



WORKING

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FOR SAFER

AND ENGAGED

COMMUNITIES

2016-2017 Justice Funds Annual Report

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1. Justice Funds - An Introduction

The following is the second annual report on the Cree Nation Government's Department of Justice and Correctional Services' four Justice Funds. In this report you will find a detailed description of the four Funds, as well as information about what took place over the 2016-2017 funding year.

A Bit of History

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services (DOJCS) was established in 2008 following a new justice agreement concluded with the Government of Quebec in 2007 to implement, and expand upon, Section 18 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. As one of the new programs and initiatives to engage the Cree communities, organizations and people of Eeyou Istchee, a series of justice and corrections related Funds were established in 2015 to develop innovative new projects related to the general prevention of crime as well as the rehabilitation of Cree individuals already in the justice system. Complementing existing services and programs, the four Funds foster engagement of people and resources. They contribute to the creation of community hubs, working together for Crees across Eeyou Istchee. The four Funds are:

- The Crime Prevention Fund
- The Youth Engagement Fund
- The Corrections Fund
- The Land Based Camps Fund

The DOJCS supports the engagement of individuals and organizations in projects that will facilitate safer and stronger Cree families and communities, in a way that connects participants to our core values, culture, and ways. The Funds aim to support projects that facilitate prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration by fostering individuals' sense of self, development of life skills and an understanding of responsibility and personal choices. They promote social, psychological, and spiritual healing as a foundation for a life with better choices.

Year in Review

Our 2016-2017 Justice Funds program is a true celebration as we proudly report more applications were accepted than the 2015-2016 launch year, we provided more funding overall, and the scope of proposed projects was much broader with larger impact. Projects demonstrated a distinct connection between innovation and Cree tradition including land-based programs supporting the traditional Cree way of life to empower, teach survival skills, heal, and learn together. This reflects the inspiration felt throughout our communities and the desire to continue efforts to build an ever-stronger Cree Nation.

As each Fund has a specific objective, scope, target audience, and subject, projects submitted in the 2016-2017 year varied greatly and included:

- Land based, traditional activities;
- Projects led by local elders, youth, and mentors;
- Projects that featured Cree artists and traditional/modern art forms;
- Projects that provided healing, reintegration, and traditional activities to individual's post release from incarceration; and,
- Projects that targeted high risk youth and provided opportunities for engagement, healing, personal growth, and skill development.



To ensure project success and desired impact, the DOJCS has continued throughout the year to provide guidance and support in application submission, financial and reporting activities to applicants. The DOJCS also continued its efforts to increase Fund awareness by visiting communities, and including clear and concise Fund information on its website. The variety and creativity expressed in proposed projects is inspiring and we encourage community members to contact Funds Administrators with ideas so that we can help make them a reality!

2. Overview of the Four Justice Funds

The Four Justice Funds

The DOJCS believes initiatives aimed at preventing crime, rehabilitating Cree offender, engaging youth, and connecting our people to the land are essential components in building a foundation for the long-term safety and welfare of our communities. In order to help put this into action at the community level, the DOJCS manages four Funds, each of which have a specific objective that focuses on at least one of these core principles. In tune with Cree ways of life and culture, each of the Funds helps build a strong crime reduction and prevention foundation through developing relationships and engaging people locally.

The following tables provide a summary description of each Fund, while the summary of the projects that were supported financially by the Justice Funds in 2016-2017 can be found in the Annex, at the end of the present report.

| |  CORRECTIONS FUND |  CRIME PREVENTION FUND |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Objective | Support rehabilitation and reintegration of Cree offenders | Prevent and combat crime and support the creation of safer communities |
| Areas of Priority and Targets | <p>Projects should help Cree offenders (both during detention and after release):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn and apply the skills and strategies they need to keep them from a cycle of reoffending. overcome barriers to successful reintegration. develop awareness of the consequences of their behaviour. develop a sense of responsibility. <p>Projects should target Crees who are subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social reinsertion. a conditional sentence order. a suspended sentence or parole. | <p>Projects should prioritize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> violence, including family violence. alcohol and drug abuse, and addiction. addressing trauma and mental health. building parental skills and encouraging safe family and community environments. promoting alternatives to school suspensions and prevention of school-based bullying. promoting alternatives to criminal justice. <p>Project should target one or more of the following types of crime prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-level crime prevention focusing on strengthening community and social structures (focus on people and on improving the physical environment). Second level crime prevention focusing on changing behaviours of those already engaging in criminal activity or presenting behavioural problems. Third-level crime prevention focusing on gaining stability for those attempting to rehabilitate or reinsert into a community. |
| Eligible Applicants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cree bands and related entities Cree controlled organizations Cree beneficiaries Partnerships between Cree controlled organizations and other organizations (Cree partners must have > 50% control of project) Community Justice Committees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cree controlled organizations Cree beneficiaries Partnerships between Cree controlled organizations and other organizations (Cree partners must have > 50% control of project) Community Justice Committees |

| |  YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FUND |  LAND BASED CAMPS FUND |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Objective | Empower the Cree youth while promoting their general welfare | Build land based camps for us to support justice-related activities and rehabilitation of Cree offenders |
| Areas of Priority and Targets | <p>Youth-based projects should address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevention of crime. abuse of alcohol and drugs. bullying. prevention of suicide. promotion of Cree culture and traditions. <p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target youth ≤ 35 years old who are experiencing difficulties at school or in their communities. enable Cree youth to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> foster skills to keep from offending/re-offending. remain accountable for their actions. develop a sense of responsibility in their communities. | <p>Land based camps should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be used for the delivery of programs and activities that support the prevention of crime and the community reintegration and rehabilitation of Cree offenders. create an environment of trust where the needs of Cree offenders are addressed while providing them with an opportunity to re-connect with Cree traditions and the land. <p>Camps may also provide crime prevention programs specifically for youth.</p> <p>Funding in the amount of \$300,000 (maximum) is awarded for one land based camp per community.</p> |
| Eligible Applicants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cree bands and related entities Cree Nation Youth Council Local Youth Councils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cree bands and related entities Cree controlled organizations Cree beneficiaries |

The Corrections Fund finances projects designed to support the reintegration of Cree offenders back into their home communities and family life. This Fund provides a unique opportunity to Cree beneficiaries, local Bands, and Cree controlled organizations to welcome back Cree offenders into their home communities and family, through the transition from incarceration in the South, back to life in their northern community. The goal of the Fund is to help begin the healing process by reconnecting the offender with their values, traditions, and Cree identity, reduce recidivism, and enhance public safety and community well-being.

As well, projects funded by the Corrections Fund should teach individuals new skills or offer mentorship in an effort to help participants become employable within the community, post incarceration. Participants should be provided with training and support that will increase their sense of accountability, responsibility for themselves and their choices, and empower them to make different choices in the future.

The Crime Prevention Fund supports projects that contribute to the prevention of crime through the building of safer communities and address the underlying causes of crime in the Cree communities of the Eeyou Istchee. Targeting 'at risk' youth and adults, projects incorporate Cree traditions, culture, and values and support three levels of crime prevention:

- The first level:** Early prevention by strengthening community and social structures through programs on such themes as parenting skills, drug and alcohol abuse, and staying in school;
- The second level:** Changing the behaviour of individuals who are actively committing crime or whose choices are already having a negative impact on the community; and,
- The third level:** Rehabilitating and building a foundation of stability for individuals who have been released from federal or provincial facilities and who desire a life free of continued criminal behaviour.

