



**Chief of Police  
Update Report to the Winnipeg Police Board**

To: Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Police Board

From: Danny Smyth, Chief of Police

Subject: Update Report

Date: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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Today, as part of my submission to the Board you will find our first quarter updates for our 2024 Finance and Business Plans. A Citizen Survey was also released this past quarter, which was discussed publicly at our last public board meeting. You will also find several mandatory reports including our annual reports on Bias Free Policing, Police Vehicle Operations, and Use of Force Reports for 2023. Once released, our annual reports are posted on [our website](#).

I would like to note that last year members of the Service were dispatched to a total of 247,373 events. Within these events, 863 reported incidents resulted in either the application of force or the presentation of a weapon by police members to gain compliance. Members resolved 99.65% of all dispatched events without having to resort to force.

Of these dispatched events, the Professional Standards Unit received a total of 68 complaints. Thirty of the complaints did not require a formal investigation. The remaining 38 investigations (involving 40 allegations) were performed by the Professional Standards Unit. Four complaints related to improper bias. Two investigations concluded the members acted appropriately, one was unfounded, while the other investigation was closed due to insufficient information as the citizen decided to formally file the complaint with LERA.

The Service is committed to bias-free policing and aligning with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The Service has several directives that address the various standards, laws, code of conducts and regulations relating to bias, ethics, and cultural awareness. Every year, all members, both sworn and civilian, receive organizational communications detailing expectations and responsibilities of the membership.

The Service also demonstrates commitment by providing extensive training to Recruits, Central Processing Officers (CPO) and Cadets. Officers receive over one week of training, while CPOs and Cadets receive less, the time allocated is proportionate to the entire syllabus training program. Core to the training are bias-free approaches and human rights issues, including science-based methods to prevent implicit or unconscious bias. The training is designed to help members understand the legal and ethical implications of bias in policing, to promote an openness and an appreciation for all cultures and communities, and to reinforce

the importance of fair and equitable service delivery. A portion of the training is facilitated by external experts, community members or agencies to ensure the lived experiences and history are shared from their perspective.

Additional training is also made available to all sworn and civilian members through the Training Division Course Calendar and the partnerships with the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, the City of Winnipeg's Corporate Training Division and various community members and external agencies. For example, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression & Cultural Competency, Trends in Diversity, Trauma Informed Leadership, Land-Based Indigenous Cultural Workshop and the Truth and Reconciliation Training Day.

Our detailed Business and Finance updates speak for themselves. However, highlights from the various reports will be presented at the meeting. As with previous quarters, I intend to structure this report around competencies, with some highlights from both our finance and business plans. During the Board meeting I will also have presentations by Superintendent Dave Dalal and Inspector Jennifer McKinnon.

## **A. CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Employee Assistance Program & Mental Health Clinician**

The Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg Police Association (WPA) announced two new initiatives that will support the wellbeing of our members and their families. These initiatives are a direct result of the Workplace Culture and Wellness Survey findings and subsequent Real Change Real Difference Action Plan I have reported on previously. The Winnipeg Police Association and the Service are committed to continued collaboration and partnership that puts member wellness at the forefront of our work.

First, a new and additional Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that came into effect April 1, 2024, that will be provided by Blue Cross. As a result of the recently ratified Collective Agreement with the WPA, this program has been negotiated as a supplemental program to enhance supports already provided by the City of Winnipeg. Some of the highlights of this program include:

- Psychiatric Nurses
- Clinical Psychologists
- Indigenous Elders
- Clinical Social Workers
- Career counsellors
- Registered dieticians
- Financial counsellors
- Psychotherapist

- Legal counsellors
- Counselling clinicians
- Marriage and Family Therapists

Second, the Service has committed to the addition of an in-house Mental Health Clinician to the Behavioural Health Unit in 2024 with a focus on member and family support through counselling and therapy sessions. The Mental Health Clinician will be available to all WPA members and accessible at various WPS facilities as time permits.

The WPA and the WPS are pleased to work collaboratively on these initiatives and are committed to the health and wellbeing of all our members.

## B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 1. Community Outreach

In the last quarter, Winnipeg police members participated in or attended hundreds of meetings, crime prevention and education initiatives, and community-based events.

