

## Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS)

Quarterly Summary: October 1, 2021 – December 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 successful 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 Waterloo in April. 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 Q4 (October 1 – December 31, 2021)

Indicator	Total (Oct 1 – Dec 31)
# of needles collected	4,902
# of glass pipes collected	930
# of interactions with community members	1,853
# of referrals to community organizations	71
# of peer workers (as of December 31, 2021)	24
# of peer hours worked	1,257

### Key findings for this period:

- The program continues to increase the number of peer hours worked. In Q1 peer workers worked 411 hours, in Q2 they worked 726 hours, in Q3 they worked 987 hours, and in Q4 hours worked increased to 1257 hours.
- Compared to Q3, the number of needles collected increased by 23 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected increased by 14 per cent, likely due to the increase in the number of peer hours worked each month.
- Interactions with community members have increased by 34 per cent, while referrals to community organizations have decreased by 58 percent compared with Q3.