The 2016-2017 projects submitted teaching Cree core values and traditions to teach parenting skills, personal boundaries, and creativity, and address violence against women and girls, family violence, alcohol and drug abuse, trauma, and mental health issues.

The Youth Engagement Fund aims to engage youth under 35 years of age, keep them from high-risk behaviour, and intervene at an early stage to prevent activities from escalating into criminal offences. Projects funded by the Youth Engagement Fund should provide support to youth in making healthy life choices and offer concrete opportunities to connect youth with their Cree culture and traditions as crime prevention and social development strategies.

The Land Based Camps Fund provides capital expenditure funding to engage Cree Bands, Cree controlled organizations, and Cree beneficiaries for the construction of a readily accessible land based camp around each community. The camp would be used for justice and corrections related activities and programs. The camp could also be used to deliver programs and activities that support the prevention of crime, as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of Cree offenders.

This type of endeavour requires significant investment, organization, and community support. All project applications are required to demonstrate the applicants' capacity to lead this type of construction project as well as clear support from key community members such as Elders and the tallyman. In the end, it would be a place for the Department to deliver needed on-the-land programming for Cree offenders returning from detention and re-integrating back into the communities, and for high risk youth as a diversion to entering the systems by engaging in land based activities related to Cree culture. These types of programs using land and resources are recognized and requested by the court and corrections systems as being beneficial in reducing possible future criminal behaviour.

Initiatives for Crees of Eeyou Istchee and by Crees

One of the most important factors to highlight was that the Funds target initiatives that are for the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and by Crees, whether they be individuals, bands, Cree controlled organizations. It was therefore of the utmost importance to clarify

that programs have to actively incorporate Cree traditions, values, and way of life. As well, eligible projects can only have a fixed duration and be non-recurrent, though exceptionally, some may be multi-year. Furthermore, the new initiatives submitted must not duplicate existing projects, programs or services already available for the same clientele.

To further strengthen the management of the Funds and provide support to Fund applicants and recipients, each of the four Funds was assigned a Fund Administrator presently located in the Justice office in Mistissini. The role of the Fund Administrator is to oversee all steps of the process, to guide applicants and funding recipients, and to monitor projects. All of the Fund Administrators were thoroughly trained in their role to guide, coach potential applicants in the process, to track and follow up on the implemented projects.

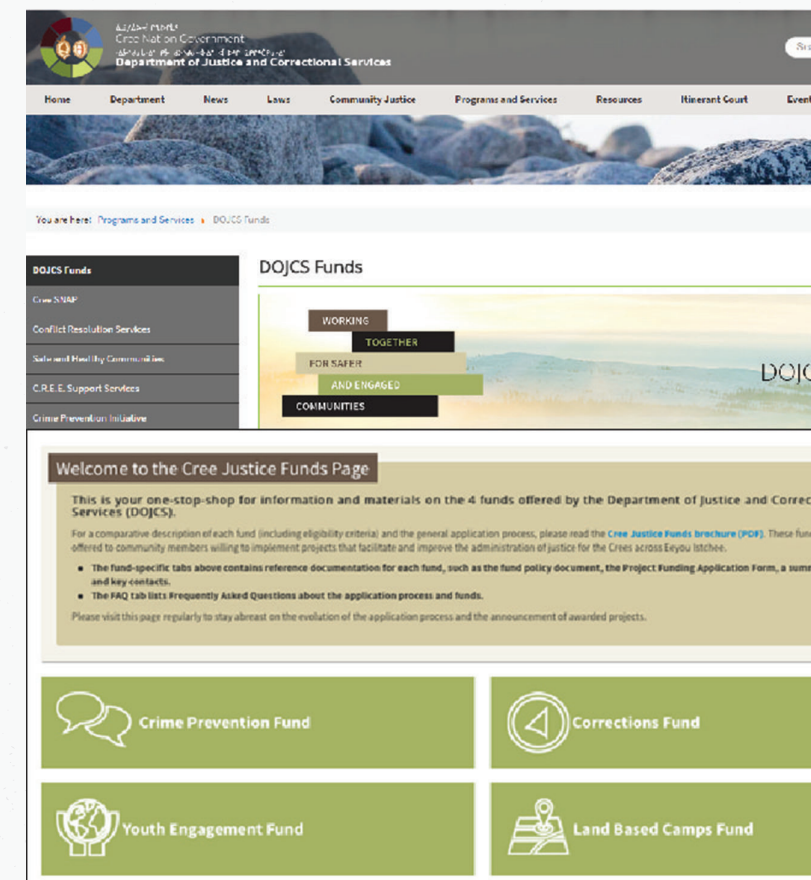


3. A Multi-Channel Strategy to Promote the Funds in the Communities

Through an integrated, community-based marketing strategy, the DOJCS promotes the Funds to the Cree Bands, Cree controlled organizations, and Cree beneficiaries of all nine communities.

Promotion campaigns for the Funds include local radio station interviews by the DOJCS Coordinators, local presentations by DOJCS staff members, information booths at Local Annual General Assemblies, and brochures and posters available in English and Cree. New promotional ads are also being developed for publication in The Nation magazine. The publication of our first Funds annual report was an occasion to provide additional visibility for the Funds, and to demonstrate their value and impact on members of the Cree communities.

For more information about the Funds, visit the DOJCS website (www.CreeJusticeFunds.ca) where all information about the Funds is available, including Fund policy, applicant eligibility, FAQs, blank application forms, and contact information for each of the four Fund Administrators. The website is updated frequently with new content, community tour dates and locations, and the most current deadlines.



4. A Fair Process for Application Submission, Evaluation and Approval

Application Submission

An application process was developed in order to facilitate a fair yet efficient application experience. This process was mapped out in detail and associated roles and responsibilities were clarified and/or defined. All staff have been thoroughly trained on the application process. The intention is to have a rigorous, financially responsible, and efficient process with mechanisms in place to provide support to applicants in order to help guide them through the steps and Fund requirements.

It is understood by the DOJCS that in offering funding opportunities to individuals whose professional role may not have provided them with experience in applying for government funding, it is essential to also have the tools and resources to make the process as accessible as it is robust.

Individuals or entities that are interested in making a difference in their community and want to apply for a Fund have to follow general guidelines:

- Select the Fund whose objectives are aligned with the project theme;
- Complete the online application form including such information and details as:
 - General description of the project;
 - Description of how the project supports the objectives of the fund;
 - Involvement of the community and/or a community justice committee;
 - Training and mentoring opportunities that participants would be offered;
 - Anticipated results, including a key performance metrics.
- Prepare and submit all required supporting documents, including a Band Council Resolution(s);
- Submit the completed application package via email to the Fund Administrator by the required deadline.

