



Community Safety Mobilization:

Town Hall on Meth and Violence in Spence

Meeting Notes

December 6, 2018 - Community Members

December 19, 2018 - Community Organizations

This document has been prepared by:
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BACKGROUND INFO:

Spence Neighbourhood Association staff and board of directors acknowledge that violence has increased in our neighbourhood, many of our community members are experiencing the intricate and compound effects of Winnipeg's meth crisis, and our community members are feeling unsafe.

Through first-hand experiences, (informal) conversations with our community members, community walkabouts, and meetings, we know that: colonization, trauma, and poverty are the root causes of these issues and meth use and violence are the symptoms; meth use and the rise of random violent actions are at crisis levels in Spence; meth is accessible and affordable; STBBIs (such as syphilis) are on the rise due to meth use; drug use and violent acts and behaviours are occurring during the day, night, and taking place in various (public and private) spaces.

We also know that people are isolating themselves because they're afraid to go out and engage with community (and therefore fewer people are out and about in the community); people who are experiencing homelessness are using meth to stay awake, safe, and warm (not freezing); some violent incidents are related to not sleeping and psychosis; housing providers often don't accept people who use meth; people are accessing building stairwells to stay safe, warm, and use; de-escalation training doesn't help when there's no escalation; generally people are feeling afraid, scared, angry, and feeling unsafe; some folks are complicit, while others want change, and many are not sure what to do or how to support folks.

Spence neighbourhood community members: What priorities, actions, and/or solutions do you think would help reduce, eliminate, and/or address the increase of violence and feeling unsafe in Spence as well as the meth crisis? Bring your ideas to our Community Safety Mobilization Town Hall on Meth and Violence in Spence on Thursday December 6, 2018 from 6:30-8PM (doors open 6:15 PM) at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC) - MPR (2nd Floor), 430 Langside Ave.

Agencies and organization representatives: We want to have this conversation with you too! We are planning a similar meeting with you all in the new year. Please let us know if you are interested in partnering with us on this project by emailing your name, contact information, and accommodations to safety@spenceneighbourhood.org.

MERC Accessibility:

- Pavement, concrete, and brick lead to the front entrance
- Two metal front entry doors are large, heavy, manually operated, and pull outwards. There is a metal beam between the two doors
- Gendered washrooms are on the main floor and second floor. The first-floor washroom offers an accessible stall in each the men's and women's washrooms. Main floor washroom doors are manually operated and open into the washroom.
- Staff and signage will direct you to the second floor

- There are stairs (with a landing midway) and an elevator to the second floor
- Although the MERC has air conditioning, the temperature fluctuates often in the MPR (sometimes it is hot, sometimes it is cold)
- I will provide a large typed projection of the agenda on a white screen and on white letter sized paper

Parking: There are a few parking spots in the parking lot located behind the MERC (entrance off of Langside). Langside offers street parking.

Thank you,

Spence Neighbourhood Association

For more information about this Town Hall, please contact Rune (safety@spenceneighbourhood.org or 204-783-5000 Ext. 106) or Jamil (jamil@spenceneighbourhood.org or 204-783-5000 Ext. 103).

[Facebook Event Page Information](#)

We want to hear from you! This town hall will focus on developing community-led solutions and actions to the actions happening in our community.

Spence neighbourhood community members: What priorities, actions, and/or solutions do you think would help reduce, eliminate, and/or address the increase of violence and feeling unsafe in Spence as well as the meth crisis?

Bring your ideas to our Community Safety Mobilization Town Hall on Meth and Violence in Spence on Thursday, December 6, 2018, from 6:30-8PM (doors open 6:15 PM) at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC) - MPR (2nd Floor), 430 Langside Ave.

COMMUNITY SAFETY MOBILIZATION:

METH & VIOLENCE IN SPENCE TOWN HALL

DECEMBER 6, 2018

6:30-8PM | DOORS OPEN @ 6:15 PM
MAGNUS ELIASON RECREATION CENTRE
(MERC) - 2ND FLOOR, 430 LANGSIDE ST.

