

## Working to Improve Neighbourhood Safety (WINS)

Quarterly Summary: October 1 – December 31, 2022

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, 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 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 Q4 (October 1 – December 31, 2022):

Indicator	Total (October 1 – December 31)
# of needles collected	8813
# of glass pipes collected	2033
# of interactions with community members	2376
# of referrals to community organizations	97
# of peer workers (as of December 31, 2022):	64
# of peer hours worked	1194.5

### Key Findings for this period:

- There were 1472.5 peer hours worked in both Q2 & Q3 of 2022. In Q4 there were less hours worked, with thirteen fewer peers at the end of the quarter.
- Compared to Q3, the number of needles collected in Q4 decreased by 17.6 per cent and the number of glass pipes collected increased by 10.7 per cent. Anecdotally, more needles were found in spring 2022 as a result of the snow melting.
- Interactions with community members have decreased by 22 per cent since Q3, as a reflection of that, the number of referrals to community organizations decreased by 34 per cent.