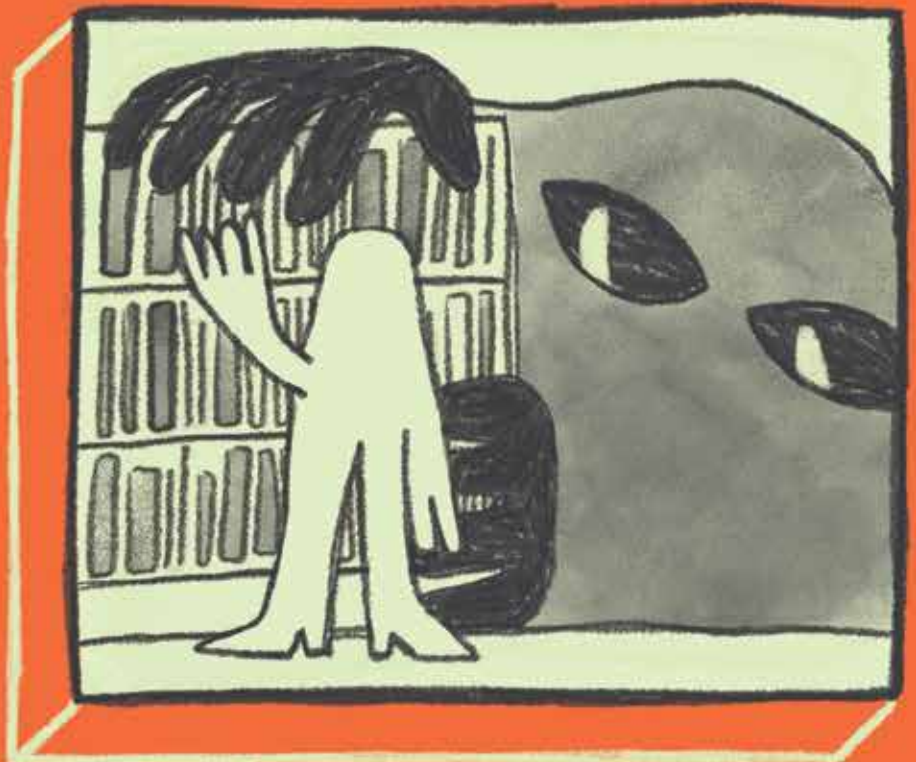


# THE **U**NITER



**TO POLICE OR NOT TO POLICE?**



**MOUSELAND PRESS** 

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 21  
@ 12 P.M.**

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**VIA ZOOM**

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**To register to attend,  
email Thomas Pashko  
at [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca).**

## ON THE COVER

Cover illustration by Natalie Kilimnik. Natalie is a graphic designer and occasional illustrator living and working on Treaty 1 territory. Natalie's illustrative style is loose and wobbly, with an emphasis on contrast, texture and bold lines. She likes movies, food and trying new things. You can see more of her work at @ntklmnik on Instagram or on her website, [nataliekilimnik.com](http://nataliekilimnik.com).

# THE URBAN ISSUE: TO POLICE OR NOT TO POLICE?

THOMAS PASHKO  
MANAGING EDITOR



Well, *Uniter* readers, I write this in a bittersweet mood. This is our last weekly issue of the academic year. As always, our final issue is *The Urban Issue*, a recurring special edition in which we choose a theme to explore a variety of topics impacting Winnipeg and its people.

This year's theme is *To police or not to police?* So many news stories of the past year have focused on issues of policing and security. There does seem to be a legitimate crisis of safety happening in Winnipeg, and most major Canadian cities. We're seeing this play out in public transit, in libraries, grocery stores, the broader issue of police funding and so many other public spaces.

The public response in many of these cases seems to be to increase the presence of police or security personnel. Many community groups argue that increasing security fails to address the root causes of these issues. These arguments touch on key problems of police violence and overreach. But they can often ignore the calls of workers in these institutions, who are often the ones requesting increased security and saying that they feel legitimately unsafe doing their jobs.

We feel there's an interesting push and pull to explore here, and it ties into a broader political and cultural discussion about social attitudes toward things like crime, poverty and addiction. Why is it so much easier to advance measures that are punitive (like militarizing police) or moralizing (like abstinence-only drug policies) rather than those that uplift the community (like social welfare or harm reduction)? Is a security apparatus that's uplifting or supportive even possible? Or are these structures inherently hostile to vulnerable people?

I don't claim to know the answer. But we've done our best to explore these topics for readers. I extend my thanks to all of our readers over the past year. Stay engaged with your community and stay informed. We might be away for a few months, but don't stop reading the news!



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

With this cost-of-living crisis leading to an increase in shoplifting essential goods, some grocery stores are increasing security by hiring police officers. But some experts and civic organizations say this increase comes at the cost of community wellbeing. Read more on page 7.

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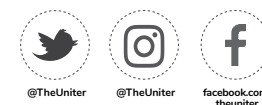
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## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however, all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication's basic guidelines.

**In-person volunteer orientations are currently suspended due to COVID-19, but over-the-phone and remote orientations can be arranged. Please email [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca) for more details.**

Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. *The Uniter* reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. *The Uniter* will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, transphobic, ableist, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.

## CORRECTIONS

In the March 23 article "Critique: Space Girl," we stated that the production runs until April 15. It actually runs until April 2.

*The Uniter* regrets this error.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Without an approach or training rooted in harm reduction, security at rave venues aren't prepared to keep attendees safe.

# SECURITY AT WINNIPEG RAVES

## A need for harm-reduction and conflict-resolution training

SYLVIE CÔTÉ | FEATURES EDITOR

I'm dancing, sweaty. My eyes flicker back and forth so fast I can hardly see, rolling back up. I'm practically melting. I feel so good. And my chest, it feels so heavy, and my jaw clenches and clenches and clenches. I'm swaying to the beat at this rave, all loose and wobbly, and my friends are all around me. But I'm on edge. Am I really safe here?

I'm high and drunk, and maybe I'm slower on the uptake, but I'm still just a person.

When the show's over, and the lights turn on, sometimes the crowd disperses into community chatter, all peace and love and warmth. Other times, some venues that host raves hire security teams that yell into megaphones, scream and hurl threats our way. *Get out. Now.*

It's scary.

### When harm reduction and security (dis)connect

Raves are well-known for their culture of drug use. As a result, many locations work with organizations focused on harm reduction, like Project Safe Audience (PSA, where I volunteer) or Grey Jay Healing.

René Hince, co-founder of Grey Jay Healing, says harm reduction is a philosophy that provides resources to make any activity safer, "whether you agree with that activity or not."

"You're trying to divert people away from the most dangerous behaviour that

they could be doing." For example, harm reduction looks like wearing a helmet while longboarding or giving out earplugs at concerts, Hince says. "It is not limited to drug use and sex exclusively."

Ironically, in my experience, some venues like the Exchange Event Centre that typically work with PSA still have security teams that don't get it. The guards often look uncomfortable, confused and uncertain of how to handle so many people on drugs. They usually resort to yelling and kicking people out at the end of the night.

On the other hand, I've had mostly better experiences with security at places like the Park Theatre, the Royal Albert Arms and the Pyramid Cabaret. I would wager that being a petite white woman means I've had an easier time of things.

One factor that seems to make a difference is preparedness. Curtis Howson, head of security at the Park Theatre, says that "an hour or two before the event, I ask (the event organizer) what they expect, what kind of numbers we're looking at in terms of the crowd, what they expect from us and what the culture of the event is." While the Park Theatre officially doesn't host "raves," he says they host "dance parties."

Veda Končan, project manager at the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network, says in an email to *The Uniter*, "I would also like to see structural shifts, like venues/organizers acknowledging that drug use happens in these spaces." If drug

use were less stigmatized and harm-reduction education well known, maybe I would feel safer at these events.

One anonymous source who works security at raves around the city says things usually go wrong on quiet nights, because security guards get bored.

Because some substances are illegal, people use drugs outside or in bathroom stalls. As a result, security guards don't always know what substances people have taken.

The security worker says, "I've heard from bar owners that if they had their way, (drug use) would be right out in the open, because that way, at least you know, and then if something happens, you know what you're dealing with."

To complicate matters, they say that with the rising costs of drinks, more people are pregaming and showing up to venues already drunk, meaning security guards have to decide whether to let inebriated customers in or not make any money.

Still, both security guards took up harm-reduction strategies when they had to help people who are too inebriated. They mentioned pulling people aside, making sure that they're okay, they have water, their friends know where they are, and they have a safe ride home.

Howson says his job is about safety, not kicking people out. "We do follow-ups as well," he says. "I'll call the next day to make sure that the person made it home safe."

### Better training, better pay

Despite my relative safety as a white woman, I'm still scared of security guards. I've had too many bad experiences to trust that any security guard could be respectful and understanding.

"I look the part. I'm six-foot-eight. I'm 350 pounds," Howson says. "The whole stereotype of that security guard that needs to be rough and tough and be physical and throw people out, that shouldn't be the case at all."

"I'd rather much talk about it and make

sure everyone's feeling safe," he says.

The provincial government does not currently have harm reduction as part of its security-guard licensing program.

Trainees are "not taught how to intervene in a situation ... It's a farce. We need to have better training and better standards, and maybe more inspections done by the government to make sure the security guards are trained and licensed," the anonymous source says.

They add that most security personnel in bars do not have legal security licenses.

"Some of the guys, they show up to collect a paycheck, and they don't care. (The security guards) don't pay attention," the anonymous source says.

Moreover, they say security guards need to be better compensated for their work, which can require putting their lives at risk. The anonymous security guard says they make \$14 an hour, but "there should be an industry-standard wage."

### Do your drugs safely

Overall, people are going to do drugs, but they should be able to do them with non-judgmental supports available.

Hince says that if a harm-reduction organization can show up before an event, that's ideal. This way, any potential harm may be identified before patrons show up.

"Know your limits," Howson says. In particular, he notes that problems tend to arise when people go out by themselves. "Let people know where you're going," he says, and have transportation planned for the end of the night.

