

2009

**DRAFT Report on Cree Regional Authority
Justice Symposium**



ASTWOOD

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Preamble

This report consists of Astwood Strategy Corporation’s commentary on the 2009 Cree Regional Authority Justice Symposium along with our recommendations for action. This document is not a report of proceedings, as this task was completed by project consultant, Kenny Loon. For a copy of Mr. Loon’s report – which summarizes community presentations and other aspects of the proceedings – please contact the CRA Department of Justice.

1.2 Project Description

The Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Regional Authority (GCC/CRA) and its Justice Committee convened the 2009 Justice Symposium to provide Cree communities with the opportunity to share their perspectives and challenges on the criminal justice and social issues affecting them and therefore mobilize them in respect to the development of a comprehensive, integrated and effective approach to crime and victimization. Specific objectives of the Symposium included:

- Including representation from the GCC/CRA, key CRA departments and each community (6 delegates each), achieve attendance goal of 80+ delegates.
- To gather input from communities on matters of crime, victimization, policing and justice.
- To discuss and achieve consensus on scope and direction of integrated GCC/CRA crime prevention program.
- To receive updates in regards to police force regionalization, justice system developments and related matters.
- To build working group to assist in implementation of integrated crime prevention and reduction program.

The Symposium was an essential component of the GCC/CRA’s overall justice planning strategy, which was presented and approved by the GCC in the October 2008 Council Board proceedings in Chisasibi. This overall strategy – referred above as the “integrated crime prevention and reduction program” and developed by Astwood in collaboration with Losty Mamianskum (Chair of the Justice Committee), and Donald Nicholls (Acting Director, Justice and Corrections) – consists of nine programming elements or “agendas” which, taken together, will support the achievement of a just and safe society for all Cree people. Diagrammatically, the agendas are represented as follows:



Through Symposium proceedings, the GCC/CRA sought essentially to “kick-off” activities related to this 9-element agenda including community consultation and initial planning and implementation. The Symposium was implemented and managed through the combined efforts of the CRA Justice Committee, Astwood Strategy Corporation, a local planning committee in Mississauga, and several individuals – most notably Rita Blackned and Rita Cooper who provided valuable administrative assistance.

1.3 Daily Agendas

An initial agenda for the three day event was distributed to all community Chiefs in the October/November 2008 timeframe. On behalf of their communities, each Chief was asked to select up to six delegates to represent their community and deliver a twenty-minute presentation in regards to the key criminal justice and social issues affecting them. Due to travel difficulties (e.g., closed airport in Chibougamau), the Symposium was delayed in its starting time, necessitating several agenda changes to accommodate the planned proceedings. The actual agenda that was achieved is found below:

DAY ONE

ITEM
<p><u>Welcome and Department of Justice Overview:</u> Donald Nicholls, Cree Regional Authority Department of Justice <i>Mr. Nicholls opened the Symposium by updating delegates in regards to developments occurring within the justice file including the construction of justice facilities in each of the Cree communities.</i></p>
<p><u>Symposium Overview:</u> Michael Chettleburgh, Astwood Strategy Corporation <i>Michael Chettleburgh presented an overview of the Symposium, discussed the key objectives for the Symposium, and highlighted the overall nine-agenda integrated crime prevention and reduction initiative approved by the Grand Council of the Crees.</i></p>
<p><u>Cree Health Board Presentation</u> James Bobbish, Chairman, Cree Health Board <i>Mr. Bobbish presented his views on the differences between traditional and Aboriginal approaches to justice and demonstrated the benefits of restorative justice practices including the reduced likelihood of repeat offences, the opportunities for all voices to be heard, the speed with which cases can be dealt with versus the traditional system and the fact that restorative justice is aligned with the Cree values of respect and concern for community cohesion.</i></p>
<p><u>Cree School Board Presentation</u> Gordon Blackned, Chair, Cree School Board <i>Gordon Blackned, Chairman of the Cree School Board, provided us with a thought-provoking discussion of school safety and its essential role in producing positive educational outcomes for our youth. Mr. Blackned discussed some of the safety issues affecting Cree schools, and highlighted the many initiatives already underway or in place to enhance school safety.</i></p>
<p><u>Official Symposium Welcome Address</u> Grand Chief Matthew Mukash <i>Grand Chief Matthew Mukash officially welcomed the delegates to the Symposium and discussed the essential role justice plays in the Cree Nation. The text of the Grand Chief's address in English is found on the Cree Justice website at www.creejustice.ca or in Mr. Loon's report.</i></p>
<p><u>Community Presentations 1, 2 and 3</u></p>
<p><u>Guest Speaker</u> Rick Osborne, Executive Director, Truth for Teens, Toronto <i>Rick shared with delegates his story of drug addiction, gang involvement, sexual and physical assault, and more than 20 years in Canada's federal prison system. He highlighted that redemption is possible for people who may feel they have no other options in life, and that for him, what ultimately saved his life were the values bestowed upon him – a "moral compass" – by his parents when he was young.</i></p>

DAY TWO

DETAILS
<u>Youth Issues and Justice:</u> Stacy Bear, Cree Nation Youth Council <i>Results of the Cree Nation Youth Survey were highlighted and discussed.</i>
<u>Domestic Violence and Family Issues:</u> Doris Bobbish, Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee <i>The impact of domestic violence was discussed along with the need to develop supportive programs for victims and families.</i>
<u>Results of the Cree Nation Survey:</u> Donald Nicholls, Cree Justice Committee <i>Results of the Cree Nation Survey (of adults) was highlighted and discussed.</i>
<u>Community Presentation 4</u>
<u>Cree Department of Recreation Presentation</u> John Henry Wapachee and Andrew Neeposh, Recreation Department, CRA <i>This presentation focused on sports and recreation programming and its role in engaging youth in positive, prosocial activities.</i>
<u>Cree Police Commission Presentation:</u> Ashley Iserhoff, Cree Police Commission <i>An update on the progress the Cree Police Commission has made in 2008 and its objectives for 2009 with respect to the regionalization of the Cree police service were discussed by Police Commissioner and Deputy Grand Chief Iserhoff.</i>
<u>Community Presentations 5, 6, 7, and 8</u>

DAY THREE

DETAILS
<u>Community Presentations 9 and 10</u>
<u>Successful On-the-Land Programs:</u> Isaac Masty, Cree Trappers Association <i>Mr. Masty will discuss the key factors for success for on-the-land programs. He will highlight how these programs can play an important role in youth intervention and diversion efforts.</i>
<u>Cree Elders and Justice:</u> Nancy and Earl Danyluk, Cree Elders Council <i>Mr. and Mrs. Danyluk presented on the role of Cree elders in ensuring the health and safety of Cree communities.</i>
<u>Open Commentary</u> <i>An opportunity was provided for Symposium delegates to make additional commentary in respect to justice or social issues.</i>
<u>Facilitated Discussion and Delegation Polling</u> Michael Chettleburgh <i>Michael summarized the key issues that were raised during the Symposium and facilitated a session of electronic polling of these key issues.</i>

DISCUSSION

2.1 Key Themes From Community Presentations

Summaries of themes from Community Presentations are contained in Mr. Loon's report.

2.2 Key Themes From Stakeholder Presentations

Summaries of themes from Community Presentations are contained in Mr. Loon's report.

2.3 Adults and Youth Survey Results

In preparation for the 2009 Justice Symposium, it was agreed that Astwood would create and conduct an on-line survey of both adults and youth in the Cree Region, to gather thoughts and opinion in respect to various justice, social and community issues. Results and commentary in regards to each of the surveys are found below:

2.3.1 Adult Survey

On-line survey was created and distributed from www.creejustice.ca website as of December 21, 2008 and was closed off as of January 23, 2009. A total of 352 respondents completed the survey, with the estimated accuracy of the results computed as follows:

Total respondents:	352
Total population over 19 years old:	7985
Approximate accuracy:	+/- 5.1% 19 times out of 20

This accuracy rate is acceptable and therefore we can suggest that the results of the survey are probative and meaningful for consideration by the GCC/CRA.

QUESTION 1: RESPONSE BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	RESPONSES	%
Chisasibi	59	16.8%
Eastmain	22	6.3%
Mistissini	58	16.5%
Nemaska	28	8.0%
Ouje-Bougoumou	30	8.5%
Waskaganish	26	7.4%
Waswanipi	46	13.1%
Wemindji	37	10.5%
Whapmagoostui	43	12.2%
Washaw Sibi	3	0.9%
TOTAL	352	100.00%

QUESTION 2: AVERAGE AGE OF RESPONDENTS:

34.3

QUESTION 3: GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

GENDER	RESPONSES	%
Female	222	65.0%
Male	120	35.0%
TOTAL	342	100.0%

QUESTION 4: EMPLOYMENT STATUS

STATUS	RESPONSES	%
Employed	304	86.4%
Unemployed	38	10.8%
Retired	10	2.8%
TOTAL	352	100%

QUESTION 5: ARE YOU CONSIDERED AN ELDER IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

STATUS	RESPONSES	%
Yes	4	1.2%
No	320	93.0%
Not sure	20	5.8%
TOTAL	344	100%

Commentary:

Regrettably, few elders participated in the survey, which is unfortunate given the potential value of their commentary and opinion. We accord two reasons for the lack of response: 1) lack of targeted marketing of the survey to elders, and 2) likely lack of internet access. Going forward, we believe it is essential to create more traditional means of consultation with elders (such as key informant interview in Cree, small group facilitated discussions in Cree) to ensure they have proper voice in respect to justice issues.

QUESTION 6: IN THE PAST, HAVE YOU EVER...

ANSWER OPTION	YES	NO
Used alcohol?	97.7%	2.3%
Used marijuana (or other Cannabis products)?	61.5%	38.5%
Used cocaine or crack?	37.5%	62.5%
Used methamphetamine	4.8%	95.2%
Used other illegal drugs (ex. heroin, LSD)?	10.9%	89.1%
Used prescription drugs that were not your own?	6.1%	93.9%
Sniffed/huffed gas (ex. gasoline, propane, helium)?	23.6%	76.4%

Commentary:

It is clear that adults in the Cree region have experimented with illicit drugs and alcohol to a large extent with some classes of drug consumption being well above the national average.

With respect to alcohol consumption, the almost 98% previous utilization is consistent with consumption findings elsewhere in the country¹. With respect to marijuana and cannabis products, previous consumption statistics are above the national average (61.5% v. 44.5%²) while previous consumption statistics for cocaine or crack are well above the national average (37.5% v. 10.6%³). According to this survey, lifetime methamphetamine use in the Cree Region is below the national average (4.8% v. 6.4%⁴) while other illegal drugs are less than national average (10.9% v. 15.5%⁵). Presently, there is no reliable data nationally in regards to gas or other substance sniffing.

The level of previous drug consumption in respect to popular and readily available drugs such as Cannabis and cocaine products suggest that increased attention towards public education and awareness campaigns, in addition to expanded drug interdictions efforts, are warranted in Eeyou Istchee.

¹ 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey, Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

QUESTION 7: TODAY, DO YOU...

ANSWER OPTION	ALWAYS	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	SELDOM	NEVER
Use alcohol?	2	10	120	90	120
Use marijuana (or other Cannabis products)?	0	2	8	30	302
Use cocaine or crack?	0	2	12	24	304
Use methamphetamine (aka	0	0	0	0	340
Use other illegal drugs (ex. heroin, LSD, etc.)?	0	0	0	0	340
Use prescription drugs that were not your own?	0	0	0	4	334
Sniff/huff gas (ex. gasoline, propane, helium)?	0	0	0	2	338

NOTE: Numbers above reflect total number of responses.

Commentary:

Including “always”, “often”, “sometimes” and “seldom” responses, the level of present alcohol consumption (65%) can be considered low compared to the national average (79.3%), but may also be considered high when one considers that alcohol is banned via bylaw in the Cree Region. This level of consumption amongst adults in the Cree region therefore suggests a broader analysis of the efficacy of the alcohol prohibition in Eeyou Istchee.

QUESTION 8: GANGS AND THE LAW

ANSWER OPTIONS	RESPONSES	% YES	% No
There are gangs in my community	340	81.8%	18.2%
I was in a gang	342	5.8%	94.2%
I am in a gang	342	0.0%	100.0%
I have a family member in a gang	340	10.6%	89.4%
I know someone who is in a gang	338	43.8%	56.2%
In my community, it is OK to be in a gang	338	9.5%	90.5%
I am afraid of gangs	342	28.7%	71.3%
Youth in gangs get more respect	328	12.8%	87.2%
Youth join gangs for protection	328	56.7%	43.3%
Youth join gangs to make money	328	37.8%	62.2%
Youth join gangs to belong to a group	332	80.1%	19.9%
I have been in trouble with the law before	340	27.1%	72.9%
I am in trouble with the law now	334	2.4%	97.6%

Commentary:

There is broad consensus that gangs/gang members are active in Cree communities, with a majority of respondents indicating that they know of someone who is in fact in a gang. Moreover, there is good consistency in opinion as to why youth join gangs relative to what we know nationally about why youth join gangs.

For questions 9 through 13, respondents were offered a so-called “Likert Scale” to gather opinion. Questions were phrased as statements, to which we asked respondents to indicate their degree of acceptance using the following scale.

- Strongly Agree (5)
- Agree (4)
- Undecided (3)
- Disagree (2)
- Strongly Disagree (1)

Each of the options on the scale was assigned a numerical weight from 1 (for strongest disagreement) to 5 (for strongest agreement), as is noted in the parenthesis beside each answer choice above. The numerical score for each question, as reported in the following charts, can be thought of as the overall strength of conviction of the respondents to the statement at hand. For example, a score of 4.75 would indicate that the respondents had a strong level of agreement with respect to the statement at hand. Some readers may find this format of reporting to be more intuitive than reporting, for instance, that “52.5% of respondents strongly agreed to the statement that they feel safe in their community”.

QUESTION 9: PUBLIC SAFETY

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I feel safe in my community	3.50
I feel safe at home	4.23
I feel safe at work	4.01
I feel safe in public places	3.70
I feel safe after dark	3.22
I feel safe when police officers are around	3.90
My community is a great place to live	3.90
There is a lot of crime in our community	3.99
Many people get physically abused in our community	4.09
Many people get sexually abused in our community	3.87
Many youth get bullied in our community	4.33
There are a lot of guns in our community	3.93
Safety can be improved in our community	4.56
We should hire more police officers	4.34
The justice system treats offenders fairly	2.96
I am afraid of law enforcement officers	2.44
Adults can do more to improve public safety	4.41
Most crime is caused by youth in our community	3.67
Most crime is caused by adults in our community	3.49

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
Safety can be improved in our community	4.56
Adults can do more to improve public safety	4.41
We should hire more police officers	4.34
Many youth get bullied in our community	4.33
I feel safe at home	4.23
Many people get physically abused in our community	4.09
I feel safe at work	4.01
There is a lot of crime in our community	3.99
There are a lot of guns in our community	3.93
My community is a great place to live	3.90
I feel safe when police officers are around	3.90
Many people get sexually abused in our community	3.87
I feel safe in public places	3.70
Most crime is caused by youth in our community	3.67
I feel safe in my community	3.50
Most crime is caused by adults in our community	3.49
I feel safe after dark	3.22
The justice system treats offenders fairly	2.96
I am afraid of law enforcement officers	2.44

Commentary:

There is a high degree of agreement that public safety is an issue in the Cree Region – that is can be improved and that adults have a role to play in this regard. Moreover, there is a high degree of agreement that youth are bullied, that many people are physically abused and there is a lot of crime Cree communities. Feelings of safety are higher at home than they are in public places or after dark, and there is a general agreement that most of the crime in Cree communities is caused by youth rather than adults. Respondents provided a neutral opinion in regards to the fairness of the justice system.

QUESTION 10: RESPECT

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I respect police officers	4.45
I respect my employer	4.52
I respect my children	4.73
I respect elders	4.79
I respect community leaders	4.55
I respect my band council	4.38
I respect my community	4.59
I respect myself	4.70
I respect my Cree culture	4.73
I respect the land	4.72
The community respects youth	3.75

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I respect elders	4.79
I respect my children	4.73
I respect my Cree culture	4.73
I respect the land	4.72
I respect myself	4.70
I respect my community	4.59
I respect community leaders	4.55
I respect my employer	4.52
I respect police officers	4.45
I respect my band council	4.38
The community respects youth	3.75

Commentary:

Respondents expressed a high degree of respect for various entities ranging from elders and children to the community and band council. Less agreement was expressed by respondents in regards to the extent to which the community respects youth.

QUESTION 11: OPPORTUNITIES

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I want to continue to live in my community	3.96
I believe I have a bright future ahead of me	4.43
I believe I can be a leader of this community one day	4.01
There are better opportunities for me outside my community	3.65
There are many sports and recreation opportunities in my community	3.34
There are many social opportunities in my community	3.21
There are many business opportunities in my community	3.06
There are many education opportunities in my community	2.91
To do well in life, I need to do well at work	4.18
I can do anything I set my mind to	4.62
I have many goals for myself	4.54

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I can do anything I set my mind to	4.62
I have many goals for myself	4.54
I believe I have a bright future ahead of me	4.43
To do well in life, I need to do well at work	4.18
I believe I can be a leader of this community one day	4.01
I want to continue to live in my community	3.96
There are better opportunities for me outside my community	3.65
There are many sports and recreation opportunities in my community	3.34
There are many social opportunities in my community	3.21
There are many business opportunities in my community	3.06
There are many education opportunities in my community	2.91

Commentary:

Adult survey respondents demonstrate a high degree of belief in their ability to achieve their goals as well as their prospects for the future. Respondents generally agree that they want to continue to live in their community, however, express either slight agreement or a relatively neutral opinion in regards to the opportunities available to them in the community such as sports and recreation, social, business and education. We note that despite the less than strong agreement in respect to available opportunities, respondents are still very hopeful for the future.

QUESTION 12: YOUTH CENTRES

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
Youth feel safe at the youth centre	3.14
There are fun programs for youth at the youth centre	2.73
There are enough programs at the youth centre to keep youth happy	2.45
The youth centre staff treat youth well	3.22
Youth centre staff care about youth that visit the Youth Centre	3.13
The youth centre is important to youth in my community	3.81
The youth centre can be improved	4.57
The youth centre is just a place for youth to hang out	3.72
Older youth bully younger youth at the youth centre	3.66

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
The youth centre can be improved	4.57
The youth centre is important to youth in my community	3.81
The youth centre is just a place for youth to hang out	3.72
Older youth bully younger youth at the youth centre	3.66
The youth centre staff treat youth well	3.22

Youth feel safe at the youth centre	3.14
Youth centre staff care about youth that visit the Youth Centre	3.13
There are fun programs for youth at the youth centre	2.73
There are enough programs at the youth centre to keep youth happy	2.45

Commentary:

Adult survey respondents demonstrate strong agreement that community youth centres can be improved, that they are important to youth in the community and are a place where youth just hang out. Problematically, respondents agreed that youth are bullied at youth centres, and disagreed that there are fun programs or enough programs for youth. Clearly, survey response indicates that youth centre operations are an area where attention must be paid going forward.

QUESTION 13: HOW THINGS CAN BE IMPROVED

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
Offer more sports programs	4.45
Offer more recreation programs	4.51
Offer more arts and cultural programs	4.63
Offer more employment programs	4.60
Offer more social opportunities (ex. events, festivals, etc.)	4.55
Offer more programs involving elders	4.56
Offer more traditional programs (ex. hunting, trapping, camping)	4.67
Offer more prevention programs (drugs, alcohol, gangs)	4.70
Offer more services where I can talk to others about my problems	4.49
Improve the youth council	4.47
Improve the recreation centre	4.45
Improve the school	4.80
Improve housing conditions	4.75
Give adults more say in decisions that affect our community	4.42
Improve job opportunities	4.71

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
Improve the school	4.80
Improve housing conditions	4.75
Improve job opportunities	4.71
Offer more prevention programs (drugs, alcohol, gangs)	4.70
Offer more traditional programs (ex. hunting, trapping, camping)	4.67
Offer more arts and cultural programs	4.63
Offer more employment programs	4.60

Offer more programs involving elders	4.56
Offer more social opportunities (ex. events, festivals, etc.)	4.55
Offer more recreation programs	4.51
Offer more services where I can talk to others about my problems	4.49
Improve the youth council	4.47
Improve the recreation centre	4.45
Offer more sports programs	4.45
Give adults more say in decisions that affect our community	4.42

Commentary:

Survey response indicates strong agreement in respect to all the suggested improvement areas, with schools, housing conditions, job opportunities and prevention programs leading the way.