Project applications for all four Funds should demonstrate:

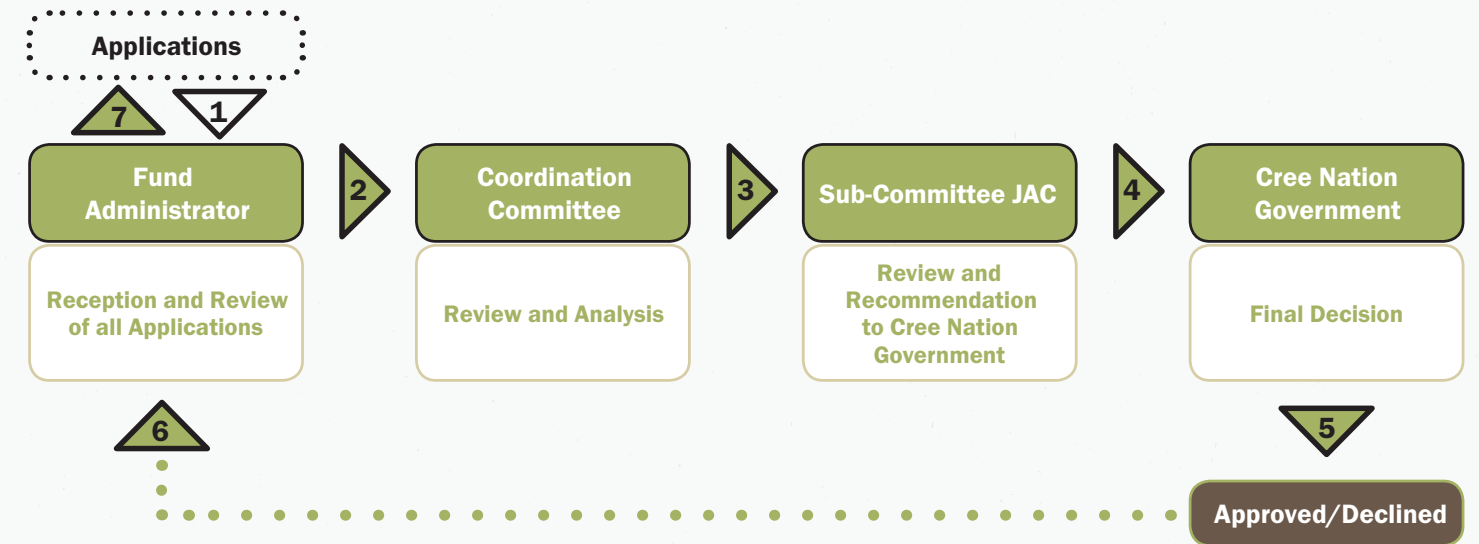
- Relevance of the project topic in connection with the specific Fund objective as well as the mandate of the Department of Justice and Correctional Services;
- Incorporation of Cree values, traditions, and culture;
- Innovative and community engaged, inspired projects;
- Complete application package.

The Fund Administrator, who is the applicant's main point of contact during the application process, also remains the go-to person for funding recipients throughout the year. At all times in the process, applicants and potential applicants can contact the Fund Administrator to answer questions or receive coaching on the process. The Fund Administrator role is also to monitor projects regularly, obtain from funding recipients reporting on the progress of their activities, as well as financial reports and receipts.

| Deadlines to Submit an Application | Ongoing |
|---|---|
| May 20, 2016 Sept 30, 2016 Jan 27, 2017 May 19, 2017 | Reporting and monitoring: Please check your agreement for terms and due dates |

Application Evaluation and Approval

The application evaluation and approval process includes four steps. This process was developed in order to ensure key priorities are respected, including alignment of Fund objectives, policy, and project, and to ensure governance of the Funds is thorough, fair, and efficient.



The four steps of the application approval process are as follows:

1. As indicated earlier, the Fund Administrators work closely with applicants to ensure that applicants are eligible and applications are complete. As well, they present project applications to the Coordination Committee.
2. The Coordination Committee, which is made up of the three departmental Coordinators and the Director of the DOJCS, meets a few times a year to review applications received. The Coordination Committee reviews the applications and looks for completeness, no conflicts of interest, and relevance (whether the application fits within the fund objectives). When this step is completed, the Coordination Committee passes the application on the Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee (JAC).
3. The JAC has a Sub-Committee for each of the Funds. The sub-committees review the projects presented by the Coordination Committee and make recommendations about which projects to approve and final funding amounts.
4. Applications that are recommended by the Sub-Committees of the JAC are then submitted to certain the Cree Nation Government for final approval, dependent on project amount.

The JAC Sub-Committees are made up of one appointee from Québec, one Cree representative, one alternate from both Quebec and the Cree Nation, and the Director of the DOJCS. Their work is pivotal in making selection recommendations and helping identify successful projects.



5. 2016-2017 Year Accomplishments and Results

Different types of projects were supported by the Cree Justice Funds in this second year of the Justice Funds program. A variety of initiatives were led in the communities, providing new programs, workshops, and events for the people of the Cree Nation related to the justice and corrections themes.

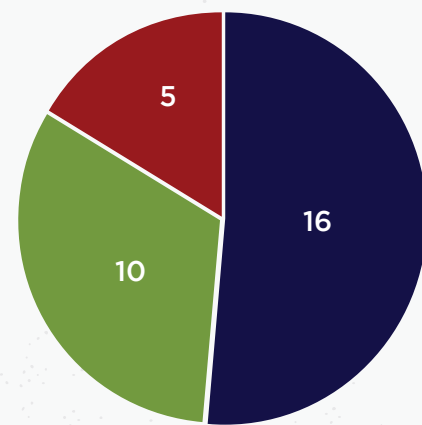
For example, the Youth Engagement Fund supported a two-day regional music and arts festival in N'we Jinan attracting over 100 participants. The Crime Prevention Fund supported the development of a 12-week long land based crime prevention camp outside of Waswanipi, six-week long land-based sessions of family focused workshops that aimed to strengthen family bonding and build self confidence, and a National Aboriginal Theatre Program in Mistissini. There were canoe brigades, wilderness camps, SCUBA diving, parenting classes, and numerous other types of projects that strived to engage Cree youth and community members across the Cree Nation.

The funded projects exemplified the many different varieties of justice related projects and included community engagement initiatives, land based projects, traditional activities including using the Cree language, and various ideas to address specific social and justice issues faced by the Cree Nation.

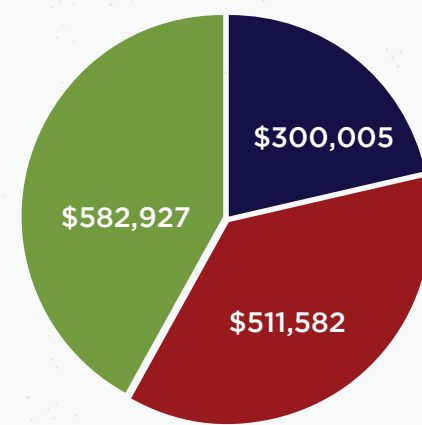


| Fund Name | Number Of Projects Accepted | Total Amount Granted |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Corrections Fund | 5 | \$511,582 |
| Crime Prevention Fund | 10 | \$582,927 |
| Youth Engagement Fund | 16 | \$300,005 |
| Total | 31 | \$1,394,514 |

Funds Distribution (number of projects)

