



Community Health & the 2018 Civic Election

The Manitoba Association of Community Health (MACH) sent a four question survey to candidates in Winnipeg’s 2018 Civic Election to learn more about their perspectives on community health.

A total of 17 candidates, both Mayoral candidates and City Council candidates, responded to the survey.

2018 Candidate Survey on Community Health

Name	What role do you believe our municipal government has regarding the health of our community?	How could municipal government support Community Health Centres to address health equity issues, such as social isolation or lack of access to health care, in Winnipeg?	What is your understanding of safer sex and drug use supply distribution programs in Winnipeg? Is this a concept you are supportive of and why?	What role do you think civic politicians and governments can play in creating more responsive cities for people living with issues such as poverty, mental health, and/or addictions?
Brad Gross	proper care	councilors	yes protect everyone	lots

**Brian
Bowman**

I believe that our municipal government can promote better community health by building cities for people. I want to build a growing and more modern city in which Winnipeggers have access to a range of healthier and environmentally friendlier commuting options. I want to build a thriving city with stronger, safer neighbourhoods, and a vibrant downtown where Winnipeggers want to come to work, live and play. To that end, I have committed to improve the Transit experience, including the adoption of high-frequency bus networks, a larger deployment of electric buses, expanding Bus Rapid Transit, and implementing a low-income bus pass. I also believe that the City can promote better community health by investing in active transportation. We've invested nearly \$41 million over the last four years in all infrastructure related to our award-winning pedestrian and cycling strategy and have planned investments earmarked in the City's long-term capital forecast. Community health also depends on the health of those struggling with poverty and homelessness. Poverty is complex and that is why poverty reduction can be effective only when

As we grow, so too will our need to ensure we are building a safer and more inclusive city for all Winnipeggers no matter what their circumstances. I have committed to creating a Human Rights Committee of Council to increasingly focus and prioritize the City's work on human rights. This committee would consolidate all the important work currently undertaken by the Citizen Equity Committee, the Access Advisory Committee, and the Mayor's Age Friendly Seniors Advisory Committee into one committee focused on human rights, diversity, equity, peace, and inclusion. Building a safer city for families and individuals requires a multifaceted approach as well as cooperation and collaboration among governments and across the community with different agencies already working hard to address numerous socioeconomic and health factors. As I've mentioned above, I am committed to having the City of Winnipeg continue funding End Homelessness Winnipeg. Recently, I facilitated, along with End Homelessness Winnipeg and the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, the creation of an Unsafe Panhandling Steering Committee made up of numerous stakeholders, including those with

As Mayor, I will always support community health agencies and other stakeholders whose work improve the health of all Winnipeggers. I am open to the concept of a safe consumption site in Winnipeg. I am urging the creation of a tri-level task force with our provincial and federal partners to address the meth crisis that has gripped our city and our country. I believe that we should not rule anything out when it comes to the lives of Winnipeggers. I am encouraged by the support of the Manitoba Caucus of the Federal Government and will continue to pursue the support of the Federal Government and Provincial Government.

We need all levels of government to help deal with the root causes of poverty, mental illness, and addictions. We can only address these issues when all levels of government and community organizations work collaboratively to help our most vulnerable citizens. That is why I will continue to work with our federal and provincial partners going forward to improve the lives of all Winnipeggers. Winnipeg is blessed with an outstanding team of first responders. Winnipeg and the WRHA launched EPIC: Emergency Paramedics in the Community program, which has been very successful. As you may know paramedics provide medical assistance when needed to residents of two inner-city personal care homes and the Salvation Army building on Henry Avenue. This is in addition to their long-standing service agreement with Main Street Project. During my term we were able to increase the EPIC complement so that community paramedics to help individuals in the community in many cases saving them a trip to the emergency room. As Mayor, I will continue to encourage paramedic involvement in our community. I will also continue to support the Winnipeg Police Service and community health agencies in