INFO: 204-783-5000 EXT. 106
SAFETY@SPENCENEIGHBOURHOOD.ORG

OUTLINE OF DECEMBER 6 EVENT:

1. Setting the stage
 - 1.1. Sign-In; snacks; coffee/tea
 - 1.2. Introduction and Welcome [Rune]
 - 1.3. Event Outline and Instructions [Jamil]
2. What are the issues?
 - 2.1. Participants will break off into 4 small groups to develop a list of issues, concerns, and challenges people are facing re meth, violence, and safety in Spence/West-Central.
 - 2.2. SNA staff will facilitate these conversations, ensuring all people have opportunities to share (reigning in dominant talkers), recording notes on flipchart paper (markers and paper provided), identifying themes in notes/responses, and sharing their small group's findings with the large group
 - 2.3. When groups move on to Service and support mapping, two SNA staff will gather the flip chart notes (from groups) and highlight themes. They will then create a summary of each question on flip chart paper and post it for all to review.
3. Service and support mapping
 - 3.1. Participants remain in small groups and develop a list of available services and supports, identify gaps in services and supports, identify promising practices or actions we can take, identify solutions from governments and systems and as a community
 - 3.2. SNA staff continue with their role
4. Actions and next steps
 - 4.1. Participants remain in small groups and develop a list of their top 5 actions and top 5 next steps
 - 4.2. SNA staff continue with their role
5. Closing/wrap up
 - 5.1. We will make notes and send them out to everyone who signed in with an email address via Mail Chimp.
 - 5.2. We will hold a West Central Agencies Town Hall on these subjects on Dec 19.
 - 5.3. We will bring back a draft of an action plan for a second town hall in January

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

[Rune]

Welcome to Spence Neighbourhood Association **Town Hall on Meth, Violence, and Safety in Spence**. We are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation, governed by Treaty 1.

Today, December 6, is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. I ask that we take a moment of silence to honour all girls, women, two-spirit, trans, and non-binary persons who have died because of gender-based violence. At this moment, we'd also like to hold space for our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people.

[moment of silence]

Thank you.

A few housekeeping notes:

- Multi-stalled gendered washrooms are located down the hall [point in direction]
- Mobility device friendly washrooms, unfortunately, are located on the main floor of this building and require a staff person to unlock the door
- Refreshments and snacks are located on the side table here.
- Feel free to access the washroom, refreshments, and snacks at any point this evening
- I kindly and gently ask that we are respectful, engaged, safe, and accountable with each other tonight
- We are here until 8PM

Spence Neighbourhood Association staff and board of directors would acknowledge that violence has increased in our neighbourhood, many of our community members are experiencing the intricate and compound effects of Winnipeg's meth crisis, and our community members are feeling unsafe.

Tonight, as a community, we hope to identify the issues we are experiencing and brainstorm ideas for taking action.

I will now introduce you to SNA's Executive Director, Jamil, to set the stage for our town hall.

QUESTION 1: WHAT ARE THE ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND/OR CHALLENGES PEOPLE ARE FACING IN SPENCE RE: METH, VIOLENCE, AND SAFETY?

Summary of responses:

- Abandoned houses and buildings
- Fear
- Feeling safe has decreased
- Isolation; people are not going out; they are staying in
- Lack of affordable, quality, and dignified housing, landlords, and management companies
- Lack of funding
- Lack of resources (for people using, people unsure what to do, people wanting to support)
- Lack of resources and assistance
- Misinformation about community organizations, services, and programs
- Misinformation about meth
- Physical environment (garbage; needles)
- Police need to be accountable; not abuse power
- Poor lighting
- Poverty
- Stigma
- System failures
- Violence is random

Group responses:

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-Eleven on Maryland and Ellice is a hotbed for major violence; staff are racist • Abandoned houses and buildings • A general sense of fear and no information on what's happening • Armour management • Crisis, killing young people • Cutting down trees • Cutting social assistance cheques and services • Dark streets are unsafe. (Young and Sargent, Agnes and Sargent) • Disturbing the peace • False advertisement for housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything is labelled meth (like meth itself is the issue and does not take into consideration that mental health poverty, trauma, and colonization are • Inaccurate media coverage • Lack of coordinated communication amongst organizations • Lack of education and awareness • Miscommunication, mixed communication, and missed communication about who provides what; wrong references are being made

