

## Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS)

Quarterly Summary: January 1 – March 31, 2021

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) is a two-year pilot project aimed at addressing improper needle disposal in the community. The program is funded by Region of Waterloo Public Health and implemented by Sanguen Health Centre in partnership with area municipalities and participating BIAs. After a success pilot in Cambridge, phase two involves further expansion into Kitchener and Waterloo. Cambridge operations began in January 2021 and after a short planning period, the program launched in Kitchener in March and expansion into Waterloo is currently underway. WINS aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Reduce the number of discarded needles in the community.
2. Increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with barriers to traditional employment.
3. Educate people who use substances of proper disposal options, when opportunities exist.
4. Create a positive community response and increase community engagement related to harm reduction and substance use.

### Data Summary for Q1 (January 1 to March 31, 2021):

Indicator	Total (Jan 1 – Mar 31)
# of needles collected	2,551
# of glass pipes collected	397
# of interactions with community members	1,022
# of referrals to community organizations	71
# of peer workers (as of March 31, 2021):	14
# of peer hours worked	411

### Key Findings for this period:

- Through the WINS program, peer workers collected 2,551 discarded needles and 397 pipes from January to March 2021. Anecdotally, more needles are found in Spring as a result of the snow melting.
- Since the program began in January, WINS has provided employment opportunities for 14 people with barriers to traditional employment. Recruitment is an ongoing process, and WINS continues to seek out new peers to join their team.