

**Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program - Annual General Meeting
Chairperson Report - May 1, 2021**

Program Status - Details

Current Board Members

Detlef Hindemith, (Chairperson) Region 4,11,12,13
Ernie Dyck, (Vice Chairperson) Region 9
Dustin Brown, (Communication's) Region 9,10
Marg Potts, Region Wpg1-4
Sinclair James, Region 1-3
Clint McKechnie, Region 6,7,8
William Brown, Participant

Resource Council Members

Cpl. Theresa Labbe (RCMP)
Cst. Maria Buduhan (WPS)
Cst. Chika MODOZIE (WPS)
S/Sgt. Micheal Tosh (BPS)

Departing / Departed Board Members

Brenda McKinney, Region 5
Ernie Dyck, Region 9
Bill Bracegirdle, Region 12
Bev Meilleur, Participant, Region 12
Glenn Collard, Region 11
Twyla Ludwig, Region 6,7
S/ Sgt. Marc Alain (BPS)

Regional Representatives Nominations

Val Uffelman, Region 1-3
Joan Neumann, Region 5
Chris Grant, Region 12

New Groups

Lac Du Bonnet, Tyndall / Garson, Elie, Swan Valley, Bifrost

Board Meetings

In person meetings -2
Electronic meetings -9

Groups Registered

55

Total Program Hours

Oct 2019 - December of 2020 was 15239 patrol hours and 20521 total volunteer hours

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Chairperson Report

Since our previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Oct 27,2019 the Citizens on Patrol Program (MB COPP) Board has been extremely busy navigating the transition away from corporate sponsorship, which included their resources and paid employee, to an administrative volunteer platform, lacking predictable annual funding. I thank our previous Board members for their contributions and am grateful for our current board members, participants and law enforcement resource council members for their ongoing dedication, enthusiasm and guidance to the program. Without the efforts of this dedicated group of individuals, we would not currently have an active program.

The previous AGM through a question sheet very clearly identified members strongly supported this organization continue to operate as a Provincially administrated program. Providing consistency as a central Provincial body, share best practices, train and provide governance for community patrol groups. The most common concern individuals expressed was local groups would be unable to fund their local group operations and the program it self would be inconsistent without direction and leadership.

With the Provincial Coordinators current position and our previous funding partnership expiring on March 31, 2020 the MB COPP Board embarked on an alternate operations plan. Regional Representative stepped up and continue to be the primary contact and resource to their groups.

The lobbying assistance of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities resulted in the passing of a resolution (93% in favor) at their annual meeting in November of 2019, for the Province “to source a partner to provide stable funding in order to continue the success of the Citizens on Patrol Program”.

Also, in November 2019 a detailed letter from MB COPP was submitted to the Province of Manitoba, Community Safety Division, Department of Justice requesting a meeting to discuss core, secure, stabile financial support from the Province, for the program.

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Chairperson Report (Continued)

As an initial step it was very encouraging to identify their willingness to participate in our common goal to continue MB COPP. A subsequent December 2020 meeting with Manitoba Justice and the Justice Minister established a working relationship with a commitment to assist in sourcing provisional funding opportunities for our program and potentially stable core annual funding in the future. MB COPP applied for a \$110,000 grant from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Funds in March 2020.

MB COPP was previously incorporated but was dissolved a few years ago. The Board recognised this needed to be re-established in order to increase our opportunities to successfully apply for grants. Soon after, the impact of Covid 19 pandemic escalated in our Province causing unprecedented disruptions. The pandemic slowed our operations and planning while we patiently waited for potential funding. The incorporation process was plagued with numerous extended delays including covid -19 related filing deadlines and a reduced work force with many employees staying home. The Incorporation process was restarted later in the year and is currently close to completion.

The Constitution / bylaws / policies and procedures were reviewed for improvement and amended to reflect our independence from our previous sponsor without a Provincial Coordinator. A new bylaw was created to address electronic meeting attendance / voting and an extension of time to hold an annual meeting.

A new Handling of Sharps and Needles policy was created to properly manage the disposal, and to provide guidance for the safety of our members and the community. The equipment distribution policy was improved to address our members ability to efficiently and safely patrol while providing a sustainable equipment list.

In March and April 2020, a communication was distributed by email to all group coordinators recommending taking increased precautions during patrols with information links to government/ health websites.

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Chairperson Report (Continued)

In response to this urgent threat to public health the Province implement “Operation Safe Apart”. Operation Safe Apart included the recruitment of volunteers to assist with public awareness and education with respect to public health orders (PHOs), and refer matters for formal enforcement as necessary.

MB COPP was asked by MB Justice to assist through our experience in patrols to observe and report non compliance of health orders to Manitoba Government Inquiry line. Group’s participation in this safety initiative was entirely voluntary as it was recognized by the MB COPP Board this may not be practical for all groups. Our participation was appreciated and publicly acknowledged by the Premier of Manitoba.

