

Canadian Families and Corrections Network's
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Building stronger and safer communities by assisting families affected by criminal behavior, incarceration and community reintegration.

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"Families and Restorative Justice - the 'original' circle of support and accountability" Conference, November 23-24, 2007, New Brunswick.

During Restorative Justice Week 2007, the Canadian Families and Corrections Network, the John Howard Society of Greater Moncton and Area, and Moncton Community Chaplaincy are hosting a conference on families and restorative justice at the Memramcook Learning Centre, Memramcook, New Brunswick. Presenters are invited to present a 1.5 hour-workshop on a subject relevant to families and the correctional process. Presenters are asked to submit a one-paragraph summary of their workshop presentation by August 1, 2007.

Day One of the conference will feature workshops within a correctional setting. Day Two is a community day that includes workshops on restorative justice and the family of the offender, children and the effects of parental incarceration, security responses to families, assessing family strengths and need, the role of the faith community with families and organizational partnerships for successful family reintegration. The conference will conclude with an evening dinner theatre and the presentation of the Friends of the Family Award. Conference registration information for conference attendees will be available shortly.

The cost of the conference is \$120 and includes two noon meals and the dinner theatre. Registrants are responsible for their own accommodations and can reserve directly with the Memramcook Learning Centre at 1-800-268-2511

To respond to the call for papers or to register for the conference, please go to conference registration page at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/cfcn>.

FAMILY-BASED ORIENTATION AT INTAKE IN THE QUEBEC REGION.

By Mélanie Lacroix

I am presently coordinating the **Family Support Services at Intake Assessment** project at the Regional Reception Centre, Saint-Anne-des-Plaines, QC. This project of the CFCN runs from January 2007 to December 2009 and is funded through the Government of Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre, in collaboration with the ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec.

All Quebec inmates receiving a Federal sentence come to the Regional Reception Centre for assessment before being sent to a minimum, medium or maximum facility to serve their time. I meet with the inmates upon their first few weeks of arrival to give them a restorative justice orientation session on harm incurred to families as direct or indirect victims of crime.

I inform them how crime and incarceration impacts families and the emotional cycle lived by families following the arrest and incarceration. I seek to sensitize them as to how they repair the harm and better support their families.

I offer to send to their families the resources *Time Together* and *One Day at a Time* in order to guide and help them better understand this new world that seems so strange and foreign. I provide good information through written pamphlets free of charge and through the toll free confidential telephone line: 1-877-875-1285.

I give information sessions to the correctional staff pertaining to the importance of a pro-family approach and the family's role as an asset in managing the sentence, preventing recidivism and intergenerational crime.

I will offer family workshops to help them cope with their new reality and offer them tools to help them restructure their lives.

I am also teaming up with a criminology researcher to determine family demographics and to look for ways to prevent recidivism and intergenerational criminality.

The project includes an internet-based 'Virtual Tour'. This will decrease family anxiety particularly before a first institutional visit. It will also be helpful if a caregiver wishes to discuss parental incarceration with a child. The site can be accessed by a home computer, at a CAP site or in a local library that has an Internet connection.

Together we can address harm reduction for families and equip them to better support their loved one during incarceration and reintegration.

SERVICES DE SOUTIEN FAMILIAL LORS DE L'ÉVALUATION INITIALE.

Par Mélanie Lacroix.

Je suis présentement coordonnatrice du projet. Ce projet est financé par le Centre national de prévention du crime du gouvernement du Canada, en collaboration avec le ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec.

Je donne une séance d'orientation à tous les nouveaux détenus à leur arrivée dans le système fédéral au Centre Régional de Réception. Tous les détenus du Québec y passent afin d'être évalués et envoyés au pénitencier qui leur convient le mieux selon l'évaluation faite.

Je rencontre ces détenus pendant leurs premières semaines d'arrivée pour leur donner un atelier selon une approche de justice réparatrice sur les torts causés aux familles.

Je leur parle de l'impact de la criminalité et de l'incarcération sur leurs familles suite à leur arrestation et du cycle émotionnel que les familles vivent suite à ces événements et comment ils peuvent les aider et les supporter.

