

WINNIPEG WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

2024-2025

Developed by the Extreme Weather Response Committee
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Why a Person-Centred Winter Weather Response Plan?

A person-centered 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.

Response Plan 2024 - 2025

We have identified a few key initiatives to keep all people in Winnipeg safe this winter.

End Homelessness Winnipeg Emergency Response Fund

A funding stream has been created through Reaching Home to provide funding to organizations to expand and provide additional services as needed to respond to an extreme weather advisories.

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
- 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
- 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

Overnight Warming Space

Last year (2023-2024), five organizations—Sunshine House, 1 Just City, Main Street Project, The Salvation Army, and Siloam Mission—collaborated to establish an emergency overnight pop-up space at Siloam Mission’s Drop-In (303 Stanley Street). This space served over 1,000 unique individuals, offering a safe and warm environment for those in need. For logistical reasons, it was determined that one organization would oversee the warming space, an approach endorsed by the partner organizations.

The space has been renamed the *Winter Overnight Warming Space* and will remain open regardless of temperature. 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.

Key dates:

Staff onboarding begins Nov 1
Space operates from Nov 18, 2024 to Mar 28, 2025

Hours:

8:30 PM to 7 AM daily

Location:

300 Princess Street (Old drop-in, Siloam Mission)

Capacity: 116 occupants

**Siloam Mission’s main drop-in at 303 Stanley Street will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.*



Additional Van Outreach



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

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 teepees 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 to the Community Care Camps. The hours will be determined by the Indigenous-led organizations 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 2024 - March 2025.

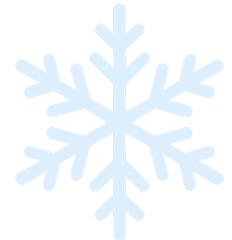
Staffing: The coordinator(s) will work with Sabe Peacewalkers and Anishiaitive staff as well as volunteers to put all logistics in place and to make sure cultural safety is built into the pop-up site. They will lead coordination for the Community Care Camps, to be determined by lead group Sabe Peacewalkers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

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.

Funding - Pending approval



**Sabe Peacewalkers
will lead the
community care
camps.**



Emergency Housing Fund

Given the success of the funding in 2023 - 2024, this winter, an emergency housing fund will be made accessible to outreach and community groups to support rapid temporary housing and transportation solutions for those in encampments, sleeping on the streets or vulnerable to being homeless.

Funds will be utilized in three major categories:

- 1. Funds for temporary housing solutions** including hotel rooms, damage deposit etc. to support rapid rehousing needs or emergency housing for those in need
- 2. Funds for transport and travel supports** including funds to purchase bus ticket, flights or other transportation related expenses to help people return to home communities or to relocate to safe housing options
- 3. Encampment supports** including support providing dignity to those staying in encampments. This includes:
 - Continued support for garbage collection at encampments (See Garbage encampment pilot) including providing weekly garbage collection at selected locations as well as City-wide mindful clean ups and vacant encampment clean ups
 - Providing washrooms, shower and other facilities to provide dignity and uphold human rights

Funding - Pending approval

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convene monthly meetings - Support communication with stakeholders, public - Revise Winter Weather Response Plan - Release updated plan before Nov 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email stakeholder reminders by Nov 1 and Apr 30 - Convene monthly meetings - Support communication with stakeholders, public on Winter Weather Response Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As needed, convene emergency meeting of Committee to coordinate responses - Share response updates via news and social media - Sustain daily communication with Committee
Healthcare Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise on revisions to plan - Advise Committee on health system changes and on health prevention and responses for cold illness and COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise Committee on health system changes affecting or involving individuals experiencing homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise Committee of emergent health system pressures or changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with first responders, emergency shelters and community organizations on any necessary interventions and responses
Funders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform Committee of funding opportunities and changes - Collaborate with other funders on strategy for weather resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather and share fundee stories of winter weather response and resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with Committee to identify emergent resourcing needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with Committee to identify emergent resourcing needs

Stakeholder	Planning	Base Response	Active Response	Urgent Response
City of Winnipeg *The City's lead is the Winnipeg Emergency Management Coordinator (WEMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise on revisions to plan - Advise Winnipeg Emergency Management Coordination Committee on the Winter Weather Response Plan Review City of Winnipeg plans for winter weather hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share cold weather preparedness information via news and social media - Make City facilities available to public as warming spaces during business hours as needed; relax loitering rules in facilities/on transit - Monitor service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with Committee to identify any need for increased capacity/warming space - Consult with committee to increase capacity of warming spaces - Share weather safety information with residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a local state of emergency is declared, make Emergency Preparedness the home page for Winnipeg.ca - Consult with committee to increase capacity of warming spaces - Share weather and safety information with residents
Emergency Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise on revisions to plan - Review internal plans for winter, including staffing and supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform clients about risks and prevention of cold illness and COVID-19 - Inform staff and volunteers about operating plans for winter - Share information and monitor capacity to support guests redirected to another shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activate winter weather response plans - Collaborate with other shelters and community organizations to redirect guests to any available beds - Alert WEMC and other shelters of any capacity issues and collaborate to establish overflow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with first responders on any necessary interventions - Collaborate with other shelters and community organizations to safely transport clients to the most appropriate available warming space or shelter if needed
Community Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise on revisions to plan - Review internal plans for winter weather responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with emergency shelters and other community organizations to safely transport clients to the most appropriate available warming space or shelter if needed

