



2023-2024

Winter Weather Response

A Homeless-Centred Plan for Keeping Winnipeggers Safe

Developed by the Extreme Weather
Response Committee

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Why a Homeless-Centred Winter Weather Response Plan?

People experiencing homelessness face increased risk of direct health impacts from winter weather hazards because they are likely to spend long periods of time outside, resulting in increased exposure. These risks can increase further due to lack of access to warm shelter, warm clothing, nutritious food, or health care and infection prevention resources, any of which may be commonly faced by individuals experiencing homelessness.

Winnipeg experiences very harsh, cold winters and with weather events changing, risks may be increasing. The goal of the Winter Weather Response Plan is to prevent harmful health impacts of winter weather hazards on people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg.

Homelessness also presents significant risks of illness and infections. If a person experiencing homelessness becomes ill, transience makes sustained contact for medical monitoring difficult. In addition, many people experiencing homelessness have pre-existing health issues that create compromised immunity, and they may not seek or have access to health care.

The Winter Weather Response Plan provides weather preparedness and response information and activities focused on reducing the negative health impacts of winter weather hazards. The main objectives of this plan are to:

- Alert those experiencing homelessness, and those who interact with them, when winter weather hazards are expected or exist
- Trigger response actions by agencies that provide services or alter operations to protect those experiencing homelessness from risks associated with winter weather hazards and COVID-19

The Plan includes a focus on preventing direct impacts of winter weather hazards on people experiencing homelessness.

Plan for 2023 to 2024

For this winter, we identified four key initiatives to keep all Winnipeggers safe.

1. Winter Weather Response Fund

A Funding stream has been created through Reaching Home to provide funding to organizations whose mandate it is to provide outreach and drop in services to people who are houseless during extreme weather events. The financial support is directed to support the expansion in providing additional services as needed to respond to an extreme weather advisory.

Criteria

Applying organizations must:

- Deliver cold weather services
- Provide direct services and resources to people experiencing homelessness during extreme cold weather periods
- Be prepared to collect and report data on participants, services, and results

- Have permission from the landlord/building owner to operate an extreme weather centre on the proposed site; and
- Ensure the space meets necessary bylaws, fire safety requirements, and has insurance coverage.

Applying organizations should:

- Demonstrate collaboration with other homeless serving organizations to deliver appropriate and efficient services and supports that align with the Extreme Cold Weather Response; and
- Have prior experience delivering a cold weather program to people experiencing homelessness.
- Be providing extended drop-in and/or Outreach services/supports to those experiencing homelessness because of the cold weather conditions.

2. Winter Pop-Up Shelter

Last winter we noted during extreme weather events there were not enough places for people to go to be safe from the cold. To ensure we have enough warming/shelter places, especially in the overnight periods, we have created a model to provide additional support to the sector throughout the winter but also to have a specialized team of support workers ready to mobilize pop-up extreme weather shelter. **This information will be announced publicly for the dates and locations.**

Staff will be hired at 4 agencies from November 1st to March 31st and will form the extreme weather pop-up shelter team. Agencies identified for this are Main Street Project, Siloam Mission, 1 Just City and Sunshine House. Each agency will hire 2 staff to be able to mobilize to open the shelter.

Locations: to be determined - public announcements will be made:

- Siloam Mission drop-in- 8:30pm- 7:30 am

Staffing: 8 staff. For the plan to be easily actionable, staff will be hired at 4 community agencies, and trained as one response team that can be initialized and redeployed quickly. Each respective agency will be responsible for the ability to keep these positions staffed as additional supports.

Operations Manual: An operational manual will be created that outlines each agency’s responsibility, as well as how communication, basics needs, and other logistics are covered.

Logistics: Food, water, clothing, sleep or resting furniture and other needs will be provided as a group response plan to ensure the site is welcoming and prepared. **Funding-** Confirmed through City of Winnipeg and Reaching Home

3. Increased Van Outreach

Winter Weather Outreach Van- Main Street Project	City wide	24/7	211	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Weather Transports • Wellness Checks
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We will provide a 24/7 additional van outreach team dedicated to wellness checks, responding to calls of people outside in the cold and providing transportation to shelters and warming locations. This van is in addition to the current outreach provided by the Downtown Community Safety Partnership, Main Street Project, St. Boniface Street Links, and others doing community outreach. The Winter Outreach Van can be contacted by calling 211 who will triage and contact Main Street Project.

All outreach services are connected through the Signal app to ensure response times are coordinated and a van is able to respond quickly to any calls. The Signal app is a messaging app that allows outreach groups to communicate in real-time, support each other and triage response to the community.

