

Justice and Correctional Services

Message from the Director Donald Nicholls



Gasbhn Cooper

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services is pleased to report to the Cree Nation on the successes and accomplishments we have achieved over the past year. Justice and corrections institutions are cornerstones in society, and how they meet and respond to the needs of the people they seek to serve is important. Almost 40 years ago, provisions for the administration of justice were negotiated, and within the agreements the discourse became entrenched on how any facilities, positions, services, programs, and systems needed to respect the usages, customs and psychology of the Cree people. Since the establishment of the Department in 2008, we have worked diligently to ensure this principle and Cree values, ways, and understandings are integrated into the delivery of justice and correctional services in Eeyou Istchee.

This year, we have completed the remaining community justice facilities. Each is unique, and includes

round courtrooms, local artwork, pictures and features to connect it to the people and the land. These facilities are important community resources, and were a first step in putting in place key positions, programs, and services. Now that they are complete, we are close to completing the engagement of local and regional Cree personnel to facilitate our work with communities, institutions, governments, and organizations to better serve our clientele, ensure the integrity of the systems, and continue to work on our rights and interests in the administration of justice and correctional services.

Programs and services have increased, as our staff numbers have increased. A central consideration for any new program or services is to start working at the community level with key individuals inside and outside of the Department. We work with the local leadership to establish a community justice committee. The committees are invaluable in helping to develop plans, programs, reports and interventions that add community values and recommendations. The community justice committees can even hear certain types of cases locally, and the solutions are more likely to be community oriented and restorative in nature. Our staff are trained in mediation, facilitation, and reporting to allow us to provide support for the growth of systems that are more reflective of our approach and society, and that service our people and communities better. Our contributions have improved the systems we work in, and will continue to improve it every day. It is the first question we ask ourselves as an employee in our Department, "What can we do for our people and community today?"

The Director of Justice and Correctional Services was honoured in November with an Award of Merit from the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution.



Facilities

The Cree Nation Government completed the construction of the final two facilities located in the communities of Nemaska and Eastmain, bringing the total number of facilities to nine. However, because the facilities are completed and occupied, does not mean that improvements, modifications and adjustments were not necessary. We had worked with architects and engineers from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Security in the planning stages for these facilities to ensure they had the best standards possible and complied with all laws and regulations. When they were completed, the Ministry of Public Security did an inspection and found a number of measures we needed to modify. We were not anticipating these especially with the preparation we had taken with planning with the Ministries, but needed to do additional work as it involved the safety and security of personnel and our clientele. These new modifications began in 2013, and will continue into 2014. We prioritized the busiest facilities, and worked around any court schedules.

From a cultural perspective, we began in the building of the last two facilities to modify the interior design to link more closely to their local history, people and culture. Beyond the striking artwork, round courtrooms, and photographs, we worked with local artists and an Aboriginal interior designer to change the entrance, the windows, and the walls to reflect aspects of our culture and communities. These extra elements help remind us that the facilities and the important work conducted there must honour our Cree values, traditions, people and the land that anchor the Cree Nation. The values of our justice system must mesh with those of the community, in order to achieve the vision of a safe and just Cree society.

Last year, the Department commissioned a report following three years of discussions with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services (CBHSSJB) and Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee (CWEIA) on domestic violence in the Cree Nation. The issue was previously

identified in the justice reports done by the noted criminologist Carole La Prairie in 1991. At the time, we did not have a Department or the resources to address the issue. Since the Department was established in 2008, we put as a priority domestic violence and held a conference in Chisasibi in 2010 to bring together the communities and organizations to relook at this issue. We drew upon information from the conference, courts, partners, surveys, public data, and through contacting shelters throughout Quebec and Ontario to help put into context the size and scope of family violence, and the extent to which there were shelter resources available to meet the needs of our Nation. Shelters are a part of the solution, they are needed resources to complement awareness and programs to facilitate change on this important issue.