Je leur offre d'envoyer de la documentation à leur famille afin de bien les orienter dans ce nouvel environnement qui leur semble étrange et incompréhensible.

Les familles de détenus reçoivent une bonne information avec les livrets ressources *Qui purge la peine ?* et *Un jour à la fois* ainsi qu'un service de référence par la biais d'une ligne téléphonique confidentielle sans frais : 1-877-875-1285.

J'offre aussi de la formation au personnel correctionnel face à une approche pro—famille et à l'importance des familles dans le processus de réinsertion du détenu et de la prévention du crime intergénérationnel.

J'offrirai également des ateliers pour les familles des détenus sur différents sujets qui peuvent les outiller adéquatement face à l'incarcération de leur proche.

De plus, je travaille en collaboration avec un chercheur en criminologie afin d'évaluer la démographie des familles et chercher à cerner des

facteurs qui peuvent influencer la récidive et le crime intergénérationnel afin d'y remédier.

Ce projet offre l'accès à une « Visite virtuelle » sur internet qui a pour but de rassurer les familles, particulièrement en prévision d'une première visite en établissement. C'est également utile pour aborder auprès d'un enfant la question de l'incarcération d'un parent. Le site est accessible par ordinateur connecté à l'Internet – à la maison, site du PAC ou bibliothèque locale.

Ensemble, nous pourrions réduire le tort subi par les familles et les outiller afin qu'elles soient un facteur positif pendant l'incarcération et en vue de la réinsertion sociale de leur proche. »

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR'S ANNUAL FAMILY PRISON VISIT.

By Val Corcoran.

One of the biggest fears of one participant in the annual John Howard Society of Newfoundland and Labrador's Annual Family Prison Visit is that the program and the staff will disappear before she is finished with the system. Visiting her son who is serving a life sentence in the Atlantic region is made possible by the Family Prison Visit Program which is funded by Correctional Service of Canada and administered by the John Howard Society's Prison and Family Services.

In existence since 1980, the program continues to provide valuable visiting opportunities to those families who would otherwise not be able to make the trip to visit loved ones incarcerated in Atlantic, Dorchester, Springhill and Westmoreland Institutions. The program's budget of \$11,000.00 covers air and ground transportation, gas, accommodations, meals, take-in food, administration costs and miscellaneous expenses. John Howard Society staff generously volunteer their time to provide transportation, supervision and support to the families and the institutional visits. Springhouse and Mountaintop House offer accommodations, friendly atmosphere and support to both the visiting families and staff.

In 2006, nineteen family members participated in Private Family Visits, socials and daily visits during the weekend of Sept 29 - Oct 2. This required over four months planning and coordination with institutions, Newfoundland inmate groups and

families. Families traveled from all areas of the island of the province including Stephenville, Placentia, Carbonear and the greater Metro St John's area. Four families took advantage of the Private Family Visit program in conjunction with the Family Prison Visit while the remainder participated in regular V&C visits as well as socials in Dorchester, Westmoreland and Springhill Institutions. The Newfoundland Groups planned all events and activities for the participants and their families. Included were barbecues, take in meals and a traditional Newfoundland dinner.

The 2006 Family Prison Visit was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all family members and inmates who participated. Each year the visit is looked on with anticipation and excitement as for many it is the only opportunity they will have for spending quality time with loved ones from home. Family bonds and relationships are maintained and strengthened. In addition to the obvious benefits, families also report that few would be able to afford the costs of traveling or the logistics of planning a visit without the support of the Prison and Family Services of the John Howard Society.

Families often state they are intimidated by the process of visiting a Federal Institution and appreciate the support provided by John Howard Society staff. For many, the involvement in group activities, traveling with JHS staff, and that they are with other people who are experiencing the same issues as they are, contribute to the visit being more enjoyable than if they traveled alone.

Family members, especially those of long term offenders, often report that they do not discuss the visit with anyone in their community, preferring to have their lives kept very private. The Family Prison Visit allows them to combine visiting with support and contact with the John Howard Society. As the program is intricately linked with the JHS Prison Liaison service, they also know that program staff are in contact with their incarcerated family member and provides them ongoing contact and support throughout the year. This makes the whole experience more comfortable for all involved.

