



**2015 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
MEETING RESULTS**

Indigenous Community Meeting
Indian and Metis Friendship Centre
June 22, 2015

A CULTURE OF SAFETY FOR ALL

MEETING ATTENDANCE	
Community Members: 26	
Winnipeg Police Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Norquay • Councillor Scott Gillingham, Chair • Councillor Ross Eadie • Barry Tuckett, Vice Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Jane Loustel • Kenneth Matchett • Leslie Spillett • Mallory Richard • Gwen Kist
Winnipeg Police Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Devon Clunis • Deputy Chief Art Stannard • Deputy Chief Dave Thorne • Superintendent Bill Fogg • Superintendent Bruce Ormiston 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty Inspector Barry Kostchuk • Patrol Sergeant Nicole Sabourin-Friesen • Senior Police Manager Mark Hodgson • Staff Sergeant Andy Golebioski • Patrol Sergeant Adrian May
Facilitators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Kehler • Josh Brandon • Daniel Thau-Eleff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanja Faylene • Erica Young • Lindsay Allen

OPEN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

- What does the strategic plan mean by saying the police will use innovative technologies?
- How many of the calls for service to which the police respond involve youth?
- What does the Board intend to do specifically regarding youth?
- What do the police do when someone reports an assault?
- What is planned for the additional cultural proficiency training that will be provided to police officers?
- Are the police doing anything to focus their attention on johns instead of people engaged in the survival sex trade?

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.

Some tables had a general discussion where citizens had the opportunity to raise their most pressing concerns before responding to any of the prepared questions. Below is a summary of the input offered in those discussions.

- I'm concerned about how the police respond to youth who call 911 and think we need a youth strategy
- Some (not all) police officers seem too aggressive
- Thank you for taking a community approach to policing
- There should be more sensitivity training for officers
- People are killing our women and getting away with it
- I think the Winnipeg Police Service is doing a good job, especially when I look at police in other North American cities
- I've heard stories of young men being picked up by police and then dropped off at the edge of the city to walk home
- It feels like police are over-policing certain parts of the city
- The police should increase the number of direct referrals they make to agencies that provide restorative justice and diversion programming, there should be specific targets for the police to increase the percentage of youth who are apprehended that are being referred to these programs
- There have been explicit, clear and repeated requests that families reporting a missing person at any police station can have ready access to the Toolkit for Families of Missing People, this would be an easy success to build community confidence
- The police should report back to the public on how it ensures professional ethics and what Indigenous cultural awareness training is delivered to staff
- What is the Winnipeg Police Service's definition of social development? Participants offered what it meant to them, including social equity issues, removal of barriers and marginalization, and the need for long-term and creative thinking
- How does the Winnipeg Police Service ensure mental health and wellness for its officers?
- How are police officers educated on the effects of colonization? *Answer: officers attend a number of workshops, such as Treaty relations, transitioning from reserve to urban living, sharing circles, murdered and missing Indigenous women, and more*
- How does the Professional Standards Unit operate?
- Citizen Police Academy is a good idea
- Police officers should speak to civilians with respect, asking people "how are you?" instead of "where are you going?"
- Relationships between police and the community is strained by people witnessing the shootings and racial profiling that takes place in other cities
- Some people feel humiliated, belittled and unheard when they call the Winnipeg Police Service's Communications Centre for help
- There should be increased support for Aboriginal Head-Start programs throughout the city
- We need to address barriers to education
- There should be workshops on how to use political systems (such how to fill out forms for housing, school, voting, etc.)
- We should engage Indigenous leaders in urban/reserve solidarity issues

- There should be more supports for people moving to the city on how to use the bus system, find housing, be proactive about their safety, etc.
- The police should be more accountable and should do more to report back to the public; will these consultations be meaningful? Will people's voices be heard and integrated?

1. During the presentation on the strategic plan, were there any parts where you felt the Board and the Police Service are on the right track?

