



2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 661 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 1E2  
**Phone:** (204) 982-8229  
**Fax:** (204) 943-9474  
**[mainstreetproject.ca](http://mainstreetproject.ca)**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MAIN STREET PROJECT LAUNCHES ITS FIRST WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN FOR VAN PATROL PROGRAM**

Winnipeg, MB – February 5, 2018: Main Street Project now has a wheelchair-accessible van for its van patrol program. The purchase of the new van was made possible by a federally-funded grant facilitated through the City of Winnipeg’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

The van was custom built in Winnipeg and has seating for up to 10 people, including two wheelchairs. It also includes room for supplies, such as clothing, food and harm reduction supplies, as well as a defibrillator for emergency situations that was donated by Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

“We are really happy to have a new van on the road,” said Rick Lees, executive director at Main Street Project. “The wheelchair accessibility will allow us to transport people much more safely and securely.”

The purpose of the van is to look for at risk community members in extreme weather conditions and offer them assistance. Assistance could include transportation back to Main Street Project’s Emergency Shelter, or, if people prefer to stay where they are, they can be provided with warm clothing such as mittens, a fleece blanket and food such as granola bars or a warm cup of coffee.

The van has also been decalated with information about who to call when the public sees a community member who may be needing assistance.

“We have very clear messaging on the van that indicates to the public who they can call if they see someone who might need help, “ Lees said. “They can either call Main Street Project’s shelter, which links into the van patrol phone line, or they can dial 911 in an emergency.”

Main Street Project’s van patrol program currently operates during the night, but the organization’s goal is to have the van on the road 24/7.

#### **About Main Street Project**

Main Street Project Inc. (MSP) is a not-for-profit Community Health Agency with a mandate to address social determinants of health which give rise to issues of addiction, mental and chronic health conditions and homelessness. MSP uses housing-first and harm reduction principles in the provision of a safe, respectful and accessible place for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the community. Since its formal inception in 1972, the organization has been providing a range of services to Winnipeg’s most vulnerable residents, including 1) emergency shelter and nutrition services, 2) drug and alcohol detoxification, 3) health advocacy/support, 4) counselling and housing support services. For more information, please visit [mainstreetproject.ca](http://mainstreetproject.ca).

-30-

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Cindy Titus, Communication/Fund Development Coordinator  
Office: 204-982-8257  
Cell: 204-792-7997  
Email: [ctitus@mainstreetproject.ca](mailto:ctitus@mainstreetproject.ca)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**