Končan says that buying illegal drugs risks drug poisoning, overdose and death. She says people should tell their friends what drugs they're using. "I would love to see robust drug checking and peer-to-peer support." Similarly, the anonymous source says: "don't buy (drugs) from random strangers."

"We believe folks should be supported in using drugs in the safest way possible so they live to rave another day," Končan says.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Community groups have criticized the decision to increase security on Winnipeg Transit, but the union representing its workers says the protections are desperately needed.

## SLOW RIDE TO SAFETY

### Debate on transit security rages unabated following new proposal

MATTHEW TEKLEMARIAM | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [T](#) MATTEKLE

In a city that relies on its single major mode of public transportation, the issue of safety on Winnipeg Transit is frequently in the public consciousness. Headlines often feature reports of violence in and around buses, and many people question whether Winnipeg Transit is truly safe.

In an attempt to address these concerns, the City of Winnipeg recently announced plans to deploy 24 peace officers on various Winnipeg Transit routes and at bus stops. The move makes good on one of Mayor Scott Gillingham's election promises and follows an announcement in February that \$5 million of the City's budget would be allotted for the security team.

"We're happy to hear about it (and) cautiously optimistic that this will address the need to make transit safer, both for the employees and the riders, as well," Chris Scott, president business agent of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505 (ATU), says.

A former transit driver, Scott remembers being assaulted on the job in the early 2000s. "It was like a sucker punch to the jaw just by asking someone if they want to pay a fare. They hit me in the face while they were getting off the bus," he says.

The new transit security officers will coordinate with Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) and social-service programs, such as the Main Street Project and Siloam Mission. The full scope of the program has yet to be revealed, although Gillingham has said the officers will not be armed.

The ATU is advocating for the security team to carry tasers or pepper spray and have the ability to arrest and detain assailants.

"The mayor and members of council seem to be taking safety on the transit system and the desire to have a healthy, viable transit system very seriously," Scott says.

Discussions around local transit security have only intensified since the stabbing death of bus driver Irvine Jubal Fraser in February 2017. With 130 assaults reported last year and numerous acts of violence reported on buses this year, the ATU says this is a long time coming.

Scott cites several policy changes, including the implementation of driver shields and an increase of transit inspectors, as ephemeral solutions to a persistent problem.

"This has been a progression. We've been trying to step up what is necessary to ensure a safe transit system. We tried incremental changes to address that issue of safety," he says.

"I don't believe that the security team will be the be-all, end-all answer of things. Our perspective is that this is the next step and hopefully the last step to cap the issue of violence on the transit system."

But not everyone supports the introduction of peace officers. James Wilt, author, journalist and member of the police abolitionist group Winnipeg Police Cause Harm, believes the security team doesn't address the fundamental problems caus-

ing transit violence.

"These violent incidents are undeniable. I want to emphasize that I fully understand the concerns of transit workers and the transit union. I don't intend to downplay any of that. I just don't think that transit security is going to help address the root causes of violence on transit," Wilt says.

Wilt and others opposed to the increase in security question the scope of the project itself. While the City has planned a strategic launch based on evidence proving 40 per cent of assaults happen on five major transit routes, Wilt suggests it just isn't enough.

"The transit system in Winnipeg is enormous and it's really hard to police consistently at any level, especially with two dozen officers," he says, mentioning how 80 police officers were deployed on the TTC in Toronto to ineffective results.

"Continued rates of violence will not propel evidence-based scrutiny of the program," Wilt says. "It will be used as a reason why it should get more and more money. Twenty-four peace officers aren't enough, so we need 50 next year, or maybe 100 the year after. All of that is going to be taking money away from actually improving transit operations."

Scott says it's too early to judge the current plan's effectiveness.

"You need a crystal ball to really know if this will be effective or not. As with every other step that we've successfully employed, we've hoped that that was the last step," he says.

Wilt argues that many of the same issues plaguing policing in Winnipeg will affect transit security, including the discrimination of poor and racialized individuals, as well as general ineffectiveness in deterring violence.

"We can look to the police as an example that increased security does not successfully deter or mitigate. It can often escalate, and, most importantly, it can take

resources away from things we actually know can reduce violence and harm," he says.

"We know without a doubt that transit enforcement is deeply racialized, which is especially worrisome in Winnipeg, which has a very large urban Indigenous population. I don't think safety on transit can come at the expense of the mobility rights of the most vulnerable parts of our population."

Scott and the ATU hope these problems can be mitigated through proper selection and training.

"You need a particular mindset to do this job, the same as a corrections officer or a law-enforcement officer. You have to have a level of compassion along with a presence of authority," he says.

And while they remain divided on the particulars, both sides of the issue agree that more needs to be done to address the underlying social and political issues that lead to violent altercations on transit in the first place.

"This may be effective if we get the other levels of government funding for resources to address issues of housing or addictions treatment or even mental-health issues," Scott says.

"We need public housing. We need safe consumption sites, and mental-health care," Wilt says.

But Scott is adamant that something needs to be done now to ensure safety for all on board. "This amount of money won't solve the service woes of providing reliable, affordable and accessible transit. This should be used strictly for the purpose of improving safety on transit," he says.

"It'll be our job going forward to continue to advocate to all levels of government (for) proper funding for transit service across the country. The service that transit provides should be a right for everybody, not a privilege."

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

|          |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
|----------|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 6AM      | MORNING BREATH                           | The Sentinel's Marvellous Kaleidoscope | Worldbeat Canada Radio                                 | Fly Travel Radio   | FANTASTIC FRIDAY<br>World - Island Music              | THE SATURDAY MORNING SHOW                | CKU-SPEAKS  |
| 7AM      |  | Folk Roots Radio                       | FRANOL   | CANQUEER   |   |  |   |
| 8AM      | Shortwave Report                         | Talking Radical Radio                  | Making Contact   | OutSpoken  | Wooden Spoons   | DEAD MEDIUM                              | SHADES OF CLASSICS<br>Classical and New Age         |
| 9AM      | CounterSpin                              | FREE CITY RADIO                        | After Thought  | Truth Before Reconciliation                              |   |  |   |
| 10AM     | DEMOCRACY NOW!                           |  | DEMOCRACY NOW!   |  | MUD PUDDLE RADIO<br>For Kids (Adults too)             |  |   |
| 11AM     | DEPARTMENT 13<br>POP/ROCK                | This Way Out                           | VOYAGE<br>(Jazz)                                       | After Thought  | SUNNY ROAD<br>Roots Music                             |  | Medicine Wheel<br>of Music                          |
| NOON     | COMEDIOLOGICAL REPORT                    | WINGS                                  |  | BRIDGING THE GAP   | NO FIXED ADDRESS<br>LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS | THE ELECTRIC CHAIR                       | TEMPLE TENT REVIVAL                                 |
| 1PM      | outSPOkEn                                | BOOTS & SADDLE<br>COUNTRY              | ALTERNATIVE RADIO                                      | ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS                                    | HOW TO SURVIVE A TORNADO                              |  | NEON BEIGE SOUND EXCHANGE                           |
| 2PM      | Truth Before Reconciliation              | THE GREEN MAJORITY                     |  | YEARSHOT DAILY   | GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR                             | THE IVORY TOWER<br>Eclectic Mix          | YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD<br>Gospel                   |
| 3PM      | GROUNDWELL<br>New Classical              | The Stuph File                         | The Meta World<br>STOOPALOOP SHOW                      | BINKY PINDER'S PANHOUSE                                  | CKUW Album Feature                                    |  | Active Voice*                                       |
| 4PM      | SEAN SHOW<br>(Local music)               | The Phil-In Show                       |  | TICKLE MY FANCY<br>Blues                                 | THE EXILE FILES                                       | Eclectic Residents                       | Orange Groove Radio                                 |
| 5PM      | Radio Eco Shock                          | Winnipeg Arena is on Fire              | SPACE CADET<br>MUSIC. OUT OF THIS WORLD                | BARKING DOG<br>Past 'n Present Folk 'n Roots             | DEEP THREES<br>Electronic Expository                  | THE TRIP<br>PSYCHEDELIC ROCK             | BOOTS & SADDLE<br>BARKING DOG                       |
| 6PM      | Journey Into Sound<br>(Music History)    | SQUARE WAVE<br>Video music and history | AMATEUR HOUR<br>So Bad. It's Good                      | STARROAD JUNCTION  | PAGES   |  |   |
| 7PM      | THE WORLD<br>World                       | Lost Chunes                            | TWANG TRUST<br>Country/ Roots/ Big, Dumb Rock 'n' Roll | EAT YOUR ARTS & VEGETABLES                               | Behind the News with Doug Henwood                     | WE BUILD HITS<br>Hip-Hop                 | THE C.A.R.P.<br>The Completely Assine Radio Program |
| 8PM      | THE TONIC<br>Garage, Punk, Surf, and R&R | Best of Bluesday                       | TAWNY, THE BRAVE<br>Pop/Rock                           |  | THE HOW DO YOU DO REVUE                               | CHECK CA<br>Funky                        | SOUNDS LIKE MUSIC                                   |
| 9PM      | DESTINATION MOON<br>Sock-Hop-A-Go-Go     | On My Way Home<br>(Local Indie)        | S.A.N.E. * RADIO<br>Local Experimental Music           | Adult Kindergarten                                       | RED BOX<br>Hip-Hop                                    | QUADRAFUNK<br>Electric Dance Party       | THE GASHLYCRUMB TINES                               |
| 10PM     | Indigenous in Music                      | Radio Art Hour                         | Dub City Steppers                                      | PHASE ONE<br>Electronic                                  | StreetKilliaz Generation<br>(Local Hip Hop)           | DANCE HALL FEVER<br>Dancehall and Reggae | ISLAND VIBES<br>Caribbean                           |
| 11PM     | EARSHOT DAILY                            | MONKEY SPARROW                         | Two Princes  |  |   |  |   |
| MIDNIGHT | BREAK NORTH RADIO                        | LISTENING PLEASURES                    |  |  |   |  |   |
| 1AM      | METAL MONDAY                             | NIGHT DANGER RADIO                     | WINNIPEG ARENA IS ON FIRE                              | THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN | MANITOBA MOON   | Your Show Here                           | Rainbow Country                                     |
| 2AM      |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| 3AM      | MODERN JAZZ TODAY                        | The Motherland Influence               | The Meta World<br>STOOPALOOP SHOW                      |  |   |  | REVOLUTION ROCK                                     |
| 4AM      | AMPLIFIED RADIO                          | BACKBEAT                               | Hurlements Sur La Toundra                              |  |   |  | GIRLIE SO GROOVIE                                   |
| 5AM      |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| 6AM      |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |

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New shows are marked with a star \*  
Live shows are marked with a lightning bolt ⚡

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CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FICTIONALCIERRA](#) [@CIERRABETTS](#)

### Punk-rock goods

The first-ever Winnipeg Punk Rock Flea Market will take over the Valour Community Club Orioles Location (438 Burnell St.) this Sunday, April 2. Handmade punk goods by local makers and DIY crafters of all stripes will be available for purchase. Stop by between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### MHC wants your work!