The Family Prison Visit would not be a success without the high level of support and cooperation of institutional staff, including their support of the coordinator, suggestions for activities for visits and supervision of weekend activities.

The Newfoundland and Labrador inmates who dedicate their time and energy to helping plan the visit are often the forgotten link in the Family Prison Visit. Their assistance insures that the socials are planned, space is booked, activities are negotiated with staff and that the traditional Newfoundland dinner is prepared and served to the participants and their families.

Finally, the Correctional Service of Canada continues to fund this program with the acknowledgement that it provides a vital service and benefit to inmates and their families from Newfoundland and Labrador. CSC's long-standing contribution goes along way to ensure that those offenders who are transferred far from home communities and loved ones are given the opportunity to spend some quality time with their families. This program would not be able to take place each year without CSC's continued support and funding.

LABRADOR ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM.

By Val Corcoran

Maintaining family bonds, coping with imprisonment and adequately preparing for eventual release are much more difficult for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians serving their sentences in Atlantic, Dorchester, Springhill, Westmoreland and Nova Institutions than for fellow prisoners who may often receive weekly visits from families, friends and local provincial agencies.

Labrador Aboriginal federal inmates are transferred out of their home province to mainland prisons to serve their sentences in facilities in Atlantic Canada - distant from families and friends in coastal Labrador communities. Labrador Aboriginal offenders often experience cultural and languages difficulties as well as separation from their family and communities. Transferred out of their home and culture, they serve their sentences totally isolated from their communities. Their cohesiveness and connections to supportive family relationships is harmed if not entirely severed. This unique and difficult situation causes hardship and suffering not only to the prisoner incarcerated far away from home, but also to the families left behind.

In November 2006, the John Howard Society of Newfoundland and Labrador was awarded Contribution Funding through Correctional Service of Canada to administer the Labrador Aboriginal Family Support Program. The program will provide the opportunity for Aboriginal families to visit their loved ones incarcerated in the Atlantic Region Federal Facilities. The Coordinator of the program will work with the Labrador Inmate group and the Atlantic Region Facilities to establish family visits which will include regular V&C visits and if possible, a social which would include culturally appropriate food and activities.

Families who would not normally be able to participate in the institutional visiting program will have access to funds which will support their efforts and help maintain contacts with incarcerated loved ones. This program will be most beneficial to those serving extended sentences who often disconnect from all outside contact with families and home communities due to their lengthy incarceration.

Planning is currently underway for an Aboriginal Family visit in March and as many individual visits as possible will be funded. The short time available for planning the program has presented challenges. However, concentrated efforts of the part of the JHS Prison and Family Services will allow for at least five family members from the coast of Labrador to participate in the assisted visiting program and social activities. Ongoing liaison with the Labrador inmates has already resulted in increased support and contact.

The Aboriginal Family Support Program has been resubmitted for funding for the 2007 - 2008 fiscal year through Correctional Services Canada Contribution Funding.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY AWARD AT CFCN'S AGM,

NOVEMBER 24, 2007.

By Marie-Claude Delorme.

At its Annual General Meeting, the CFCN rewards a group, organization or individual who understands the importance of families of incarcerated individuals and helps build better relations between families and the Canadian carceral system through their work or lifestyle.

The CFCN's next Annual General Meeting will be held on November 24, 2007 at Memramcook, New Brunswick. The AGM will take place at 4 p.m., prior a dinner theatre. A membership in the CFCN is included as part of the conference registration fee, so conference attendees will be eligible to vote during the CFCN's AGM.

If you know someone who has demonstrated the importance of families affected by the Canadian

justice and correctional process through their work or lifestyle, this would be who succeeded, through a public relations activity, through personal experience, or through personal or professional achievement, to communicate the role of families, correctional officials and staff, or community agencies and resources and their role with families; then please fill out the form below and send it to the CFCN.

Friends of the Family Award Nomination Form

Nominee information:

Category: Individual category [] or Group category []

Name:

Title:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Nominator information:

Name:

Title:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Has the nominated individual, organisation or group agreed to the nomination?

