

2014 - 2015
Annual Report

CCJC



CÉJC

**The Church Council
on Justice and Corrections**

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections



...serves as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections.

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About CCJC

Our Mission: CCJC is a national, faith-based coalition of churches and individuals that fosters crime prevention and healthy community through restorative approaches to corrections, education, advocacy, and social responsibility. Incorporated in 1972 by eleven founding churches, our mandate is to assist those we serve to reflect on the nature of justice, to examine the impact of the present system on the lives of those it touches, and to search for pathways of change. Our current member denominations include: the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the Mennonite Central Committee Canada, and the Disciples of Christ. Several Religious Orders and Communities are also CCJC members and provide financial support for our work. We also receive funding from Public Safety Canada. In 2014-15 we provide financial and administrative management to the CoSA National Demonstration Project. CCJC holds affiliations, memberships and/or collaborates with secular and Government agencies working for compassionate change in the systems of justice and corrections. They are: National Association Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ), the Collaborative Justice Program, Ottawa Restorative Justice Network, Correctional Service of Canada, Canadian Collaboration on Child Protection, and the Transforming Communities Network and ecumenical ministries involved in peace and social justice.



Board of Directors and Staff

Board of Directors

Nancy Steeves, President
The United Church of Canada

Sharon Dunlop, Vice-President
The Anglican Church of Canada

Rebecca Bromwich, Treasurer
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Sarah Chandler, Secretary Independent

Stephen Siemens, Director Mennonite
Central Committee Canada

Laurent Champagne, Past President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Scott MacIsaac, Director Disciples of
Christ

Greg Dunwoody, Director
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Steve Bradley, Director
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Jill Bench, Director, Independent

John De Vries, Director, Christian
Reformed Church in North America



L to R: Nancy Steeves, Steve Bradley, Sarah Chandler, Jon De Vries, Laurent Champagne, Sharon Dunlop, Stephen Siemens, Rebecca Bromwich, Greg Dunwoody, and Kathryn Bliss

CCJC Staff

Schuyler Playford, Manager of Operations and Project Development

Kathryn Bliss, Manager of Education and Community Engagement

Sandie Lessard, Finance

CoSA National Demonstration Project Staff (March 2014-September 2014)

Jill Bench, National Coordinator Ann Morneau

CoSA Project Associate Maggie McPhail

CoSA Project Administrative Assistant



CCJC staff members Kathryn Bliss and Schuyler Playford with the Justice Story-telling Quilt

President's Message



This is our 42nd year as an ecumenical council seeking to serve as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections. After celebrating our diamond anniversary and experiencing a further year of transition, this has been the year of new beginnings. Our board gave considerable time and energy to strategic planning over the past year enabling us to prioritize and organize the work of the council in accordance with our vision and mandate. We have a new staffing model, new projects underway, new office location at St. Paul's University and have been seeking new sources of funding.

We concluded a five year commitment to the Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) National

Demonstration project at the end of September, 2014. The evaluation report was released on February 4th, 2015. The report is the first of its kind in Canada, and is a valuable addition to the growing body of international research showing that CoSA works. With the conclusion of this work, we expressed our gratitude to the CoSA staff whose positions came to an end, namely Ann Morneau, who served as the Project Associate, Maggie McPhail who served as Project Assistant and Jill Bench, National Demonstration Project Co-ordinator.

We undertook a Victim Impact Project with funding from Public Safety Canada (PSC) from October 2014 to March of 2015, piloting a Victim Impact program with the Collins Bay Institution. The project involved training volunteers in a program to develop empathy in offenders with respect to the harm their victims have experienced. The evaluation of this pilot project highlights the huge capacity for change and growth present in participants. We have received some funding from a further grant and hope to revise and extend this empathy program with female inmates in a partnership with Women's Inter-Church Council (WICC).

We have continued to conduct restorative justice workshops, created opportunities for education and interaction with our story telling quilt supported by a new digital format, participated in conversations with those providing religious and spiritual care in our some of our correctional facilities and with community chaplaincy, championed Restorative

Justice week and supported Victims Awareness Week with a meaningful Ottawa based event and provided valuable resources on our website. We continue to produce and post our publication, SAGE, with timely articles on restorative approaches to justice and corrections. In November, 2014 we participated in the National Restorative Justice Symposium in Banff, AB offering two well received workshops and engaging participants in experiencing the CCJC Quilt.

We have been very well served by the work of our staff team: Schuyler Playford as Manager of Operations and Project Development together with Kathryn Bliss as Manager of Education and Community Engagement. We are grateful for the continuity, wisdom and support we receive from Sandie Lessard with respect to bookkeeping and accounting matters. We celebrate our staff team along with generous volunteers who give this work their skills and dedication. I am honored to serve CCJC alongside our staff, volunteers and a complement of talented, faithful and committed board members.