Artists seeking a temporary home for their art, look no further. The MHC Gallery at the Canadian Mennonite University is accepting exhibition proposals until this Saturday, April 1. New or recent work, as well as retrospectives from artists, collectives and curators are accepted. Artists do not need to be of a particular religious or faith background to apply. For more information, visit [bit.ly/3K24z9g](http://bit.ly/3K24z9g).

### Celebrating art across time

Head to the Winnipeg Art Gallery – Qaumajuq this Friday, March 31 for an opening celebration of *Inuit Sanau-gangit: Art Across Time*. The newest exhibition features a whopping 400 works dating back to 200 BCE to contemporary times. The night will feature throat singing from Inuk artist Goota Ashoona and tunes by The Kaptain. The free event starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes gallery admission.

### Fast, forward movement

For one weekend only, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) will showcase *Fast Forward*, a mixed-repertoire performance featuring members of the company. Combining five movement acts, *Fast Forward* spotlights original choreography from RWB School graduate Cameron Fraser-Monroe and RWB Company artists Stephan Azulay, Emilie Lewis and Zachary Rogers. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [bit.ly/3MOG1Qk](http://bit.ly/3MOG1Qk).

### Field Guide (re)releases debut album

An alternate version of the debut, self-titled album by local singer-songwriter Field Guide, a.k.a. Dylan MacDonald, is out in the world as of March 23. *Field Guide (Tape Redux)* features stripped-down arrangements of MacDonald's solo album, which he developed while traveling solo on the road. The release comes ahead of Field Guide's North American tour commencing this spring. Listen to the album on your preferred music service by visiting [bit.ly/3KedQfv](http://bit.ly/3KedQfv).

### A season's farewell

Mark your calendars and catch the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers' last performances of the season. Local choreographer and dancer Jolene Baillie's *retuning* plays at the Rachel Browne Theatre (211 Bannatyne Ave., second floor) from April 14 to 16, with a preview on April 13. Per her artist statement, Baillie examines the "act of re-tuning, on a physical and emotional level, and the deliberate process required to dis-attach is something I feel is very relevant, underappreciated, and necessary." Tickets can be purchased online via [bit.ly/3M4Ghhh](http://bit.ly/3M4Ghhh).



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

# LOSS PREVENTION AT A COST

## Do police officers in grocery stores protect communities or corporate profits?

MATTHEW FRANK | CITY REPORTER |  MATTDFRANK

As more Canadians struggle to afford groceries, the country's supermarket chains are enjoying record profits. With this cost-of-living crisis leading to an increase in shoplifting essential goods, some grocery stores are increasing security by hiring police officers. But some experts and civic organizations say this increase comes at the cost of community wellbeing.

Some officers with the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) make extra money by working for private or corporate businesses through the Special Duty Policing Service. This service allows businesses to hire off-duty police officers outside their regular shift schedules to patrol their premises.

Rebecca Hume, a member of the organization Winnipeg Police Cause Harm, says a police presence in grocery stores doesn't help people.

"In the worst case, (an encounter with a police officer is) an outright traumatizing

experience for people going to the grocery store and being immediately met with a fully armed police officer," they say.

In October 2022, the CBC reported an incident at Shoppers Drug Mart where three police officers racially profiled then forced an Indigenous woman to empty her pockets.

After the City's 2023 budget passed on March 22, the WPS operating budget increased by \$8.2 million to \$281.3 million.

The Special Duty Policing Service charges \$134.40 for a constable and \$158.55 per hour for a staff sergeant. Businesses can pay an additional \$37.80 per hour to have a police cruiser car. Officers work these shifts outside of their regular paid hours.

Dr. Kevin Walby, an associate professor in the University of Winnipeg's criminal-justice department, says special-duty police officers are more common than many people realize.

"When you see police in the city, a lot of times they're working paid duty, and they're working for just the interest of the buyer. They're not really that interested in serving the public or upholding law. They're interested in making money," he says.

According to the 2022 third-quarter WPS budget update, the Special Duty Policing Service generated \$5.6 million in revenue with a forecasted year-end amount of \$7.4 million.

The WPS generated more special-duty revenue in 2022 than 2020 and 2019. The 2021 totals were higher because of contracts to monitor vaccine clinics. The majority of this money goes directly to officers with the WPS gaining about \$1.4 million in revenue.

The revenue increase in 2022 is due to the number of contract volumes at retail businesses, including grocery stores.

WPS officers are often stationed at Real Canadian Superstore and Shoppers Drug Mart locations. One Kenaston Real Canadian Superstore employee says they see police officers almost every day while working.

Loblaws Companies Limited didn't respond to requests for how many stores contract police officers.

According to industry data covered by Sylvain Charlebois for *Retail Insider*, between \$2,000 and \$5,000 may be stolen from an average-sized Canadian grocery store each week. If a grocery store hires

a constable at \$134.40 an hour to patrol its store, they have already spent more than \$2,000 by the end of a typical 16-hour workday.

When private security doesn't curtail theft, Walby says grocery stores often resort to contracting special-duty police officers.

While police officers have the power of criminal law and the threat of violence and intimidation, they don't have training in loss prevention to the same degree as private security guards, Walby says.

"It's a real microcosm for policing, because there's racial profiling, there's violence, and then you just have police complaining about things, wishing things were different but not really adding a lot to safety or wellbeing for people at all," he says.

Ultimately, Hume says grocery chains could better serve communities by directing their record profits to aid people who need it most.

"I would challenge any grocery store to not have cops out and instead use that amount of money toward food for folks who need it."

In an email to *The Uniter*, the Winnipeg Police Service stated, "Any citizen wishing to report a negative interaction with police is encouraged to follow a civilian complaint process through LERA (the Law Enforcement Review Agency)." For more information, visit [gov.mb.ca/justice/lera](http://gov.mb.ca/justice/lera).



ILLUSTRATION BY TALIA STEELE

# AN ALTERNATIVE TO SECURITY

## Community safety hosts are ‘people who just want to love people’

MATTHEW FRANK | CITY REPORTER | [@MATDFRANK](#)

Winnipeg’s Community Safety Hosts program is an alternative to traditional police and security services that’s rooted in community support, empathy and training.

These safety hosts are trained in trauma-informed care and Indigenous kinship practices to help create safe and accessible environments in spaces like libraries and emergency shelters. Part of their role involves sharing information about social supports, including rental-assistance programs and housing services.

Hosts work at ACCESS Downtown, Just a Warm Sleep (1JustCity’s overnight warming centre), the Millennium Library

and with the provincial Department of Families.

Andreas Bremer-Boreski started working as a community safety host at the Just a Warm Sleep shelter in November. He says he was drawn to the program because of the difference hosts can make in the community.

“We’re people who just want to love people,” he says. Bremer-Boreski has also worked with Impact Security and the Sabe Peace Walkers, but, he says, “no other organization that I’ve ever been with has offered this much training.”

Specifically, this training helps

Bremer-Boreski address situations in loving and positive ways. “We have a lot of training in psychological first aid in recognizing when someone is going through a particular crisis and what they might need,” he says.

Community safety hosts submit daily reports at the end of each shift to track situations they encounter and how any issues are resolved. Over the past 17 months, these reports have shown an 83.3 per cent successful de-escalation rate.

Fearless R2W, an organization that helps people exiting the child-welfare system, leads the program, which also partners with the North End Community Renewal Corporation and the Winnipeg Public Library. Persons Community Solutions (PCS), a social enterprise focused on community safety, partnered with the Community Safety Hosts program in 2020.

Daniel Waycik, co-founder and director of operations at PCS, says the program was created as an employment opportunity for people exiting the child-welfare system and to address accessibility concerns when the Millennium Library introduced increased security measures in 2019.

The Winnipeg Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and TD Bank

funded the first cohort of program graduates. Now, the PCS board provides 75 per cent of the program’s funding, while the Winnipeg Public Library board covers 25 per cent.

In July 2021, three hosts completed the training and graduated from the program, which currently employs 21 hosts. Community safety hosts receive an additional 130 hours of training on top of the mandatory 40-hour Manitoba Security Guard Training Program.

Specifically, they receive training in family advocacy, nonviolent conflict intervention, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, first aid, CPR, AED use, communication, defensive procedures and suicide intervention.

However, despite the program’s positive results, Waycik says PCS never planned to have this many community safety hosts.

“It’s a bit financially debilitating,” Waycik says. “We wouldn’t have done this push if we weren’t given such clear indicators that the City of Winnipeg wanted safety hosts in libraries at this point in time”

The City of Winnipeg has yet to provide any funding for the program, despite being part of its working group and asking for the increased number of community safety hosts.



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PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Kate Kehler, executive director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, says that the school resource officer program doesn't prevent violent incidents at schools.

# 'POLICE REALLY DO ONE THING'

## School resource officer program faces criticism once again

MEGAN RONALD | CAMPUS REPORTER |  MEGANLYNNRONALD

Winnipeg community groups and members have criticized the local school resource officer (SRO) program, especially in the wake of an equity-based report researcher Fadi Ennab released through the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in October 2022.

The SRO program was established in 2002 and involves the deployment of Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) constables in elementary, middle and high schools. WPS Chief Danny Smyth says the program was formed to help build stronger relationships between communities and police.

