

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION ON METH & VIOLENCE IN SPENCE

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 use, 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; and 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.

We hosted our first two community mobilization town hall meetings on meth and violence in December 2018. Sixty-eight community members (who live, work, and volunteer in Spence) developed community-led solutions and actions in a response to what we are experiencing. We came together again in February 2019 and identified ten strategies, their next steps, and the actions needing to be done to accomplish them.

The strategies we identified are:

- Addiction and Mental Health Resources
- Family Supports
- Safer Needle Disposal
- Community Capacity Building
- Housing
- Politician education and reality check
- Drug stabilization units outside the hospital but nearby and linked
- Police versus community support
- Income needs to increase
- Community Safer Spaces

At this meeting, we also narrowed down our top three priority actions and created task committees to re-build a safer community for all of us.

To stay abreast of our next steps, process, and actions, or to get involved, please join our mailing list by connecting with Rune, SNA's Community Connecting Coordinator at 204-783-5000 Ext. 106 and/or safety@spenceneighbourhood.org.



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS THIS MONTH

HOLISTIC HOUSING: APR. 2
COMMUNITY CONNECTING: APR. 4
CED: APR. 9
YOUTH & FAMILIES: APR. 10

EOS: APR. 11
TENANTS': APR. 16
CARETAKER: APR. 24
SNA BOARD: APR. 30

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: AUSTIN THE OVERNIGHT ROCK STAR GROZE

Which SNA program do you volunteer with?

With the West End 24-Hour Overnight Safe Space, as a Junior Staff.

How long have you volunteered with SNA?

4 months going on 5.

Why do you continue to volunteer with WE24?

I continue to volunteer because I like to give back to the place that helped me when I was homeless.

What is one contribution, achievement, benefit, or highlight you most proud of in your volunteer experience with WE24?

In my experience I think that when I had a situation at WE 24 I was able to step back and make choices I've never been able to make and I felt accomplished.

Do you have any advice to share with folks wanting to volunteer with SNA or the WE24 program?

I believe if you want make the community stronger, you help those who can't or won't exactly show what they may need; the staff at Spence are fun to work with along with building my strengths I never use to help people as I had addictions in my past but over came them and made who I am today and for that I thank everyone

WE24 SAFE SPACE UPDATE

For the month of February, the WE24 Outreach Team took to the streets in hope to keep many of the homeless youth in a warm and caring environment. For this month we opened all 28 days for the month. We had 1,053 people accessed the space, and we handed out over 198 basic needs supplies. Our staff and volunteers provided hundreds of items of warm clothing to community members. We provided 268 safe rides and did 16 days of community outreach.

Despite the warming weather and the coming spring WE24 is still in need of warm clothes, particularly mitts, toques, gloves, socks, jackets, and hoodies.

David and Tracy
WE24 Co-Managers
204-783-5000 Ext. 110
david@spenceneighbourhood.org
tracy@spenceneighbourhood.org

RENTAL TIPS

Rent Assist is a Shelter Benefit for Low-income Manitobans who rent their own accommodations in the private market. For more info: 1-877-587-6224 or www.gov.mb.ca/fs/eia/rent_assist.html. Or contact Rental Safety Coordinator at 204-783-500-Ext 107



Committees

Tenants' Committee
Topics: safety, break ins, gangs, and drug use
April 16th | 4-5:30 PM
615 Ellice Ave

Caretaker & Landlord Committee
Topics: rights and responsibilities, support with issues, resources
April 23rd | 4-5:30 PM
615 Ellice Ave

Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA):

615 Ellice Avenue (Head Office):

Community Connecting, Environment & Open Spaces, Finance, Homeless Outreach, Housing, & Rental Safety.

430 Langside Street (Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre - MERC): Building Belonging, Children, Newcomer Youth Outreach, West End 24 Hour Safe Space, & Youth Drop-In.

365 McGee Street (West End Commons):

First Jobs 4 Youth, Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program, Homework Club, & Youth Crew.

