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WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FOR SAFER  
AND ENGAGED  
COMMUNITIES

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2017-2018 Justice Funds Annual Report  
Working Together for Safer, Engaged Communities Across Eeyou Istchee

5	1. Justice Funds – An Introduction
6	2. The Four Justice Funds
6	Funds Summary
8	Initiatives For and By Crees of Eeyou Istchee
9	3. Application Process Improvements
10	4. A Fair Process: Application to Approval
10	Application Submission
10	Application Evaluation and Approval
12	5. 2017-2018 Accomplishments & Results
14	Storytelling – Highlights from 2017-2018 Funds
14	Birch Bark Biting
16	Community Integration Work Program
17	Footprints: A Walk Through Generations
18	Youth Fusion
20	Regional Canoe Brigade 2017
21	6. Continuous Improvement
22	7. Looking Ahead
23	8. Thank You! Meegwetch!
24	2017-2018 Funds Report Annex
24	Youth Engagement
28	Crime Prevention
30	Corrections



## 2017-2018 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Justice Funds



### Welcome to our Third Annual Justice Funds Report!

Throughout this third funding cycle the Department of Justice and Correctional Services has witnessed the commitment of the Cree Nation to its youth – many projects from this past year highlighted a focus on inspiration of Cree youth as a means of crime prevention, holistic health, and social justice. In this year's annual report, you will find many examples of youth participation with our Funds, as both project applicants and project participants. This is just one example of how the Justice Funds are being utilized to fund initiatives focused on justice, crime prevention, land-based programs, youth engagement in all of the communities.



We have supported many of our applicants' ideas to provide effective programming as a mechanism of justice. Through projects that were informative, developing of leadership skills, or passing on traditional teachings, projects had the intention to provide empowering results such as decision-making abilities, renewed self-confidence, and acquiring new skills.

It is our belief that contributing to a strong foundation for our youth and their fresh ideas is just one of many examples of how Justice Funds projects can be used to help build an ever-stronger Cree Nation.

<http://www.creejusticefunds.ca>



## 1. Justice Funds – An Introduction

### A Bit of History

The Cree Nation Government's 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 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 youth, the larger community, and resources. They contribute to the creation of community hubs, working together for Crees across Eeyou Istchee. The four Funds are:

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

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

### 2017-2018 Year in Review

Our Justice Funds were accessed to work to empower our youth and the broader communities: we proudly report that we have worked hard to streamline our application process further, identified new ways to support our applicants and their visions, and continued our commitment to engage Cree youth (ages 13 to 35) by inspiring them to be confident community leaders, social justice advocates, and Cree citizens. Funded 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 these types of efforts.

As each Fund has a specific objective, scope, target audience, and subject, projects submitted in the 2017-2018 year varied greatly, all supporting the Justice Funds goal to help create safe communities and harmonious relationships and ensure that fundamental justice rights and practices are protected. Projects included:

- Projects led by youth and/or attended by youth to instill leadership, encourage participation and strengthen ties to traditional Cree ways of life;
- Projects led by local Elders and mentors to build bridges between generations of Cree citizens;
- Land-based, traditional activities to teach and reinvigorate the Cree way of living;
- 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 focused on 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 aspects, and reporting activities to applicants. The DOJCS also continued its efforts to increase Fund awareness by visiting communities, supporting and encouraging applicants, and delivering clear and concise Funds information through a variety of mediums. 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!

### Donald Nicholls

Director, *Justice and Correctional Services*



2. The Four Justice Funds

**Our Funds** enable our communities to put ideas into action, with each focusing on one of the core principles:



- 1. Youth engagement;
- 2. Crime prevention;
- 3. Rehabilitation for Cree offenders;
- 4. Connecting/reconnecting our people to the land.



These core principles are the essential elements to building a foundation for the long-term safety and welfare of our communities.

**Our Four Funds** have specific objectives that are in tune with Cree ways of life and culture, developing relationships and engaging people locally.

