

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH POLICE SPENDING IN WINNIPEG?

- Winnipeg's police budget = \$327M in 2023
- \$281.3M comes from direct city funding (up \$8.3M from 2022)
- More than ¼ of operating budget goes to policing; highest of major cities in Canada
- More than 1,200 officers make over \$100K/year
- The police get as much direct city funding as public transit, recreation, parks/trees, snow removal, libraries & arts/culture *COMBINED*
- Meanwhile, many city services are dangerously understaffed & unable to do vital jobs effectively
- Decades of police budget increases haven't reduced violence or crime
- Increased policing has made the lives of many less safe, especially people who are most likely to be victims of violence
- Across Canada, police-involved deaths are on the rise. Top dispatched event is for "well-being checks"
- If we invested in people's well-being, we wouldn't have to pay cops to check on them

The most effective way to end police brutality is to reduce reliance on the police

This requires defunding the police & re-funding evidence-based community safety

Every dollar spent on policing is a missed opportunity to invest in community supports that make communities safer!

WHAT COULD WE FUND IF WE DEFUNDED THE POLICE?

- Building safety through community investment means empowering people to respond to problems in ways of their choosing by expanding access to resources & services
- Rather than only responding & punishing after the fact, we can prevent violence & harm & avert crises by supporting people
- Free, reliable & expanded public transit (being able to easily move from one place to another is a safety issue)
- Libraries with expanded hours, staffed at levels that make workers & users feel safe & supported
- Safe & equitable drug consumption, supply & treatment access (many more lives are saved by access to safe drugs & drug-taking supplies than are saved by police)
- Food security through city-run & subsidized kitchens, fridges & grocery stores
- Community centers & community programming adequately staffed & open all the time
- Safe public housing—instead of investing in the destruction of homeless encampments, the city could invest in housing
- Expanded non-carceral mental health crisis response services

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY

15 MARCH 2023

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