

ANNUAL REPORT
 ᐱᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂ
 2018-2019



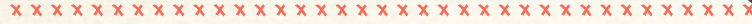
UNLOCKING EEYOU WEALTH
 ᐱᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂᓂᓂ





JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Donald Nicholls



The theme of this year’s annual report is “Unlocking Eeyou Wealth” and creating opportunities and growth in and for the Cree communities. We all have the potential to make positive contributions and be active participants in the creation of healthy and prosperous communities. As part of our mandate, we work with and invest in people. Our department also works on building relationships with communities, entities, and governments to increase the type of impact of our services.

We continue to work in partnership with the Cree School Board with early intervention programming for children and youth through curriculum-based programming development workshops, “Take Action Camps”, “We Days” and programming outside of the classrooms. The investment we make in our children and youth is something that can impact their present, and lays a foundation for the future. We also work collaboratively with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay to build positive and impactful projects in Eeyou Istchee. These projects include

a regional women’s shelter in Waswanipi and in Waskaganish, and a regional Youth Healing Center in Mistissini. We are also looking at working collaboratively with the Cree Health Board to establish forward-looking Community Wellness Centers in Eeyou Istchee to assist individuals in their journey of rehabilitation and community reintegration. We believe in working with partners to further develop Cree capacity to build the institutions and services that serve our Nation. It is one of the most rewarding jobs to be on the frontline working with organizations that care about people.

As part of the collaborative partnership contemplated in Section 18 of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*, and shortly after the signing of the Justice Agreement in 2007, we established a Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee. This Committee comprises equal representation from the Cree Nation and Quebec. This year, the Committee selected a new chairperson, Josiane Gendron, from the Ministry of Public Security. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year to look at justice and corrections



Grand opening of the second regional women shelter in Waskaganish



*Deputy Grand Chief
Mandy Gull with
Grand Chief
Dr. Wilton Littlechild
and Director
Donald Nicholls*

related areas we can further develop and expand upon. The Committee was involved in and supported the establishment of the regional women's shelters, the regional Youth Healing Center, and the upcoming Community Wellness Centers. The Committee plays an important role in reviewing applications to the various justice program funds that we created to provide opportunities for Cree communities, organizations and individuals to develop and carry out initiatives and work collaboratively on mutually beneficial goals of community safety and well-being.

Also as a part of the collaboration partnership with governments of Quebec and Canada, we participate in various forum, committees and venues in justice related areas. We take part in the works of the Quebec Judicial Forum to improve services for Indigenous Peoples in justice and corrections. We appeared twice before the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (Viens Commission). We sit on the Boards of the Quebec CAVAC Network and the Quebec Native Parajudicial Services. We have an ongoing relationship with the Department of Justice Canada to provide support for Community Justice Committees. We also sit on the Board of the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction with various ministries to advise governments on

these issues related to public safety, justice and well-being.

Last year, we organized and hosted our first Indigenous Peoples' Justice Symposium. The theme was "Reconciliation and Capacity Building" and the conference took place on December 4-6, 2018. Our Cree Nation Government hosted this highly successful event that brought together high level keynote speakers who spoke eloquently about the importance of justice in capacity and nation building. We talked about reconciliation, we engaged on Indigenous issues, child welfare, mediation, the United Nations and human rights, partnerships, youth programs, conflict resolution, and many more related subjects. This symposium brought the Cree Nation together with partners and highlighted our capacity to express what we need to build our capacity and to create strong institutions in justice, corrections and conflict resolution.

The resilience, understanding, and strength of our Cree Nation is second to none. We grow, celebrate, grieve, lift each other up, and work together. As part of the Cree Nation Government and Cree Nation, we are proud to be on that journey to bring healthier, more prosperous and safer Cree communities into the future.

Meegwetch



Artwork commissioned by artist Natasia Mukuash for the department 10th year anniversary



Me to We Sacred Circle workshop in Waskaganish



Administrator training at McGill University

One of the most important investments we make is in our people.

OUR PEOPLE

One of the most important investments we make is in our people. We want to develop skills to build capacity in our communities and increase participation in local economies. Our staff leverage their skills in conflict resolution to help our clientele deal with difficult issues in their lives. We also engage in skills development with our clients to help them successfully reintegrate back into their communities.

This year we had employees retire, go on educational and maternity leaves, and take on new career challenges. This means that we welcome some new members to our department. We provide all employees with training and team building activities throughout the year to enable them to provide quality services in the communities – in most cases their own communities, as the majority of staff work within the communities that they are from.

STAFF & TRAINING

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services team consists of a local and regional group of employees.

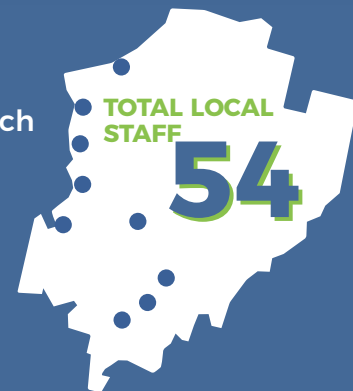


Department of Justice and Correctional Services

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Each Cree community is home to a Justice Building which houses a core group of 6 staff members, which include:

- A Receptionist
- Prevention Program Officer
- Maintenance Personnel
- Justice Officer
- Janitors
- Reintegration Officer



This year we have added

15 NEW EMPLOYEES



Working to support our local staff is a group of employees at the regional level:

- Director
- Coordinators
- Administrators
- Psychologist
- Court Liaison Officers
- Native Parajudicial Workers
- CAVAC Officers



In order to better serve our clients who are in urban areas and in detention, we have 3 offices outside of Eeyou Istchee:

- Correctional Regional Office in Val d'Or
- Cree Government Office in Montreal
- Court Liaison Office in Amos

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



The DOJCS is always looking to improve the quality of our services by offering our staff new training opportunities. This year, our staff have participated in workshops, such as:

- Case Management
- Overdose Prevention
- IVAC Training
- Conflict Coaching
- Gladue Report Writing
- SNAP Program
- Facility Management Database
- Correctional Services Safety Practices
- Substance Use and Addictions
- Mental Health Care
- Correctional Services Practices
- CICR Third Party Neutral Mediation

Through the efforts of our

92 EMPLOYEES

and by investing in the development of our staff, we are able to offer a wider range of services to the Cree Nation as we continue building capacity in Eeyou Istchee



When I see good things like what you are doing here, we know there are three branches in government – you have established the legislative, executive and now moving onto the judicial branch based on your own culture and ways. We see and learn from each other. We need to see first nations law, natural law, creators law and Cree law recognized. It’s that path towards self-determination that we are all on.

- Perry Bellegarde, National Chief, Speaker at 10th year anniversary gala

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Community Justice Committees are local bodies involved in addressing a number of offences that would otherwise go through the courts. They apply local values and principles to deal with such offences and seek to address the needs and interests of the individuals involved and the community as a whole. In some cases, justice is better served and is more responsive at a community level. Decisions involving Cree offenders have an important impact on them and on the community, and the Community Justice Committee process provides an opportunity for change and healing that may be more difficult to obtain through the court-driven and somewhat complex criminal justice process. In this regard, our Department provides support to Community Justice Committees, and has developed local programs, in order to address social issues that bring people in conflict with the legal system.



Committee members may also learn how to prepare Gladue reports, or assist the justice system in various capacities. In the last year, there were 53 Justice Committee members in the Cree Nation. We thank each one for their valued contribution in ensuring that our justice system has a Cree voice and perspective to it.



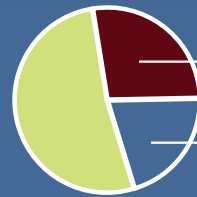
COMMUNITY JUSTICE COMMITTEES

The Community Justice Committees (CJC) exist to improve judicial outcomes and community safety for our people.



Together they comprise a total of

73 VOLUNTARY MEMBERS.



20 ELDERS AND

15 YOUTH

Cases Handled by CJC's

A recent court decision on the sentencing of individuals recognized new responsibilities for the Community Justice Committee, on par with the probation officer. The court recommended that the probation officer and the Community Justice Committee take part in establishing the measures that should be taken in regard to offenders on probation.

In 2018-2019,
157
FILES
were overseen
by CJC's

In other situations, courts or other organizations will refer a client to a local CJC so that the client can be supported in their healing journey. The local CJC will provide services such as:

- Counselling Sessions and Conflict Resolution Sessions



Programming for Community

CJC's also organize programs that are aimed at Cree individuals who are at higher risk of becoming involved with the justice system.

This year the CJC's administered a total of

30
PROGRAMS

such as:



ARTS & CRAFTS PROGRAM



GOOSEBREAK FOR COUPLES



PARKA MAKING



GLADUE INTERNSHIP MENTORING



CRIME PREVENTION WEEK



LAND BASED PROGRAMS

More than

470

COMMUNITY MEMBERS have participated in these programs



We Day Montreal 2019

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

We focus strongly on youth to reinforce self-confidence and empower positive action. In our school and community-based programming, we work with children and youth regularly throughout the year to impart life skills that will help them deal with conflict, anger, anxiety, frustration, apathy, and a host of other issues that they may face. It is with the use of cognitive therapy and re-enforcing positive values that we can help youth, parents and schools with the Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) program as well as the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. In the past year, SNAP worked with 1,512 children in 99 classes.

Over 103 students have been referred to Youth Enrichment Services with an 80 percent successful reintegration, and re-engagement in their goals. Through a variety of workshops on topics like motivation, self-esteem, art therapy, exploring abilities and strengths, r-e-s-p-e-c-t workshop,

and reflection sessions, we work with youth to identify areas where they may need support, and start a dialogue with parents and schools on a plan for the next steps.

Besides these programs, we send children to the Me To We Take Action Camps each summer. Last year, 45 children were able to participate in the camp, which is not like a regular summer camp. The children focus on making a positive contribution to their own communities as well as other Indigenous communities throughout the world. They are empowered to make a difference now.

The Department also funds groups to go to We Day events, and this year a Cree youth was one of the inspirational speakers and performers on stage. For the first part of the year we also funded an arts concentration program in the Cree communities.



2019 CICR class community dialogue

SNAP®

Stop Now And Plan®, in collaboration with the Child Development Institute and the Cree School Board, works with children on essential life skills such as how to deal with conflict, anger, frustration and anxiety. It also gets them to think about consequences, options, and plan positive before acting impulsively or making their problems bigger.



SNAP® sessions take place during class time



FOR CHILDREN AGED **6-11**

This year, along with our partners, we started modules with **12-17 year olds**

Each classroom hosts **15 SESSIONS PER YEAR**

This year we had **99 CLASSROOMS**

We had **1,512 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING**

With **32 STUDENTS IN SNAP® ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS**

SNAP® is a recognized and award-winning program that we have culturally adapted. We are one of the first organizations to offer it in a non-urban setting.