**The Youth Engagement Fund** aims to engage youth under 35 years of age, steer them away 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 engage youth by offering innovative, relevant programs that support making healthy life choices and offer concrete opportunities to connect youth with their Cree culture and traditions as crime prevention and social development strategies.

Funds Summary

	 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FUND	 CRIME PREVENTION FUND
Objective	Empower Cree youth through relevant programming and support for their well-being.	Prevent crime and support the creation of safer communities while respecting Cree values and ways.
Areas of Priority and Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevention of crime;</li><li>• Prevention of abuse of alcohol and drugs;</li><li>• Anti-bullying and support;</li><li>• Suicide prevention;</li><li>• Promotion of Cree culture and traditions.</li></ul> Projects should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target youth &lt; 35 years old who are experiencing difficulties at school or in their communities; and</li><li>• Enable Cree youth to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Develop skills to keep from offending/re-offending;</li><li>- Remain accountable for their actions;</li><li>- Develop a sense of responsibility in and to their communities.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Violence, including family violence;</li><li>• Alcohol and drug abuse, and addiction;</li><li>• Addressing trauma and mental health;</li><li>• Building parenting skills and encouraging safe family and community environments;</li><li>• Promoting alternatives to school suspensions and prevention of school-based bullying;</li><li>• Promoting alternatives to criminal justice.</li></ul> Projects should target one or more of the following types of crime prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LEVEL 1 Strengthen community and social structures (focus on people and on improving the physical environment).</li><li>• LEVEL 2 Change behaviours of those already engaging in criminal activity or presenting behavioural problems.</li><li>• LEVEL 3 Gain stability for those attempting to rehabilitate or reinsert into a community.</li></ul>
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cree Bands (Youth Departments);</li><li>• Cree Nation Youth Council;</li><li>• Local Youth Councils.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cree controlled organizations;</li><li>• Cree beneficiaries;</li><li>• Partnerships between Cree controlled organizations and other organizations (Cree partners must have &gt; 50% control of project);</li><li>• Community Justice Committees</li></ul>

	 CORRECTIONS FUND	 LAND-BASED CAMPS FUND
Objective	Support rehabilitation and reintegration of Cree offenders.	Build land-based camps to support justice-related activities and rehabilitation of Cree offenders for the Department of Justice and Correctional Services.
Areas of Priority and Targets	<p>Projects should help Cree offenders (both during detention and after release):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn and apply the skills and strategies they need to keep them from a cycle of reoffending;</li><li>• Overcome barriers to successful reintegration;</li><li>• Develop awareness of the consequences of their behaviour;</li><li>• Encourage the giving of something back to the community in a way that contributes to the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole.</li></ul> <p>Projects should target Crees who are subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social reinsertion;</li><li>• A conditional sentence order;</li><li>• A suspended sentence or parole.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivery of programs and activities that support the prevention of crime and the community reintegration and rehabilitation of Cree offenders;</li><li>• Exclusivity to Justice programs and access by the local Justice teams to run community level initiatives, managed by the local Justice committee, for non-commercial and non-profit use only.</li><li>• Create an environment of trust where the needs of Cree offenders are addressed while providing them with an opportunity to connect with Cree traditions and the land.</li><li>• Camps may also provide crime prevention programs specifically for youth.</li></ul> <p>Funding in the amount of \$300,000 (maximum) for capital expenditures can be granted to the community or an individual, who will in partnership with the department build one land-based camp per community. The camp will then be used by the department.</p>
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cree Bands and related entities;</li><li>• Cree controlled organizations;</li><li>• Cree beneficiaries;</li><li>• Partnerships between Cree controlled organizations and other organizations (Cree partners must have &gt; 50% control of project);</li><li>• Community Justice Committees.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cree Bands and related entities;</li><li>• Cree controlled organizations;</li><li>• Cree beneficiaries.</li></ul>