However, Cam Scott, a community organizer with Police-Free Schools WPG, says the SRO program positions police in schools as "a community liaison or student resource," when they're really an armed and surveilling presence in school hallways.

The Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) discontinued its SRO program following Ennab's report, which revealed how SROs negatively impact Black and Indigenous students. In total, 71 per cent of participants interviewed indicated that the program had a negative effect on these and other marginalized groups.

However, Scott explains, this change doesn't mean the LRSD doesn't have police in schools. "The individual teachers and administrators can still bring police in to do special presentations, and the police still offer their services," he says.

In December, a police dog attacked and bit a kindergarten student during a visit from the WPS canine unit at Samuel Burland School. The school is part of the LRSD, and this attack happened after the division ended its SRO program.

Scott says he thinks the SRO program is not a school resource.

"That's kind of a polite language that (the WPS uses) to get a toehold in student communities," he says. "Ending the SRO program without making a human rights-based commitment to police-free schools isn't satisfactory, because the police will always find a way back in."

A redacted version of Ennab's report on police involvement in the LRSD was recently released. This sparked a response from Smyth, who criticized the validity of the report, given Ennab's "outspoken anti-police views." Smyth published his comments on blogging platform Substack, which marks a rise in police using public-relations tactics to respond to criticism.

While the local SRO program stipulates that officers must have completed five years of service within the WPS and have effective planning and organization skills, it is unclear what specific training officers receive before being placed in schools.

"These are not a special class of police officers who are equipped to offer resources to students or to participate in school cultures. These are armed beat cops who also have an assignment in schools," he says.

"They aren't abiding by any recognized standards within social services or school resource departments. They could easily be replaced in those capacities by somebody with the correct training," he says.

Scott notes that official accounts about the program's perceived efficacy often differ from how things work in practice. Police and school administrators who support SROs often claim that officers are there to provide in-school resources — not to police students.

"But under scrutiny, we have all heard of these stories of police escalating disciplinary measures against children, pushing for suspension and expulsion and handcuffing students in the hallways," he says.

"Police really do one thing. It's in their name. Their name is a verb. They police, and they aren't trained counsellors, and they aren't knowledgeable about best practices in harm reduction, in trauma counselling. They are entirely lacking in all of the training and resources required to do these things."

Scott says defunding the SRO program could help fund community resources and alternatives to policing.

"I think (a) reduced police presence permits more opportunities for people to thrive and more opportunities for oth-

er affirmative and caring interventions, rather than security solutions," he says.

Kate Kehler, executive director of Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, says that while the SRO program began with the proposed goal of building better relationships between communities and the police, it was applied unevenly across school districts.

This is especially relevant in neighbourhoods with higher poverty rates or where students are more likely to have family members who have been incarcerated, arrested or negatively impacted by police.

"You can build a good relationship with one police officer, but that doesn't mean your entire experience with the police force is a good experience," Kehler says.

She notes that money schools currently use to fund SRO programs could instead help employ more educational assistants, create meal programs and help guarantee other supports for struggling students.

Kehler's child attended Kelvin High School during a fatal stabbing that took place on campus in 2015. "The SRO was not there," she says. "The principal at the time said even if (the officer was) on duty at the time, (they) could have been across campus."

While she doesn't advocate for a police presence in schools, Kehler says one officer isn't enough to deter some offenders. "Even in a school situation, a police officer will still only respond to a violent incident," she says. "They don't actually stop them from happening."

Instead, Kehler mentions how community safety hosts or members of similar programs might better help schools, rather than armed and uniformed police officers.



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Tracey Whalen, chair of the University of Winnipeg's Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee, says that instructors are already having to contend with the ChatGPT bot that launched in November.

## THE ACADEMY WILL NOT BE AUTOMATED

### Manitoban universities grapple with ChatGPT

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FICTIONALCIERRA](#) [@CIERRABETTENS](#)

"Write a lede for an article about the implications of ChatGPT in the university," I prompt the chatbot.

"As artificial intelligence continues to advance at a rapid pace, universities around the world are exploring new ways to harness its power. One such development is ChatGPT, a cutting-edge language model created by OpenAI," it begins. "With the ability to converse fluidly in natural language, ChatGPT has the potential to revolutionize the way students learn and interact with information, creating exciting new opportunities for education and research.

"But as this technology becomes more prevalent on university campuses, it also raises important questions about the role of AI in higher education, and the implications it may have for the future of learning."

An autogenerated text bot released to the public last November, ChatGPT has made its way to universities across the globe, prompting discussions about its implications in the academy.

As the chair of the University of Winnipeg's (U of W) Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee, Tracey Whalen is witnessing faculty, staff and students grapple with the bot in real time. While there's yet to be a ChatGPT academic misconduct case at the U of W, it's on their radar.

"Anecdotally, I know that faculty members are starting to see more auto-generated content," Whalen says. "Faculty are starting to experiment with it themselves. They're trying to see what it means."

Beyond fears of academic misconduct, Whalen says the bot has prompted professors and students to ask themselves an important question: "What constitutes a respectful and correct way of acknowledging people's work and paraphrasing information?"

It's a question that U of W librarian Ian Fraser encounters, too.

Earlier this year, while helping a student navigate ChatGPT-generated content, Fraser uncovered a critical limitation: many of the "citations" the bot included were completely fabricated.

"There have been some instances already in the library where students have had references that were generated by ChatGPT that went to non-existent resources," Fraser says. "It's able to generate a citation that looks real, but then when we search the library literature more broadly ... it doesn't actually exist at all."

At the same time, Brenda Stoesz, a senior faculty specialist at the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Manitoba (U of M), believes examining ChatGPT through a myopic, academic-misconduct lens ignores its positive uses.

"Just like a calculator, sometimes it's important to do some work, when we're learning about a concept in mathematics, on our own, without the support of tools," Stoesz says. "Sometimes it's a timesaver, and we can offload some of those cognitive processes to a tool."

"A technology like ChatGPT, we won't be able to get away from, but maybe we can learn how to use it ethically."

While the U of W administration has yet to comment on ChatGPT, the U of M's Academic Learning Centre published a student guide to academic integrity and artificial intelligence back in February.

With relatively small class sizes, the U of W might be at an advantage. Whalen says some instructors are already experimenting with ways around the bots.

"One instructor, for example, said she might do some more old-school evaluations," Whalen says. "Students would write something in class, and she would have a sense of their tone, a sense of their voice, so that when they hand things in later on ... she would have a sense of how they write."

Across the river at the comparably larger U of M, Stoesz says there are ways to help students lost in the sea of lecture halls. Libraries, tutoring centers and office hours can help make the place for AI in student learning more transparent.

Still, it's worthwhile to ask: why might students want to use ChatGPT in the first place?

Aside from those who go on to graduate school, it's unlikely people will need to analyze Hobbes, Marx or Nietzsche on the job – or in the "real world," as students might say.

Plugging scholarly information into a chatbot, then, seems more efficient than reading a Shakespearean sonnet a dozen times over.

Yet, as Irina Dumitrescu argues in a recent *Walrus* article, the idea that students

will succumb to the efficiency of AI dismisses a fundamental pillar of the university: to think critically.

"If students are judged based on how well they stick to a model, it's understandable that they will look for the most efficient way to reach that goal," Dumitrescu writes. "But the goal of school writing isn't to produce goods for a market. We do not ask students to write a 10-page essay on the Peace of Westphalia because there's a worldwide shortage of such essays. Writing is an invaluable part of how students learn."

Fraser says most of the U of W students he encounters are eager to learn. Focusing solely on academic misconduct is misguided, he says.

"Most students are trying to produce authentic work and really learn about things," he says. "It's much better for us to look at how it can be integrated into the research process in a legitimate way ... that helps bolster a student's learning as opposed to bypassing it."

In some ways, it's nostalgic for Fraser, who witnessed a "similar crisis" around a tool that has become commonplace.

"When I started, all the talk was centred around Wikipedia and how that tool was not an appropriate academic research tool," Fraser says. "Students continued to use it because they saw a value in it."

Stoesz believes it's important that faculty and students don't shy away from tough conversations about new technologies.

"If students are able to be very honest with the difficulties they're having in the class and their temptations about using a tool that maybe is not permitted, and (they) approach their professor about support, that's a really good way to build trust between students and teachers," she says.

The bots are here to stay. But the humanity of students won't go away.

