

Civilian oversight of our police is essential. It acts as a check and balance against the legal powers society has given the police to enforce the law. Effective oversight of the police is the way that the public and police remain partners in the preservation of public safety.

John W. Morden,
*former Associate Chief Justice
of Ontario*

Winnipeg  Police Board

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**PUBLIC
SAFETY**
and
**POLICE
GOVERNANCE**

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*A Culture of Safety
for All*

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 Winnipeg

What is the Winnipeg Police Board?

The purpose of the Winnipeg Police Board is to provide independent civilian governance of the Winnipeg Police Service and the general direction required to ensure its services are adequate and effective. A fundamental goal for the Board in carrying out its work is to maintain public confidence and trust in the Winnipeg Police Service, and the Board promotes transparency and accountability in order to help achieve this goal.

When citizens understand how police operate and how public safety priorities are set, they have greater trust that the police are acting in the community's interest. When police have proper policies and reporting structures to guide them and hold them accountable, police work is done in a manner that is consistent with the community's needs, values and expectations. The Winnipeg Police Board strengthens the partnership between the public and the police.

How does the Winnipeg Police Board work?

The Board receives its authority from The Police Services Act (Manitoba) and the Winnipeg Police Board By-law (City of Winnipeg By-law 148/2012).

The Board is made up of seven civilian members (meaning none are police officers). Five members are appointed by Winnipeg City Council and two are appointed by the Province of Manitoba. Together, they establish priorities, objectives, and policies for the Winnipeg Police Service that reflect citizens' needs and values.

The Board meets in public and holds at least nine meetings a year. Meetings are broadcast live online. The Board encourages citizens to attend its meetings and allows delegations to make presentations on topics within the Board's mandate.

What does the Winnipeg Police Board do?

- Seeks community input on policing priorities and public safety issues
- Uses community input to develop strategic plans and objectives for the Winnipeg Police Service
- Ensures money in the police budget is spent according to public priorities
- Improves connections between the community and the Winnipeg Police Service
- Appoints the Chief of Police and evaluates his or her performance
- Receives reports from the Winnipeg Police Service and makes them public
- Meets in public to be open and accountable

Working Together

In order to do its job, the Board works closely with the Winnipeg Police Service and the City of Winnipeg. Manitoba's Police Services Act gives each organization different powers and responsibilities, but they share a vision of creating a culture of safety for all of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Police Board

- Consults the community to determine policing priorities and values
- Appoints and evaluates the Chief of Police
- Establishes policies for the Winnipeg Police Service
- Recommends and allocates the Police budget
- Reviews Police quarterly financial reports
- Develops the strategic plan, priorities and objectives for the Winnipeg Police Service

Chief of Police

- Responsible for the enforcement of law, prevention of crime and preservation of public peace
- Oversees management, administration and operation of the Police Service
- Maintains discipline in the Police Service

City Council

- Establishes by-laws
- Appoints members to the Police Board
- Sets the total amount of the Winnipeg Police Service's annual budget
- Provides reasonable remuneration to Police Board members (City Councillors do not receive remuneration for serving on the Board)
- Receives Police quarterly financial reports as information

City of Winnipeg

- Sets the pay and benefits for all members of the Police Service
- Responsible for all legal contracts, including collective agreements
- Responsible for capital assets
- Establishes protocols for all City departments (respectful workplace, health and safety)