

Civic Engagement and Governance

OURWINNIPEG REVIEW – STARTING THE CONVERSATION

City Services related to this topic could include:

Decision-making

Public engagement

Contact Centre - 311

By-law enforcement

Relationships with the community and other organizations

Inter-municipal and inter-governmental relations

Organizational administration

Overview

Bringing different perspectives together makes for a stronger democracy, a stronger community, and a stronger Winnipeg. To that end the City seeks to identify, adopt, and advance public engagement best practices, promoting openness, transparency, and broad community representation in government decision-making.

Compared to other Canadian municipal governments, the City of Winnipeg has unique challenges and opportunities with respect to service levels and infrastructure requirements as well as access to revenues to pay for these services.

Many policies in *OurWinnipeg* commit to working with community groups and other levels of government to advance citizen priorities. To do this, the City must foster positive and trusting relationships with citizens and other levels of government.

With the overriding goal of advancing a high quality of life for its residents, it is critical for the City to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and responsiveness to the priority needs of the community it serves. The City must also encourage creative and innovative ways to achieve this balance.

Considering this topic area, picture your ideal Winnipeg 25 years from today.

What is it like?

How close are we to this vision?

To further achieve your vision, what are the most important things the city and/or the community needs to:

*Start doing?
Stop doing?
Keep doing?
Do Differently?*

What do you know that would help us understand this topic better?

City Context and Initiatives

- Property taxes represented 33 per cent of total municipal income in 2016, compared to 40 per cent in 1998. When adjusted for inflation, the amount of property taxes per person has increased from \$536 to \$549 – a total increase over 18 years of just over \$13 dollars per person. The City has increased its property tax by 9% since 1998 versus the average of 96% increase for other comparable western cities.
- Compared to several major cities across Canada, Winnipeg has the least amount of operating expenses per capita: \$1,357 in 2015 versus an average of \$1,681— a difference of 24 per cent.
- Winnipeg is exploring new sources of revenue to address service costs and the infrastructure deficit. The City will continue to negotiate long-term, inflation-adjusted, dedicated funding from the other levels of government.
- According to the people who participated in the 2017 [Citizen Satisfaction Survey](#):
 - 92 per cent of Winnipeggers surveyed believe the quality of life in Winnipeg is very good or good.
 - Overall satisfaction with City services among those who were surveyed was approximately 88 per cent.
 - 70% of Winnipeggers surveyed believe they receive good or very good value for their municipal property tax dollar.
- From a tax-supported service cost perspective, Police Service, Fire Service, Public Transit and Street Maintenance now account for approximately 60 per cent of the average household's municipal property tax bill.

Emerging Trends

- Winnipeg citizens have identified public safety as a high priority and annual expenditures related to this issue have increased accordingly.
- Because the City's population is now growing at historic record-high rates, growth demands are placing increasingly large pressures on both the operating and capital budgets.
- The City conducts [annual budget consultations](#) with the public about its spending levels and priorities and publishes a comprehensive report of the process and inputs.
- The [Office of Public Engagement](#), created in 2015, supports all City consultation activities and projects. It is intended to ensure that there is consistency and transparency in sharing information with citizens about City projects.