It is a time of possibility and challenge. We remain committed to the light we have received from participating denominations, staff, supporters, members and friends of CCJC. This is a time that calls for prudent management of our financial resources, creativity to secure new sources of funding and vision to meet this time in which we find ourselves. Out of a rich history, we bring our creativity, capacity for discernment and commitment to restorative practices to the long adaptive work of being faithful to our vision.

We are grateful for many conversation partners including the Government of Canada, the churches of our supporting denominations, religious communities and other non-profit organizations. As we step into the gift and challenge of time, we commit ourselves anew to the continuing work of enhancing restorative and healing possibilities for victims and offenders of crime; for building healing and restorative relationships in our churches and communities.



Nancy L. Steeves

President

CoSA National Demonstration Project

Kathryn Bliss

This year saw the completion of a five year Circles of Support and Accountability National Demonstration project funded through the National Crime Prevention Centre of Public Safety Canada. The result of this project is a comprehensive evaluation report of CoSA in Canada. The report was officially released in February 2015 in collaboration with CoSA Canada and is [available on our website](#).

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is a community-based reintegration program, grounded in restorative justice principles, that holds sex offender's accountable for the harm they have caused while assisting with their task of re-entry into communities at the end of their sentences.

This evaluation report is the first of its kind for CoSA in Canada in that it provides an in-depth look at the process dynamics of CoSAs through site case studies. The report addresses the question of what goes on in a circle of support and accountability, something that has not previously been examined. It also brought into question the sustainability of CoSA in Canada, given federal funding cuts to many sites on March 31, 2015. This report, along with similar research, indicates that CoSA is a critical tool in the re-integration for high-risk, high needs sexual offenders in Canada and plays an essential role in reducing sexual victimization and keeping communities safe.

A close look at the inner workings of CoSA reveals a program where dedicated staff and volunteers strive to provide vital integration support to individuals being released from federal correctional facilities into communities across Canada. Most importantly, this report demonstrates how CoSA programs provide a necessary compliment to formalized support structures through a focus on building supportive relationships between recently released offenders, staff, and circle volunteers who understand what's at stake in holding offenders accountable to the community.



Through the last five years CoSA sites have had the opportunity to meet once a year and share their successes and challenges as organizations doing this work. Through these gatherings the sites have come together to form a national organization as a dedicated voice for CoSA in Canada. This year marked an important time for CoSA in Canada with the completion of the National Demonstration project and a new beginning under the umbrella of CoSA Canada.

Empathy Project

Schuyler Playford



CCJC is currently working on a project designed to cultivate empathy, especially among people in prisons. CCJC's Empathy Project consists developing and piloting programs that promote empathy through an examination of victim impact. These programs – to be run in prisons and in the community – aim to improve community safety by helping to integrate incarcerated people into the community while holding them accountable for the harm done by their crimes.

With support from Public Safety Canada in 2014-15, CCJC oversaw a pilot project using the victim impact curriculum developed by [You Have the Power](#). You Have the Power is a Nashville based organization dedicated to raising awareness about crime and justice issues through victim advocacy and community education programs. This project involved adapting the curriculum for use in

Canadian prisons. The program was then delivered by an experienced facilitator and prison chaplain. CCJC's evaluation of that program, and next steps, were discussed at [Seeing Through the Bars](#) in April, 2015. We seek opportunities to replicate and enhance the pilot program by connecting with Canadian prison chaplains. We are also exploring how to enhance empathy among people touched by the criminal justice system by adapting the victim impact curriculum for use with incarcerated women (supported by the Women's Inter-Church Council in 2014-15) and in the community.

To learn more about our work victim impact programs, or to get involved, contact info@ccjc.ca.

Financial Report

Rebecca Bromwich

The mandate of the CCJC Finance Committee is to assist the CCJC Board in fulfilling its responsibility to ensuring the financial sustainability and accountability of the organization. The Committee fulfills this function in various ways:

- It oversees the financial and control system and the appointment of an auditor;
- It reviews the investment portfolio, the annual auditor's report, and the organization's monthly financial statements;
- It makes recommendations for appropriate policies about the annual budget and about fundraising needs;
- It advises the Board on particular financial issues; and
- It reports regularly to the Board.

The Committee has the following members: Rebecca Bromwich (Treasurer), Jill Bench, Richard Haughian, and Schuyler Playford (staff). The Committee meets on a monthly basis. For the past few years, the Committee has been actively involved in promoting to the executive the convergent needs for responsible management of financial resources and a need for increased focus on fundraising in a time of shrinking revenues from traditional sources.