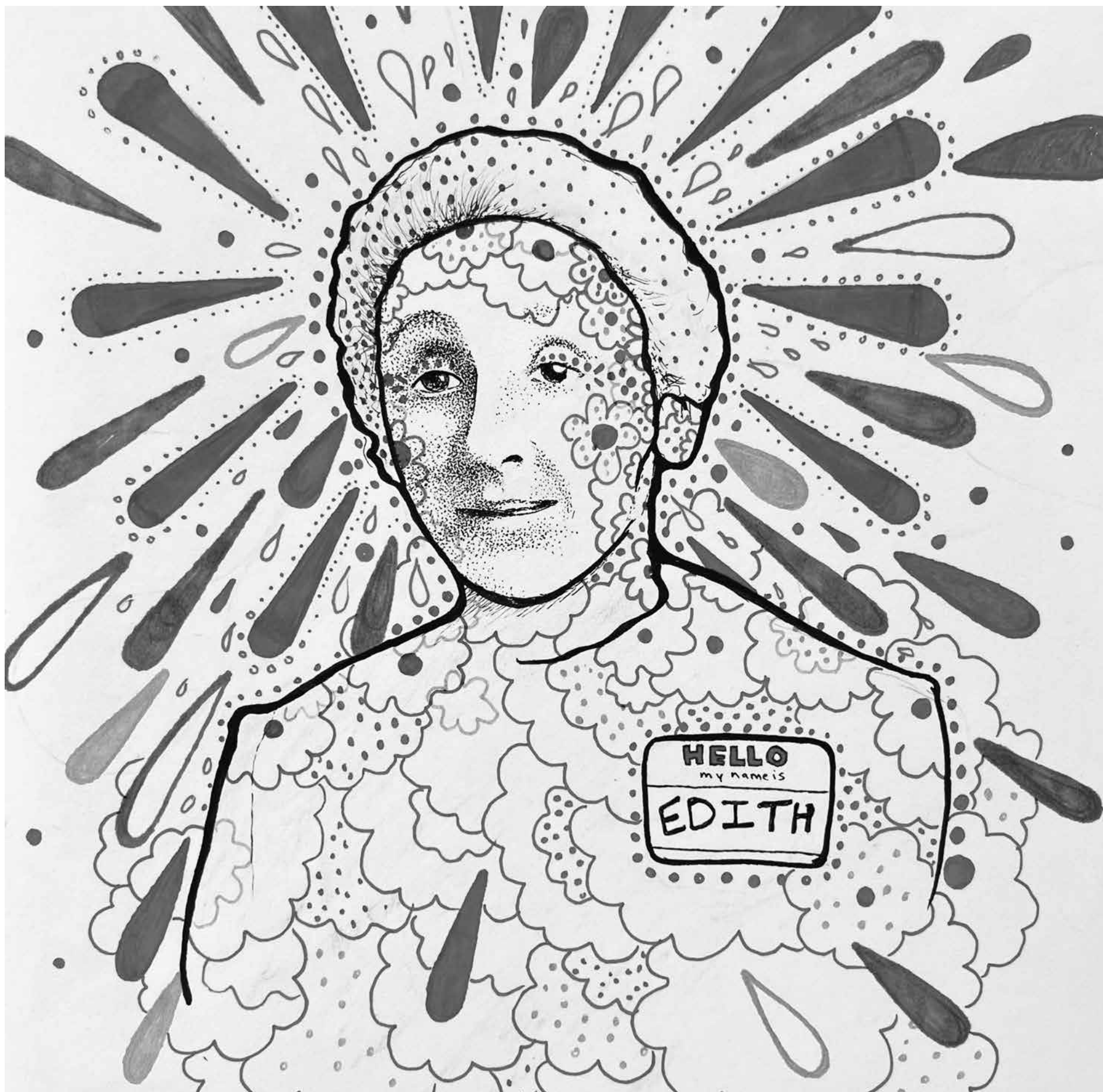


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

# A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF WINNIPEG

## Hancox's feminist interventions into Canadian socialist organizing

SCOTT PRICE | COLUMNIST

Edith Hancox was a high-profile feminist involved in the Communist Party in Winnipeg as both an organizer and a writer. Her letters appeared in the *Winnipeg Free Press* and *Winnipeg Tribune*, as well as left-wing papers like the *One Big Union Bulletin* and the Communist Party-affiliated *Worker* throughout the 1920s.

Despite her prominence, Hancox had to fight patriarchal views and attitudes, including from other leftists. The *Free Press* and *Tribune* often published articles that openly mocked Hancox.

Hancox constantly battled male-dominated socialist and communist leaders, who were at best dismissive of feminist

issues and sometimes downright hostile.

One Big Union (OBU) was one of the major forces that organized the Winnipeg General strike of 1919. Hancox was involved in the OBU and fought to make the local Women's Labour League (WLL) one of its affiliates.

While the OBU created its own working-class culture through social functions and sporting events, it was based around a more traditionally masculine image of class struggle that viewed feminist issues as secondary to workplace organizing. Some involved with the OBU openly questioned if women should be allowed as members. Eventually, the motion to allow the WLL to affiliate with

the OBU passed.

The Communist Party of Canada (CPC) held similar views toward feminism. Hancox did not fit the very narrow mold of who the CPC would consider a true revolutionary, despite her militancy and effectiveness as an organizer. Hancox was neither the spouse of a CPC member nor an industrial worker. She owned a small business.

Historian Joan Sangster points out that the CPC would flip from praising women as revolutionary heroines to denouncing them as inherently reactionary. Hancox continued to push the CPC to recognize women's issues while organizing for women to join in class struggle.

In 1928, the Communist Party entered into its "Third Period," where the party abandoned its work with other leftists. The CPC leadership denounced organizations like the WLL as reformist (advocating for gradual political change rather than revolution) and labelled feminism a distraction from class struggle.

Hancox's experience and effectiveness in organizing the unemployed would have been key during the Great Depression, but the CPC marginalized her just prior to the economic crash. Hancox was demoted to clerical work.

Perhaps even more detrimental was

the CPC's choice to abandon working with other leftist organizations, which made the kind of work Hancox excelled at irrelevant to the party.

Just before the Great Depression, Hancox defaulted on her mortgage, losing her house and business. In the wake of this financial stress and general mistreatment, she retreated from political life.

She took many odd jobs to make ends meet, including working at the concession stand at the Assiniboia Downs. Hancox died on June 3, 1954.

In just under a decade, Hancox established herself as one of the most important socialist organizers in Winnipeg, only to watch her legacy quickly fall apart. Hancox's tireless work organizing around unemployment and feminist issues demonstrated an advanced understanding of exploitation and the way that intersecting factors such as class and gender can contribute to unique forms of oppression.

Though Hancox's legacy was forgotten for decades, it has been worth uncovering now so that people can continue to learn from it today.

Scott Price is a labour historian based in Winnipeg, Man.



## COMMENTS

# SAFE SURRENDER SITES ARE ANTI-ABORTION VIRTUE SIGNALING

### More 'choice' shouldn't justify the project to curtail reproductive rights

HALEY PAULS | COMMENTS EDITOR

This winter, a firehall in Landmark, Man. announced the opening of a Hope's Cradle, a service that allows people, usually mothers, to safely surrender their infants in a temperature-controlled bassinet.

This is the second Hope's Cradle in Canada (the first is located in Strathmore Alta., just outside of Calgary) and has been launched by Life Culture, an anti-abortion organization working out of Steinbach, Man. The purpose of a Hope's Cradle, Life Culture executive director Susan Penner explains, is to provide an option for people who have nowhere else to turn.

"We'll be very happy if it would save a baby's life, if this is kind of a last resort for someone," she told the CBC in an interview. "So that's really the goal ... to provide a service for women who are just in awful circumstances."

Taché Fire Chief Allan Rau told CTV News that Penner decided to fundraise for its installation after the discovery of a newborn baby – now known as Baby Moar – in a garbage bin in Winnipeg's North End in June 2022. Apparently, Penner was deeply touched by this case, and reached out to Gems for Gems, the umbrella organization that founded the Hope's Cradle in Alberta, to see about installing one in her municipality.

Baby Moar's death was unquestionably tragic – and it is extremely worrisome to see how anti-abortion organizations like Life Culture are mobilizing the emotional impact of extreme events like this to justify their misplaced efforts at "preserving life."

News coverage of Landmark's safe-surrender site seems neutral and even positive. Reports, however, barely skim the surface of Life Culture's anti-abortion mission.

"We are talking about babies being left in dumpsters," Dr. Suzanne B. Haney, who chairs the Council on Child Abuse and Prevention at the American Academy of Pediatrics told CNN. "I mean, that's a really easy bandwagon to get onto."

Opposing safe-surrender sites, which are supported by what are called safe-havens

laws in the United States, can be seen as encouraging infanticide.

But the situation isn't as black and white as it may seem. In the US, since their inception following a wave of abandoned infants found in the Houston area in 1999, safe havens have been taken up as an enterprise of the political right and proponents of the anti-abortion movement.

"What began as a way to prevent the most extreme cases of child abuse has become a broader phenomenon, supported especially among the religious right, which heavily promotes adoption as an alternative to abortion," Dana Goldstein writes in *The New York Times*.

During the meetings that culminated in the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. called safe haven laws a "modern development" that, in the majority's view, eliminated the need for abortion.

The anti-abortion movement, adjusting its messaging itself amidst controversy and political polarization, seems to be adopting a nefarious tactic that involves recentering its mission around a carefully constructed image of expanded "choice."

Take American attorney and "pro-life" activist Rebecca Kiessling's career as an example. Her advocacy centres around defending mothers whose children have been conceived through rape, representing them in custody battles against their rapists.

Though, on first look, her project appears benevolent, further examination reveals the reason behind Kiessling's advocacy: her goal is to end rape-exception abortion laws, which create provisions for rape and incest, present in more than three-quarters of American states.

Both Kiessling's "activism" and safe-surrender sites are "pro-life" maneuvers to reframe the idea of choice, functionally justifying their campaign against abortion at a legal, constitutional level.

If people aren't forced to share custody with their abusers, they might be less likely to choose abortion. If they have the option



A safe-surrender site at San Francisco's Fire Station 14, where new parents can leave unwanted babies. The Supreme Court of the United States used the existence of such sites as a justification for overturning abortion rights.

to leave an infant they are unable to care for at a safe-surrender site, they might be less likely to resort to a dumpster. And, implies this logic, with more options for mothers with newborn babies, less options at the prenatal stage will be necessary.

On top of this, safe-surrender sites' efficacy is not proven. In the US, all 50 states have safe-haven laws, but only an estimated 115 legal surrenders took place in the country in 2021, in comparison to 100,000 domestic adoptions.

And though experts anticipate that the use of safe-surrender sites will increase in the US with the overturn of *Roe vs. Wade*, removing abortion rights does not necessarily mean people experiencing an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy will choose adoption. Studies show that when denied abortions, most people go on to raise their own children.

Ultimately, the reach of this new Hope's Cradle in Landmark feels starkly disconnected from the event that inspired it.

Penner told the CBC that the choice to install the Hope's Cradle in Landmark partially had to do with its "central location," with many Manitoba towns within a 30- or 40-minute driving radius.

But the project was purportedly galvanized by events that transpired in Winnipeg, involving a young mother with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder who struggled

with alcoholism, meth addiction and periodic homelessness. The likelihood that someone in her predicament would have the mobility and means to access a rural safe-surrender site seems quite slim.

If Penner really wanted to address the issues that had led to Baby Moar's abandonment and death, she might have considered raising funds for a parenting program, a mental-health program or addictions services in Winnipeg, rather than procuring \$20,000 to build a safe-surrender site in a rural location.

The disconnect between this project's supposed intention and its probable impact highlights the use of safe-surrender sites as virtue-signaling devices within the so-called "pro-life" community.

