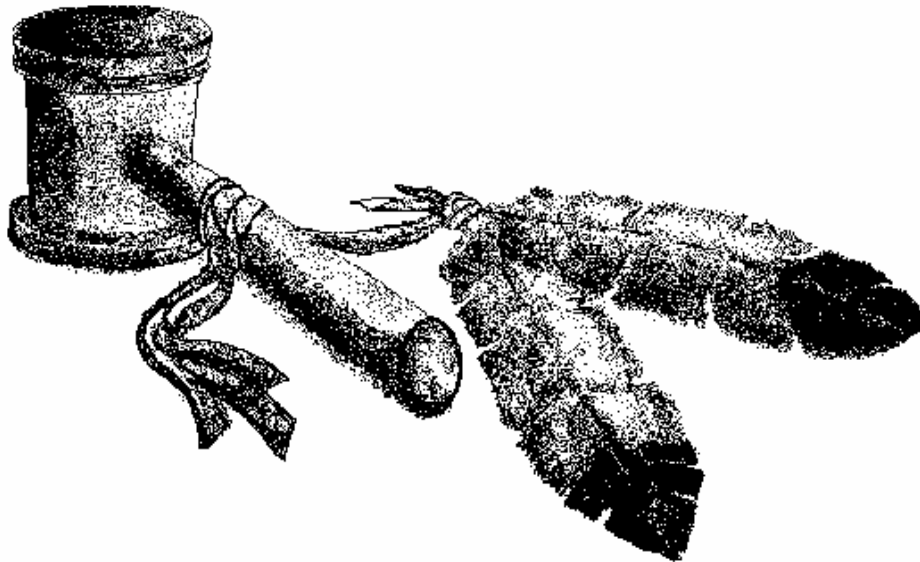


# Aboriginal Justice Programs and Initiatives

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October 2006



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# Aboriginal Justice Initiatives

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Established in 1993, the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit provides corporate support and advice to Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security and Alberta Justice divisions concerning Aboriginal justice issues.

The Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit works with Aboriginal communities and organizations in developing justice initiatives that promote safe communities and respect for the law. It also coordinates Aboriginal justice initiatives for both departments. Examples of Solicitor General and Public Security Aboriginal initiatives include First Nation policing, victim services, crime prevention initiatives, correctional centre programs, youth justice committees, cultural training, and community corrections programs. Examples of Alberta Justice Aboriginal initiatives include First Nations' court initiatives, community-based prosecution initiatives, cultural training, courtworker programs, human resource initiatives and legal services.

The Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit also welcomes the opportunity to work with and support the courts and members of the judiciary concerning Aboriginal justice issues.

Aboriginal Justice Initiatives can be contacted by telephone at (780) 422-2779 or fax at (780) 427-2670, or dial 310-0000 toll-free from anywhere in Alberta.

# Alberta Justice and Attorney General Criminal Justice Division

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## **Crown Prosecution Initiatives**

### **Aboriginal Liaison Crown Prosecutor Program**

The Criminal Justice Division has designated at least one Crown prosecutor in each of the 12 provincial Crown offices as an Aboriginal Liaison Crown Prosecutor. The role of the Aboriginal Liaison Crown prosecutor is to develop relationships and work with local First Nations and Métis communities to identify local criminal justice needs, to participate in developing community-based Aboriginal justice initiatives and to act as a resource to other Crown prosecutors on Aboriginal justice issues.

For further information, please contact your local Crown Prosecutors office.

### **Cultural Training for Crown Prosecutors**

The Criminal Justice Division is working to ensure Crown prosecutors in the Province receive Aboriginal cultural awareness training. Throughout 2001 and 2002, regularly scheduled training sessions were provided and most all of the Crown prosecutors in Alberta have received Aboriginal cultural awareness training. In addition, a unique four-day residential Aboriginal cultural camp specifically designed for groups of 20 Crown prosecutors was facilitated on two occasions by the Oldman River Cultural Centre of the Piikani First Nation and offered an enhanced cultural experience for the participants.

The Criminal Justice Division has developed an advanced Aboriginal training component specifically designed to meet the working needs of Crown prosecutors involved with Aboriginal witnesses or accused. This program has been offered twice at the Nakoda Lodge.

## **Community-Based Initiatives**

### **Alexis Restorative Justice Initiative**

A unique First Nations Court and Restorative Justice Initiative has been developed at the Alexis First Nation where Provincial Court Judges and Stony Plain Crown prosecutors share information about the criminal justice system and court procedures with the Alexis Justice Committee, Elders, and other community members. In turn, judges and prosecutors have the opportunity to build relationships with the Aboriginal

community and learn about its culture, traditions, and social resources. This relationship building and sharing of knowledge supports a community-based approach to justice that promotes respect for the law and safe communities.

