

Program Administrator Annual Report

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Mission

To mobilize citizens to work with law enforcement and partners to prevent crime and create a safer environment for all.

Goals

The main goal of the Citizens on Patrol Program is to be on the look-out for any suspicious or criminal activity, to document this activity and, where appropriate, to report such activities to the police. COPP members act as additional “eyes and ears” for their community and the police, which assists in reducing crime.

The program’s primary focus is to be on the look-out for suspicious and criminal activity through **active observation**, to **document** this activity and where appropriate, to **report** such activities to the police. Program members act as additional “eyes and ears” for their community and the police, which assists in reducing crime through COPP patrols.

Accompanying Goals

Deterrence - To provide a presence in the community through patrolling by vehicle, by foot, bicycle, or other means, as required.

Education – To educate Manitobans about crime prevention

Awareness – To increase Manitoba’s awareness on crime prevention.

Highlights

Interest and requests for information to form a Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program (MB COPP) from several rural Communities including the Winnipeg region are increasing. Neighborhoods and communities are seeking to form groups to help curb escalating property crime.

Regions are recognizing reducing crime includes utilizing a local citizen’s crime prevention initiative to assist with law enforcement measures, as a valuable extension to policing services.

The success of the program over the last 32 years has demonstrated having an active citizen's crime prevention program in the community, is an effective deterrence to crime. Crime prevention is a police-community partnership endorsed by law enforcement agencies with active groups throughout Manitoba.

Our primary focus continues with local groups creating a visible crime deterrence, and reporting suspicious activities, as a demonstrated method to help counteract criminal activity. MB COPP members dedication to patrolling the communities by vehicle or walking through the neighborhoods, contributes to the long-standing operation history of the program.

Working together with police through regular communication to help COPP members focus their efforts to include hot spots of concerns, will help establish safer communities for citizens. Local COPP group's efforts keeping an eye on properties has helped free up valuable policing services to respond to more urgent or serious matters, requiring their attention.

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Conference - AGM - Training - Communications

Our 2022 annual conference and Annual General Meeting was attended by approximately fifty participants. Special Law enforcement presentations from Winnipeg Police Service (Cst. Garnie McIntyre), Brandon Police Service (Cst. Jason Medwechuk), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Cst. Paul Human). Guest in attendance included other RCMP members, Cassandra Dokken from Manitoba Justice and Mr. James Teitsma MLA for Radisson bringing his opening greetings from the Government of Manitoba.

A mass training session was provided in the afternoon with forty participants from established groups. It was an opportunity to provide members with updated training methods for delivering consistent training, to ensure safe effective patrolling for new members / groups and refresher training.

MB COPP participated in the Manitoba Justice, Seniors Strategy Focus Group on community safety for seniors in September. It was interesting to hear various safety perspective of others involved.

Groups are encouraged to continue to use their local media for sharing program information in their communities and as a recruitment outreach to look for new members. Our Chairperson Marg Potts was interviewed for comment by the media, on escalating crime in Winnipeg. Efforts to establish / re-establish groups the Winnipeg Region continue.

The COPP is similar to an airport with arrivals and departures. With members continually joining and leaving the program we have stepped up our communications efforts with the groups to confirm they are active, and groups to provide current and new members

registration information for our records, to ensure we plan for providing adequate educational & equipment support, as we prepare to build capacity with increased growth.

A strategy is in place to incorporate improved communications between groups and the regional representatives. Submitting a brief Q & A quarterly report through the website allows your regional representative to highlight the groups efforts and introduce matters for Board consideration.

Embracing Challenges

Inflationary pressures are mitigated with bulk ordering for discount equipment pricing in lieu of smaller frequent purchases at higher prices. Vehicle signs have increased by 25% the last year and 35% over the last two years. Community metal signs have increased 32% over the last year and 59% over the last two years.

Saving costs by combining equipment order pickups directly from several vendors on the same trip, picked up in a personal vehicle has realized cost saving over separate deliveries courier costs.

As much as possible hospitality requirements for meetings and events have been locked in with advance bookings. Rates skyrocketing by 42% from the previous year, due to demand and the hospitality industry looking to recover three years of pandemic losses and inflationary pressures. Speculation from the industry predicts continuing increases.

Advance expenditure planning and preparation for program operations is required for sustaining MB COPP between funding disbursements. Conditional semi - annual

funding payments, with months of processing time involved between funding disbursement, is an operational challenge, requiring detailed advance budget planning.

Successive member growth within existing groups is counteracting a post pandemic reduction of volunteers. This is a common challenge reported from most volunteer organizations. Some COPP groups previous long-time members are retiring from the program and changing their lifestyle. Other members are relocating or facing volunteer time constraints with new employment challenges. A number of groups also report some volunteers still did not feeling safe to gather or have medical complications leaving them vulnerable to contracting Covid. The increase in fuel costs has resulted adjusted driving patrols. Rural community patrols are typically in vehicle often driving substantial distances.

On an encouraging front these groups are actively attempting to rebuild their member bases, reaching out for more participants. This has had a stabilizing effect on the total number of members participating in the program. Gratefully there are a number of law enforcement agencies involved in assisting groups with recruitment and screening.