Funding- Approved last year through End Homelessness Winnipeg

4. Community Care Camps

Sabe Peacewalkers will lead the Community Care Camps

Facility: Community Care Camps will be set up for the third year in a row and led by Indigenous organizations in extreme weather to provide people access to overnight warmth, needs and traditional teaching and healing ceremony. The tipi's set up for the camps are an alternative to more utilitarian planning and will be located on the Thunderbird House property.

Hours of Operation: These hours will run concurrent with the established facility plan, and/or offset the space hours to ensure people have access. The hours will be determined by the Indigenous-led organization and in consultation with community support partners. The camps will operate for a minimum of 4 days at a time when extreme weather alerts are in effect. The Community Care Camps will run from November 2023 - March 2024.

Staffing: The Coordinator(s) will work with Sabe Peacewalkers and Anishiaitive staff as well as volunteers to put all logistics in place and to make sure cultural safety is built into the pop-up site. They will lead coordination for the Community Care Camps, to be determined by lead group Sabe Peacewalkers and Anshiaitive. While Community Care Camps are set up, they will be staffed 24hrs.

Logistics: Tipi's for shelter, food, water, medicines (sage, sweetgrass, cedar, tobacco), clothing, outdoor furniture and other needs will be provided as a group response plan to ensure the site is welcoming and prepared.

Funding- Approved last year through End Homelessness Winnipeg

Stakeholder Roles

Stakeholders represented on the Committee support the Winter Weather Response in a variety of ways. Some provide direct services to people experiencing homelessness, while others provide specialized expertise on health, safety, weather, or funding resources that can support the delivery of services to help keep people safer in winter weather. All stakeholders are responsible for:

- Recommended to get the [WeatherCAN App](#). Option to also subscribe to receive weather warnings from Environment and Climate Change Canada through [EC Alert Me](#)
- Having their own plans for responding to such warnings
- Participate in Committee meetings, consultations, evaluations and communications. While it is not possible for every stakeholder representative to attend every meeting and open every email, it is important for every stakeholder to have a voice in developing, implementing, and improving plans to protect the health and safety of those without a home during winter weather.

In addition to these shared responsibilities, different stakeholders have specific responsibilities during the different stages of the Winter Weather Response, as outlined on the following chart.

Stakeholder	Planning	Base Response	Active Response	Urgent Response
End Homelessness Winnipeg	<p>Convene monthly meetings</p> <p>Support communication with stakeholders, public</p> <p>Revise Winter Weather Response plan</p> <p>Release updated plan before November 1st.</p>	<p>Email stakeholder reminders by Nov.1 and Apr.30</p> <p>Convene monthly meetings</p> <p>Support communication with stakeholders, public on Winter Weather Response Plan</p>	<p>Consult with or convene Committee to coordinate planned and emergent responses</p> <p>Share prevention and response information via news and social media</p> <p>Sustain regular communication with Committee until conditions stabilize</p>	<p>As needed, convene emergency meeting of Committee to coordinate responses</p> <p>Share response updates via news and social media</p> <p>Sustain daily communication with Committee</p>
City of Winnipeg *The City's lead is the Winnipeg Emergency Management Coordinator (WEMC)	<p>Advise on revisions to plan</p> <p>Advise Winnipeg Emergency Management Coordination Committee on the Winter Weather Response Plan</p> <p>Review City of Winnipeg plans for winter weather hazards</p>	<p>Share cold weather preparedness information via news and social media</p> <p>Make City facilities available to public as warming spaces during business hours as needed; relax loitering rules in facilities/on transit</p> <p>Monitor service delivery</p>	<p>Consult with Committee to identify any need for increased capacity/warming space</p> <p>consult with committee to increase capacity for warming spaces</p> <p>Share weather safety information with residents</p>	<p>If a local state of emergency is declared, make Emergency Preparedness the home page for Winnipeg.ca</p> <p>consult with committee to increase capacity for warming spaces</p> <p>Share weather and safety information with residents</p>
Emergency Shelters	<p>Advise on revisions to plan</p> <p>Review internal plans for winter, including staffing and supplies</p>	<p>Inform clients about risks and prevention of cold illness and COVID-19</p> <p>Inform staff and volunteers about operating plans for winter</p> <p>Share information and monitor capacity to support guests redirected to another shelter</p>	<p>Activate winter weather response plans</p> <p>Collaborate with other shelters and community organizations to redirect guests to any available beds</p> <p>Alert WEMC and other shelters of any capacity issues and collaborate to establish overflow</p>	<p>Collaborate with first responders on any necessary interventions</p> <p>Collaborate with other shelters and community organizations to safely transport clients to the most appropriate available warming space or shelter if needed</p>

