

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections  
Annual Report 2009

*On the Move Raising Justice*



## Table of Contents

- President’s Report.....3
- Restorative Justice Week.....4
- Victims Pastoral Care.....4
- Admin / Finance.....5
- The Value of Social Responsibility in Crime Prevention - Circles of Support and Accountability.....6
- Community Chair of Justice - Justice in the City - Giving the new public conversation a local focus.....7
- Collaborative Justice Program.....8
- Church Council in Quebec.....9
- CCJC.....10**
  - Board of Directors in 2009.....10
  - Personnel in 2009.....10
  - Special Thanks To.....10
  - About CCJC.....11
  - Supporting Denominations.....11
  - Contact CCJC.....11

# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

## President's Report

What a wondrous year 2009 has been for the work of CCJC, its staff, board and members. I am thankful for God's grace and powerful presence as we have dealt with numerous challenges and found ourselves celebrating success and the rewards of hard work done faithfully.

This year CCJC has spent time working with the full spectrum of the restorative justice movement in Canada; supporting the development of pastoral care for people harmed by crime, nurturing the board development of a soon to be independent Collaborative Justice Project, and successfully supporting a proposal to receive a 5 year, 7.2 million dollar project that sustains and studies the success of Circles of Support and Accountability in 16 sites across Canada. Without the full spectrum of caring for the victims of crime, creating opportunities for healing and accountability between the parties to the crime, and re-integrating people who have harmed others safely, we cannot hope for safer, more just communities. Please read the reports related to these and other important activities for more information.

In September the board met for a strategic planning session. Here the long process of transforming our board into a working board was cemented and the foundations laid for a board that participates in the work of CCJC. Since then we have been busy furthering our work in concert with our staff. By doing so, we have increased the capacity of CCJC to do more with the precious resources that are given to us by our member churches and by our faithful members and supporters. It is our hope that this diligent stewardship will encourage you to trust that your giving is used as efficiently as possible.

It is exciting to note that we have grown in staff to having 2 more full time staff now, in addition to Lorraine and Maristela. We have also moved offices, which motivated a major gleaning of our storage and files. Our new space is well suited to our work and our house warming was well attended.

We face the next year with enthusiasm and hope. We are looking forward to engaging with you and with our partners in continuing to promote justice that heals in our churches, communities and institutions.



## Restorative Justice Week

Restorative justice week 2009 was a success, a result of our ongoing collaboration with Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). The theme resounded with us because it described what we have devoted ourselves to do for years; *helping communities respond to human needs*.

In addition to the restorative justice materials we produce every year, our members worked hard in producing new types of materials including, part II of last year's workshop, a speaker list for those who want to hold an event in their community, bible studies and an introductory leaflet about restorative justice. These materials were widely promoted through our mailing list, as well as through the events that took place during RJ Week throughout Canada. We made materials available on our website [www.ccjc.ca](http://www.ccjc.ca)

Restorative justice week 2009 was an eye opening experience for CEJC also. We were blessed to witness many communities rise to the task of making the necessary changes to respond to the needs of their citizens. We appreciate having the opportunity of creating materials but also by demonstrating our faith and belief in such a great cause. Our work not only consists of promoting restorative justice, but also in restoring hearts and lives.



## Victims Pastoral Care Report

The consultation that CCJC hosted in conjunction with the Mennonite Central Committee and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 5-6, 2009, proved to be a tremendous experience for all who participated. Thirty-nine individuals representing thirty organizations attended this event that was designed to bring together people who are active and interested in the pastoral care of those harmed by crime. The participants work in NGOs, government offices, churches, hospitals, prisons and other ministries.



The report describing the event is posted on CCJC's web site and provides considerable detail about the dialogue that took place, as well as the suggested steps for continuing development of pastoral resources related to victims of crime. In September, CCJC's Board struck a Victim Pastoral Care Committee responsible for promoting education about victims' issues within faith communities. The Committee will coordinate dissemination of information about existing resources and foster

# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

networking and partnerships among individuals and organizations to develop further resources and encourage and equip pastoral responses at the local level.