Program Initiatives / Achievements

Early in 2023 the Board discussed embracing closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitoring as extension of patrolling to assist in a RCMP community safety initiative and as additional resource for law enforcement assistance. Law enforcement has indicated this will assist them in identifying criminals and providing evidence for the courts.

A funding application to the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund has been initiated for Swan River Manitoba, to obtain and install a CCTV system. Members from the Swan Valley COPP plan to participate. Preliminary Guidelines for COPP members participation include consultation with our law enforcement and Resource Council. Expectations are this frame work will continue to develop and adapt throughout the year.

A new reflective more durable interior vehicle sign was introduced as a replacement for the previous sign. The previous cardstock sign will be phased out as remaining stock is depleted. This will provide more patrol vehicle visibility to other motorists and the public.

The Board is continuing hybrid meetings with video conferencing allowing in person / computer or phone communications. This allows improved meeting participation opportunities and meeting costs saving through the Zoom communications platform.

Through the year we had in person Board meetings, committee meetings, many general individual telephone meetings and much email correspondence in administering the program.

Regular Board meetings now include a full day meeting allowing for uninterrupted meeting time. Locations are rotated to include Brandon, Winnipeg and Portage La Prairie, making for improved travel time for Board members.

MB COPP groups combined patrolling time and kilometres travelled continue to provide good value on the program contribution provided by the Government of Manitoba. Additionally, it provides a significant contribution as a successful Provincial citizens crime prevention program, assisting law enforcement by using proactive measures to deter and help reduce crime for citizens and properties.

Program Statistics

Current Groups & Members

There are currently 40 groups with approximately 525 active members registered with the Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program.

Registered Groups

Beausejour	Beckville Beach	Bifrost	Carberry	Dauphin
East St Paul	Eden & District	Evergreen Beach	Flin Flon	Inkster North End
Lac Du Bonnet	Louise & Area	Morden	Municipality of McCreary	Neepawa
North Whiteshell	Oak Bluff	Oakbank / Springfield	Pierson	Portage La Prairie
Reinfeld	RM of Victoria Beach	Roblin	Sandpiper (St. Laurent)	Souris & Glennwood
South St Andrews	St Boniface	St Clements	St Ambroise	Ste Agathe
Ste Anne	Steinbach	Swan Valley	West Eyes (West Interlake)	West Shores
West St Paul	William Whyte	Winkler	Woodhaven	Woodridge

New and re-established groups

Dauphin	Roblin	Souris-Glenwood
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Information & Training Sessions

MB COPP received inquiries from several communities and Law Enforcement agencies throughout Manitoba. Additionally local groups have provided information sessions and updated training for existing and new members.

Information on our program has been requested by the following communities:

Niverville RCMP	Information Inquiry	Pending
Lundar	Presentation Request	Pending
St. Pierre RCMP	Information Inquiry	Pending
Melita	Presentation Request	Group Formation in progress
Stanley	Presentation Request	RCMP Referral - Presentation Provided
Island Lake RCMP	Information Inquiry	Provided
Anishininew Okimawin (Island Lake 1 st Nation)	Presentation Request	RCMP Referral - Presentation Provided
Pimicikamak Cree Nation (Cross Lake)	Information Inquiry	Details Provided through RCMP detachment
Winnipeg Regions	Information Inquiry	Details Provided- Pending Presentation
St. Francis Xavier	Information Inquiry	Details Provided
Portage Delta Beach	Information Inquiry	Pending Group Formation

Training Provided / Pending

Dauphin	Provided
Souris /Glenwood	Provided
Mass Training Session - 40 MB COPP Groups	Provided
Roblin	Updated Training Pending

Patrols Information

COPP groups have collectively patrolled over 11,007 hours, with combined program volunteering time of more than 18,864 hours and travelled over 74,233 KMS, during the period of April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023.

Equipment Distribution

Manitoba COPP will provide new and existing groups with support and resources, including the necessary safety equipment (reflective vests, vehicle signage) and training for their COPP groups to opera

Total Equipment Disbursements quantities

Item	Apr 1 to Sep 30	Oct 1 to Mar 31	Annual
Business Cards	100	590	690
COPP Headwear	71	55	126
Community Sign Large	13	0	13
Community Sign Small	13	25	38
COPP Duffle Bag	0	2	2
Evidence Notebook	11	47	58
Pamphlets	225	1125	1350
Poster	50	155	205
Promotional Pens	259	581	840
Safety Vests	7	34	41
Training Manuals	20	90	110
Vehicle Sign Interior	73	40	113
Vehicle Sign Magnetic	20	81	101

2022 - 2023 Board / Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings – April 1 - March 31	Board Meetings – April 1 - March 31
2022 Conference May 19 / June 21 / Aug11 / Sep12 - 2022	June 27, 2022 - Virtual Board Meeting
Website – November 22, 2022	November 11, 2022 - AGM
2023 Conference – February 21, 2023	November 11, 2022 – Board Meeting
Website – March 9, 2023	Feb 25, 2023 - Board Meeting

Financial Reports are provided in separate report documents.