all levels of government and community stakeholders work collaboratively. The City of Winnipeg tackles poverty on many fronts, including grant funding to numerous community organizations that respond to a spectrum of needs, and a Fee Subsidy Program for recreation and leisure for families falling below the Low Income Cut Off. But there is still more we can do. That is why I will work with the Public Service on specific measures to further reduce poverty in Winnipeg and on introducing a new low income bus pass. Moreover, I am committed to having the City of Winnipeg continue funding End Homelessness Winnipeg into the future. I have also endorsed Main Street Project's shelter redevelopment plans at the former Mitchell Fabrics building on Main Street. Another important element of community health will be our response to the current meth crisis. I favour a multi-pronged approach to address drug addiction that supports the Winnipeg Police Service's Illicit Drug Strategy, focusing on enforcement, intervention, and education. We need to support our Police Service by working collaboratively with all levels of government as well as health agencies

lived experience, to connect panhandlers to a continuum of services. I have also endorsed Main Street Project's shelter redevelopment plans at the former Mitchell Fabrics building on Main Street.

their work to help Winnipeggers who are dealing with these issues in a humane and dignified way.

to ensure that the right resources are available. I recognize the urgent need for increased addictions treatment capacity in response to a crisis that is not confined to any specific area or demographic of Winnipeg. That is why I support the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre, a 50-bed addictions treatment facility, a project made possible by the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, and affected families working together.

<p>Brian Mayes</p>	<p>The most obvious example is the paramedic service offered by the City. City can also take a role in combatting drug addiction (eg City’s role in Bruce Oake Recovery Centre). There are public health issues such as garbage pick up & water/sewer services. And I was pleased to start in 2018 an award for students promoting mental health awareness.</p>	<p>Funding is always a challenge but the city does provide a lot of grant funding , and funding for indigenous organizations.</p>	<p>I would need to know more details - certainly safer sex is a concept I support</p>	<p>Working to support a wide range of community organizations. Also as said above continue initiatives like Bruce Oake Recovery Centre and new Mark Dickof award for students working in mental health</p>
<p>Bryanna Spina</p>	<p>The municipal government provides services that help people access health services: Affordable transit to get to and from; assistance from Police and Paramedics - training people to act with compassion and help those in need; Libraries where information can be found &/or internet access; funding to Community Centres where programs are provided; maintaining parks and green spaces for exercise, well being and meeting places.</p>	<p>By helping people find assistance - food security, applying to Winnipeg Housing, providing spaces and programming at libraries and community centres to foster social inclusion, affordable transit, easily accessible information - website, social media, etc.</p>	<p>I am aware of Street Connections (WRHA) and Nine Circles Harm Reduction Services. I have been trying to learn more. I am supportive of the concept because I believe if we help people, make them feel welcome and wanted, and remove the stigma they will feel safer and more included. If we reduce the risk of harm we also help the individual long term, reducing fear.</p>	<p>We can lead by example by volunteering. We can advocate for collaboration between different levels of government.</p>

Chris Davis

I think we need to set a standard. To show that we are united to help our city become safer for everyone. People dealing with mental issues, poverty or addiction need to know city council is there to help and find ways to help.

We need to come up with funding to be able to create more programs and open more centers. We need to see where the largest population with concerns is and make these programs easily accessible to those individuals. These can't be 9am-5pm programs as addiction and health issues run 24/7.

I am not familiar with these programs. If you can provide me with more information it is for sure something I would look into.

I think all politicians (civic, provincial or federal) have to be able to admit that, yes there is a problem in our city. We need to talk about it and highlight it. We need to show people with these issues that we are here to help them and not hide them. We need more places like Falvie Laurent on Provencher to help people get back on there feet. We need to create more addiction centers and safe places for people with addiction to be able to go and feel safe. As they saying goes it take a village, we need to be that village and help those in need.

Don
Woodstock

Everything - a healthy community starts & ends with policies that will keep community-engagement at the grass-roots level as a priority. That's why, I am proposing a paradigm shift in spending \$250-\$300M annually for recreational facilities, art programs, etc. By engaging our youth's minds & bodies we will have a healthier & more vibrant community. Sports Capital instead of crime capital.

Our civic government can address the lack of access to health care by having a very good working relationship with the provincial & federal counterparts. The word collaboration has been tossed about loosely by the current administration without real meaning - so we need to put the meaning back into collaboration and really do it! Social isolation will be addressed by the investment of \$250-\$300M into recreational facilities and sporting activities.

