



The Church Council on Justice and Corrections

2015-2016

Annual Report

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, the Transforming Communities Network and ecumenical ministries involved in peace and social justice.



Board of Directors and Staff

Sharon Dunlop, President
The Anglican Church of Canada

Jill Bench, Vice-President
Independent

Rebecca Bromwich, Treasurer
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Sarah Chandler, Secretary
Independent

Scott MacIsaac, Director
Disciples of Christ

Nancy Steeves, Past President
The United Church of Canada

Randy Klassen, Director
Mennonite Central Committee Canada

John DeVries, Director
Christian Reformed Church

Greg Dunwoody, Director
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Tasmin Rajotte, Director
Religious Society of Friends

Kenneth Kuhn, Director
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

From right to left:

Nancy Steeves, John
Devries, Greg
Dunwoody, Sharon
Dunlop, Sarah
Chandler, Schuyler
Playford, Scott
MacIsaac, Kathryn Bliss



CCJC STAFF

Schuyler Playford
*Manager of Operations
& Project Development*

Cindy Ayala
Empathy Project Manager

Kathryn Bliss
*Manager of Education
& Community Engagement*

Sandie Lessard
Finance

A Message from our President



This is the 43rd year of service as an ecumenical council for The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC). When the board and staff gather together, it is a tradition that a candle is lit to begin our discussions. The candle is a symbol of Christ's presence in the room guiding our thoughts and conversations; the light from the candle symbolizes hope in a darkened world; and it serves as a visible reminder that CCJC serves *"... as a shining light for restorative approaches to justice and corrections."*

We have been grateful to our staff team of Schuyler Playford, Manager of Operations and Project Development and Kathryn Bliss, Manager of Education and

Community Engagement for their energetic and enthusiastic leadership in the various CCJC projects as well as in representing the organization in partner agencies. We are thankful for the dedication of Sandie Lessard, our bookkeeper and the work of Cindy Ayala on the Empathy Project. Sadly, Schuyler is leaving CCJC to pursue educational interests. We wish Schuyler well in her new endeavour and look forward to an opportunity to work together in the future.

This past year has brought many exciting events in the life of CCJC! Our new office at St. Paul's University is proving to be a favourable location. Students have expressed interest in learning about the work CCJC is involved in, particularly in the area of restorative justice. Following the leadership change in the federal government in October 2015, CCJC took advantage of the opportunity to write to the Ministers of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Justice for the purpose of introducing CCJC to them and to invite the ministers to meet with us. Our invitation has been favourably received. CCJC's theme for Restorative Justice Week, 2015 was "Imagine Justice". CCJC celebrated the 10th anniversary of our story-telling quilt by launching a new initiative - "Imagine Justice Art Exhibit". People across the country were invited to submit art, poetry or texts that had a restorative justice theme. Restorative Justice Week was also observed with a five-part series of infographics. A different theme was presented each day of the week. Lectionary readings and homiletic notes for the two Sundays in Restorative Justice Week were also made available. Please visit our website and Facebook page to view the art selections in our Imagine Justice Art Gallery as well

as the daily infographics and spiritual reflections. CCJC was well-represented by our two staff persons at the National Restorative Justice Symposium in Quebec City, QC in November. Much interest was garnered when staff spoke about the Empathy Project, a program designed to increase awareness about how an act of crime has impacted the victim. Reaction to this program has been favourable both from the chaplains and volunteers who presented it and from the men and women who participated in it. participated in it. Interest in this program has been expressed from many correctional sites as well as other agencies including those advocating on behalf of victims' rights. In March, our project manager led a panel discussion about the merits of the Empathy Project at a Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime education event along with a prison chaplain and an inmate who participated in the program and enthusiastically supports it. This program is restorative, leading to healing and forgiveness. It is CCJCs hope to support the expansion of this program in federal institutions across Canada.

