



WINNIPEG HEALTH REGION ETHICS COUNCIL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ethics is about doing the right thing. It involves the systematic examination of the morals and values in our relationships and interactions.

Ethical issues and questions are part of every aspect of health care.

PURPOSE OF GROUP

The purpose of the *Ethics Council Public Engagement Group* is:

1. To ensure the voices of the WRHA's customers – the patients, residents, clients and their families – are represented in the work of Ethics Services and the Regional Ethics Council.
2. To contribute ideas to the Ethics Council as it develops strategies to enhance and strengthen awareness of health ethics resources.
3. To provide input to the Ethics Council on regional ethics initiatives.

ROLE OF GROUP

The Ethics Council Public Engagement Group is complementary and advisory to the Regional Ethics Council and provides diverse public input to the Council. Through facilitated discussion, members' ideas, suggestions and opinions on health ethics resources and strategies are shared to guide and support the service delivery of ethical practices in the Winnipeg Health Region.

MEMBERSHIP

Logistics

The Ethics Council Public Engagement Group is comprised of 8-15 volunteer members who appreciate the breadth and scope of health ethics, recognize the potential in differing value perspectives, and share a positive commitment to the enhancement of regional ethics initiatives and strategies. The Group is facilitated by the Chair of the Ethics Council.

- Members volunteer for 3-year terms, with option to stay on at the end of the term by mutual agreement.
- Terms are staggered to provide for continuity. Membership is renewed annually through a process involving the Ethics Council Public Engagement Group and the Ethics Council.
- Membership applications shall be considered with an aim to ensure the group is diverse and inclusive, reflecting as much as possible the community.

- The Group meets 4 times a year between September and May.
- Meetings are generally 1.5- 2 hours in duration, scheduled at the convenience of the majority of the members.
- Short-term or sub-group memberships are identified as and when appropriate.

Expectations and intentions

- Members will
 - Have previous ethics education or be willing to complete an ethics education workshop or course within the first year of their term, such as those offered by WRHA Ethics Services at no cost to members.
 - Become familiar with health ethics resources and information available to the public provincially, nationally and internationally through participation in the Group.
- WRHA Ethics Services and the Regional Ethics Council will
 - Welcome members of the *Ethics Council Public Engagement Group* at Regional Ethics Council meetings, as determined by member availability and interest.
 - Ensure the Group is provided with feedback on how their input is used by the Region.
 - Support the group to develop a shared, working knowledge of the foundations and principles of health ethics.