- The WPS is on the right track to be engaging community in this process
- I like all of it, there's nothing I don't like
- It's a good start
- The Police Board is very new and the strategic plan takes us to 2019
- Establishment of the Indigenous Council on Policing and Crime Prevention to advise the Police Board is a step in the right direction (2)
- It's good to see the police plan to increase their use of restorative justice and diversion programs instead of always laying charges and sending youth to court; this gives youth a chance to avoid getting a criminal record
- I don't think there's always a zero tolerance approach to domestic violence, I know of a case where charges weren't laid against an abuser
- I like that the plan wants to empower communities to play a role in collectively preventing crime through social development
- Happy to see the commitment to protecting vulnerable persons, participant explained how this appealed to her because of her personal experience as a foster parent
- Working in the North End, I always appreciate it when police show up at community events, especially police officers who are deployed to our area, because it allows children and youth to see the police in a different light
- I like the Aboriginal liaison officers who attend National Aboriginal Day events
- Good that we are having this consultation meeting, it builds confidence and trust
- I feel optimistic about the whole plan, everything is a step in the right direction
- I like to plan's commitment to hiring more Indigenous officers

2. Were there any parts where you felt the Board and the Police Service are on the wrong track, or that they are falling short of your expectations?

- No, nothing stands out as being on the wrong track but we need to see this in practice before we can assess
- Is the education on traffic safety for officers or for the public?
- Would like to see more of a focus on the North End specifically
- Will continuity be an issue? Will the next Police Chief continue an approach of crime prevention through social development? *Answer: The Board can use its role setting priorities, objectives and policies for the Winnipeg Police Service to provide some of this continuity*

- The social service agency I work for needs police to attend some events and activities to ensure safety and we have to pay, which cuts into our organization's budget; it would be a good partnership if the Winnipeg Police Service just provided this service as part of its job
- Where's the cohesive strategy for the family and keeping the family strong? The police can play a role in this area through their responses to murdered and missing women, domestic violence, and gangs
- A policing/law and order approach is not the best way to develop community organizations and families
- I like the Block by Block program, but how do we ensure its values are in the strategic plan?
- We need body worn cameras sooner, they help both citizens and officers
- There should be more police officers in the community, walking the beat and getting to know people who live in that area
- In areas that are mostly Aboriginal, at least 50% of the officers should be Aboriginal; it would be powerful to have more Aboriginal officers as role models
- I'm Aboriginal and the police treat me differently than they do my non-Aboriginal husband

3. Do you support the vision of the strategic plan, Creating a culture of safety for all?

- Yes (2)
- This means to me that everyone feels safe, that's a good vision
- I want youth to not be afraid of police

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

- Closing WPS community offices has had a negative impact
- Could we reduce costs by adding more foot and bike patrols? *Answer: Staffing costs are greater than the cost of patrol cars*
- Involving the community in their own safety and justice processes will save money in the long term
- The police should work with community groups to organize safety committees like the St. Matthews Daniel McIntyre Neighbourhood Association
- The police budget should be a smaller share of the City of Winnipeg budget
- We can save money on policing by investing in social and economic development, community organizations and community centres
- Cut costs by eliminating the use of helicopter surveillance
- We need to pay whatever it takes to prevent crime and protect children, elders and people with disabilities
- Public money needs to be spent wisely and the Winnipeg Police Service needs to be accountable but we need to accept the costs associated with policing
- Knowing there are people out there to help me if I'm in trouble is worth the cost
- Police do dangerous work and their pay should reflect that

- We all know the biggest cost is salaries and benefits; I'm not against the idea that officers should be well-paid for the difficult jobs they do, but we live in a have-not province
- I hope the Winnipeg Police Service can rein in the increasing cost of salaries and benefits
- I would like to see the WPS invest in body worn cameras

