



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) Quarterly summary: July 1 – September 30, 2023

Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS) is a 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 in 2018, phase two involved 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 2021. 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 Q3 (July 1 – September 30, 2023):

Indicator	Total (July 1 – Sept 30)
# of needles collected	8,669
# of glass pipes collected	2,730
# of interactions with community members	2,652
# of referrals to community organizations	133
# of peer workers (as of September 30, 2023):	57
# of peer hours worked	1068

Table 1

Key findings for this period:

- The program continues to increase the number of peer hours worked. In Q2 of 2023, peer workers worked 973.25 hours. In Q3 there were 9 new peers hired and 1068 hours worked.
- Compared to Q2 of 2023, the number of needles collected in Q3 decreased by 11.3 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected decreased by 0.9 per cent.
- Interactions with community members have increased by 28.9 per cent since Q2 of 2023, and the number of referrals to community organizations has increased by 47.8 per cent.