The report showed that an estimated 200 Cree members use shelter services per year in Quebec and Ontario, which is a number that can be understated as many women do not report their victimization or seek services when faced with violence. In reviewing all the shelters used by Cree clientele, the predominant opinion is that a Cree facility would offer more support to help heal families and provide a more culturally relevant service. The CBHSSJB has negotiated operations and maintenance funding for the operations of these facilities starting in 2015. However, they have requested that the Cree Nation Government should assist with the capital portion of the initiative in accordance with the provisions of the Agreements relating to these type of facilities. The report was reviewed by the Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee (CQJAC) and a recommendation was made to the Cree Nation Government to support the establishment of two domestic violence shelters, one inland and one coastal.

The recommendation included two provisions for such support: the creation of a working group on best practices for a Cree women's shelter, and the reaching of a framework agreement between the Cree Nation Government and the Cree Board of Health on their respective roles and responsibilities with regard to the shelters. The working group was formed, and it was comprised of representatives of the Department, Capital Works, Cree Board of Health and Social Services, Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee, frontline workers, Elders and clients. It started to meet in the first week of the New Year, and continued meeting until a preliminary plan of best practices was established, including guidance on how to best integrate such a facility within a Cree community. A framework agreement was concluded between the Cree Nation Government and the CBHSSJB. The CBHSSJB is now completing a Technical Functional Plan for the Ministry to review and approve. The Cree communities wishing to have such a facility in their community were invited to submit a proposal to the Department of Capital Works, and there would be a process to determine the location of an inland and coastal facility.

It is the first question we ask ourselves as an employee in our Department, "What can we do for our people and community today?"

After completion of the facilities, similar representation as on the working group will help provide guidance in the development of appropriate and effective programming. The shelters are a necessary part of the solution, but it is with collaboration of leadership, departments, institutions and communities that we will be able to address the issue of domestic violence in a real way. This means we will continue our efforts in prevention, awareness and education, so as to proactively try to prevent or intervene in domestic and family violence before it escalates. The working group also tabled continuing discussions involving men's shelters or placements as potential solutions to situations in the future.

Consistent with our goal of increasing our capacity and ensuring services are responsive to our unique needs, we continued our work assessing the feasibility of a Youth closed custody facility in Eeyou Istchee. A working group on this issue was formed in the past year. The Department of Youth Protection in the CBHSSJB presented to the Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee on the need for a facility in Eeyou Istchee to help us work closer with our youth in trouble, and to ensure they are treated appropriately. After a review of the numbers and cases, the CQJAC made a similar recommendation as the women's shelters, that a working group be formed to look at best practices to build a facility and integrate it within the Cree communities, and that a framework agreement be concluded between the Cree Nation Government and the CBHSSJB on their respective roles and responsibilities with regard to this facility.

The working group met in the early part of the year. Like in the case of the women's shelters, the CBHSSJB had negotiated O & M funding for such a facility to start in 2017. So, the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, along with Capital Works, and the CBHSSJB visited a number of possible model facilities. Some were government run, whereas others were operated by First Nations. A report was prepared on the findings and presented to both organizations. The working group has had a few meetings to date. However a Technical Functional Plan would need to be more comprehensive for such an institution as there are more regulations relating to facilities that have a detention and rehabilitation component. There is also more time in terms of preparation given when the O & M funding would become available, therefore the Working Group will be continuing its work over the coming year on both the Technical Functional Plan and the parameters of the a framework agreement between the CNG and the CBHSSJB.

