



# GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 BULLETIN

## Youth reintegration worker project

Grand Council Treaty #3 has secured funding from the MCYS to develop the Youth Reintegration Worker (YRW) Project. Currently there are three communities in the Treaty #3 area, Wabaseemoong, Grassy Narrows and Lac Seul, who are implementing the YRW within their communities. The mandate of the project is to provide support services and mentoring to youth on probation as a means to direct them to choose healthier lifestyle attitudes and behaviours, drawing upon the strengths of their own communities as a source of support. Each com-

munity has a front-line worker, employed by Treaty #3 but based in the community, who is responsible for delivering the program to the appropriate youth who are on probation. After completion of their training, the YRW will use their own personal strengths, such as music, art, sports or cultural interests, to help the kids foster similar strengths of their own. They will enlist the support of other community members who may be able to provide support for the youth as they embark upon this mentoring-based journey. They will also liaise between their community and the

probation workers involved, while monitoring any orders of probation. The workers are supported by the Community Justice Case Manager, who along with the Community Justice Program Coordinator, will submit the pertinent and required statistical information back to the applicable ministries as a means of providing evidence that programs of this nature are a necessary and vital part of the alternative justice program initiatives being undertaken by the Grand Council.

## Community Justice Project

The Treaty #3 Community Justice Project has secured long-term funding for one First Nation from each of the four directions to initiate a nationwide community justice initiative. The project is now able to handle pre-charge and post-charge cases diverted from the mainstream justice system either by the police, Crown Attorneys, or defense lawyers. This project, as with the Youth Reintegration Worker Project, is overseen by Arthur Huminuk, the Community Justice Project Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the CJPC to ensure that all statistical information is compiled and forwarded on the appropriate ministries, along with submitting the necessary proposals that are so integral for programs such as these to continue. The CJPC also liaises

with stakeholders on various levels, while promoting the Grand Council's justice programs within the district as an alternative to the regular justice system. Arthur is always looking for additional ways to provide alternative justice support to the members of the Treaty #3 area and is very involved and hands-on within the communities that are currently a part of the two ongoing programs. He brings to the position a wealth of experience in working with aboriginal youth in a variety of situations and recognizes that everyone deserves the chance to make a change in their lives and it is for this reason that the CJPC is committed to ensuring continued delivery of these programs.

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## COMMUNITY JUSTICE CASE MANAGER

Dean Councillor

Boozhoo! As a CJCM, I work along side Arthur Huminuk—Community Justice Project Coordinator to ensure that the Youth Reintegration and Community Justice Projects are running efficiently. One of my many duties includes mentoring our new workers. I provide them with the opportunity to observe and assist me within the circle setting until they feel comfortable enough to facilitate circles on their own. Once they feel comfortable enough, I continue to provide support in this area, as well as ensuring that they receive any necessary guidance or support that may help to facilitate smooth delivery of the programs within their home communities. In addition to the aforementioned duties, I also provide guidance and support to our satellite office staff, ensuring they have what they need to make things run efficiently. I assist with restorative justice diversions and liaise between various government agencies and local law enforcement agencies to ensure the flow of information required to make the projects are a success is continuous and uninterrupted. I also strive to provide effective communication into and out of our organization with our many community stakeholders. In order to ensure that our programs become known with the GCT3 area, I provide legal education presentations to various groups and promote the Community Justice Project whenever possible within the district. As part of my responsibility to the projects, I update case files and, in conjunction with the community-based workers, monitor the clients' progress as they progress through the programs. Ensuring the citizens of the Grand Council Treaty #3 Area receive the best possible service delivery of programs available is paramount for me within this position and I am committed to providing the best possible support to my community workers and our program clients.



Dean Councillor, Adam Beach, Arthur Huminuk. Taken during the Lac Seul Youth Empowerment Conference where GCT#3 Community Justice Project did a presentation

## YOUTH REINTEGRATION WORKER

Linda Hunter—Wabaseemoong

I would like to introduce myself as the new Youth Reintegration Worker. I report directly to Grand Council Treaty #3 Justice Initiatives and the Ministry of Children Services. My job is to provide supervision to support our youth from the ages of 12-17 at the time of offence. I have a genuine interest in seeing our youth develop and succeed in their goals. Our program assists youth who are in conflict with the law, in meeting with case management plans to rehabilitate and reintegrate the youth back into the community. I assist in helping to develop, organize and supervise activities for the youth and monitor their terms and conditions of their court orders. I also receive case referrals by the Youth Probation Officer.