231 Isabel Street (Central Neighbourhoods):

Gang Action Interagency Network (GAIN)

350 Spence Street (Axworthy Health & RecPlex):

Community Sports Program

Phone: 204-783-5000 | **Email:** liaison@spenceneighbourhood.org |

Website: www.spenceneighbourhood.org

SNA'S APRIL '19 PROGRAM/EVENT LISTING

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Building Belonging

Monday-Friday | 3:30-5:30PM | 430 Langside
March 25-29 (Spring Break) | 12-4PM |
Structured programming for kids ages 6-12 with lunch and snacks provided and pick up from home and drive home available within the Spence neighbourhood. Spring Break will consist of outings. Registration forms available at MERC. Contact: SNA Building Belonging Coordinators at 204-783-5000 ext.112.

Art City Outreach

Mondays | 4-6PM | 430 Langside
Express yourself with facilitators and guest artists at art making workshops for ages 6-12. Contact: SNA Building Belonging Coordinators at 204-783-5000 ext.112.

Youth Program

Monday-Friday | 6:30-9:30PM | 430 Langside
Programming and outings for youth grades 7-12 with a meal provided and drive home available within the Spence neighbourhood, or bus tickets provided. Registration forms available at MERC. Contact: Newcomer Youth and Outreach Worker 204-783-5000 ext.113 or newcomer@spenceneighbourhood.org

Social Circus Drop-In

Fridays | 3:30-5:30PM | 350 Spence
Drop-in circus programming for youth ages 16-29. Learn circus skills in a safe and supportive space. Contact socialcircus@spenceneighbourhood.org

WE24 Overnight Safe Space

Sunday - Saturday | 11PM-7AM | 430 Langside
An overnight space for youth ages 13-26 to rest and relax and access food, resources, and basic needs in a supportive, kind, and warm environment. Contact: WE24 Manager 204-783-5000 ext.110 or sean@spenceneighbourhood.org

55+ PROGRAMS & EVENTS

55+ Social Club

April 8 | 1-3PM | 625 Portage
Spence Neighbourhood and West-End adults 55+, elders, and seniors, please join us for a free coffee (or tea) and participate in light conversations and stress-free activities. 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Support workers welcome. Accessible venue. Gender inclusive washrooms. We do not meet on national and provincial holidays. Contact: Community Connector at 204-783-5000 ext. 106 or safety@spenceneighbourhood.org.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Holistic Housing Committee Meeting

April 2 | 5:30PM | 615 Ellice
Contact: Housing Coordinator at 204-783-5000 ext.105 or housing@spenceneighbourhood.org

Community Connecting Committee Meeting

April 4 | 5:30PM | 615 Ellice
Contact: Community Connector at 204-783-5000 ext.106 or safety@spenceneighbourhood.org

CED Committee Meeting

April 9 | 5:30PM | 365 McGee
Contact: Youth Employment Hub Coordinator at 204-783-5000 ext.115 or firstjobs@spenceneighbourhood.org.

Youth & Families Committee Meeting

April 10 | 7-8:30PM | 430 Langside
Contact: Youth & Families Director at 204-783-5000 ext. 111 or kristen@spenceneighbourhood.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONT

Environment & Open Spaces Committee Meeting

April 11 | 6PM | 615 Ellice
Contact: Environment and Open Spaces Coordinator at 204-783-5000 ext.102 or greenimage@spenceneighbourhood.org

Tenants' Committee Meeting

April 16 | 5:30PM | 615 Ellice
Contact Rental Safety Coordinator at 204-783-5000 ext.105 or rentalsafety@spenceneighbourhood.org

Caretakers'/ Landlords' Committee Meeting

April 23 | 4PM | 615 Ellice
Contact Rental Safety Coordinator at 204-783-5000 ext.105 or rentalsafety@spenceneighbourhood.org

SNA Board Meeting

April 30 | 5:30PM | 430 Langside
Contact: SNA's Executive Director at 204-783-5000 ext.103 or jamil@spenceneighbourhood.org

MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Art with Gerry

Date TBA | 5-7PM | 615 Ellice
Led by local artist Gerry Berard, AWG aims to create an accessible and inclusive space for community members of all ages and skill/experience levels to engage in free, recreational and skill-building art and craft activities. Registration required. Contact: Community Connector at 204-783-5000 ext. 106 or safety@spenceneighbourhood.org

Kitchen Circle

April 22 | 5-7PM | 615 Ellice.
Cook and eat a healthy, affordable recipe together. It fills up fast! All ages welcome. No experience necessary. Registration required for this free program. Contact: Environment and Open Spaces Coordinator at 204-783-5000 ext.102 or greenimage@spenceneighbourhood.org.