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections: Financials 2014-15

REVENUE

Donations and Grants	
Supporting denominations	\$37,656
Religious societies	\$9,550
Federal government	\$45,061
Memberships	\$138
Supporters	<u>\$4,779</u>
	\$97,184

Fundraising	\$1,080
Interest	\$42
Miscellaneous	\$3,918
Income from projects (schedule)	<u>\$817,868</u>
	\$920,092

EXPENSES

Projects (schedule)	\$819,069
Administrative (schedule)	<u>\$91,910</u>
	<u>\$910,979</u>

NET REVENUE (EXPENSES) FOR THE YEAR	<u><u>\$9,113</u></u>
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Financial Picture as of March 31, 2015

ASSETS

CURRENT

Cash	\$58,802
Short-term investments	-
Accounts receivable	\$387,860
Prepaid expenses	<u>\$10,608</u>
	<u><u>\$457,270</u></u>

LIABILITIES

CURRENT

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$367,898
Deferred contributions (note 5)	<u>\$4,000</u>
	\$371,898

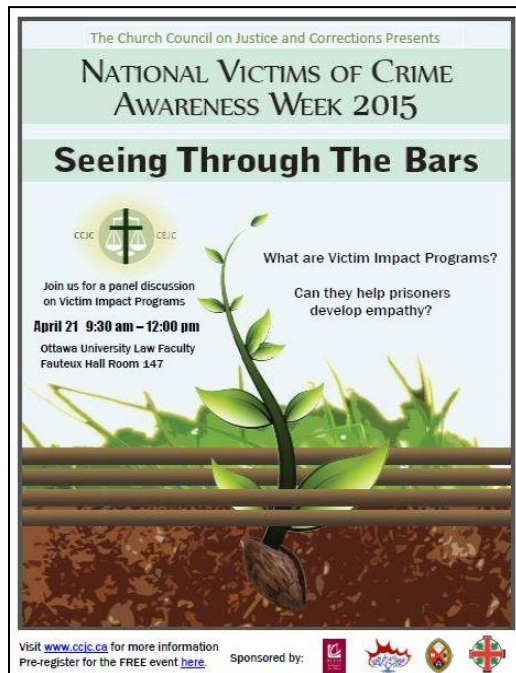
NET ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED

Operating	<u>\$85,372</u>
	<u><u>\$457,270</u></u>

Victims Pastoral Care Committee

Stephen Siemens



The Victims Pastoral Care Committee met regularly during the fall and winter to plan an event for Spring 2015. During this year's National Victims of Crime awareness week CCJC presented *Seeing Through the Bars* at the University of Ottawa on April 21st. The event was designed to introduce people to our victim impact programs in prisons and promote empathy behind bars. Approximately 35 individuals were in attendance to hear from our panelists and participate in lively Q & A.

The panelists included Kate Johnson: the chaplain who first ran the first *You Have The Power* (YHTP)-based victim impact course in Canada, to offer a facilitator's perspective and to share anecdotal results from the program; Steve Sullivan: Canada's first federal ombudsman for victims and current ED of Ottawa Victim Services, to offer a victim services perspective on the value of such programs; Schuyler Playford: to talk about CCJC's evaluation of our victim impact program this winter, and our plans for the next steps of the Empathy Project. Kathryn Bliss: presented on the origin of Victim Impact Curriculum and provide a brief overview of the curriculum.



Panelist Kate Johnson at *Seeing Through the Bars* in April, 2015

After the morning event CCJC held a roundtable lunch to further brain storm the “where to go from here” question with respect to victim empathy work. We left the event feeling energized with new project supporters, potential partners and several concrete ideas of where to promote this work in Canada. One new possibility was to develop a victim-focused program for incarcerated women, and also the strong possibility of creating a Canadian victim impact curriculum.

Since April 21st CCJC staff has been pursuing the following:

- Video of the *Seeing Through the Bars* now uploaded.
 - See www.ccjc.ca/current-projects or www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAMH85NVgqc&feature=youtu.be
- Shared present findings to Public Safety Canada at a joint NAACJ – PSC meeting on June 18, 2015
- Developing a victim impact pilot project with incarcerated women for 2015-16
- Developing a project to run victim impact programs in 5-10 Canadian prisons in 2016
- Developing a victim awareness-empathy program for use in the youth diversion context
- Creating an evaluation to examine the “family link”, i.e. to evaluate more concretely the effect of victim impact programs on offenders’ relationships with their families and their readiness for RJ family reunification programs