**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.

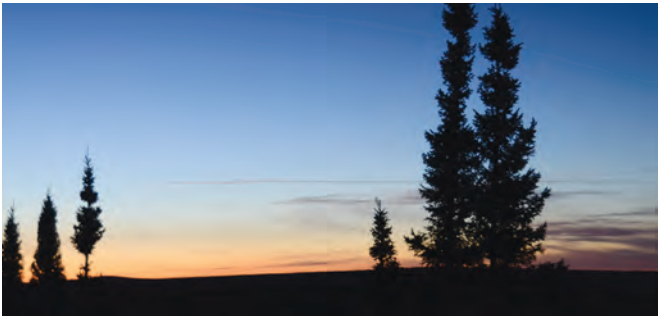
Targeting ‘at risk’ youth and adults, projects incorporate Cree traditions, culture, and values and support three levels of crime prevention:

**LEVEL 1:** Early prevention by strengthening community and social structures through programs on such themes as parenting skills, drug and alcohol abuse, and staying in school.

**LEVEL 2:** Changing the behaviour of individuals who are actively committing crime or whose choices are already having a negative impact on the community.

**LEVEL 3:** 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 Corrections Fund** provides a unique opportunity for Cree beneficiaries, local Bands, and Cree controlled organizations to welcome Cree offenders back through the transition from incarceration in the South to their community and family life in the North. This Fund is designed to help the healing process begin by connecting 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 teach individuals new skills or offer mentorship in an effort to help participants become employable within the community, post incarceration. Participants are 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 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 to be used for justice and corrections related activities and programs. The camp can also be used to deliver programs and activities that support the prevention of crime, as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of Cree offenders with the assistance of local Justice staff.

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. Once construction is complete, the camp will be a location in which the Department can 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 culturally-relevant alternative 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 and are a great resource.

### Initiatives for and by Crees of Eeyou Istchee

One of the most important factors to highlight is that the Funds target initiatives that are for the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and are led by Crees, whether individuals, Bands, or Cree controlled organizations. It is therefore of the utmost importance to emphasize that programs must actively incorporate Cree traditions, values, and way of life. Moving forward, as we see a growing interest in supporting our community members, we will continue to strengthen our support for justice-focused programming. This work will go hand-in-hand with our continued support of those who are transitioning back into their communities as well as our land-based program projects, to name a few.

A reminder that all eligible projects must have a fixed duration and be non-recurrent, though exceptionally, some may be multi-year. Furthermore, 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 is assigned a Fund Administrator presently located in the Justice offices in Mistissini and Ouje-Bougoumou. The role of the Fund Administrator is to oversee all steps of the process, to guide and mentor applicants and funding recipients, and to monitor projects. All of the Fund Administrators have been thoroughly trained in their role to guide and coach potential applicants in the process, and to track and follow up on the implemented projects. It is important to keep in close contact with the Administrator connected to the Fund throughout the process, including submitting reports, sharing photos taken during your project, and providing regular updates. Keeping lines of communication open contributes to projects running smoothly and to getting access to support!



## 3. Application Process Improvements

**Promotion of our Funds** through an integrated, community-based marketing strategy allows Eeyou Istchee citizens the chance to learn about, and make the most of, the project opportunities the Funds provide. Our strategy is to communicate information about the Funds to community members, the Cree local governments, Cree controlled organizations, and Cree beneficiaries of all nine communities.

As well, our Fund Administrators have been working together over the last year to develop a comprehensive Outreach Strategy, including a Strategic Action Plan. Many new efforts and initiatives have been identified to continue to reach out to community members across the Cree Nation and encourage the realization of new project ideas. Utilizing various Design Thinking processes, the Administrators have been imagining the funding experience from the perspective of (pre)applicants in order to conceive of new ways to maximize engagement and inspire ever increasing access to funding.

One of our goals is to increase applicant awareness and understanding of the role of the Fund Administrators. Acting as Guides and Mentors, Fund Administrators are here to:

- **Support** - Contact Fund Administrators directly with any questions or concerns;
- **Troubleshoot** - Fund Administrators help resolve application challenges;
- **Streamline** - Learning from feedback, Fund Administrators steer us toward a more efficient and effective application process like our new Budgeting Tool for auto-calculation.