Number of engagements with community groups, including Indigenous, newcomer, diverse, and racialized communities.	483
Number of collaborative crime prevention and education initiatives.	296
Number of community-based events attended by the WPS members.	140
Number of WPS Victim Services engagements with victims of crime.	1416
Number of public/social media engagements.	626

Some of the community events I participated in are highlighted below:

- March 22 – Supt. Bonnie Emerson and I took part in a conversation with the Urban Indigenous Action Group regarding MMIWG issues.
- April 6 – Along with other members of the Service I participated in the Polar Plunge, a special fundraising event in support of the [Law Enforcement Torch Run](#) and [Special Olympics Manitoba](#).
- May 5 – I was out in support of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual [WPS Half Marathon](#) to support research in Manitoba to help children affected by brain cancer (see more later).
- May 13 – I provided remarks at the 2023-2024 School Safety Patrol Awards, a program the police have supported since 1936. On behalf of the Service and our

community partners at CAA Manitoba, True North Sports & Entertainment and Manitoba Public Insurance, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Winnipeg's school patrols.

- (e) May 28 – Along with members of my Executive Management Team, I hosted the members of the Young Professionals Organization for an afternoon discussing the administration and operations of the Service.

The Community Relations Division as well as the Community Support Units in the various uniform divisions continues to adjust to the ever-increasing number of public assemblies, rallies and protests being held in our city. Our members spend a considerable amount of time during their day working with organizers in an attempt to ensure these events occur in a peaceful, lawful, and safe manner.

## **2. Community Partnerships**

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, the Winnipeg Police Service Division 51 Community Relations team is pleased to highlight significant contributions across various fronts. Comprising Crime Prevention, Diversity, Indigenous Partnership, Cadets, Victim Services, Volunteer Services, School Resource, and School Education teams, our commitment to community engagement has been the driving force behind our success. A few examples over the past quarter include:

- (a) April 6 – Celebrating Vishu at the Manitoba Hindu Malayali Community Festival.
- (b) April 12 – Honouring and commemorating the achievements of Indigenous students and the Manitoba Institute Trade and Technology (MITT) Graduation Pow Wow.
- (c) April 21 – Providing information for families at the Punjabi Community Health Services Fair.
- (d) April 25, May 23/30 – Staffing educational booths to support healthy and active aging at The Pros Know 55+ Expo on all three dates.
- (e) May 4 – Honouring and commemorating the achievements of Indigenous students and the University of Manitoba, 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Graduation Pow Wow.
- (f) May 11 – Participating with our community safety partners in the Annual Old Navy Kids safety event at the Outlet Collection Mall.
- (g) May 12 – Waling in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Memorial Walk in Honor of MMIWG2S+ from the Regis Hotel to Odenna Circle.
- (h) May 15 – Providing Victims & Survivors of Crime Training to volunteers, WPS members and partner organizations at Assiniboine Park.

- (i) May 17-19 – Representing the Service at the Manito Ahbee Festival and Pow Wow at Assiniboia Downs, celebrating Indigenous arts & cultures.
- (j) May 24 – Pride Flag Raising at City Hall. Celebrating the beginning of Pride Month.
- (k) May 25 – Community gathering and Neighbourhood Watch meeting / Block party on Glenlawn Avenue
- (l) May 31 – Providing recruitment information at the Sioux Valley Career Fair in Brandon.

The Winnipeg Police Service Division 51 Community Relations team expresses gratitude to the community, partners, and collaborators for their ongoing support, and look forward to another quarter filled with strengthened bonds, enhanced safety, and continued positive impact.

### **3. Half Marathon**

May 5<sup>th</sup>, was the running of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual WPS Half Marathon. This is a remarkable milestone! The Half Marathon was started in 2005 by Inspector Nick Paulet. He along with a core group of dedicated volunteers, has grown this event into one of the largest community events that the WPS is involved in. The WPS Half Marathon has raised more than \$2.8 million for The Canadian Cancer Society over the past 20 years.

This year every dollar raised was matched with reciprocal grant dollars in support of global clinical trials led by the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The clinical trials are to help with the treatment of children recovering from brain cancer; its treatment and required surgery.

Over 2000 individuals participated in this year's event in the 5 K run, the Half Marathon Relay event, and of course the full Half Marathon. Along with 500 volunteers, it is estimated that there were another 1000 people there to cheer for the participants, making this one busy race site. The weather was near perfect for a run. As Chief of Police, I have had the honour and privilege of being at the start and finish line for many of the races. I have been deeply touched by the stories of the participants I have encountered. Everyone is paying tribute to someone's cancer journey. Some have overcome pain, suffering, and fear to run the race as cancer survivors; others are running to keep the memory of loved ones alive.

These have been very special mornings for me during my time as Chief. I am very proud of all the members and all the community volunteers who make this event possible. Each year you demonstrate another level of community service that is both comforting and inspiring.