In addition to SNAP®, our Programs Unit also organizes other youth activities and programs:

Sponsoring

45 STUDENTS

to summer camps

Sending

12 STUDENTS

to WE day in Montreal

- DYMOND GIRLS
- KING'S DREAM
- ME TO WE SACRED CIRCLES

This year

267 YOUTH

participated in these programs



All of these programs are in addition to Community Justice Committee projects, Justice Funds projects, Employee initiatives, and are managed in collaboration with partners such as Cree Health Board and Cree School Board. Youth engagement and empowerment continues to be one of our priorities, and through the continuous efforts of our staff and partners we hope to play a key role in helping our youth reach their potential.

THE NEEDS OF THE VICTIMS

THE NEED FOR INFORMATION:

- Existing services and rights
- The judicial system
- The victims obligations [cooperating with police, testifying]



THE NEED FOR PROTECTION:

- Information on prevention methods
- To be able to relocate
- Protection by the police
- To know the date their aggressor will be released



THE NEED FOR PSYCHO-SOCIAL INTERVENTION:

- An intervention based on the experiences of each person
- An intervention that takes into account the type of aggression
- In certain cases a specialized therapy (phobias...)



THE NEED FOR PROMPT ASSISTANCE:

- Listening
- Assistance to relocate
- Financial assistance
- Accompaniment (Court, hospital)
- Referral to an appropriate organization
- Technical assistance



THE NEED FOR REPARATION:

- Reimbursement for financial loss
- Professional help for psychological trauma.
- Medical assistance to regain physical health



THE NEED TO BE HEARD WITHIN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM:

- To be informed about the progress of the file
- To be consulted and heard at all of the stages (trial, sentence, conditional release)
- To be treated with courtesy



CREE CAVAC SERVICES






The CAVAC (Centre for Assistance for Victims of Criminal Acts) celebrated its 30th anniversary in Quebec last year. It was an incredible step forward by Quebec to give victims a voice and support throughout the Province. Last year, the Cree CAVAC celebrated its 10th anniversary, and provides similar work within Eeyou Istchee. Our perspective on justice has always been holistic and inclusive as the harm done by a criminal act impacts more than those who are required to appear in court. Families, friends and a whole community can often be impacted, so

the inclusion of support to victims in a process to repair harm done is important. The Cree CAVAC operates differently from the CAVAC services in the rest of Quebec as it reflects our realities and incorporates Cree values and a strong sense of community. We also have a much larger area for each of our three offices to cover. This year we will add additional CAVAC officers to expand the scope of our services. In an effort to increase awareness of our services, we have produced a number of engaging videos this year.





The Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CAVAC) provides support and services for victims or witnesses of crimes. These services include:

 <p>Post-trauma and psychological intervention</p>	<p>Information on victims' rights and remedies</p> 	 <p>Technical services</p>	<p>Referring victims to specialized services</p> 	 <p>Accompanying crime victims through court processes</p>
---	--	---	---	---

Since 2008, we have established 3 permanent offices throughout Eeyou Istchee to serve every region and reach as many of our people as possible.



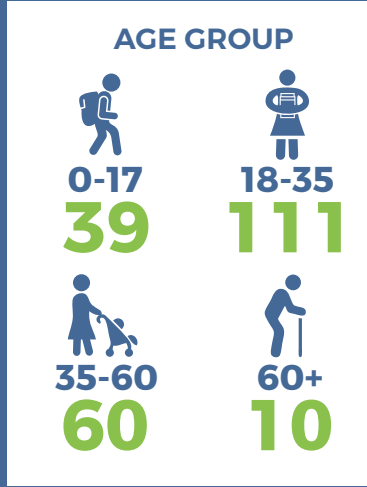
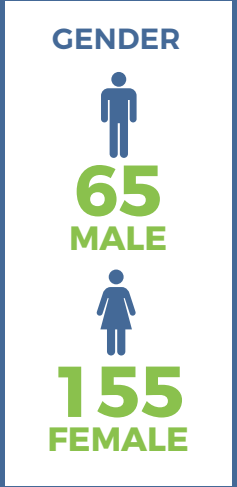

CREE CAVAC OFFICERS

In addition to providing support at every court date in each community, our Cree CAVAC Officers are constantly making visits to other communities to assist clients.

They made **100 VISITS** to other Cree communities outside of their court date visits.

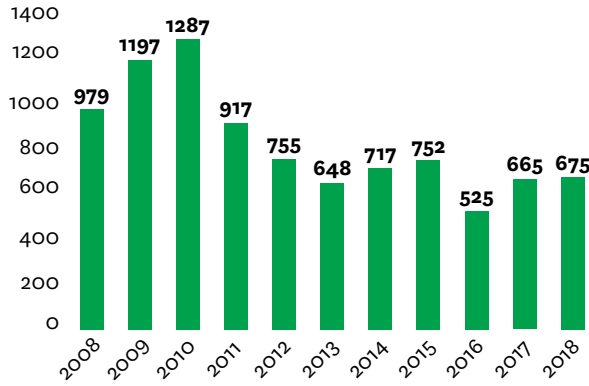
Services are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL**

Together they assisted a total of **220 CLIENTS**

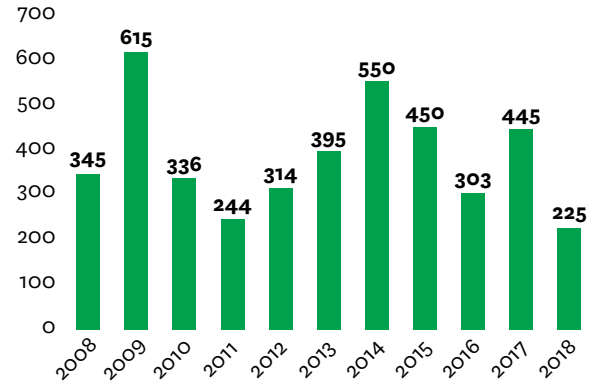



More than **65%** of the clients our CAVAC Officers have helped were youth.