The court, working with the community and justice stakeholders, has incorporated court-ordered supervision of offenders, interim reviews, and accountability to the community into the Alexis Restorative Justice process. The justice committee acts as a sentencing resource that augments pre-disposition or pre-sentence reports by identifying cultural and social resources available at the Reserve. The justice committee also assists the probation officer in monitoring the probation of some offenders, and in providing the court with community reviews of the probationer's compliance. These interim reviews are an important and unique component of the Alexis Restorative Justice process.

For further information, contact the Stony Plain Crown Prosecutors office at (780) 963-5009 or the Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society at (780) 483-9404.

### **Blood Tribe**

The Blood Sentencing Panel, officially named Aisiimohki which means "to discipline" in the Blackfoot language, was developed as a community options program. It operates under the Blood Tribe Department of Health and is comprised of professionals from the Blood Tribe departments including Education, Corrections, Health, and Housing. Each panel involves an Elder as the panel relies upon and promotes traditional values.

The process used by the panel is formal and focused. The accused goes through an initial screening process and an assessment process. A structured program is subsequently developed. The sentencing panel provides the details of the program in the form of a written report to the Crown prosecutor. The prosecutor may then ask the court to include the proposed program into the terms of a probation order. To support and encourage rehabilitation, the offender is provided assistance and direction through the process. A condition of being referred to the Aisiimohki is that the accused must plead "guilty" in court and accept responsibility for the criminal act.

The Blood Tribe has also established the Blood Tribe Youth Justice Committee which received ministerial sanction pursuant to Section 18 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. This initiative is also managed by the Blood Tribe Department of Health and is closely related to the Blood Tribe Sentencing Panel.

Both initiatives are designed to work in conjunction with the existing criminal justice system. Crown prosecutors act as "gatekeepers" and assess cases coming through the courts for referral. Such cases are then formally referred and it is the decision of the panel to accept or refuse the case. The Lethbridge Crown office has worked closely with the Blood Tribe in the successful operation of these two community-based justice initiatives.

For more information, please contact the Lethbridge Crown Prosecutors office at (403) 381-5211.

### **Edmonton Adult Aboriginal Sentencing Process**

The Edmonton Crown Prosecutors' Office and the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit have started working with Aboriginal justice stakeholders and community partners in the Edmonton area to develop an Adult Aboriginal Justice Committee. Similar in concept to the Edmonton Native Youth Justice Committee, the proposed committee will be made up of community volunteers and Elders and will provide a sentence advisory role to the Provincial Court of Alberta in Edmonton when Aboriginal offenders are involved.

For more information, please contact the Edmonton Crown Prosecutors office at (780) 422-1111 or Native Counseling Services at (780) 422-4786.

### **Piikani Family Violence Initiative**

The initiative was developed following the implementation of the specialized domestic violence court in Lethbridge. The program provides enhanced support and services to victims of domestic violence and attempts to "fast-track" these cases through the courts. The program aims to hold offenders accountable for their actions and aims to address the root causes of family violence through formalized offender treatment programming.

The initiative is collaboration between the Piikani Family Violence and Suicide Prevention Centre, the RCMP, probation, the Crown, victims services and other community agencies and resources.

For more information, please contact the Lethbridge Crown Prosecutors office at (403) 381-5211 or the Piikani family Violence and Suicide Prevention Centre at (403) 965-2390.

### **Red Deer Community Justice Forum**

Crown prosecutors from the Red Deer office have met with community Aboriginal service agencies to establish a Red Deer Youth Justice Committee for Aboriginal youth. Currently, several Elders and community members have expressed interest in functioning in a community justice forum format and accepting diversion referrals from the Crown's office.

For more information, please contact the Red Deer Crown Prosecutors office at (403) 340-5190.

## **Siksika Nation**

The Provincial Court of Alberta sits at the Siksika Nation, and is served by a judge of Aboriginal heritage and a dedicated Crown prosecutor from the Calgary Crown Prosecutors' office. This arrangement permits the Crown prosecutor to form a close working relationship with the Nation and supports the provision of culturally sensitive prosecution services.

For more information, please contact the Calgary Crown Prosecutors office at (403) 297-8444 or the Siksika Justice Commission at (403) 264-7250.

## **Tsuu T'ina Nation Court and Peacemaker Initiative**

The Tsuu T'ina Nation Court and Peacemaker initiative blends Aboriginal justice traditions, including an Office of the Peacemaker, with the Provincial Court of Alberta. An Aboriginal judge, Crown prosecutor, and clerk serve the Tsuu T'ina Nation Court which commenced sitting on October 6, 2000. The Calgary Crown Prosecutors' office is a full participant in and supporter of the initiative and has assigned a representative to the advisory committee that supports the Tsuu T'ina Nation Court and Peacemaker Initiative.

For more information, contact the Calgary Crown Prosecutors office at (403) 297-8444 or the Tsuu T'ina Peacemaker's Program at (403) 238-6130.

