

Q1 Do you have feedback for consideration when developing the Winnipeg Police Board budget? Submit your feedback below. All feedback will be provided to elected officials on the Winnipeg Police Board during their budget discussions. Submit your feedback by Monday, November 25.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Like all other depts in Wpg, please keep the expenses of the Police dept on a budget that does not increase the already staggering tax load on citizens.	11/25/2019 7:19 PM
2	I do not support any increase to the Winnipeg Police Board budget for the foreseeable future. The current funding levels are excessive and need to be scaled back. Funds need to be redirected to community supports.	11/25/2019 3:00 AM
3	I don't understand how the city of Winnipeg can try to cut programs from the leisure guide, the city should be welcoming people to get fit and not cut classes. I bought a year membership and hopefully that does not mean that I have no classes to go to. I would welcome Mayor Bowman to come to a class and see how many people enjoy the classes at Peguis Trail Health & Fitness	11/23/2019 10:22 PM
4	IN MY VIEW, WE NEED MORE SUPPORT FOR HIRING OFFICERS AND THE CONSTABLES. THERE ALSO NEEDS TO BE A HEALTH COMPONENT ADDED, IE SOCIAL WORKERS, MENTAL HEALTH STAFF AVAILABLE IN A MOMENTS NOTICE TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT. ALSO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE OFFICERS AND FAMILIES. WE NEED TO PRIORITIZE SAFETY, SECURITY AND FIGHTING OFF THE DRUG OVERDOSES, GUNS AND THOSE DEALING OUT THESE ITEMS.	11/23/2019 8:45 PM
5	-increase charges to Jets/Bombers for playoff-related celebrations -reduce use of the helicopter	11/22/2019 1:24 AM
6	remuneration far too generous	11/21/2019 10:30 PM
7	As a taxpayer I agree with policies of fiscal restraint and responsibility. But, I believe that even during these difficult budgeting times, the police service requires more than the proposed 2% increase which barely accounts for inflation. I want quick response times, and high levels of proactive police work as we all know this is more effective. Clearly the police service right now is out of options and can barely maintain control of the incidents that are occurring. Although crime stems from social issues and requires social support, we still need to boost the number of officers to be able to effectively react to the crisis we are facing, while we wait for the more slow acting and long term fixes to take place. I want more police per citizens, not less like the trend is showing. It's time to make the difficult decision and increase the budget in difficult times to give the public the service they expect from a police service, and that is delivered by police services across other cities in Canada. Other police services are not restructuring their organization to try and stretch out the number of officers they have, they are working proactively. Edmonton and Calgary are growing cities and they are increasing their police force size, working proactively in the community with specialty programs and units, and they are not facing the same issues. I'm tired of waiting for days to get police response. I'm tired of being known as a dangerous city where the police can't keep a handle on crime. Look at the statistical report of officers per 100 000 people. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand that we are moving in a direction where eventually we will reach a breaking point. Something has got to give. We need some more resources and with that comes a hit of increasing the budget, something I believe many citizens who are feeling unsafe in our city will agree with.	11/21/2019 9:37 PM
8	I expect, living in a growing city reaching nearly one million people, to be able to walk into a neighbourhood police station and not have it closed, locked and vacant. I expect to have fully manned check stop programs, to have police visible and doing proactive work in the community, not just reactive catch up all the time. The number of police officers has decreased over the years while our population has grown. Citizens deserve a police force that is fully funded, not one that has to shut down normal aspects of its operation, just to maintain an ability to be able to respond to urgent calls. These changes have been made already, before the proposed cuts that will come with a budget increase held at 2%. I hope the police board will right the course and find funding to allow our police force to operate without a constant strain. I have spoken on the line with 911 operators who are overly apologetic and very sympathetic, when, as I report a crime in progress, they state that they don't have any available units to respond at the moment. I was shocked. This should never happen. They acknowledged that this was an extremely high priority call that would usually result in a lights and sirens response. As citizens of Winnipeg, the police service needs more funding to meet these basic standards of service that we are barely able to uphold at this point in time. Please recommend to increase the police budget for the safety of all citizens. I feel it is only a matter of time before someone calls for a crime in progress, and a tragic outcome results because no units are available to respond quickly. Behind these backed up police queues are real people experiencing real crises. Please do your job as the police board and represent what the public wants in their police service. More, not less during these troubling times.	11/21/2019 9:09 PM

