

# Safer Spaces Report



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 3

CONCERNS ..... 3

SOLUTIONS..... 4

NEXT STEPS ..... 5

# Safer Spaces Report

## Executive Summary

On December 15, 2022, fifteen MusicNL members and those working in the live music sector attended a town hall hosted by MusicNL, the local music industry association for Newfoundland and Labrador representing 820 members. The meeting was co-chaired by Rhonda Tulk-Lane, CEO of MusicNL and musician and member Rowan Sherlock, advocate for safer spaces in downtown St. John's. The group shared concerns and solutions on how to create safer spaces in our Province, in entertainment districts such as downtowns, bars and live music venues.

This report contains **13 preliminary actions** that will be shared with stakeholders to create positive change.

## Concerns

- Many shared concerns for their physical safety. For example: when musicians leave work they are loaded down with gear & can easily be a target for violent activity
- Increase in dangerous drugs
- *"I am afraid to walk home from downtown St. John's in recent years."*
- There has always been violence in the past, but it was targeted, now it feels random
- An example was shared regarding a random attack involving a staff of McCarthy's Party. This incident occurred on George Street in the early evening at 8:15pm
- Lack of cabs at busy times in the entertainment districts such as George Street
- The stage located on George Street requires attention. It appears to be a haven for homelessness and drug activity
- Mental illness is on the rise in our Province
- One attendee shared that she was slipped a drug in her drink while at a bar
- Prefer not to work late.
- *"I love living downtown"*
- Last few years I have felt unsafe in downtown St. John's
- Particular areas in downtown St. John's have been neglected
- In the 90s there seemed to be a much larger police presence on George Street

## Solutions

#	Action	Lead	Timeline
1	More policing in downtown St. John's areas i.e. George Street	RNC	M
2	Cameras in entertainment districts such as George Street. Check to see if cameras on George Street are working	TBD	S
3	Awareness campaign focused on safe spaces, so patrons feel welcomed. See something say something	MusicNL	M
4	Brighter lighting in entertainment districts such as George Street and walking areas	City	L
5	Faster processing of incidents/reports that are filed with the RNC	RNC	L
6	MusicNL to collect unsafe stories & regularly share with stakeholders <i>Implemented and already receiving reports</i>	MusicNL	S
7	Use technology to create safer spaces	TBD	L
8	More disposable needle holders in bars and restaurants in downtown St. John's	City	S
9	Familiarization tours with decision makers such as Ministers and Councillors	MusicNL	S
10	Mental health first aid training provided to those working in the music sector	MusicNL	M
11	<a href="#">Projects SoundCheck</a> training to be provided to those working in the music sector in Jan 2023 January 18, 2023 <a href="#">Register Here</a>	MusicNL	S
12	Extend loading zone times in downtown/George Street for musicians going to and leaving work	City	S
13	Explore ride share options for those working in entertainment districts to get to and from work safely	TBD	M

### Timeline Key

- Short-term = S
- Medium-term = M
- Long-term = L

## Next Steps

1. Share report with stakeholders:
  - a. RNC
  - b. City of St. John's
  - c. Downtown Safety Coalition
  - d. Destination St. John's
  - e. Downtown St. John's
  - f. George Street Association
2. Committee to meet again in January 2023