QUESTION 14: WHAT ARE BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN COMMUNITY

QUESTION 15: HOW CAN THINGS BE IMPROVED IN COMMUNITY

Commentary:

Questions 14 and 15 asked respondents to provide written commentary to the questions “What are the biggest problems in the community” and “How can things be improved in the community” respectively. Respondents provided a rich array of response, which is summarized in its entirety in Appendix A.

2.3.1 Youth Survey

On-line survey was created and distributed from www.creejustice.ca website as of December 21, 2008 and was closed off as of January 23, 2009. A total of 78 completed the survey. Estimated accuracy of results are computed as follows:

Total responses:	78
Total population under 19 years old:	6875
Accuracy:	+/- 11% 19 times out of 20

This accuracy rate is unacceptable and therefore we must not treat the results as probative for the purposes of making decisions in respect to any youth justice or related issues. Given the poor response and lack of credibility of the results from a decision making perspective, we have not offered any commentary. We recommend, however, than some form of additional youth surveying take place so that we can truly understand the opinion and perspective of youth in Eeyou Istchee.

QUESTION 1: RESPONSE BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	RESPONSES	%
Chisasibi	8	10.3%
Eastmain	7	9.0%
Mistissini	19	24.4%
Nemaska	7	9.0%
Ouje-Bougoumou	9	11.5%
Waskaganish	8	10.3%
Waswanipi	5	6.4%
Wemindji	6	7.7%
Whapmagoostui	9	11.5%
Washaw Sibi	0	0.0%
TOTAL	78	100.0%

QUESTION 2: AVERAGE AGE OF RESPONDENTS

15.8 years old

QUESTION 3: GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

GENDER	RESPONSES	%
Female	42	53.8%
Male	36	46.2%
TOTAL	78	100.0%

QUESTION 5: WHOM DO YOU LIVE WITH?

STATUS	RESPONSES	%
Both parents	60	76.9%
Mother	18	23.1%
Father	0	0
Other family member	0	0
Foster parent	0	0
TOTAL	78	100%

QUESTION 6: IN THE PAST, HAVE YOU EVER...

ANSWER OPTION	Yes	No
Used alcohol?	76.9%	23.1%
Used marijuana (or other Cannabis products)?	69.2%	30.8%
Used cocaine or crack?	7.7%	92.3%
Used methamphetamine	0.0%	100.0%
Used other illegal drugs (ex. heroin, LSD)?	0.0%	100.0%
Used prescription drugs that were not your own?	0.0%	100.0%
Sniffed/huffed gas (ex. gasoline, propane, helium)?	15.4%	84.6%

QUESTION 7: TODAY, DO YOU...

ANSWER OPTION	ALWAYS	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	SELDOM	NEVER
Use alcohol?	0	0	24	24	24
Use marijuana (or other Cannabis products)?	0	6	0	12	54
Use cocaine or crack?	0	0	0	0	78
Use methamphetamine (aka	0	0	0	0	78
Use other illegal drugs (ex. heroin, LSD, etc.)?	0	0	0	0	78
Use prescription drugs that were not your own?	0	0	0	0	78
Sniff/huff gas (ex. gasoline, propane, helium)?	0	0	0	0	78

NOTE: Numbers above reflect total number of responses.

QUESTION 8: GANGS AND THE LAW

ANSWER OPTIONS	RESPONSES	% YES	% No
There are gangs in my community	78	84.6%	15.4%
I was in a gang	78	15.4%	84.6%
I am in a gang	78	0.0%	100.0%
I have a family member in a gang	78	38.5%	61.5%
I know someone who is in a gang	78	61.5%	38.5%
In my community, it is OK to be in a gang	78	15.4%	84.6%
I am afraid of gangs	78	0.0%	100.0%
Youth in gangs get more respect	78	0.0%	100.0%
Youth join gangs for protection	78	23.1%	76.9%
Youth join gangs to make money	78	23.1%	76.9%
Youth join gangs to belong to a group	78	30.8%	69.2%
I have been in trouble with the law before	78	46.2%	53.8%
I am in trouble with the law now	78	69.2%	23.1%

As with the adult survey, for questions 9 through 13, respondents were offered a so-called “Likert Scale” to gather opinion. Questions were phrased as statements, to which we asked respondents to indicate their degree of acceptance using the following scale.

- Strongly Agree (5)
- Agree (4)
- Undecided (3)
- Disagree (2)
- Strongly Disagree (1)

Each of the options on the scale was assigned a numerical weight from 1 (for strongest disagreement) to 5 (for strongest agreement), as is noted in the parenthesis beside each answer choice above. The numerical score for each question, as reported in the following charts, can be thought of as the overall strength of conviction of the respondents to the statement at hand. For example, a score of 4.75 would indicate that the respondents had a strong level of agreement with respect to the statement at hand.

Some readers may find this format of reporting to be more intuitive than reporting, for instance, that “52.5% of respondents strongly agreed to the statement that they feel safe in their community”.

QUESTION 9: PUBLIC SAFETY

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I feel safe in my community	3.89
I feel safe at home	3.89
I feel safe with my parents	4.44
I feel safe at school	4.17
I feel safe in public places	4.14
I feel safe after dark	3.88
I feel safe when police officers are around	4.14
I enjoy going to school	4.63
My community is a great place to live	4.33
There is a lot of crime in our community	3.17
Many youth get physically abused in our community	3.50
Many youth get sexually abused in our community	3.14
Many youth get bullied in our community	4.00
There are a lot of guns in our community	3.00
Safety can be improved in our community	4.14
We should hire more police officers	3.75
The justice system treats youth fairly	2.17
Youth in my community are afraid of the law	3.29
I would like to be a police officer one day	2.75
Youth can do more to improve public safety	4.13
Most crime is caused by youth in our community	4.33
Most crime is caused by adults in our community	4.00

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I enjoy going to school	4.63
I feel safe with my parents	4.44
My community is a great place to live	4.33
Most crime is caused by youth in our community	4.33
I feel safe at school	4.17
I feel safe in public places	4.14
I feel safe when police officers are around	4.14
Safety can be improved in our community	4.14
Youth can do more to improve public safety	4.13
Many youth get bullied in our community	4.00
Most crime is caused by adults in our community	4.00
I feel safe in my community	3.89

I feel safe at home	3.89
I feel safe after dark	3.88
We should hire more police officers	3.75
Many youth get physically abused in our community	3.50
Youth in my community are afraid of the law	3.29
There is a lot of crime in our community	3.17
Many youth get sexually abused in our community	3.14
There are a lot of guns in our community	3.00
I would like to be a police officer one day	2.75
The justice system treats youth fairly	2.17

QUESTION 10: RESPECT

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I respect police officers	4.43
I respect teachers	3.86
I respect my parents	4.71
I respect elders	4.71
I respect community leaders	4.43
I respect my youth council	4.43
I respect my community	4.71
I respect myself	4.29
I respect my Cree culture	4.14
I respect the land	4.29
The community respects youth	3.71

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I respect my parents	4.71
I respect elders	4.71
I respect my community	4.71
I respect police officers	4.43
I respect community leaders	4.43
I respect my youth council	4.43
I respect myself	4.29
I respect the land	4.29
I respect my Cree culture	4.14
I respect teachers	3.86
The community respects youth	3.71

QUESTION 11: OPPORTUNITIES

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I want to live in my community when I am older	4.25
I believe I have a bright future ahead of me	4.63
I believe I can be a leader of this community one day	4.25
There are better opportunities for me outside my community	3.63
There are many sports and recreation opportunities in my community	3.00
There are many social opportunities in my community	3.50
There are many business opportunities in my community	3.88
There are many education opportunities in my community	3.63
To do well in life, I need to do well in school	4.88
I can do anything I set my mind to	4.75
I have many goals for myself	4.63

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
To do well in life, I need to do well in school	4.88
I can do anything I set my mind to	4.75
I believe I have a bright future ahead of me	4.63
I have many goals for myself	4.63
I want to live in my community when I am older	4.25
I believe I can be a leader of this community one day	4.25
There are many business opportunities in my community	3.88
There are better opportunities for me outside my community	3.63
There are many education opportunities in my community	3.63
There are many social opportunities in my community	3.50
There are many sports and recreation opportunities in my community	3.00

QUESTION 12: YOUTH CENTRES

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
I feel safe at my youth centre	3.25
There are fun programs at my youth centre	3.00
There are enough programs at my youth centre	2.88
The youth centre staff treat youth well	3.63
Youth centre staff care about me	3.00
My youth centre is important to me	3.00
My youth centre can be improved	4.00
I'd like to work at my youth centre one day	3.25
The youth centre is just a place to hang out	4.25
Older youth bully younger youth at the youth centre	2.88

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
The youth centre is just a place to hang out	4.25
My youth centre can be improved	4.00
The youth centre staff treat youth well	3.63
I feel safe at my youth centre	3.25
I'd like to work at my youth centre one day	3.25
There are fun programs at my youth centre	3.00
Youth centre staff care about me	3.00
My youth centre is important to me	3.00
There are enough programs at my youth centre	2.88
Older youth bully younger youth at the youth centre	2.88

QUESTION 13: HOW THINGS CAN BE IMPROVED

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
Offer more sports programs	4.63
Offer more recreation programs	4.50
Offer more arts and cultural programs	4.50
Offer more employment programs	4.25
Offer more social opportunities (ex. events, festivals, etc.)	4.63
Offer more programs with our elders	4.63
Offer more traditional programs (ex. hunting, trapping, camping)	4.75
Offer more prevention programs (drugs, alcohol, gangs)	4.00
Offer more services where I can talk to others about my problems	4.50
Improve our youth council	4.38
Improve our recreation centre	4.50
Improve our school	4.88
Improve our housing conditions	4.63
Give young people more say in decisions that affect our community	4.75
Improve our job opportunities	4.75

The above chart has been re-ordered from highest level of agreement to lowest, as follows:

ANSWER OPTIONS	SCORE
Improve our school	4.88
Offer more traditional programs (ex. hunting, trapping, camping)	4.75
Give young people more say in decisions that affect our community	4.75
Improve our job opportunities	4.75
Offer more sports programs	4.63
Offer more social opportunities (ex. events, festivals, etc.)	4.63
Offer more programs with our elders	4.63

Improve our housing conditions	4.63
Offer more recreation programs	4.50
Offer more arts and cultural programs	4.50
Offer more services where I can talk to others about my problems	4.50
Improve our recreation centre	4.50
Improve our youth council	4.38
Offer more employment programs	4.25
Offer more prevention programs (drugs, alcohol, gangs)	4.00

Commentary:

Questions 14 and 15 asked youth respondents to provide written commentary to the questions “What are the biggest problems in the community” and “How can things be improved in the community” respectively. Youth respondents provided a rich array of response, which is summarized in their entirety in Appendix A.

2.4 Results of Delegation Polling

At the conclusion of the 3-day Symposium, Michael Chettleburgh summarized the key issues discussed during the event and asked delegates who were supplied with remote polling device to indicate their preferences or answers to an array of questions. In terms of process, a question was posed on a PowerPoint slide with question options derived from the key themes discussed during the Symposium. Then, delegates were asked to vote, with results appearing in real-time once the polling for each question was closed.

We must note that the intent of the polling was not to render a scientifically valid decision or community opinion for any question posed, but merely collect the delegation’s views across a number of dimensions. To be sure, we cannot state that for any delegation, the response from that delegation must be considered the opinion of a representative sample of their community. Indeed, some delegations were quite small and therefore, for any question that asked an opinion in respect to the suitability of a community for any of the nine crime prevention/reduction agendas, we cannot accord the polling results with any great decision making weight or importance. Stated another way, polling results must only be considered as input into the question at hand, rather than community consensus. A summary of results now follows.

2.4.1 Prevention

Michael Chettleburgh summarized this line of questioning by suggesting that the Symposium demonstrated that there is strong consensus that prevention must be a necessary part of a comprehensive solution and that the young age of Cree communities demands an investment in prevention. Before issuing the first question, Michael offered this definition of prevention: “Prevention relates to programs, presentations, and other efforts to reduce offending, anti-social or other risky behaviour before they occur”.

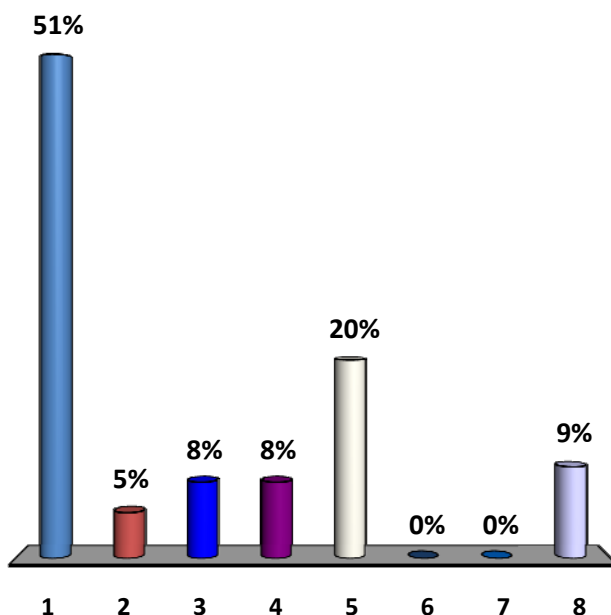
QUESTION 1:

What is the #1 priority for prevention programming?

A consistent theme expressed during the Symposium was the need for more investment in prevention. A number of areas of programming priority were discussed during the proceedings, and Astwood summarized these themes through the following question options:

1. Drugs, alcohol and gas
2. Gangs
3. Domestic violence
4. Assault – physical and sexual
5. Parenting/child maltreatment
6. Theft
7. Vandalism
8. Other

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Drugs, alcohol and gas prevention programming was the clear favourite amongst the delegates (51%) followed by parenting/child maltreatment (20%). Although adult survey response indicated them to be problematic, prevention programming with regards to gangs, domestic violence and assault together (21%) scored materially lower than drugs, alcohol and gang sniffing prevention programming, perhaps indicative of the general belief that these substances may be “fuelling” factors for these other social ills.

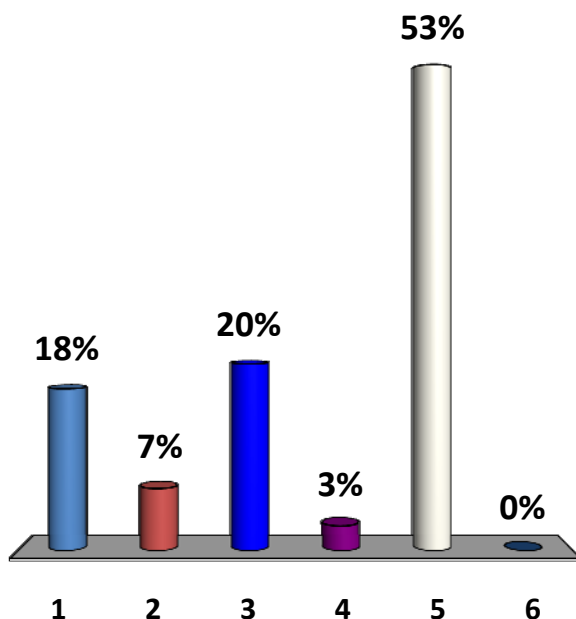
QUESTION 2:

What should be the priority group for prevention programming?

During the Symposium, a number of individuals highlighted different cohorts in which they felt prevention programming ought to be targeted. In order to gauge the delegate’s interest with respect to the priority cohort for prevention programming, the following options were offered for the question “What should be the priority group for prevention programming?”:

1. Youth under 12
2. Youth 12 to 17
3. All youth
4. Adults
5. All of community
6. Those outside our community

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that a majority of delegates believe that all members of Cree society must be deemed as targets for prevention programming, although it must be said that together, youth under 12 and youth in general received 38% of the results to this question. Given the young demographics of the Cree population, it would therefore make sense to offer broad based prevention programming with an emphasis on reaching youth under the age of 24.

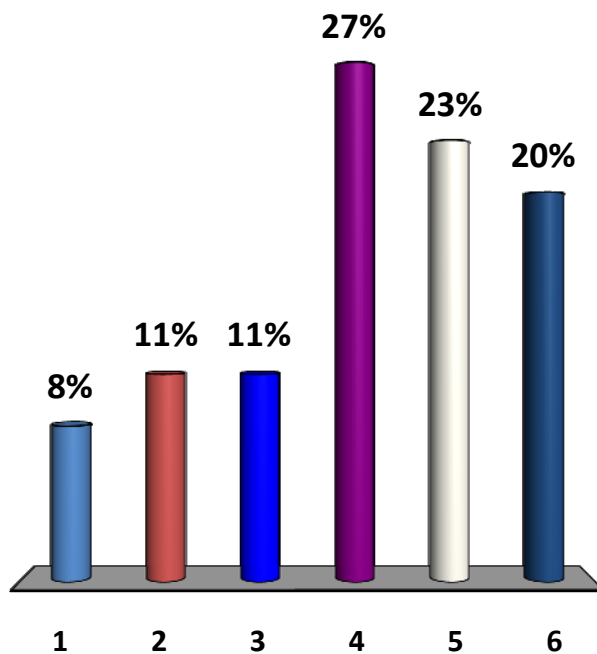
QUESTION 3:

What is best format for this prevention programming?

Astwood identified a number of themes expressed by delegates in respect to the possible forms of prevention programming. To gauge delegate opinion in this respect, the following question options were offered to question 3 above:

1. Printed awareness programs/materials
2. Radio and television
3. School based programs
4. Community gatherings, symposia
5. Community mentors and ambassadors
6. Public awareness campaigns

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Delegates expressed a preference for community gatherings and symposia, community mentors and ambassadors, and public awareness campaigns as forms of prevention programs. This preference for more “active” forms of prevention – involving people rather than the mere distribution of pamphlets or broadcast of prevention messages – suggests that we can and should actively engage Cree people in the delivery of pro-social messages, including youth, whom may be in a position to better reach young people in school and social settings.

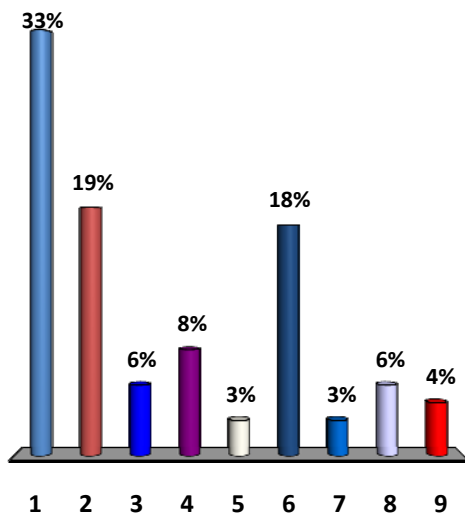
QUESTION 4:

What are best programs for prevention purposes?

During the symposium, both community and Cree entity presentations highlighted a number of program areas in which prevention initiatives ought to be designed around. Through content analysis, Astwood identified the top nine options discussed, and therefore offered the following options to the question “What are the best programs for prevention purposes?”:

1. Life skills, moral education
2. Parenting/parenting support
3. Mentorship
4. Employment and job training
5. Addictions help
6. Individual and family therapy
7. Lifestyle programs
8. Education support and homework clubs
9. Sports and recreation

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

A third of voting delegates expressed a preference for prevention programming to take the form of life skills and moral education, to equip youth with the skills and “moral compass” to make good decisions in their lives. In keeping with issues identified during the symposium in respect to parental supervision and engagement, delegates also expressed a preference for parenting support programs as well as individual and family therapy, perhaps to address some of the fuelling factors that underlie social and justice issues (such as mental health/depression, family conflict, etc.).