For more information about the work of the Victims Pastoral Care Committee and to join this committee as a volunteer, please contact, info@ccjc.ca

Education and Outreach

Kathryn Bliss

The 2014-15 fiscal year CCJC has continued to work towards its core mission of shining a light on restorative approaches to justice and corrections. Each year we seek new ways to engage our membership to think about how justice impacts our communities. Our website continues to be our primary means of making our resources available to people. CCJC took an active role in Restorative Justice Week as a way of promoting a wider awareness of the benefits of restorative practices. The theme for this year's Restorative Justice Week (November 16-22, 2014) was 'Inspiring Innovation'. This theme continues to inspire practitioners, policy makers and supporters to push restorative justice in new and creative ways. CCJC created a number of resources that were made available to our membership as well as through our website. In order to directly engage our member churches our "homiletic resource" provided congregations with a way to honour restorative justice week through the chosen lectionary readings.

CCJC was pleased to be able to participate in this year's National Restorative Justice Symposium held in Banff Alberta. The workshop was titled "Ripped Apart and Stitched Together," focused on examining two large pieces of artwork each displaying a compilation of images. The first, a 26 X 2 foot frieze of a one-year collection of images of people arrested and published in the St. John's Telegram newspaper. In each, the names and eyes of those arrested are blacked out. Though visibly present, there are no voices. This piece was created



by multi-media artist Gerald Vaandering. The second, CCJC's Justice Story-telling Quilt, a 2.3 m X 1.4 m fabric quilt, by artist Meagan O'Shea. Each piece was been created and sewn by people whose lives have become entwined through crime, those harmed and those causing harm.

The two pieces, juxtaposed, challenged workshop participants to consider personal and societal perspectives of justice, what is it and when is it accomplished? To further connect the show to the viewer two questions were posed with the works —What do you need from others when you are harmed? What do you need from others when you cause harm? How can communities work to meet these needs?

CCJC staff also participated in a panel at Collins Bay Institution in Kingston marking Restorative Justice Week. CCJC was able to share the history of Restorative Justice in

Canada and to highlight contributions that CCJC has made to the conversation about justice in Canada over the past forty-two years.

[CCJC's E-bulletin, SAGE](#) continues to gather the voices of our partners and individuals faithful to the CCJC vision of a more compassionate justice system. Our spring issue looked



at Children and Families of the Incarcerated. Often family members are left to deal with not only the emotional consequences of crime but also the financial consequences. SAGE no. 7 offered some insights into this complex issue as well highlighting some important work being done by our member denominations and partners. Our winter issue of SAGE explored some New Directions in Restorative Justice work. As a theory and approach to justice, restorative justice is constantly evolving, as people push

forward and expand our understanding of restorative justice. SAGE no.8 gathered articles from people who are working to expand both our understanding and practical uses of restorative justice.

We are already looking forward to this year's Restorative Justice Week and the many other opportunities we will have to promote the values of restorative justice. We hope you will join us as we spread the word and help to raise awareness of importance of community responsibility of justice.

CCJC Quebec Report

Nancy Labonte, CEJCQ President 2013-2015

We present the 2014-2015 activities of the Conseil des églises pour la justice et la criminologie du Québec (CEJCQ). We organized some events throughout the year: the Laurent Champagne conference on May 20, the Entrée Libre opening on September 11 and Restorative Justice Week from November 16 to 21. Three reflection activities will be added to these events: the Jésus au milieu des exclus workshop on 20 October, Healing day on May 30 and the publication of an article on the CEJCQ mission.

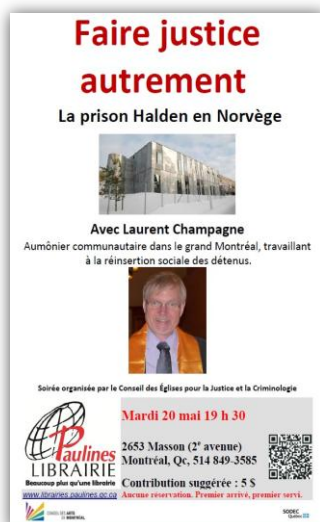
Reflection and Action

At the end of 2014, number 161 of the Revue Cécuménisme was published, on the subject of prison chaplaincy. Our president, Nancy Labonté, wrote an article on the mission of CEJCQ.

The AGM of the Conseil des églises pour la justice et la criminologie, National Section (Ottawa, CCJC) was held October 20 at Ermitage St. Croix in Pierrefonds. Right afterward, our Quebec chapter presented its workshop "Jésus marche au milieu des exclus", hosted by Nancy Labonté of CEJCQ and Maria Teresa Zambrano.