- Families are staying in homes, don't feel safe
- Fear is creating a divide between addictions and non-addictions
- Feel hopeless
- Garbage everywhere
- Garbage rummaging is a nuisance and not enough bin space
- How do you survive when money is so tight?
- Increased Violence is noticed
- Lack of community foot patrols and police officers
- Lack of dignified housing
- Mental Illness left untreated most vulnerable
- Need accessible disposal sites or containers for needles
- Needles
- People in Crisis- who to call? Homeless? Cops not willing to respond?
- People using anywhere and everywhere
- Police abuse of power
- Police don't care
- Police need to be more accountable
- Police response times are too long
- Public transit is not affordable
- Rent prices are too high for what is being offered
- Slum landlords and management companies
- Spence, Beverly, Ellice and Sargent Drug trap houses
- Squatters
- Theft in businesses drives businesses out.
- The negative responses.
- Why are people using? What are the underlying issues?
- Women experiencing violence

- Not addressing underlying issues
- Not enough crisis supports
- Not sure what to do
- Organizations are closed at night/overnight
- People are working to the max and are burning out
- Protection and safety of providers
- Stigma
- Users are not included in the conversation
- Working with less and less resources

QUESTION 2: WHAT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE IN WEST-CENTRAL WINNIPEG?

Group responses:

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agape Table • Bear Clan (on Facebook but not really on call) • Cadets • CRC/CSU • Crossways in Common • DMSMCA • Feast • GAIN • Harvest • Klinik • Mamawi • MERC-SNA • New Directions • New Life Ministry • Nine Circles • Our Place Safe Space • RAAM clinics • RaY • Rossbrook • SNA • St. Matthews Maryland • Street Connections (are they helpful?) • Sunshine House • Thrive • University of Winnipeg • WCWRC • WE24 • Wellness Checks • West Central Resource Centre • West End Biz • West End Commons • Winnipeg Harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Moons • Bell Tower • Central Neighbourhoods • HAWKS • Jib-Stop • Make Poverty History

QUESTION 3: WHAT SERVICE AND SUPPORT GAPS ARE THERE IN WEST-CENTRAL WINNIPEG? WHAT IS MISSING?

Summary:

- Accessible washrooms, laundry, showers for all (public)
- Addiction services and centre
- A safer place for users to use
- Counselling services
- Foot Patrol
- Funding
- Garbage and waste pickups and disposal sites
- Housing (dignified, affordable, available; short and long-term; emergency and crisis; remove slum landlords and management companies)
- Identification services
- Information/awareness (harm reduction; debunking myths)
- Lighting is bad
- Limited hours (centres, businesses, resources, services, programs)
- Mental health first aid responders
- Mental health resources blocked by addiction (CRC)
- Need for accessible detox
- Services in a walkable distance
- Support from businesses

Group responses:

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible detox • Awareness; who, how to reach (non-police) is there a community support number(non-police) • Fragmentation of services (falling through the cracks) • Mental health concerns block access to detox, addictions block access to mental health services. • Meth can exacerbate existing gaps • No foot patrol police • No harm reduction shelter • No safe shelters in the area • No shelters in the area at all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current funding is for limited, short-term, and specific projects • EIA and Disability • First responders need awareness and training • Gendered lense is required • How first responders handle folks; undignified and unacceptable • Identification services • Lack of intersectional lense • Limited capacity • Need to have an address to access services • Resources acknowledgement • Support for workers and service

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No walkable detox centre in the area • People don't know meth-specific resources • Police refusing to respond, space for less violent interventions • Safe drug-use spaces might be forbidden by the government, hard for funding- dependent groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agencies • Transportation • We need funding; long-term; opporational
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QUESTION 4: WHAT ARE PROMISING PRACTICES OR ACTIONS THAT WE (SNA, WEST-CENTRAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS) CAN TAKE?