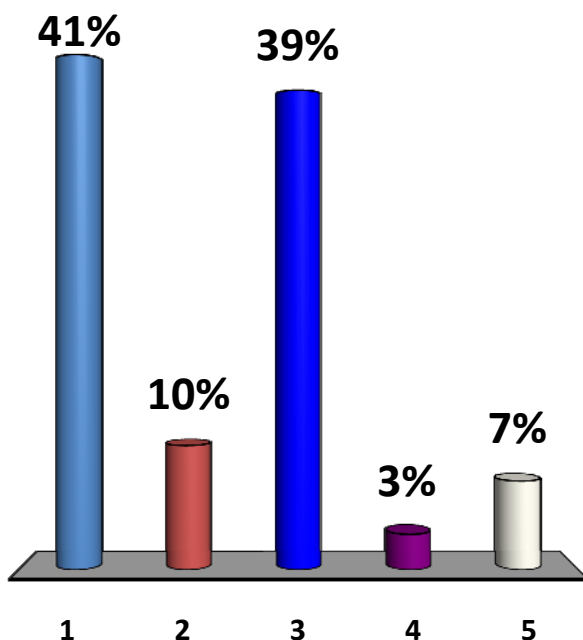
QUESTION 5:

What cultural programs are best for prevention purposes?

On many occasions, cultural programs were identified as a necessary component of any prevention effort, so as to re-connect Cree people – especially the young – to their naturally protective culture. A number of cultural programming concepts were highlighted during the Symposium, which were offered to delegates as the following options to the question “What cultural programs are best for prevention purposes?”:

1. Bush programs and camps
2. Culture/history programs
3. Traditional values teaching
4. Arts and crafts
5. Traditional gatherings and events – feasts, sweats, etc.

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results clearly identified a preference for on-the-land bush programs and camps followed by traditional values teachings. These results reinforce the need to engage Cree elders in the prevention programming process, as they are both an essential link to traditional teachings as well as ideal leaders of any proposed on-the-land programs. Re-connecting youth and youth adults to their culture through elders represents also a strong community mobilization and engagement strategy, so that prevention programming is not seen to be “dictated” from above by the CRA.

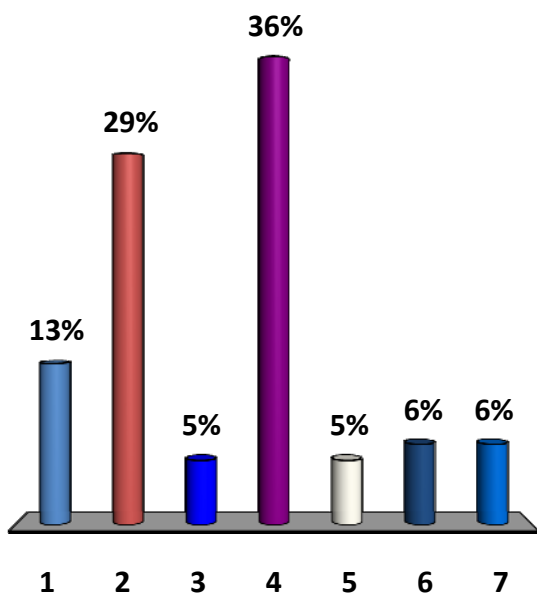
QUESTION 6:

What role can our Elders best play in our prevention efforts?

Related to the above question, the Symposium proceedings identified and number of possible roles Elders could play in the prevention process. Astwood summarized these themes through the following options to the question “What role can our Elders best play in our prevention efforts?”:

1. Mentoring youth
2. Leading on the land programs
3. Volunteering with at risk youth
4. Sharing cultural history and traditions
5. Sitting on committees
6. Acting as community ambassadors
7. Supporting and mentoring parents

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Response to this question is consistent with the response to Question 5 where we asked which cultural programs were best for prevention purposes. Polling response to Question 6 demonstrate that Elders ought to be engaged in the prevention process through sharing cultural history and traditions as well as by leading on-the-land programs.

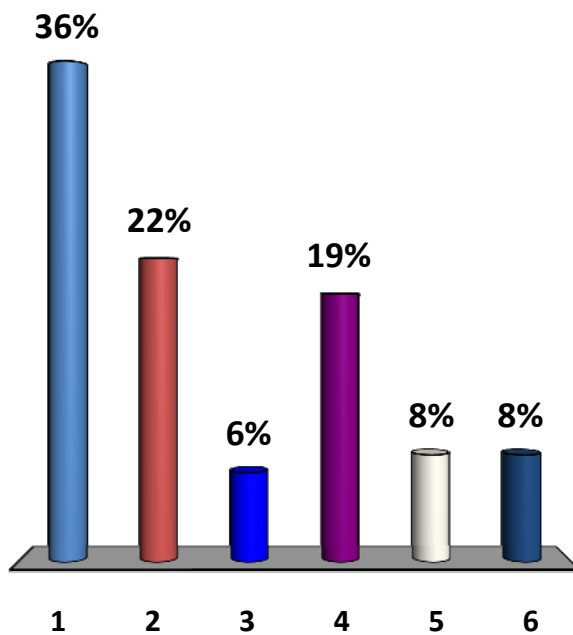
QUESTION 7:

What should role be of schools in prevention programs?

Throughout Symposium proceedings, the role of schools in respect to issues of prevention, intervention and community engagement was discussed, with a number of possible roles highlighted. Astwood summarized these themes through the following options to the question “What should role be of schools in prevention programs?”:

1. Class time for prevention programs
2. Sponsor youth led prevention campaigns
3. Host police officers for school resource officer programs
4. Identify youth at risk – refer to community services
5. Hold parenting sessions
6. Offer counselling services

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that delegates believe that school class time ought to be deployed, in part, to address various prevention priorities. This finding is supportive of others described herein, as school time can be an ideal venue for the teaching of life skills and/or implementing peer led prevention programming to address key issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, street gangs, bullying and other problematic issues that youth face. The challenge that will be faced in making this happen, however, will be the availability of class time and the need for teachers to achieve their mandated curriculum objectives.

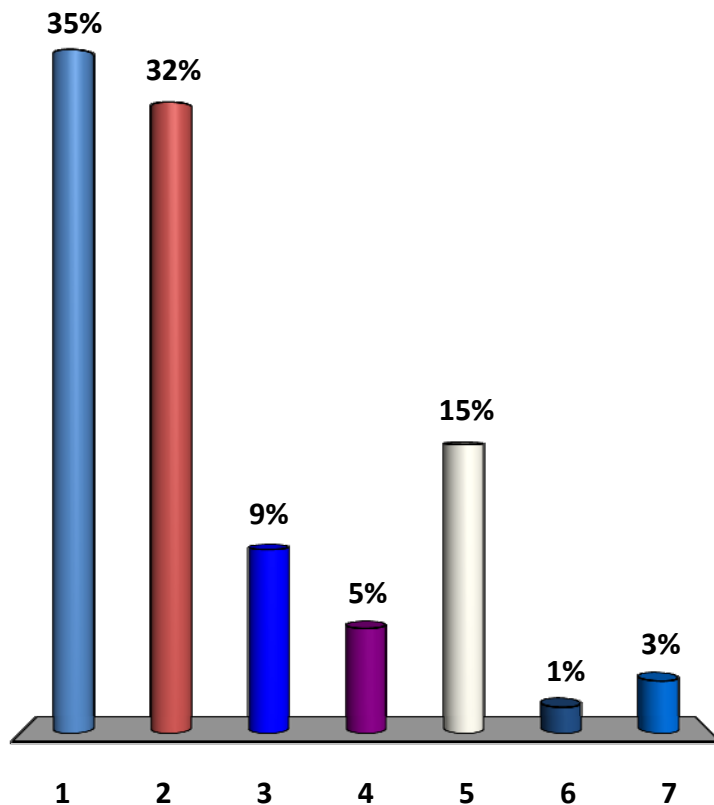
QUESTION 8:

What are the key changes/reforms we must make to youth centres?

The state of youth centres in Cree communities was an issue discussed throughout Symposium proceedings. A wide array of items were highlighted by delegates in respect to necessary reforms to create vibrant, well functioning youth centres that played a role in crime prevention and reduction. Astwood summarized these proposed reform through the following options to the question “What are the key changes/reforms we must make to youth centres?”:

1. Programs to animate centres
2. Better trained staff and role models
3. Clean-up, renovations, capital investment
4. Dedicate space to youth not other purposes
5. Improve youth councils
6. Volunteer programs
7. Enforced rules and regulations

Displayed graphically, results were as follows (see next page):



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that two thirds of delegates believe that youth centre reform ought to take the form of programs to “animate” centres (e.g., create programs that attract and engage youth) as well as the deployment of trained staff and role models. These findings are consistent with our analysis of the key issues which are hindering youth centres from achieving their full potential.

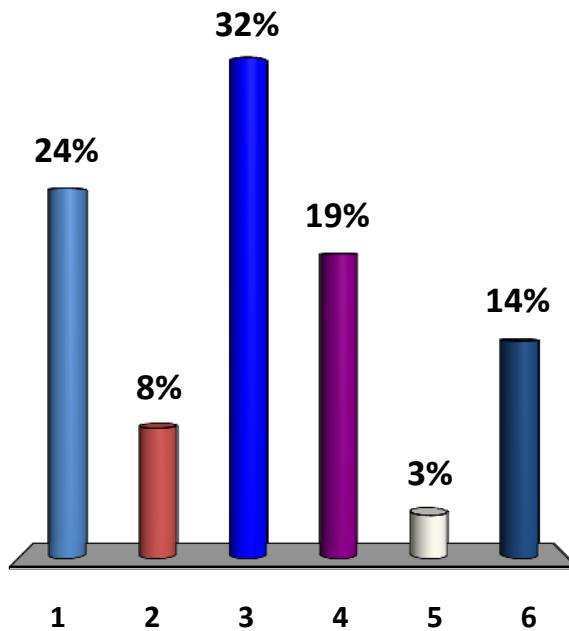
QUESTION 9:

What is best role for police service to play in prevention?

The role within the prevention effort of existing community-based police forces and the imminent regionalized police agency were discussed throughout the Symposium. There was broad consensus that police, as front line workers and peace officers, have an essential role to play in enforcement and suppression, but also in prevention, intervention and diversion. A number of prevention roles were highlighted by delegates throughout Symposium proceedings, which Astwood summarized through the following options to the question “What is the best role for police service to play in prevention?”:

1. Police led drugs, alcohol, gang awareness sessions
2. Parent information sessions
3. Work with community to divert youth committing non violent offences
4. More officers, more visibility (patrols)
5. Prevention materials on the police commission website
6. Officers volunteer to spend time with youth

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that delegates viewed police as playing a wide array of roles from a prevention perspective, ranging from the diversion of youth committing non-violent offenses to community programs, to police led prevention programs and the deployment of more patrol officers. While the new Cree Police Commission may be constrained by budget in its ability to materially increase officer deployment in Cree communities, readily achievable prevention gains can be made in areas of police-led diversion efforts as well as the involvement of police officers in community led, police supported prevention efforts. Generally, opinion of the police in the Cree communities (measured via the Cree Adult Survey) was good, suggesting that police involvement in prevention efforts should be encouraged and supported through the close interaction of the Cree Justice Department and Cree Police Commission.

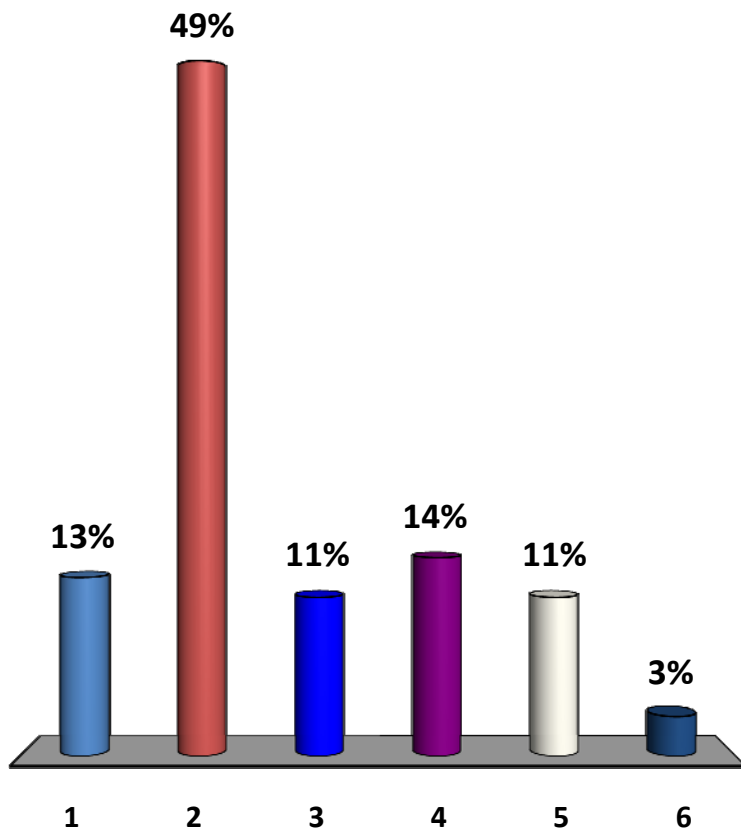
QUESTION 10:

What barriers or challenges stand in the way of good prevention?

Notwithstanding the broad acceptance of and support for integrated crime prevention and reduction efforts in the Cree communities, Symposium delegates expressed a number of possible challenges or barriers to the prevention effort, which were summarized by Astwood through the following options to the question “What barriers or challenges stand in the way of good prevention?”:

1. Lack of financial resources
2. Lack of community engagement
3. Lack of a plan
4. Apathy
5. Denial
6. Lack of expertise

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that almost half of delegates viewed the lack of community engagement as the key challenge or barrier to prevention, followed far behind by apathy and lack of financial resources. This polling result indeed supports the need for the Cree Department of Justice - as well as all other Cree governmental and political leadership bodies - to support the community mobilization process (e.g., through the establishment of vibrant Community Justice Committees and other means) before prevention efforts can truly take hold and prosper.

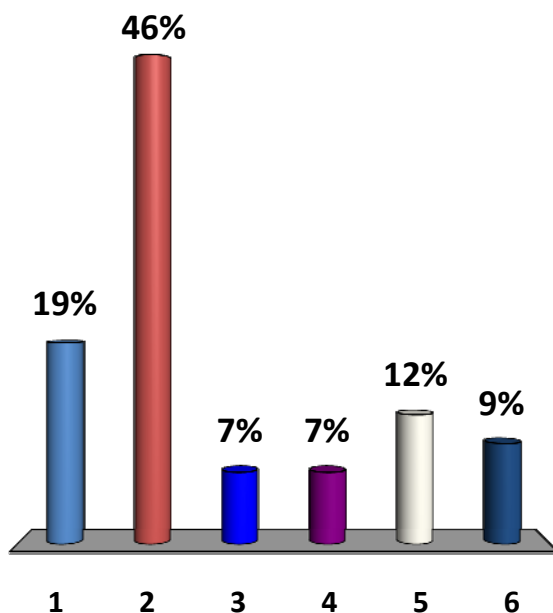
QUESTION 11:

What community structure or institution should lead prevention?

Throughout Symposium proceedings, a number of delegates discussed the structure, institution or mechanism through which community-based prevention efforts should be managed and implemented. The several options discussed were summarized by Astwood through the following options to the question “What community structure or institution should lead prevention?”:

1. Local justice panels
2. Community crime prevention council
3. Police Department
4. Local CRA department of justice staff
5. A Cree Entity (School Board, CHB)
6. Other

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that almost half of delegates considered a community crime prevention council – followed by local justice panels which are already in operation in several Cree communities – as the best vehicle to carry forward crime prevention efforts. Since local justice panels (or more formally, the “Cree Justice Committees” of CJs) are at various stages of development and readiness and are already tasked with important mandates (such as implementation of restorative justice programs), the formation of distinctive crime prevention council represents an intelligent approach to manage crime prevention. Indeed, a close collaboration between CJs and proposed new crime prevention councils (CPCs) would deliver significant crime prevention and reduction benefits and assist in the mobilization of community stakeholders in the prevention process.

2.4.2 INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION

Just as there was strong support for prevention expressed during Symposium proceedings, so to was their broad support for strategies that would allow the community to intervene early in the lives of youth that display risk factors or anti-social behaviour. A broad consensus was therefore expressed in respect to the need for diversion programs to avoid sending youth to prison. To facilitate polling in respect to intervention and diversion, Michael Chettleburgh offered the following definition: “Intervention and diversion refers to programs, services, tools and other resources to identify youth at risk and divert them from the criminal justice system”. A series of questions were then posed to delegates in respect to intervention and diversion, as follows:

QUESTION 12:

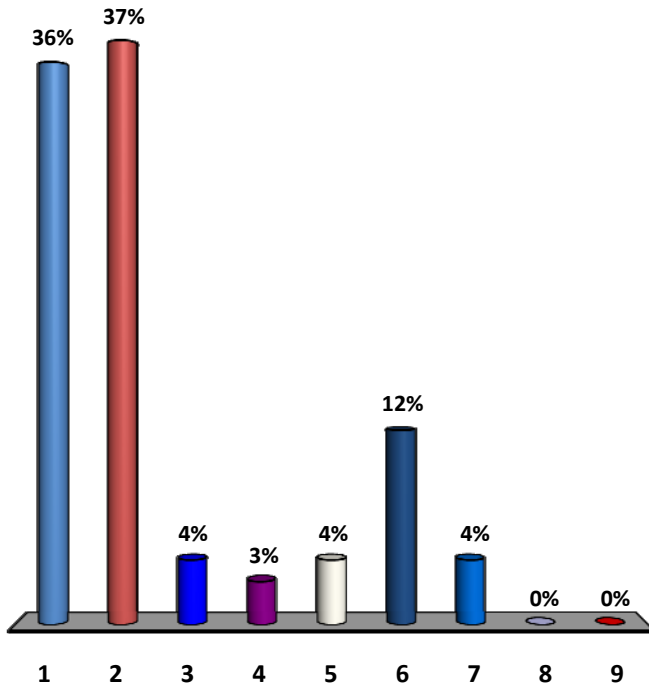
What is most important risk factor affecting Cree youth that we need to focus on?

Issues of intervention and diversion demand an assessment of risk factors that may be acting upon youth and therefore influencing their behaviour. During the Symposium, a number of discussions referred to the need to address the key risk factors acting upon youth in Eeyou Istchee. Astwood summarized these risk factors through the following options to the question “What is the most important risk factor affecting Cree youth that we need to focus on?”:

1. Drugs and alcohol
2. Dysfunctional families
3. Presence of gangs
4. Community and school violence
5. Family involvement in criminal activities
6. Lack of supervision

7. Poor educational outcomes
8. Relationships with anti-social peers
9. Mental health disorders

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Again, polling results demonstrate a consistency of opinion across the delegates. As the Cree Adult Survey as well as this polling results demonstrate, a majority of delegates identified drugs and alcohol and dysfunctional families as the key risk factors acting upon youth – items that were described earlier as prevention priority areas. Surprisingly, although gangs were described as active in Cree communities by a majority of Adult Survey respondents, only 4% of delegates polled considered this a key risk factor, perhaps suggestive that gangs are in an embryonic state in Cree communities and not yet powerful in their influence on youth.