# **Court Services Division**

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## **Provincial Courts Sittings in Aboriginal Communities**

### **Alexis Provincial Court**

In 1993, the judiciary, Crown prosecutor and the community at Alexis began working together towards developing a restorative court process. The court model that resulted promotes community involvement in the court process. A local justice committee provides recommendations for sentencing options as well as provides assistance to the court in identifying appropriate community-based alternatives. The justice committee also provides assistance in monitoring the probation of some offenders and in providing the court with “interim reviews” of their progress.

Provincial Court sittings are held twice a month in the community of Glenevis, on the Alexis First Nation.

### **Siksika Nation Provincial Court**

On January 8, 1998, provincial court sittings were moved from Gleichen to the courthouse constructed by the Siksika Nation on Siksika Nation lands. The provincial court at the Siksika Nation hears criminal, traffic, child welfare, young offender, by-law offences, and civil matters. The court is in session approximately five days each month as a circuit of the Drumheller Provincial Court.

### **Tsuu T’ina Nation Court and Peacemaker Initiative**

The Tsuu T’ina Nation Court and Peacemaker initiative blends Aboriginal justice traditions, including an Office of the Peacemaker, with the Provincial Court of Alberta. The judge, crown prosecutor, judicial clerks and peacemakers are all Aboriginal people. The Tsuu T’ina Court has jurisdiction over offences that have taken place on the Tsuu T’ina Nation. The first sitting of this court was on October 6, 2000.

Local Peacemakers and Elders are directly involved in the initiative and are referred cases that have been diverted from the criminal justice system as well as cases that require dispute resolution. Cases can be referred to the Peacemaker’s office by the Provincial Court, the police, schools, the Tsuu T’ina Band Administration or by a community member.

### **Other Provincial Court Sittings in Aboriginal Communities**

Regular sittings of Provincial Court are held at the Dene Tha’ First Nation in Assumption (Chateh) throughout the year. This substantially reduces travel for



residents who would normally be required to attend court in High Level over 100 kilometers away.

An agreement is also in place for the Fort McMurray circuit court to have Provincial Court sittings at the Janvier Nation as required.

Discussions regarding the provision of provincial court sittings are currently underway with the Four Nations at Hobbema and with the Blood Tribe.

## **Other Court Services Initiatives**

### **Aboriginal Justices of the Peace**

As recommended by the Cawsey Commission in the publication *Justice on Trial - Report of the Task Force on the Criminal Justice System and Its Impact on the Indian and Métis People of Alberta* (1991), the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta or his designate has the authority to supervise Aboriginal Justices of the Peace. Supervision by the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court enhances the judicial independence of these positions.

### **Aboriginal Provincial Court Judges**

Since the completion of the *Justice on Trial - Report of the Task Force on the Criminal Justice System and Its Impact on the Indian and Métis People of Alberta*, three Provincial Court Judges of Aboriginal heritage have been appointed. They are the Honourable Thomas R. Goodson, the Honourable Richard (Dick) S. Fowler and the Honourable Leonard (Tony) S. Mandamin.

### **Training Members of Aboriginal Communities as Judicial Clerks**

In 1996, an Aboriginal clerk of the court was recruited and trained to serve the Drumheller court circuit, including the Siksika Nation. Since then, two half-time Aboriginal judicial clerks have been recruited and are employed at the Tsuu T'ina Court and Peacemaker Initiative.

## **Aboriginal Court Worker Program <sup>1</sup>**

The Aboriginal Court Worker program has been in existence in Alberta for over 30 years. The program delivers province-wide services to Aboriginal people who are involved in the justice system in either family or criminal court. The program is intended to facilitate and enhance access to justice by assisting Aboriginal people to

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<sup>1</sup> All Aboriginal people (Indian, Inuit or Metis) are eligible for court work services, regardless of their status or place of residence.

obtain fair and culturally sensitive treatment in the justice system, especially during the court process. Aboriginal court workers provide services before, during and after court, provide referrals to other community services, liaise with related agencies, and provide follow up if necessary. Services provided might include language assistance/interpretation and understanding of the court process. The Aboriginal Court Worker program has both a criminal component and a family component.

In four Aboriginal communities, court work programs are provided through agreements between Alberta Justice and community corrections societies or justice commissions created by these communities. They include:

Kainai Community Corrections Society  
Siksika Justice Commission  
Tsuu T'ina Nation/Stoney Corrections Society  
Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society

In other Alberta locations, Native Counselling Services of Alberta provides court work services for Aboriginal people facing criminal charges.

In 2005, as part of its ongoing commitment to providing fair and accessible justice services to Aboriginal people in the province, the Government of Alberta undertook a review of the Aboriginal Court Worker Program. The response from stakeholders was that the program is a valuable service and has strong support to continue.

For further information on the recommendations and government response of the MLA Court Worker Review or for general inquiries regarding the program, contact the Court Services Division at (780) 427-4992 or visit us online at [www.justice.gov.ab.ca](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca)

### **Aboriginal Family Court Work Program**

The Family Court Work Program is funded entirely by the Alberta Government, and provides an opportunity for families appearing before the Provincial Court of Alberta Family Courts to have access to culturally appropriate, reliable assistance during the court process.