This Spring, the federal government launched "Victims and Survivors of Crime Week". The theme was "The Power of Our Voices" where our staff represented CCJC at the one day symposium in Gatineau, QC.

In 2015, after five years of intense study and interviews of residential school survivors, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission presented to the people of Canada 94 Calls to Action for their review and response. Seventeen of these Calls are directly related to justice issues. CCJC will highlight and respond to these Calls. We encourage our friends and supporters to do the same.

CCJC is grateful for the financial support received from our member denominations, Public Safety Canada and individual donors and various groups. We are very proud of and grateful to our board member John de Vries, who raised donations for CCJC through his annual Marathon for Healing Justice run in Boston.

When our board meetings are complete, the flame of the candle is extinguished but the flame that burns within our hearts remains as we go back out into the world to do the work we have been called to do. May the flame that burns within you energize you to seek restorative approaches to bring healing in the world.



Sharon Dunlop
President, *The Church Council on Justice and Corrections*

Financial Report

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 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.

CCJC Financials 2015-2016

REVENUE

Donations and Grants	
Supporting Denominations	\$29,130
Religious Societies	\$15,430
Federal Government	\$45,061
Memberships	\$ 108
Supporters	\$ 3,753
Total	\$93,482
Fundraising	\$ 1,791
Interest	\$ 36
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,575
Income from Projects (Schedule)	\$41,521
Total	\$ 140,405

EXPENSES

Projects (Schedule)	\$ 39,045
Administrative (Schedule)	\$ 119,610
Total	\$ 158,655
<i>NET REVENUE (EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR</i>	\$ 18,250

Financial Picture as of March 31st, 2016

ASSETS

Cash		\$ 36,450
Accounts		\$ 38,109
Prepaid Expenses		\$ 5,371
Total		\$ 79,930

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities		\$ 10,308
Deferred Contributions (note 5)		\$ 2,500
Total		\$ 12,808
UNRESTRICTED		\$ 67,122
Total		\$ 79,930

Empathy Project 2015-2016

In 2015-16 CCJC continued working on a project designed to cultivate empathy, especially among people in prisons. The Empathy Project involves 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. In the fall of 2015 we were pleased to receive a grant from Public Safety Canada to continue this work and build capacity for these programs in Canadian prisons.

In January 2016 CCJC held facilitator training, at Saint Paul's University in Ottawa. A total of 18 facilitators were trained, the group ranged from chaplains in federal institutions to prison volunteers to a project officer from Chaplaincy (CSC), but they all came with the same goal in mind – provide inmates with the tools and language to better understand the physical, financial, emotional and spiritual impacts of their crimes on primary and secondary victims. Nicole Heidemann, a victim impact curriculum author, experienced victim impact facilitator and trainer, led the training. Donna Watson-Elliott, from Ottawa Police Services Victims Unit also provided training on issues relating to trauma.



Once trained, facilitators ran the courses weekly from the end of January to the end of March 2016. A total of eighty-three prisoners completed the program at seven sites. A professional evaluator hired by CCJC to design an appropriate evaluation for this project. In order to evaluate the program and learn more about its effectiveness participants were asked to fill out a short questionnaire at the beginning of the course and then again at the end. In addition, the evaluator held an in person “Story Circle” with the women in order to gain a more in-depth understanding of their experiences of the

program. A story circle resembles a focus group however, instead of seeking opinions the circle captures experiences. Participants respond, each in turn, to broad and open ended “story prompts” that ask them to describe their experiences in the program.

Many participants had told their facilitator that they came into the program with an understanding that the victims of their crimes had suffered, however, the program allowed them to gain an in-depth knowledge of the pain and scope of victim impact. Several participants described how they shared what had learned with others who expressed a lack of understanding of the effects of crime on victims. One inmate described a conversation with her mother:

“When I was talking to my mom she said something and I had to educate her about secondary victims... she didn’t realize how they can also be impacted.”