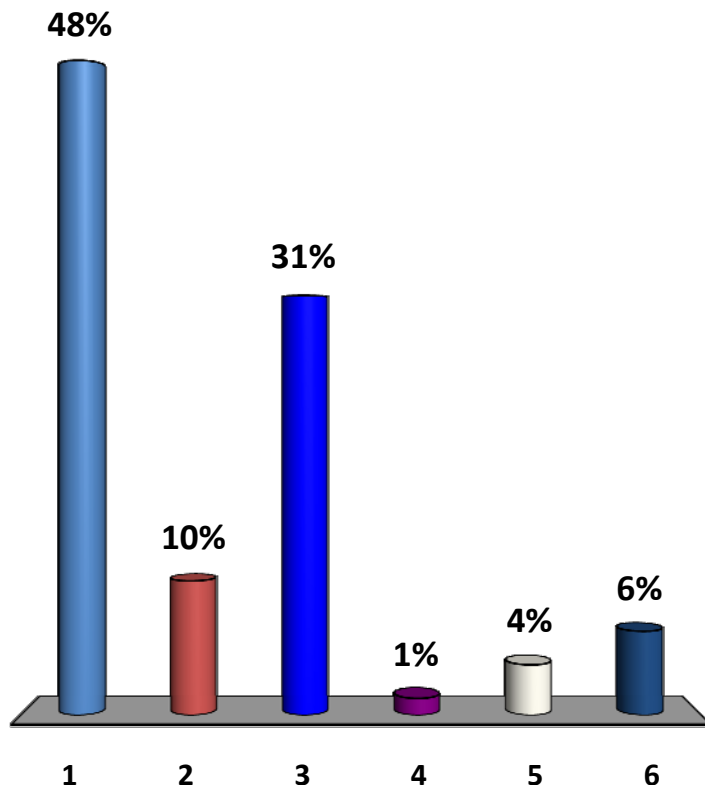
QUESTION 13:

If a youth under 17 breaks the law, what is the best way we can divert them from criminal justice system?

Given the great extent of youth under the age of majority in the Cree region (with some 40% or so under the age of 17), the Symposium featured strong discussions around how best to address youthful offenders under the age of 17 who were subject to the provisions of the YCJA. To assist in polling the delegation in respect how to best deal with these youthful offenders, Astwood summarized as answer choices the following options:

1. Bush programs
2. Community service
3. Counselling – anger, addictions, etc.
4. Other community programs
5. Strict monitoring of conditions
6. Other

Displayed graphically, results were as follows:



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that almost half of delegates considered bush or on-the-land programs as the best method of dealing with youthful offenders under the age of 17, followed by specific counselling programs such as addictions counselling, anger management, etc. This bush program finding is consistent with earlier findings which demonstrated the belief that Elder led interventions – to deal with fuelling factors while building a connection with youth to their Cree culture – were a necessary component of prevention programming in the Cree Region. Surprisingly, only 10% of delegates polled referred to community programs as the best means to deal with youthful offenders.

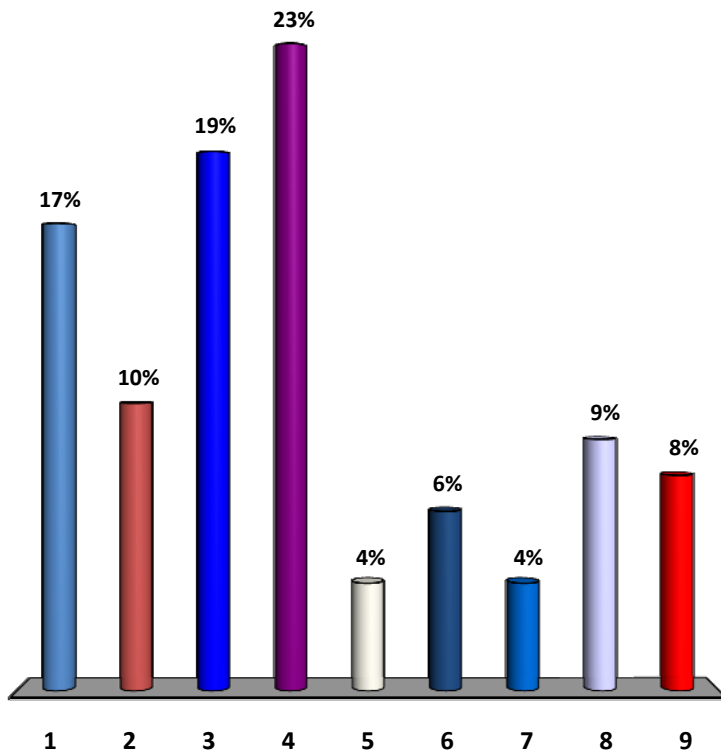
QUESTION 14:

What counselling services are needed to deal with “fuelling factors”

As noted in question 13 above, counselling services were deemed to be part of an effective intervention and diversion program. During the Symposium, a number of suggestions were discussed in regards to counselling services that would address the reasons why offenders acted the way that they did. The several options discussed were summarized by Astwood through the following options to the question “What counselling services are needed to deal with fuelling factors?”:

1. Addictions support
2. Anger management
3. Individual therapy
4. Family therapy
5. Mental health support – FASD, depression, etc.
6. Relationship counselling
7. Employment
8. Education
9. Other

Displayed graphically, results were as follows (see next page):



Commentary:

Polling results again indicate consistency in opinion to other questions posed in this poll as well as the Adult Survey in that family and individual therapy (total of 42% of delegates polled), followed by addictions support (17%), were the counselling services deemed most important in dealing with the factors that fuelled criminal and anti-social behaviours.

2.4.3 ENFORCEMENT AND SUPPRESSION

At the outset of the Symposium, Michael Chettleburgh presented an overview of a so-called “balanced approach” to justice issues incorporating prevention, intervention, diversion, suppression and enforcement. Discussions at the Symposium produced consensus that a strong and unified police response is essential to ensure positive justice outcomes for all Cree people. To facilitate polling on various suppression and enforcement matters, Michael Chettleburgh offered a definition, as follows: “Enforcement and suppression programs are those designed to investigate breaches of the law and enforce our criminal code, while suppression is police led activities designed to reduce the level of crime and victimization caused by prolific and “frequent flyer”. Three questions were then posed to delegates in respect to enforcement and suppression, as follows:

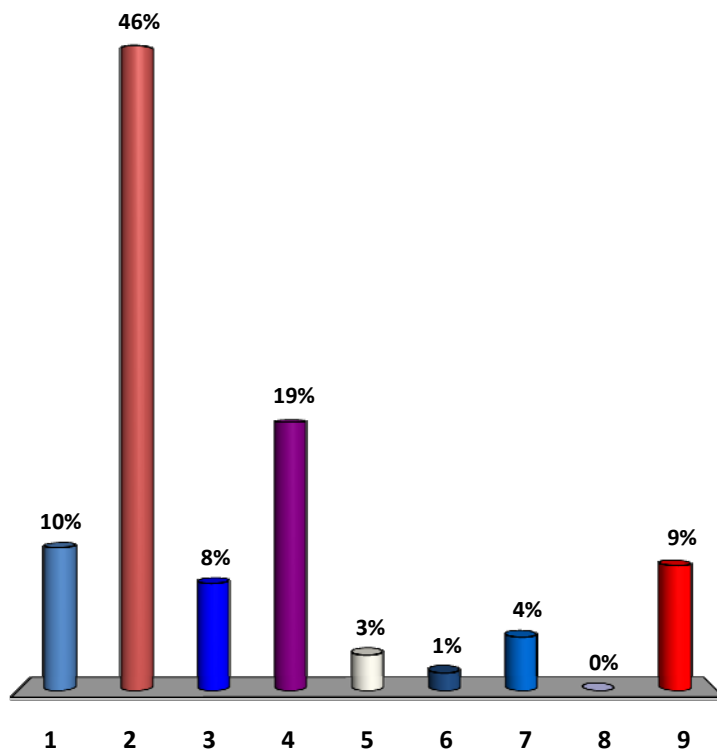
QUESTION 15:

What should be our enforcement focus (what crimes and criminal activities)?

Commentary from some members of the delegation indicated a broad array of focus areas for Cree law enforcement officers. The several options discussed were summarized by Astwood through the following options to the question “What should be our enforcement focus (what crimes and criminal activities)?”:

1. Bootlegging
2. Drugs trafficking
3. Domestic assault
4. By-law enforcement
5. Vandalism
6. Theft
7. Physical and sexual assault
8. Other crimes against property
9. Other crimes against persons

Displayed graphically, results were as follows (see next page):



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that almost half of the delegation supports the notion that the focus of law enforcement should be on interdicting the trade of illicit drugs, a finding we deem consistent with concerns expressed about the impact of the illicit drug trade within Eeyou Istchee. Following far behind the issue of drug trafficking enforcement is that of by-law enforcement.

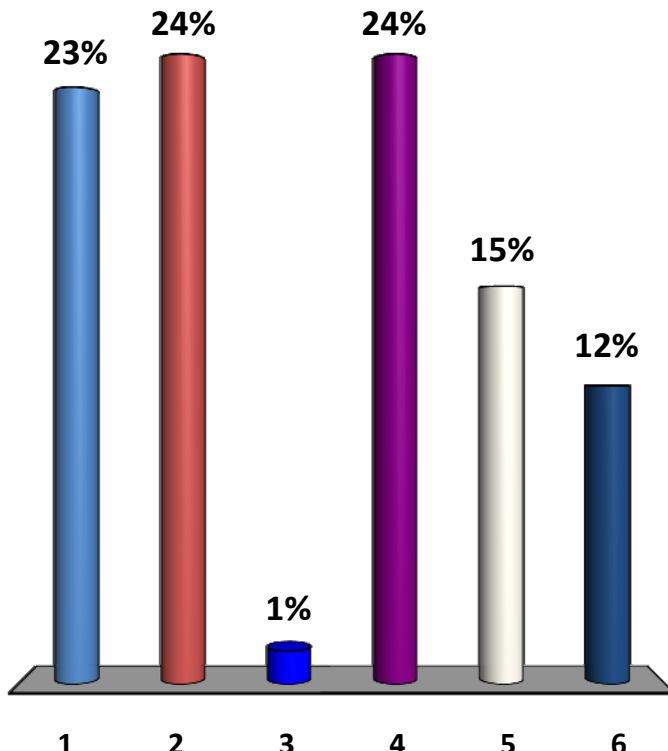
QUESTION 16:

What should be our suppression focus (who, what groups?)

The Symposium featured some discussion of the suppression focus of the Cree police, that is, what group or who specifically should the Cree police target with their crime suppression activities? The several options discussed were summarized by Astwood through the following options to the question “What should be our suppression focus (who, what groups)?”:

1. Street/youth gangs
2. Organized crime
3. Outlaw bikers
4. Prolific adult offenders
5. Prolific youth offenders
6. Offenders from outside our communities

Displayed graphically, results were as follows (see next page):



Commentary:

Polling results indicate that there were several proposed objects of Cree police suppression including organized crime, prolific adult offenders and street/youth gangs. As a general proposition, approximately half of delegates polled indicated that adult offenders (who make up the majority of organized crime gangs) rather than youth, should receive the majority of police suppression focus.

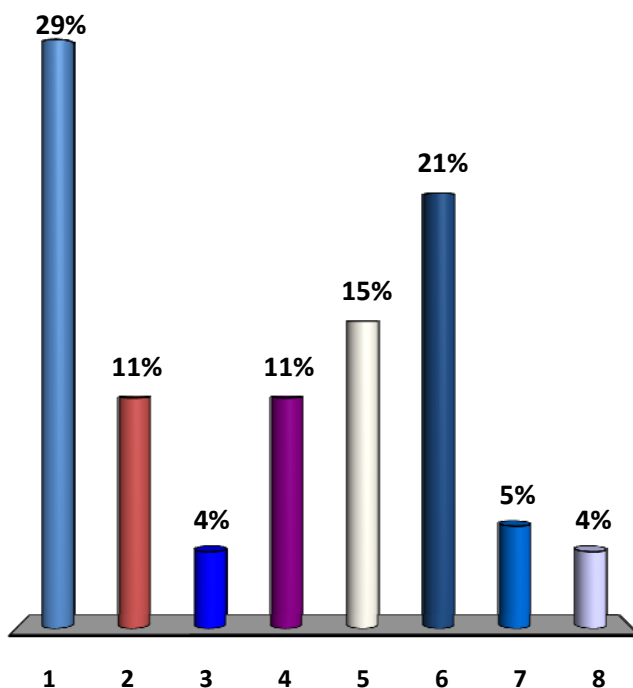
QUESTION 17:

What are the key barriers we may face in enforcement and suppression?

While not a specific item of discussion in the Symposium, Astwood felt it important to pose the question “What are the key barriers we may face in enforcement and suppression?”. Question options posed included:

1. Fear
2. Apathy
3. Denial
4. Family involvement in criminal enterprise
5. Lack of police resources to investigate
6. Court problems, backlogs
7. Lack of police coordination between communities
8. Lack of cooperation with other agencies (QPP, etc.)

Displayed graphically, results were as follows (see next page):



Commentary:

Fear as an enforcement and suppression barrier was cited by almost a third of delegates polled, perhaps because of the perception that organized crime (and by extension, the lucrative trade in illicit drugs) is a problem in the Cree Region and that retribution was possible (against Cree officers, against Cree witnesses, etc.) if a united stand against them was made. In addition, over one-fifth of delegates polled indicated that court problems and backlogs were a key barrier to enforcement and suppression. Discussions with several delegates suggested that backlogs associated with the itinerant courts forced officers to not make all the charges they otherwise could, as well as led to the dismissal of cases at court due to unacceptable time delays in hearing cases.

2.4.4 DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDAS

As a source of information in regards to the distribution of the crime prevention and reduction agendas (as outlined on page 4 of this report), we asked the entire delegation to indicate, for each proposed agenda, which community was best able to handle the agenda in question. Results of this polling cannot be considered representative, given the variable size of the delegations. For example, the Mistissini delegation was indeed the largest, which therefore explains the many “first place” results that now follow for each stated agenda:

QUESTION 18:

Which community is best able to lead a Community Awareness and Prevention agenda?

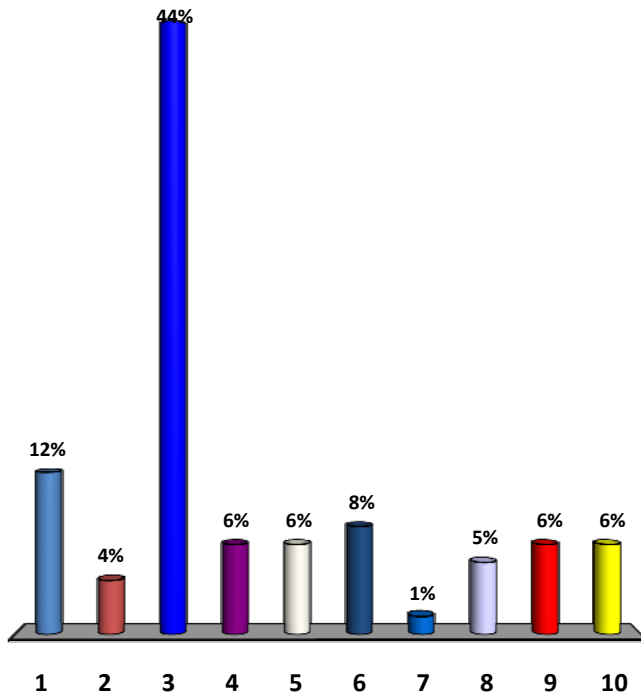
Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Develop materials, manual, brochures, posters, teacher’s materials, PSAs, Chief’s messages, etc.
 - Drugs awareness/prevention
 - Gangs awareness/prevention
 - Gas sniffing awareness/prevention
 - Domestic violence awareness/prevention
 - Sexual assault awareness/prevention
 - Etc.
- Training, evaluation

Answer options were as follows::

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini

4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Mistissini followed by Chisasibi were deemed most able to lead the Community Awareness and Prevention agenda.

QUESTION 19:

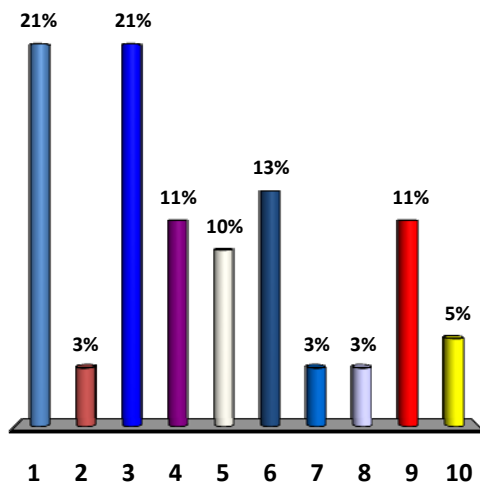
Which community is best able to lead a Community Mobilization agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Community assessments and gap analysis
- Develop plan, identify partners
- Develop agreements
- Integrated training
- Cultural reclamation programs
- Elder recruitment
- Youth and parent engagement

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Mistissini followed by Chisasibi and Waskaganish were deemed most able to lead the Community Mobilization agenda

QUESTION 20:

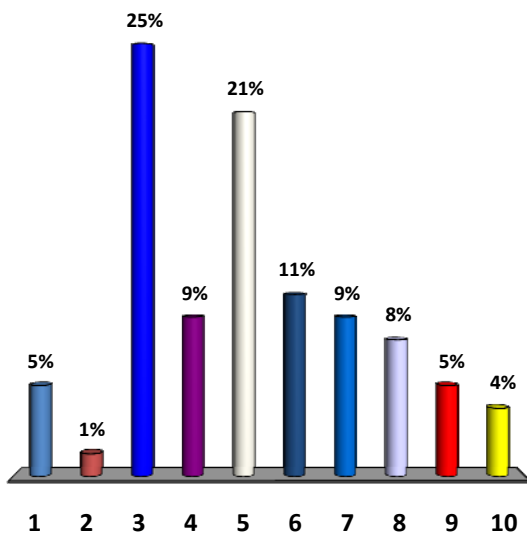
Which community is best able to lead a Youth Centre agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Research, develop and pilot programs
- Program manual to “animate” centres
- Policies and procedures, staff training and support
- Administration systems
- Implement, evaluate, improve programs

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Mistissini followed by Ouje-Bougoumou were deemed most able to lead the Youth Centre agenda

QUESTION 21:

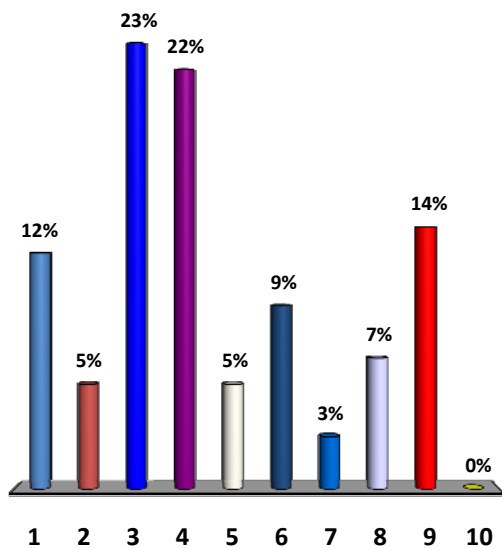
Which community is best able to lead a Youth Intervention and Diversion agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Create/amend Youth Intervention and Diversion program for use for Extra Judicial Measures/Extra Judicial Sanctions under Youth Criminal Justice Act
- Protocol and partner agreement development and implementation
- Gang exit component
 - Programs, policies and procedures
 - Training
 - Education support, apprenticeship, counselling, ambassadorship

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary: Mistissini followed by Nemaska were deemed most able to lead the Youth Intervention and Diversion agenda

QUESTION 22:

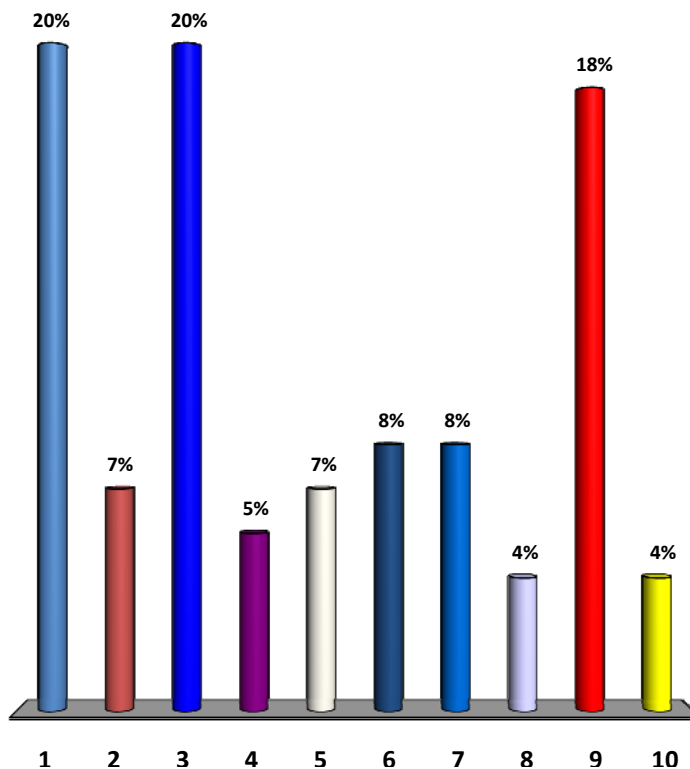
Which community is best able to lead a Restorative Justice agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Policies and procedures development
- RJ committee terms of reference
- Training program development and delivery
- Development of information management protocol and evaluation frameworks

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Mistissini followed by Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui were deemed most able to lead the Restorative Justice agenda.

