

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services
of the Cree Nation Government:

A PATH FORWARD TOGETHER.



ENSURING THE CREE PEOPLE HAVE A STRONG VOICE IN JUSTICE MATTERS.

The Justice Unit of our Department works to shape the Cree justice system in a manner that both respects the existing judicial regime of our country and province, while creating services, programs and processes that honour and respect Cree ideals, values and way of life.

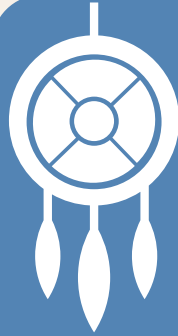


OUR JUSTICE SERVICES



- Conflict resolution services to community members
- Diversion of youth and adult offenders from the courts into healing and treatment programs
- Community education in justice and justice-related matters
- Professional support services
- Collaboration between community Justice Officer and crown for diversion of cases

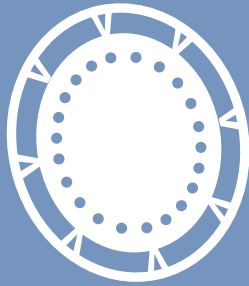




With our 7th class, over **100** of our **STAFF, PARTNERS** and **COMMUNITY MEMBERS** have received the **CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CICR)** training.

We also have trained **INSTRUCTORS** to offer training in **CREE** for deeper understanding.





COMMUNITY JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Community Justice Committees (CJC) are an independent body composed of volunteers, which exist to improve

judicial outcomes and safety for all people in the community. They are an essential component of Cree Justice apparatus to work on local diversion, restorative justice and related matters. They assist in the administration of justice at the community level, by helping youth and adult offenders take responsibility for their actions and repair harm, and preventing crime and victimization.

CJC are supported by the local Community Justice Officer (CJO).





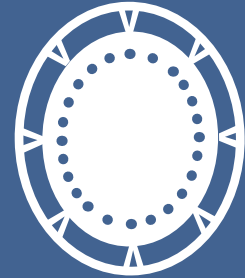
PURPOSE OF THE JUSTICE COMMITTEES

- Promote and maintain social peace and harmony in our communities
- Help administer justice using culturally adapted approaches
- Offer complements to the contemporary Justice System
- Encourage a social reaction to crime and conflicts that favors accountability, reparation, restoring balance and the re-establishment of relations among affected individuals
- Promote understanding and respect of laws, socially acceptable behaviours, cultural values, and traditions



Community Justice Committees' membership is chosen locally. In line with our values, it consists of an equal number of Cree men and women, including elders and youth:

85 OF WHICH **20** & **15**
MEMBERS ARE ELDERS ARE YOUTH



A RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Justice Committees provide an alternative mechanism to address criminal activities. In contrast to the contemporary, punishment-based criminal justice system, Justice Committees tend to focus on more restorative approaches that view crime and harm as violations of people and relationships.

The Justice Committee works according to the premise that crime and conflict inflict harm and that individuals must accept responsibility for repairing that harm and be directly accountable to the people they caused harm to.





On a yearly basis,
Community Justice
Committees manage
more than

250
OFFENDERS' FILES

so that cases can be diverted
rather than going through
the court system.



We produced

133
GLADUE REPORTS

since 2013 to support judges
in using restorative justice
when sentencing Cree
offenders.



COMMUNITY COUNSELLING REMEDY

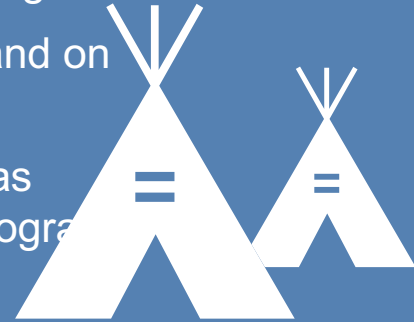
The committee performs sentencing circles between offenders and victims and conflict resolution between families/workplaces/community groups that are culturally appropriate. This approach is about consulting the victim, families and the community about what could be an adequate reparation.



THROUGH PREVENTION, WE FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING PROTECTIVE FACTORS

A key mandate of the Department is to ensure safe and healthy communities through the prevention of crime and victimization. Our crime prevention strategies include:

- Education, acquiring the necessary knowledge
- Focusing on Cree values and ways of life and on the use of the land to heal and to learn
- Involvement in meaningful activities, such as crime prevention weeks and land-based programs
- Relationship building to develop a network



BRINGING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS IN THE CREE COMMUNITIES.

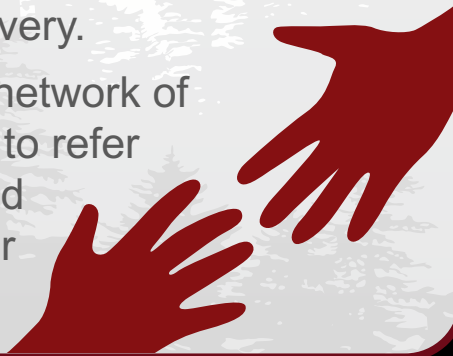
The Corrections Unit of our Department ensures the delivery of services to Cree detainees, as well as support in rehabilitation and reinsertion once they are released. In collaboration with other key actors, Corrections delivers culturally sensitive services, incorporating aspects of the Cree way of life.