The Family Court Work Program is available at all family court circuit points in Alberta. In areas with a greater concentration of Aboriginal people and in larger population centres, court work services are provided for each court sitting. In other areas, courtworkers attend court on an "on-call" basis, if a client requests that they be present.

Native Counselling Services of Alberta holds the only contract for delivering Aboriginal court worker services in Family Court.

## **Aboriginal Criminal Court Work Program**

The Aboriginal Criminal Court Work Program is cost-shared through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada. The program provides Aboriginal people with counselling (other than legal) in relation to court procedures, their rights, and the availability of legal aid and other resources.

The mandate of this program is to facilitate and enhance access to justice by assisting an Aboriginal person, who has been charged with a criminal offence and is before the Criminal Division of the Provincial Court of Alberta, to understand the system and its processes.

# Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Correctional Services Division

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## Community Initiatives

### Aboriginal Addictions Treatment Programs

Specialized addictions services are provided within the context of Aboriginal cultural and spiritual traditions by contracted Community Residential Centres for offenders released on temporary absence or as part of an open custody sentence. The centres include Poundmaker's Lodge (St. Albert) and the Bonnyville Indian/Métis Rehabilitation Centre. Funding for this program is provided by the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security.

For further information contact the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit at (780) 422-2779 or:

Bonnyville Indian/Métis Rehabilitation Centre - (780) 826-3328

Poundmaker's Lodge - (780) 459-1884

### Métis Wilderness Camp

By way of an agreement between the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Environment and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (Zones 1, 2, 5 and 6) in 1993, the Métis Nation Wilderness Camp located in Lac La Biche, accommodates Métis, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in a minimum security camp setting.

The program accommodates male offenders and emphasises Aboriginal culture, substance abuse, lifeskills and employment skills. Work programs include crews working for local communities, as well as provincial and federal parks.

For more information, contact the Métis Wilderness Camp at (780) 623-1799.

### Aboriginal Summer Cultural Camps

Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security has assisted a number of First Nations or Métis communities in Alberta in organizing and providing financial support to Aboriginal summer cultural camps for youth. The camps have a youth leadership focus and bring together Aboriginal youth with Elders to experience Aboriginal culture and spirituality in a traditional setting. Many of the youth who are referred to participate in the camps are at risk or have a history of criminal justice involvement.

Since the inception of the first camp in 1990, youth from Bigstone Cree Nation, Driftpile First Nation, Four Nations at Hobbema, O'Chiese First Nation, Saddle Lake First Nation, Siksika Nation, Stoney Bands, Sunchild First Nation, Tall Cree First Nation, Tsuu T'ina Nation and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Zones 1 and 2 have attended summer camps based in those communities.

For further information, please contact the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit at (780) 422-2779.

### **Assistant Probation Officer Program**

Operating since 1979, the Assistant Probation Officer Program recruits and contracts with private individuals at various locations across the province to deliver community corrections services. Services are primarily provided to adult offenders in remote or isolated communities. The majority of assistant probation officers are of Aboriginal ancestry, with most residing in Aboriginal communities.

For further information on this program, please contact the Community Corrections and Release Program at (780) 422-5757.

### **Community Supervision Program - Aboriginal Offenders**

This program provides supervision to Aboriginal persons with probation, temporary absence, pre-trial or fine option status. This program is delivered by the community and employs Aboriginal people in probation officer positions as well as in administrative support positions. Emphasizing community accountability, this program seeks to reflect the culture, language and traditions of the local communities served by the program.

The program is funded by Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security through formal agreements with the following societies and commissions:

Kainai Community Corrections Society  
Native Counselling Services of Alberta  
Siksika Justice Commission  
Tsuu T'ina Nation/Stoney Corrections Society  
Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society.

For further information on this program, please contact the Community Corrections and Release Program at (780) 422-5757.

### **Kainai Community Correctional Centre**

This community-based correctional program is operated by the Kainai Community Corrections Society and involves the operation of a 24 bed minimum-security correctional centre on the Blood Reserve at Standoff, Alberta. Correctional centre

programs include an Elders program, lifeskills, a community service work program, hobbies/crafts, recreation and release planning services. The program employs members of the Blood Tribe as well as Aboriginal people from surrounding communities who are trained to Correctional Services Division standards.

For further information, please contact Adult Centre Operations at (780) 427-4703 or the Kainai Community Correctional Centre at (403) 737-2666.

### **Kochee Mena Young Offender Group Home**

This open-custody group home is located in Edmonton and is operated by Native Counselling Services of Alberta under a contract for services to Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security. Kochee Mena, which means “try again” in Cree, provides a safe and holistic residential environment for youth serving open custody sentences. The program provides in-house education, cultural programs as well as recreational and independent living programs to help youth prepare for healthy reintegration into the community.