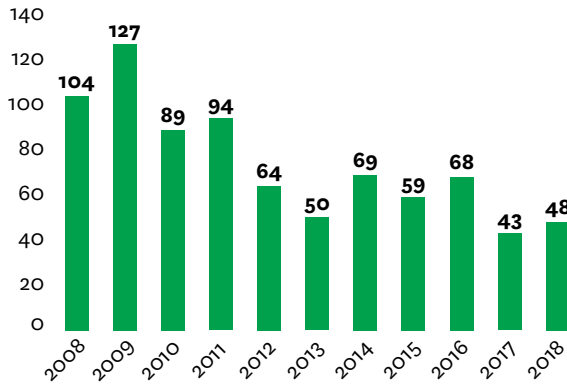
Evolution of the Number of Criminal Offence Cases



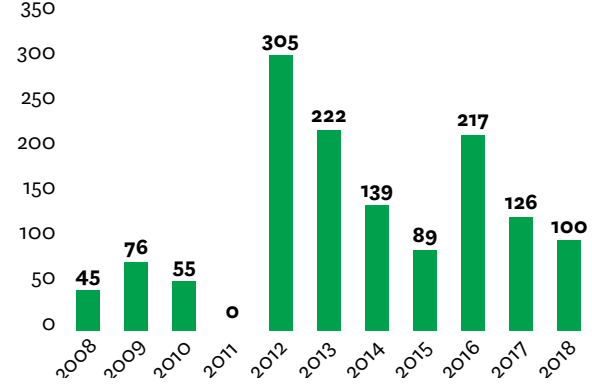
Evolution of the Number of Community By-law Offence Cases



Evolution of the Number of Young Offenders Cases



Evolution of the Number of Statutory Offence Cases (Federal)



COURTS IN EYYOU ISTCHEE

The courts travel to the Cree communities and provide services for the enforcement of Cree laws, as well as federal and provincial laws in Eeyou Istchee. The courts have a regular schedule within the Cree communities and there were a total of 94 regular court hearings, 53 youth protection court dates, and 16 Cree law court dates in 2018-2019. There can also be requests for use of the Cree facilities from the Superior Court of Quebec, Federal Court of Canada, Administrative Tribunal of Quebec, Sûreté du Québec, and various entities to hold arbitration hearings.

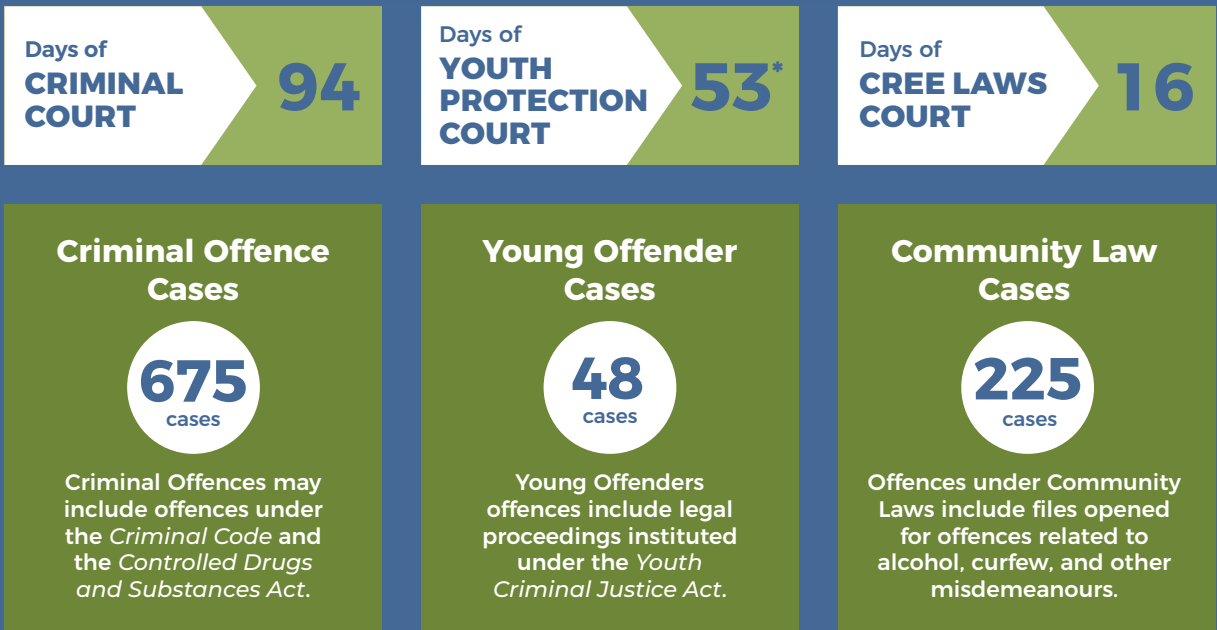
Aside from in-person hearings, we also hold hearings via secure videoconferencing to allow for more timely and cost effective access to justice for Cree Nation members. Videoconferencing is also used for training police and frontline staff, to host government meetings, and to conduct interviews.