Consistent with provisions in the provincial and federal agreements, the Department and the CQJAC are looking at the creation of land-based camps around each Cree community to allow for prevention and rehabilitation programming with youth and adults. We believe these camps will play an essential role in of-



Nemaska Justice Building

fender rehabilitation and reintegration, especially with the reality that within current contemporary systems there are few programs for Cree clientele. These camps can also be used for intervention and alternative programming for preventative purposes with our people. We believe that programs on Eeyou Istchee can bring in cultural and value based aspects that can help heal individuals and work towards a healthier reintegration back into their communities. Of course, in some instances, land based solutions would not be suitable, as we balance community safety. For the majority of clients, the environment and programming we develop will be beneficial at some stage. We have therefore set aside money in our current budget for the creation of these resources.

The CQJAC and the Cree Nation Government reviewed and supported the integration of modern multimedia equipment into each of the community justice facilities from the beginning. It was recognized that technology could reduce geographic distances of Eeyou Istchee, linking us together as a Nation and helping us access more services in the area of justice and corrections. If we were to build modern buildings, albeit with cultural values integrated in them, we would need modern technology to ensure they provided for the present and future of our Nation's needs.

The new equipment that is being integrated in each community facility will allow for simultaneous translations of hearings into Cree, English or French when needed. Video conferencing equipment will be installed in each courtroom to allow for bail, youth protection, and other types of hearings. This innovation allows for each community to securely connect with a court and judges in the south if needed, and it would reduce the hardship and cost of travel for the parties, and stakeholders such as the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force (EPPF), CBHSSJB and the Courts. The equipment is also designed to allow for live video testimonies of witnesses or parties located in other Cree justice facilities. The equipment will allow for young

offenders and victims to give testimony in other rooms or buildings if needed. The system can also be securely linked to corrections facilities to allow family to visit with loved ones more regularly without leaving their community. It can also be used for members to confer with legal counsel via video-conference in preparation before court dates, or for clients to set up scheduled meetings with specialized health care professionals for sessions. On an administrative level, it will allow the Department to have regular staff meetings, and can be used for training or educational purposes as well.

Human Resources

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services continues to grow, so a number of new positions were created to allow for more programming and services at the local level in each community. The latest new positions include Prevention Program Officers that will deliver the Cree SNAP for Schools Program, as well as the Anti Bullying Clubs, and other programs in development such as alternative to suspension programs. These positions will be in all nine communities, with staff working collaboratively with the Community Reintegration Officers (CROs), justice officers, facility receptionist, and justice committees as a local resource team. Prevention programs with high-risk children and youth reduces the likelihood of them coming into contact with the judicial or correctional systems in the future. This is an area of investment that all ministries

of justice invest in to reduce overall costs and burdens on their systems in the long term. However, for us another important objective is to help our children and youth get onto a healthier path earlier in their lives.

Other new positions in the past year have included the Corrections Release Support Worker (CRSW) that works closely with clientele going into halfway houses and residing outside of the Cree territory. The CRSW becomes a part of the correctional release plan to continue to work with and report on the progress of Cree clientele as they begin their journey of reintegrating back into society. There was the addition of a Justice Administrator that works with the courts and facilities to help better plan use of the facilities, and works closely with the communities on the yearly allocation of funds to support local initiatives with the justice committees. Another key position added in 2014 has been the Department Psychologist who helps do assessments and evaluations in the Cree language in the provincial and federal detention facilities, at the community level, and assists in the development of programming for high risk individuals in preventative or rehabilitation programs or plans. Finally, there was the creation of a Financial Officer in the Department to assist with the monitoring, reporting and administration of multiple funds, agreements, programs, and daily operation costs. Each new position, and the Cree members that fill them, are important parts that make up the Department and our ability to provide better integral services to the Cree Nation.



