

Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi

Cree Justice Symposium
January 27-29, 2009
Mistissini, Quebec



Our Mission

- To educate youth, parents, social workers and all members of your community of being involved in gang related issues.
- To prevent youth from becoming involved with a gang.
- To create healthy relationships with youth and other entities that are working with youth in our communities.
- Teach our youth about the risks and consequences.

Key youth criminal justice issues affecting our Community

- Racism – aboriginal and non-aboriginal (urban), groups between nations
- Alcohol and drugs – underage, accessibility, increased addictions
- Domestic violence – affects loved ones
- Loitering in public offices due to homelessness
- Overcrowding of homes leads to stress related issues so the family members go to other groups or gangs
- Theft in stores, vandalism on property, selling stolen items to pawn shops

Pg. 2 Key youth criminal justice issues affecting our Community

- School bullying in elementary and high schools
- Lack of care support services to rehabilitate individuals e.g. counselling, group therapy, treatment centres
- Life encounters of peer pressure
- Abuse – sexual, emotional, physical
- Broken marriages – paves a negative direction for the children
- Unsupervised children tend to have mishaps and commit mischievous acts

Crime Prevention



- Talk to your children
- Neighbourhood watch
- Keep them physically and mentally active by providing recreational activities
- Encourage and mentor your children as well as others
- Get members involved in all activities
- Listen to our elders advice and do not take it for granted
- Teach them the ways of life (Cultural Educational and lifestyles)

Suggestions

- Have mentors come to your community and speak to the parents and children
- More community involvement from our members for our children's needs and resources
- Sports and recreation programs
- Cultural Education programs
- Have workshops for family values e.g. motivational speakers, mentors, role models etc.

What your community would like to see from the CRA?

- Create more employment for the youth
- Have the youth involved in political affairs with the local bands and also at the regional level
- Allocate additional funds for all youth activities and programs
- Administration costs should be increased for the Cree Nation Youth Council's (CNYC) both local and regional
- Invest in more programs related to the issues regarding the needs and concerns

Investment Assets

- Facilities - Healing Lodges
- Rehabilitation Centres
- Therapy Groups (at homes or centres)
- Family committee's



Conclusion

In closing, we look forward to keep working together to find solutions that will help our communities as a whole nation. We are aware of the issues we face in the justice system and what our youth face as they journey in life.