Unlike some of the legislators who support them, these sites are not in themselves dangerous. They might even do some good. But we should all keep an eye on this movement as it picks up in Canada and remember that, in the US, safe-surrender services were cited as justification for removing abortion rights from the constitution in the case that overturned *Roe vs. Wade*.

**Haley Pauls is a writer, editor, and hospitality worker who spent several years in the nonprofit world, which informs her work to this day. She lives and works in Winnipeg.**

## CITY BRIEFS

TESSA ADAMSKI | CITY EDITOR | TESSA\_ADAMSKI TESSA.ADAMSKI

### Transgender Day of Visibility

Friday, March 31 is International Transgender Day of Visibility, which celebrates Two-Spirit, transgender and gender non-conforming people in communities. This day takes on even more importance in 2023, as anti-trans rhetoric and bigotry from conservative cultural forces reaches a fever pitch.

### New leader for Manitoba Green Party

On Sunday, March 26, Janine Gibson became the new leader of the Manitoba Green Party. She is the first new leader of the party since James Beddome took the position in 2008, 15 years ago. In the upcoming provincial election, Gibson wants to make sure the Green Party has 57 candidates in every electoral district. She's also advocating for a universal living wage and to work with northern and rural communities to promote environmental sustainability.

### Pitching a new way to fill potholes

Arch Tree Farm and Landscaping co-owners Terry Mitchell and daughter Raye-Leigh Martin use recycled asphalt to fill in potholes. They say repurposing asphalt from roads and parking areas is a feasible, environmentally friendly and cheaper solution compared to the current process of using a short-term cold-mix compound and longer-term hot asphalt mix to fill in patches. They pitched the idea of starting a pilot project in the city, which would send street staff to test the workability of using recycled asphalt to fill in potholes and replace using the cold-mix asphalt.

### 2023 city budget passes

On Wednesday, March 22, city council members voted to approve the City of Winnipeg's 2023 budget. Mayor Scott Gillingham said the financial plan focuses on funding social services and economic initiatives, such as water and sewer services, to help CentrePort South and plans to expand Chief Peguis Trail and Kenaston Boulevard. Other concerns about climate change and calls for more Community Safety Hosts at the Millennium Library were discussed, but the budget was not altered to include these needs, despite calls from community members.

### Asylum seekers and irregular crossings

As of Saturday morning, refugees seeking asylum will no longer be allowed to enter Canada at irregular border crossings, such as the one at Roxham Road in Quebec or along the Manitoba-North Dakota border. This rule is an extension of the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement, which requires asylum seekers to claim refugee status in the first country in which they arrive. Community advocates are concerned this rule will lead to more migrants losing their limbs traveling in cold weather, causing harm or even death.

### Machines dispensing harm-reduction supplies

Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoawin Inc. is a First Nations-led organization working to transform health and wellness services in Indigenous communities. The organization placed two kiosk machines that dispense clean needles, naloxone kits, condoms, menstrual products and diabetes and blood pressure medications at the public washroom in downtown Winnipeg. A total of eight machine dispensaries are expected to arrive and increase access to healthcare in Winnipeg, Churchill and northern Manitoba communities.



# PRIVILEGING ‘OFFICIAL’ SOURCES

## A look at journalism’s unethical reliance on police claims

DANIELLE DOIRON | COPY AND STYLE EDITOR | @DANIELLEMDOIRON

Even when the *Winnipeg Free Press* newsroom is empty, it’s rarely silent. There’s an undefined but ever-present, mechanical hum. The wall-mounted TVs play different channels, all at a low volume. The police scanner is perpetually on, and, every so often, notices crackle through the static. At least, that’s how it was in 2016.

I was months out of college and one of the paper’s only Saturday reporters, responsible for covering weekend events and tuning in to that scanner. On days I worked from home or coffee shops with strong wifi connections, I relied on my email instead.

When the Winnipeg Police Service or RCMP sent out a news release, I rewrote the text, filed 300 words under a generic byline and moved on. If I picked up the phone, it was often to call my editor, not another source. He often expected these articles within minutes, which, at least initially, didn’t leave time for further legwork.

More research is “often easier said than done, especially given the realities of shrinking newsrooms and the constant deadline pressures imposed by the internet,” two *Washington Post* reporters explain. “With fewer reporters handling more stories, the reliance on official sourcing may be increasing.”

There simply isn’t time to follow up on every story. Reporters must – and are often pressured to – trust police as official sources,

at least early in an investigation.

This gives police control over public narratives, as departments choose which details to omit or include. Reporters on tight deadlines often parrot the detached phrases police use in their news releases, like “officer-involved shooting” or “discharged their weapon.”

One recent *Global News* article used the phrase “police said” six times while describing how a woman was “shot, assaulted and left in a crashed SUV” in Winnipeg. No one else was quoted or seemingly interviewed.

On March 27, the CBC initially published a six-sentence online article after the body of a missing 18-year-old woman was found in northern Manitoba. It also only cites the police.

Media coverage that relies solely or even heavily on police claims is inherently biased. An American Bar Association (ABA) reporters’ guide describes how police reports are often considered the “earliest, uncontested written accounts of an incident.” They’re also unreliable.

“In their initial public statements about George Floyd’s death, for example, Minneapolis police didn’t mention that one of its officers knelt on Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes. It noted only that Floyd ‘appeared to be suffering medical distress,’” Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi write for the *Post*.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

As the ABA guide explains, “Without eyewitness cellphone video and robust media coverage, the world likely never would have known that a police officer killed George Floyd, let alone how.” In all cases, “rote reliance on police reports gives police the first opportunity to both shape and define their own violent encounters with the public.”

The practice is blatantly unethical. “The basic (journalistic) principle should be (to) treat the police like any other source, with the same degree of skepticism as you treat any other source,” Susan Chira, the edi-

tor-in-chief of *The Marshall Project*, told the *Post*.

Put simply, as author and editor Maya Schenwar tweeted in 2020, “using police as your only source is bad journalism.” Despite the practice’s ubiquity, that’s still true, in Winnipeg and beyond, almost three years later.

**A former sports broadcaster, Danielle Doiron is now a writer, editor and educator. Find them in Winnipeg, Philadelphia and, occasionally, on the airwaves.**



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Student Services

### SPRING TERM REGISTRATION

Open registration for Spring Term begins on **March 31**. More information here: [www.uwinnipeg.ca/registration/spring-process-and-procedures.html](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/registration/spring-process-and-procedures.html)

### END OF WINTER TERM

**April 4** is the last day of Winter Term.

### WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

The series wraps up with a timely session on what you need to know about repaying your student loans if you are graduating or leaving University.

Upcoming session:

**April 5** – Going into Repayment: Canada & Manitoba Student Loans

For details and to register, please go to: [www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html)

### WINTER TERM EXAMS

The examination period is **April 10 - 21**.

For more information, please see: [www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/index.html](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/index.html)

### CONVOCATION AWARDS

Do you know a graduating student who combines academic distinction and service to the community? Students who are graduating in June 2023 or who have graduated in February 2023 or October 2022 with an undergraduate degree can be nominated for several Convocation awards.

Deadline for nominations: **April 15**.

See the form here: [www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/convocation-awards-nomination.html](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/convocation-awards-nomination.html)

### SPRING TERM

Spring Term begins on **May 1**. Courses start and end on various dates throughout the term.

### STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS – SPRING TERM

Sharpen your study skills with these helpful workshops. All sessions will be offered via Zoom from 9:00-9:50 a.m.

- **May 8: #1 Skills for the Classroom: Participation, Note-taking, and Presentations**

- **May 9: #2 Start at your Library**
- **May 10: #3 Secrets to Success: Goal Setting & Time Management**
- **May 15: #4 Expanding your Understanding: Reading Strategies & Critical Thinking**
- **May 16: #5 Writing in Style: Tips for Writing Academic Essays**
- **May 17: #6 Acing your Exams: Memory & Test-Taking Strategies**

For details and to register, please visit: [www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html)

### GRADES FOR FALL/WINTER TERM & WINTER TERM

The tentative date for release of official grades for 2022-23 Fall/Winter Term and 2023 Winter Term is **May 16**.

### FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE FOR SPRING TERM

The final date to pay fees without a late payment fee being charged in the 2023 Spring Term is **May 17**.



## DIVERSIONS

# HOROSCOPES

Action planet Mars harmonizes with Saturn at 3:03 P.M. on Thursday, March 30.

Try to make peace with things that are difficult to accomplish right off the bat. This attitude and perspective will allow for progress to flow, or for the struggles to ease.

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

## ARIES

A surreal energy will surround you this morning, dear Aries, putting you in a sweet, quiet, and compassionate mood. Lean into these vibes by taking time to nurture yourself with some meditation or breathwork, allowing internal stress to melt away. Expect the unexpected later in the day when Venus cozies up to Uranus, triggering surprises within matters of love, money, and manifestation. You'll sense a shift as Luna migrates into fiery Leo and the sector of your chart that governs self-expression, putting you in the mood to create. However, an unbalanced aspect to Saturn later tonight could cause you to fall off track if you get sucked into your electronic devices.

## TAURUS

Your words will have a sweeping effect on your community this morning, dear Taurus, as the Cancer moon aligns with Neptune. Don't be surprised if your online commentary gets a lot of traction right now, though you should be mindful to keep a positive message. Your wild side will come out to play later in the day when Venus cozies up to Uranus, encouraging you to break free from restrictions in order to follow your heart. You'll sense a shift as Luna migrates into Leo and the sector of your chart that governs domestic bliss, inspiring you to work on your space.

## GEMINI

Allow your guards to ebb and flow this morning, dear Gemini, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to dreamy Neptune. These vibes are perfect for maintaining a sense of strength, without pushing vulnerability or your sensitive nature to the side. Carve out some time for radical self-love later in the day when Venus cozies up to Uranus, bringing forth psychological breakthroughs in the name of compassion for one's self. These vibes can also help you break away from unhealthy patterns, though you'll need to approach such ambitions from a place of grace and appreciation for your journey thus far.