Yes [] No []

Please provide the following information on your nominee:

- 1. General information on your nominee.**
- 2. A description on how your nominee meets the criteria for the Friends of the Family Award.**
- 3. A description of the significance or impact of your nominee's role, actions or achievement and its effect on an individual, group, community, organisation or resource.**
- 4. Please provide two letters of support from persons who are aware of the nominee's role, actions or achievement. Where possible, one letter of support will be from a family member who was affected by incarceration. Letters of support may not be provided from someone in a kinship relationship.**

Please forward the nomination information to:

Canadian Families and Corrections Network

Box 35040 Kingston ON K7L 5S5 E-mail: cfcn@sympatico.ca Fax: 613-549-8583

For further information, please contact the CFCN at (613) 541-0743

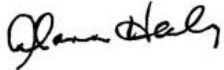
CFCN MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal for April 2007 - March 2008 are now available. Your membership ensures that you will receive the Families and Corrections Journal. Your membership also supports development work to CFCN's mission of "building stronger and safer communities by assisting families affected by criminal behaviour, incarceration and community reintegration."

Your financial support beyond your individual membership is needed for the CFCN's mission. Each year, the CFCN provides support to over 2000 families and children across Canada. The CFCN is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number: 875428062RR0001). You will receive a \$20 tax receipt with your purchase of a \$30 membership. Please consider a financial donation to the CFCN, and you will be sent a receipt for income tax purposes for any donation of \$10.00 or more.

Thank you again for supporting the work of the CFCN.

Yours truly,



Alana Healy,
Facilitator,
CFCN Steering Committee

Membership 1 April 2007- 31 March 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

- _____ Corporate Patron: \$175.00 +
- _____ Non-Profit Agency: \$65.00
- _____ Individual: \$30.00
- _____ Student/Senior/ Underwaged: \$10.00
- _____ Prisoner Group: \$Donation

Please send me an electronic copy of the Families and Corrections Journal. I do not wish to receive the hard copy version so that my membership further assists the CFCN.

Please make your cheque payable to:

CFCN Box 35040 Kingston ON K7L 5S5

ABONNEMENT: 1 AVRIL 2007- 31 MARS 2008

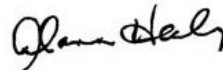
Veillez trouver ci-joint votre demande de renouvellement d'abonnement au Regroupement canadien d'aide aux familles des détenu(e)s pour 2007-2008. Cet abonnement vous permet de recevoir le journal «Families and Corrections». Cet abonnement aide également au travail de développement afin de construire des communautés plus sécuritaires et plus fortes en aidant les familles affectées par le comportement criminel, l'incarcération et la réintégration communautaire.

Le RCAFD est maintenant un organisme de bienfaisance enregistré (numéro d'enregistrement d'organisme de bienfaisance: 875428062RR0001). Vous recevrez un reçu pour fins fiscales de 20.00\$ lors de l'abonnement au coût de 30.00\$.

Un appui financier au delà de votre abonnement est requis pour remplir la mission du RCAFD. Chaque année, RCAFD vient en aide à plus de 2000 familles et enfants à travers le Canada. Veillez considérer un appui financier au RCAFD, et vous recevrez un reçu pour fins fiscales pour tout don de 10.00\$ et plus.

Nous sommes heureux de votre participation au travail du RCAFD.

Bien à vous,



Alana Healy,
Présidente du Conseil d'administration, RCAFD

Abonnement 1 avril 2007- 31 mars 2008

Nom: _____

Adresse: _____

Ville: _____

Code postal: _____

Courriel: _____

Téléphone: _____

- _____ Organisation membre : \$175.00 +
- _____ Organisme sans but lucratif : \$65.00
- _____ Particulier : \$30.00
- _____ Étudiant/aîné/faible revenu : \$10.00
- _____ Groupe de prisonnier(ère)s : Don

Veillez me faire parvenir une copie électronique du journal "Families and Corrections". Je ne désire pas recevoir de copie papier afin que mon abonnement serve à appuyer encore plus le RCAFD.

Veillez libeller vos chèques à l'ordre du :

RCAFD CPO 35040 Kingston ON K7L 5S5

The Families and Corrections Journal is produced by the Canadian Families and Corrections Network. The CFCN is a Canadian charity, registration number 875428062RR0001, and is governed by a volunteer Steering Committee.
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