New initiatives are being developed to support the easy connection of community members to the Fund Administrators and inform on the application process:

- **Youth engagement** - announce specific, relevant initiatives through social media to engage and inspire young voices and new youth leadership;
- **Webinars** - online information sessions;
- **Community tours** - Fund Administrators community visits to present the funds;
- **Reporting clinics** - to help with reporting questions or challenges on interim or final reports;
- **Pitch events** - applicants have a chance to test out their ideas with Fund Administrators and gather feedback and direction to guide their application;

Classic promotion campaigns for the Funds will continue including advertisement in The Nation magazine, regional and local radio ads, local presentations by DOJCS staff members, information booths at Local Annual General Assemblies, and brochures and posters available in English and Cree.

A key component of Fund approval is that projects must relate to Justice topics and must comply with the relevant policy. We are looking to approve innovative, thoughtful programming that supports our communities and creates a bridge to justice through Youth Engagement, Crime Prevention, Corrections or Land-Based learning and healing. This is integral to approving any application and essential to maintaining a fair approval process for all.

For more information about the Funds, visit the DOJCS website ([www.CreeJusticeFunds.ca](http://www.CreeJusticeFunds.ca)) where all information about the Funds is available, including Fund policy, applicant eligibility, FAQs, 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: Application to Approval

An application submission 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, environmentally sustainable, and efficient process with mechanisms in place to provide support to applicants in order to help guide them through the steps and Fund requirements. The DOJCS makes the applications to the Funds available through its website and has established an environmentally friendly online process. As such It is important to note that applications and reports must be submitted electronically.

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.

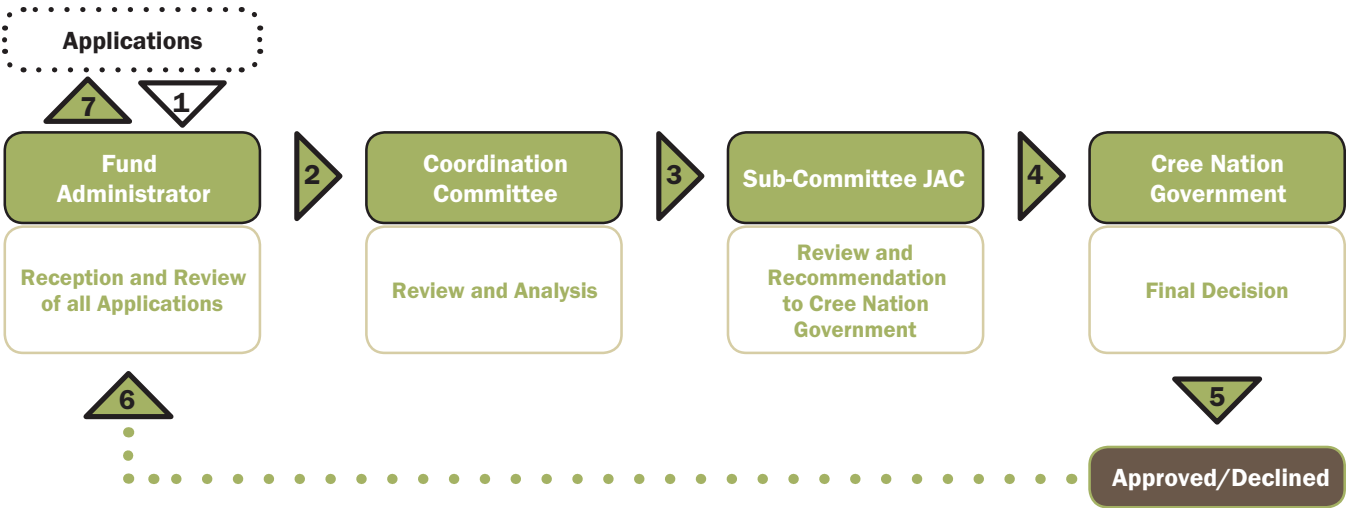
General Guidelines:

1. Select the Fund with objectives aligned with the project theme;
2. 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 key performance metrics.
3. Submit all supporting documents, including a Band Council Resolution(s) when relevant;
4. Submit the completed application package via email to the Fund Administrator by the required deadline. Project applications for all four Funds must 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. It is encouraged that at any time during the process, applicants and potential applicants should contact the Fund Administrator to have questions answered or receive coaching on the process. The Fund Administrator's role is also to monitor projects regularly, act as a mentor to applicants, obtain reporting from funding recipients on the progress of their activities, as well as financial reports and receipts.

Next deadline to submit an application	Ongoing
August 31 2018 Feb 1 2019 May 31 2019	Reporting and monitoring: Please check your agreement for terms and due dates.

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. **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** – the department Coordinators and the Director of the DOJCS – meet to review applications received and look for completeness, relevance (whether the application fits within the Fund objectives), project budget, ensure expenses are reasonable and fit within eligible expenditures, and look for conflicts of interest.

3. **The JAC has a Sub-Committee for each of the Funds.** The Sub-Committees review the project packages presented by the Fund Administrators to ensure completeness, look at distribution of Funds across the Cree Nation, and, based on budget, make recommendations about project approval and final funding amounts.
4. **Applications recommended by the Sub-Committees of the JAC** are then submitted to the Cree Nation Government for final approval.

The JAC Sub-Committees are made up of one appointee from the province of Quebec, one Cree representative, and the Director of the DOJCS. Their work is pivotal in making selection recommendations and helping identify successful projects. Questions about specific details in project applications may come up at any stage in the process and these will be communicated to the applicant. It is important to note that this is a regular part of the process and that regular communication with the Fund Administrator will help facilitate this process efficiently.



5. 2017-2018 Accomplishments & Results

A variety of initiatives were supported by the Cree Justice Funds in this third year of the Justice Funds program. Centering on young voices and youth leadership, projects were led in the communities and out on the land, related to the justice and corrections themes, and for the people of the Cree Nation.

Highlights include:

- **A youth-led traveling art and artifact exhibit -** Footprints: A Walk Through Generations – with 150 objects, traveling to nine communities, set to tour cities across Canada, actively engaging youth in their history and culture to contribute to a sense of identity and belonging. A social justice initiative, the Cree youth walked from the farthest reaches of the territory to Parliament to present their ideas, to have their voices heard and give attention to what is important to them.
- **Youth Fusion -** From Schools to Communities – in partnership with the Cree School Board, Youth Fusion provides activities like Science of the Land, Healthy Living, Video Game Design, and Leadership in Arts & Media to help at-risk youth develop their connection to traditional values.
- **Birch bark biting -** Ouje-Bougoumou Youth Department and Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI) held two birch bark biting workshops, with Elders teaching youth to encourage continued pride in community and citizenship.
- **Youth canoe brigade -** A 231km canoe trip on Wawagasic River with nightly camping for one week. Elders provided daily traditional teachings and activities to connect to the land and their Elders, instilling pride and accountability.
- **Community Integration Work Program -** Helping reintegrate young offenders back into the community and workforce, this program aims to instill Cree values such as respect for others, self-esteem, leadership and responsibility through traditional activities and community work for Elders.

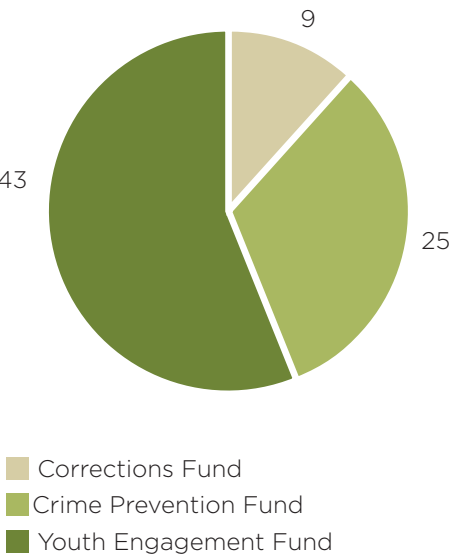
Fund Name	Number of Projects Accepted	Total Amount Granted
Youth Engagement Fund	13	\$ 298,155
Crime Prevention Fund	8	\$ 618,199
Corrections Fund	1	\$ 306,755
Total	22	\$ 1,223,109

