



2025-2026

Winter Weather Response

A Person-Centered Plan for Keeping Winnipeggers Safe

Developed by the Extreme Weather
Response Committee.

For more information:

Email: info@EndHomelessnessWinnipeg.ca

Phone: 204-942-8677



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Why a Person-Centred Winter Weather Response Plan?

A Person-Centred response plan is crucial to help those experiencing homelessness to have access to a warm shelter space, warm clothing, nutritious food, health care, and infection prevention resources – things that are normally out of reach for those who are sleeping rough, precariously housed, or facing any other kind of homelessness and hardships worsened by extreme weather. In Winnipeg, where winters are particularly harsh, the risk of health impacts from cold weather is significant, especially for those spending long periods of time outdoors.

Homelessness itself increases vulnerability to illness and infections. Many individuals have pre-existing health conditions that weaken their immune system and, due to their transient nature, may struggle to access medical care or stay in contact for follow-up treatments. 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 2025 to 2026

For this winter, we identified a few key initiatives to keep all people in Winnipeggers safe this winter.

End Homelessness Winnipeg Emergency Response Fund

A Funding stream has been established through Reaching Home, and allocated to EHW, to support organizations in expanding and enhancing their services as needed to respond to extreme weather advisories.

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

Winter Pop-Up (2025/2026)

Winter pop-up will remain open regardless of temperature.

Key Updates for 2025-2026:

- **Operational Dates:** November 8 through March 31, 2026
- **Operator:** Siloam Mission
- **Location:** 300 Princess Street (formerly Siloam Mission's Drop-In site)
- **Capacity:** 116 individuals
- **Hours:** 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. daily

The overnight staff will provide food, water, emergency clothing, harm reduction supplies, and toiletries. They will also be available to respond to emergencies, including drug poisonings, and offer support for housing conversations. Optional sleeping and wake spaces will be available for the community.

Increased Van Outreach

Winter Weather Outreach Van- Main Street Project	City wide	24/7	211	• Winter Weather Transports • Wellness Checks
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Main Street Project will provide a 24/7 additional van outreach 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

All outreach services are connected through the *Signal* app to ensure timely and coordinated response times, and quick outreach van response times. The *Signal* app allows real time communication between outreach groups, allowing them to support each other and quickly triage responses within the community.

Funding- Reaching Home Funding through End Homelessness Winnipeg

Community Care Camps

Community 204 will lead 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 teepee'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 concurrently 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 2025 - March 2026.

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: Teepees 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.

Emergency Encampment/Housing Fund:

Your Way Home Provincial Strategy to end chronic homelessness provides flex funding to organizations to enable quick action, support people staying housed or getting out of encampments quickly. The flex funding is provided to key organizations. Organizations can use flex funding to support with hotel stays, bus tickets, other transportation, emergency needs and other short-term actions with funds available to quickly respond to the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Organizations with Flex Funding:

If you need to access flex funding, please reach out to one of the above organizations.

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
- Participating 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	Convene monthly meetings Support communication with stakeholders, public Revise Winter Weather Response plan Release updated plan before November 1 st .	Email stakeholder reminders by Nov.1 and Apr.30 Convene monthly meetings Support communication with stakeholders, public on Winter Weather Response Plan	Consult with or convene Committee to coordinate planned and emergent responses Share prevention and response information via news and social media Sustain regular communication with Committee until conditions stabilize	As needed, convene emergency meeting of Committee to coordinate responses Share response updates via news and social media Sustain daily communication with Committee

City of Winnipeg Office of Emergency Management	<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</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, Emergency Preparedness will be featured on 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>
Community Organizations	<p>Advise on revisions to plan</p> <p>Review internal plans for winter weather responses</p>	<p>Inform clients about risks and prevention of cold illness and COVID-19</p> <p>Prepare messages to inform staff and volunteers about winter weather responses.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Reach out to clients experiencing or at risk of homelessness to identify and provide any needed health or safety supplies/services</p> <p>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>
Health Care Providers	<p>Advise on revisions to plan</p> <p>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>
Funders	<p>Inform Committee of funding opportunities and changes</p> <p>Collaborate with other funders on strategy for weather resilience</p>	<p>Gather and share fundee 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 Abinoonjiag
- 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ • Capacity: 200 relatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 95 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