The Canadian Institute on Conflict Resolution (CICR) worked with our largest group of new employees in the past year to complete the third graduation in the area of facilitation, mediation and conciliation techniques for working with clientele in conflict situations. Three years ago, we worked closely with CICR to adapt one of their most well known programs for people in the public service working in conflict situations or environments. The certification and skills remained the same for our staff, but the applications were geared towards the realities, culture and values of our communities. The majority of our justice and corrections officers spread throughout Eeyou Istchee are now trained to provide these services when working with Cree individuals, couples, organizations or larger groups in the community. The Department is working with CICR to develop within our system mediation services, which would reduce the need for conflicts to escalate. We are also working to develop some community dialogues that address larger groups and issues within a community that can immobilize people. All personnel that have taken CICR training have seen significant changes in their work and home environments. The skills and approaches to working with others, and conflicts, are rooted in a greater understanding of needs, and consistent with approaches incorporating Aboriginal values and ways.

The Director of Justice and Correctional Services was honoured in November with an Award of Merit from the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution for his work in conflict resolution. It is a prestigious award that is shared with such past recipients as Romeo Dallaire and Vern Redekop for their work in the field of conflict resolution in Rwanda and Bosnia respectively.

Last year, records management training with the University of Toronto Library Services was given to all Department receptionists, secretaries and CAVAC officers. The training was to help with the organization of client files, invoices, communiqués and other information. As we grow, so does the need for management of the information received and generated. Our internal management system includes both protected information that is restricted to only those with the authority and reason to access it, and also there is information for public distribution or accountability. We continue to increase our production of Gladue reports, correctional release plans, offender client files, victims client files, administrative files, personnel files, financial records, POs, calendars, pamphlets, contacts and other documentation.

One of the staff training programs we received good feedback almost immediately following was for Gladue report writing. Gladue reports became a key part of justice for Aboriginal peoples after the Government of Canada realized that there were more Aboriginal people in prisons in Canada than non Aboriginal on a per capita basis. In 1999 the Supreme Court of Canada rendered the Gladue decision that interpreted s.718.2(e)

of the Criminal Code of Canada allowing judges to take into account an Aboriginal person's history, experiences, and realities to look at reasonable alternatives to incarceration. As the Gladue case came from BC, we invited a well known training team from the BC Justice Institute to provide a five day intensive session with our Community Justice Officers (CJOs) and with some members of community justice committees. The CJOs provide support and collaborate with the local justice committees in preparing the Gladue reports, then together they write and submit a formal Gladue report that provides the judge with important information and recommendations. The amount of Gladue reports produced by the Department has increased substantially, and more importantly, the courts now have more information to make decisions on when dealing with our people. It is important in an integrated system that respects our culture, ways and circumstances that these ways, culture and circumstances become a key part of the process. We are happy to report, the steps taken are having a positive impact on the judiciary system, our people and the work of the committees.

The Department staff participated in public safety mobilization training to create local working groups to reduce overall criminal activity in each community, and to increase public safety and community wellness. The training started with staff strengthening leadership

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Gladue Report Writing Training





Cree Snap session in School



Cree SNAP Workshop at Tim Horton's Camp

and mobilization skills. Each participant then returns to their communities to deliver workshops to form a core group of people locally that are passionate about their work and dedicated to positive change. The concept is to initiate community development that involves working together, drawing upon community members for solutions, utilizing their talents and abilities for change, and ensuring that culture, tradition, history and language are respected throughout. It is about creating a hub of community resources to meet regularly on issues of concern locally such as public safety, and together to develop plans to effectively address them.

Threat assessment training began last year to help create local resources that are trained in identifying possible threats to school and public environments, and are informed of roles should a crisis occur. Threat assessment certification and training was given through the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment by Theresa Campbell who has helped establish similar assessment and response standards and protocols throughout the United States and Canada. There were almost 60 participants from the local community and partner organizations for the first level of certification. It started with a two-day intensive session for Level I certification. Plans are to expand this training within the Cree Nation to assist in local preparedness, planning and development of resources.

Some members of the Department attended the first session of instructor training for the Warrior Within program that works with men, women and youth to deal with underlying issues related to violence. Developed and offered by Native Counseling Services of Alberta, this is a highly regarded program that clientele attend while in detention or in their communities. As a rehabilitative tool, it helps members get to the root causes that have led them into difficulties with their families, schools, communities and with the law. We see this program as having potential for detention based and post-release work with clientele who would fit in the criteria for these types of rehabilitative services.

