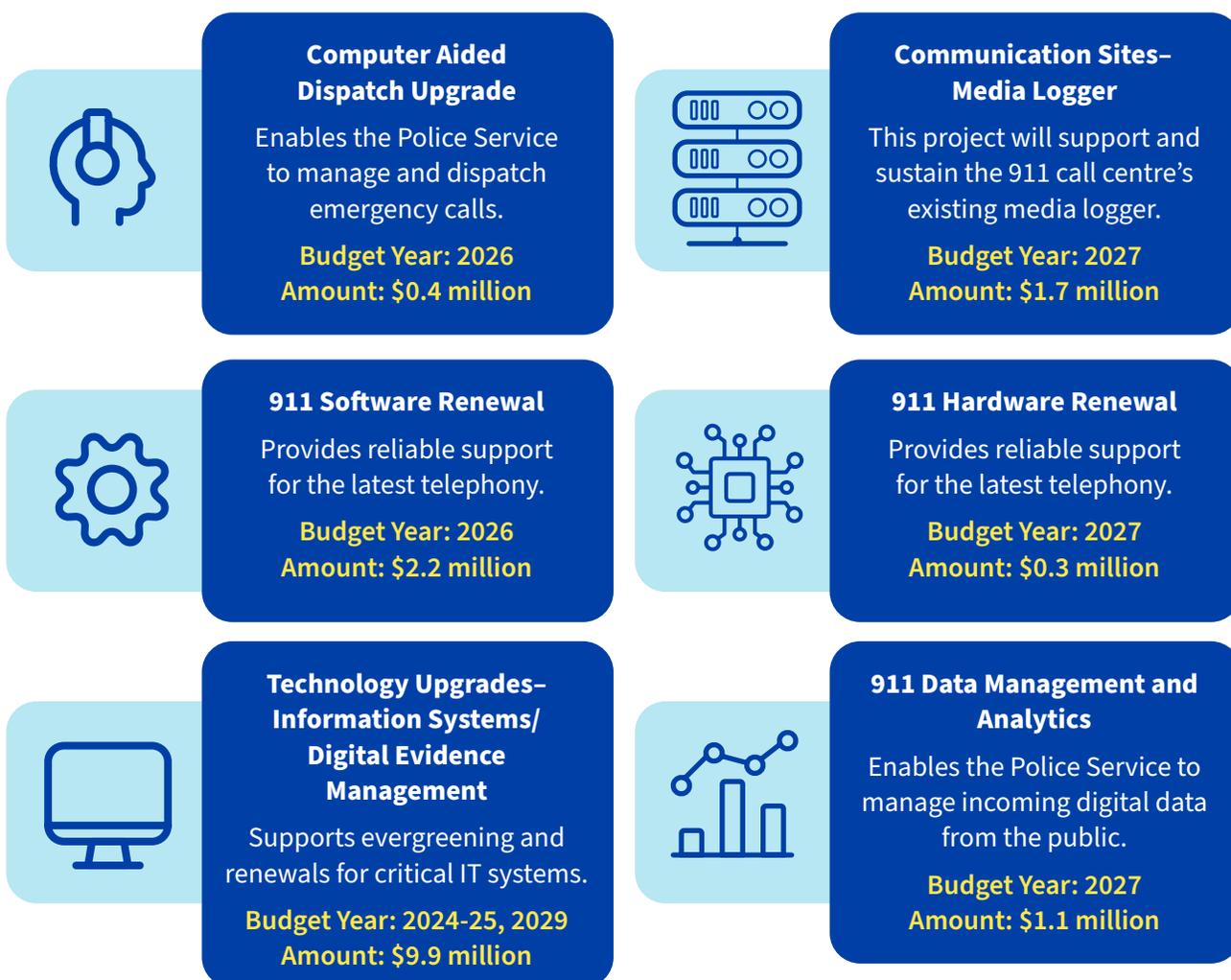
- The increasing complexity and sophistication of online fraud and other types of cybercrime means that investigations are becoming more resource intensive. The WPS needs to keep pace with this evolving area, which has made technology the most significant driver of capital costs for policing.
- According to Statistics Canada's Police Administrative Survey, information technology operations (non-salary operating expenditures) grew by 40 percent from 2019- 2023. The rate of increase surpasses that of salary and benefits, which is the largest expenditure for police agencies.

## Cybercrime

- The Canadian Centre for Cybercrime's National Cyber Threat Assessment concluded that "state-sponsored and financially motivated cyber threat activity is increasingly likely to affect Canadians." Key judgements from their 2023-2024 report include:
  - Ransomware is a persistent threat to Canadian organizations
  - Critical infrastructure is increasingly at risk from cyber threat activity
  - State-sponsored cyber threat activity is impacting Canadians
  - Cyber threat actors are attempting to influence Canadians, degrading trust in online spaces
  - Disruptive technologies bring new opportunities and new threats
- In March, 2024, the University of Winnipeg sustained a major cyberattack that included the theft of personal and financial information. On an individual level, phishing scams and online sexual exploitation continue to present a risk.