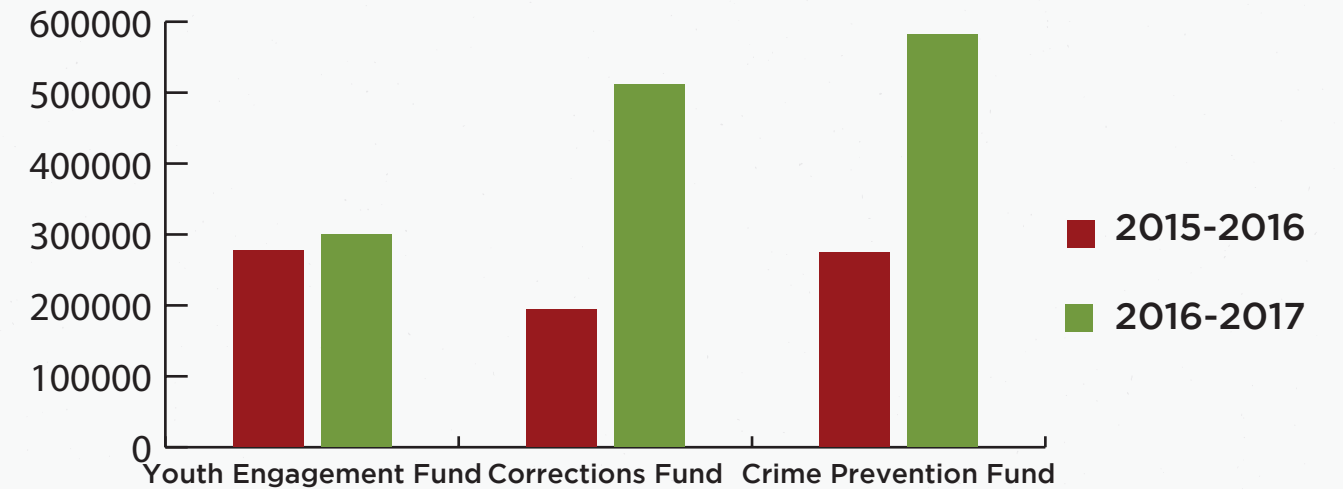


Funds Distribution (in \$)



■ Crime Prevention ■ Corrections ■ Youth Engagement

Comparison of Funds Approved

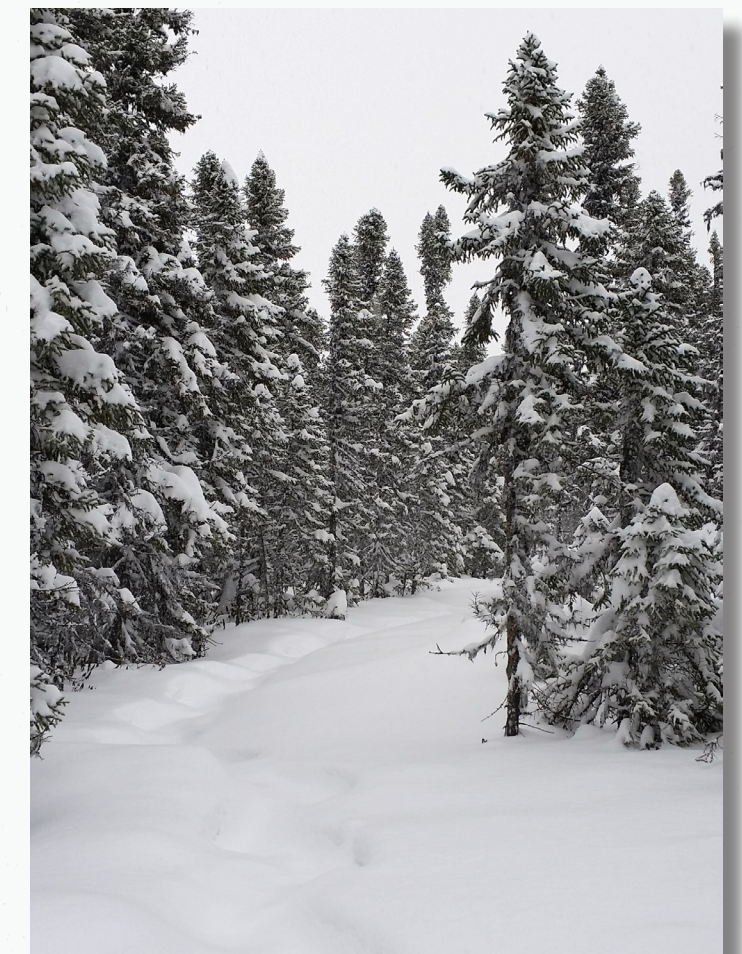


This second year of the Justice Funds program showcased many innovative ideas with applications submitted from new sources. While the number of projects funded remained stable, the total amounts distributed per fund were significantly higher than last year. As well, project scopes were larger and the average amount of funding per project went up substantially.

Specifically, the Corrections Fund provided an average of \$64,639 per project in 2015-2016 and this increased to \$102,316 in 2016-2017. The Crime Prevention Fund provided an average of \$39,286 per project in 2015-2016 and this increased to \$58,293 in 2016-2017. The Youth Engagement Fund provided a stable average of \$19,865 in 2015-2016 compared to \$18,750 in 2016-2017, but approved more projects overall and increased the total amount granted. These factors suggest that applicants are embracing bigger, bolder ideas about how to create innovative and traditional projects to engage directly with the Cree communities and intervene in ways that demonstrate the creativity, passion, and drive community members have to positively impact the future of justice in the Eeyou Ischee.

Finally, a note about the Land Based Camps Fund. The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is currently working to develop criteria that will outline the regulations and standards for the building of the camps that all funding recipients will be required to follow. The DOJCS is looking forward to being able to announce these details soon and to further supporting each of the communities in successfully building a land based camp for use in justice and corrections

related programming. In the meantime, the DOJCS encourages communities to continue to develop applications to this fund and to submit them to the DOJCS by funding deadlines.



Storytelling

As our 2016-2017 year of funding has ended, we wish to illustrate a few of the projects to highlight the important role that these initiatives played in Eeyou Istchee, while promoting the Cree values and way of life. Furthermore, we believe that the best source of inspiration for possible applicants and the greatest reward for funders are successful projects that have reaped results and positively impacted hundreds of Cree individuals.

Connecting to the Land to Survive and Thrive

Wilderness Mobile Healing Lodge Crime Prevention Fund

Since the 1980s, Charlie Louttit has been actively examining his own personal life and self-care, his Cree identity and relationship with elders, and his role in the Cree community. With a lengthy career in counselling and community justice work, he is focused on utilizing his skills to best serve his people. This year was no exception and his Wilderness Mobile Healing Lodge for Cree youth set out on the land once again for a month-long healing journey.

This past winter, Charlie took 65 youth into the bush for a 28-day program where they journeyed by snowshoe, learning various aspects of Eeyou traditional knowledge and skills such as water, ice, and boat safety, and living off the land. Some of the youth are high-risk while others have been in the corrections system before; Charlie helps them reconnect with the land as a conduit for healing. The 100km-walk takes them from one lake to another where elders are gathered to pass on oral traditions to the youth.

Charlie knows that this type of learning is not provided in regular school curriculum and is only accessible through relationships with elders who hold this sacred knowledge. "The Grandfathers' teachings are essential to the survival of Cree youth," states Charlie. "Outside exist the values and connections to the land, and the youth simply need to learn these skills to survive and thrive."

After staying a week with the elders, Charlie and the participants make the journey home. Charlie has found that the youth begin to let go of distractions and open up to each other and themselves through this new awareness of the land that helps them reconnect with their senses. "Many of us dream to be out there, but if you don't have the skills, you won't survive," says Charlie. "Birthright is important - every person has a spirit. The Cree philosophy is:

in everything out there - the trees, the land, water, rocks - everything has a spirit. Listen to that. It's intuition! It's all connected."