Safer sex is always good to promote at all times. I practiced it all my life. Having single partners & condoms is always best. Vancouver has safe injections sites and as per the Mayor of Vancouver, it is not working and it is not stopping them from their opioid epidemic and the overdoses, which is the worst in the country. So, I am torn between having them and not having them. But I know my plan to build a cost-efficient and affordable tiny-home community outside the city that offers a safe place and services for people who are in need and going through this period in their lives is a common-sense approach. This model is taken from the Homes for Heroes Foundation model to help save lives of veterans. Let's make our community healthy again.

Poverty, homelessness, mental health & addictions are all intertwined. Governments have to have a 'deliberate' focus on eliminating homelessness and the eradication of gangs & crime. Hence, my plan of investing \$250-\$300M annually into recreational facilities and sporting activities would be the start. A holistic approach is exactly what we need in our city. Back to basics. "When one is hurt, all is hurt" mentality. It is cheaper to the taxpayer to build a home for the homeless and provide the services to help them get back on their feet, than to leave them to their demise due to homelessness & addiction.

Ed Ackerman

1) Homelessness (created by municipal policy) and 2) profits (allowed by municipal policy from addiction in all sectors).

I am not familiar with the term health equity and have not studied the municipalities mandate other than real property related to health centres...However there is profit and benefit to be made in the field of human rights at all levels.

Profiting from addiction is the root problem. (Illegal and prescription drugs, coffee, liquor, and tobacco) . The profits as I see it, are extracted out of our community. Health is the most valuable thing we have. It works, and begins with a home. "Safer sex and drug use programs" must facilitate health and economic well being and not be a channel for wealth extraction through addiction profit, in any form. My simple opinion is to look at problems beyond the municipality. We need to find the profit in health itself.

How is the City Budget actually decided is what an election is about. People need a place to stay, good nutrition and health. Housing, Employment and Health can be figured out through fairness, and respect of human rights. How do we find profit in human rights? I think we need to look at our whole province, and work as the big city organizer, to share, back and forth with town and country resources. If we all work at growing the pie, there will be less struggle dividing it.

Kate Sjoberg

The social determinants of health widen the scope of responsibility from the primary health provider (the province) to other levels of government. Rec centres, libraries, implications of city planning decisions, housing quality, policing, public transportation and more are all aspects of city responsibilities that can impact positively or negatively on residents' health. Health should be centered as a part of most, if not all city decisions.

Ensuring access to public transportation, and improving Handi Transit would make a big difference in many residents lives. I've called for a reduction in fares to pre 2018 levels, and increased investment. Ive also committed to work to improve service from Handi Transit. There is also a lot to gain from bringing services closer to people. Where appropriate, I would support lending recreation centre space to Community Health Centre Services.

I've been working from a Harm Reduction perspective for at least 10 years, and I'm currently on the board at Sunshine House. I am absolutely supportive of this concept. It saves lives, and improves quality of life. We should be listening to drug users much, much more in our attempts to stem negative impacts of drug use in Winnipeg.

We can do a better job of listening to and trusting people with lived experience, and implementing policy based on evidence, rather than fear. We have not done enough as a city to deal directly with poverty, and we have not done enough to prevent homelessness- for example by ensuring enough safe, high quality housing stock for low income residents. Many of our challenges with unsafe impacts of drug use will increase if these pieces are ignored. I hasten to add, though, that it would be wrong to conflate our current drug use and mental health challenges solely with communities experiencing poverty. These challenges are widespread, throughout the city.

Kaur Sidhu

To partner with provincial and federal initiatives.

The federal government has been lobbied on these topics and policies are being developed. The provincial government has been continually lobbied by community Health Centres. The municipal governments doesn't set the provincial health policy but assist when are asked.

I am aware of the programmes being offered in the Vancouver East Side but I am not fully apprised how this complies with our provincial health policy . I am always open to consider options.

I. Have read multiple position papers of the Winnipeg Social Planning Council. Some of the recommendations should be revisited.

Ken St. George

Land provision for addiction recovery facilities, lobby and advocate our provincial counterparts for co investment funding for community service providers.

Working with CHC's to educate citizens, promote supportive housing for the vulnerable, advocate the feds for an increase in HPS funding (homelessness partnering strategy), work with our Indigenous community and service providers to promote Indigenous health and healing.