The first priority in this area of CCJC's work is to engage participants from the consultation and other interested persons in the various projects we are undertaking in the year ahead: development of a directory of faith-based resources, sponsoring and participating in workshops and conferences related to victim issues, and disseminating information about pilot projects that address the pastoral needs of victims. Please contact the CCJC office if you are interested!!!

## Admin / Finance Report

The 2009 fiscal year was excellent since we managed to stay within our budget forecasts. I must thank all of our partners for giving us a helping hand in making this year a success: our churches who are always loyal to their commitment in supporting our mission, our numerous individual benefactors and religious communities who support our actions, our staff members and a number of local members for their efficient management of our limited budget, but which was sufficient in carrying out the planned projects, the members of our Board of directors and the dynamic way they promote the different projects and support our regular staff in their day-to-day activities.



CCJC is blessed by the Spirit of Christ because over the years, in spite of certain periods of vulnerability, we continue to grow and to shine on our Churches and on our society as a whole by our interventions and our involvement in helping people find a new meaning to their lives and their social reintegration. The work done in partnership with other agencies who try to give dignity back to people has been productive on many levels. The Victims Pastoral Care Forum was a major success because it allowed representatives from everywhere in Canada to draw up a list of what is being done in our different Churches. The report invites us now to go beyond and to propose concrete measures to help these victims.

The year 2009 was also very important for the CoSA (Circles of Support and Accountability) Project – obtaining the 5-year 7,5 million dollar coordination project. A special thanks to our coordinator, Maristela, and to our bookkeeper, Sandie, for their ongoing commitment to balancing and re-balancing the project proposals - - what great patience! Approval by the NCPC in early fall of the project proposed by CCJC was both joyful and nerve-wracking because we had to recruit new personnel and even find new offices. Marion Houle was then brought on board to participate in the move and take on some of the responsibilities our coordinator couldn't handle any more. Claudine will join the team early in 2010, but was already there at our December meeting in Montréal. Great teamwork!

The challenges are numerous for 2010 but we are confident because we are ready to meet these challenges.



## CoSA report - The Value of Social Responsibility in Crime Prevention - Circles of Support and Accountability

I am often asked how, in practice, CCJC promotes community responsibility in justice. Like many organizations trying to sell the idea of social responsibility, we have primarily done it through education and community development initiatives that foster crime prevention. Although we have given prominence to the educational component of our mandate, lack of political support for community development being a major factor in the last years, we have recently taken on a task that will likely prove the value of our social responsibility when it comes to crime prevention.

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is one of the best examples I know of community engagement in the prevention of victimization. Fourteen years ago, when the program was just two years old, we included it in our publication “Satisfying Justice – Safe Community Options that attempt to repair harm from crime and reduce the use or length of imprisonment”. CoSA is a community-based reintegration program, based on restorative justice principles, for federally-sentenced, high-risk, high-needs sex offenders who have been held to the end of their sentence. When released into the community, these offenders are no longer accountable to Correctional Services of Canada or to the police. They are also not desirable neighbours. Lack of meaningful support and resources to reintegrate, combined with little accountability upon release, occasionally leads to recidivism. What is more important, the inevitable outcome of this cycle is more victimization. CoSA is a Canadian initiative that began in 1994 to fill that gap.

Currently working with over 400 volunteers across Canada, CoSA's goal is to substantially reduce the risk of future victimization of community members by assisting, supporting and holding released sex offenders (also referred to as core members) accountable in their task of integrating with the community and leading responsible and productive lives. There are 16 CoSA programs across Canada (see map on our website), serving about 250 released offenders. **Previous peer reviewed research shows that men who participate in CoSA are 80% less likely to reoffend than those who do not.** These are outstanding results considering that most CoSA sites in Canada were severely underfunded, with a few at risk of shutting down, until the formal beginning of our partnership in November 2009.