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9	Don't increase the police budget. Take that money and spend it on social services that will address the root causes of crime.	11/21/2019 6:10 PM
10	The crime rate and murder rate continue to rise...how can you possibly consider cutting the number of constables and cadets! they put their life on the line every shift, and deserve everything they are paid!	11/21/2019 6:05 PM
11	*No comment*	11/21/2019 5:40 PM
12	Based on the cost of deputies being 2.8x cost of cadets. There should be a greater push to increase the number of cadets to the police force and reduce number of deputies. The current cost of policing is unsustainable and I do not feel that there is sufficient on the street work being completed. Property Crimes, Traffic Offences/Management and non-violent crimes should all be handled by Cadets.	11/21/2019 5:13 PM
13	Providing any sort of additional funding to the WPS when their budget already takes up over a quarter of the city's operating budget is borderline criminal. The WPS's budget needs to be cut severely, with the funds being redirected towards community services, transit and capital projects. The police have totally failed to prevent the increase in crime in Winnipeg despite having more of a share of city resources than ever before. Their budget needs to be slashed and they need to be held accountable for their absolute waste of resources.	11/21/2019 3:02 PM
14	The larger the share of the budget allocated to the Winnipeg Police, the less money goes to fund actual services that benefit citizens of Winnipeg. The police force needs to make drastic cuts, including losing the helicopter and the armoured car. Instead the city should invest in social services, harm reduction, recreational activities, and initiatives to alleviate homelessness. These are the things that make our city safer, not more police.	11/21/2019 4:46 AM
15	Today, more than ever, we need more police representation on the ground, not less. With the increase in violent and non violent crimes, with increased drug and alcohol abuse, having less officers out and about, we might as well close all police departments. You are going to run the ones you keep into the ground, increase domestic violence and the suicide rate. It's a well known fact that domestic violence and suicide numbers are treated in the police forces. You are only going to exacerbate all the issues we are facing now.	11/21/2019 3:39 AM
16	Please do not reduce the budget for the police. They are desperately needed to help with the current meth crisis.	11/20/2019 8:04 PM
17	Winnipeg has a huge problem with poverty and inequality. Our main response to this issue is to have police respond to the effects - theft, violence, etc. Why doesn't the city take action towards properly addressing these root causes? Funding increases for police and funding decreases for all other services will never solve this problem.	11/20/2019 3:55 PM
18	The police budget is too high and continuing to increase funding for the status quo, while it proves an ineffective means of reducing crime is irrational and irresponsible. Police officers are too highly paid and too poorly trained for much of the work they do. Sure, investigations into serious/violent crimes is important. But responding to calls about intoxicated people should be done by trained mental health workers, not police. I don't want to see police acting as security guards on buses or in liquor stores, or creating an environment of militarization in public places. It doesn't make sense to ask about public perception on crime as a justification for increasing the police budget because public perception is informed by the media, and the police union engages in scare tactics to make people feel unsafe in the city. Crime reduction measures should be based on evidence, not public opinion. No more increases to the police budget at the expense of things that would actually prevent crime like community centres, affordable public transit, social housing, etc. For the most part, people steal because they are poor. They are violent because they have experienced trauma. They commit minor "nuisance" crimes because they are poor and have no positive/productive outlet for their needs. Crime reduction must be crime prevention. We can't police our way out of the social issues we are facing.	11/20/2019 1:37 AM
19	I live in a heavily-policed part of Winnipeg (the West End). I work in the legal profession and have a background in criminology. The amount of money this city spends on policing is out of control. More money on cops is NOT THE ANSWER especially if it's in order to cut services that support the people in this city trying to both survive and thrive. You seriously have to spend less on cops, and those *comment removed* cadets. It doesn't make anyone feel better, and it's a waste of money.	11/20/2019 12:59 AM
20	The WPS's budget has been increasing at an unsustainable for many years. We now have one of the most expensive police departments in the country. Meanwhile, violent crime and addiction has increased. It would be delusional, even idiotic, to allow this to continue. The police have proven themselves ineffective. We need to massively defund the WPS, and invest in prophalactic measures, like housing, emergency mental health services, community outreach and transit.	11/19/2019 3:54 AM
21	Drug arrests are down but yet all other crimes are up. What does that tell you? It tells you that there is a serious drug problem. One that the police don't have the resources to deal with - therefore there are a decrease in arrests. Criminals have increased in sophistication and police lack the time and technology to identify patterns and spend time targeting traffickers	11/19/2019 3:46 AM