QUESTION 23:

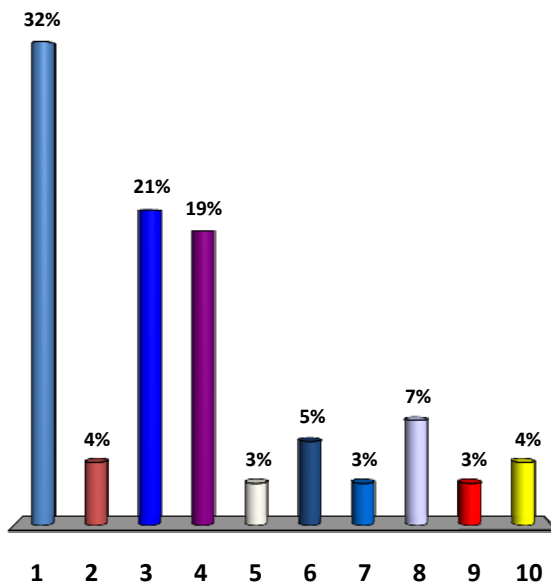
Which community is best able to lead a Police Service Crime Prevention agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Develop/implement Youth Office or Directorate
- SLO/SRO program development and training
- Policies, procedures and programs
- Police Athletic Leagues

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Chisasibi followed by Mistissini and Nemaska were deemed most able to lead the Police Service Crime Prevention agenda.

QUESTION 24:

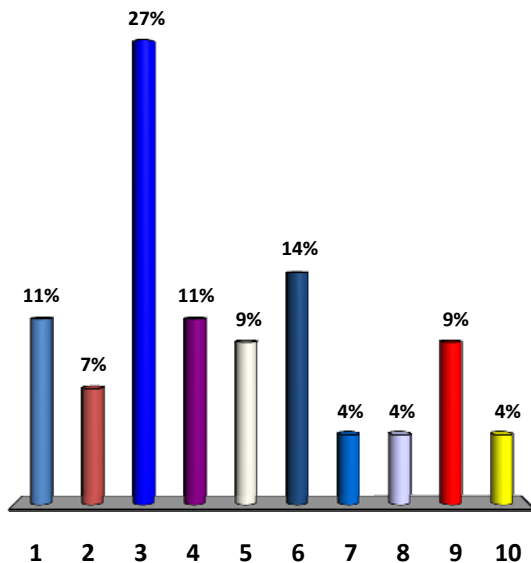
Which community is best able to lead a Justice System Support agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Community by-laws to support crime prevention
- Youth Councils
- Domestic violence response/victim’s assistance
- Legal aid
- Post incarceration/re-integration support

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Mistissini followed by Waskaganish were deemed most able to lead the Police Service Crime Prevention agenda.

QUESTION 25:

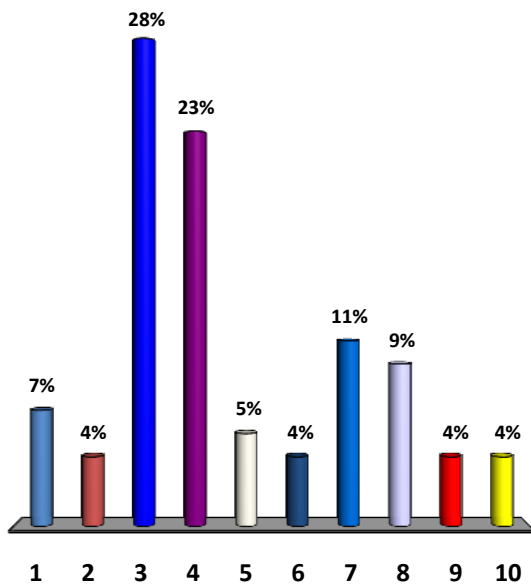
Which community is best able to lead a Community Economic Development agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Community assessments
- Develop programs manual to engage youth and adults with entrepreneurship
- Identify partners
- Secure trainers and mentors – small engine repair, ecotourism, etc.
- Training and evaluation framework

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Mistissini followed by Nemaska were deemed most able to lead the Community Economic Development agenda.

QUESTION 26:

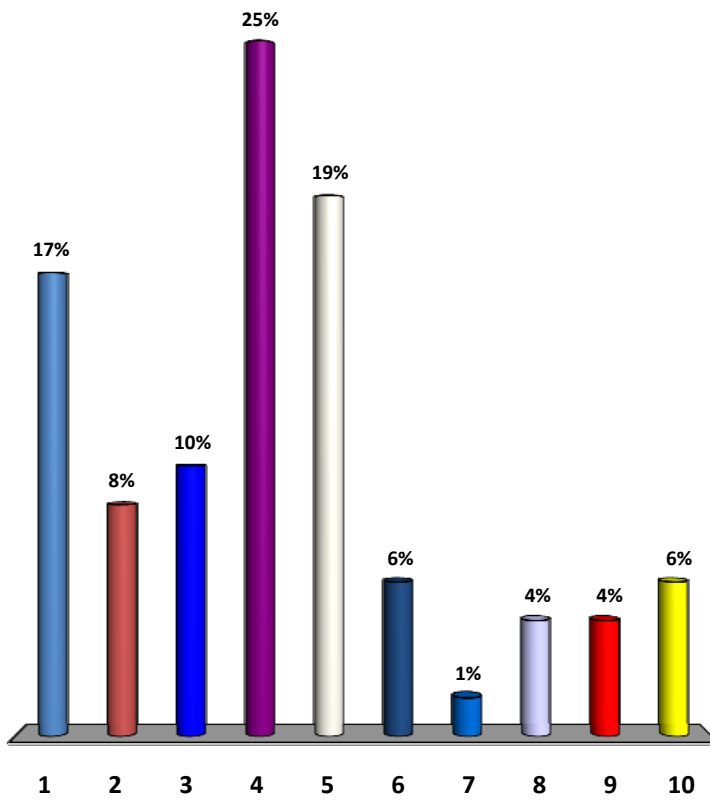
Which community is best able to lead a Sports and Recreation agenda?

Delegates were provided with the following point form summary of the components of the agenda:

- Develop/renovate programs:
 - Summer camps, sports leagues, general sports programs
 - Recreational programming
- Develop policies, procedures and programs guide
- Work in conjunction with communities and other service providers to ensure sports and recreation supports crime prevention objectives and mandate

Answer options were as follows:

1. Chisasibi
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini
4. Nemaska
5. Ouje-Bougoumou
6. Waskaganish
7. Waswanipi
8. Wemindji
9. Whapmagoostui
10. Washaw Sibi



Commentary:

Nemaska followed by Ouje-Bougoumou and Chisasibi were deemed most able to lead the Sports and Recreation agenda.

2.4.5 AGENDA PREFERENCES

As a final community polling step, we asked each community delegation to indicate which proposed agenda they preferred to lead. Like the polling in respect to agenda distribution, these cannot be considered representative of community preference. Indeed, further consultation is necessary within each community to determine a more accurate picture of agenda preference. Notwithstanding these provisos, the following chart highlights the top three preferred agendas for each community (percentage response indicated in parenthesis):

COMMUNITY	AGENDA
Chisasibi	Restorative Justice (75%)
	Community Awareness and Education (12.5%)
	Community Mobilization (12.5%)
Eastmain	Restorative Justice (33.3%)
	Community Awareness and Education (33.3%)
	Community Mobilization (33.3%)
Mistissini	Youth Centre (38%)
	Restorative Justice (25%)
	Justice System Support (19%)
Nemaska	Youth Intervention and Diversion (70%)
	Sports and Recreation (20%)
	Restorative Justice (10%)
Ouje-Bougoumou	Sports and Recreation (50%)
	Community Economic Development (13%)
	Youth Intervention and Diversion (13%)
Waskaganish	Youth Intervention and Diversion (45%)
	Youth Centre (18%)
	Sports and Recreation (18%)
Waswanipi	Police Service Crime Prevention (33.3%)
	Community Economic Development (33.3%)
	Restorative Justice (33.3%)
Wemindji	Community Awareness and Education (50%)
	Police Service Crime Prevention (33%)
	Youth Centre (17%)
Whapmagoostui	Restorative Justice (73%)
	Community Mobilization (18%)
	Justice System Support (9%)
Washaw Sibi	Community Economic Development (50%)
	Police Service Crime Prevention (13%)
	Youth Centre (13%)

2.4.6 PERSPECTIVE ON EVENT

To conclude the polling, we asked the entire delegation to answer three final questions, as follows:

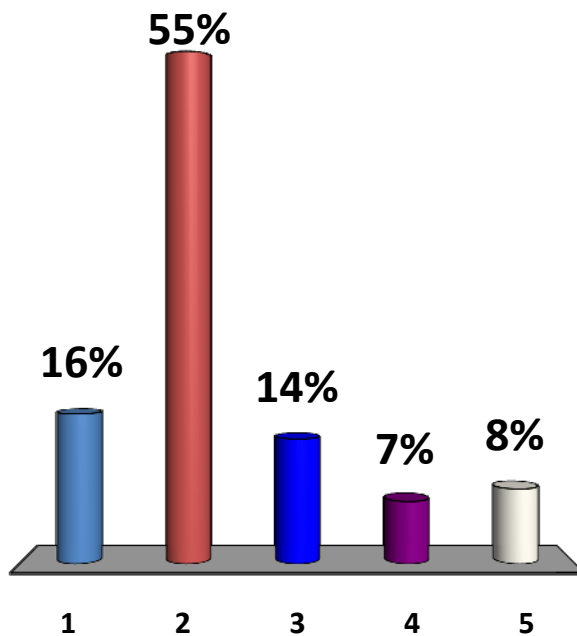
QUESTION 27:

Please rate your satisfaction with the Cree Justice Symposium.

Answer options for this question were as follows:

1. Extremely Satisfied
2. Satisfied
3. Neutral
4. Dissatisfied
5. Extremely Dissatisfied

Results are displayed as follows:



Commentary:

Seventy-one percent of delegates polled indicated they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the Cree Justice Symposium.

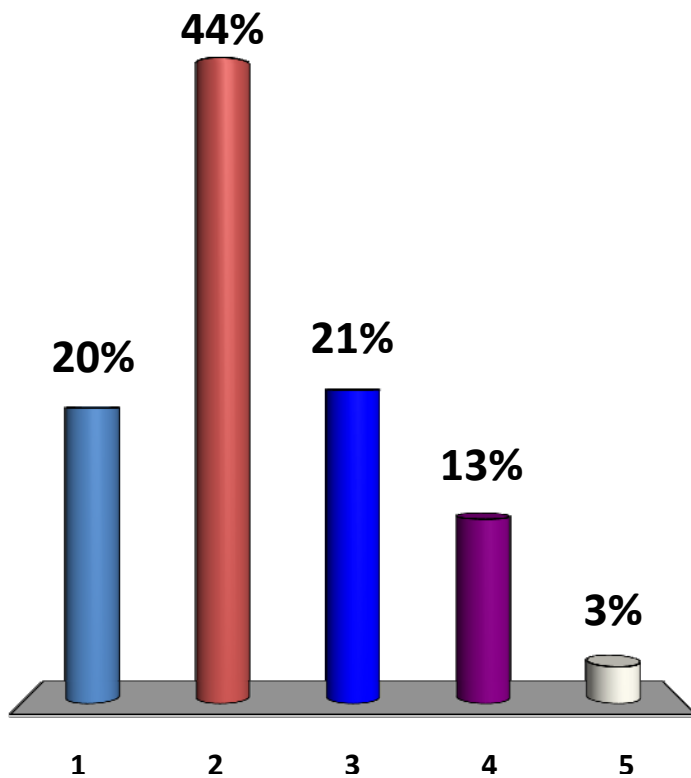
QUESTION 28:

Please rate how confident you are that the CRA will make significant progress on justice issues

Answer options for this question were as follows:

1. Extremely Confident
2. Confident
3. Neutral
4. Not Confident
5. Extremely Not Confident

Results are displayed as follows:



Commentary:

Approximately two-thirds of the polled delegation expressed that they are either extremely confident or confident that the CRA will make significant progress on the justice issues. Twenty-one percent expressed a neutral position, leaving 16 percent feeling not confident that the CRA can achieve progress on the justice file.

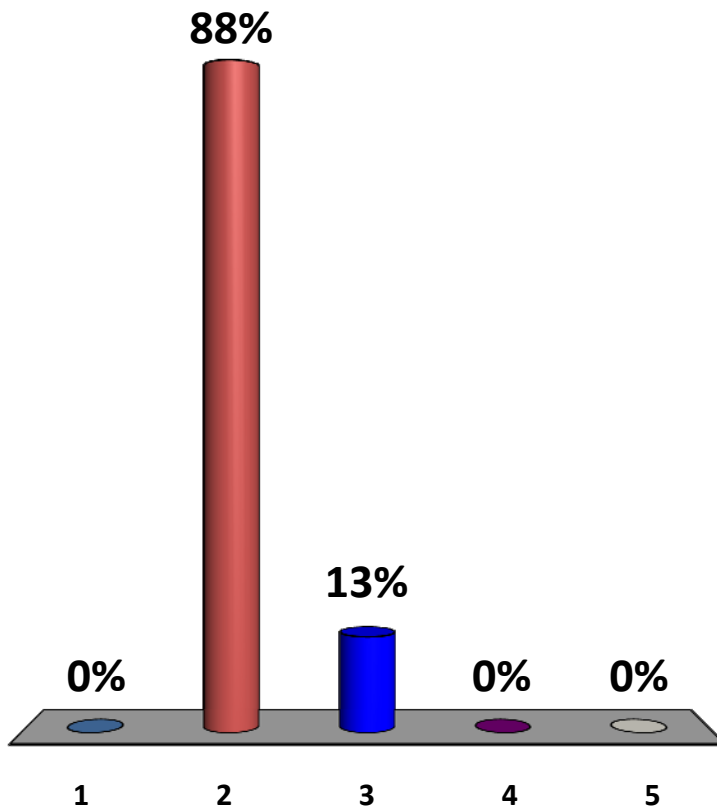
QUESTION 29:

Please rate how confident you are that each community will make significant progress on their agenda.

Answer options for this question were as follows:

1. Extremely Confident
2. Confident
3. Neutral
4. Not Confident
5. Extremely Not Confident

Results are displayed as follows:



Commentary:

Whereas two-thirds of the polled delegation expressed that they were either extremely confident or confident that the CRA will make significant progress on the justice file, 88% of the delegates were confident that communities will make significant progress on their agenda. This disparity is curious, because if the communities achieve their agenda goals and objectives, so too will the CRA as this process is designed to be community-led, CRA supported.

2.5 General Commentary in Respect to Symposium Implementation

In this section, we offer our general commentary in respect to the implementation of the Cree Justice Symposium:

2.5.1 Positive Factors/Items

Strong attendance: Notwithstanding the difficulties associated with travelling to Mistissini via Chibougamau, the attendance at the Symposium was strong, with approximately 75 official delegates and another 50 or so individuals who observed the proceedings at various stages during the three day event. While not every community had a full delegation of 6 representatives, generally each community was sufficiently represented to ensure their views were put forth.

Good participation: Delegate participation - in the form of commentary, community presentations and polling participation – was strong, attesting to the importance of justice issues in the Cree communities. Indeed, the difficulties associated with maintaining the program agenda (see Section 2.5.2.) demonstrates that delegates readily sought to provide their input during Symposium proceedings.

Strong cross-sectoral representation: the Symposium featured an excellent cross-section of participants who represented various organizations that touch aspects of the justice system . As well, representation from various Cree entities – Cree Health Board, Cree School Board, Creed Elders Council, Cree Trapper’s Association and others – was strong as well.

Need for event substantiated by attendees: A wealth of positive commentary was expressed by delegates in respect to the need for this event. Interest in justice issues is high and this was reflected in both the kind of commentary made and the strong participation/good attendance noted above.

Honest discourse and disclosure: The Symposium featured frank and honest discourse and disclosure in regards to the key justice and social issues affecting Cree communities, including those that may be properly considered quite sensitive (such as sexual abuse, drug and alcohol addictions, etc.). The fact that these items were discussed in an open setting indeed bodes well for the administration of justice in Eeyou Istchee, since confronting problematic issues demands acceptance that they exist in the first place. Denial of social and justice issue is not an issue with which the Cree people must contend going forward.

Consistency in respect to core issues: While Symposium discussions covered a wide range of topics and issues, there was ample consistency across the delegate pool on respect to the key issues requiring attention, including but not limited to the drug trade, issues of abuse, the need for greater community engagement in prevention, the need for coordinated approaches in prevention, intervention and diversion, etc.

Spirit of cooperation and anticipation in respect to next steps: There was strong and consistent support for the direction set by the CRA in regards to the nine agenda crime prevention and reduction program,

which suggests that engaging communities in the next step of this process should not be problematic. Indeed, the confidence that communities expressed in their own ability to achieve their agenda goals and objectives demonstrates that communities are poised for action and anticipate success in ameliorating the justice and social issues that impact them.

Broad support for agenda approach: As noted above, support for the nine-agenda approach was strong and we did not witness any negative commentary in respect to this approach except that the community of Washaw Sibi felt “left out” since only 9 agendas were articulated. Positive commentary was expressed in regards to the logic of the “peer diffusion” model wherein one community takes the lead on an agenda, develops the process and infrastructure for it, then assists with the “transplantation” of that agenda in the other Cree communities.

Excellent administrative support and local implementation: The quality of administrative support provided by Judy Cooper, Rita Blackned and Darlene Wapachee was excellent and helped to ensure a successful event.

2.5.2 Negative Factors/Items

Difficult to maintain integrity of agenda: As noted earlier, we lost about a half day on the first day of agenda due to various travel difficulties, which forced the implementation team to amend the agenda on the fly. Once these delays were accommodated, however, we faced additional agenda problems as many speakers, including community representatives, consumed more time on the agenda than was allotted to them. Consequently, we elected to claw back these time overages by deleting some aspects of the Symposium which would have provided value to the delegation (such as Louise Logue talk on intervention and diversion, Michael Chettleburgh facilitated discussion in advance of the delegation polling).