CCJC's active involvement with these agencies started with the coordination of their first national gathering in Calgary in 2008 (see report on our website). This meeting provided an opportunity for dialogue between all CoSA sites to consider collaborating on a proposal for funding to Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) to conduct a national demonstration project. Since CoSA is not formally incorporated as a national group, CCJC was chosen as the umbrella organization to manage the successful contract with the NCPC. The goals are: 1. to increase CoSA's capacity aiming at adding 50 core members per year and; 2. to conduct an independent research into CoSA's effectiveness in reducing sexual recidivism. As a result, sites will now be able to function at their full capacity with proper funding for the next five years. More importantly, they will be able to use the results of this evaluation to secure sustainable funding once the project is completed and their value becomes more evident. With this new initiative, we expect to add to the existing evidence that community engagement in crime prevention is a valuable investment.

# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

CCJC's role in supporting and equipping nationally relevant and social responsible projects is central to the success of the CoSA research project so far. Other national projects we are supporting include the Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium National Founding Meeting and the Pastoral Care for the Victims of Crime initiative. CCJC's role in nurturing meaningful, healing and community centered projects allows us to carry out our vision and goals with partners from across Canada. We are thankful for Public Safety Canada's wise decision to invest in this cost-effective community initiative to prevent further victimization. We are also thankful for the support received from community partners, media, members of parliament, and NCPC officers in moving this project ahead.



For more information, please visit our website: [www.ccjc.ca/cosa.html](http://www.ccjc.ca/cosa.html)

## Community Chair of Justice - Justice in the City - Giving the new public conversation a local focus

The position of Community Chair of Justice at CCJC was established to develop innovative tools and strategies to stimulate a new kind of public conversation about 'Justice'. Why? Because, despite all evidence to the contrary, the public outcry is still for more time in prison. As a result, too much is spent on a system that does not work well and there is no political will to invest in interventions more effective, even when less costly.



This has been well known for decades and increasingly brought to public attention. Yet the pressure increases for greater numbers of people to be sent to prison longer. What more will it take to break through this impasse? This communications challenge remains quite intractable at the national level. So this year we decided to take the conversation to the City. Here is why, and what has happened so far.

This failure to shift public attitudes, we reflected... - could it be because the public conversation about crime and justice usually rages at a national level? This keeps it abstract, based on emotion and ideology, never held to account for actual results. For it is at each local level that the real financial and social impacts are felt, where the massive dysfunction of our criminal justice systems affect real people: court delays, victim impacts, prison conditions, under-supervised releases, drain on city social service and health resources. Yet there is no local community watchdog that knows enough or feels entitled to demand accountability for the poor investments that lead to these results. Most citizens think these matters are the sole prerogative of 'others': the feds, the province, the hallowed courts. Little have they realized how criminal justice services of poor quality add multiple damages that ripple through their whole community and strain local resources. Only better informed local communities will care enough to demand a higher standard of quality justice services.

So CCJC began experimenting with a strategy for a community to learn. Starting in Ottawa, the Community Foundation has now recognized the inefficiency of the justice system as an issue that matters as a 'Vital Sign' in its annual check-up on city health. Court backlogs were flagged in its

# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

Safety section, providing an opportunity for community spokespeople to put a human face on the statistics showing the links to broader local problems and the ramifications on city social services. As a result, the City Council's Community and Protective Services Committee passed this resolution: "That the local organizations working in the field of criminal justice be invited to meet with city departments to discuss how the inefficiency of the justice system creates costs and social problems for the city and that the direction be to create advocacy for improvement of the system and reduce our costs." A group calling itself Smart Justice Ottawa is pursuing this work.

The Community Foundation of Ottawa remains a partner in this initiative: 145 Community Foundations in Canada will no doubt be hearing of lessons learned. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has also begun to engage: more than 1, 775 members include Canada's largest cities, small urban and rural communities.

