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About Us...

The Police Accountability Coalition (PAC) began in the summer of 2020. We are committed to addressing police violence and systemic racism. This newly formed coalition consists of organizations who have endorsed the recommendations included in the policy brief titled [Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources](#). These organizations include Black-led, Indigenous, and other allied community-based organizations. Over 100 organizations have endorsed the recommendations and the number of coalition members continues to grow. While the policy brief provides PAC with a high level overview of necessary changes, much work remains to be done as we develop action plans to achieve each recommendation.

PAC Leadership Working Group (PLWG)

Endorsing organizations who want to become more directly involved can join the PLWG. The Social Planning Council supports this work by providing secretariat support to PAC. Representatives from endorsing organizations who want to join the leadership group can get in touch with Louise at louise@mts.net for more information.

What We've Done So Far...

Presentation to the Winnipeg Police Board

We went public with our policy brief and recommendations at the September 24th Winnipeg Police Board meeting. Three PAC members spoke (link available [here](#)). Our presentations generated significant media coverage. Please see page 3 for the links.

To date, regrettably, none of PAC's recommendations have been adopted. However, we know from a recent [Angus Reid poll](#) and related [media stories](#) that 36% of Winnipeggers want a reduction in police funding. Currently the police budget accounts for 27% of the entire City's expenditures. By 2023, the end of this four-year budget cycle, the Winnipeg Police Service will account for 30% of the municipal budget. This is not sustainable. More importantly, it is not proving effective.



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Increased investment in the Winnipeg Police Service has not resulted in a reduction in crime. The most recent Winnipeg police annual statistical report shows police responded to 10,878 calls for violent crime and 51,483 calls for property crimes in 2019. The result is an increase of 4% in violent crime and just under 15% in property crime from 2018. The statistics show property crimes were up last year 48% over the five-year-average, while violent crime was up 17% over the same time frame. There was also a 38% increase in firearms offences. There is an ever growing recognition that investing in social development is essential to addressing the root causes of crime.

Presentations to the Winnipeg School Board Division 1

We developed a policy brief on the PAC recommendation to immediately end the presence of police units in schools. PAC members made several presentations to the Trustees of Winnipeg School Division 1 opposing continued funding of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. The School Division committed to consulting with community members to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

Presentations to WSD 1 School Trustee meetings:

- Monday, Oct 19th, 2020:
<https://winnipegdca.civicweb.net/document/48885?splitscreen=true&media=true>
- Monday, Nov 2nd, 2020:
<https://winnipegdca.civicweb.net/document/49349?splitscreen=true&media=true>
- Monday, Nov 16th, 2020:
<https://winnipegdca.civicweb.net/document/49638?splitscreen=true&media=true>

Both a student and parent survey regarding the SRO Program were launched in January 2021. However, we have a number of concerns about the survey itself and the process:

- The introduction explaining the SRO is biased in favour of the program,
- The language is overly complicated and there are translation issues,
- Voices of those most effected by negative interactions with the police, newcomers, People of Colour, and Indigenous community members, will not be given precedence. Given that they are the minority of the general population, they will be the minority opinion on SROs.
- People were only given two weeks to fill out the survey.

Please see the two submissions we made to the WSD 1 as follow-up for more information.

- [PAC's Letter to WSD 1 Board Chair Re.: School Resource Officers and WSD 1 Budget Allocation](#) – Feb 11, 2021
- [PAC's letter to WSD 1 Board Chair Re.: School Resource Officers](#) – Feb 19th, 2021



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Presentation to the City of Winnipeg Executive Policy Committee

We developed a policy brief on the PAC recommendation to reduce funding to policing by at least 10% and to redirect the funds to community building initiatives as well as mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation. PAC members presented our [Submission on the Winnipeg Police Service 2021 Budget](#) to the Executive Policy Committee on December 11th. We were unsuccessful but our presentation led to a meeting with the Chair of the Police Board Councillor Markus Chambers and Councillor Mayes who is also on the police board. We do have their commitment to continue discussions on more effective alternative approaches to crime reduction.

PAC in the News

- [Media Release: Police Accountability Coalition – September 24, 2020](#)
- [CBC News: City council votes to continue contract for police officers in Winnipeg schools - September 24, 2020](#)
- [Winnipeg Free Press: Community coalition calls for redirection of slice of police budget – September 24, 2020](#)
- [CBC News: Winnipeg Police Board hears allegations of racial profiling, checkstops - September 24, 2020](#)
- [CTV News: Advocates ask why Winnipeg Police Service is getting more when community groups are getting less – September 28, 2020](#)
- [Winnipeg Sun: ALDRICH: Defunding, abolishing police a real copout – September 28, 2020](#)
- [Winnipeg Sun: Activists calling to defund police off target, says retired officer – September 28, 2020](#)
- [CTV News: School Resource Officers to stay in Winnipeg following council vote – September 30, 2020](#)
- [CTV News: Third of Winnipeggers critical of police: survey – October 9, 2020](#)
- [CTV News: 'We've got this perfect storm': Manitoba the murder capital of Canada, Stats Canada reports – October 30, 2020](#)
- [Winnipeg Free Press: Divisions to gather feedback on police in schools – December 17, 2020](#)