Services/Programs

In the last year, the members of the Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee (CQJAC) have renewed their three year mandate to work with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services. The CQJAC meets three to four times a year, and makes recommendations to the CNG and Quebec Government with respect to the participation of Crees in the judicial system, research, personnel, facilities, laws, and information. On the Cree side of the Committee, Gerti Murdoch is on her second year of her two year mandate as Chairperson of the Judicial Advisory Committee. Daisy House, Kenneth Gilpin, and Denis Blanchette were reappointed to another three year term. Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark joined the Committee this year following his election. On the Quebec side of the Committee, Jacques Prigent and Nancy Hubert (Ministry of Justice) and Frédéric Desrosiers (Aboriginal Affairs) continued on with their appointments to the Committee, and we welcomed Isabel Brodeur and Pascale Tremblay from the Ministry of Public Security. The Committee has subcommittees that were active this year such as on women's shelters and youth detention.

This year marks the end of the 3 ½ year Cree SNAP clinical model, which was provided in Waswanipi and Mistissini with the support of Public Safety Canada and provided to children aged 6 to 11. We appreciated the efforts of the Cree SNAP team leaving us, and are encouraged by the positive results produced by this program. The intent of this program was to determine the effectiveness of SNAP in a non-urban Aboriginal community. The program reached 150 children through referrals and 75 parents. Each had to complete 8 out of 12 workshops to graduate. The Cree SNAP team also gave workshops to sports camps, literacy camps, Christian camps and in a program called troubleshooters in the schools. Further, in the schools the Cree team developed an ABC (Anti Bullying Club) where it trains bullies and victims to become Peace Makers.

The program was independently evaluated along with two other similar programs in Toronto and Edmonton, as part of the National Multisite Impact Evaluation of the SNAP Program, also funded by Public Safety Canada. Using a repeated measures design,

where children's behavioral functioning was measured using recognized standardized instruments before they participated in the program, immediately after the program, six months, 12 months and 24 months later, the data showed that there were statistically significant improvements from pre-program to post-program in virtually all variables being measured.

In addition to this impact evaluation, we were required to conduct a process evaluation of the program as well, a form of evaluation where the project challenges are identified and where it is determined to what extent our project was implemented as planned. This adds to our insights of what works in crime prevention, and will benefit the other communities considering implementation of the adapted SNAP programming. Based upon the promising results of this program, we are in the process of designing and securing a new program called the Cree SNAP for Schools to be delivered in all Cree communities in the coming year. This broader delivery to all children 12 and under in the Cree Nation that will help equip young people with essential life skills of conflict resolution and self-control. We are confident that the impact of the work being done with our adapted version of SNAP will produce significant social and public safety benefits for generations to come.

This year the Department of Justice and Correctional Services partnered with Tim Horton's Camp to take 42 students and 10 chaperones to visit the Tim Horton's Camp located in Quyon, Quebec for a week of activities and team-building exercises. The group of children and parents had an incredible time as did the Department Staff that attended to help out. We had been asked by the Tim Horton's in Mistissini to help select children and put the trip together, because as a Tim Horton's they have the opportunity to send children to camp each year. The owners, Anthony and Elaine MacLeod, said this year they would like to start locally but could see in the future opening it up to the entire Cree Nation to ensure as many children as possible benefit from the unique Tim Horton's Camp experience.

For the Cree CAVAC (Victim's Services), the Cree Nation Government signed an Agreement with Quebec concerning Access to the Information Needed to Implement Information Programs for Victims of Crime. The new Agreement allowed the Cree CAVAC officers to work more collaboratively in the system to provide more support to Cree victims, and to work with the legal system to give those who wished to have more of a voice in proceedings. The CAVAC offices also began translating into Cree more materials to inform the general public, as well as launching a media campaign on the radio, in the Nation, and at public events as to their services.