Lack of communication: Regrettably, there was some lack of communication between Chief’s offices and those appointed as formal delegates to the event from each community. This resulted in lack of preparation of some delegations and therefore last minute preparation of community presentations. These last minute preparations stood in contrast to some of the communities that prepared extensive notes and handouts for the benefit of all delegates.

Visual capabilities of meeting hall: The meeting hall in Mistissini was a wonderful venue for the Symposium in terms of available space and overall layout, but bright lighting conditions were decidedly poor therefore rendering most PowerPoint presentations useless. This was particularly problematic for the polling, as the facilitator was forced to read each question to the delegation therefore cutting into the available time for the facilitation and conference conclusion proceedings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Strategic Recommendations

Based on the findings presented herein, we offer the following strategic recommendations grouped by category:

RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

Recommendation #1

Re-engage youth through a new on-line survey

While the findings associated with the adult survey on justice and related issues can be considered probative, the youth survey cannot. Given that many of the nine crime prevention and reduction agendas touch youth, it would seem prudent to re-engage youth through another on-line survey effort to ensure their voices are heard. Therefore, we recommend that the CRA Department of Justice or its designates collaborate with the Cree Nation Youth Council to design and implement a new youth justice survey, such that results can be secured before the end of the school year. These results – obtained from a minimum of 300 to 400 youth from throughout the Cree Nation – will be important to ensure the initial direction we take on the agendas is sound and accommodates issues pertinent to youth.

Recommendation #2

Engage Cree Elders in a broader dialogue about their prospective role in crime prevention and reduction

Symposium proceedings indicated that Elders in Eeyou Istchee are considered an essential component of any crime reduction and prevention strategy. In particular, Elders are considered essential as it pertains to the teaching of values and life skills and to the diversion of non-violent youthful offenders from the traditional criminal justice system through various on-the-land programs. The presentation made by Mr. and Mrs. Danyluk on behalf of the Cree Elders Council indicates a high degree of interest and engagement on the part of Cree Elders. However, we believe that the Cree Department of Justice must quantify and qualify the extent of participation that can be obtained, and the resources that are required to properly engage Cree Elders (such as committee structures, money for honorariums if such are expected, etc.). Therefore, we recommend that the Cree Department of Justice or its designates engage the Cree Elders Council to determine a possible form of and time frame for consultation with Cree Elders.

Recommendation #3

Identify and research justice best practices in First Nations communities

The proposed integrated crime prevention and reduction program is based on best practice in that it provides a holistic view of the many elements that are required to ensure safe and healthy communities. Within the nine agendas, every effort will be made to also employ best practice approaches, and to this end, we recommend that we immediately undertake additional research in respect to international best practice on justice matters, especially as it pertains to First Nations communities. For example, the CRA can benefit by a undertaking a fuller assessment of the community economic development practices of the Choctaw people of south eastern United States, as well as the police-led drug interdictions strategies of the Navajo Nation in Arizona. As well, researching so-called Elder led “back to the land” programs is important if we wish to engage Cree Elders with programs that produce their intended results and ensure community, victim and offender satisfaction. Lessons learned from their experiences will inform our approach and ensure the implementation of the most effective programs.

Recommendation #4

Establish symposium to address issue of domestic violence

The impassioned presentation by the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee demonstrated that issues of domestic violence (including spousal physical and mental abuse, violence against children, child abandonment, Elder abuse, etc.) are top of mind and require attention to stem the cycle of victimization. While the Department of Justice integrated crime prevention and reduction initiative included a specific reference to issues of domestic violence (e.g., awareness programming and prevention campaigns under the Community Awareness and Prevention agenda), we recommend that consideration be given to a more visible discussion of domestic violence issues, perhaps under the rubric of a two-day Domestic Violence Symposium to be held in 2009. Further, we recommend that Michael Chettleburgh be tasked with the mandate to identify and pursue possible sources of event co-funding, which may include Health Canada, Status of Women Canada, and Quebec’s provincial women’s secretariat.

Recommendation #5

Seek broader Cree entity support for notion of interim “Drug Enforcement Unit”

Police intelligence suggests that the trade of illicit drugs in Eeyou Istchee is on the rise, with overland routes such as the James Bay Highway and air routes via Canada Post being favoured among drug dealers and traffickers in the south. In order for Cree communities to enjoy the peace and safety they deserve, we believe that the CRA and other Cree entities must take all necessary steps now to coordinate drug interdiction efforts rather than await the launch of the regionalized police agency. To that end, we recommend that the CRA and its leading entities support the interim formation of a Cree “Drug Enforcement Unit” (DEU), a notion which was articulated in February in Montreal by several members of Cree police agencies in collaboration with UMECO and outside advisors (including Rejean Hardy and Michael Chettleburgh). The proposed DEU would work closely with UMECO officials to implement drug operations (such as the recent Canada Post operation, which resulted in the seizure of over \$800,000 in illicit drugs sent via the mail), as well as receive mentorship and training from experience drug investigator, Rejean Hardy. A proposal in respect to financing this training is now in

front of CHRD officials, but verbal or written support from other Cree entities may be helpful in bringing this proposed initiative to life.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendation #6

Finalize agenda allocations

While by no means an exhaustive or fully representative process, the Symposium sought to determine an “initial cut” of agenda allocations by community, derived through the polling process (which included delegation’s expression of preference), analysis of community presentations and our general understanding of the state of readiness of communities in regards to the defined agendas. For example, the community of Chisasibi expressed a preference to carry forward the restorative justice agenda and is indeed further ahead than many other Cree communities in this area as a result of the work done to date through their community justice committee. Based on this kind of analyses, we proposed that Chisasibi implement the restorative justice agenda. We therefore recommend that the following allocations be considered by the Justice Committee so that they can be presented to each of the communities for initial discussion in early April 2009.

COMMUNITY	AGENDA
Chisasibi	Restorative Justice
Eastmain	Community Mobilization
Mistissini	Youth Centre
Nemaska	Youth Intervention and Diversion
Ouje-Bougoumou	Sports and Recreation
Waskaganish	Justice System Support
Waswanipi	Community Economic Development
Wemindji	Community Awareness and Education
Whapmagoostui	Police Service Crime Prevention

Recommendation #7

Present proposed agenda allocations to each individual community

Further to the above, with respect to the consultation process we recommend that Astwood prepare a briefing package for each community which will consist of high level summary of Symposium findings, the rationale for the selection of the specific agenda, a proposed consultation process (TBD) and a statement from the Cree Justice Committee highlighting the need for each community to adopt a specific development agenda in support of the overall crime prevention and reduction initiative. We recommend that these briefing packages be presented in person by Michael Chettleburgh to each band chief or council, so that initial feedback can be obtained and we can clearly make the case for cooperation, since it is unlikely that all communities will be 100% happy with their specific allocation. These in-person meetings will allow us to counter any objections and reinforce the notion that agenda allocations are simply a short-term development measure, not a long term solidification of a

community's focus from a crime prevention/reduction perspective. This initial feedback gathering process is essential so that we can re-allocate agendas as required, finalize our deployment plans by May 2009, as well as secure the \$25,000 per community crime prevention contribution approved at the October 2008 Council Board meeting.

Recommendation #8

Allocate net new agenda to Washaw Sibi

It is unclear to the author of this report whether the community of Washaw Sibi has sufficient capacity (financial, human or otherwise) to undertake any of the nine crime prevention and reduction agendas. Notwithstanding, the community was an active participant in the Symposium and expressed a strong desire to engage in this process in support of the health and safety of the entire Cree Nation. Since only nine crime prevention/reduction agendas were defined, we are faced with the choice of either allocating one agenda to two communities who would thus manage them in parallel, or creating a net new agenda and allocating this to Washaw Sibi alone. We favour a somewhat hybrid approach, and therefore recommend that a new agenda called "Re-integration support" be defined by extracting it from the original Justice System Support agenda. The re-integration support agenda would therefore consist of the development of programs and services for Cree offenders who are completing their custodial sentences in Amos or other facilities, including but not limited to:

- Job training/skills re-building
- Re-integration counselling and support
- GED completion
- Personal management
 - Financial
 - Housing
 - Income support

Washaw Sibi's proximity to the Amos Detention Facility makes it an ideal choice for the deployment of this proposed new agenda, which is sufficiently large enough in scope to warrant separate treatment.

Recommendation #9

Develop region wide 311 service

As part of the integrated crime prevention and reduction program, a priority is the identification and/or development of community capacity to deal with social and associated justice issues. For example, the youth intervention and diversion program to be implemented by the Cree Police Commission presupposes that alternative sanctions can be effected through community based programs. Once these program are identified, expanded or established, we recommend that an accessible, searchable database of resources be developed and offered via toll-free 311 service (wherein trained operators can accept calls, qualify the needs, and provide referral to appropriate community service) as well as from Cree Justice Website at www.creejustice.ca/311.

Recommendation #10

Develop region wide crime stoppers service

As the Symposium demonstrated, one of the perceived criminal justice barriers is fear – that is, fear of stepping forward with information in respect to the commission of crimes, fear of cooperating with the police, fear of retribution from those against which testimony is offered, fear of reporting family members that may be involved with serious criminal offenses, etc. At the present time, citizens with actionable information must make the decision of either keeping it to themselves or disclosing such to the local police service, without specific guarantees of confidentiality provided. This serves to reduce the level of information provided, therefore impinging the ability of the Cree Nation to reduce and suppress criminal behaviour. In other jurisdictions, the creation and operation of a confidential crime stoppers service has greatly improved case dispositions and level of community engagement. We therefore recommend that consideration be given to the establishment of a Cree Nation-wide, toll-free crime stopper service, modelled perhaps under the very successful Toronto Police Service program which has resulted in thousands of high quality tips, especially in respect to gangs, fraud and the illicit drug trade. As part of this, we recommend also that a small budget be established to provide rewards for high quality tips that lead to successful prosecution of serious offenders or known drug dealers.

Recommendation #11

Develop “Project Wrap” pilot project

Community and Cree entity presentations at the Symposium underlined the broad reach of criminal justice issues. Crime and victimization – and its progenitors – touch all Cree systems including police, school, the workplace, social services and more. It is therefore essential that response to these issues is consistently varied, bringing together all the relevant players to effect evidence based, appropriate interventions. While work is on-going to ensure this collaboration takes place (including multi-stakeholder Community Justice Panels, other inter-agency working groups such as the one in operation in Whapmagoostui), we believe this process can be facilitated with the piloting of a specific, evidence based collaborative “wraparound” model to deal with the higher risk or challenging cases in Cree communities. For example, the Multi-System Therapy (MST) model is the world’s most rigorously evaluated collaborative wraparound program in the world. While intensive in nature (e.g., a MST therapist can handle up to six families every 4 months, or about 15 to 18 interventions per year), the program can produce significant change in the social functioning of families and therefore reduce the fuelling factors associated with criminal behaviour. We therefore recommend that consideration be given to the design and piloting of a Cree “Project Wrap” and further, that Michael Chettleburgh be tasked with the identification of possible funding sources to offset MST training costs and program operation.

Recommendation #12

Develop Cree Region Drug Court

It is clear that many of the social and criminal justice issues that impact the Cree people relate to the vibrant and growing trade in illicit drugs. While police intelligence suggests that many of those that are involved in trafficking drugs in the Cree Region as well as selling at the retail (street) level are not specifically using the products they are moving, we also know that many are indeed and users

and are therefore engaged in the retail trade as a way of supporting their own habits. Given the varied face of the drug trade, combined with the number of cases that are likely to result if the integrated Drug Enforcement Unit recommendation is supported, we therefore recommend that consideration be given to the formation of a specific drug court. This judicial body would be tasked with hearing drug related cases, and would employ a hybrid approach wherein both traditional criminal justice sanctions as well as alternative/restorative ones could be deployed to handle offenders. Further to this, we recommend the identification and study of relevant best practices in drug court operations. Drug courts have demonstrated great outcomes in many jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, and we therefore recommend an assessment of them to ensure an optimal approach for the Cree Region.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Recommendation #13

Develop 5-Year justice plan and vision

We believe that a logical outcome of the Cree Justice Symposium is both a plan of attack for the implementation of the integrated crime prevention and reduction program, but also the formulation of a compelling vision document or justice “red book” that lays out the 5-year justice plan (including S.M.A.R.T. objectives) for the Cree people. We recommend that this document be authored in draft by Donald Nicholls and Losty Mamianskum, then distributed to key justice stakeholders, political leadership and community leadership for input, prior to its release to the people of Eeyou Istchee. We recommend also that as part of this document, a results management accountability framework (RMAF) be developed which will assist in the measurement of progress towards stated goals as well as the dissemination of key tactics that will be undertaken to make the vision a reality.

Recommendation #14

Develop comprehensive Cree justice website (**UNDERWAY**)

Given the exciting changes afoot on the justice file, maintaining excellent communication with justice system stakeholders and counterparts is essential. Therefore, we recommend that a comprehensive Cree Department of Justice website be developed and offered in three languages – English, Cree and French. This site should be developed with a view to become the “one-stop” destination for all matters related to justice including news, events, developments, agreements, best practices, updates on progress of agendas, etc. , rather than on-line “brochureware” that simply describes the mandate of the department. An initial site map is proposed below, which should be designed in a way to remain scalable and easily maintained by the CRA:

- **DEPARTMENT**
 - History
 - Message from the Director
 - Mandate
 - Outcomes and Objectives
 - Results Management Accountability Framework
 - Leadership
 - Executive Management

- Justice Committee
 - Special Advisors
 - Facilities
 - Justice Facilities
 - Shelters
 - Career Opportunities
 - FAQ
 - Contact Us
 - Legal Notice
- **RESOURCES**
 - Criminal Code of Canada
 - CRA Agreements
 - 1975 James Bay Agreement
 - La Grande 1986 Agreement
 - New Agreement with Quebec
 - etc
 - By-Laws
- **PROGRAMS**
 - Integrated Crime Prevention Agenda
 - Street Gang Prevention Program
 - Community Awareness Agenda
 - Youth Intervention and Diversion Agenda
 - Under 12 S.N.A.P. Program
 - Police Intervention and Diversion Program
 - Restorative Justice Agenda
 - Community Mobilization Agenda
 - Police Service Crime Prevention
 - Youth Centre Agenda
 - Community Economic Development Agenda
 - Justice System Support Agenda
 - Domestic Violence Agenda
- **RESOURCES**
 - Cree Justice Newsletter
 - Reports and Publications
 - Research and Statistics
 - Web Links
 - Justice Partners
 - Best/Promising Practices
- **NEWS/EVENTS**
 - Cree Justice Symposium 2009
 - Agenda
 - Report
 - Community Submissions
 - Upcoming Events
 - Consultations and Surveys
 - Judicial Appointments
 - News Releases
 - Speeches
- **Site Map**
- **HOME**

Recommendation #15

Develop quarterly Cree justice newsletter (**UNDERWAY**)

Consistent with the above item, we recommend that as an additional communications vehicle a quarterly Cree Justice Newsletter be developed and distributed throughout Eeyou Istchee in both print and on-line fashion (e.g., PDF version can be distributed from www.creejustice.ca;; print version as insert in the *Nation* magazine?). We recommend an informative newsletter of 8 to 16 pages, with the following editorial focus and composition:

- Feature cover/cover story – personality or event
- Editorial – from editor – Donald Nicholls
- News and happenings on justice file
- Updates on Community Justice Committees
- Feature story – profile of a justice leader, profile of an issue or event
- Recognition of justice volunteers, accomplishments in areas of justice, etc.
- Summaries of:
 - Funding opportunities
 - Appointments
 - Consultations
 - Statistics

We believe that the newsletter will be an ideal way to build the profile of the justice file and mobilize communities to engage in the crime prevention and reduction process, since they will have a better understanding of it. This is especially important as one of the key findings from the Symposium was the lack of community engagement on justice matters. As important, the newsletter will be a good means to keep funders and program partners informed of developments (such as the Province of Quebec, Government of Canada, etc.). We propose that the first edition be conceived and released in the May timeframe, consistent with the release of the proposed Cree Justice website.

Recommendation #16

Develop and launch annual crime prevention week

In keeping with our desire to greatly enhance the visibility of justice issues, increase the “accessibility” of justice, and therefore the level of engagement in the crime prevention and reduction process, we recommend that consideration be given to the establishment of an annual Crime Prevention Week in Eeyou Istchee, where communities can organize events or launch campaigns in respect to key criminal and social justice issues. Further, we recommend that a proposed Eeyou Istchee Crime Prevention Council (see recommendation #18 below) be tasked with managing this annual awareness week, which could include the following mandates:

- Through community consultation and other means, establish a theme for each year’s crime prevention week. For example, a good theme for the 2009 week - if this recommendation is accepted - might be domestic violence or youth at risk.
- Once themes are determined, the creation and distribution of a briefing package providing communities with programming ideas, statistics, sample communications materials (posters, press releases, etc.)

- Managing a design competition process, open to all Cree people, wherein an annual campaign slogan, logo, theme and overall “look” can be selected for the Cree Region.

The last point above functions also to engage youth in the crime reduction and prevention program. School-based design competitions (written word, graphic design, video, etc.), for example, are great ways to socialize youth to prevention concepts and also to gain their perspectives on the social and justice issues that impact them. The following poster image (for an HIV awareness program) was developed through such a design competition involving youth under the age of 20, which attests to their creative vision and value in the crime prevention and reduction domain.



PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

Recommendation #17

Create agenda committee within each community

To ensure successful development and implementation of each agenda, communities will require that some form of operating committee be struck to work with the Cree Department of Justice. As we understand, Community Justice Committees or “panels” are in varying stages of development and operation across the Cree Nation (e.g., CJs in Chisasibi and Mistissini, for example, have been in operation for some time), so these may not be the appropriate structure to manage and support agenda implementation. Therefore, we recommend that each community strike and staff a special crime prevention and reduction operating committee, that will assist the Cree Department of Justice in the design, development and roll-out of each agenda. We recommend that these committees be composed of representatives from multiple entities/stakeholder groups, including but not limited to youth, Elders, police, social services, youth protection, school, health, justice, etc. Further, we recommend that Astwood develop a terms of reference for this committee which will refer to tasks/responsibilities expected in the next 18 months or so (until such time as the agendas are developed, implemented and transferred to other communities), as well as future tasks and responsibilities under the vision of a sitting community “Crime Prevention Council” (CPC). This future entity (similar to Crime Prevention Ottawa, Edmonton’s Community Solutions to Gang Violence, etc.) could be tasked with the on-going management of community based crime prevention, and could indeed support CJs in the achievement of their mandate. Further, we recommend that these committee positions be treated as volunteer, but that a budget of \$100 to \$200 per person be established to provide a small recognition item for member participation (e.g., plaque, jacket, computer bag).

Recommendation #18

Develop “Eeyou Istchee crime prevention council”

The Cree Justice Department demonstrated its leadership through conceiving and implementing the Cree Justice Symposium. Going forward, we believe it is essential to “democratize” the crime prevention and reduction file through the creation of a region wide advisory (voluntary) body or council tasked with supporting the Justice Department and by extension, the Justice Committee, in achieving its specific objectives in this regard. Therefore, we recommend that consideration be given to the establishment of the Eeyou Istchee Crime Prevention Council, which would be composed of a maximum of 18 members and a revolving committee chair, as follows:

- One member per each of 10 communities
- One member from Cree Department of Justice
- One member each from key Cree entities including: Cree Health Board, Cree School Board, Cree Recreation Department, Cree Elders Council, Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee, Cree Police Commission, Cree Nation Youth Council
- One member from Cree Regional Authority

In support of this recommendation, we recommend also the creation of a specific terms of reference and advisory council member position description, as well as the calling of a first advisory meeting (via teleconference to minimize administrative costs) in the second quarter of 2009.