HOW WE DO IT

Corrections programs include counselling, intake and risk assessments, psychological assessments, program design and implementation. Our goal is to reduce recidivism and help the clientele's rehabilitation and recovery.

We maintain a strong network of external professionals to refer offenders to specialized services based on their case plan.



OUR CORRECTIONS SERVICES

Through the Intake Assessment Form, we determine risks and needs of the individual to offer:

- Support references: psychologists, elder and counsellor in detention visits, treatment applications,..
- Preliminary, bail and parole hearings support
- Support during prison transfers
- Follow-ups
- Correctional intervention and debriefing
- Community Reintegration Officer support in reintegration, community programs, and record suspension program



TRADITIONAL FOOD IN DETENTION

The land plays a strong role in the healing process. We bring the land to detainees, in the form of traditional foods. It is a way to feed them physically, emotionally and spiritually. The traditional food program is about building trust, understanding and contributing to the healing process for Cree detainees who will reintegrate our communities in the future.

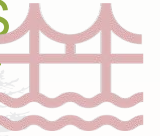


THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE IN DETENTION



Elders are a voice of moderation, experience and wisdom. We bring them to detention facilities to help detainees reconnect with their Cree values, land and people. Our holistic view of justice and healing covers the mind, the physical, spiritual and emotional aspect of a person. Through contact with detainees, Elders can help the person heal and become “whole” again.

DEVELOPING BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE



By visiting detainees and bringing food, we develop relationships with them. This way, we start building some of the bridges and support they will need when they reintegrate their

community.



On a yearly basis, the Department serves approximately

50
TRADITIONAL MEALS
IN DETENTION.

This represents

150
MEALS OVER
THE LAST 3 YEARS.



The Department psychologist makes approximately

95
VISITS PER YEAR
to detention, transitional houses and
in the communities. This represents

683
APPOINTMENTS
to support Crees over the
last 3 years.



More than

230
CREE OFFENDERS

in detention are provided services
yearly and staying connected to their
communities and language.



PLANNING THE REINTEGRATION

A Community can prepare for the return of one of its members. With the detainee, the community reintegration officers (CRO) develop a holistic reintegration plan that identifies the different relevant resources within a community, such as social services, police, justice committee, Elders, ...

This exercise allows the ex-offender to express future goals that are attainable when following the release plan.



KEEPING HIGH RISK YOUTH CLOSER TO HOME



At the end of 2019, the Youth Detention facility will allow people of Eeyou Istchee to keep young Cree offenders and youth at risk closer to home instead of sending them away. Culturally appropriate programs offered in Cree, such as land-based ones, will help with the prevention and/or the rehabilitation of the offenders while allowing for the families and communities to remain involved in the healing process.



EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH. A WAY OF LIFE.

Our Program's Unit creates for our Cree Youth services, programs and processes that honour and respect Cree ideals, values and way of life.



OUR APPROACH

Prepare our youth to
make healthier decisions.
Preventative measures are
about educating, building
awareness, intervening and
engaging youth.



HOW WE DO IT

- We develop programs for children and youth of all ages
- We look for successful evidenced-based programs, and see if they fit with our Nation's core ideals and principles
- We adapt them to reflect our connection to our land, culture, beliefs and deliver them in the Cree language
- We look at underlying needs of our children and youth, and focus on the life skills that lead to better decision-making
- We build networks and engage partners in the community, regionally and with institutions





FOCUSING ON STRENGTHENING PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Education; learning and having a positive experience in school
- Cree values and ways of life
- Youth involvement in meaningful activities
- Relationship building
- Work experience and acquiring a trade





CREATING A STRONG NETWORK FOR OUR YOUTH

- Families
- Educators
- Elders
- Community Justice Committees
- Youth Protection, Social Services
- Local Government, Youth Councils
- Eeyou Eenou Police Force
- Department of Justice and
- Correctional Services staff



LAND-BASED PROGRAMS

The land is a teacher and a healer. We support canoe brigades, summer camps, and culturally based workshops used to help youth in reception centers and their families reconnect, develop inner peace and identify underlying conflict and needs.



SUMMER CAMPS AND WINTER EXCURSIONS



Based on our values, children and youth develop character, social skills and conflict resolution tools.

They acquire awareness, leadership skills and a voice on social issues in their communities. They learn from Elders Cree values, culture and way of life on our land.



Over the last 2 years, with SNAP,
we have helped so far more than

3,600
STUDENTS

learn valuable life skills
to address behavioural issues.



Since 2014,
the Department has sent

192

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO CAMP

to develop character social skills and conflict
resolution tools.



203
YOUTH

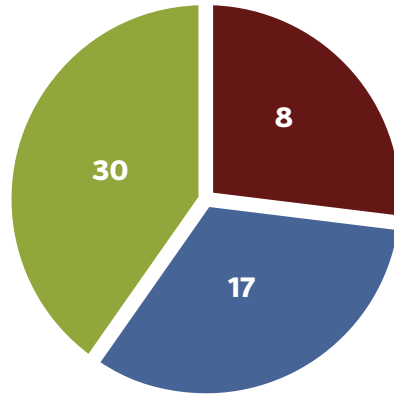





were referred to the Alternative
Suspension Program, giving us
an occasion to address risk factors
associated with dropping out
of school.



Since 2015, the Department has supported through the Justice Funds

55 PROJECTS



-  Youth Engagement Fund
-  Corrections Fund
-  Crime Prevention Fund



