

Cory Guest

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service

Winnipeg, MB

Cory has worked in EMS since 1996 getting his start in a rural setting before reaching his goal of career urban EMS in Winnipeg Manitoba in the fall of 2000.

Cory was an ambulance-based Paramedic for approximately 12 years before promoting into the 911 Communication Centre as Communications Centre Shift Supervisor. After working in this role for 3 years he jumped at an opportunity to become Paramedic Public Education Coordinator where he has been for nearly 6 years.

The highlight of Cory's career has been the creation of illicit and prescription drug programming. This initiative was developed in the fall of 2016 when Winnipeg was experiencing a peak in EMS response to opioid related incidents. The programming is now embedded in the community, he has presented to thousands of high school students and other community members. The idea is to provide educational awareness to assist our youth and young adults in making smart, educated choices when presented with illicit or prescription drugs. The programming is in high demand throughout the city and province as Cory has presented to countless schools, university groups, workplaces, community groups, many conference speaking engagements and Winnipeg Police drug and gang forums. Cory was invited by a branch of Health Canada to travel to northern communities and provide this valuable programming to our Indigenous neighbors. He also has the pleasure of providing drug education to locally exploited strong women who are actively seeking to improve their lives. Cory has developed strong partnerships with Winnipeg Police, Indigenous groups, The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and many community-based groups.

Recently a formal partnership has been created with the Indigenous community. Together education relating to substance use, stigma reduction strategies, current community drug trends with a strong undertone of reconciliation will be provided to First Nation communities along with other urban audiences.

Cory is a member of the CSA (Canadian Standards Association) where he is working collaboratively on national prehospital drug response standards. Cory is continually looking to expand his partners through networking and professional development. A robust response to the illicit drug culture in today's society includes not only the response of emergency medical services along with other agencies but also compassionate, aggressive appropriate education with a focus on addiction trends and personal trauma.