For further information, please contact the Young Offender Branch at (780) 422-5019 or Native Counselling Services of Alberta at (780) 451-4002.

### **Youth Justice Committees**

Youth justice committees are established under Section 18 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* to assist in any aspect of the administration of the Act or in any programs or services for young offenders. Throughout Alberta, there are currently 121 formally designated committees. These committees allow citizens to work out differences between youth offenders, victims and community members; provide support to young offenders; provide community-based resolutions to youth crime; and, provide youth offenders with an alternative to the formal court process and the possibility of time in custody.

Youth justice committees are most frequently involved in the administration of the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program (formally the Alternative Measures Program) or in providing a sentence advisory role to the local youth court judge. Youth justice committees can also be involved in police diversion cases.

The Youth Justice Committee Program earned the province a gold award for Innovative Management from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) in 2002 and was awarded a gold Premiers’ Award of Excellence in 2003.

The earliest youth justice committees in Alberta were established by Aboriginal communities, with the first committee being established at Fort Chipewyan in 1991. There are currently 27 youth justice committees established in Aboriginal communities throughout the province. The principals of the program are supported by Aboriginal

communities in Alberta and are believed to be consistent with Aboriginal traditional values of addressing community issues holistically.

The following youth justice committees have been formally established and are actively involved in the following Aboriginal communities.

Alexander First Nation	Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
Blood Tribe (Stand Off)	Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement
Calgary Aboriginal Youth Restorative Justice	Calling Lake
East Prairie Métis Settlement	Edmonton Native
Elizabeth Métis Settlement	Enoch Cree Nation
Fort Chipewyan	Frog Lake First Nation/Fishing Lake
Gift Lake Métis Settlement	Hobbema-Maskwacis
Kikino Métis Settlement	Nakoda- Stoney Bands at Morley
O'Chiese First Nation	Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement
Peavine Métis Settlement	Piikani Nation
Saddle Lake First Nation	Samson Cree Nation (Nipisihkopahk)
Siksika Nation (Aasitapi)	Valleyview/Sturgeon Lake First Nation
Wabasca/Desmarais	

For more information on the Youth Justice Committee Program, contact the Young Offender Branch at (780) 422-5019.

## **Centre-Based Initiatives**

### **Elders Visitation Program**

Through this program, Elders are contracted to provide spiritual guidance, and counselling, as well as conduct cultural and spiritual ceremonies and activities in adult and young offender correctional centres across the province. They provide support to Aboriginal Program Coordinators and are considered an important component of correctional centre programs. Currently, Elders provide contracted services to centres located in Edmonton, Calgary, Fort Saskatchewan, Lethbridge and Peace River.

### **Native Program Coordinators**

The Correctional Services Division has established a number of full-time Aboriginal Program Coordinator positions for the purpose of providing Aboriginal programming to offenders in adult and young offender correctional centres. The coordinators work closely with local Elders to promote spiritual and cultural activities within the correctional centres such as Sweatlodge Ceremonies, Sweetgrass, Pipe Ceremonies, Pow-Wows, Round Dances and Healing Circles.

Aboriginal Program Coordinators are currently employed at the following centres:

Peace River Correctional Centre  
Edmonton Young Offender Centre  
Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre  
Calgary Correctional Centre  
Lethbridge Correctional Centre

The Native Program Coordinator from Peace River Correctional Centre supports programs at the Grande Prairie Young Offender Centre. Similarly, the Native Program Coordinator from Calgary Correctional Centre supports programs at the Calgary Remand and the Calgary Young Offender Centre. The Native Program Coordinator from Lethbridge Correctional Centre supports programs at the Lethbridge Young Offender Centre.

For further information, please contact Adult Centre Operations at (780) 427-4703 or the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit at (780) 422-2779.



# Public Security Division

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## First Nation Policing and Law Enforcement Initiatives

### Community Tripartite Agreements

In April 2003, the Alexis First Nation, the RCMP and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security signed the first Community Tripartite Agreement in Alberta.

The Bigstone Cree Nation, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Eden Valley and three of the Four Nations at Hobbema have since also entered into the Community Tripartite Agreements. A number of Community Tripartite Agreements with several other Aboriginal communities are currently under negotiation.

The Community Tripartite Agreement is a partnership between governments, police and communities to enhance the level of and policing to the First Nations and to add RCMP officers to existing detachments to meet those requirements. An advisory committee comprised of community representatives, provides advice to the RCMP on community policing initiatives. Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal officers who serve in First Nation communities receive extensive cultural sensitivity training.