In the past there was an absence of these type of services, and Eeyou Istchee was one of the last regions in Quebec to have victim's services offices established. It came at an important time, as the Residential School

hearings also came to Quebec. The federal government has also been working on a Victims Bill of Rights, and there have been multiple consultations on domestic violence, and other aspects related the rights or support of victims or witnesses of crime. In provincial and municipal governments there have been new laws against bullying and cyber-bullying. The Cree Nation Government has also looked at the new laws and initiatives, and spent the last year doing more consultations and studies within the Cree communities on the level of violence and victimization. We are committed to reducing overall criminal and anti-social activity, and making our communities safer and healthier.

The Chairperson of the Judicial Advisory Committee, Gerti Murdoch, agreed to coordinate and lead the activities of the Cree Justice Terminology working group over the past year. The working group worked with representatives of the Ministry of Justice Quebec, and was comprised of literacy experts from both coastal and inland communities. As part of the review of the justice terminology, Inuit, Naskapi and other First Nations justice lexicons were reviewed. The working group also met with the newly formed Cree Language Commission to discuss the purpose of the work, and Cree words, concepts and phrases it was working on. Upon completion of the first draft of the justice lexicon, the working group will consult with court workers, Cree Elders and communities for a further review, and to ensure it encompasses all words, concepts and phrases needed. The mandate of the working group is to provide clearer understanding of concepts, words and phrases in any legal, judicial, correctional, or related process as in accordance with the intent of an integrated Cree legal and corrections system within Eeyou Istchee.

The corrections division of the Department has been working more closely with Corrections Services Canada and the Ministry of Public Security to develop correctional release plans. These plans include our personnel working directly with Cree clientele who are

CICR Graduation Dec 12, 2013





in detention, in transitional institutions like halfway houses, and post release. The plans allow staff to help an individual connect with the types of support they will need in family and the community to facilitate a change in their lives. The corrections personnel also has the opportunity to visit clientele at the detention facilities to encourage them to work on programming, to do assessments, to help develop local land based programs for rehabilitation and reintegration, and to link them to programs in transitional or post detention periods. In the past year, the staff has worked with corrections facilities for visits of counselors, Elders, programming and to bring in traditional food to remind them of their culture, values, communities and the land.

Members of the Cree Justice Committees in each community continue to train, and there is some turnover in the composition of the committees. We leave this up to each community to appoint people that best represent the values of the community. The committees take part in mediation, Gladue report writing and other training each year to ensure a community contribution and involvement in the justice and corrections system is present. Committee members were invited to other types of training as well in the past year such as CICR training with staff. There were also two commissioned reports on the roles of justice committees in the Cree communities in the past year, to look at ways of enhancing their roles and contributions to the systems. These local committees continue to be an important part of the Cree systems we are building in each of the Cree communities. After completion of their initial training, an agreement is signed with the Crown Attorney to allow these committees to hear Section I and II offences under the Criminal Code of Canada. This allows for more alternative and community oriented solutions.

In the past year there have been a number of youth initiatives beyond the Cree SNAP program that the Department has worked in collaboration with other organizations. With Me to We, the department has organized leadership workshops, youth trips, and local

engagement and awareness campaigns to help youth to become more involved with their communities and as global citizens. There have been special camps to encourage growth with One Team One Voice in Wemindji and Whapmagoostui. These programs help build confidence and good leadership values in children and youth. There has also been some collaboration with Youth Fusion to help deliver better after school programming. The staff have worked with the Cree School Board on their literacy camps, local recreation with sports camps, and other groups within the community with youth events. In the next year, the Department will sponsor a series of youth engagement days in each community to promote good activities, and foster further resiliency and leadership development.