Indigenous law exists regardless of what the state thinks about it. It is not up to the state to decide if Indigenous Peoples have law. This law is dynamic, living and evolving, it is not frozen in time.

- Ghislain Otis
Keynote speaker Indigenous People Justice Conference

COURT

The Court of Quebec travels to Eeyou Istchee and holds hearings in the Cree communities throughout the year. Under the JBNQA, the court and court personnel must take into consideration and be familiar with Cree customs, usages and ways of life, and provide translation into the Cree language.



Thanks to our ability to host various courts in all of the Cree communities, including the Superior Court of Quebec and arbitration hearings, and by providing in-court support through our Community Reintegration Officers, Community Justice Officers, Receptionists, Native Para-Judicial Workers, Justice Committee Members, and CAVAC Officers, we are giving Cree people a greater role in the way justice is administered.

VIDEOCONFERENCING

This technology is important for connecting our people and supporting our processes. This is a great advantage, considering the large geographical area of the Cree territory.



Our system has been used more than **80 TIMES** this year, including by organizations such as:


Eeyou Eenou
Police Force


Communities


Youth
Protection


Administrative
Tribunal of Quebec

*Not including those hosted through our video conferencing system.



Governance workshop for students at our Indigenous Peoples' Justice Conference

GLADUE REPORTS

Gladue Reports have been part of the sentencing process of Indigenous offenders since 1999. In a land-mark decision bearing the same name (*R. v. Gladue*), the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that sentencing judges had to pay particular attention to the circumstances of Indigenous offenders because those circumstances are unique and different from those of non-Indigenous offenders.

In that case, the Court was asked to clarify the meaning of the newly enacted provisions of section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code. These remedial provisions were enacted in 1996 by Parliament and were designed to ameliorate the serious problem of overrepresentation of Indigenous people in Canadian prisons, and to encourage sentencing judges to have recourse to a restorative approach to sentencing.

Gladue Reports, as those prepared by our Department, are intended to inform the sentencing judge about the social, cultural and historical background of an Indigenous offender and the factors that may have played a part in bringing the particular Indigenous offender before the court. The Report may also offer recommendations on the types of sentencing procedures and sanctions which may be appropriate in the circumstances for the offender because of his or her particular Indigenous heritage or connection. We have trained 16 new writers this past year, bringing our total of trained Gladue Report writers to 79. One of those new writers was our first Gladue Intern from McGill Faculty of Law, and we will host another intern in the coming year as well as continue to raise the importance of these tools to be used in courts throughout the province.

Gladue Reports, as those prepared by our Department, are intended to inform the sentencing judge about the social, cultural and historical background of an Indigenous offender.

LEGISLATION

Bill C-75

On March 29, 2018, the Government of Canada introduced in the House of Commons Bill C-75, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*. Bill C-75 is currently in the Senate and could be adopted in the near future.

The main purposes of Bill C-75 are to modernize the criminal justice system, make it more efficient, and reduce delays in criminal proceedings. Bill C-75 amends many aspects of criminal law and criminal procedure in the *Criminal Code*. Among other things:

- Better protection would be provided for victims of domestic violence.
- Bail practices and procedures would be modernized, including by requiring special consideration to the circumstances of accused persons who are Indigenous or members of vulnerable populations.
- Appearance by audioconference or videoconference of all individuals involved in criminal cases would be facilitated.
- Judges and the police would have greater discretion regarding administration of justice offences (e.g. failure to comply with conditions imposed).
- The jury selection process would be reformed, particularly by abolishing peremptory challenges.
- The maximum penalty of imprisonment for most summary conviction offences would be two years less a day (from a maximum of 6 months now). The same maximum penalty of imprisonment would also apply to offences under Cree Laws given that the *Cree Nation Governance Agreement* sets the maximum level of penalty for Cree Laws in reference to the *Criminal Code*. The maximum fine of \$5,000 would remain the same.
- Bill C-75 would also amend the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, including to encourage the use of extrajudicial measures.

Bill C-91

On February 5, 2019, the Government of Canada introduced in the House of Commons Bill C 91, *An Act respecting Indigenous languages*. The main purpose of this Act is to reclaim, revitalize, strengthen and maintain Indigenous languages in Canada.

Bill C-92

On February 28, 2019, the Government of Canada introduced in the House of Commons Bill C 92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. If adopted, this new legislation will overhaul Indigenous child welfare services. It will enable Indigenous groups to exercise legislative authority on these matters and to enter into implementation arrangements with other levels of government.

Bill C-262

Bill C-262, *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was introduced in the House of Commons in 2016 by Romeo Saganash, the federal Member of Parliament for Abitibi—Baie James—Nunavik—Eeyou. Bill C-262 is now before the Senate and will hopefully be adopted in the near future.

Cannabis Act

In 2018, Parliament adopted the *Cannabis Act*, a new law to set out a system for legalizing, strictly regulating and restricting access to cannabis. The Quebec government adopted complementary legislation to regulate the sale and distribution of cannabis in the Province. New federal regulations will allow the sale of cannabis “edibles” in Canada as of October 17, 2019. Products should have clear warnings.

