



# COMMUNITY WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE

☎ 204 573 0188

✉ cwcprogramassist@gmail.com

📍 Brandon, Manitoba

## **CWC Community Thought Boxes**

April 22 - June 5, 2024

**Eight boxes were dropped off at community locations on April 22, 2024.**

1. **Blue Door**
2. **BNRC**
3. **Helping Hands**
4. **Samaritan House**
5. **BFC**
6. **SERC**
7. **TWRC**
8. **Knox United Church**

**On June 5, six of these boxes were collected, while two Thought Boxes remained in community (SERC, Knox United).**

**Fifty-three responses were submitted and are transcribed verbatim below:**

1. Free + 24 hr open public toilets + laundry
2. Free 24 hr toilet + laundry facility
3. Have a 24 hr Drop in Centre with at least 3 showers & washing machines available to the less fortunate. Considering there is only 3 showers available for the entire City of Brandon! Invest more funding to feed our community.
4. More opportunity for meals on weekends rather than just on Monday to Friday
5. More public washrooms at night.
6. More public bathrooms around town.
7. Better showers for the public with laundry access and donations for clothing and hygiene products.
8. Better access to food and evenings and weekends and holiday



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9. Food options for vulnerable populations on the weekend, psychiatric care after 7 PM, affordable, housing, cheaper food options like the food rescue store, 24-hour washroom options for people without having to buy something.
10. People who are unhoused or people unlimited income need access to food for supper on the weekends. Too many are coming to Safe and Warm very hungry and only staying for the food
11. People who need access to bathrooms and showers and laundry facilities.
12. Supper options, Safe And Warm is the only place to get food and use a bathroom and get water after 5 PM.
13. The homeless downtown community needs lockers and more free showers and laundry.
14. A space people can access on the weekends and holidays when everything else is closed.
15. Dear Brandon. If we want a healthy planet + I'm fairly sure we do then we need to stop impeding recycling by non-profits, if not by everyone.
16. More trash bins in the downtown area.
17. Ticket more littering
18. Give free recycling and trash receptacles to Blue Door, Sammy's place and food vendor/soup kitchen. Give out more tickets for littering binning and other activities that leave trash in our streets and parks and public areas.
19. Suggestions for BCC, inmates should be able to do cleanups outside instead of in jail for good behaviour.
20. Businesses to clean up their own garbage in front of their buildings.
21. More garbage cans on streets downtown
22. Free recycling for the soup kitchen
23. More wellness groups +/- or functions
24. No more curfew @ the homeless shelter
25. Feast/potluck – Food from traditionally eaten foods, from each nationality, in hopes of bringing people together!!



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26. More support for survivors of violence.

27. Create a locker system available to street people, 24 hr. surveillance and security. 1 individual allowed in at a time. Facial recognition to access your locker. Less problems of losing a key or having it stolen. No one forgetting or being forced to give a combination. All items being placed in lockers must be overlooked by security. Less problems of illegal items attempted to be stored. Individuals would have to volunteer at local drop in centre, cleaning up garbage in our city. SERC or BNRC could potentially find volunteer services to pay toward the rent of their lockers.

28. More resources for homelessness and a better mental health support system.

29. Our population is growing and we have NO affordable housing. We need to build up more apartments, less condos or split housing. No one can afford \$1000 a month and still eat and get to work. Our homeless population has no where safe, there are no beds to sleep. Our addicted population of all walks of life need help, detox, rehab and after care and mental health. Fix it, We Need Your Help!

30. Brandon needs to address the drug crisis. AM and WSS are not enough spaces for the need! People are dying. Also RAAM needs to be open more hours. Emerg should not be the entry point for withdrawal services and mental healthcare.

31. Not enough apartments. Need more apartments and need to be affordable! Need more jobs that don't require you to have 4 years university etc. Jobs for everyone. Look after your own people before taking in immigrants! Count the people downtown without homes. Have more buildings + businesses like Ask Auntie/ Blue Door. Keep this organization. Make Downtown nice + attractive, more stores! Tell the police to stop treating Native people like flies on shit. Get rid of graffiti! Hire more people for BNRC Cleanup. Expand the map out of Downtown for cleanups. Have Helping Hands Soup Kitchen open on weekends. The ppl suffer and starve on weekends.

32. Clowns on every corner

33. Destroy McKenzie Seeds. Repair all burnt out lights. Town Centre clothing store. Arcade game store in Town Centre.



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34. More job opportunity, more funding for education, training, more programs / resources.
35. More funding for non-profits
36. An incentive program to encourage people to participate in the community.
37. 1. Learning life skills to be able to look after ourselves properly, 2. one to two stage housing, supportive, living, 3. more affordable, housing, 4. better mental health and housing strategy 5. supports, with the community all working together to help those out there who desperately need it 6. more training for support workers and assistance to understand mental health issues, and warning signs to look for with people, 7. create a contact list card for those out there in our community that would get the list to be able to help themselves in case of emergency.
38. People who are need access to storage.
39. Safe consumption injection site. Bike racks - people can't afford to drive and nowhere safe to leave a bike and businesses don't allow. Downtown streetlight servicing for safety. Another overnight shelter. Longer buses on Sundays and holidays. People work these days too or would like to. Lock storage lockers for people with bags.
40. Public storage for people to store their belongings temporarily that is safe and accessible.
41. No more fucking meth heads.
42. More services and help for immigrants on immigration, work/student visas, etc. Parking chips or something for business workers in town that often parking at metres and can be tracked and charged back to the company, example Turning Leaf.
43. Less vendors and bars. The hospital needs another entrance by the emergency doors for other hospital/public use.
44. Street Reach.
45. For the new friendship centre: When they were thinking of the NEW friendship centre on 600 block. When they had the thought of building it for the people!!
46. They left bike racks out!!
47. Clowns on every corner \$4 0\$



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48. Hi, more indigenous people in organizations

49. Supporting our free spirits, Aboriginal People. We live as freely as we can in the land of the free, on reserves. Why should we know how to live in the same way as you? Be teachers, most of us don't know love, only hate - pain. It starts with YOU. Respect ALL. God's plan.

50. I think what is the biggest problem in all the world is people think they should be worried about every other person in their life but their own. Time to judge self. Time to acknowledge and accept. Time to mind your business. Keep good communication and treat all fairly and the same way. Respect. Eye contact. Tones in voice. Paying attention. Understanding in what way should you know what's good for someone else. We are only in control of who... ourselves. That's mind, body and spirit. Actions and body movement. Love will cure all, love is the answer.

51. Protect one another. Don't begin showing others and young one's bad things!

52. Helping people say no to bad words. Apologize for yelling. PTSD traumatizes people. Especially when people were yelling, even though it wasn't at you. Don't be stealing, otherwise there's consequences.

53. More hospitality. Less Prejudice and become more nice to one another. Let's all make love PLEASE not war.