### Tripartite Policing Agreements

There are currently five First Nation police agencies providing services to eleven First Nation communities across the province. The following police services have been established by means of a Tripartite Policing Agreement between First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta:

- The **Blood Tribe Police Service** was established in 1989 and has full policing responsibility for the Blood Tribe. The police service operates with 31 officers.
- The **Louis Bull Police Service** was established in 1987 and has full policing responsibility for the Louis Bull Band. The police service operates with five officers.
- The **North Peace Tribal Police Service** was established in 1995. The North Peace Tribal Police Service is a developing police service in partnership with the RCMP and provides policing to the Tallcree First Nation and Little Red River Cree Nation. The police service operates with six officers. The RCMP Fort Vermilion Detachment Commander acts as the Chief of Police.
- The **Tsuu T'ina Nation Police Service** was established in 1995. The Tsuu T'ina Nation Police Service is a developing police service and provides policing for the Tsuu T'ina Nation. The police service is funded for seven Tsuu T'ina Nation officers.

A satellite Tsuu T'ina Nation Community Police Office has also been established in Black Bear Crossing.

## **Other Law Enforcement Initiatives**

### **Special Constable Program**

Special constables constitute a unique category of law enforcement in Alberta. A special constable is a peace officer appointed by Alberta Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, under the *Police Act*, to enforce specific provincial and federal legislation. Employers must be authorized by Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security to employ special constables and traditionally include Municipal Governments, police services, provincial government departments and First Nation communities. There are currently 49 special constables performing full-time police duties in five First Nation communities including the Blood Tribe, Little Red River Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Tallcree First Nation and Tsuu T'ina Nation.

For more information on the program, contact the Public Security Division at (780) 427-3457.

### **Blood Tribe Elders Program**

The Blood Tribe Police has incorporated a unique cultural resource into its police service. It utilizes recognized Elders from the community to provide education to the community about the role of the police, improve relations between the community and the police, and advise the police in the development and delivery of crime prevention initiatives. The Elders are issued a Blood Tribe Police uniform and have access to police vehicles to perform their duties.

For more information, contact the Blood Tribe Police at (403) 737-3800.

## **Crime Prevention Initiatives**

### **Aboriginal Crime Prevention Program**

Crime Prevention Coordinator positions are operating in First Nation communities serviced by the Tsuu T'ina Nation/Stoney Corrections Society, Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society, Kainai Community Corrections, and the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council. Supported through contract agreements administered by Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, the community-based and community directed positions are responsible for coordinating a wide range of crime prevention programs appropriate to local First Nations culture and needs.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Programs at (780) 427-3457.

## **Victims Services Initiatives**

### **Victim Services**

Alberta provides funding for police and community based programs for Aboriginal victims of crime. Programs that receive funding from Alberta's Victims of Crime Fund are expected to provide information, assistance, referrals and support to all victims of crime while they are involved with the criminal justice process.

Some of the services provided to victims of crime by victims services staff, volunteer advocates and police officers include: assistance with victim impact statements, restitution requests, information about financial benefits, crisis intervention, community agency and counselling referrals; and court preparation and support. Training of victim services advocates and presentations to educate the community at large about victim services are also important components of victim services programs.

The Victims Service Branch recently hired a program liaison officer for Aboriginal and isolated communities. This position will focus on building enhanced capacity in Aboriginal and isolated communities in the delivery of services to victims of crime. This position will also respond to the identified gaps in programming and services for victims of crime in Aboriginal and isolated communities.

There are five Aboriginal victims service organizations in Alberta that receive funding through Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security:

- **Assumption Region Community Policing Society**  
This police-based society provides services to the community of Assumption and Rainbow Lake.
- **Blood Tribe Police Victims Services Unit**  
This police-based victims services unit provides services to the communities of the Blood Tribe including Standoff and Cardston.
- **Tsuu T'ina Nation Band - Stoney Corrections Society**  
This community-based victims services unit provides services to Tsuu T'ina, Eden Valley and the Stoney Nations at Morley (Bears paw, Chiniki, Wesley).
- **Wabasca Regional Victims Services Unit**  
This police-based victims services unit consists almost entirely of Aboriginal staff and volunteers who provide information, assistance and support to victims in the Wabasca/Desmarais regional area.

In addition, the **Samson Cree Nation Victims Services Unit** at Hobbema and the **Soaring Eagle Crisis Unit** at Siksika are also Aboriginal community-based victims service units. At this time, these programs receive funding from sources outside the provincial government.

The Department provides funding to a comprehensive network of other victim service units that assist all victims of crime and tragedy, including Aboriginal victims. While not exhaustive, some examples of Aboriginal communities served by victim service units include:

- The **Mackenzie Regional Community Policing Society**, located in Fort Vermillion, is a police-based society which assists Métis people in the surrounding area as well as residents from the Tallcree First Nation (North and South Tallcree) and the Little Red River Cree Nation (John D'or Prairie, Fox Lake and Garden River) The program also employs a Cree speaking assistant coordinator who is based out of the Fox Lake RCMP satellite detachment.
- The **Ranchlands Victims Services Society** provides assistance to victims of crime of the Piikani Nation. This program also provides services to Aboriginal people residing in the Town of Pincher Creek, the M.D of Pincher Creek, Brocket, Claresholm, Fort McLeod, Waterton Lakes National Park and Beaver Mines.
- The **Rocky & District Victim Services Society** has been providing services to victims of crime in the Rocky Mountain House RCMP detachment area since 1995. The Society has also trained Band members of the O'Chiese First Nation and the Sunchild First Nation in suicide prevention.
- The **Victims Services Society of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove and District** is expanding to provide services to the Enoch Cree Nation and the Paul First Nation. A volunteer advocate has been recruited at Enoch to ensure Aboriginal victims receive culturally sensitive information and support.
- The **Valleyview/Sturgeon Lake Victims Services Unit** employs a part time Aboriginal coordinator who is primarily responsibility for providing services to the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

For more information, please contact the Victims Services Branch at (780) 427-3460.