Appendix I: Extreme Weather Response Committee Membership

- 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
- Wabung Abinoonjiiag
- West Central Women's Resource Centre
- Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Winnipeg Outreach Network
- Winnipeg Police Service
- Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)

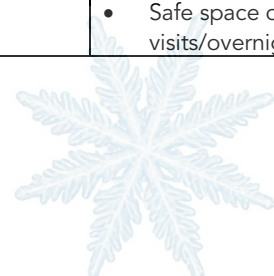
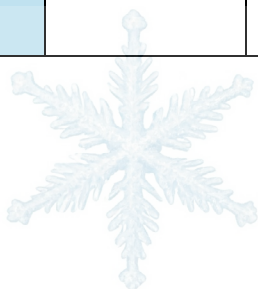
Appendix II: Winter Weather Response Resources

EMERGENCY SHELTERS, WARMING CENTRES AND SAFE SPACES				
AGENCY	ADDRESS	HOURS	CONTACT	NOTES
N'Dinawemak	190 Disraeli	24/7	204-944-0055	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ • Capacity: 145 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 • 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

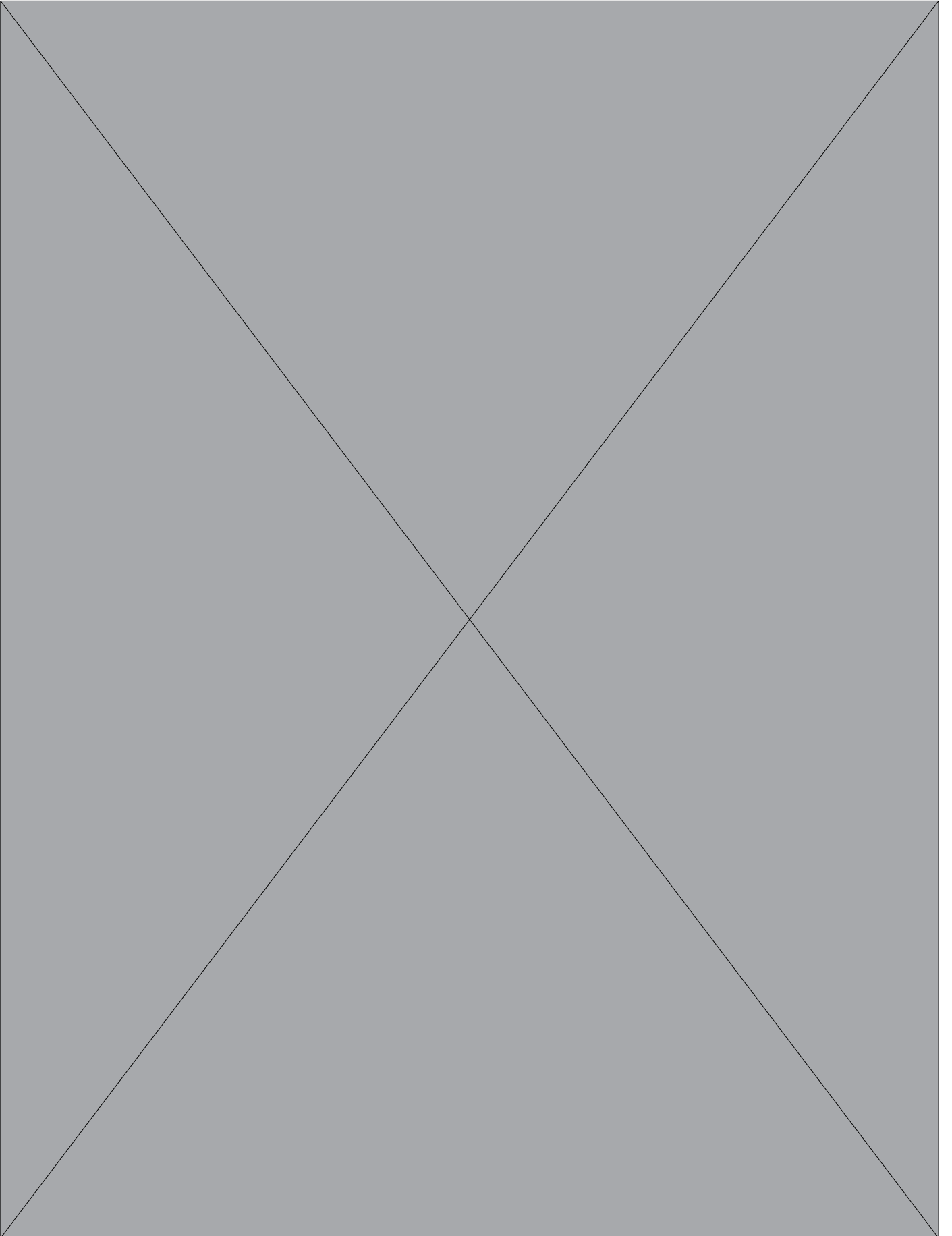


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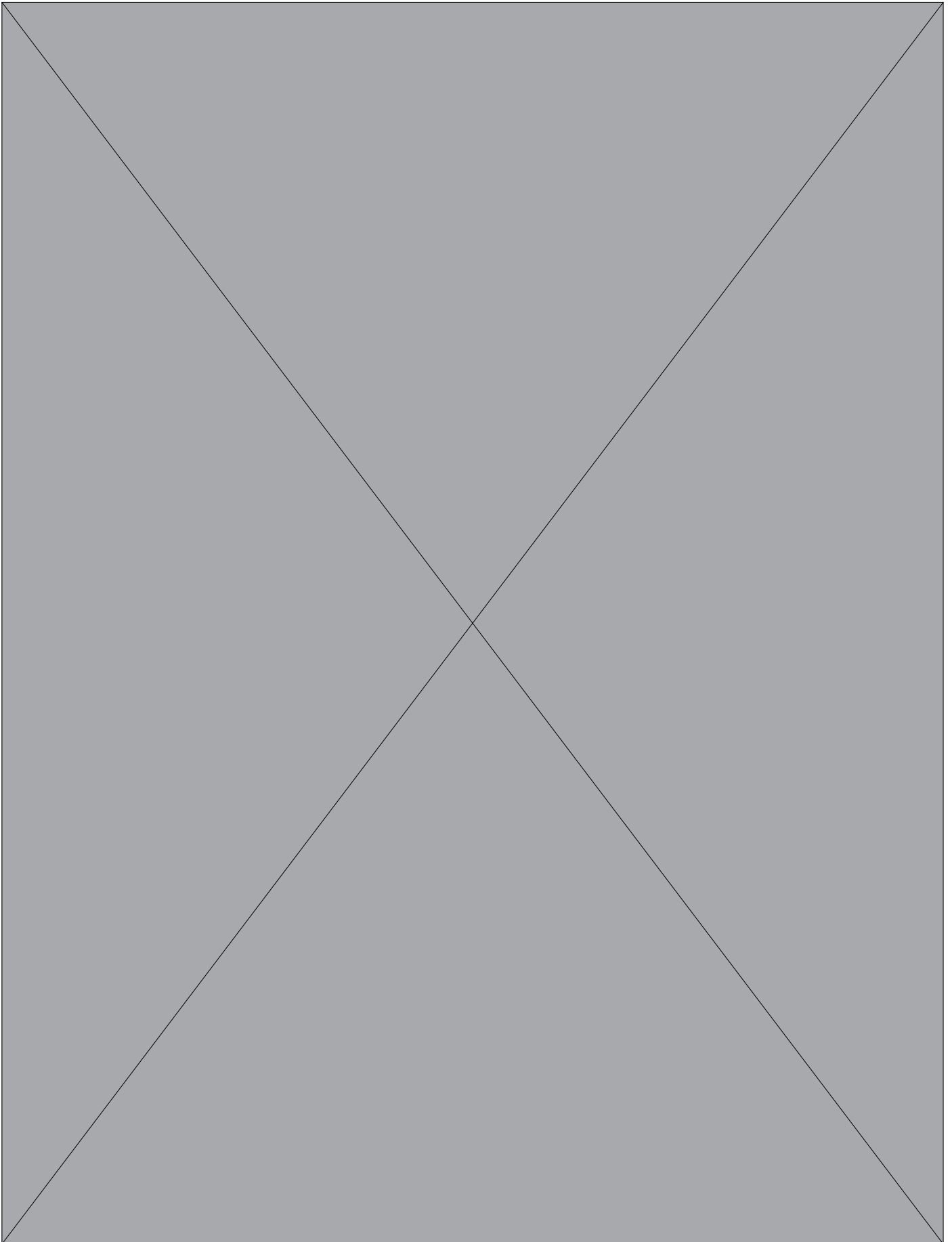
1JustCity: Just a Warm Sleep	107 Pulford	November 1/24 - March 31/25 Sunday - Saturday 7 days/week including holidays 8:00pm - 8:00am Intake begins 8:00pm - 11:00pm Wake up at 6:45am, exiting site at 7:30am	204-560-7408	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 18+ • Capacity: 30 • Meals, showers, programming, 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 Tuesday - Thursday: 9am - 7pm Friday noon - 5pm Closed Saturday/Sunday	204-940-2695	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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* *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	Monday - Friday 830am - 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



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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



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