Harm reduction is a form of holistic nursing, a concept I lobby for in my work with my partners at Main Street Project. As a nurse, I absolutely support harm reduction within public health.

I believe the municipal level of government can lead the way. If elected, I wish to mandate 35% of practiced corporate welfare contributions directly to service providers whom work within the sector of poverty reduction, mental health and addictions. Then, we must collaborate all providers to have everyone on the same page to construct a plan to truly alleviate the social issues Winnipeg faces

**Kevin Nichols
Charleswood -
Tuxedo -
Westwood**

Municipal governments must make sure there are facilities for organizations to set up, more so ensuring the facilities these groups wish to occupy are suitable for both the area/neighbours and the group itself. Municipal government can help promote such facilities in order for people to be better directed to get the help they need.

Education is the key to extinguish rumors and false information. People need to be educated on the access to health care, fear of some facilities needs to be countered with education and the truth.

My understanding is that condoms and needles are provided in order to prevent illness and possible death. I am in support of this but I think it needs to be more organized and the used supplies should have a point of pick up so the discarded items are not found in public places where they may cause harm to the general public.

To help reduce poverty, we need to stop providing corporate welfare and start initiating and funding programs that help the people that need it. If a company or person can afford to build a huge complex downtown, they can afford not to have a \$15M handout. Programs can be implemented to give people a hand up. An example is the used suit program to help homeless men dress nice to interview for jobs. These types of programs should be funded in part by the city, the return on investment is immeasurable. Facilities and personnel should be readily available to those in need. This speaks to question 2, appropriately located facilities should be available with minimal government interference but adequate support from government and politicians.

Marcel Boille	Municipal governments have limited sources of income , ans as such health is a provincial responsibility. Having said that municipalities have facilities that can be used for healthy living and should work with provincial authorities to fund and or subsidize programs for low income families and seniors	again this is a provincial responsibility that should not be shouldered by property taxes, when property owners pay income taxes and a variety of other taxes for those purposes. We can lobby the government to full fill their duties.	no	Already answered in questions 2 and 3
Matt Allard	A major roll, especially where it concerns urban design and planning with healthy communities and citizens.	Improved access to active and public transportation, and better links to community places, in particular for youth and seniors, as well as support for third party organizations like the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre, St Boniface street links, and others	I am supportive of harm reduction initiatives, where the City of Winnipeg has a role to play.	Though these issues are a core provincial responsability, the City has a stakeholder and supportive role to play, and civic political leaders can champion them with other levels of government.
Michael Thompson	An important role to in showing leadership and listening to the needs of the community. This helps form policy and budgets.	Provide low income bus passes to help families travel to health appointments. Continue to work to remove barriers for gender in policies and institutions.	This is a important issue and helps reduce the spread of diseases. I am supportive of this because of the impact on our communities. As well of the impact to our health care and social safety net.	City tax reduction or freeze taxes for agencies providing safe places or shelter for homeless. Support the development of addiction treatment centres by adjusting zoning bylaws as needed. Improve efficiency in granting permits that facilitate development of shelters. Widen the free city bus shuttles to the areas of the city with greatest poverty to access clinics, grocery stores and schools. Low income subsidized bus passes. Build new or reinstating public washrooms for the homeless or marginally housed when they are forced to spend their days on the

				streets until shelters are opened.
<p>Micheal Wiens</p>	<p>I feel that a multiple governmental approach is failing public health. A single level of governance needs to be fully accountable for the implementation of the public health system.</p>	<p>I understand that municipal government will not have access to the required resources to fulfill the demand needed to develop a whole health approach for our taxpayers. The Provincial government has the authority to administrate public health and the legal partnership with the federal government to ensure that funding goals are satisfied.</p>	<p>I am not in favor of using city tax dollars to promote drug use, safe or otherwise. These programs should be monitored by the provincial government. City tax dollars should be directed for core city services. We must identify which level of government should have responsibility over public health and I feel the Province will have a better chance of developing programs that will succeed.</p>	<p>I feel that a council member has the obligation to improve the quality of life for the ward as it pertains to core city services. Ensuring that our parks and public spaces are maintained and improved for all citizens to enjoy is our priority. The approach of every level of government has to supply all levels of service is causing the misdirection of resources to set up agencies to perform delivery of said services. We must concentrate the delivery of services to one level of government to ensure all resources go to the end user instead of bureaucracy.</p>