### **4. Investigative Partnerships (Project Soft Landing)**

In May 2023, the Winnipeg Police Service's (WPS) Organized Crime Unit began a project called Soft Landing, a large-scale investigation targeting a high-level inter-provincial drug network. It was determined that millions of dollars' worth of illicit drugs and potentially firearms were being trafficked into Winnipeg from the Greater Toronto Area.

This criminal network used couriers, railways and bus lines to traffic drugs and guns into Winnipeg. This investigation was successful due to the assistance of multiple police services and agencies, including:

- Public Prosecution Service of Canada
- Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Canada (FINTRAC)
- Brandon Police Service
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Hamilton Police Service
- Peel Regional Police Service
- Toronto Police Service
- Halton Police Service
- Vancouver Police Service
- Via Rail Canada Police

On March 6, 2024, twenty-two Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) search warrants were executed throughout Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia.

- 12 in Winnipeg, MB
- 4 in Hamilton, ON
- 2 in Burlington, ON
- 2 in Toronto, ON
- 2 in Vancouver, BC

During these search warrants, the following items were seized:

- 1.7 million dollars in Canadian currency
- approximately 30 kilograms of cocaine (estimated street value of \$3 million)
- 4 handguns (including 2 x 3D printed guns)
- 1 sub-machine gun with a suppressor
- loaded magazines and ammunition
- 75 kilograms of cutting agent
- a hydraulic cocaine press/moulds
- 12 vehicles, including (1 Rolls Royce valued at \$450,000, 4 Mercedes, 2 BMWs, 1 Lexus) 3 of these vehicles had custom-made concealment compartments.
- 1 Harley Davidson motorcycle
- approximately \$4 million in proceeds of crime (jewelry, vehicles, merchandise)

As a result of Project Soft Landing, numerous individuals were arrested; while some may face charges at a later date, fourteen individuals were formally charged with offences related to

organized crime, drug trafficking, possession of firearms, proceeds of crimes and laundering proceeds of crime.

The WPS Organized Crime Unit would like to acknowledge the support provided by inter-provincial law enforcement and government agencies during this investigation.

## C. MEDIA MANAGEMENT

### 1. Website Traffic

Last year, a team including members from the Public Information Office and Information Technology Support Team have worked alongside the City of Winnipeg Web team and an external company, UpanUp, to revamp the Service's website. The goal was to provide a user-focused website that would prioritize the needs and expectations of its users. Some considerations when designing the website were to have a user-centered design and an intuitive navigation. As a public service, it was important that when the public comes to our website, they are easily able to locate the item they need.

From February 26, 2024, to May 26, 2024, some of the analytics for our rebranded public facing website are:

- **Online record checks** page was visited **55,558** times.
- **News releases** page was visited **43,203** times.
- **Online crime reporting** page was visited **43,234** times.
- **Crime Stoppers wanted page** visited **36,001** times.
- The **police homepage** was visited **37,014** times.
- The **Emergency Communications Call Taker** page was visited **12,222** times.
- The **reporting emergencies & non-emergencies** page was visited **11,010** times.
- The **ewatch page** was visited **19,000** times.
- Our **photo enforcement** page was visited **7,568** times.
- Our **police constable** page was visited **12,082** times.
- The **crime maps calls for service map** was visited **7,764** times.

I continued to do media interviews and write Tried and True articles for Substack. My most recent article, on March 8, was about [public trust and confidence](#) and the release of our public opinion survey.

### 2. Media Engagement

The WPS has a very small but dedicated Public Information Office. In the past quarter we have issued the following media releases, videos, and social media posts. Analytics for X (formerly

Twitter), which have not been available during past quarters due to changes on that platform, are now available:

Public/Social Media Engagement	Q1
Media releases	142
E-Watch	11
YouTube	4
Facebook	287
Instagram	66
X (formerly Twitter)	262

Our most viewed video this quarter across all our channels was promoting applications for our Emergency Communications Call Taker position:

On Facebook: <https://fb.watch/sksbUXw4E4/>

- The video reached 339,071 people.
- It generated 2,720 Interactions.
- It was interacted with (reactions, likes, comments, shares) 7,726 times.

On Instagram

- The video was played 26,455 times.
- It reached 15,636 people, including more than 2K people who do not follow our account.
- It was interacted with (liked, commented on shared or saved) 1,494 times.

On YouTube:

- The video was played 512 times.
- Impressions were 4.5K

## D. VALUING MEMBERS

### 1. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. This week-long event is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public.

Our Communications Centre staff members are pivotal in the safety of our community and the safety of our police officers. From the 9-1-1 first point of contact, our Call Takers are the lifeline



for citizens requiring any emergency assistance. Call Takers are responsible for triaging emergency calls to police, fire, or paramedics.