Entrée Libre organized a day of healing for its community on May 30, 2015 at Église St-Victor. The day was moderated by Nancy Labonté of CEJCQ and Maria Teresa Zambrano..

Laurent Champagne's May 20th conference



On May 20 at 19:30, we organized a conference at the Librairie Paulines, on the humanizing prison in Norway. Laurent Champagne presented a history of its implementation and of Canada's influence on the creation of Halden prison..

Entrée Libre opening September 11th

The second event of the period was the season opening for Entrée Libre! All these good people do not even know how powerful they are, said a new participant in the talking circle. We prayed at the cemetery before a list of FPS numbers and then on to Entrée Libre. The reflection began on the history of this dark day, then we reflected together on depression in prison and outside, and on the work of the Holy Spirit, then on spiritual transformation.

Restorative Justice Week, November 16-21

During National Restorative Justice Week, we organized two events in collaboration with Montreal Community Chaplaincy (ACMTL) and the Centre for Services in Restorative

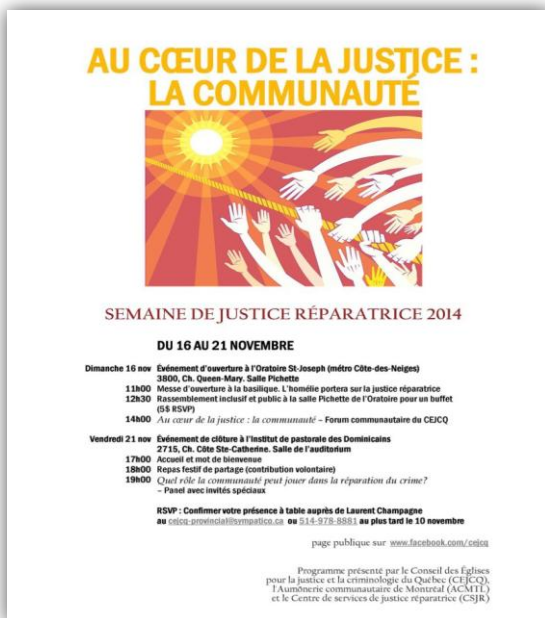
Justice (CSJR). As with every year since 1996, the National Restorative Justice Week was an opportunity for the Church Council on Justice and Correction of Quebec (CEJCQ) to participate in the community forum of the Montreal region and strengthen collaboration between members of the restorative justice network. We chose to explore the theme: "At the heart of justice: the community." The two activities the CEJCQ contributed to during the 2012 Restorative Justice Week are the opening day at the Saint Joseph's Oratory and the closing ceremony at the Dominican Institute.

The week began on Sunday, November 16, 2014 at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. Masses opened the week and introduced nearly 3,000 believers to restorative justice. David Fines, Protestant pastor, presented an engaging homily. After the Masses that began the day, an opening reception was held in the Pichette Oratory, hosting about 70 people. To begin, we took the time to eat together. Then we started the event of the day, which was a healing circle. To close the week, the participants met at the Dominican Pastoral Institute in Montreal to eat together and to live a new experience on Friday, November 21, 2014. The conference and panel hosted by Patrick Altimas of ASRSQ, Marie-Ève Lamoureux for the AJOs and the Office of the Correctional Investigator Canada, represented by Marie-France Kingsley explored the question: What role can the community play in restorative justice?

Concluding Remarks: Seeing the heart of Justice

At the return of the closing event for Restorative Justice Week, I saw the heart of justice. And what is at the heart of justice is the unavoidable role of the community. I will say frankly that my heart was touched when I all this light among those present in the Dominican auditorium. We mpted the problem of the community in the restorative justice equation. For it is difficult to return to the community after serving decades inside, or to live in a community with a silent identity, that of a victim of crime. The group's response was moving. When we take the time to meet, there is a kind of justice "in the heart of the community", a subtle justice that repairs in depth.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board members for their work this year. Without coordinating staff, we all set ourselves to the task of engaging in the big events that keep the organization alive. Thanks also go to our partners, the Centre for Services in Restorative Justice (CSJR) and the Archidiocèse de Montréal, for their support and ideas. And more specifically, volunteers who helped with the activities: André Charest, Teresa Maria Zambrano, Christophe De Muylder, Brian McDonough, Patrick Altimas of ASRSQ, Marie-Ève Lamoureux for the AJOs, the Office of



the Correctional Investigator of Canada, Marie-France Kingsley, and those who work in anonymity, the many participants in the activities.

This year was marked by the reflexivity of a theology of restorative justice. All believers approach the justice of Jesus philosophically, but in practice, the restorative justice of Jesus often comes from the community.

**The Church
Council on
Justice and Corrections**



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