

A photograph of a city street scene, likely in a downtown area. The street is lined with buildings, including a prominent one with a blue sign that says 'HOTEL'. There are streetlights with decorative elements, and several 'ART STREET' banners hanging from the poles. A person is walking across the street in the foreground, and a group of people is standing on the sidewalk to the right. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

Welcoming Streets Initiative

January 25, 2023

Welcoming Streets Initiative (WSI)

WSI Outreach Workers:

- support downtown businesses and community members in the downtown core
- offer business owners and their teams de-escalation and anti-stigma training

Call a WSI Outreach Worker if:

- You see **someone in distress downtown** and want to see if someone is available to provide them with support
- You are **concerned for a vulnerable individual's safety and wellbeing** and want help connecting them to community services
- You **need clarity on who to contact to support a vulnerable person**, or how to navigate a situation that is taking place at your workplace
- You are ready to set up **de-escalation and safety training for your workplace**
- You encounter **drug paraphernalia around your business**

- Alex: 519-710-0464
- Josh: 519-362-1454
- Kim: 519-710-8528

Welcoming Streets in 2023/24

Quick Snapshot

- 3 WSI Outreach Workers available 7 days per week
- Minimum 1500 clients interactions
- De-Escalation and Anti-Stigma Training offered to all businesses in the downtown core
 - *Many businesses have been trained already or expressed interest*

What we've heard about WSI...

Business Owner, Downtown Guelph

"It makes me feel more secure in dealing with future situations knowing that there are people I can call to help resolve an issue without involving the police. Thank you Welcoming Streets!"

Business Owner, Downtown Guelph

"I think it is an important service that bridges the gap between policing and people getting access to services. You need to have good caring people in this role to make it work which seems you have had."

Main Branch Supervisor, Guelph Public Library

"The role of the library has always been to connect people in our community to the information and resources they need or want to learn about. Having developed a partnership with Welcoming Streets we are able to work collaboratively to support individuals in the downtown who are experiencing homelessness and/or addictions. Through our relationship we can provide a holistic solution to the unique challenges downtown is facing. Not only are community members supported but so are the staff at Guelph Public Library. We all come together to offer life changing solutions that benefits not just the individual but the community as a whole."



Welcoming Streets today...

- WSI is **the go-to non-emergency response** for situations in the downtown core
- It is a **cornerstone of the safety pillar in the Mayor's Strategic Advisory Group on Downtown Issues**
- **WSI has grown** from 2 to 3 staff, with increased evening and weekend coverage
- With increased staff, WSI staff require **increased manager support and office space**

Expenses

Items	Expenses
Salaries & Benefits	\$237,255
Program Expenses & Administration	\$35,504
Total	\$272,759

Potential Revenue

Sources	Annual Revenue
City of Guelph	\$202,500.00 (base funding)
Contributing Partners	\$35,000.00
Total	\$237,500.00

Variance: -\$35,259

Our ask: \$202,500