Our quest? When all these citizens realize the real downstream consequences of 'crime agendas' on their cities and towns, they will demand better quality, and vote with their feet when they recognize federal and provincial policies that can't deliver on this.

## Collaborative Justice Program

CJP had a challenging year which included working with over 60 youth and over 30 adult cases.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) – CJP received 2009-10 funding for one full time Caseworker from MCYS. Youth case referrals have remained high; both from the Crown Attorney's office (post charge) and from the Boys and Girls Club Youth Diversion Program (post charge diversion). These cases range from minor crimes to the more serious. Indications are that this funding will continue into 2010-11.



Adult Justice Committees Funding – In March 2009 we were advised by the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) that all of the RJ programs in Ontario receiving funding for Adult Justice Committees would no longer receive this funding. CJP was given until the end of June 2009 to complete cases. Although this was a significant portion of our funding and therefore quite a loss; working within this funding stream created challenges related to the conflicting goals and extremely high numbers of cases. Staffing – The change in our funding situation precipitated changes to the Program's staff. Unfortunately Tiffani Murray is no longer with CJP. Tiffani's knowledge, personality and skills were so valuable to us and her loss is keenly felt. From July to December 2009 Amber and Kimberly worked an average of 3 – 4 days per week each. We have been extremely grateful for the services of Ottawa University placement students.

Donations – In 2009 our donations increased dramatically. This allowed Kimberly and Amber to gradually increase their hours (although not to full time yet). We continue to use this income to accept adult cases. The staff generally work with the more serious adult cases while a small number of intrepid CJP Volunteers work with the less serious adult cases.



# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

CJP Transition – The CJP Transition Team has made good progress with establishing CJP as a charitable organization. They have completed the CJP By-laws, the Application for Incorporation and the Application for Charitable Status. The next step is to have the applications reviewed by a lawyer who specializes in Charity Law before sending.

Community – CJP continues to demonstrate leadership in the community by Kimberly continuing to chair the Restorative Justice Network of Ottawa and being a member of the Ottawa Youth Justice Service Network and by Amber's membership with the Community Adult Justice Network (CAJN).

## Church Council in Quebec

2009 has been good to us. We managed to plan meaningful and fruitful activities that brought people together and allowed us to take a good look at ourselves and our responsibility towards our communities.

We started the year with our volunteers' day. The day was about CCJC's Justice Storytelling Quilt and the testimonies of those who participated in its making. Volunteers shared their experiences and discussed how Restorative Justice helped define their volunteer work throughout the years. We also shared the difficulties that can arise and how we can help each other deal with them. On the same day we also had our AGM.



Every week, a small group of volunteers faithfully goes to the Immigration Prevention Center, in Laval, to provide a one hour bible study to the children, women and men waiting to see their status cleared. Last December, with the help of several organisations, the CEJQC put together hundreds of Christmas gift bags and planned a wonderful night of celebration, full of entertainment and food for them all.

Another team of CEJQC volunteers has also been visiting inmates with life or long sentences at the Macaza penitentiary. This year we are hoping for 4 visits, one for each season. Sport activities at Leclerc prison should begin in February 2010, every month twice a month with a group of 10 to 15 volunteers.

CEJQC and the community chaplaincy decided to celebrate prison day in September in order to remember the day in larger numbers. We visited the graves of individuals who died while being in prison. Several inmates who currently find themselves in prison for a long sentence were invited to join us. We also decided to reinstate our correspondence services. Some volunteers can't always come to our activities and would rather write to inmates who need to connect with the outside world.

As for our restorative justice week in November, we truly had a wonderful time. Our opening day was at the St-Joseph Oratory and more than 5,000 people attend the masses of the day and the predication was on RJ week team and 100 people attended. Monique Lépine shared her experience during mass before workshops were provided. In addition, Mary Beemans and Robert Bergner from

# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

MSCM helped plan RJ Week's second activity, focused on racial issues in Montreal's communities. Police officers, members of the community, youth were all present that evening. On December 6th (the 20th anniversary of the polytechnique incident), Monique Lépine shared her testimony at church of the Harvest. She spoke about victimization and how she is now very much involved with CEJCQ in teaching others about restorative justice.