Charlie applied for Crime Prevention funding knowing that youth have been separated from their culture and often do not possess the self-esteem needed to choose positive lifestyles. The Wilderness Mobile Healing Lodge aims to support the youth as they try to be identified and accepted for who they are. Essentially, to work together to help the youth define their personal Cree identity.



By learning traditional Cree ways, youth are able to find both confidence and a voice. Charlie often reminds his youth participants that these are years of internal and external conflict, with different influences and values coming from all around us; hence, those who are less aware of their traditions and culture find it hard to stay connected and grounded.

Charlie is grateful for the funding and has received much positive feedback with youth wanting more of the same experience. "Survival is a hard teacher," Charlie points out, "but learning how to survive outdoors is empowering for these kids. Within their families and community, they are often faced with the intergenerational trauma of residential schools, and so this program gives them the opportunity to

experience choices, shows them that they have the power within themselves to take action and make better decisions."

The Wilderness Mobile Healing Lodge program allows Charlie and his colleagues to teach about respect for the land and for the youth, that discovering Cree knowledge and strength will draw communities together, and most importantly, to communicate to youth that they are valuable members of their Nation.

Cree Art to Foster Stronger Community

Mikwchiyam Art Concentration Program Crime Prevention Fund

David Hodges first encountered Mistissini students as a visiting musician who worked with youth to mix and produce songs and music videos. The experience garnered David positive feedback from the participating youth who came away feeling inspired and hopeful, as well as from their parents who encouraged the kids to get creative. The Justice Funds program recognized David's passion to reconnect youth and high-risk youth with creativity and to build a supportive artistic Cree community, as well as the value of this initiative as a crime prevention strategy.

In 2015, David's new project was awarded Crime Prevention funding and the Mikwchiyam Art Concentration Program was launched. The innovative project focuses on bringing art into Cree School Board high schools through an artists-in-residency initiative aimed to inspire youth, encourage new methods of communication with and between the youth, and teach life skills such as accountability, perseverance, and ownership. This project has become a model to support crime prevention through the engagement of Cree youth.

Piloted in the Voyageur Memorial High School in Mistissini, David and the Mikwchiyam team have seen the youth, some high-risk, flourish through these new modes of expression, and the program has now grown to include two more high schools in Chisasibi and Waskaganish. Four artists (Indigenous and/or non-Indigenous) are welcomed over a seven-month period (October to March) exposing the students to a wide range of creative disciplines including music, multimedia, acting, dance, writing, painting, and more. Participating artists are chosen by a selection

committee made up of representatives from the Cree School Board, the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, local Cree artists, and creative industry professionals.

The Mikwchiyam team works to ensure that the conditions for success are in place right from the beginning. Artists begin their role in the program by participating in a weeklong training in August. Teachers learn about and develop a collaborative process in order to best support the students. A room in each school is devoted to the program, serving as a studio space for students, artists, and teachers together. This creative space decentralizes the classroom, supporting youth in claiming program ownership, which in turn creates a positive attachment to school through feelings of belonging. The students want to be in class, creating art and learning from professional artists!



Students are given the opportunity to work closely alongside and learn from each artist, finding inspiration in various mediums and accessing an outlet where their concerns manifest as art. Artists are available to students for questions on logistics,

artistic life, and to discuss and discover future possibilities. Each artist's residency ends with a showing of work produced with students. At the end of the school year students also each create an independent project. Through their art and creative inspiration, the students learn about accountability, commitment, how to brainstorm and develop ideas, recovering from mistakes, and executing their own projects - essential life skills that contribute to a solid foundation for the future.

The Mikwchiyam team started the program in Mistissini with seven youth completing the program, and by the start of the second year (2016/2017), 43 Mistissini students had applied. The students' said that they found that they grew stronger after each relationship they developed with the artists and project they completed, and subsequently shared this experience and growth with the community. The youth, parents, and community are all very hopeful about the potential positive impact of this program.



"The program is like a tree with the first year being the roots with a focus on creating ownership," says Katie Green, Program Director. "The second year is the trunk with a solid foundation building once everyone gets on board, and the third year is branching out, seeing how the school and students take more ownership and begin to define the

program for themselves." The team aims to have the fourth year centred on community ownership by hiring an on site program coordinator who will work to help build capacity amongst students and teachers.

The Mistissini Youth Chief also received Justice funding from the Youth Engagement Fund for the N'we Jinan Festival. Hosted by the Cree Nation Youth Council and Cree Nation of Mistissini Youth Council, the arts festival was held in June 2016 and was a joyous celebration of the students of this arts concentration program and other Cree youth. Ten youth from each of the Cree communities welcomed each other, bonded, performed and displayed their work, and felt at home with each other because of their collective creative voice and shared experiences. This provided the youth a public space to showcase their work and had a positive impact on the proceeding school year's program in terms of recruitment and community participation. Certificates were made and presented to recognize students' effort and achievement, and the youth felt a great sense of pride. The festival moves on to Chisasibi in the summer of 2017.

Overall the Cree School Board believes the results from the art concentration program are resoundingly positive with a rise in attendance and grades in all classes: with the introduction of this program the youth are coming to school more. One student's attendance rate rose by 47%; he truly feels that this art studio became his home, and the other participants, his family.

David and his team received resoundingly positive and hopeful feedback from the students and community alike: the program has bridged gaps between generations through new imaginative modes of communication, and parents see the boundless potential in their children. This program has shown great ability to build youth engagement and ultimately, crime prevention by strengthening community and social structures. The youth are seeing a new future filled with imagination, hope, and endless possibility.

Our Cree Ancestors Guide Us Traditional Shelter Project Corrections Fund

"My father gave me my identity," says David Erless, who was taken out of school and into the bush by his father when he was a teenager, to help his father on the land. His father understood the importance

of living off the land and knew that traditional values and culture would give David the best education possible. David soon faced the same hardships as his ancestors, especially during winter, and was spending up to 11 months of the year in the bush hunting, fishing, and trapping.

For 65 years, David has lived in Waskaganish and has seen a lot. "Many young people don't fully understand what its like to be on the land as they haven't experienced what the elders have, what our ancestors have. This is one thing I cherish: that my father helped me to live a traditional life and know my Cree heritage and identity. Knowing that I have walked in my ancestors' footsteps... they are really amazing. Everything they had came from the land. Women used to have their babies on the land."

David feels that passing these teachings on is paramount to the survival of his people. In being accepted for the Justice Funds funding, he has been able to take participants who have struggled through the corrections system into their traditional environment, feeling that if they are able to connect back to the land and back to who they are they will be able to heal. "I told the kids the first day we were out there, I'm going to take you 40 years into the past and when you come back, you'll know your identity."

Together with participants who are post-incarceration or post-corrections system, David went into the bush for 5 days during the fall and 5 days in the winter to teach traditional shelter building and Cree ways. Through his own father's teachings, David showed participants how to build a traditional shelter using only materials from the land. Once the shelter was built, they lived there being exposed to Cree language, values, and activities. The experience ultimately helps them to reintegrate back into the community through healing and reconnecting to land and their Cree identity.

"Living off the land means hunting beavers, partridge, and ptarmigan, setting snares, drying pelts, traditional food preparation and cooking," says David. "It means respect for each other and sharing what the land provides." Each evening, David taught participants 10 Cree words and encouraged them daily to speak Cree as much as possible.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and they expressed great appreciation for their role in shelter building, hunting and cooking activities, connecting back to their roots, and the continuation of their ancestral values like community,

humility, respect, and friendship. Participants learned about kinship ties, Cree family values, and caring for one another on a broader scale in terms of feeding and working for the entire community.