5. One of the goals of the strategic plan is “engaged communities.” What would that look like to you?

- Cadets and police officers attending community events like the Medicine Walk
- Partnerships with community groups
- The police holding workshops that demystify the Winnipeg Police Service
- Police stopping by community centres to say hello and get to know people
- Police can make subtle changes to improve their relations with citizens, like using less aggressive body language (crossed arms, etc.) when interacting with the public
- More people from my community attending meetings like this
- Police already make presentations in schools, that's a good way to engage with the community
- Prostitutes feeling more comfortable going to the police or talking to police
- More people in the community getting involved with the police, meeting them halfway
- Police presence helps keep crime down
- More people in the community acting as role models and more young people getting involved in their culture
- People would call the police when they see crime without fearing retaliation
- People would grow gardens and share food, like they used to
- People in the community drumming for kids so they don't turn to gangs, suicide or self-harming
- People showing one another that domestic violence won't be tolerated
- More community patrols, like the Bear Clan
- Dialogue between community members and police on a regular basis
- A support group for parents whose children are involved in gangs

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

- Attend community events (such as Meet Me at the Bell Tower)
- Provide education and resources to groups (such as Eagle Urban Transition Center)
- Individual officers should have a community presence, be recognized by and known to people in the area
- Help explain their role to people
- More police officers walking the street
- The strategic plan should be prominently advertised in local print media
- I experience racial profiling; we have the same racial tensions in Winnipeg as in American cities where there have been riots
- Police should visit youth programs and community centres
- A mobile mental health crisis team that pairs police officer(s) with mental health workers
- The cadet program is good

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

- People should take care of each other
- More people should practice and revitalize Indigenous culture
- People should take personal responsibility
- We should restore power to the community
- Recreation programs – people rely on them in the North End, Downtown, West End, Point Douglas and yet the budgets for these programs keep shrinking; it's difficult work and it helps youth at risk of being recruited into gangs and youth dealing with trauma
- Addressing people's housing needs – Mamawi conducted a 5-year homelessness and mental health project and the 300 people who were provided housing without conditions did better than the 300 in a control group; there were millions of dollars of savings in health care and policing costs from providing housing for 300 people
- Provincial law requires group homes to call police if youth are aggressive or violent and some police officers get 20-30 calls per week; why not create a social work unit similar to the cadets?
- Shut down bars on Main Street
- People need to feel safe reporting domestic abuse or gang activity
- Bringing back Block Parents
- North End Ambassadors are visible and get involved
- Secure facilities for the small minority (maybe 250) of children and youth in the care of Child and Family Services who are "Level 5" and encounter police 200 times per year; Alberta has an Aboriginal-based program that does this
- Because people watch out for each other, there isn't as much property crime now; people can leave their toys and BBQs outside without them being stolen
- The Social Enterprise Centre and Build are successful at preventing crime through social development by helping people find jobs

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

- Prescription drug abuse is an issue
- Some people have learned violence, anger, aggression and a sense of worthlessness from their parents; it's hard for them to be good parents to their kids
- People in pain resort to drugs and alcohol to carry that pain over generations
- Gang and drug problems have to do with parents, it all begins in the household
- Crack houses, but it's hard to shut them down because you need a lot of proof
- In Point Douglas, there are hypodermic needles and beer bottles lying around
- When you leave the pharmacy, people approach you to ask for your pills
- Stores that sell weapons aren't good for communities with higher rates of gang activity
- Gangs have expanded
- Drug use, especially crystal meth
- People who don't have access to secure, quality housing are at risk for crime

- Police becoming disillusioned with safety issues, hearing “that’s normal for your neighbourhood” when you report a person carrying a knife to the police
- Sexual exploitation
- The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry needs to be re-opened
- There are areas where gangs, drug dealers and prostitutes congregate and it makes other people too afraid to go outside; it’s getting better as those areas are being blocked off and more lighting is installed, but there are still improvements needed

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

- We want updates on what worked, what hasn't
- We want to hear how the suggestions raised here have been incorporated in the updated strategic plan
- It would be nice to hear good news: there is less crime, less drug trafficking, improvements in the areas we have discussed today
- More communication with the public on measurable ways we are preventing violence against women
- More police officers in civilian clothes at events like Meet Me at the Bell Tower
- We want to hear police are doing more to work with youth