Customary Adoption

The Quebec government introduced recent changes in provincial legislation to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ own customary adoption processes. A Cree customary adoption working group was established to seek and obtain community input and to develop and present to the Cree leadership models to implement these legislative changes.



What you have done in a short ten years, inspiring to see the Path Forward Together timeline – it has put together an Indigenous system of justice that reflects your values. What you are doing here today is a lesson not only for your nation but for Canada, justice is not punishment but what we want is justice about how do we keep people well mentally, physically, emotionally. How do we raise young people who are proud of who they are?

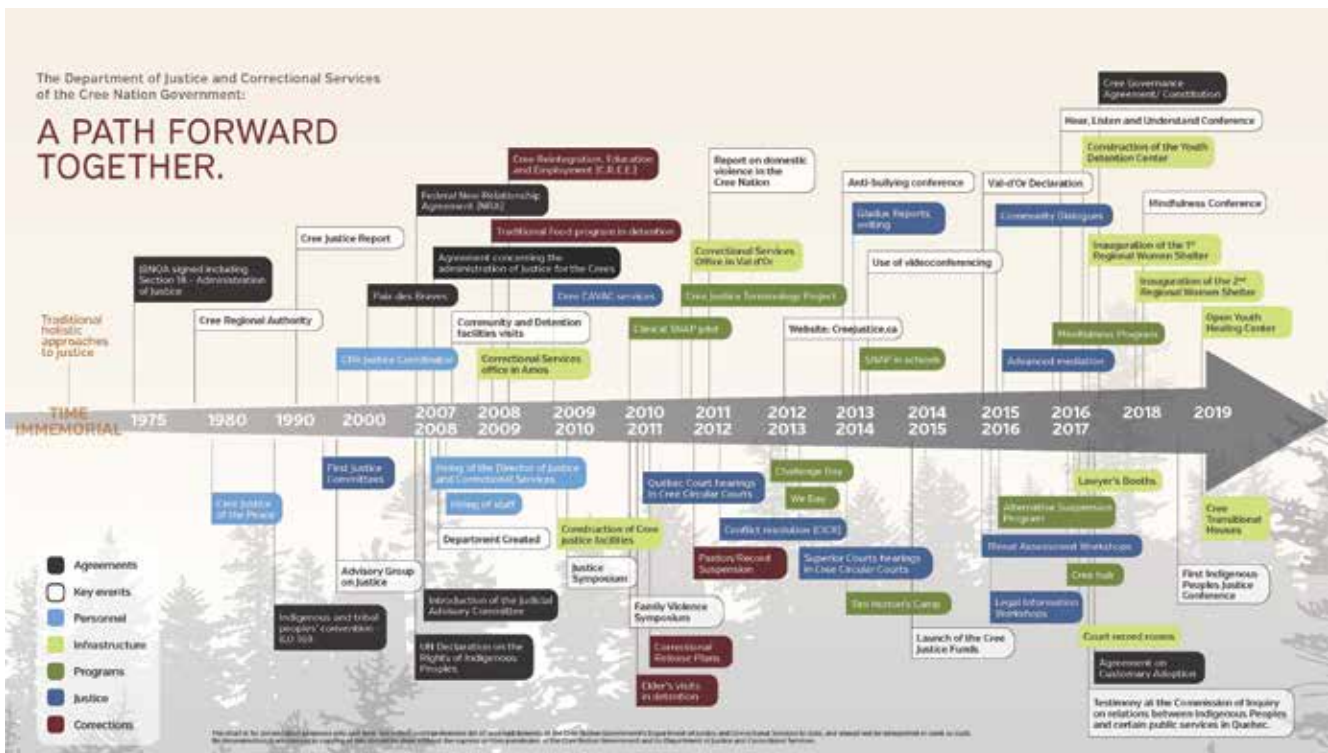
- Honourable Carolyn Bennett,
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

EMPLOYEE INITIATIVES

In addition to their regular work, we encourage our frontline employees to identify opportunities to develop programs and initiatives within the community that can further assist their clients. Over the years, these programs have evolved and grown to include some physical, emotional, spiritual and mental development. Initiatives include training and employment-oriented programs. Programs include culturally appropriate approaches and encourage emotional growth with activities on the land or using traditional knowledge. They also incorporate a mix of modern technology alongside core values and a socially conscious approach.

CREE JUSTICE FUNDS

The Partnership Funds highlight an important aspect of the Department – building relationships. Like with all things, together we are stronger and can make an initiative endure longer. It is with that objective that we are driven to create sustainable partnerships throughout the Cree Nation to work together on some of the more difficult and widespread issues. We have engaged a number of people in organizations, governments, and as individuals in delivering a host of valuable programs and services in the communities and on the land. Each of these is valued, and we strengthen each other in the process of our collaborative approaches.



CREE JUSTICE FUNDS & EMPLOYEE INITIATIVES

The Cree Justice Funds (CJF) provide an opportunity for community members and organizations to partner with the DOJCS in an effort to implement justice-related activities that facilitate and improve the administration of justice for the Cree Nation. We know that by working together we can accomplish more.



This year we distributed a total of

\$584,000

Through our 3 Active Funds

CORRECTIONS FUND

This fund is designed to support rehabilitation and reintegration of Cree offenders.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FUND

This fund is designed to empower the Cree youth while promoting their general welfare.