For police, call takers are tasked with entering events for calls received on the 911 line as well as calls received on the police non-emergency line. Information is skillfully processed in often difficult conditions to ensure events are summarized, prioritized, and communicated effectively.

The time spent with countless members of the public in their darkest moments is a heavy burden to bear, but it is done time and time again, with kindness, compassion, and strength because it is who our Communications Centre staff are.

When people need help, whether it is the public or our members, they are always there to provide a calm, reassuring, and professional service.

Handling nearly 800,000 emergency and non-emergency calls in 2023, I commend the commitment and efforts of our Communications Centre staff who often work under difficult pressures.

- 911 Calls Received: 424,930
- Total Incoming Calls to 6222: 358,073
- Total Calls Received: 783,003
- The percentage of calls answered in 15 seconds or less was 88%.

Citizens call 9-1-1 when in crisis and in need of emergency help. This is often the worst time in people's lives. We are fortunate to have a team of empathetic professionals who can connect citizens with the emergency services they require.

While a Telecommunicators Week is important to recognize the valuable work of our Communications Centre staff, it also must be said that they should be recognized for the valuable contribution they make every day.

To the members of the Communications Centre, on behalf of the Executive and the entire Winnipeg Police Service, thank you for all you do every day!

## **2. 150/50 Open Houses**

One hundred and fifty years ago this year, the newly incorporated City of Winnipeg appointed its first Chief of Police. This year also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the amalgamation of all the police departments in the greater Winnipeg area. To celebrate this 150/50 Anniversary, several events were held for our members and their families to '*cherish our history and inspire our future*'.

The kick-off event for our members and their families was a 150/50 Family Day Open House on Saturday, April 20 at Headquarters. This Family Day gave us the opportunity to reflect on our past and look ahead to our future and to celebrate the achievements of our members with their families. More than 1100 people attended to see presentations and demonstrations by units from Ident, K9, TST, Academy, Comm Centre, Central Processing Unit, Div. 11/40/43, HOC, Community Relations, Cadets, Services, and the Police Museum.

Another Family Day was hosted on May 26 by the East District Station (which includes the pre-amalgamation areas of St. Vital, St. Boniface, Transcona, East Kildonan, and North Kildonan). Several hundred members and their families attended the open house to see and hear from K9, TST, Drone, Community Relations, Traffic, Cadets, and the Police Museum.

## **E. WELLNESS & PROFESSIONALISM**

### **1. Awards Day**

On May 29 the Service held its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Day at My Church where my Executive Management Team and I had the opportunity to celebrate our members and offer our thanks to the men and women who answer those emergency calls for help or support the front lines in all facets of our operations; the officers who walk into those scenes when most people are headed away; and to the investigators who tackle those significant incidents and concerns with the aim of making our community safer.

I learned a long time ago that the Awards Day celebration is as much about celebrating family and friends as it is about celebrating our members. Their support (and sacrifices) is instrumental because it allows our members to be at their best. In other words, they are the foundation that enables and inspires our members in their pursuit of excellence. To support those members and their families who could not be with us this year, we live streamed the event allowing all members and their families to join us in the celebration.

This was the second year for the Civilian Dedication Award, presented to one of our civilian members who has demonstrated diligence, dedication, initiative, and of course leadership in the advancement of the Winnipeg Police Service. This award was a long time coming. We have so many non-sworn members who contribute so much to our organization—truly unsung heroes. I was very happy to bestow this award again this year.

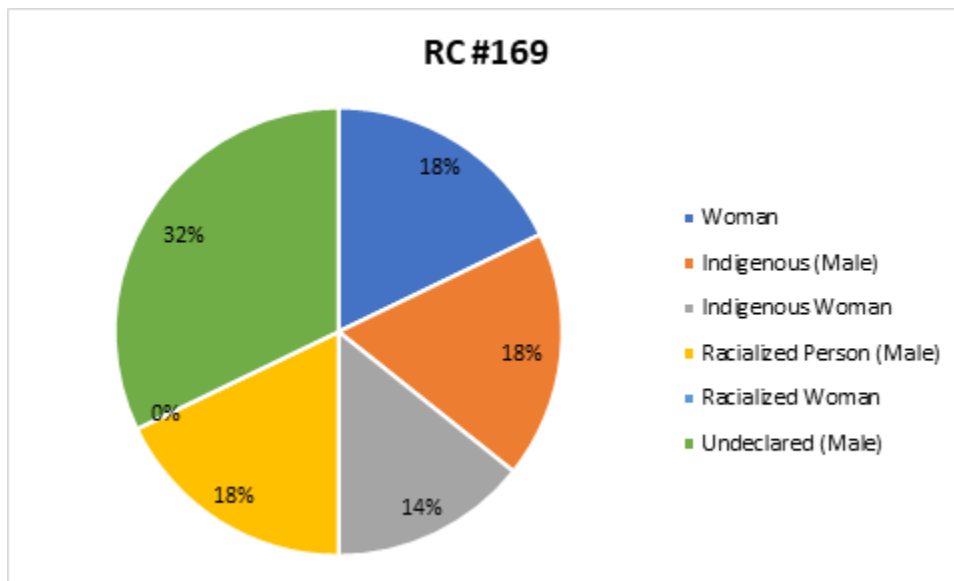
We have come through a difficult few years and it is more important than ever that we take the time to support one another. I, along with my Executive, and Awards Day planners were excited to celebrate the milestone achievements of so many of our members.