It has been proposed to create a subcommittee of the Judicial Advisory committee on alternative suspension programs that will work with the CSB, CBHSSJB, EEPF and local Elders to develop programming for students who are suspended. The time spent outside of the classroom should be productive when suspended, and together with organizations we can work on developing life skills and healthier approaches to working with their peers. Suspensions are disciplinary but also can be seen as an opportunity to spend time working on creating better balance early on in one's life.

In the past year, the Department has allocated a fund for local by-law prosecution for the Cree communities. The ability to create by-laws is an exercise of sovereignty and governance by local governments, and these should be respected in the judicial system. Therefore, funds are made available for each community to enforce their local by-laws. Some communities already regularly have their by-laws enforced in our courts, and the Department offers support in the development, review and implementation of these by-laws throughout Eeyou Istchee.

In November the Department along with CBHSSJB and CSB offered the 1st Anti Bullying Conference. The theme was "It's cool to be kind," and featured prominent guest speakers with unique perspectives on bullying, including former NHL stars Chris Nilan and Stephan Richer, international parenting expert Dr. Debra Pepler, youth engagement speakers Chuck Winters and Orlando Bowen, and Mike Neuts who lost his son Myles several years ago when he was bullied at school. We had an equal number of great Cree speakers, Kathleen Wootton, Lisa Petagumskum, Reggie Bobbish, David Kawapit, and our Cree SNAP team. We know that bullying is something that many youth are victim to in some form. It can be physical, emotional, or through social media like Facebook or texting. The effects are the same that it causes harm, and in some cases, can be linked to death. These are unfortunate, and at the Conference we heard stories that related to this by the actions of bullying. Regardless of the laws that may or may not apply in the Cree Nation, communities or organizations, it is important for us to address

this issue that effects so many of our children, youth and adults. Our purpose was to raise awareness, and initiate services and actions in various organizations to provide support for change in our communities, schools and work environments. It was a success as we created working groups in the communities, and began Cree SNAP, ABC, had assemblies in the schools, and had a conference for the public. The partners are committed to continuing the work, and host more conferences into the future to build greater awareness and a larger network of support to address bullying.

In February the Department was invited to participate in the Regional Elders Gathering in Wemindji. At this event, there were many discussions on the concern the Elders of each community related to the current situation with courts and corrections. There was discussion of many of the initiatives of the Department to date, and the Elders requested that more information be publicized on activities as they were in support of the activities discussed but were not aware. Further, the Elders were in support of the proposed new land based camps and programs planned for the next year. The Elders expressed their desire to work with youth in the communities in the future, in collaboration with the local initiatives and the Department.

The Department has created a new fund for rehabilitation and reintegration programs to complement the work of reintegration officers in the communities working with clients transitioning back. It also will complement the new land based camps, and allow for activities that include culture and the land in rehabilitation initiatives. These type of initiatives are enumerated in Section 18 of the JBNQA, the Justice Agreement with Quebec, and the federal New Relationship Agreement. In the Howard Sapers' Report entitled Spirit Matters: Aboriginal People and the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Ministry of Public Security's Report entitled 2007-2008 Correctional Profile: Native Persons Committed to the Custody of the Quebec Services correctionnels on the federal and provincial corrections systems, they recommend that the current systems are not meeting Aboriginal needs, are underfunded, and community or land based programs would be more effective.

In the past year, the Department worked with the CWEIA to help develop awareness on domestic violence issues. The Department helped support a new study in the area of violence against women and girls, which included community consultations in Mistissini, Whapmagoostui and Chisasibi, which will result in the creation of education and awareness resources. It also helped support the Men's walk for awareness and healing throughout Eeyou Istchee. The Director of Justice and Correctional Services also presented a report on sexual exploitation of women and children to an inter-ministerial body of the provincial government in the past year.



Guest Speaker Chris Nilan on Bullying



Guest Speaker Stephane Richer with Hockey Program



Guest Speakers at Anti Bullying Conference - Orlando Bowen and David Kawapit