# General

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## Human Resources

### Promotion and Recruitment of Aboriginal Employees

Human Resource Services have provided assistance in coordinating the attendance of Aboriginal employees at career workshops and fairs to promote the Ministry as a potential employer to Aboriginal people. Several ministry employees of Aboriginal descent also participate in the Government of Alberta Ambassador Program.

Recruitment of potential Aboriginal employees takes place on a continuous basis. The Ministry has a number of specific employment opportunities for people who have experience working with Aboriginal communities and can speak an Aboriginal language.

Current employment opportunities are posted on the Alberta Government job board: <http://www.pao.gov.ab.ca/jobs/>

If you would like a detailed job description of an Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security job, please call the contact listed on the job postings.

## Training and Development

The Alberta Solicitor General Staff College provides specialized training for the successful development and implementation of community-based Aboriginal justice initiatives. Examples of this are the Special Constable Training Program which provides training to First Nation Special Constables; Victims Services Coordinator Training which provides training to Victims Service Unit coordinators and to others working in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities; and Camp Officer Basic Training which provides training for Aboriginal communities operating minimum security camps.

Police officers employed by First Nation police services receive training through the RCMP Academy in Regina.

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training is provided on an ongoing basis to Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security staff. In addition to this training, enhanced Aboriginal cultural awareness training is available for Crown prosecutors.

For further information on these training and development initiatives, please contact the Alberta Solicitor General Staff College at (780) 422-6598.

## **Bursaries**

### **Robert C. Carson Memorial Bursary**

A bursary program has been developed for Aboriginal students enrolled in the Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Diploma programs at Lethbridge Community College, Mount Royal College and Grant MacEwan Community College. Aboriginal students enrolled in Law and Criminology programs at the University of Calgary and University of Alberta are also eligible for this bursary

The bursary is intended for students in their second, third or fourth year of the program who have a high grade point average. A total of five \$500 bursaries are available, one for each of the above-mentioned learning institutions. Students can apply through the registrar office of their learning institution.

For more information, please contact the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives unit at (780) 422-2779.

# Grant Funding

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## **Alberta Community Crime Prevention Grant Program**

The Alberta Community Crime Prevention (ACCP) grant program is available as a part of Alberta's Crime Prevention Strategy, founded on recommendations arising from the 1999 Alberta Summit on Justice. The program is available to support communities in delivering crime prevention initiatives. A total of \$600,000 is available annually for communities to access. Incorporated non-profit and volunteer organizations; societies and associations; community-based coalitions and networks (an incorporated fiscal agent must be identified in the application); and Aboriginal communities including Bands and Tribal Councils are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Programs at (780) 427-3457 or visit us online at:

[http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/crime\\_prev/community\\_safety\\_grants.aspx](http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/crime_prev/community_safety_grants.aspx)

## **Alberta Community Restorative Justice Grant Program**

The Alberta Community Restorative Justice (ACRJ) grant program is available to foster community development and capacity to deliver restorative justice processes. A total of \$350,000 is available annually for communities to access. Funds may be used to support facilitator training; develop operating standards and protocols; public education and awareness; and operational costs such as administrative support and volunteer expenses. Organizations that have demonstrated capacity to deliver restorative justice processes that meet the needs of victims, offenders and community may apply for funding to support the direct delivery of restorative justice processes. Incorporated non-profit and volunteer organizations, societies and associations; community based coalitions and networks (an incorporated fiscal agent must be identified in the application); and Aboriginal communities including Bands and Tribal Councils are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Programs at (780) 427-3457 or visit us online at:

[http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/crime\\_prev/community\\_safety\\_grants.aspx](http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/crime_prev/community_safety_grants.aspx)

## Victims Program Grants

Groups and organizations, including Aboriginal groups, that are supported by their community to provide programs and services that benefit victims of crime during their involvement with the criminal justice process are eligible to apply for funding. Priority for funding is given to police-based volunteer programs.

Grant application deadlines are April 1 and October 1. One initiative per organization/applicant per year is eligible to be considered for funding. The maximum grant awarded is \$100,000. Funds must be applied to operational costs.