Many of the awards presented this year were for long and exemplary service as recognized by the Governor General of Canada (20 and 30 years) and the Staff Exemplary Service Award

marking 20 years of service. In addition to the Civilian Dedication Award, we recognized recipients of the James Toal Award for community commitment and over two dozen Certificates of Commendation were presented – many to members who performed life saving measures.

## 2. Recruit Class #169 graduated

On May 17, 2024, 30 recruits, including two we trained on behalf of the Winkler Police, graduated from the WPS Training Academy to become full police officers. A police service is stronger for encouraging and supporting diversity that reflects the community. With many in recruit class 169 self-identifying as Indigenous or from a racialized community, we have continued to meet the board’s strategic objective from our previous Strategic Plan to be representative of our community.



Please note, some people may declare in more than 1 employment equity category.

## 3. Canadian Association Chiefs of Police (CACP)

As President of the CACP, an Association dedicated to the support and promotion of efficient law enforcement and to the protection and security of the people of Canada, I am keenly aware of the many issues facing policing in our country. The CACP actively liaises with various levels of government and departmental ministries having legislative and executive responsibility for law and policing. Our interests and concerns have relevance to police at all levels including municipal, regional, provincial, and federal.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) conducts public education through a number of public awareness campaigns to encourage and facilitate community-oriented

policing, to positively influence public perception and trust in policing, and to positively influence public behaviour.

Many of the initiatives and the work of the CACP and its committees (which include a few senior Winnipeg Police members), are reported on at the annual conference when recommendations are tendered, and resolutions adopted. In many cases, these form the basis of the Association's ongoing work on behalf of the police and community it serves. Below are some of the meetings I have been involved in during the past quarter:

- a. March 25-28 – I participated in the CACP's Gangs and Organized Crime Conference in Vancouver. The Conference was designed to inform, train, and share information on gangs and organized crime with a diverse range of presentations focusing on the interprovincial, cross-border and international scope of criminal organizations, current trends in gang-related criminal activities, and challenges faced with cross-border and international manhunts. The conference featured investigations from across Canada and international law enforcement partners and focus on best practices, lessons learned, and investigative techniques and strategies.
- b. April 30-May 1 – I participated in the Canadian Institute's Police Tech Conference in Toronto. This was an interactive conference, hearing real-world initiatives and discussions from leading law enforcement experts. Learning how new devices and services are being used by police departments across North America; how technology solutions can provide a return on investment; and finding new ways to improve operational efficiency and increase public safety.
- c. May 22-24 – I participated in the Major City Chief's (MCCA) Leadership Development Conference in Vancouver. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. They provide a unique forum for urban chiefs, sheriffs and other law enforcement executives to share ideas, experiences and strategies.

Besides my CACP meetings, I have met virtually with other major city Chiefs from across Canada to discuss issues of importance.

#### **4. Manitoba Association Chiefs of Police (MACP)**

As Past President of the MACP, I remain involved in its programming. On May 9 the MACP held its annual spring conference in Brandon. We were fortunate to have an afternoon presentation on media and community engagement from Judy Pal, Founder and CEO of 10-8 Communications. Judy is the Former Assistant Commissioner with the NYPD, Director of Operations for FBI-LEEDA, Chief of Staff with Baltimore and Milwaukee Police, member of the command staff of Atlanta, Savannah and Halifax police departments.

## F. UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 3-5 – CACP Symposium on MMIWG2S+
- June 13 – Rossbrook House Community Pow Wow
- June 17-18 – CACP Executive Mentorship Program
- For upcoming community events check our [events calendar](#) regularly.

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Danny Smyth, Chief of Police