## CANCER

The spirits will be with you early this morning, dear Cancer, as the moon and Neptune share a sweet exchange overhead. Lean into the serenity-inducing energy of this cosmic climate, taking a moment to embrace peace and meditation before moving forward with your daily agenda. Your compassionate nature will shine through later in the day when Venus cozies up to revolutionary Uranus, inspiring you to give back to your community through volunteer work or financial contributions to a nonprofit. You'll sense a shift when Luna makes her debut into fiery Aries, putting you in a sensual and grounded mood.

## LEO

Don't be afraid to face your shadow this morning, dearest Lion, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to ethereal Neptune. This celestial exchange will bring a light to even the darkest of corners, allowing you to fully release any baggage you'd rather not lug around anymore. Surprises within your profession could come to fruition later in the day when Venus cozies up to Uranus, revolutionizing your path toward success. The energy will elevate as Luna migrates into your sign, putting an extra pep in your step throughout the next two days — perfect for prioritizing your needs and getting your way.

## VIRGO

Your popularity will benefit from a little boost this morning, dear Virgo, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to ethereal Neptune. This cosmic climate is sure to bless you with some extra grace and allure, allowing you to make an impression as you travel through the community. Your benevolent nature will also come out to play, inspiring you to spread kindness throughout your environment. Unexpected blessings could fall into your lap later this afternoon when Venus cozies up to Uranus, allowing you to manifest in strange and unusual ways. Plan on spending your evening in solitude as the moon enters Leo and puts you in a private mood.

## LIBRA

You'll feel inspired to follow through on your dreams and ambitions this morning, dear Libra, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to ethereal Neptune. These vibes are all about finding flow in your agenda, helping you rise above feelings of stress or urgency. New partnerships could forge later in the afternoon when Venus cozies up to Uranus, revolutionizing your most intimate bonds or conjuring fresh ones. Consider exploring your neighborhood this evening as the moon takes its first steps through Leo, asking you to embrace community. Just remember to get home before bedtime, or Saturn may become unhappy with you.

## SCORPIO

You'll see things from a profound and artistic lens this morning, dearest Scorpion, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to dreamy Neptune. Be sure to notate and acknowledge any inspired ideas that move through your psyche during this time, as creative juices will flow freely. Look for ways to liven up your love life later in the day when Venus cozies up to revolutionary Uranus, marking the perfect excuse to surprise your sweetie or take a chance on a blind date. The energy will shift once Luna migrates into fiery Leo, helping you move past any baggage that's been weighing you down recently.

## SAGITTARIUS

You may feel like a ball of mush when you awaken this morning, dear Archer, as the Cancer moon aligns with ethereal Neptune. These vibes are perfect for embracing your sensitive nature and catering to love, especially when it comes to anyone you cohabitate with and your most intimate partnerships. Breakthroughs could manifest later in the day when Venus cozies up to Uranus, ushering in rewards for all the hard work you do. Your philosophical mind will take over once Luna migrates into Leo and your solar ninth house, pushing you to embrace your spirituality in the coming days.

## CAPRICORN

Allow your sweeter side to shine through this morning, dear Capricorn, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to dreamy Neptune. These vibes are perfect for expressing what's in your heart, allowing the people you love to know just how much they lift you up. Excitement will fill the air later in the day when Venus cozies up to Uranus, bringing a playful, flirtatious, and creative energy to the air. You'll sense a shift once Luna makes her debut into fiery Leo, putting you in the mood for intimate, warm, and meaningful exchanges throughout the next two days.

## AQUARIUS

Take a moment to appreciate your surroundings as you move through your morning routine, dear Aquarius, as the Cancer moon and Neptune align to bring forth sweet and dreamy vibes. Allow your heart to fill with love later in the day as Venus cozies up to Uranus, pushing you to break free from any restraints that have held you back from opening up to your nearest and dearest. You'll sense a shift as the moon migrates into fiery Leo, bringing a romantic energy to the air that's perfect for flirting with that special someone or an impromptu self-care night.

## PISCES

The universe will support a healthy ego within you this morning, dear Pisces, as the Cancer moon blows a kiss to Neptune. Lean into the art, fashion, and aesthetics that embody who you are, even if doing so separates you from the rest of the crowd. Allow sweetness to flow through your mind later in the afternoon when Venus cozies up to Uranus, and don't be afraid to flirt with any cuties that cross your path. Your focus will shift to catching up on your to-do list once Luna migrates into Leo, so be sure to get organized within your agenda.

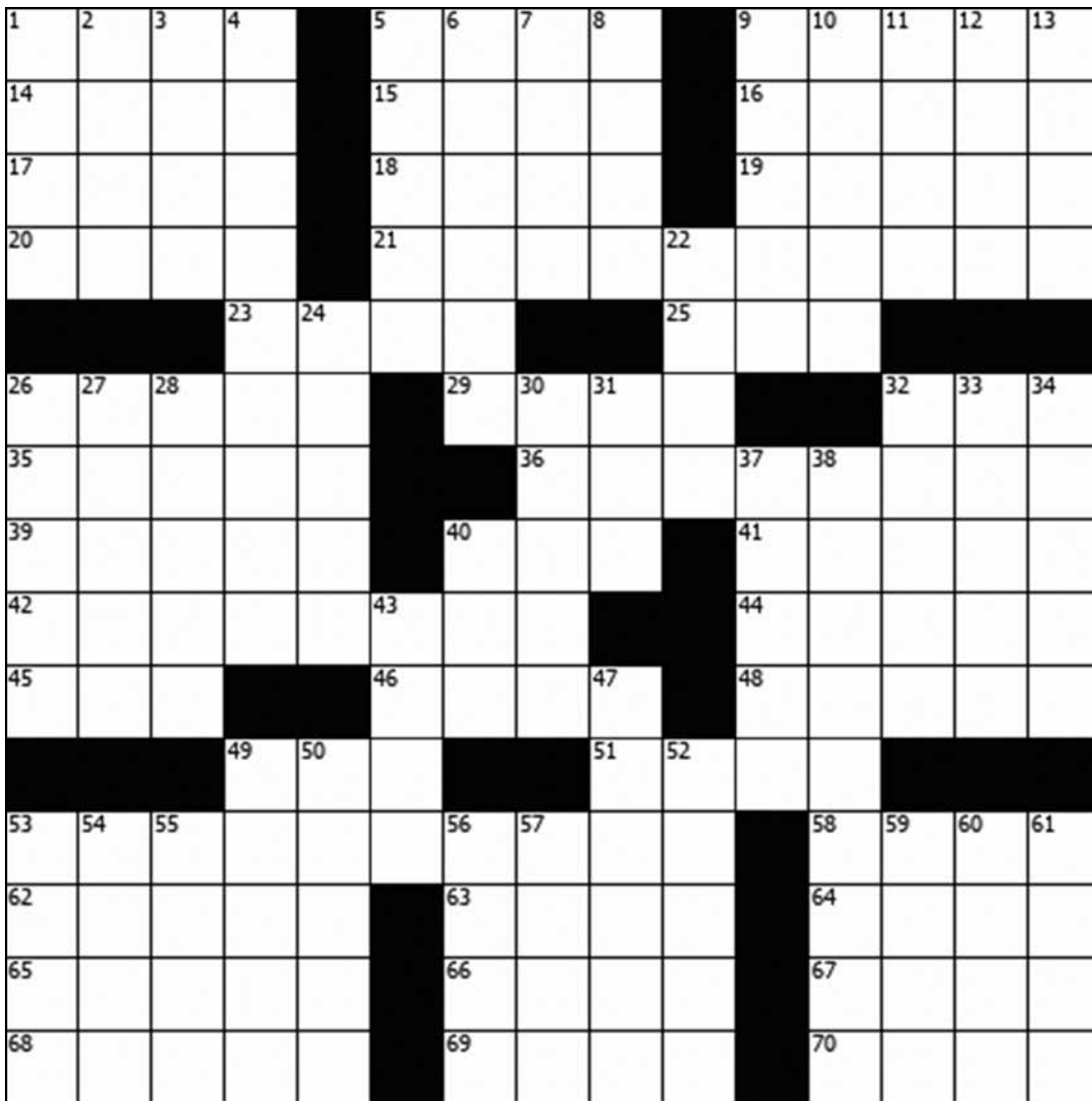
## It's Aries season!



Aries is a cardinal fire sign. It's ruled by Mars and is associated with the First House of "the self." As a cardinal sign, Aries begins the zodiacal modality and astrological year. It's the original leader!

Aries's nature is forthright with vigor, a trait further amplified

by its planetary ruler, Mars. Aries is known to be vivacious, enthusiastic, childish, and a bit selfish. Although this sign is impulsive and hotheaded, nobody can deny the quick-thinking and intense call-to-action innate in any Aries. Expressed as the Ram, Aries can be counted on to headbutt its way through anything!.