Our best indicators of success are our applicants and their ideas. The funded projects exemplified the many different varieties of justice-related programs and community engagement initiatives, land-based projects, traditional activities including using the Cree language, and various ideas to address specific social and justice related issues faced by the Cree Nation. As well as new applicants, we invite all successful applicants to reapply next year with new ideas - let's continue to work together to build on your success.

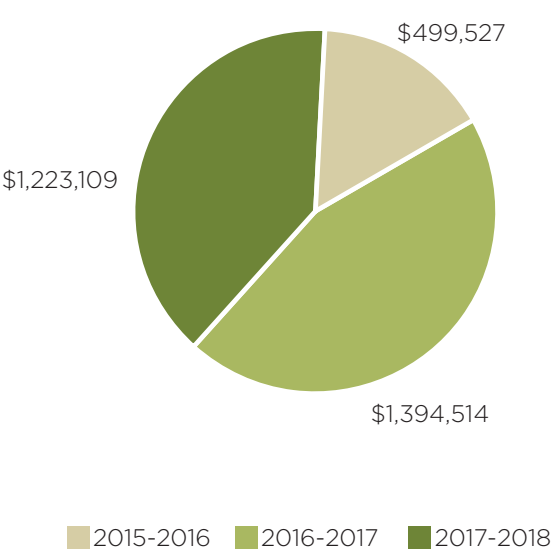
This third year of the Justice Funds program showcased many innovative ideas with applications submitted from new sources. The number of projects received was slightly higher this year; our efforts to create awareness of the funds is beginning to bear fruit and our efforts will continue. The total amount distributed for the Corrections Fund was slightly lower than last year, with the Crime Prevention Fund distribution higher, and Youth Engagement remaining stable. As well, project scopes were larger and the average amount of funding per project went up substantially.

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 support building land-based camps for use in justice and corrections related programming. In the meantime, the DOJCS is open to discussions with communities to continue to develop applications to this Fund and to discuss the best way forward.