## WPS Technological Initiatives

- **WPS Communications Division AI-Powered Customer Service Agent** – The WPS intends to pilot an AI-powered customer service agent capable of triaging police non-emergency calls and providing responses to routine inquiries. The AI-powered customer service agent offers a viable solution to increasing call volumes and will allow communications centre staff to focus their efforts on critical emergency calls and the more complex non-emergency issues.
- **WPS Connected Officer Program** – The Connected Officer Program leverages digital technology to increase efficiency, promote community safety and support victims of crime. Frontline officers who have been equipped with smartphones and mobile access to police databases have gained efficiencies with report processing, evidence gathering and overall police response. Members of the public may see WPS members using smartphones more frequently; it is important to know smartphones have become a tool used by these Connected Officers.
- Other planned key WPS IT projects include:



- Body-worn cameras remain a point for future consideration. The Service continues to support the use of cameras, provided budget increases related to technology and human resources are provided.

# Legal Factors

**Bail Reform- Amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada** – “On December 5, 2023, the Government of Canada’s amendments to the Criminal Code’s bail provisions to promote community safety and reinforce public confidence in the administration of justice received Royal Assent. The reforms come into force on January 4, 2024.

The amendments make targeted changes to the Criminal Code’s bail regime to address serious repeat violent offending with firearms, knives, bear spray and other weapons. The changes made at the bail stage will also address the enhanced risks posed by intimate partner violence (IPV). The changes seek to improve the safety of people and communities across Canada.” (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/pccsbs-cprslscc/index.html>)

**Online Privacy and Police Requests for IP Addresses- SCC Decision in R. v. Bykovets** – “In its recent decision in R. v. Bykovets, 2024 SCC 6, the Supreme Court of Canada held that internet protocol (“IP”) addresses attract a reasonable expectation of privacy under section 8 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (“Charter”). The decision has clear implications for law enforcement authorities conducting criminal investigations, but is also likely to cause ripples in Canadian privacy law and, in particular, for private organizations under the Personal Information and Protection of Electronic Data Act (“PIPEDA”) and similar provincial legislation.” (<https://canliiconnects.org/en/commentaries/93824>)

**Protection of Intimate Images** – Bill 24, *The Intimate Image Protection Amendment Act (Distribution of Fake Intimate Images)*, strengthens and renames the legislation to *The Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Act*. The definition of intimate images is now expanded to include fake intimate images, including images or recordings created or altered by software, artificial intelligence (AI) or other means. Manitobans who have had fake intimate images of themselves shared would now be able to access civil remedies provided for under the act.

**Body Armour and Fortified Vehicles** – Bill 29, *The Body Armour and Fortified Vehicle Control Amendment Act*, prohibits the use of aftermarket hidden compartments in vehicles, which are typically added to vehicles for the purpose of concealing controlled substances, weapons, and cash proceeds of crime during transport.

**Forfeiture of Criminal Property and the Proceeds of Crime** – Bill 30, *The Unexplained Wealth Act (Criminal Property Forfeiture Act and Corporations Act Amended)*, allows law enforcement to better target organized crime groups who profit from crime by requiring corporations to disclose their beneficial owners and strengthening law enforcement’s ability to confiscate the proceeds of crime.

# References

## Demographics and Population Trends

- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220921/dq220921a-eng.htm>
- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/pageng=E&SearchText=winnipeg&GENDERlist=1&STATISTIClist=1&DGUIDlist=2021S0503602&HEADERlist=0>

## 2023 WPS Statistical Report Highlights

- <https://wps-2023-statistical-report-wpsgis.hub.arcgis.com/>
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230727/t004b-eng.htm>
- <https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgPoliceBoard/pdfs/boardpublications/2024/WPS-2024-Client-Survey-Final-Report.pdf>

## Policing Operations and Public Safety Partners

- <https://bearclanpatrol.org/about/>
- <https://www.dfsp.ca/about-us/>
- <http://westendbiz.ca>
- <https://www.winnipeg.ca/media/3737>

## Government Commitments

- [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/budget2024/budget2024.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/budget2024/budget2024.pdf)
- <https://www.winnipeg.ca/media/3716> (WPS Q1 Business Plan Update)
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2023/05/government-announces-390-million-to-help-stop-crime-and-violence.html>

## Socio-Cultural and Economic Factors

- <https://data.winnipeg.ca/Census/Map-of-Higher-Poverty-Areas/hty7-qszy>
- [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/budget2024/budget2024.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/budget2024/budget2024.pdf)
- <https://srv129.services.gc.ca/rbin/eng/winnipeg.aspx?wbdisable=true>
- <https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/cao/pdfs/2023-Economic-Demographic-and-Fiscal-Outlook.pdf>

## Technological Factors

- <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/sites/default/files/ncta-2023-24-web.pdf>
- <https://www.winnipeg.ca/media/3390>

## Legal Factors

- <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/pcscbs-cprslsc/index.html>
- <https://canliiconnects.org/en/commentaries/93824>