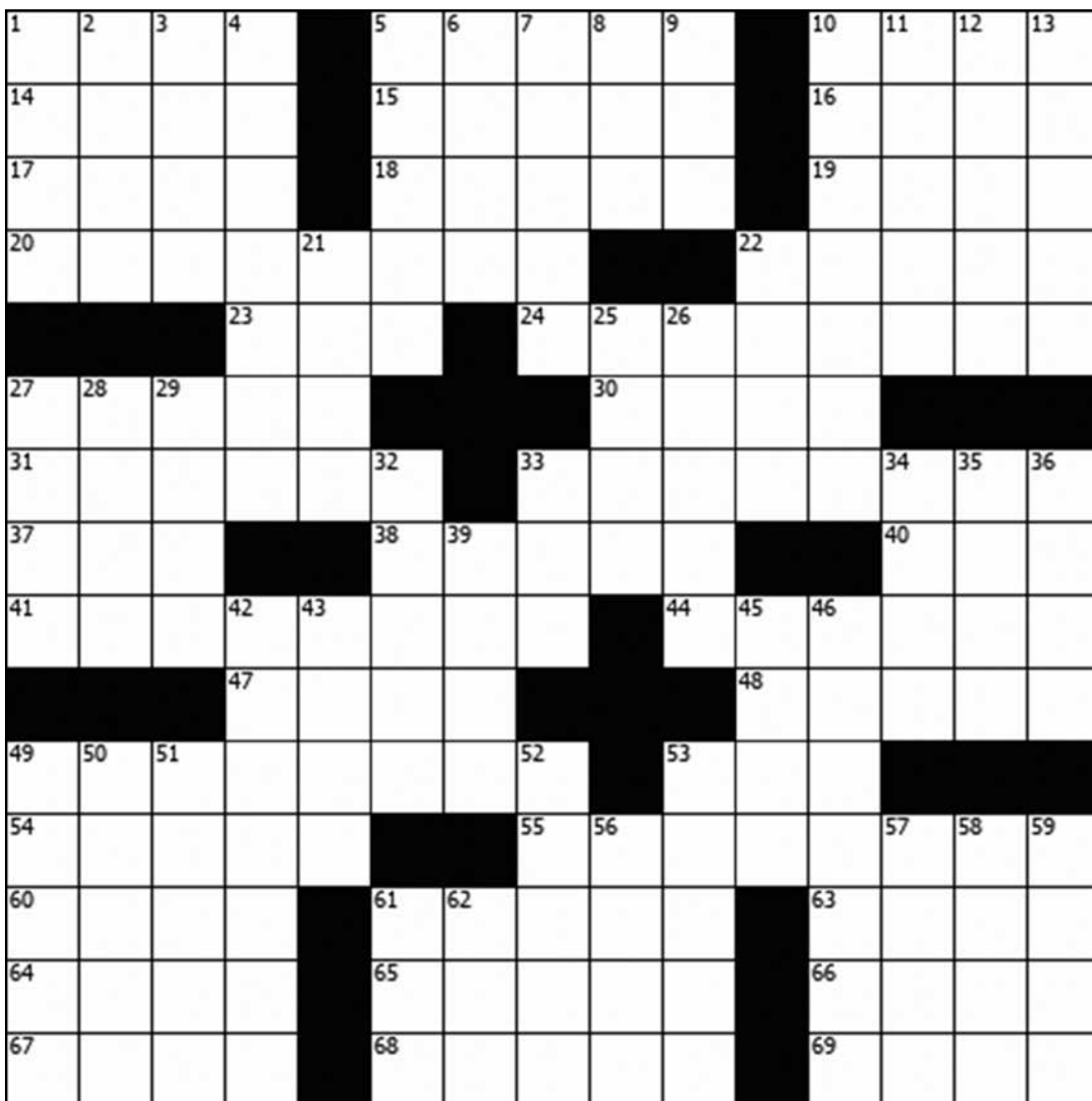


ACROSS

- 1. TOOK A BUS
- 5. CURVED DOORWAY
- 9. MOVED SNEAKILY
- 14. MALEVOLENT
- 15. SIMPLE
- 16. MORE UNUSUAL
- 17. UNCLOTHED
- 18. SCENT
- 19. GOODBYE (FR.)
- 20. ACTOR \_\_\_\_ BALDWIN
- 21. WALL SOCKET
- 23. FAMILY DIAGRAM
- 25. THAT GAL
- 26. SANTA \_\_\_\_
- 29. SKIRT LENGTH
- 32. FELINE
- 35. MECHANICAL MAN
- 36. BLABBERMOUTH
- 39. WASH AWAY
- 40. PROHIBIT
- 41. WEIRD
- 42. STATUE BASE
- 44. WOODY OR TIM
- 45. COMPASS DIR.
- 46. BEAMS
- 48. ADVERTISING LIGHTS
- 49. RESORT
- 51. DEFEAT
- 53. RECYCLABLE ITEM (2 WDS.)
- 58. INFORMAL TALK
- 62. LOCALES
- 63. RAN, AS DYE
- 64. UMPIRE'S CALLS
- 65. BEATLE \_\_\_\_ STARR
- 66. CHERISH
- 67. FALLING SOUND
- 68. CALENDAR NUMBERS
- 69. WATER CONTAINER
- 70. SHADE TREES

DOWN

- 1. SINGER \_\_\_\_ MCENTIRE
- 2. EGG-SHAPED
- 3. DESPERATE
- 4. CONDUCTING CONTACT
- 5. LOVE, IN ROME
- 6. USE COUPONS
- 7. GATOR'S COUSIN
- 8. NOT THERE
- 9. BOX
- 10. SPEED CHECKER
- 11. ACTOR \_\_\_\_ IDLE
- 12. BANANA SKIN
- 13. TEST ANSWER
- 22. SINGER \_\_\_\_ COLLINS
- 24. APPRAISES
- 26. THIN PANCAKE
- 27. SOPHIA \_\_\_\_
- 28. DWELLING
- 30. ROME'S COUNTRY
- 31. LION'S LAIR
- 32. MONTE \_\_\_\_
- 33. FOREIGNER
- 34. YOUNG PEOPLE
- 37. SLANTS
- 38. ASTRONOMER'S TOOL
- 40. SHEEP'S SOUND
- 43. PITFALL
- 47. GARMENT PART
- 49. THEATER PLATFORM
- 50. MEXICAN COINS
- 52. SEQUENCE
- 53. MATERNITY \_\_\_\_
- 54. MET SOLO
- 55. POSTED
- 56. READY, WILLING, AND \_\_\_\_
- 57. FARM IMPLEMENT
- 59. BOAT'S FRAME
- 60. MOLECULE PART
- 61. CHEF'S UNITS (ABBR.)



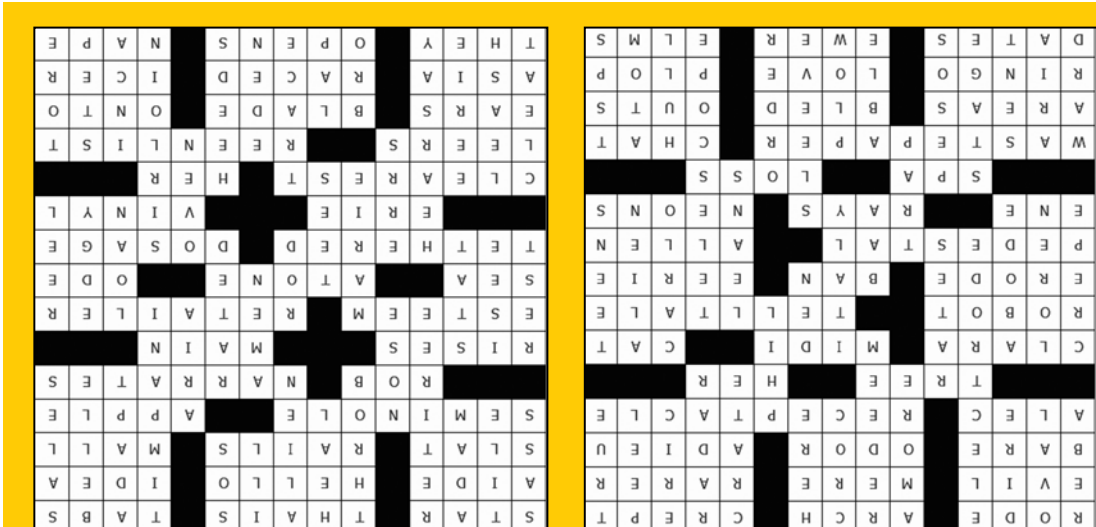
ACROSS

- 1. CELEBRITY
- 5. BANGKOK NATIVES
- 10. FILE LABELS
- 14. STAFF MEMBER
- 15. GREETING WORD
- 16. CONCEPTION
- 17. MATTRESS SUPPORT
- 18. TRAIN TRACKS
- 19. SHOPPING CENTER
- 20. FLORIDA NATIVE AMERICAN
- 22. EVE'S FRUIT
- 23. STEAL FROM
- 24. TELLS (A STORY)
- 27. ASCENDS
- 30. PRINCIPAL
- 31. SELF-\_\_\_\_
- 33. STORE OWNER
- 37. WATERY EXPANSE
- 38. REPENT
- 40. SHELLEY WORK
- 41. ON A LEASH
- 44. MEDICINAL AMOUNT
- 47. FAMED CANAL
- 48. IMITATION LEATHER
- 49. MOST TRANSPARENT
- 53. THAT GIRL
- 54. MALICIOUS LOOKS
- 55. SIGN UP AGAIN
- 60. CORN SPIKES
- 61. SKATE RUNNER
- 63. INFORMED OF
- 64. JAPAN'S CONTINENT
- 65. RUSHED
- 66. CAKE DECORATOR
- 67. THOSE FOLKS
- 68. UNCOVERS
- 69. NECK AREA

DOWN

- 1. BACK TALK
- 2. MAHJONG PIECE
- 3. COMEDIAN SANDLER
- 4. PERSON ON A PENSION
- 5. PULSATE
- 6. CURE
- 7. FOREIGN
- 8. UNDER THE WEATHER
- 9. HELP!
- 10. BIG DRUMS
- 11. ADJUST
- 12. SOUTHERN BEAUTY
- 13. SHOPPERS' DELIGHTS
- 21. SMELLING ORGAN
- 22. DIVA'S SOLO
- 25. CHURCH WORD
- 26. GRADED
- 27. MUSICAL SYMBOL
- 28. ENLIGHTENED ONE'S WORDS (2 WDS.)
- 29. EMT'S WORD
- 32. SINGER \_\_\_\_ OSMOND
- 33. STAFF
- 34. BANK TRANSACTION
- 35. IRRITABLE
- 36. STAGGER
- 39. GOLF PEGS
- 42. RUMOR
- 43. DOES WRONG
- 45. KITCHEN HOT SPOT
- 46. TYPE OF STEAK
- 49. SHOE SPIKE
- 50. FIDO'S ROPE
- 51. CREEPY
- 52. TRACK DOWN
- 53. LISTENS
- 56. PARADISE
- 57. MACHU PICCHU NATIVE
- 58. LADDER RUNG
- 59. SHREDDED
- 61. SIS'S SIBLING
- 62. BABY'S SEAT

ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET



Flip over for this issue's crossword solutions!



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## The future of early childhood education from an Indigenous perspective

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with special guest  
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