Summary:

- Activities and programming for folks to participate in
- Adult 24-hour space
- A welcoming safer space
- Bear Clan/needle cleanup
- Community building initiatives, activities, and programing
- Community Conversations
- Educate ourselves on best practices
- Furby street meeting
- Harm reduction practices
- Include users in planning
- involvement, support from law enforcement
- Meaningful opportunities for people to engage in
- Offer programming and services in the evening, overnight, weekends
- Public educations
- Public housing/2nd stage housing
- Resources (foot patrol, community patrol)
- Resource transfer
- Response training/interventions
- Restorative justice
- Safe consumption sites
- Strengthening neighbourhood connections/engagements

Group responses:

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Mayfair space for adults. Beds, nurses, rooms to stay, treatment, 2nd stage housing • Bear Clan needle cleanups • Better control of garbage mess in the community • Come together as a whole to share ideas • Furby Street meeting/weekly activities to help issues • Include users in planning • More action-law enforcement • More on-ground presence • More resources • More resources, groups patrolling the streets • More response training in mental health/addict interventions • More safe space, all day for sleep/detox • Public housing • Research best practices • Restorative Justice • Safe consumption sites • Strengthen neighbourhood connections/engagement • Tracking activity/needle find etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Moons • Art programming • Bell Tower • Community building; meals; weekly; prizes; regular and ongoing • Harm reduction best practices • Keep people busy • Opportunities that give people meaning • Peer support • Provide more harm reduction training and education
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QUESTION 5: WHAT DO WE NEED FROM GOVERNMENT AND SYSTEMS TO SOLVE THESE ISSUES?

Summary:

- CFS
- Community informed and lead task-force
- Decriminalize drugs
- Detox in community
- Drug testing; safe drug supply
- Family shelters
- Funding
- Government supportive of harm reduction
- Harm reduction strategy
- Housing
- More money

- National and provincial bodies need to be on the same page
- Proactive solutions
- Proactive vs reactionary work
- Raise minimum wage
- Restorative justice
- Safer consumption sites
- Specialized responses in hospitals and first responders (meth, crisis, mental health)
- Support groups
- Training for officers, government officials, decolonization, reconciliation, harm reduction, decriminalization of sex workers
- Transit needs to be affordable to the most marginalized and vulnerable
- Willingness to change and/or rewrite laws and legislation

Group responses:

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better rent control and tenant rights • Building bridges between folks in the community • Caring about/supporting housing • Create a crisis intervention team • Deal with funding and homelessness • Decriminalization of drugs • Early intervention/eviction prevention, mediation and advocacy • Educate each other on these issues • Embrace rather than evict • Forums, we all have something to share with each other • Invest in non-police resources, more welfare solutions • Kill stigma and get rid of fear Accept not ignore • Knowing what to do and how to recognize the crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to on-site people on regular and ongoing basis • Accountable community lead; task force • Become proactive (versus reactive) • Care for people • Documenting best practices at government/systems level from smaller projects and share with public • Drug checking • Funding • National and provincial bodies need to be on the same page • Need government to support harm reduction • Need timely data and assessment • Partnership with community and systems • Safe drug supply • Transit needs to be affordable to the most marginalized and vulnerable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlords caring and connecting people to resources • Landlords need to be engaged • Making sure we are treating meth users as community members • More long term strategies • Proper training in crisis intervention • Provide more safety where safety is needed • Put pressure on the government to deal with housing • Research • Safer drug supply • Seek education/training to be able to recognize when help is needed and provide resources • Shelter for families • Shifting perceptions/changing conversations • Support different projects • Trauma counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to change and/or rewrite laws and legislation
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QUESTION 6: WHAT CAN WE DO AS A COMMUNITY TO SOLVE THESE ISSUES?

