

**Community Justice Initiatives:**

Four Circles Justice Society’s overall goals are to develop and implement Indigenous restorative justice and conflict resolution programs & services that are tailored to the specific needs and culture of the communities it serves. This is the start of a strategy to develop Indigenous community-based & community-driven restorative justice approaches in our First Nations. The Four Circles Justice Society administers the Secwepemc Community Justice Program (SCJP) and other programs and services for Indigenous youth and adults in the Kamloops and surrounding areas. Funding is provided by the Indigenous Justice Program, Department of Justice Canada and Corrections BC and other agencies.

Program Goals:

- To encourage the offender to take responsibility for their actions.
- To teach offenders how their actions impact people involved.
- To administer healing circles for clients with the intention of helping the individual involved.
- To allow clients an alternative to criminal record(s) or incarceration; (adult and youth).
- To help reduce the rate of recidivism.
- To administer fair and equitable justice by the Indigenous community for the accused and the victim.
- To acquire a greater responsibility and control over the administration of justice within our communities.
- To better enable and empower the Indigenous population to progress towards reconciliation and healing.
- To reflect and include the values of Indigenous culture(s) within the Criminal Justice System.
- To reduce the number of community members charged and in jail.
- To support healing and accountability within communities.

**Community Justice Forums (CJF):**

This model provides a safe, controlled environment in which an offender, victim and their families or supporters are brought together under the guidance of a trained facilitator. Together they discuss the offence, how they have all been affected, and jointly develop a plan to correct what has occurred. Offenders must accept responsibility for their own actions. They are confronted

with how their behavior affected the victim personally - and they hear it directly from their victim. The conversations are often difficult and emotional, so a neutral, impartial, and well-trained facilitator is present to guide the conversation. Each is encouraged to speak openly, honestly, and fully. Together they create a plan that will satisfy the needs of everyone. Sometimes it is enough for the offender to apologize and return what was taken or fix what was broken. Other agreements may include community service work, counseling, or addictions treatment for the offender. Other solutions are possible; and welcomed.

**Peacemaking Circles:**

A resolution process for healing relationships and keeping them healthy, Peacemaking Circles explores how communities can respond to crimes in ways that address the needs and interests of all those affected—victims, offenders, their families and friends, and the community. Based on indigenous teachings combined with research in conflict resolution, the Circle process improves relationships, addresses underlying cause, and enhances individual and community self-reliance. Types of Circles may include Community Building Circles, Talking Circles, Healing Circles, Reintegration Circles, and Sentencing Circles. Circles are used in a variety of settings such as workplaces, justice systems, schools, and communities. The circle process can serve many purposes, including dialogue, learning, community and team building, strategic planning, conflict resolution and healing. Also provide communities the opportunity to deal with cases including serious harm or death, impaired driving, sexual assaults/abuse (including historical childhood sexual abuse) using Restorative Justice practices.

**Alternative Measures:**

Crown Counsel referrals. Alternative Measures offer youth/adults accused of a criminal offence the opportunity to take responsibility for their behaviour and address the harm that has been committed. These youth/adults participate in a program that resolves cases within a community agency or with community participation. The agency interviews the offender and drafts an agreement setting out how the offender will make amends for the crime.

Alternative Measures is a way to address crime in conjunction with the criminal justice system. These programs attempt to deal with criminal behaviour in a proactive manner. Training was provided by the BC Corrections Branch. Alternative Measures agreements typically require the offender to make amends to the community by completing tasks such as community service hours; and require the offender to apologize to the victim or restore property to the victim to repair the harm caused by the action. The decision about which offenders are eligible for these programs are made by the Crown Prosecutor, although police, defense lawyers, the victim or the accused may request a referral to an alternative measures program.

**Healthy Relationships Program (HRP)**

The delivery of this program is open to all persons 18 years of age or older, male, female, couples, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, clients under supervision for an offence related to relationship violence or any person interested in the information or to learn how to improve their relationship skills and end violence in the Kamloops area. The Healthy Relationships Program (HRP) will give a better understanding of how behaviors/actions affect relationships. It gives one knowledge and skills and basic tools to assist in stopping the violence in their life. The program length is 25 hours and delivered by trained facilitators. The structure consists of check-ins, introduction and reinforcement of topic presentations, interactive exercises, and group discussion. DVDs are used throughout the program to emphasize key points in the program. Participants are provided with workbooks and will be asked to complete homework during their enrollment in the program. This program is designed to move the participants from information to awareness to skill development. The program includes values, beliefs, and behavior; what is abuse; feelings and emotions; dealing with anger; impact of violence and abuse on women or men; power and control in relationships; effects of violence and abuse on children; gender roles; stereotypes and relationships; respectful communication; and planning to stay free of violence. Also includes intergenerational trauma, healing, grief & loss. **(5 FCJS facilitators participated in First Responders to Sexual Violence Training)**

## **Community Corrections (Probation) Services Indigenous Justice Worker**

Provide supervision to **adult offenders (age 18+)** and to assist Kamloops Probation Officers in working with offenders and communities toward offender reintegration. Services will include **probation** and parole supervision, alternative measures, and community service orders for all **adult** Indigenous peoples in the Kamloops and surrounding areas. Also refer offenders to appropriate Indigenous agencies or individuals, based on their needs and willingness to participate, such as substance abuse management, counselling, culturally sensitive anger management, mental health, and Elders.

Through the delivery of programs based on a case management model, offenders are encouraged to make necessary life changes directed towards successful reintegration within their families and communities.

Liaise with victims and build relationships with diverse criminal justice system partners and stakeholders such as police, courts, and community agencies (including Indigenous communities and organizations).

### **Gladue Aftercare Case Worker**

The Case Worker is the second phase of the Gladue services program. The Case Worker assists Indigenous community members to follow through with Gladue Report recommendations. Clients will be able to access supports, advice, and help that they may have otherwise not known about.

The Case Worker is responsible for providing case and file management by assisting Indigenous clients to follow through with recommendations/healing plans included in their Gladue Report upon sentencing. The Case Worker will provide direct services, and make necessary referrals to programs and services, corrections and in the community to ensure the clients receive services in a timely fashion. The Case Worker will work in partnership with the Gladue Writer who prepares Gladue reports for bail, sentencing, appeals, long-term offender hearings, dangerous offender hearings and parole hearings, courts and/or Probation and Parole Services in providing necessary client input and updates as required. Will assist person(s) who self-identifies as Indigenous, First Nations, Metis or Inuit who has Gladue rights and has requested a Gladue report.

## **Family-Civil Mediation**

Informal mediation for individuals or family-civil mediation. This includes the Family Justice Centers of BC, the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council and the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Updated June 26, 2024



## **Secwepemc Community Justice Program**

Healthy Relationships Program