

# History

OF THE  
Winnipeg Police Association



The Winnipeg City Policemen's Federal Union was formed in July of 1918, and was the earliest form of unionization that years later would be taken over by the present day Winnipeg Police Association. At the time, the fledging Union was known as Local Charter #40, affiliated with the Trades & Labour Congress of Canada.

Not long afterwards, the organization was greatly impacted by the Winnipeg's General Strike in 1919, as the new union's membership voted overwhelmingly to join striking workers. Though officers for the most part remained on duty during the strike, their sympathies towards strikers were noted by their lenient conduct in maintaining law & order. The consequences of this behaviour included the mass firing of almost the entire force.

Most (but not all) of the Police Officers were re-hired shortly afterwards to resume their law enforcement duties. However, as a condition of employment, they were made to sign an agreement prohibiting them from being involved with a union. This became known as the "Slave Pact".

In 1920, the Winnipeg City Police Athletic Association (WCPAA) was created, and provided police officers with an organization that on the outside held a focus on promoting athletics, amusements and activities for its members. The WCPAA adhered to the non-union conditions of the Slave Pact, but over time began to exercise a creeping degree of authority in relation to collective representation for its members. Over time, "City" was dropped from the name and the organization became the Winnipeg Police Athletic Association (WPAA).

Their representation of officers was formalized on July 21, 1948, when the WPAA received union certification as the bargaining agent for Winnipeg police officers.

## Police Association Crest 1972

*The crocus represents the eleven Police Departments prior to the amalgamation of the Winnipeg Police Force in 1972. The green maple leaf represents Canada. The Countess of Dufferin and the three sheaves of wheat are symbolic of Winnipeg and Western Canada. The crown symbolizes Queen Elizabeth II. The English translation of "Robur per Concordia" is "Strength Through Harmony."*

# As a condition of employment, Police members were made to sign an agreement known as the **Slave Pact**

The WPAA officially became the Winnipeg Police Association (WPA) on March 16, 1972, in advance of the Unicity amalgamation of 1974. All other police associations within the Greater Winnipeg area also became members of the newly formed WPA when all the separate municipal departments merged.

The WPA has grown considerably since then, and now represents over 1,400 police officers and approximately 450 civilian support staff. The WPA is the sole bargaining agent for all contractual matters with the City of Winnipeg, and provides counsel and support to its members on a wide-range of internal and employment issues.

The WPA employs two full time representatives being the President and Vice President, as well as an Executive Assistant who oversees the office and in-house organizational matters. Along with the Executive, there are 11 other police members and two staff members who make up the Association's Board of Directors.

The WPA is affiliated with both the Canadian and Manitoba Police Associations. In collaboration with these organizations, the WPA is actively involved with lobbying Provincial and Federal governments for positive changes in law & labour that are meant to improve the working environments of police officers, and address the needs of safer communities.

Since its formation in 1986 the WPA has supported the mandate of the Winnipeg Police Museum & Historical Society in preserving the history of its membership for future generations. In fact former WPA President, Stan Scarr, was also the founding president of the Museum and remained in the position for the next 31 years. Items representing the history of the WPA can be seen throughout the Museum.

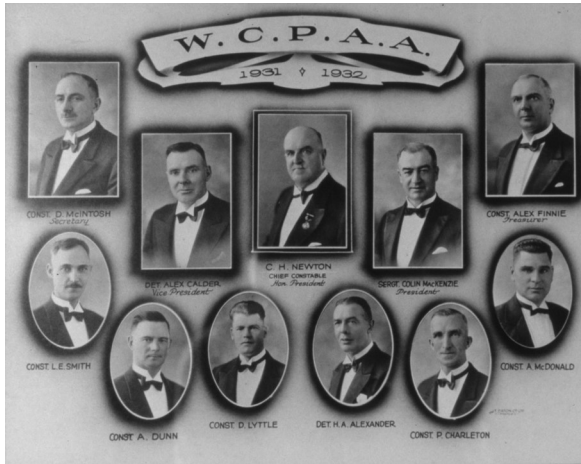
*Article written with files supplied by the Winnipeg Police Association.*

**Track & Field 1923  
Manitoba  
Champion 1923.  
Angus McDonald,  
with 16 LB shot  
put. Winner of  
Board of Police  
Commissioners'  
Trophy 1924  
"Grand Aggregate."**

**1920  
Winners of the Wallace  
Nesbitt Trophy,  
St. John's Ambulance  
Association Trophy  
1920. Included are:  
H.J. Harrod, J.G. Shields,  
C. Lorimer & J.S. Patrick  
(Captain).**

**Medical 1923  
"A" Division Winners  
of "Lord Shaughnessy  
Western Police Shield  
for First Aid" Winners:  
J. Reeves, R. Fisher, G. Blair,  
H.K. Dekker, H.J. Harrod  
(Captain), J.S. Patric  
(Sergeant Instructor).**

**WCPAA Executive members 1931-1932.**



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**Winnipeg North End A.A.C. Relay team. Winners Canadian Championship and Manitoba Championship 1909.**



**Tug-o-War personalities 1920  
Chief Constable C.H. Newton is seated fourth from the left.  
Photo from Manitoba Archives.**



**Track & Field 1921  
J. Scholta  
"B" Division,  
Winner of the A.  
MacDonald Cup  
16 LB Hammer**