By May 2020 our previous supplied website term expired and was inaccessible. The Board decided a new web host would be preferred as the previous one had a very dated platform. A new website developer who works with non profits on a pay as you can afford basis was secured but unfortunately the covid pandemic prevented us from moving forward as their operations became uncommunicative for extended periods, as they adjusted to covid operating norms.

With the loss of our previous sponsored email address a central Admin Team info.mbcopp@gmail.com email was created for general inquires, mass distribution and members to log their hours. The Chairperson was / is currently monitoring along with another member. As we continue to move forward this is envisioned as a rotational involvement from the Board members.

As was previously announced the program received the requested \$110,000 funding grant from the Federal Proceeds of Crime in late August of 2020. As a conditional grant the funds are to be used within 10 months and only allowed to be used for purpose of the grant within time frame of grant. This grant can not be used for any type of program salary. Any unused funds are required to be paid back to the proceeds of crime fund.

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Chairperson Report *(Continued)*

A portion of the funding related to in person mass gatherings which will not be used has already been returned as will any remaining unused funding from the 2020-2021 proceeds of crime distribution we received.

The funding was a life saver in that it allowed MB COPP the means to remaining viable to administer the program and continue to provide support to all groups. This funding allowed us to move ahead with a new web site developer, to build a ground up fresh website which will allow clear communication to the public about MB COPP with improved access of information to the groups. The site is currently 99% complete on the public view and 95% complete with the coordinator portal. The portal will also allow coordinators to enter and track their patrol / volunteer hours and now kilometers travelled.

This is enormously important information for MB COPP as it is seen as the primary measurement of our program success, very valuable when applying for funding. As with any technology there will be challenges along the way until the deficiencies are discovered and worked out. Please be patient.

During the Fall and Winter of 2020 / 2021 equipment quotes were obtained from many suppliers for best price based bulk purchases. This allows the program to retain inventory on hand to supply existing and new groups as per the equipment policy. Several of the newest groups had to wait considerable time for equipment to finally be available to them. We believe most of these groups now have their equipment but some went on reduced patrols due to covid restrictions. Others groups found creative ways to patrol and be compliant with the restrictions. If you are still waiting for equipment, please contact your regional representative.

Equipment orders were systematically placed but demand and covid supply chain disruptions caused significant delivery delays of up to three months. These delays are expected to continue until the pandemic resolves and producers and suppliers recover with normal operations as per demand.

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Chairperson Report (Continued)

New vehicle signage and safety vests were redesigned and will now be decorated in bilingual English / French to reflect us living in a bilingual Province with an active French speaking community.

Our annual conference was not possible, including this year due to the health order restrictions on gatherings and the continuing concerns with the emerging covid variants of concern. The goal is having an annual conference in Spring of 2022, if allowed.

Earlier this year in January 2021 we communicated the need for more members to participate on the Board. There are specific areas of assistance still required. The Board is also looking for additional participants to familiarize themselves with operations as terms expire and positions are left vacant. Please contact your regional representative for detailed information on how you can assist.

In February 2021 we distributed our first quarterly newsletter and the second quarter will be arriving in your inbox some time in April 2021. This is an effort to communicate more with our members while giving you an opportunity to provide input to the newsletter as well.

Through 2020 and 2021 I have been in regular communications with the MB Justice, Community Safety Division operations director and their Crime Prevention Division, Senior Policy and Program Analyst. A recent encouraging online Teams meeting involving these parties including the Executive Director of Criminal Property Forfeiture, reinforced the need for a stable predictable funding platform from the Province. Unfortunately, due to the covid - 19 strain on resources and finances, this will not be possible for the 2021- 2022 year. Their budget year runs April1 – March 31. The MB Justice team will be addressing this need with the new Justice Minister. I was encouraged as a transitory measure to continue applying for funding through grants until a permanent solution is established. This April a detailed 2021-2022 application for funding was submitted to the Federal Proceeds of Crime fund.

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A disbursement committee independently reviews all the applications and decides on entitlement and the disbursement, there is no guarantee we will receive funding. However, I feel we are a good candidate to receive funding, as a primary component in the application specifically notes priority will be given to grant requests related to crime prevention initiatives. It should be noted this fund is not intended as a source of yearly operational funding and the MB COPP program will need to source additional sources of revenue in the future. A big thank you for your patience and understanding during this pivotal challenging time during our program's history.

This year MB COPP celebrates 30 yrs. since beginning in 1991. Despite changes through out this period it has remained focused on its mission and commitment to help make communities and neighborhoods safer, while working together with law enforcement partners.

Respectfully submitted by,
Detlef Hindemith, Chairperson