Our Place Safe Space

Fridays | 5-11PM
OPSS is a "comes as you are" safer space for those who identify as sex workers, experiential folks, victims/survivors of sexual exploitation and victims/survivors of human trafficking (all ages, genders, and Nations), operating as a drop-in. Harm reduction services and fun free dinner provided. Contact: OPSS Outreach at 204-774-7005 ext.104 or safety@dmsmca.ca

Seed Starting Workshop

April 3 | 5PM | 615 Ellice Ave
Get a head start on spring! Help us plant seeds for our community gardens. No experience necessary! Registration required for this free event. Contact 204-783-5000 ext. 102 or greenimage@spenceneighbourhood.org

Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program:

Thursdays | 5-8PM | 365 McGee
Session 8 ends April 11 | Session 9 begins April 25. WSFP is a free strength-based skill-building program that works with youth ages 11-17 along with their families/support circles to increase communication, decrease conflict, connect with culture, and increase bonding. Childminding, dinner, and transportation are provided. Contact: 204-783-5000 ext. 125 or kai@spenceneighbourhood.org



SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION (SNA) APRIL 2019

| 204-783-5000 | liaison@spenceneighbourhood.org | www.spenceneighbourhood.org |
| Facebook @spenceneighbourhoodassociation | Twitter @snacommunity | Instagram @snacommunity |

Children & Youth Programming

Building Belonging
Mondays-Fridays
3:30PM-5:30PM

Drop-In Only:
April 15, 22: 3:30PM-6PM
April 26: 12PM-6PM

No Program (SNA Closed)
April 19

Art City Outreach:
Mondays 4PM-6PM

Youth Program
Mondays-Fridays
6:30PM-9:30PM

West End 24 Hour Safe Space
Fridays, Saturdays, Holidays
11PM-7AM

Social Circus Drop-In
Fridays
3:30PM-5:30PM

visit MERC (430 Langside) for specific children & youth program calendars

Event & Program Locations

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 55+ Social Club 1-3PM	2 Holistic Housing Committee: 5:30PM	3 Seed Starting Workshop 5PM	4 Community Connecting Comm. 5:30-7PM Wahkohtowin 5-8PM	5 Our Place Safe Space: 5-11PM	6
7	8 55+ Social Club 1-3PM	9 CED Committee: 5:30PM	10 Youth & Families Committee: 7-8:30PM	11 Wahkohtowin 5-8PM End of Session 8 EOS Committee: 6PM	12 Our Place Safe Space: 5-11PM	13
14	15	16 Tenants' Committee 4PM	17	18	19 SNA Offices Closed Our Place Safe Space: 5-11PM.	20
21	22 Kitchen Circle 5PM	23 Caretakers'/ Landlords' Committee Meeting 4PM	24	25 Wahkohtowin 5-8PM Session 9 Begins	26 Our Place Safe Space: 5-11PM	27
28	29	30 SNA Board Meeting 5:30PM	Programming, hours, and locations may be subject to change without much notice. SNA is closed evenings, weekends, May Day, and national and provincial holidays.			

@430 Langside
Building Belonging (6-12 years old)
SNA Board Meeting
West End 24 Hour Safe Space for Youth (13-26 years old)
Youth Program (Grade 7-12)
Youth & Families Committee

@615 Ellice
Art with Gerry (Date TBA)
Community Connecting Committee
EOS Committee
Holistic Housing Committee
Kitchen Circle
Tenants' Committee
Caretakers'/ Landlords' Committee
Seed Starting Workshop

@365 McGee
CED Committee
Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program

@350 Spence
Social Circus Drop-In