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional spaces for families • Therapy-pet friendly • Refugee shelter
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 Shelter	300 Princess	8:00pm – 7:00am	204-956-4344 (8am-4:30pm) 204-943-1748 (8pm-8am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ • Capacity: 143 • Separate Women's Space • Showers • Low barrier
Siloam Mission Drop In	303 Stanley	7:00am – 8:30pm	204-956-4344 ext.2423	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ • Capacity: 300 + • Meals, clothing, showers, programming, laundry • Health Centre • Low barrier
Siloam Mission Winter Overnight Warming Space	300 Princess *Main Floor	8:30pm – 7:00am	204-292-2320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ • Capacity: 116 • Meals, emergency clothing • Low barrier
1JustCity: Just a Warm Sleep	107 Pulford	November 1/25 - March 31/26 Sunday - Saturday 7 days/week including holidays 8:00pm - 8:00am Intake begins 8:00pm - 11:00pm Wake up at 6:45am, exiting site by 7:30am	431-335-6188	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 24+ • Capacity: 30 • Meals, Showers, Programming, and Laundry • Low-Barrier • Pet Friendly (Must have a kennel or carrier or make advance arrangements)
Norwest Co-op: Blake Gardens	312 Blake	Monday: 9am-5pm Tues-Thurs: 9am-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	Monday to Sunday 11pm-7am	204-333-9681	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 13-26 • Capacity: 50 • Meals, winter clothing
Ndinawe: Tina's Safe Haven	472 Selkirk	24/7	204-417-7233 ext 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18-24 • 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	Monday to Friday 830am to 530pm Saturdays 10am -4pm	204-946-3522	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 16-29 • 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	Referral for youth required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12-20 • capacity: 8 beds • Meals, showers, winter clothing, unlocked facility, all genders welcome • Safe space day visits/overnight
North Point Douglas Women's Centre	221 Austin St. N	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 4pm Closed noon-1pm Saturdays 9:30am-3:30pm	204-947-0321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional men's hours M,T,W,Th,F 9-10am & • 3-4pm, Saturday: All day (rest is women only) • Laundry • Computers • Emergency food • Clothing
North End Women's Center	394 Selkirk Ave	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am to 3:30pm Wednesday Noon to 3:30pm	204-589-7347	For Women and Non-Binary folks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warming Space • Snacks and coffee/tea • Support and resources
Rossbrook House	658 Ross	Monday to Friday 3:30pm-12am Sat-Sun 24 Hours *Open 24 hours when school is not in session	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	92 Higgins Avenue	Monday-Friday 24 hours Sat- Sun 8am- 4pm	204-560-7424	<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
Sunshine house	646 Logan	Monday-Thursday 11am-4pm Monday and Wednesday evening 6pm-9pm 2SLGBTQ2IA+ drop-in	204-783-8565	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop-in • Food • Harm reduction • Clothing

West Central Women's Resource Centre	640 Ellice Ave	Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30am-4:00pm Tuesday and Thursday 12:30pm-6:00pm Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm	(204) 774-8975	For women and Gender-diverse folks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meals, showers, laundry, computers, phones,low barrier
Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY)	125 Sherbrook St.	Monday to Friday 1pm-4pm	(204) 783-5617 ext. 820	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ages 0-29Low barrierMealsProgramsShowers and laundry
OUTREACH VANS AND WALKING PATROLS				
AGENCY	AREAS SERVED	HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES
Winter Weather Outreach Van- Main Street Project	City wide	24/7	211	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Winter Weather TransportsWellness Checks
Main Street Project	City wide	24/7	204-232-5217	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Basic needs, hygiene/harm reduction suppliesSafe rides
Street Connections	City wide	Monday to Friday 6pm-11:30pm Saturday 5pm-11:30pm	204-981-0742	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Harm Reduction/Safer Sex Supplies; NaloxoneNurse in van M-F, STI Testing and Treatment
Resource Assistance for Youth: RaY	City wide	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1pm-9pm Wednesday and Friday 1pm-4 :30pm	204-391-2209	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sandwiches, water, outdoor/ winter gear, harm reduction supplies, first aid suppliesSafe rides
WE24	City wide	11pm- 2am	204-333-9681	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safe rides
Mount Carmel Clinic: Sage House	City centre	Monday to Friday Noon-7pm	204-272-0838	Women Identifying persons engaging in survival sex work <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hygiene/harm reduction supplies,hot mealcoffee/ tea/waterwarm winter gearEmergency food
Downtown Community Safety Partnership	Downtown	24/7	204-947-3277	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking patrol/vansSafe 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
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 Sunday 1-3pm	204-947-0321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking patrol • Food & Winter gear
Salvation Army	Downtown, West End, North End	Everyday 11pm- 4am	204-946-9402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on sexual exploitation outreach
Sunshine house	Central, point douglas noth end and west end	Thursday to Saturday 5:30pm to 10 pm Wednesday to Sunday- Noon-430pm parking lot 631 Main st	204-914-8221	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug checking • Supervised consumption-injection, injections • Naloxone
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	