Summary:

- Acknowledge the current crisis and root causes
- advocacy/awareness/education
- Bear Clan
- Being trauma-informed
- Better communication, education, awareness
- Community training (mental health)
- Connect to resources
- Engage landlords
- Housing
- Open adult safe space
- Prioritize
- Raise minimum wage
- Reducing stigma
- Safe injection site
- Spaces for conversation

Group responses:

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bear Clan • Building bridges between folks in the neighbourhood • Caring about and supporting housing • Deal with funding and homelessness • Early intervention/eviction prevention, mediation and advocacy • Educate each other on these issues • Embrace rather than evict • Forums, we all have something to share with each other • Income gap, raise minimum wage (advocate) • Kill stigma and get rid of fear. Accept not ignore • Knowing what to do/recognizing the crisis • Landlords caring and connecting people to resources • Landlords need to be engaged • Making sure we are treating meth users as community members • More long term strategies • Provide more safety where safety is needed • Raise awareness • Safer drug supply • Seek education/training to be able to recognize when help is needed and provide resources • Shifting perceptions/changing conversations • Talk to each other • Trauma counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication, education, awareness • Debunk myths and messages • Learn from Bell Tower • Navigating successes and management • Prioritize • Regular community organization check ins • Tracking failures of systems • What approaches are organizations using • What resources are actually out there

QUESTION 7: IDENTIFY A TOP 5 LIST OF PRIORITY ACTIONS

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addiction mental health resources more readily available • Better education of what and where resources are • Better family unifying support • Community coordinated sharps disposal • Community training and education to equip community members (accessible, barrier-free, marketed to all) • Demanding public housing • Drug stabilization units outside hospital but nearby linked. • Educating agencies and community members • Get MLA's/Pallister to live in our building for a day! Come to our neighbourhood • Improved, non-mutually exclusive mental health and addictions services • Income needs to increase • Non-police, coordinated crisis intervention services • Non-punitive approach to help with addiction and mental health • Reshaping public awareness of the issues and resources • Safe, Secure, Connected • Safe space for users • Safe spaces for adults and youth 24/h • Stop Police brutality, harassment, discrimination. They need to respect, get an education. They are the first and only resource. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more services that are diverse • Non-police crisis intervention; alternatives to police • More family supports • More safer spaces; expansion of services; open during the day, night, and over night • Training to destigmatize; increase awareness of harm reduction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West end specific access to services that mirror the needs of the community members. • Wrap around supports for users (but what is that and what does it look like?) 	
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QUESTION 8: IDENTIFY A TOP 5 LIST OF NEXT STEPS TO TAKE

Community Members	Additional Items from Community Organization Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change legislation/procedure policies • Community-led housing improvements and preventions • Connect with a housing advocacy group • Contact WFPS and WRHA to ask for community training • Crisis intervention skills for community members • Increase neighbourhood with positive traffic and involvement. • Involve city counsellors and the mayor. Involve all levels • Landlord supports to help with high-risk tenants • Move drug houses out by being willing to get involved • More support network to family and friends • Needs assessment of west end specific demographics, community concerns/issues • Plan for sharps disposal • Recruit folks who use meth into the conversation • Resource guide for those who use meth and their neighbours • Walk a mile in our shoes, sleep in our neighbourhood for 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community trainings • Drug checking • GBAT Lense • Offer a variety of harm reduction supplies and resources; move to meth pipes (vs needles) • Resource connection tools with community members

Parking Lot

Housing from a more
diverse group
of landlords
willing to house
high risk ppl. *Effective
Proposal
writing*
Grants are too dangerous
when moving drug
houses

Amazing idea,
Can't Wait to Speak.

Develop
serv for drop in intervention / support
By serv. providers.

m) Focus group for
users, sex workers,
youth, folks experiencing

Feel like you're
not being heard?

Changing paradigms, in that economic
opportunity is generated by the sale of
meth, creating a distorted economic wealth.
Many are afraid to speak out against it, and
the silence is allowing people to poison their
own people. This is not the way foresought in
the Kitigan Zibi



SNA EXPECTATIONS

At Spence Neighbourhood Association, all people (staff, volunteers, participants, visitors, etc.) are expected to:

BE RESPECTFUL
BE ENGAGED
BE SAFE
BE ACCOUNTABLE