Recommendation #19

Develop annual Cree Justice Awards

To further enhance the visibility of justice issues, we recommend the creation of a Cree Justice Award, provided annually during Cree Crime Prevention Week to a man, woman and youth in Eeyou Istchee that best exemplifies the spirit and intent of the CRA justice vision and who demonstrates leadership in the achievement of justice. We recommend that this Award consist of Cree Justice Department website and newsletter mention, small cash award (say, \$2,500 to \$5,000) as well as award “trinket” (statue, plaque, lap pin, etc.). This award program will help celebrate local heroes and demonstrate to others that local leadership on matters of justice will be celebrated throughout Eeyou Istchee.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation #20

Initiate development of integrated Cree Nation Drug Strategy (CNDS) in collaboration with Cree Police Commission, Cree Health Board, Cree School Board and other relevant entities

Symposium proceedings clearly highlighted the collective anxiety within the Cree Nation in respect to illicit drugs use, trafficking and downstream social ills including violence and addictions. The business of illicit drugs touches multiple entities within the Cree Nation, yet it is our perception that the GCC/CRA lacks a unified drug strategy to deal with the fallout associated with drugs (and, of course, alcohol consumption). To that end, we recommend that a meeting be convened as soon as possible to discuss the formation of an interagency task force on drugs, that will be tasked with the development of a consistent strategy and logic model, results management accountability framework (RMAF), as well as funding applications to various provincial and federal bodies. Such a body will ensure that all systems that touch the big – and growing - business of drugs are working well together and maximizing the use of available prevention, interdiction and enforcement funds.

Recommendation #21

Establish collaborative relationship with Cree Nation Youth Council

Symposium proceedings clearly highlighted the connection between issues of justice and the youth of the Cree Nation. While the majority of Cree youth are indeed functioning well, there are many that are at risk of anti-social, criminal and high-risk behaviour, including consumption of illicit drugs. To be sure, youth must be a key focus of the Justice Department’s crime prevention and reduction program, and at the same time, a key stakeholder in the creation of prevention and reduction strategies. In this respect, the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) must become an important ally in the crime prevention and reduction process. Our observation is, however, is that there may be “silos” developing wherein the level of engagement between and amongst Cree entities may not be optimal, therefore possibly

reducing the extent to which the Justice Department can make good on its mandate. In this respect, we refer to Cree youth centres, which are governed under the rubric of the Cree Nation Youth Council. Symposium proceedings demonstrated consensus that youth centres are an essential tool in youth engagement and youth crime prevention but are not performing particularly well. While we are not suggesting in any respect that the CNYC has ignored the youth centres or does not collaborate well with other Cree entities, we wish simply to reinforce the point that a close collaboration between the CNYC and the Justice Department around a youth centre frame of reference will produce big dividends. Best practice demands that youth centres be programmed and staffed well so as to engage youth, expose them to pro-social role models and help address the risk factors that may be present in their lives, and to this end, we recommend that a specific “Teaming Agreement” and protocol be established with the CNYC so as to effect a material turnaround in youth centre operations. As part of this teaming agreement, we further recommend that specific action items be contained, including but not limited to:

- Joint pursuit of funding opportunities
 - CHRD
 - Federal and provincial funds
- Inventorying of youth centre and supportive community assets in each community and gap analysis
- Community consultations, including focus groups, town halls and key informant interviews, to determine needs and aspirations of youth in respect to their youth centres.
- Development of specific youth centre turnaround plans

In addition to the above, we recommend that steps be taken to gain support throughout the Cree Nation in respect to the CHRD application around youth centre training, which is premised on the creation and implementation of a comprehensive training and mentorship program for youth centre directors and animators.

3.2 Proposed Next Steps

We propose the following next steps:

- Discussion of recommendations
- Revision of recommendations as well as report, as required.
- Distribution of report to interested parties.
- Consultation and/or immediate implementation of proposed recommendations as per attached proposed critical path.

MORE INFORMATION

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SURVEY COMMENTARY

ADULT COMMENTARY

QUESTION 14: BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN COMMUNITY

COMMENTARY – HAS BEEN REPRODUCED AS IS.
Family violence, The Negative impacts from Fort-George, Marriage Values (many marriages have been broken), Gambling is very high, NO TREATMENT CENTRE SPECIFICALLY FOR ABORIGINALS that can be ACCESSIBLE within the Cree communities. OUR CREE PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING, WE NEED TO Make BETTER CHANGES INSTEAD OF BANDAID SOLUTIONS THAT ONLY WORK FOR A LIL'WHILE. WE NEED TO MAKE BIGGER AND BRIGHTER CHOICES FOR OUR PEOPLE. **HOUSING IS A MAJOR PROBLEM. I LOST MY HOME, FAMILY AND MOVED AWAY. I AM GETTING HELP IN THE SOUTH AND I AM MUCH HAPPIER HERE BECASUE OF THE RESOURCES OFFERED IN THE ABORIGINALS ORGANIZATIONS
alcohol, drugs, crime, violence, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, spousal abuse, elder abuse, child abuse, disrespect, mistreating others, gangs, social issues, vandalism, bullying, theft, political corruption, nepotism
Lack of family interaction to resolve immediate family critical issues. Reliance on others to solve the problem(s). Lack of education to youth at an early school age level on the use of alcohol, drugs, gambling, and the negative effects of the abuse.
I strongly believe to give adults and youth a chance to say more on their opinions. and making decisions that affect our community... We all need a change in our lives. Every day is a new beginning... We must press on!.. On what is ahead!..
Parenting skills lack, positive interaction. Leadership away from their own communities. Lack of frontline workers to tackle & improve issues, through social, recreational and educational programs. Lines of communication need to improve and followed properly.
Youth around here don't have much to do.
Too much social issues, which lead to drug, alcohol, physical, verbal, etc. abuse.
The biggest problem is the bullying and the violence
lack of parental involvement. parents need get involved at the arena while their children are playing hockey. more parents should make their children a priority.
A lot of alcohol and drug trafficking. No consequences to those who put our community in turmoil by selling drugs and alcohol. Children get apprehended by social services due to parent's alcohol and drug use. The residential generation needs to come to terms of their trauma and abuse and move on in order for our youth to understand and also heal themselves.
Drugs and Alcohol involvements
There is some drugs and alcohol abuse within my community. And, the other problem is that they don't listen or help our youth. They should provide more cultural or educational programs for them as well.
the drug dealers and the bootleggers.
Alcohol and Drugs. (Traffickers selling drugs to youth)
Youth & adults are involved of stealing and brake entry because there is lack of jobs in our community.
not too sure
Drugs and booze. Specially drugs, they should be harder on people who sell drugs in Communities, and

<p>some police officers are not busting their own family relatives or friends, and some of the police officers after work, tend to drink also, and beat people in their own community, I don't want to name any names but it is a fact! And I think they get away with it. What kind of image is that? that is why I don't feel that safe in my own community, who is really there for me and the locals.</p>
<p>people selling drugs & alcohol to minors, too many gang related incidents, too many people are suicidal and nobody knows, nobody watches the speed limit in the community, nobody talks to their kids about vandalism, a lot of kids bullying other kids especially in school and no one is doing anything about it, too many break-ins into private homes and stolen many expensive goods, there's just a lot of things in the community that aren't doing the community any good.</p>
<p>Housing, there is a lot of people on the waiting list I hear. I heard that the people on the waiting list for a period of time to get a house, some of them wait three years to get a house or a apartment. They don't look at people that are packed in one house. I myself and my family have a lot of people in our house. A four bedroom house with 9 people. We have to share a bedroom with my kids, a 6 and a half year old and a 2 and a half year old. Even my brothers share a bedroom their ages are 17 and 13. And it's very hard to use the bathroom in the morning.</p>
<p>Drugs and Alcohol</p>
<p>Alcoholism and drug abuse</p>
<p>Drugs, Alcohol, Violence, Sexual abuse, gangs.....etc</p>
<p>TOTAL LACK OF RESPECT</p>
<p>The biggest problems in my community are alcohol and drugs, gangs, bullies, bootleggers, pushers. Housing is also a big problem.</p>
<p>In my own opinion, I would have to say that it is drugs and Alcohol that are the biggest problems not just for the Communities but also for a urban area such as Val d'Or, Amos, Montreal.....etc.</p>
<p>I think the biggest problems in my community of Mistissini is there is no discipline for adults and youth in all areas; home, school, etc. People do whatever they want, when they want and disrespect you regardless and people are not motivated to finish their education or have bigger dreams. People kill time by doing drugs and smoking or consuming alcohol. They should build a rehab centre in the community, I think it would be a good thing.</p>
<p>THE DRUGS AND ACHOLOC PARENTS</p>
<p>Drugs, alcohol and bullying oh and stray dogs...we need a dog shelter and every community needs one...we should RESPECT ALL...including animals especially dogs</p>
<p>In order for a better Community, be united, and the problem not having confidence in our own people and looking down on our own people, A book is judge by its cover we shouldn't have to do that to our own people.</p>
<p>Drinking, bootlegging, trafficking drugs</p>
<p>police excusing people what they didn't do</p>
<p>Drugs and alcohol, and the low Cree literacy rate. I find it that the deterioration of my Cree language is a problem that demands imperative action!</p>
<p>Alcoholism, parents neglecting their children, gambling, drug trafficking, bullying, adultery...etc.</p>
<p>I would say one of the biggest problems in our community is poor parenting. When there is poor parenting, children lack interested in a variety of areas in their lives such as school, participating in any sport or anything positive that children and youth can do. When parents give up on their children, letting them stay out all they want, sleep all they want, for sure, children and youth get in trouble eventually. They may tend to think no one cares anyways. And secondly, I say we have poor education standard in our community. We have a lot of programs and things can be put into use in our community. These programs and buildings are there but people are not making an effort to put them into use. (Arena, Gym, Swimming Pool, Library, Wellness Centre, Youth Centre etc.) And as for our leadership,</p>

they should walk the talk. No other comments in regards to our Chief & Council
Drug and Alcohol Abuse Lack of housing Poor education Gang violence The social services should be more proactive in their programs
Drugs, alcohol, Vandalism, Violence, etc..
lack of sporting activities for the youth. Our recreation officer should look at different sporting activities not just hockey and baseball..... wake up there are other activities..
The biggest problem is alcohol & drugs. We have so many people selling these to our youth...we need to do something about it!
Alcohol, drugs, violence, sexual abuse
Lack of respect and rebellious attitude on the rise due to younger children hanging around older kids. Looking up to them as their older brother, daring these young ones to do things that are inappropriate or dangerous. They always have a little challenge for these other kids who want to be part of a group or gang. Right now it is either being stupid or just ignorant when it comes to proving yourself to a group or gang leader when you want in on a gang or group. I have witnessed 8-10 yr olds tagging along with teenagers these days doing whatever their master have told them to do. It is sad to hear a kid say I can do anything I want and my mom and dad can't or won't do anything about it. How can we call ourselves? moms and dads when we clearly see once our child walks through that door and they have someone who in their mind is their master. It is not okay to make believe our children can make it on their own without us, our job is never over once someone had made the statement. Even as a grandfather and mother , you are still the parents, there are times when they still need you as you adults.
we set things to do in our community ...but it's never done. all talk no action !!
Drugs and alcohol, bullying, parents neglecting children/youth. Social problems, blaming, gangs.
There are a lot problems in our community. For me I think bootlegging & drug trafficking are the biggest problems in our community.
Like mentioned before, I believe the main problem is poor parenting. I've seen nine yr olds out at 3 AM!!! Where the hell are these parents??? It's like there's this attitude of: "Oh they will be fine!" Little do they know that there are freaks that approach little girls, even in small communities like ours. There is this one little girl, that I drove home because it was so late. While driving away, she pointed out a man and said "Look, that's the man that took pictures of me outside the mitchuap!" THE MITCHUAP!!!! Even public areas are not safe!! What the hell is a grown man doing taking pictures of a ten yr old?! What is she doing out so late by herself?!?! How do you think I reacted when she said this?!?! I asked her if he did anything else, fortunately in this case, she said no, that he put his camera away when people walked by. Again, WHERE ARE THE PARENTS?!?! This little girl I will always drive home when she asks me to, now her friends know who I am too, as "Gameeoytaouksid", "Nice person". I remember driving all of her friends home a couple of nights, to then realise that, some of these kids, REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME. That's when I asked myself:"Here I am, encouraging them to go home, and yet, how do I know they are not safer elsewhere?!" When kids have their heads down and say "Dabanweejewan"...it only makes you wonder how is it that they don't even feel safe around their parents?! They drink, they party and so on...what if that guy with the camera were to end up in a house party, sneaks in the kid's room while everyone is passed out?!?! We all know that these things DO HAPPEN! Some men and women just don't know how to take care of their children. Again, these parents had their children too soon, they were kids having kids...we need to teach more sex education preventing teenage pregnancy, preventing children from having children, preventing them from being unfit parents.
bootlegging
Alcohol and Drugs, Gambling, etc...
Drug dealers and bootleggers selling to kids.

Alcohol, drugs, Justice system that does not punish offenders, there is no deterrent. Victims know this and don't care to get the justice system involved.
I THINK THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.
neglect children
I think the drugs are the biggest problems
Children being neglected, out late at nights roaming the streets high from substance abuse or under the influence. Children are our future leaders, we need to take care of our children. We need to focus on them and not on the problems, we must start to come together and take care of each as a community.
Lack of Parenting, because everything starts from the home, we, the parents form our children, we are the first teachers of our children, we need to teach them right from wrong and discipline them when they do wrong, because wrong doings grow if they are let slide. We also need to give them responsibilities so that they become responsible adults, because reality is, we will not always be around. We also need to support and show interest in their right doings, because our appraisal and approval is what will keep them doing it, it's what will drive them. And most importantly, talk to your children about anything and everything, make them feel that they can come to you about anything and if they do and you don't have the resources, get it for them or tell them where to get it and encourage them to obtain it. All of the above may decrease the chances of our children leading destructive lives, because I am using these methods and my son is 15, smoke, drug and alcohol-free, in Secondary 4 and is still at home at nights.
vandalism
Lack of employment Lack of housing
bullying, drugs and alcohol
Of course the youth need more attention than the adults. We should include the youth in everything we do in our community, for example: sport activities, school meetings, conferences. Not to separate them in categories like Youth, Adults, Elders. It should be the WHOLE community. That's why the youth in our community have so much problems.
The biggest problems in this community is too much Alcoholic's, Bullying, Drug Dealer's.
Unqualified people and leadership without adequate degrees, diplomas and specialized designations making decisions that are biased. Post Secondary graduates aren't provided the opportunity to improve living conditions in our community and not listened to.
In Wemindji, I think the biggest problems we have and why is that there is no communication between the youth and the Elders. There is no respect between the two because it has become lost to both parties. Youth used to respect their Elders, I don't know if the Elders ever respected the Youth but they should! If they expect us to carry on tradition, they should respect youth and show that respect! Especially with how they talk to us. We have problems because no one respects each other.
kids bullying other kids gang fights the community is not prepared for anything. they wait for something bad to happen. THEN they gather our people. WE need to gather our people BEFORE something unexpected comes, NOT when it Happened already. We need to prepare ourselves in any way we can. Discuss more incoming issues e.g., have seminars, assemblies, etc
drugs alcohol violence bullying neglect
-alcoholism & drug usage. -road safety in & out of the community -housing -by-laws, we need stricter laws.
Youth being neglected, they always say youth are our future why not act on it!
lack of self-esteem, gossip, alcohol and drugs
Crime! Violence! Vandalism! Suicide!
nothing going on in this town. I wish there was school teams for every sports. so our students can have fun travelling to Cree community to play a sports. this way they stay in school.

alcohol, gangs and of course drugs
Outsiders (lawyers, consultants, non natives) are being listened too more and taking more seriously than our own people.....we have the resources to have better life's in our communities meaning our own people....who better to know what we need than ourselves....who better to understand us but ourselves....not someone from the outside that's not even eeyou or other nations.....we need to go to brothers(other native nations) see if we can help each.....many of them don't give a shit about us.....we are just a money factory to them!
Housing, I personally was involved with the community housing survey a few years ago. The number of people that were part of the waiting list for housing was over 100 people. And in some cases, there were over a 20 people in a four bedroom houses(children, adults, and elders).
Drugs and Alcohol
Gangs, alcohol and drugs, graffiti. People always ask for money when asked to do something. Why can't we just do it, just to do it for the people? That always bugs me.
people don't really believe in our youth today, I am one youth and I know I can do things when I want to. it's just that people don't consider the youth successful and responsible. the only way we can improve in our lives is when we have jobs and be responsible in our own way. we cannot always depend on our parents. me I have 2 children, I want to improve a lot of things in life but I can't do it alone it takes a community to raise a child too. I don't even have a permanent job yet. sometimes that's when youth start to drink and do drugs.....it's ok sometimes but people learn from their mistakes without them we wouldn't know that it's wrong.
yes about jobs at this very moment we should offer jobs to people that are members of their community, and we wouldn't face shortages on housing. give people a chance! (Priority). people need homes we need to do the best we can to solve issues. lest not wait so long to table an issue, but rise-up to the issue and resolve ASAP
Our Local youth centre needs to be renovated or either we build a new.... For our youth to feel safe and to use the building in every proper manner. right now our building is just there not being used. and I believe that if we were to build a new youth center the gang violence wouldn't be as high here in ouje-bougoumou. The crime rate amongst our youth is really high.
The "family" (in the traditional sense) does not exist anymore.
Selling of drugs to everyone, I think they are plaguing youth that could do better in their lives.
Alcohol and drug abuse....Children are left to tend to themselves when they should be tended to by the parents. There is no consistency, no rules to follow such as curfew, attending school, ...
Parental Involvement... Committed people setting individual goals gossip BINGO
Lack of Employment, Lazy Youth, Undisciplined children, parental support in work environments (parents get offended when their child(ren) are suspended or reprimanded for vandalism and other offenses).
The biggest problem in my community is the leadership, we have some bad people in politics that don't care for their people, only for money and to help their family.
ALCOHOL & DRUG TRAFFIC
The obvious ones are the biggest: drugs, alcohol, crime, lack of outlets and support for youth, and lack of action for these problems. I believe that the efforts for meetings, assemblies, etc. are there, but what about the follow-ups, the concrete actions and measures to undertake and tackle these problems. That's what's lacking the most about our communities in general.
Many are living in poverty; for many every day is a struggle. Too many have lost Hope. Poverty is the root cause to many of the problems in my community; we need to bring back equality in our Nation. Poverty causes them to make the wrong choices in their lives.
Drugs and alcohol.