I meet the youth on a weekly basis and with the probation officer on a bi-weekly basis to follow up to ensure that all clients report accordingly and most contacts have been successful. I enjoy working with the youth involved in the program. I feel I am developing a good relationship with the youth, taking time to work with them by listening and to hear what they go through as a young person, as growing up can be a difficult time.

I make contacts with the school, parents/guardians and agencies on behalf of the Probation Officer to ensure the youth are doing what they are supposed to while on probation. I have also translated for family members to the probation officer ensuring that all parties understand the terms and conditions of outlined orders. I also discuss Community Services Orders by meeting with the band and community workers on the areas that they would like to see youth do for community services, such as help them take responsibility and that will most benefit the community as a whole.

As the Youth Reintegration Program is new to our community, it is important for all to understand that we will have growing pains, but we will be a contact and mentor to any youth that might have a problem with fulfilling

## COMMUNITY JUSTICE/YOUTH REINTEGRATION WORKER

Alanna Mawakeesick—Lac Seul

Boozhool! My name is Alanna Mawakeesick and I am a member of the Lac Seul First Nation. I am currently employed by Grand Council Treaty #3 as the Youth Reintegration Worker/Community Justice Worker for Lac Seul.

As a Community Justice Coordinator, I have coordinated five conference circles involving ten youth to deal with minor offences. For the youth to 'repair the harm done', there were several types of conditions to which they must comply. Some conditions such as community service work, obey a curfew, and to provide handwritten apology letters are among some of the reparations the youth must carry out. They may also provide any type of work for community service work, which may include cleaning up elders' yards, providing security at dances, safe guarding of sacred fires at powwows, assisting custodians at various community buildings, assisting social service workers with their duties during child/youth activity nights, and also assisting elders with their traditional activities. For each circle, I have invited various elders and social service workers too and they shared their knowledge and wisdom. I also work closely with the Lac Seul Police and the Crown Attorney and report the outcomes of the circles to them.

Through the Youth Reintegration Project, I work closely with the Youth Probation Officer in Sioux Lookout. We have a great working relationship because we communicate as much as possible about the youth that are on probation. I presently have nine clients and as part of my mandate, I have already informed them that my job is to support and reintegrate them back into the community. I have had one-on-one meetings with each client to explain what their conditions are and to just to talk about school, hobbies, goals, etc. I also had set up places for each client to do some hours for their community service work. I also have started an 'afterschool' program to spend time with these youth and other youth in the community. At these gatherings, we have healthy snacks to eat, do art and crafts, play board games, play card games, and to listen to music. Since I am trying to get my Bachelor Degree in Education, I also assist them with their homework.

In July, Lac Seul Youth Council organized a 'Youth Empowerment Conference' and there were several workshops conducted. It was fun to work alongside the youth and I felt fortunate to have met with Adam Beach, Fara Palmer and 7<sup>th</sup> Generation. It was so awesome that my and son I had our picture taken with Adam Beach, as we consider him to be a prominent role model for Aboriginal youth.

## COMMUNITY JUSTICE/YOUTH REINTEGRATION WORKER

Darryl Fobister—Grassy Narrows

My name is Darryl Fobister and I live in Grassy Narrows First Nation. I work in a dual capacity working with both youth and adults in our Restorative Justice program through Grand Council Treaty #3. As a Community Justice Worker, I work with adults and youth to acknowledge that there has been some wrong doing on their part and that they are prepared to take the steps towards healing through Community Circles. The Purpose is to reduce the number of cases in the court system and to provide better alternatives.

As a Youth Reintegration Worker, I am utilizing my skills as a guitar player to teach our youth the value of working together and tapping into possible hidden talents in the Arts. With access to musical instruments, they can learn a hobby or start a band that would keep them out of trouble. If music isn't a part of their everyday routines, I help them find a way to work with other resources to ensure that they are provided guidance towards making more positive life choices.