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22	Public safety is an area that city counsel should not be trying to save money. It costs money to keep people safe. You can't put a price on safety, and you should prioritize that as number one. The city should be run like my household. I take steps to keep my family safe. I buy a door lock to attempt to keep the criminal element out. I buy a surveillance camera to preserve any evidence (for when my property eventually gets broken into or damaged - because sadly that's the city we live in now). I buy fire alarms to notify me of a fire. I make sure this is in good order, before I buy wifi and cable and the extras. That comes after my family is taken care of. And I don't put a price on it, because it's about our safety, I make damn sure it gets paid for. This city is declining at a rapid pace. You can see it. It's very clear. If it keeps up, I will move my family out of the city. You have an obligation to do better. Do your part. Find savings in other areas. New York City made their city a safer place. And I'm sure they didn't cut the police budget to do it.	11/19/2019 3:33 AM
23	Why is there no reduction in non front line officer staff? What is the complement required to police the city for police only duties? Why is there no mention of eliminating the helicopter and or armoured vehicle? Why is there no mention of staff pay reductions? Reduce the number of police officers attending a single crime.	11/16/2019 5:04 AM
24	Please find ways to reduce spending on the police force and please stop militarizing them further.	11/15/2019 11:27 PM
25	Brutual. More cops not less	11/15/2019 6:52 PM
26	The Winnipeg Police Department needs more officers working in communities!	11/15/2019 6:47 PM
27	The Winnipeg police budget is out of control. The average cost per officer has increased by almost 300% in 7 years. Officers salaries have far outpaced inflation for decades. The spending on salaries has to come down. I am 100% on board with the city of Winnipeg cutting pensionable OT. Enough with giving in to the fear mongering by the police union. Money would be better spent on community programs to reduce crime than more over paid officers.	11/15/2019 5:02 PM
28	WPS is in need of an increased policing budget dedicated to more frontline officers responding to calls for service (in a timely manner) and to ensure policing basics (such as community engagement, neighborhood foot patrols) do not get left aside. As it stands, officers are overworked and burnt out with the increase in violent crimes and property crimes in the city, forcing long overtime hours for officers of specialized units which in turn, causes stress/strain to trickle-down onto all members of the service.	11/14/2019 8:54 PM
29	Please avoid cutting officers and cadets, this city is already falling apart. The police can barely handle things as it is. Cutting cadets will also have huge implications on the Fire Paramedic Service as they will have to have crews wait for police to become available to have intoxicated people transported properly. Now we have Fire Paramedic Service tied up waiting for police units (police units that are barely able to respond to the massive amount of calls they are receiving as it is). The number of officers in the city has gone down while the population has gone up. I don't feel safe in my own home knowing that the police may not have the resources needed to respond to my emergencies, or if they do have the frontline resources, they may not even be able to investigate them in a timely manner. Police don't have an emergency restructuring of their service for fun, clearly things have reached a chaotic level inside of the organization!! Please help our city out, find some extra money somewhere else in the budget, before we start having tragedies due to the lack of resources, slow response times, or the lack of timely investigations. It's bound to happen at some point.	11/14/2019 3:18 PM
30	Winnipeg Police are already strained beyond belief. Although policing alone cannot fix the crisis of violent crime plaguing our city, the police still need the resources to be able to effectively respond to and investigate the crimes that do occur. Stations are closing, community engagement is decreasing, and response times, from a community perspective and from my own perspective are through the roof. On two occasions I've had the police call operator apologize to me repeatedly while telling me the police probably won't be there for hours because all the units are tied up. We cannot be considering making cuts to policing when the police we have can barely keep up with crime in the community. Please, for the well-being of the community, do not cut these resources.	11/14/2019 3:03 PM
31	Pensionable OT must be stopped. Maybe grandfather existing staff, but new hires should not get this perk. Pensionable OT persists an image of abuse of power. There is a view in the public that officers work together to enable senior offices (close to retirement) to rack up (unnecessary) OT explicitly to pad their pensions. Pensionable OT is expensive. If it must continue, then officers must pay for it themselves from payroll deductions. Pensionable OT creates division among public servants. This perk has run it's course and is now doing more harm to all then ever before. Police are there to serve and protect not rape and pillage.	11/14/2019 2:35 PM
32	Cutting services in a time like this is stupid. There's a meth epidemic and you want to cut police spending?	11/14/2019 1:00 AM
33	The funding allocated to police as a percentage of the budget should be brought in line with other major Canadian cities, with eventual plans for it to be halved with the savings allocated to public health and wellness, poverty alleviation, and increased social security. The suggestion for it to be halved is based on the actual reductions in crime that have been made (minimal) while seeing massive increases in spending. It is obvious, due to experience and research, that public funds are much better spent on the items I listed above (poverty, social security, health and wellness).	11/13/2019 10:01 PM

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34	<p>The Winnipeg Police have abandoned any attempt at performing their duties in an effort to force the city to increase their budget. The police have a responsibility to provide safety to the ENTIRE city, not to prioritize downtown. The city should be fixing their awful garbage infrastructure for traffic signals that require police intervention every time it rains, this would provide a significant reduction in police distraction. In addition, the city, province, and federal government need to deal with the drug crisis immediately. When people are taking drugs daily in the bathrooms at the Tim Hortons at Portage and Donald, something needs to be done to maintain public safety. Giving the police more money might be the answer, but the police also need to use that money efficiently, rather than insisting on ridiculous pensions. Get with the times like everyone else has.</p>	11/13/2019 12:09 AM
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Feedback submitted in another feedback form:

The police are already cannibalizing public services due to the massive increases this administration and those past have given them and have totally failed in providing any sort of public safety. They don't deserve an increase, and in fact their budget should be cut massively.