David is hopeful that the project will be continued; as recommendations are to have the land based camp in all seasons so that more opportunities are provided for participants to learn from the hardships and perseverance of their ancestors.



Preparing Cree Youth for the Future

Wilderness Camp
Youth Engagement Fund

For five years now, David Cheechoo has been running a youth wilderness camp alongside his wife - Greta Wiskychan Cheechoo - as they continue their commitment to the youth of the Cree Nation. Together with experienced staff, they bring interested youth out onto the land where they can be comfortable and concentrate in a natural, traditional

setting, and benefit from this kind of traditional connection. “The wilderness is the best platform for youth to prepare for their life journey,” says David, “the land helps them to receive the knowledge and wisdom they need to go forward.”

Originally from Moose Factory, Ontario, David left home in his early teens for school in Saskatchewan. He holds a degree in Administration and Leadership, has worked in band administration for 14 years, and sits on the national board for the Rising Above abuse counselling agency. With his life focused on leadership and administration, David now works at the Cree Health Board in social services. Since 1999, he has developed approximately 20 youth programs for the Cree Nation, with many ongoing. Aboriginal/First Nation’s based, these original programs strive to meet the needs of today’s Cree youth.

David and Greta - who holds a Master’s Degree in counselling and arts - lead the camp along with elders, counsellors, and other trained staff. With the objective of teaching and embracing Cree culture, a variety of activities are held within the community and on the land over 10 days where youth are encouraged to find healing through tradition.

Through a combination of fun and traditional activities, David, Greta, and their trained colleagues teach the youth paddling, portage, and target shooting. Other events include fishing, net setting, a bannock cooking competition, and a scavenger hunt to identify traditional plants and berries. Elders teach through oral stories, sharing about life in the past. Survival skills are also taught such as splint and stretcher making with trees and roots, shelter building, making fire without matches, and snare making. David follows the program up with after care to check in with the youth and maintain a connection.

Every evening of the Wilderness Camp, traditional food such as moose, fish, and goose is served with preparation help from youth. After a traditional Cree meal, evenings culminate with Words of Encouragement where staff or invited speakers offer stories and guidance about overcoming obstacles, bullying, the dangers of alcohol and drugs, and more. David has found that guiding through personal stories to be effective in inspiring the youth to make better choices.

This year the Wilderness Camp will hire two youth workers to learn and assist in the teachings and hands on activities. Qualities and skills of young people become apparent over the course of the camp, from year to year, and so inviting them to teach their peers is a natural process and part

of exposing them to leadership skills as well as recognizing them for their value in the community. Participating youth have so far only been from Waskaganish, but now David and Greta are looking at making it a regional camp, to bring youth together from a variety of communities to share in this collective experience.

David appreciates the Youth Engagement funding the camp received and plans on building upon and improving what his camp offers so that he can continue supporting the kids with his programs. The youth and community both have expressed their support for the program and keen desire for the camp to be held every year. “Every week, kids or parents come up to ask us about the Wilderness camp,” says David. “Parents are ready to help their kids start planning for the next journey.”

What keeps Dave and his wife going? The commitment made by youth during and after the camp, and the youth who have found this camp to provide much needed hope.



6. A Continuous Improvement Process

Growth is a significant indicator of success in the 2016-2017 year: more projects were funded, more funding was distributed, and project scope and potential impact expanded. Encouraging results!

For us, success is inclusive of:

- informing the public about these funds,
- establishing and following a fair and timely application process,
- providing an internal system to support the realization of multiple projects in many locations,
- an evaluation process to measure the immediate, and in some cases, the longer term impacts of the projects, and
- establishing a solid reporting process.

This year, our processes were reviewed and updated to continue to be more efficient and effective. With support tools in place, we strive to provide the necessary conditions to ignite community engagement and equip individuals with what they need to make a difference.

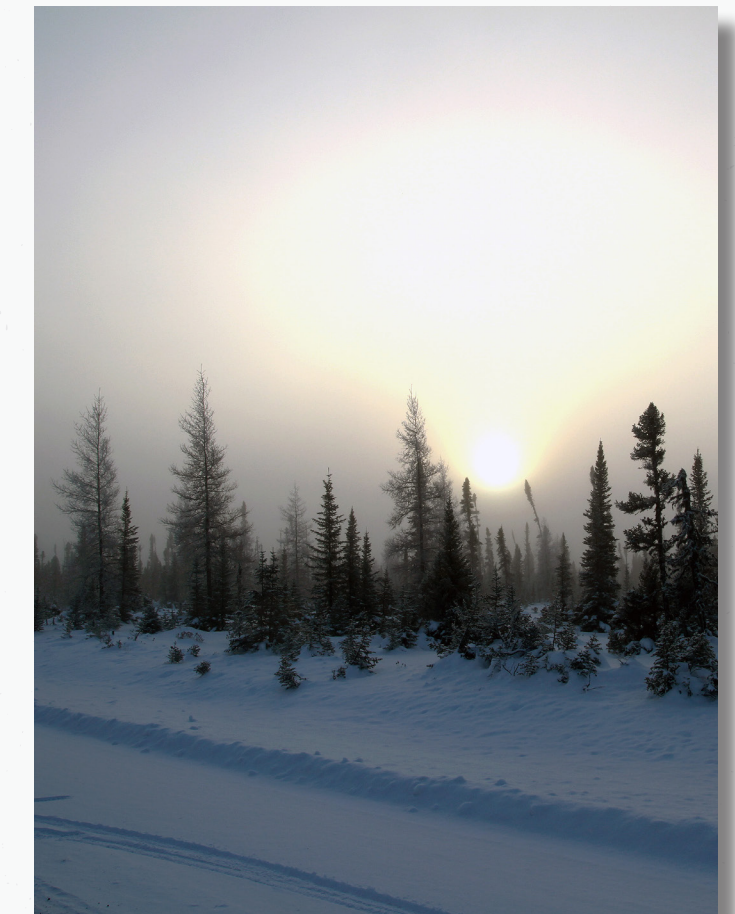
Our team’s experience is continually growing and we are well equipped to coach applicants and recipients through the process, answer questions, and provide support to community members who are interested in applying for funding. This is well aligned with the department’s philosophy of empowering community members. As well, various training initiatives for Administrators were also implemented so that they can continue to improve their service to applicants and recipients, and support the overall successful of the mission of the Funds.

Specific tools have been updated to ease the application and reporting process; a new project expense sheet was developed and an auto-calculate function was added to existing forms. Tools used by the Fund Administrators to manage and track funds have been created or updated, such as the database system developed and used to facilitate the tracking and management of applicant/recipient files, process and track financial payments and required monitoring reporting. These efforts will continue to help to shorten timelines and ensure that solid project ideas receive funding as quickly as possible. It is also important for all recipients to remember to follow the timeline and commitments outlined in their funding agreement. Further support related to this will be developed and launched in the coming year.

The DOJCS is also improving and increasing formal communication efforts with more frequent updates

and reminders sent to recipients by Administrators. The team developed online evaluations through Survey Monkey in 2017 for both recipients and project participants, and are now considering the most accessible and easy process to integrate the evaluations as well as share the project participant data with recipients, in order to generate feedback and data.