We continue to work with our different partners and have been planning forum on victims in May – together with CCJC's AGM in Montreal. We are putting much effort in networking - we all work for the same cause and should be building bridges among us. It's been a good year and I know the year to come will be even more fruitful. I look forward to working with CCJC in 2010.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2009

**President** – James Loewen

**Vice-presidents** – Richard Haughian and John deVries

**Treasurer** – Laurent Champagne

**Secretary** – Meredith Egan

**Past-president** – Jane Griffiths

**Directors** – Richard vonBriesen, Gloria Savage, Scott McIsaac, Christina Guest

## PERSONNEL IN 2009

**Community Chair of Justice** – Lorraine Berzins

**Coordinator** – Maristela Carrara

**Assistant-coordinator** – Marion Houle

**Bookkeeper** – Sandie Lessard

**Director** - Collaborative Justice Program – Kimberly Mann

**Case worker** – Collaborative Justice Program – Tiffani Murray

**Case worker** – Collaborative Justice Program – Amber Montgomery

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Sandie Lessard; Robert Aubut; Katie Fleming; Tiffany Murray, Kimberly Mann and Amber Montgomery (Collaborative Justice Program); Quakers House in Ottawa; Justin Piche; Brian McDonough; Caitlin Bancroft; Mireille Provost (Department of Justice Canada), Pierre Allard, Bob Cormier (Public Safety Canada), Danny Lega, Kristin Borger, Michel Tanguay and Monty Pitson (National Crime Prevention Centre); David Lam; Lourdes Mazile; Brianne Dixon; Nathalie Le Roch (Ministry of Children and Youth Services); Tyler Soon (Circles of Support and Accountability Vancouver); Dariusz Galczynski (Public Safety Canada); Michelle Landry (Correctional Service Canada); Andrew McWhinnie (Circles of Support and Accountability); Ottawa Vital Signs; Ernie Tannis; Tina Matchett-Bianco; Don Wadel; Renee Collette; Ken Walby; Sheila Arthurs; Tony Doob; Farhat Rehman; Rev. Russell Paquette; Bishop Gary Gordon; Michael Maher; Lindsay Mullaly; Bruce Williams; Meagan O'Shea; Lee Mattice; Danette Nearing-Guibord (Carleton University); Tim Tokrud; Community Foundation Ottawa; the following members of parliament - Hon. Mark Holland, Hon. Gordon O'Connor, Hon. Bob Rae, Hon. Marlene Jennings, Hon. Wayne Easter, Hon. Robert Oliphant, Hon. Anne Allard, Denise Savoie, Hon. Leon E. Benoit, Hon. Kevin Sorenson; Patrick Jennings; Jim Potter; Susan Haines, all CoSA staff across the country.

# CCJC - On the Move Raising Justice

## About CCJC

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections was established in 1974 by the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The supporting denominations appoint members from across Canada with experience and expertise in the field of criminal justice and corrections. CCJC is a national and bilingual organization. The Council concerns itself with a broad range of issues:

- aboriginal justice
- alternatives to punishment
- community fears
- death penalty
- families of prisoners
- family violence
- law reform
- long-term prisoners
- parole
- racism
- sentencing
- sexual offences
- urban crime
- victims of crime
- violence
- prevention
- women's concerns and
- youth and crime

We strive to assist those we serve to reflect theologically about 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 redemptive change.

## SUPPORTING DENOMINATIONS

- The Anglican Church of Canada
- Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec
- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Christian Reformed Churches of North America

- Disciples of Christ in Canada
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- The Salvation Army in Canada
- The United Church of Canada
- Canadian Council of Churches

## CCJC HAS MOVED!!

### CONTACT US AT OUR NEW ADDRESS:

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