<p>Community Organizations</p>	<p>Advise on revisions to plan Review internal plans for winter weather responses</p>	<p>Inform clients about risks and prevention of cold illness and COVID-19 Prepare messages to inform staff and volunteers about winter weather responses Share information and resources to support and monitor clients at high risk of cold illness or COVID-19</p>	<p>Activate winter weather response plans Reach out to clients experiencing or at risk of homelessness to identify and provide any needed health or safety supplies/services Circulate messages to inform staff and volunteers about winter weather responses</p>	<p>Collaborate with emergency shelters and other community organizations to safely transport clients to the most appropriate available warming space or shelter if needed</p>
<p>Health Care Providers</p>	<p>Advise on revisions to plan Advise Committee on health system changes and on health prevention and responses for cold illness and COVID-19</p>	<p>Advise Committee on health system changes affecting or involving individuals experiencing homelessness</p>	<p>Advise Committee of emergent health system pressures or changes</p>	<p>Collaborate with first responders, emergency shelters and community organizations on any necessary interventions and responses</p>
<p>Funders</p>	<p>Inform Committee of funding opportunities and changes Collaborate with other funders on strategy for weather resilience</p>	<p>Gather and share stories of winter weather response and resilience</p>	<p>Consult with Committee to identify emergent resourcing needs</p>	<p>Consult with Committee to identify emergent resourcing needs</p>

Appendix I: Extreme Weather Response Committee Membership

The following stakeholders are represented on the Extreme Weather Response Committee:

- 211 Manitoba
- 1JustCity
- Aboriginal Health and Wellness
- Agape Table
- Bear Clan Patrol
- City of Winnipeg, Community Services Department
- City of Winnipeg, Office of Emergency Management
- Downtown Community Safety Partnership
- End Homelessness Winnipeg
- Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Health Sciences Centre
- Ka Ni Kanichihk
- Lighthouse Mission
- Lived Experience Circle
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
- Mama Bear Clan
- Manitoba Housing
- Mount Carmel Clinic
- Ndinawe
- North End Women's Centre
- North Point Douglas Women's Centre
- Norwest Co-op, Blake Gardens Resource Centre
- Resource Assistance for Youth
- Rossbrook House
- Salvation Army Centre of Hope
- Siloam Mission
- Spence Neighbourhood Association
- St. Boniface Street Links
- Street Connections
- Sunshine House
- The Link: Youth and Family Supports
- Union Gospel Mission
- United Way Winnipeg
- Wahbung Abinoonjiiag
- West Central Women's Resource Centre
- Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Winnipeg Outreach Network
- Winnipeg Police Service
- Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)

Appendix II: Winter Weather Response Resources

Emergency Shelters, Warming Centres and Safe Spaces				
AGENCY	ADDRESS	HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES
N'Dinawemak	190 Disraeli	24/7	204-943-1803 204-560-7913	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age: 18+ Capacity: 200 relatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 150 beds Meals and showers Separate Women's area Low-barrier
Main Street Project	637 Main	24/7	204-982-8245	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age: 18+ Capacity: 120 Meals and showers Low-barrier
Salvation Army: Centre of Hope: Shelter	180 Henry	24/7	204-946-9402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age: 18+ Capacity: 45 Additional spaces for families Therapy-pet friendly
Salvation Army: Centre of Hope: transitional housing	180 Henry	24/7	204-946-9402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age: 18+ Capacity: 180 Additional spaces for families Therapy-pet friendly
Salvation Army: Centre of Hope: Sonrise Village	180 Henry	24/7	204-946-9402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Shelter Capacity: 60
Siloam Mission	300 Princess	8p-7a	204-956-4344 (8a-4:30p) 204-943-1748 (8p-8a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age: 18+ Capacity: 143 Separate Women's Space Damp Meals and showers
1JustCity: Just a Warm Sleep	107 Pulford	Shelter open 7 days a week Shelter opens 8pm Shelter closes 8am Active November 1 - March 31	204-995-2944 Ext: 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age: 18+ Capacity: 30 Pet friendly Low-barrier Meals, Showers & Laundry No storage available for guests

