



What is the Downtown Security Network (DSN)?

The Downtown Security Network (DSN) is a Downtown BIZ-led, Winnipeg Police Service-endorsed safety initiative connecting downtown business owners, property owners, and security teams with each other, the police and BIZ. The DSN allows members to share resources and communicate immediately about safety issues in order to reduce crime and improve downtown safety.

By joining the DSN, you will know immediately when incidents occur, allowing you to take added precautions to protect your customers, staff and property. Issues will also be communicated immediately to police and the broader network, encouraging everyone to be alert.

The DSN is a proactive, local solution modeled on successful networks in Minneapolis and Portland, Oregon. We also catalogue all downtown cameras to help the Winnipeg Police Service solve crimes.

Membership Benefits

- Training programs and workshops for your staff hosted by the WPS, Manitoba Public Insurance and the BIZ on topics like car vandalism prevention and dealing with panhandlers
- Stay in the loop of our lobbying efforts to improve downtown safety and join us in our efforts
- Ask questions to the police first hand at bimonthly town hall meetings or by using the **ASK THE INSPECTOR BUTTON** on the website
- **E-Alerts:** Get emails and/or text messages about occurring crime and safety issues
- Connect with other security teams downtown
- Access the DSN members-only website
- Join our DSN Message Board to openly discuss safety issues with other members
- Receive posters and decals for your staff and clients of the services we provide
- **CCTV:** Help the Winnipeg Police Service by registering your camera to the site - **WPS Detectives use the DSN camera database to solve downtown crime**

DSN Town Hall Meetings

Town Hall meetings are held bimonthly with DSN members, with a chance to get an update about the DSN, share ideas, hear from WPS representatives, and ask police your questions directly. Becoming a member also gives you access to numerous safety related workshops.

E-Alert Network

DSN members communicate issues immediately to the entire group via e-mail and/or text message so everyone can keep a lookout. Serious criminal activity is reported first to police, then to the DSN. Minor offences such as thefts from offices, hotels, and vehicles, shoplifting, and smash and grabs (car or property) are sent out to the network, especially if there is a photo of a suspect to watch for. These are minor crimes that are affecting our businesses but never dealt with. The DSN is a great resource for business owners, etc, to use to help our WPS catch these crimes.

Who can join the DSN?

DSN membership is **free** for Downtown BIZ and Crown Corporation members, with a small annual fee for others. Anyone downtown with a vested interest in public safety can become a member, including small business and property owners, building and residential property managers, and security personnel.

Who are the members of the DSN?

The members of the DSN are all organizations that provide security services in the downtown area, either in a private or public capacity, and all governmental organizations, which provide security services in the downtown area.

However, anyone who has a vested interest in the public safety issues that occur within the downtown can become a member. This would include small business owners, property owners, building managers, and residential property management teams.

The DSN is co-chaired by the Downtown Safety Committee Chairperson, and a representative from WPS. Minutes of each meeting are taken and sent to all members so they are kept informed on the actions of the DSN.

In addition to enhancing communications, the Downtown BIZ Safety Network DSN is involved in cataloguing all of the exterior security cameras in downtown Winnipeg. The purpose of this project is to assist the WPS in solving criminal cases. **If your business or organization currently has an exterior security camera we ask that you please participate in this project by providing us with information on your equipment.**

This can be done by filling out the "DSN Network Application Form" connected to this website. Once you have provided this information, if a crime takes place within view of your camera, you may receive a call from the police, asking if you have any footage of the crime. Your involvement in this project could help solve many more crimes within the downtown area.

Membership Fees

Downtown BIZ Members Free

Government - \$750 per building

West End Buildings - \$550 per building

Exchange District Buildings - \$550 per building

Residential Buildings - \$500 per building

Participating BIZes can purchase their share of the program, which would allow access for their BIZ members to the Security Network at cost of \$3,000 per year, less than a 1/3 of the costs to operate the downtown network.

Why there are membership's fees for non Downtown BIZ members?

The Downtown BIZ has absorbed and will continue to fund costs associated with the proposed DSN initiative. Such as staff resources related to planning and research, proposal development, marketing and promotional materials, web page design and maintenance, maintaining the E-Alert system, arranging meetings and training sessions, and other expenditures. The Downtown business community, through their levy, pays the BIZ to undertake safety initiatives like this. Other downtown stakeholders, outside of the BIZ zone, as well as non-biz members are invited to participate and help offset these cost, in an equal and fair manner, if they find value in participating in the DSN.

For the participating BIZes, The primary and immediate partnership areas would include:

- E-Alert System
- Access to Training Workshops
- Attending meetings, learn, inform and help us lobby
- Web page add on information
- Web page access to all functions (web blog, other)



Portland Oregon Examples of the DSN in action:

The following examples are not actual DSN E-Alert e-mails. They are simply examples of types of information that can be distributed via the DSN E-Alert system. In addition to text, pictures of possible suspects, missing persons, weapons, etc. can also be sent via the DSN E-Alert system.

Example 1:

Everyday at about 4:00 PM a white male subject, 40 years old, brown hair, average height and build generally wearing blue jeans and a red hooded sweatshirt shows up in front of my store located at 1111 SW Second Ave and appears to be dealing drugs. He only stays about one to two hours and is very savvy about police presence, quickly disappearing when a police cruiser rolls by. I would be interested if anyone else has seen him or if the police have any information about him.

Example 2:

Everyday between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 PM a group of VERY aggressive panhandlers show up in front of my building at 1111 SW Second Ave. The group usually numbers between six and eight individuals and is a mix of both white males and females. They range in age from about 18 to over 30 and they are dressed in jeans and either long coats or leather jackets. They often stand in front of passers-by and taunt them to give them money. When pedestrians refuse they swear at them and often follow them down the street. I would really like some assistance with this problem.

Example 3:

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, usually between 6:30 and 7:30 AM, there is a dark skin male that shows up and starts dealing drugs on the sidewalk adjacent to NW 1st Avenue near NW Davis Street. He only hangs out for about an hour and then he is gone. He wears blue jeans and a baseball style jersey. It has blue sleeves and the rest of it is white. People usually give him the money as they are walking down the sidewalk. Then he usually spits something out into his hand and hands it to the person who walks off in a different direction. Has anyone else noticed this individual near his or her business? Can the police come down and check this guy out?

Join the DSN!

Contact Chyan Dumas at 958-4634 /chyan@downtownwinnipegbiz.com or
Craig Strike at 958-4644 /craig@downtownwinnipegbiz.com for an application form.