We heard many stories from prisoners to suggest they had developed an increased understanding of victim impact:

“I will approach ETA different. More belief in my victims and what they said they went through”

Through the evaluation process we were able to better understand how individuals experienced this program and make some conclusions regarding their effectiveness. Overall, the success of the groups depends, to some extent, on having individuals who feel comfortable with each other. Participants need to be willing to share their emotions and face some difficult feelings with others. The voluntary nature of the program goes a long way to ensuring that participants are genuinely interested in the program. The victim impact program appears to build on existing empathy and understanding to provide participants with insight into the depth and scope of victim impact. Given that no other programs in prison address victims, the importance of a program such as this cannot be underestimated as this presents. However, ongoing program development and research will be necessary to ensure that the program content meets the needs of inmate. The program remains in high demand at institutions and facilitators continue to offer the program. To learn more about victim impact programs, or to get involved, contact info@ccjc.ca.

Education & Community Engagement



Through the 2015-16 fiscal year, CCJC has continued to work towards its core mission of shining a light on restorative approaches to justice and corrections.

This past year marked the 10th anniversary of the **Justice**

Storytelling Quilt. In recognition of the anniversary, on October 1st 2015 CCJC launched our Imagine Justice Campaign. The campaign was kicked off with an event in Ottawa where CCJC hosted a conversation about the role of art in re-imagining justice. The public lecture offered a “Restorative Justice 101” introducing you to the theoretical underpinnings of restorative justice by **Rev. Jamie Scott**. Former CCJC Community Chair on Justice **Lorraine Berzins** spoke about the role of art in promoting restorative justice, highlighting CCJC’s Justice Story-telling Quilt. Finally, long-time restorative justice facilitator, **Rev. Dr. Ron Hunt** will talk about his first hand experience facilitating restorative justice sessions. The audio recordings of these talks are available on our website.



Imagine Justice winner “*Lingua Franca*”

This event also served as a launch for our Imagine Justice call for submissions which asked people across Canada to submit pieces of art thematically connected to restorative justice. The submitted works were displayed in our [online gallery](#) as well as through a special slideshow at the National Ron Weibe Award Banquet in Quebec City.

To mark restorative Justice week 2015 we released a five-part infographic series to encourage our communities to *imagine* a justice system that integrates restorative justice principles. The infographics examined *The Current State of Justice*, provided an *Overview of RJ*, *Circles of Support and Accountability*, looked at the research on *RJ and victims* and finally highlighted some of the *Truth and Reconciliation* calls to action related to justice. We hope you enjoyed our infographic series and found them to be informative, inspiring and engaging. The infographics remain available on our website or by contacting the CCJC office.

We also offered a homiletic guide for those interested in marking restorative justice week through the chosen lectionary readings. This year our guide was accompanied by a letter from Bishop Gary Gordon where he reminded us how the principles of restorative justice are so much a part of our faith:

“The horizon of mercy is the invitation put before us by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in this coming Jubilee Year of Mercy. Like all horizons it may be very distant and almost impossible to consider, but if we begin by using the questions of restorative rather than criminal justice, then the horizon of the mercy and tender compassion of God’s love will overshadow even the greatest raging cry of those who need mercy most. God’s mercy, and our journey on the road to the horizon of mercy, will soothe those touched or harmed by crime, bringing a peace the world simply cannot give.”(Bishop Gary Gordon, Restorative Justice and Beyond: A Horizon of Mercy, 2015)

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 in 2017 as we are excited to be partnering with the Collaborative Justice Program here in Ottawa to host the **2017 National Restorative Justice Symposium (November 19-21, 2017)**.

CCJC Québec

Thank you!

A sincere thank you to all of our generous supporters who believe in our vision of a more compassionate justice system in Canada.

A special thank you to: Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, Rachel Innis(Placement Student and volunteer), Louise Baillargeon, Susan Haines and Kairos Pneuma Chaplaincy.



The Church Council on Justice and Corrections

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