Overall, the DOJCS is satisfied with the second funding cycle and will continue to improve the process to ensure participation in Eeyou Istchee. We will continue to improve this process of engagement and empowerment of individual and entities to work together with us to make an impact in the area of justice and corrections in our Nation.



7. Looking Ahead

The 2017-2018 funding year is currently underway and another round of applications will be submitted in September 2017. The response continues to be positive and the momentum continues to build on the success of the 2016-2017 funding year.

| Next Deadline to Submit an Application | Ongoing |
|--|--|
| Sept 1, 2017 Jan 26, 2018 May 25, 2018 | Reporting and monitoring: Please check your agreement for terms and due dates |

Next year will see continued work, the end of past projects, and the start of new ones. In the coming months, the DOJCS will be continuing the promotion of the Funds at the community level and encourage applications to be submitted by the next application deadline. Our Fund Administrators will be visiting communities as our ambassadors, giving presentations, and providing information and support where needed. Community visit dates will be posted on our website soon. As well, look for the DOJCS booth at the Annual General Assembly in Whapmagoostui where you are encouraged to ask questions and pick up printed materials.

Furthermore, we have designed and finalized project evaluations and the Administrators will integrate them into the overall process. There will be a continued effort moving forward to compile and assess data on the impact of the Funds in the coming years.

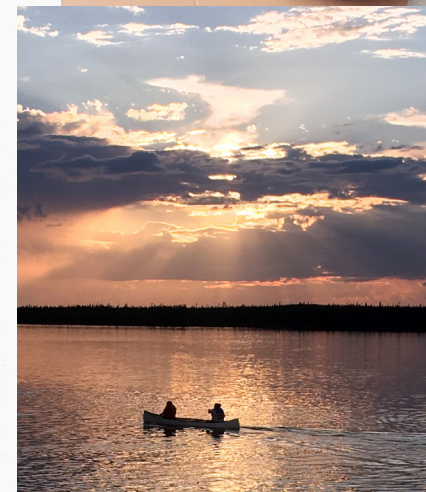
From the community perspective, these four Justice Funds are important and serve to fill a need to help community members, as well as regional entities, initiate projects aimed at the prevention of crime, holistic healing, and connection to Cree land, values, and traditions. It is our hope that Justice funded projects will continue to grow and blossom in the years to come and that increasing numbers of Eenouch Eeyouch will be inspired to get involved.

At this point we would like to thank all the organizations and individuals who have submitted projects and realized them in the past year. Your desire and efforts to make this Nation and our communities ever safer encourages us to keep offering such funds. We look forward to seeing your many creative ideas in the communities over the coming years.



8. Thank You!

We would like to acknowledge the support of the Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee, and the Cree Nation Government for the creation of these Funds and their continued support in their implementation. We acknowledge the hard work of the DOJCS staff whose dedication and energy help make the administration of the Funds easier. Finally, we would like to thank all the organizations and individuals who have submitted projects and realized them in the past year. Your desire and efforts to make this Nation and our communities safer and stronger encourage us to keep offering such funds.



9. Annex

The following table lists the projects that were supported financially by the Justice Funds in 2016-2017.

Corrections Fund Projects

| Project Title & Description | Project Objectives | Intended Impact | Community |
|--|---|--|-------------|
| Waskaganish Traditional Shelter Project* | This project brought individuals post incarceration onto the land to learn how to build a traditional shelter and all of the skills involved in living in the shelter for extended periods of time. | The project helped participants rebuild a solid foundation for a healthy life by reconnecting them with the land, traditional life and culture, and their roots and identity. The time on the land helped participants reintegrate into the community at a slower pace. | Waskaganish |
| Mistissini Community Integration Work Program (2 phases) | Participants recently released from detention developed work skills and ethics through working for local business and entities. Some projects developed a sense of giving back to the community by fostering value locally through their work. | The program developed a spirit of giving back to the community where harm may have been caused. Participants learned about self-esteem and skill development with the aim to support their reintegration back into their families and communities, and reduce likelihood of repeat offences. | Mistissini |
| Mistissini Youth Healing Services- Otish Session 2 / Across the lake Session 3 | Parents received support in parenting skills, learned about the importance of parenting, and parenting responsibilities. Parents were invited to spend six weeks on the land with their child who was in custody. Mentors from CBH youth healing services are provided and families reconnect, build parenting skills, resolve issues in a positive healing land-based environment. | Participants are supported to build self confidence and take responsibility for their actions. Families reconnect with youth to reduce the likelihood of returning to custody and heal relationships. | Mistissini |

* These projects are featured in the Storytelling section of the report

Crime Prevention Fund Projects

| Project Title & Description | Project Objectives | Intended Impact | Community |
|---|---|--|-----------------|
| Mikwchiyam Art Concentration Program* | To encourage art literacy, art appreciation, accountability, empowerment, and collaboration by bringing together students, artists, teachers, and community members in positive, creative learning spaces. Students had the opportunity to discover, build, and share their personal and collective voices through the arts. | At-risk youth and teachers collaborated with diverse artists (musicians, visual artists, actors, writers, filmmakers, dancers, multimedia artists, traditional artisans, etc.) and had a chance to explore storytelling, express personal and collective voice, and spread personal messages on a larger scale to create effective and meaningful artistic productions that reflect personal interests and ideas. This program addresses issues such as drugs, violence, and healthy outlets for expression. | Multi-community |
| Waskaganish Wilderness Mobile Healing Lodge Program* | The wilderness mobile healing lodge project aimed to help youth and young adults with various social issues (addiction, low-self esteem, low school attendance) by teaching them about traditional positive values, healthy habits, the outdoors. Alcohol and substance abuse are often related to criminal incidents within the community. | Participants stepped away from the securities and comforts of modern living and ventured into the bush to learn about water, ice, and boat safety based on Eeyou traditional knowledge and experience. Experiential learning helped participants recognize and build upon their sense of self and self-worth, and in turn, steer participants away from criminal activity. | Waskaganish |
| Whapmagoostui Cree Cores Value | Reconnect high-risk youth and young adults with the land, in a camp environment). | To teach youth and young adults how to live on the land. Youth were given land-survival toolkits and learn about Cree core values. The values learned on the land positively influence the way youth act in their communities, reducing the risk of negative behaviors. | Whapmagoostui |
| Waswanipi Crime Prevention Camp | A 12-week Crime Prevention Camp that includes Cree culture and language, camp preparation, beach activities, beach lunch, water tubing and fishing derby, workshop on alcohol/drug prevention, family dynamics, and vandalism prevention. | To develop awareness about addiction and vandalism prevention, as well as parenting skills and family dynamics. To reduce overall negative incidents in the community. | Waswanipi |
| Crime Prevention Initiative (underway) | To prevent family violence and other forms of violence against women in Eeyou Istchee by focusing on primary prevention, including public awareness, strengthening women's skills and knowledge, and protecting Cree women and girls. | Creation of a non-violence committee and development of violence prevention and awareness toolkit for Eeyou Istchee to reduce family violence in the community. | Multi-community |
| Mistissini Crime Prevention Week | To bring awareness in the community about safety, bullying, and general crime prevention issues. | Dedicated members of public service organizations (EPPF, fire department, paramedics) and individuals from the community were recognized for their contributions and important issues were highlighted in workshops and presentations throughout the week. | Mistissini |
| National Aboriginal Theater Program | To teach about the importance of personal boundaries, how they define us, and influence all areas of life and relationships. These lessons can reduce the number of conflicts in the participants' lives, thus minimizing the likelihood of coming into contact with the justice system in the future. | Participants learned about healthy boundaries and how these influence various aspects of life and relationships such as parent/child, spousal, co-worker, friend, and with self. Information was provided on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual boundaries that can help in disengaging from harm and reducing victimization. | Mistissini |