The biggest problems are social problems within the families.
drugs, bullying and over-crowded houses
No Unity. Too much GOSSIP, School system sucks!! Bring back English/French as of Grade 1. Hire qualified teachers and not just people with waitresses and taxi drivers backgrounds. Parents don't care about their kids they just buy them off.
Alcohol & drugs related problems - personally I don't have anything against people enjoying themselves with alcohol or drugs, it's when they go overboard with them and then problems arise. Leading to violence and other things - like people doing things that they wouldn't normally do under a sober mind.
Drugs alcohol
Neglecting children and hard to admit that your child is at fault and blaming other children for your children's mistakes.
Crime and punishment. People that commit crimes should be punished severely to prevent and or control future crimes. To many incidents go without punishment and it has to change. Police need to be trained to make sure that these criminals do not go unpunished. In Mistissini there were several incidents of arson in the community and there were no reports or news of anyone being charged for these incidents. This has to change. People have to be made aware that these criminal acts are being dealt with!!!!
Consequences are not implemented. Our people are spoiled and lazy.
Parents not disciplining their children....biggest problem is PARENTS!
Youth are restless and constantly searching ways to speak out and be heard
Alcohol and drugs
Not admitting that we all have sin and fall short on the Glory of God, When we are all separated in God, We all need God in our lives, We should stop judging each other, discouraging one another, God tells us to encourage one another. Unforgiveness, jealousy, self-pity (of what happened in the past not letting go) and Pride are the biggest problems, we need to teach our younger generation to forgive each day, we need to teach them to love their enemies not to hate them. If we follows God's commandments we will prosper. Remember He is not here to harm us but to give us prosperity. The Lord said the are 2 new commandments we must follow: 1) Love your God with all your heart, soul, mind and Body, you shall not worship any other god (meaning material things of this world and ourselves) 2) Love another as I have loved you and why is it so hard to do that, everything will fall in its place if we follow these 2 simple commandments.
bullying, alcohol, drugs, and people not really helping each other anymore like the old days.
Youth don't have the pride in being a Cree, and with this they don't have respect to property, parents, elders and authority.
Lack of Parental involvement at the home and school level.
Vandalism, Youth being outside late at night with nothing to do, not enough youth leaders, adults don't discipline their children, parents don't do their job as "parents", not enough recreational, or places to go for youth, community and even elders, rumours, alcohol in public, bootleggers and drug sellers.
Lack of parenting... leading to lack of education... leading lack of employment opportunities... leading to abuse of alcohol and/or substances. Alcohol and drug abuse may come first as well. Community Leadership tends to forget the importance of education and training, I don't see any of the leadership visiting the schools to encourage the students to finish high school and pursue post sec studies or at least meeting the pre-requisite of obtaining a trade as a career choice. I believe there are a lot of opportunities of obtaining a trade not only in the community but elsewhere worldwide if implement the right way locally. Economic development requires improvement, concentrate local businesses and develop businesses that are creating the leakage through the local development corporation with a local potential business person that should eventually be autonomous in running that business. Still to this

<p>day in age, after 30 years of implementing the JBNQA we are still a dependant nation from the white man. Most of our capital dollars goes out, no real training measure for self autonomy of the individual and community is transmitted to the Cree. When are we going to learn from our experiences... When is the right path to become self govern nation as they say will come... The way we are operating now will not bring solutions to the issues we are facing - WE ARE MOVING TO FAST AND TEND TO FORGET THE PEOPLE. It has to start now locally and supported regionally at a pace where we will benefit all.</p>
<p>Gang Related Violence</p>
<p>not enough motivation in the youth to go to school.</p>
<p>Economic development is poor. Time to create buy out packages for persons near retirement, get them out earlier to make improvements. Staying in due to reputation not productivity, spending more time on improving image, instead of work and not helping people to start or promote self employment.</p>
<p>Weak leadership/power hungry leaders who only care about their personal ambitions; zero accountability; loss of respect; loss of self value; our youth are lost and no one wants to help them find themselves...youth need boundaries and no one is giving them any. Parent, leaders, community officers, etc</p>
<p>Alcohol, drugs mixed with apathy a little mix of residential school syndrome, topped with lack of vision, greed and crab syndrome as the icing on the cake together are the biggest problems.</p>
<p>Too much emphasis on outside workers and companies to do community construction. This shows lack of confidence in Cree workers and low initiative to work with local workers to be trained for future professions. There is too much economic leakage that causes social imbalance in the community especially when community construction projects are completed. We would have built a serious liability to the community. This attributes social upheaval and crime. There is also no economic development long term plan. this is true at local and regional level of governments. When there is no economic development there will be poverty which will cause severe social unrest. we need more financial resources to be committed. we need to stop filling the pockets of outside contractors.</p>
<p>Bullying & lack of parent involvement.</p>
<p>Vandalism, not enough jobs for our youth, marriage break ups, elderly neglect. bootlegging drug trafficking. Youth stealing others possession in exchange for drugs or alcohol, breaks ins, youth breaking in to sheds to steal ski-doods and no one paying for the damages</p>
<p>lack of housing, social issues, alcohol & drugs, sniffing, lack of parent involvement.</p>
<p>Economic progress growth, should be implemented and believe this would lower crime rate, to create employment.</p>
<p>No Discipline</p>
<p>The social conflicts that happen within families and destroys the peace and harmony and cuts the communication between family members, this is most devastating for all individuals to have to confront in their already distressing lives they live in the community. Furthermore, the outcome from the above problems results they carry the pain and anger in the community and the animosity becomes too overwhelming for everyone who lives in the community (the children, youth men and women and last but not least our precious elders).</p>
<p>shortage of housing illegal sell of alcohol & drugs</p>
<p>alcohol and drugs</p>
<p>alcoholic & drugs bootleggers lack of housing lack of community involvement the justice system</p>
<p>Bullying, Drugs & Alcohol</p>
<p>Parental neglect of children, school and drugs</p>
<p>There are too many youth with no will to work, they stay out late and parents say nothing. Our services suffer due to lack of personnel and yet there are so many youth to fill these jobs. Also the CSB should put more effort in supporting those they let graduate without the proper education. so if these students</p>

<p>go out and have to take adult education to get to par, then the stupid school board should support them. not abandon them!</p>
<p>Nepotism, lack of housing or alternative housing programs, lack of financial resources, lack of facilities and/or well run managed facilities/programs, lack of community mobilization, access to alcohol/drugs too easy for youth and adults, no visual signs of ways for people to better themselves such as treatment centers, just an all around total lack of everything, you name it we lack it because of high cost of living due to no access road and being the most northern community and the distribution of funding regionally does not reflect the uniqueness and isolation of this community.</p>
<p>I think alcohol and drugs are major problems which cause other problems. There needs to be more rehabilitation programs in place within the community with regards to substance abuse treatment; otherwise people with these types of problems will not seek help if they must leave home to get treatment.</p>
<p>the lack accountability from band or council</p>
<p>Drugs and alcohol, gangs, bullies at school</p>
<p>Alcohol and drugs. Lots of bootleggers and drug pushers in our community that sell these stuff to minors especially. What my question is....what are the police doing about this or the community itself?</p>
<p>Lack of discipline with children. Most Youth and adults don't have career goals to follow up on.</p>
<p>the biggest problems are drugs and alcohol, young girls getting raped when passed out and people who witness the incident are not doing anything about to report it. Every community should have a by-law a zero tolerance drugs and alcohol.</p>
<p>alcohol and drug abuse problems because of underlying issues we need to be accountable many families are not strict enough about attendance, punctuality and performance at school</p>
<p>The biggest problems affecting our Cree communities are social issues. A family unit (home) is a priority to combat the issues affecting our communities because every teaching starts from home first. Therefore, 'healing' plays a big role, in terms of a vital 'action' towards addressing those social issues impacting our CREE communities.</p>
<p>Parents not taking their roles and responsibilities seriously. Parents should take time to be with their children, to nurture, to care for and to set themselves as positive role models for their children, in their homes as well as in public. It is the responsibility of parents to teach their children respect and love. Respect and love for themselves as well as other people. I believe what you teach your children at home will be evident in their lives outside their homes. PARENTS PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN, IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW OLD A CHILD IS, HE OR SHE WILL ALWAYS NEED LOVE, SUPPORT AND CARE. LOVE THEM, NURTURE THEM AND CARE FOR THEM. BE THERE FOR THEM, A PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY WILL NEVER END AS LONG AS THEY ARE ALIVE.</p>
<p>Various health & social problems. The first biggest problem is lack of education on how and why all these health & social problems occur.</p>
<p>The biggest problems in my community is rebellion. Youth rebelling from their parents and turning to drugs and alcohol when they do not get what they want. Easy access to drugs for younger teens as well as alcohol.</p>

QUESTION 15: HOW THINGS CAN BE IMPROVED

COMMENTARY – HAS BEEN REPRODUCED AS IS.
ITS A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY AND ALL.. WHAT I LIKE BEST IS WHEN I SEE POSITIVE PPL. WHEN I SEE OUR PEOPLE GATHER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS. I THINK IT ONLY HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR AT CHRISTMAS.. OUR COMMUNITY CAN BE A MORE POSITIVE PLACE TO LIVE IN, IF WE ADMIT TO OUR PROBLEMS AND BE MORE OPEN TO HELP, AND IF THERE WERE MORE RESOURCES AND PLACES TO GO FOR HELP. MOST IMPORTANTLY TO ALLOW GOD TO COME IN AND LET GOD BE GOD AND HELP PEOPLE CHANGE WITHIN. GOD BLESS CHISASIBI AND ALL THE OTHER JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNITIES.
people, church, gatherings, visiting the elders, clean environment, sports, been out on the land, spending time with family, special occasions,
Practically everything, especially the resilience to overcome despair.
What I like is; when I see people smile and work together as a good team workers. We all need to examine our behaviour (attitude) in order to make a difference in our community...
This is a new community and can be very unique if they strive for positive values. A good foundation can continue to be laid. There are programs in education, social, health & wellness and recreation, the facilities and programming are available, the next step is how do we get the community motivated and begin a new relationship & trust.
Hanging out at friends
the new sports complex
my family is right here to help me out. I love the outdoors the freedom that is out there in the land. One needs to see and appreciate what a beautiful community we have.
The leadership needs to come to terms of their own issues and deal with them in a proper manner, so their people can follow. Too often leadership doesn't want to involve themselves with this and expect the community to heal. they have set an example for the people to follow.
that people can socialize well
What I like about my community is that there aren't many troubles such as marital problems, not many "parties" for my kids to see...
It's a wonderful place to live....would even be better if we stood up against drug dealers & bootleggers.
The People.
The nature, it's very beautiful.
friendly people
If i Don't compare with other communities, somewhat respectable, and a nice environment, the youth centre offers a few activities, which are interesting to me, and love stopping by there during the day.
I like going to the Arena Sports Complex, play bowling, go to fitness centre, watch the hockey games and loved to play badminton.
When they have aboriginal festival, that they are banning alcohol in our community. (But the police are not doing their job i still see beer bottles in our community)
The people
banning the alcohol.
THE NATURE AROUND IT.
The annual gathering up the lake.
When there is an event and all the members are part of it!
I like how people know everyone.
THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE
People respecting each other
That we still maintain our Language and Culture for identity.

get togethers
women
Hard to say. There is a lot to be done for improvement.
Road access, sporting events, land
I enjoy living in Nemaska, it's beautiful and people are friendly. But since the past 3 years, I only stay there for the summer and Christmas holidays, other than that, we live in the city throughout the school year.
that fact that it's small and less problems compared to other communities
organized Sport tournaments, traditional activities, festivities, etc..
the sport complex but useless...
That fact that we have everything, but we need to implement activities for the youth & children so we can have a safe and healthy community!
can't think of anything
The resources and facilities available to the community for sports and social programs that can be introduced and made available to the community. It is not that the community effort is lazy but due to lack of effort that needs to be put into organizing family activities within the families themselves. I guess we can say "wake up, mom and dad". It's time we go on that picnic or family drive/outting. Where has that gone? of course it is been lost in the somewhat space of a living room at home. We just put our lives on hold once the television and internet access made life a little better and easier for us. We are so caught up in the fascinating world of technology, we are being lounged to that chair and stuck on that youtube or poker stars site. Maybe it's time we start looking on the good side of life when we once had it, look and appreciate the good things in life can bring when we put our energy and focus on the little ones that god gave us to care and cherish in this world
nothing
When they have family things to do, like the Christmas festivities, Mamaweedow, etc.
When we have the social events. That's when the community gets together & have fun.
This is my home. Although there are times where I just really hate this place, the booze, the drugs, the violence, the abuse, even the gossip...There is a big sense of family in small communities. When someone is ill, there is always help. When someone dies, people have respect.
drug bust
The environment
It's safe and clean.
I LOVE THE PEOPLE.
aside from the most beautiful sunsets, I love my community because we came a long way to get to where we are now. We have become closer than ever before. We come together as one and celebrate life as we know it. Seeing this make me happy because this is where I find my peace, strength and happiness. {smiles :)
The Sports Complex, Youth Centre and Wellness Centre, but there is always room for improvement, we can always invest more and do more.
the people
The location
no comment
I don't know what to say in this box. The only thing I could say is the annual sports that are organized but we need something new.
What I do like the best is in my community is get along with your Children, and show them something that what they need like more activity's. Children at younger age they never forget anything what they have learn or seen for their rest of their life and they always remember it.

Not much
Wemindji, is one of the most beautiful communities in all of James Bay. The land is beautiful and I hope people respect it enough to always keep it this way!
since the securities were available, there's not much graffiti being done on the public buildings
nothing
its not located far up north
The structure and the way it is built it is a beautiful community!
weddings
The people! I love my people! Respect!, We should not only show love & respect when someone has died...we need to that every single day!
the commercial center.....people go there everyday that's how i see my fellow chisasibians that i haven't seen in a long....cool place but needs renovations..lol
peacefulness when there's no parties
the kinship.....the social gatherings!
The idea to try improve our youths social activities and reducing the risk of involving with alcohol by banning alcohol in town.
People, and the culture.
Nice and quiet at times.
hmm i think it would be the recreation dept, cause those are the only ones that do events.....
everything that's in it, it's what a community is all about, when we all get along.
We have a beautiful community here. Beautiful scenery, very friendly people. We are a very welcoming community to every visitor. This community is brand new... well feels like it.... and to know about our history makes me believe that anything is possible as long as long as you put your heart mind into making a better future. A better for my children and my great grand children. Me knowing that anything is possible; i am a single mother of this community and with our new Chief and council i believe that anything is possible. Why i say this is because when you look at our Chief she is a single mother our councillors are/were single mothers.
Upcoming Cultural Centre WHOOHOO!!!!
It is a close knit community where people help other people when in need.
Friendly people the sharing I am from there My heritage my grand-parents My family, wife and kids
the beauty, trees, skidoo trails, sabtuaan
My community is thought to be a place of peace and beauty, the trees that surround my community represent bush life style. often visitors would say ah it is like living in the bush, it's beautiful and quiet.
FRIENDLY PEOPLE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT
The friendliness of anyone anywhere. The people, as it is with our Cree Nation, is what makes us not only strong, but also very welcoming to others. I am not from the community I currently live in, but the way people treat me here is tremendous. Also, compared to certain other communities, to my knowledge and experience, the level of public drinking seems a lot less visible in this community.
The people, culture, language, etc.
The location.
It's growing fast and there are new businesses being opened.
everybody knows everybody
The structure
I like it because it is still a relatively safe place to live. Other than the things I've mentioned above things are good here.
I don't know. This community is small and it is too family.
The peace and quiet!

Set in a natural environment and it provides all the services that are necessary to live.
I love everything about my community. I wish there we're more sports for the youth. Not focus on Hockey. There are so many more sports that are youth can be involved in. The Band should invest in that.
I love the people and its surroundings
winter time it's fun to drive around on a ski doo
"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 chronicles 7:14). We need to fast and pray as a community to seek God concerning several areas of need: 1) God's favour and prosperity upon the Cree people 2) His blessings upon all chiefs and counsellors, church leaders and our education system and our heal system 3) Healing for our land 4) physical healing for our people (our people dying of cancer and diabetes) 4) the breaking of strongholds (drugs, alcohol and gambling abuse) that affect our entire Cree Nation. 5) Business opportunities for the Cree Nation and its people 6) True UNITY to prevail in all our endeavours. This would be a life-changing event for all our Cree Nation. Remember "With God all things are possible"
when the community gathers in one place and having good old fun
Its friendly and very open minded,
Small community in a nice setting but sometimes a little too isolated, I prefer some areas close by where I can go shopping without taking a whole day of travelling to get there
Community Leaders are welcoming, friendly community and our youth council is doing a good job.
Living right next to the an untouched lake.
Friendly People
Being close to family and friends
Travel distance to val'dor is the good. Access road is maintained professionally
It's a beautiful community with immense potential to raise strong leaders. Right now everyone is too busy looking out for themselves...we need to remember we are a community. We can do that...we have great people living there...there are still people who care about our community. Care enough to help fix it...
Youth, elders and the hope our children bring.
Its close proximity to natural environment and accessibility to its forces. The land heals and soothes the soul. Close friends and family network.
The trees & the lake
that we can still practise our own ways of life (Cree way of life) can still speak our Cree language, we still have people who are listening and caring for our young and old people but we need more
elders council, youth council, recreational & sports activities.
It's a friendly and everyone communicates with each other.
Hunting areas surrounding
What I like about my community is the opportunities we have to better ourselves and the education available in the community, and the resources that are available to us.
-Having special events involving all community members. -Current Chief & Council to take action against illegal sell of alcohol & drugs.
traditional gathering,
I love everything about my community but it needs improvement
Sense of belonging, members ability to show compassion towards others, economic prosperity, lots of pride
Chisasibi has many events and compared to my home community of Mistissini, there is less alcohol abuse here and the drunks don't walk around freely like back home. There is a sense of calm here and

that is nice comparatively to Mistissini! There is a better quality to social life here, even as outsiders we are welcomed and encouraged to participate in local events.
Whapmagoostui people are very friendly and welcoming. Many people care and want a better community for our children. The one thing we do not lack is human resources. People still love to hunt and trap. All people have to do is decide to go and you hop on a ATV, snowmobile or boat and within minutes you are out on the land. Nature and the land is in our back yard. No need to get in a vehicle and drive hours to go hunting, no don't see transmission lines or highways, there's something nice about that.
I like that there is so much potential and ability to make things better within this community. There are a lot of opportunities which can be taken advantage of.
my roots
the many resources it offers to the community members.
I like the size of it and the scenery.
We all know each other, people care about one another.
the people, the traditional culture some people still practice it. especially the ones that have their hunting territory.
the people, the lifestyle, my job
When there is a tragic event in our communities, community members are very sincere and all come together to support one another. I believe that we can do the same towards other issues (social/education, etc...) rather than just coming together when there is a crisis in our communities. We must improve and be more positive towards our CREE communities, and ALL work together.
What I like about my community is that we have a Healing Center where people can go for counselling.
All traditional practises.
I love my community, the people, the culture. Although it has its problems, it's still a great place to live.
ITS A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY AND ALL.. WHAT I LIKE BEST IS WHEN I SEE POSITIVE PPL. WHEN I SEE OUR PEOPLE GATHER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS. I THINK IT ONLY HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR AT CHRISTMAS.. OUR COMMUNITY CAN BE A MORE POSITIVE PLACE TO LIVE IN, IF WE ADMIT TO OUR PROBLEMS AND BE MORE OPEN TO HELP, AND IF THERE WERE MORE RESOURCES AND PLACES TO GO FOR HELP. MOST IMPORTANTLY TO ALLOW GOD TO COME IN AND LET GOD BE GOD AND HELP PEOPLE CHANGE WITHIN. GOD BLESS CHISASIBI AND ALL THE OTHER JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNITIES.

YOUTH COMMENTARY

QUESTION 14: BIGGEST COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

COMMENT	MENTIONS
Drugs and alcohol	34
Gangs	11
Loss of culture and language	5
Problems with high school	7
I hate the biggest problem in the school and community. Because they don't give what we want.. everyone wanted a swimming pool and new school ...	1
The biggest problem in my community is the high school. There are many teachers who are frustrated with the students and, they don't take their job seriously. The high school doesn't prepare you for the M.A.Q exam, I think that's why we don't have high school graduates from Voyageur Memorial School. The other problem about our community is, that we don't have any other sports activities besides broomball & hockey. We should have a lot of sports activities since, a lot of our Cree people are overweight and diabetic. I think we should have sports activities for the adults too. I find it unfair that only children get all the sports activities and once you hit 15 there's no sports camps for you.	1
All problems that arise in the community are alcohol/drug related. Both age groups; adults and youth struggle these issues. Affecting social, emotional, psychological, and mental aspects in their lives. I've noticed bullying as a big issue as well in the community (school- environment). People need education, awareness in able to reach an optimal level in being a good member in society with regards to the law.	1

QUESTION 15: LIKE BEST ABOUT COMMUNITY

COMMENT
Everything!
Our Elders
My community is beautiful
I like how my community sticks together and are very family oriented and they haven't lost their culture and their traditional way of life
I don't really like the community because they don't give us what actually we want .. that's it and that's all .
Nothing!
I like the fact that it is very diverse. There are many types of people who come in the community to work, travel, socialize, visit etc for whatever occasion. I am a person who is great at heart and with much respect for the elderly population. Generally, the population is welcoming and a friendly environment excluding the problematic factors of alcohol/drug related issues.
Family and friends are close.