Nikolas Joyal

The municipal government should play a large role in community health. By this I mean in the health of a community as a whole, and not just individuals. Key to this is the city working alongside community groups in order to better connect with residents. The city should be providing support to community groups such as Bear Clan Patrol, that foster personal connections and trust with individuals that city workers may not be able to. The city must also work to ensure that neighbourhoods are clean, well maintained, and safe. Again, working with community groups is one of the best ways to achieve this. While the city has a smaller role to play in the health of individuals, it must ensure that clinics/treatment centres/health care/etc.. is located in the areas that need it most, and that they are easily accessible.

Community Health Centres provide basic services to segments of the population that may not otherwise have access. The city should not only be promoting these Centres, but also using them to put people in touch with further care. Linking these with programs devoted to addiction treatment, community organizations, or other groups could maximize the benefits CHCs provide.

These program distribute, free of charge, products that encourage safe sex or drug use. These programs exist to provide these products to segments of the population that are seen to be at "higher risk" or unable to access these products. This is a concept I am fully supportive of, as promotes safe sex/drug use, rather than shaming. It is also a low cost program that has the potential to prevent or reduce the transmission of sexually transmitted disease, or diseases acquired from using unsanitary drug paraphernalia.

Civic politicians and governments have an enormous role. This role begins with ending the stigma around poverty, mental health and addiction. Rather than penalizing those living with these issues (through arrests, fines, etc..) politicians should instead be focusing on dealing with the root cause, and providing help and services. A second major role is ensuring that neighbourhoods and cities are designed with solutions in mind. Examples include that services are spread equally in all areas, or should this not be possible that there is accessible public transit so that those in need of these services are able to access them.

Sherri Rollins

While the provincial government has the primary responsibility for providing health care in our community, the City of Winnipeg has an important role to play in making sure people have access to the care they need. From emergency services to recreation facilities, the municipal government makes decisions that impact city residents every day. How healthy and connected our community is depends on the investments and supports the municipal government funds. One important example of the direct role the municipal government has regarding the health of our community is with emergency services. First responders employed by the city like firefighters and paramedics, as well as police officers, are at the front lines of in our community and the decisions they make directly impacts the health and wellbeing of our community. They are often the first contact for people facing a health emergency, or suffering from chronic issues relating to addictions or mental health. First responders need to have the right training and resources to make sure that when they are dealing with people in crisis, they can respond appropriately and effectively. Making

The purpose of Community Health Centres is to connect residents with the right type of care they need, when they need it. This model can serve to make our communities healthier and safer, and should be supported. The provincial government is responsible for funding the health care staffing needs at Community Health Centres, which is their primary and largest service. Other wrap around services like community supports and skills development can be co-supported with existing and improved municipal services. Additionally, the City's first responders, 311 operators, and other public-positions can be trained to direct people facing health equity, isolation or health access issues to their local Community Health Centre. If more people are directed to better support earlier, it will help to reduce reliance on more costly interventions later.

Manitoba Public Health offices, Community Health Centres, and the public education system are the primary providers of sexual health education and resources in the city. Their work is supplemented by organizations like Klinik, the Rainbow Resource Centre, the Main Street Project and other community-based groups also provide ground-level supports for people dealing with illicit drug use or risky sexual behaviour. Minimizing the public health consequences of risky sexual behaviour and illicit drug use requires more education and access to free supports, including contraceptives and other materials. Specifically when it comes to drug use and addictions, there is an increasing consensus of the need for a more proactive harm reduction model in Winnipeg, including the need for a safe injection site. I would support working with the province to see more harm reduction programs put into place including a safe injection site, as well as an expanded effort to educate and inform the public about safer sex and drug use.

Civic politicians need to acknowledge that many people in our city that live in poverty, or suffer from mental health or addictions concerns deserve support from all level of government. These people are among the most vulnerable in our society but often lack a voice in decision making because of their precarious situations. These are real people facing real problems and we will not find solutions to those problems if we don't take these people seriously when we make decisions that impact them. It is only when we work together as civic leaders and governments to help support all our city's residents can we start to build a better society and city together.

sure first responders are properly supported is one important way the City of Winnipeg can contribute to the health of our community.