CRIME PREVENTION FUND

This fund is designed to prevent and combat crime and support the creation of safer communities.



✓ 13 APPROVED PROJECTS THIS YEAR

1,500+ PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY MEMBERS

In addition to the CJFs, **EMPLOYEE INITIATIVES** enable every employee of the DOJCS to initiate activities that create a positive impact in the communities.

10 APPROVED INITIATIVES THIS YEAR **150+** PARTICIPANTS

By providing funding opportunities to community members, youth councils, Cree Nation bands, Cree organizations, and employees, we are cooperating with partners so together we can have a bigger impact in addressing crime prevention and the administration of justice.

CORRECTIONS AND REINTEGRATION WORK

We work with correctional services to provide more reintegration and rehabilitation services for those transitioning out of detention or with conditional sentences. A supportive environment is key to facilitating positive change and reducing recidivism. Each time someone commits a crime, considerable human and financial resources must be mobilized to address the impacts of such crime and the harm caused to individuals and property. Our Department offers the Cree Reintegration Education and Employment program workshops in a number of communities for those coming back to their communities. The program offers a series of skills workshops to make individuals more employable starting in 3 communities with 27 participants. The program also helps secure work placement positions for them in their home communities with local businesses and entities. We start building a relationship with individuals throughout the court process, and visit them in detention so when it comes to reintegration we have a good sense of the individual and can help put together a reintegration plan. We also offer in detention a change of seasons traditional food program, counseling, Elder’s visits, specialized

workshops and other types of support to those who agree to our services. Our department psychologist has met with 173 clients this year with visits to federal and provincial institutions, as well as regular community visits for follow-up sessions. In detention we also offer other types of counseling with Elders and health care professionals amounting to over 100 clients. The traditional meal program is about connecting to culture and bringing the land in for healing, it continues to serve hundreds of meals per year to Indigenous clients and staff at provincial and federal institutions and halfway houses in Quebec.

Recent Quebec court decisions have looked at the need to provide adequate facilities for Crees to be detained in the JBNQA territory to ensure proximity to their communities and the ability of our Department to provide support and services, in compliance with the JBNQA. We intend to review these decisions with the governments of Canada and Quebec to ensure the implementation of commitments contained in the JBNQA, to improve rehabilitation and community reintegration of Cree offenders, and to reduce recidivism and improve overall community safety.

Justice Advisory Committee visit to Amos new detention center



If criminal justice system itself cannot operate at the highest standards of legality, then what’s the point. Experience of incarceration is brutalizing to people, families and communities. It appears as notions of legality and due process end at the prison gate. Healing lodges are statutory called for in the statutory release act in 1992 to develop in partnership with Aboriginal Peoples.

- Howard Sapers
 Keynote speaker, Indigenous Peoples Justice Conference

CORRECTIONS

In collaboration with other key actors, Corrections delivers culturally appropriate services, incorporating aspects of the Cree way of life. Bringing a holistic approach to reintegration of offenders in the Cree communities.



THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE IN DETENTION

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

TRADITIONAL FOOD IN DETENTION

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



PLANNING THE REINTEGRATION

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

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



THE BEGINNING OF A PRODUCTIVE AND POSITIVE LIFE

The C.R.E.E. Support Services help ex-offenders who are facing significant employment barriers to successfully reintegrate into Cree society and stop their cycle of criminal behaviour. For many, the transition back to a productive and positive life depends on either obtaining a job or accessing training to become “job ready”.

The Corrections team works in collaboration with other professionals to help ex-offenders succeed.

OUR CORRECTIONS SERVICES

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

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

KEEPING HIGH RISK YOUTH CLOSER TO HOME

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



SUSPENDING A CRIMINAL RECORD

A record suspension [formerly a pardon] allows ex-offenders to have their criminal record suspended. This helps them access employment and educational opportunities and reintegrate into society. Local Community Reintegration Officers help assess the individual's eligibility for pardon and organize the required paperwork. The Department may also offer financial assistance to eligible individuals to cover the costs.

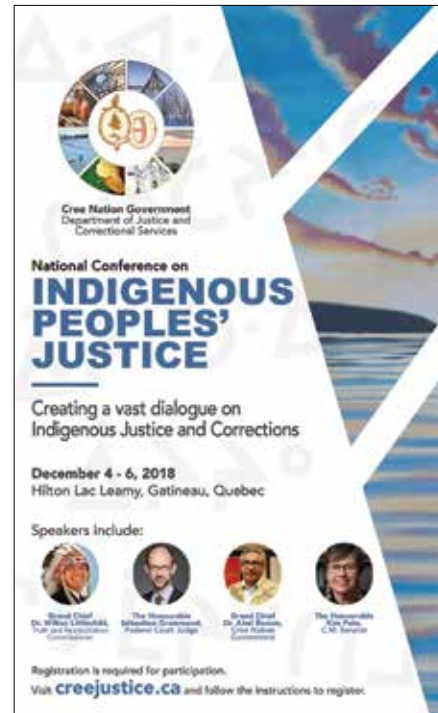
We have seen a department that has blossomed and come to maturity. ... Events like this symposium bring together people from different parts of life to share different ideas and perspectives.

- Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' JUSTICE CONFERENCE

This year we hosted our inaugural Indigenous Peoples' Justice Conference. This national symposium was a great success in bringing together over 340 participants and 30 speakers to share work, perspectives and insights on key issues and ways forward. It was unique and it provided an opportunity for everyone in attendance to participate, grow, learn and be engaged, whether they were students, judges, academics, Ministers or officials, researchers, frontline workers, leaders, or attorneys.

At the Conference, we also hosted a 10th Anniversary Gala in celebration of the creation of the Department. It was an opportunity to mark a milestone in the implementation of a treaty commitment made over 40 years ago. It was also about acknowledging all of the people who play a part in the operation of the Department, and giving a heartfelt thanks to leadership for their support.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' JUSTICE CONFERENCE



This year, we hosted our first Indigenous Peoples' Justice Symposium on the theme of Reconciliation and Capacity Building. Featuring international, national and Cree guest speakers, the conference's objective was to create a vast dialogue on Indigenous Justice and Corrections between participants from different horizons.



The conference took place in Gatineau, QC

We had more than

300
PARTICIPANTS

including 35 post-secondary students

24
WORKSHOPS

3 **EXPERT PANELS**

9 **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

45 **PROMINENT SPEAKERS**

including:

- Dr. Wilton Littlechild
- Federal Court Judge Sébastien Grammond
- Senator Kim Pate
- Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum



Over the 3-day conference we were able to discuss a wide range of themes, such as:

COUNTERING BULLYING

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

INDIGENOUS VICTIMS SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS

GLADUE REPORTS

LEGAL PLURALISM

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE CIRCLES

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS (UNDRIP)

CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS

MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES ON RECONCILIATION

INDIGENOUS JUSTICE IN COURTS



Our goal was to bring together a diverse group that would enrich the discussion we could have on Indigenous Justice. Our participants included:

DOJCS FRONTLINE STAFF
(eg. CAVAC, CJOs, and PPOs)

CREE NATION ORGANIZATION FRONTLINE STAFF
(eg. CHB, and bands)

OTHER INDIGENOUS NATIONS

ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

DELEGATION MEMBERS OF BAR AND JUDICIARY
(judges and lawyers)

CIVIL SERVANTS
(Provincial and Federal)

This symposium brought the Cree Nation together alongside partners and highlighted our capacity to express what we need, to build our capacity and to create strong institutions in justice, corrections and conflict resolution.



FACILITIES

In this past year, we marked the Opening of the 2nd Regional Women's Shelter located in the Cree Nation of Waskaganish. This completes the structural support network determined for us to provide services for families in need in our own nation. The ability for us to provide such services and appropriate programming, staffed and developed by Cree personnel, is the implementation and fulfilment of another treaty right. On a fundamental level it reduces the vulnerability and hardship of Cree individuals and families that have had to seek assistance elsewhere.

In the past year, we also have almost completed the new Regional Youth Healing Center located in Mistissini. This Center will increase the number of youths we can work with, to deliver services adapted to their needs. As in the case of the Shelters, a working group was created comprised of representatives from of the Cree Health Board, the Cree School Board, the Cree Nation Government and Quebec. This group worked closely together to establish best practices and standards for this facility, all

the while honouring and reflecting the fact that this is a Cree institution.

Finally, we have made much progress with the Working Group on transitional homes in Cree communities, or as we like to refer to them 'wellness institutions.' These homes will provide much needed support to those in need of a place to stay when transitioning out of detention, addictions programs, mental health care or those without residence because of economic disadvantage. Alongside collaborative programming with the Cree Health Board and Cree School Board, these rehabilitative types of housing can give individuals an environment that reduces risk factors and an opportunity to get back on their feet. At our last meeting, we had other Indigenous Nations from Quebec present on their similar facilities and programs. Senator Kim Pate also joined our conversation on the next steps forward to provide services for vulnerable or criminalized individuals who are typically part of the same population group.



LOOKING FORWARD

During its first 10 years, the Department has seen many new developments of facilities, positions, services and partnerships. The establishment of a justice Department and system within the Cree Nation Government was an important step in Nation building. The Cree Nation has been successful in the development of its legislative and executive branches of government. It is now preparing the grounds for the emergence of a Cree legal and corrections system. We are pleased to have shared this success with all of our staff spread throughout the Cree Nations of Eeyou Istchee. The celebration in Gatineau in December 2018 was an opportunity for us to share it with leaders, staff, students, and partners.

For the next decade, the Department remains committed to building the capacity of the Cree Nation Government and Cree communities to provide more services and programs related to their needs and welfare. We are

looking at building infrastructure to meet the needs of people in a transitional state, and for rehabilitative and reintegration purposes. We are looking to build Cree judiciary and tribunals to make justice more accessible and timely for Cree citizens. We are looking at enhancing overall community safety and well-being. We are looking to develop programs with youth, realizing as a community it is easier to raise strong children than to start your work when they arrive in the justice and correction systems. We want to build on the strong foundations we lay in communities with our partnerships, understanding that what we can accomplish together will always exceed what we accomplish alone. Our reward is healthier homes, communities, and a Nation, and being able to divert more community resources from repairing harm to unlocking opportunities and growth for us all. ●



We will present you with solutions that will answer the needs in the area of justice and corrections. This department is a concrete example of implementation of treaty provisions. These steps we have made in building justice follow and build upon our own treaty, the UN Declaration and the TRC Calls to Actions, we are breathing life into what has been agreed upon and laid before us. We thank you for the generosity of relationships.

- Donald Nicholls, Director, Department of Justice and Correction