Norwest Co-op: Blake Gardens	312 Blake	Monday: 9-5pm Tues-Thurs: 9-7pm Friday: Noon-5pm Closed Saturday/Sunday	204-940-2695	Offer drop in support, computers, harm, reduction supplies, food resources-including emergency food on a limited basis. Counselors, nurse practitioner available
Spence Neighbourhood Association WE24	430 Langside	11p-7a Monday-Sunday + holidays	204-333-9681	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 13-26 • Capacity: 25 • Meals, winter clothing, harm reduction supplies, hygiene, low barrier
Ndinawe: Tina's Safe Haven	472 Selkirk	24/7* *not currently open Sunday 8a-4p	204-417-7233 204-981-6221	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18-24 • Capacity: 40 • Meals, all genders welcome, youth can self-refer
Ndinawe: Safe House	-----	24/7	204-417-7233 ext 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call before coming • Age: 11-17 • Capacity: 16 • Meals, all genders welcome, can self-refer, accepting calls prior to arriving
The Link: Youth Hub Drop-in	175 Mayfair	8:30am-7pm Monday-Friday 10am-4pm Saturday	204-946-3522	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 12-29 • Programming/activities daily • Three meals a day • System navigation (i.e. housing, community supports) • Harm reduction supplies • Clothing, Laundry & Showers
The Link: Youth Resource Centre (YRC)	159 Mayfair	24/7	204-477-1804	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12-20 • capacity: 10 • Meals, showers, winter clothing, unlocked facility, youth can self-refer • all genders welcome • Safe space day visits/overnight

North Point Douglas Women's Centre	221 Austin St. N	9a-4p M-W, F 1-5p Sa	204-947-0321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional men's hours 9-10a, 3-4p (rest is women only) • Laundry • Computers • Emergency food • Clothing
Rossbrook House	658 Ross	Sat-Sun: Open 24 hours Mon- Friday: 3:30 pm to 12am	204-949-4090	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 6-24 • Capacity: 30 • Drop-In (not a shelter) • 4pm Supper
Ka Ni Kanichihk: Velma's House	154 Sherbrook	Mon-Fri: 24 hours Sat- Sun: 8am- 4pm	204-560-3007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ women and gender diverse folks • Services: Meals, emergency clothing, hygiene, basic needs, cultural supports, shower, laundry, harm reduction, low barrier
One88	188 Princess St	Daytime Drop-in Monday to Thursday 10am-2pm Friday 10am-1pm	204-504-8118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity 30 people • Showers • Laundry • Phone • Wfi

OUTREACH VANS AND WALKING PATROLS

AGENCY	AREAS SERVED	HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES
Winter Weather Outreach Van- Main Street Project	City wide	24/7	204-431-2728	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Weather Transports • Wellness Checks
Main Street Project	City wide	24/7	204-232-5217	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs, hygiene/harm reduction supplies • Safe rides
Street Connections	City wide	6-11:30p M-F 5-11:30p Sa	204-981-0742	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm Reduction/Safer Sex Supplies; Naloxone • Nurse in van M-F, STI Testing and Treatment
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata	City wide	9p-7a Th-Sa	204-330-3300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snacks, hygiene/harm reduction supplies, safe rides
Resource Assistance for Youth: RaY	City wide	Mon-Wed : 1pm-9pm Thurs & Fri 1pm-4:30pm	204-391-2209	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandwiches, water, outdoor/ winter gear,

				harm reduction supplies, first aid supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe rides
WE24	City wide	11pm- 2am	204-333-9681	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe rides
Mount Carmel Clinic: Sage House	City centre	12-7p M-F	204-272-0838	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene/harm reduction supplies, hot meal, coffee/ tea/water, warm winter gear, emergency food
Downtown Community Safety Partnership	Downtown	24/7	204-947-3277	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking patrol/vans • Safe rides
St. Boniface Street Links	All areas east of the Red River	24/7 beginning in November	204-228-2369 204 228-2840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee, bag lunch, basic needs, mental health first aid, shelter assistance, COVID prevention
West Central Women's Resource Centre	West End, Downtown, and a bit east of the river	Mon, Wed 5-9 pm Tue 2-6pm Sat, Sun 11 am -3pm	204-396-4260 (van)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bag meals, harm reduction/ hygiene kits, water/coffee, cold weather gear • Safe rides
Bear Clan Patrol	North/West End, West Broadway, Point Douglas	Varies; details on website	204-914-1708	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking patrol
Mama Bear Clan	North End, Point Douglas	Friday 6pm- 8pm	204-947-0321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking patrol • Food & Winter gear
Salvation Army	Downtown, West End, North End	Everyday 11pm- 4am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Van outreach • Food, clothing

RESOURCE GUIDES

211 Manitoba	http://mb.211.ca/ or dial 211	Database of health, government, and social services available across Manitoba
HelpSeeker	https://helpseeker.org/	Website/app connecting people to nearby resources in real time