* These projects are featured in the Storytelling section of the report

Crime Prevention Fund Projects

| Project Title & Description | Project Objectives | Intended Impact | Community |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| N'we Jinan Tour | To promote awareness of what at-risk children and teens of today are experiencing at school, in their homes, and in their communities. | Participants were offered a safe space where they can speak their mind regarding issues that affect youth in their daily life. A healthy, safe space was provided where youth shared and discussed the deeper issues facing youth. Providing this outlet fosters engagement, positive behavior changes, better decision making, and community support for youth in need. | Multi-community |
| Youth Healing Services | Family-oriented on-the-land program aimed at helping families develop parenting skills and teaching about the importance and impact of parenting. Youth are taken out on the land with their families to reduce the risk level and to ultimately bring youth from the system and back to their families. | Six-week long land-based sessions of family-oriented programming were given to strengthen family bonding and build confidence as a family for youth who were in custody. | Multi-community |
| Youth Fusion Innovative Program | To directly address several factors associated with school drop out rates. | To develop awareness on topics such as social isolation and peer relationships; a sense of belonging at school; nutrition, physical activity, and mental health; use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs; self-esteem and motivation. | Multi-community |

Youth Engagement Fund Projects

| Project Title & Description | Project Objectives | Intended Impact | Community |
|-----------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| N'we Jinan Festival* | Teaching youth to enjoy live musical performances and artwork, and participate in the cultural fair featuring local artisans, Cree singers, hip-hop artists, musicians, filmmakers, photographers, and visual artists who share their talents. Celebrate as a nation, and encourage youth to pursue artistic interests as a healthy alternative. | The two-day regional music and arts event in Mistissini - N'we Jinan Festival - showcased the diverse talent in the Eeyou Istchee and beyond. Participants discovered and met professional artists, acquired skills and knowledge about art practices, accessed resources for career pathways, experienced personal development, created new relationships, and nurtured Cree identity and self-empowerment. Youth issues, addiction, and domestic violence were performance subjects with discussions in a safe environment. | Regional |
| Wilderness Camp* | Provide youth with a wilderness camp focused on Cree culture activities and survival techniques taught by elders. | Cree culture, values, and identity workshops were given. Youth were given a chance to connect to each other and the land in order to reduce the possibility of future incidents of crime. | Waskaganish |
| Alcohol and Drug Awareness | Project aimed to address alcohol and drug abuse among youth through empowerment workshops and motivational speakers. | Participants learned about addiction prevention through those who live a clean and sober life and to make healthier decisions in the future. | Waswanipi |
| Eeyou Divers Discover SCUBA | Multiple pool sessions teaching at-risk youth about SCUBA. Participants learned breathing techniques, stress relief, equipment as well as the Buddy System, dangers, and safety measures to promote individual well-being in different seasons, with guidance from elders. Ongoing training connected elders with youth and allowed them to discover significant cultural underwater sites. The program fosters positive behavior and reduced criminal activity. | At-risk youth learned about their role as caretaker of the land and aquatic habitats. They gained confidence in themselves, learned to trust and cooperate with partners, creative problem solving, and confidence-building life skills. Ultimately, these life skills will help in the reduction of stress and criminal activity. | Ouje Bougoumou |
| Goopaneou | Based on Misstissini trap lines, elders taught youth traditional skills and exposed them to traditional life style, culture, language, and principles. | Elders and youth were matched according to each youth's specific needs and the land is used to impart values and traditions that will support the youth through challenges by building self-confidence and respect. | Mistissini |
| Me to We Camps | A social justice and leadership camp - Take Action Camp - Me to We - held outside Toronto. Ten high risk youth, ages 13 to 17, participated for two weeks. Workshops covered leadership training, service learning, educational seminars, and community volunteering topics. | The Take Action Camp aims helps youth avoid the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol. Participants earn eight hours of community service towards their high school diploma, and return to their community inspired to make a difference. | Mistissini |
| Youth and Elders Gathering | Youth and elders worked together to address alcohol and drug abuse by reconnecting them with the Cree culture, including learning how to make paddles, prepare and cook Eeyou meechem, set nets and smoke fish, sew moccasins and slippers, and butcher moose. | All workshops were conducted by elders, with the help of youth center staff. The aim was to provide youth experience with Cree traditional activities as a form of addiction prevention. | Waswanipi |

* These projects are featured in the Storytelling section of the report

Youth Engagement Fund Projects

| Project Title & Description | Project Objectives | Intended Impact | Community |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Youth and Elders Snowshoe Program | A six to seven-week project at the Cultural Village where elders taught youth to make snowshoes and community members presented on crime prevention topics. | Community members shared personal testimonies that encouraged youth to make better choices in an effort to prevent involvement in criminal activity. | Ouje Bougoumou |
| Youth Beautifying Experience Program | Youth were hired to work to beautify the community in an effort to encourage the employment of out-of-school youth. Participants in the work program were also required to attend adult education summer school. | Youth participation helps avoid potential situations of alienation and vulnerability in the community, as well as instill a sense of community pride and deter negative activity such as vandalism and littering. | Mistissini |
| Youth Canoe Brigade | Land-based workshops offered teaching about carving, net weaving, and summer camp building. Youth were taught how to live more positive, healthy lifestyles, core values, and how to make better decisions that have a positive impact. | Youth and the community supported the canoe brigade, which aimed to help youth avoid the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol while learning about empowerment, self-care, and social justice. | Mistissini |
| Youth Mentorship | The mentorship program involved the pairing youth with trained mentors. They met throughout the year for a variety of activities. Mentors shared positive experiences and worked towards the fostering of positive environments for youth, working to reduce window breaking and night time criminal activity. | Help youth connect with responsible, caring individuals within the community to support them. Training was provided through the mentors with the intention to engage the youth, help them develop as leaders, reduce vandalism of local buildings, and offer various activities. | Ouje Bougoumou |
| Youth Paddling the Broadback | The youth embarked on a two week journey paddling the broadback river. | This project helps preserve Cree culture for the youth of Waswanipi, encouraging them to abstain from drugs and alcohol through engagement with traditional activity and create a foundation for positive change. | Waswanipi |
| Youth Summer Camps | Provide youth with workshops relating to intergenerational trauma, anger, and healthy relationships. As well, camp counsellors and elders conducted workshops on traditional net setting, preparing and cooking fish, and boat and water safety. | Prevention of negative social issues such as alcohol and drug addiction, lateral violence, family violence, depression, suicide, and criminal behaviour. | Waswanipi |
| Youth Traditional Pursuits | Hands on lessons and workshops hosted by elders to share their knowledge with youth. Youth hunted for small game and learned the importance of respecting and cleaning the kill. A guide showed youth summer and winter fishing skills on Mistissini Lake as well as overnight mini snowshoe excursions. | This land-based experience taught respect for hunting and animals as well as the knowledge that elders pass on. Lessons on the land and values will translate into a reduction in negative activity and crime. | Mistissini |

Funds Administrators

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
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