Before completing an application, groups and organizations who **provide, or are interested in providing, services that benefit victims of crime during their involvement with criminal justice processes**, must contact the Victims Services Branch., toll-free through Service Alberta - 310-0000 at (780) 427-3460, to determine if their project is eligible to be considered for a grant. Further information is available online at:

[http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/victim/program\\_grants.aspx](http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/victim/program_grants.aspx)



# Related Federal Initiatives and Funding

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## Aboriginal Justice Strategy

The Federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy was established on April 1, 1996 as a federal/provincial cost-shared program to assist and support Aboriginal communities in certain justice initiatives. Alberta participates in the federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy (AJS) via a Memorandum of Understanding that recognizes certain in-kind contributions of Alberta Justice, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, and other departments as Alberta's contribution. The term of the strategy was recently extended until March 31, 2007.

The AJS supports four types of alternative justice activities and programs at the community and regional level, cost-shared with the provincial and territorial governments:

- Diversion or alternative measures;
- Community sentencing circles and peacemaking;
- Mediation and arbitration in family and civil cases; and
- Court/Community justice program.

The following community initiatives are currently funded through this federal/provincial cost-shared initiative:

### Métis Settlements General Council Justice Initiative

The Métis Settlements General Council Justice program provides support to eight communities to establish justice committees, operate youth and adult diversion programs, and to further alternative measures programs for their community members. The justice committees use mediation and family group conferencing to address criminal, family and civil matters.

The objective of the program is to strengthen traditional justice values and traditional approaches to practicing justice in the community and support community wellness. Relying on Elders and community members, the justice program focuses on families at risk and victim/offender reconciliation. The program also provides conflict resolution and communication skills.

### **Saddle Lake Restorative Justice Project**

The Saddle Lake Tribal Justice program is a comprehensive youth strategy that includes diversion, prevention and reintegration programming for the residents of the Saddle Lake First Nation. The Circle Hearing Tribunal investigates and adjudicates in a manner that is consistent with the traditional justice values of the community. The program uses family group conferencing and other alternative dispute resolution techniques.

The program strives to identify the causes of anti-social and quasi-criminal behavior through education and awareness. It aims to instill in youth a better sense of responsibility towards themselves, their peers, their families and their community. Similarly, the program aims to develop the tools to intervene early and successfully with children and families in the community before a crisis occurs.

### **Siksika First Nation Aiskapimohkiiks Program**

The Aiskapimohkiiks Program uses a mediation/arbitration model in two phases and incorporates Siksika's customs and traditions for civil and family matters. The first phase is the Aiiptsiniimsta which utilizes mediation. The second phase is Aiskapimohkiiks, which utilizes an arbitration model and is used in cases where the parties cannot agree to a settlement in the mediation phase. Individuals involved in these cases agree to accept a tribunal's decision. The tribunal consists of a three member panel: an independent chairperson, an Elder and a community member. The program also utilizes an Elders Advisory Committee.

### **Tsuu T'ina Nation Peacemaker-Justice Initiative**

The Tsuu T'ina Nation has developed and implemented a First Nation Court which includes the appointment of an Aboriginal provincial court judge, Aboriginal prosecutors, court support services by First Nation members and a Peacemaker component employing culturally-based mediation and alternative dispute resolution. Program support may include child welfare and family law matters, disputes between individuals, between individuals and First Nation, and in diversion for criminal, youth justice and Band regulatory matters.

A Tsuu T'ina Peacemaker Advisory Council provides direction on any and all matters which relate to the establishment, implementation, mandate and administration of the peacemaker program. The Advisory Council is comprised of representatives from the Tsuu T'ina First Nation, the presiding judge of the Tsuu T'ina Court, as well as federal and provincial justice agencies.

### **Yellowhead Tribal Custom Advisory Panels**

The Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society oversees the establishment of the First Nations Custom Advisory Panels, which operate alternative

measures programs. The advisory panels use traditional methods to address conflicts in a transparent manner.

A management team comprised of appropriate members from the participating First Nations oversees ongoing implementation of the program at the community level. In addition, a Tripartite Advisory Committee, comprised of the Director and representatives from federal and provincial justice agencies, provides strategic advice and support to the management team.

Further information on the Aboriginal Justice Strategy can be found at the following website <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/ajs/index.html> or by contacting (306) 975-5116

## **National Crime Prevention Strategy**

The National Crime Prevention Strategy is built on the common sense principle that the surest way to reduce crime is to focus on the factors that put individuals at risk -- factors such as family violence, school problems and drug abuse. This approach is commonly referred to as crime prevention through social development. Its goal is to develop community-based responses to crime, with a particular emphasis on Aboriginal people, youth, and women.

The National Crime Prevention Centre has restructured its funding activities into two new programs.

- Crime Prevention Action Fund- for community organizations and national initiatives.
- Research and Knowledge Development Fund- for research activities, demonstration projects, evaluations and communications initiatives.

The following website provides further information on the Community Mobilization Program:

[www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/prg/cp/index-en.asp](http://www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/prg/cp/index-en.asp)