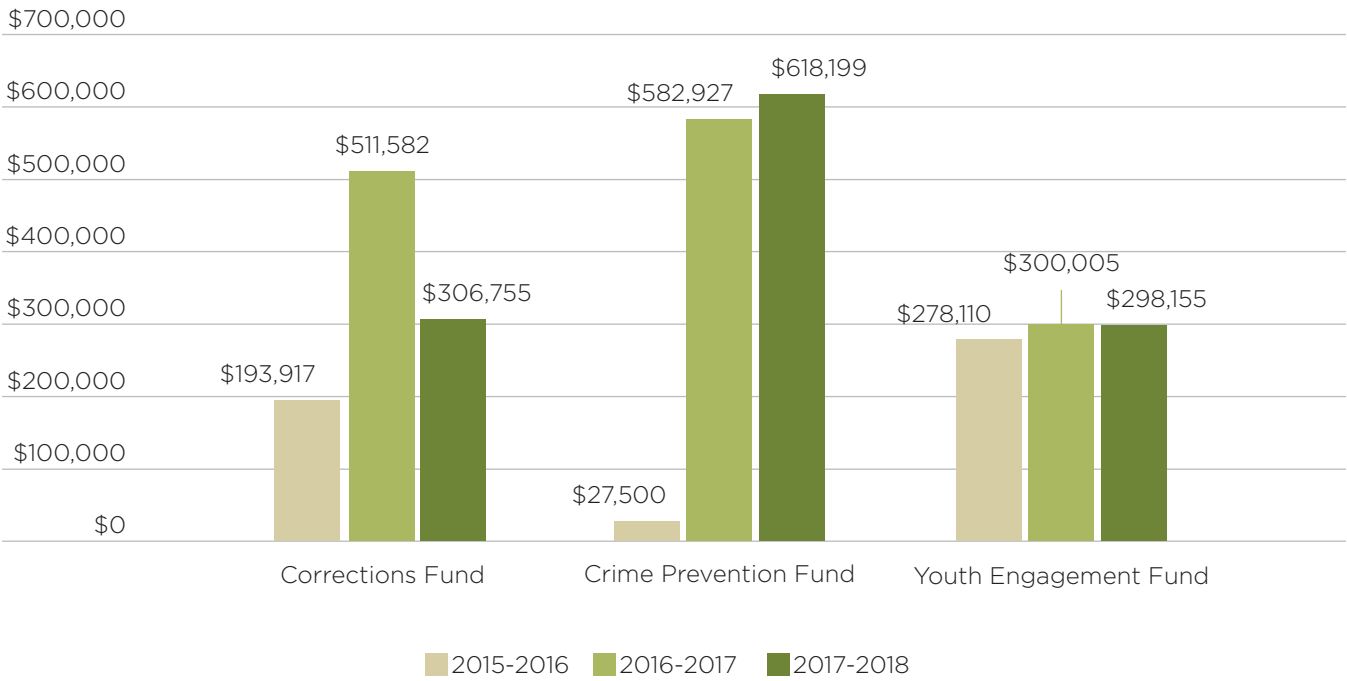
Overall Approved Projects per Fund



Overall Funding per Year



Amount per Fund per Year





Storytelling – Highlights from 2017-2018 Funds

As our 2017-2018 year of funding has ended, we wish to showcase a few of the projects and demonstrate 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 had a positive impact on hundreds of Cree individuals.

Birch Bark Biting  
Youth Engagement

In collaboration with the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI), the Ouje-Bougoumou Youth Department hosted two Birch Bark Biting workshops for students of the local school in April of 2017. Former Youth Development Coordinator Sarah Dow-Imrie, together with Special Projects Coordinator and Ouje Youth Chief, Jonathan Longchap, launched this youth engagement and crime prevention initiative.

A traditional art form practiced by Cree peoples, birch bark biting was used for map making and stencils for clothes and baskets. Using the canine teeth, Cree women would make imprints or pierce the thin sheets of bark into specific designs. Traditionally made in spring and summer, the designs were put away until feasting. According to Cree Elder Melly Katapatuk from Waskaganish, some patterns were inspired by the marks of snowshoes on snow.

Organizers of the Birch Bark Biting workshops hoped to make a connection with youth by highlighting an artistic and functional aspect of Cree culture, in order to help reduce vandalism by fostering the connection of youth pride to their culture and heritage. With the support and participation of local teachers, implementing the workshops through the local school seemed like the most efficient way to reach youth (aged 9 to 12 years old). All were welcome to these workshops on traditional teachings including youth 13 to 35.

Elders Télesh Bégin and Doris Bosum facilitated the bark biting over two days with both boys and girls participating. Staff from ACCI and the Youth Department collected the raw materials beforehand to ensure enough supplies for all to have hands on learning.



“Dorothy Stewart, language coordinator for the Cree Nation Government, took participants out to the woods to perform the tobacco ceremony before collecting the birch bark,” says Sarah Imrie. “We created a pamphlet on how to harvest, prepare and bite the bark so that any teacher can go into the woods, collect the birch, then start their workshops.” The birch bark harvesting is an art in itself! A tobacco ceremony is first performed to give thanks to the tree for giving the means with which to make the art. Then the bark is cut/peeled carefully from the tree or collected from the ground. The bark is usually taken from the east side of the tree where it is moist and easily peeled, as harvesting from the north side would leave the tree vulnerable to wind.

The first day of the workshop involved both the history of and how to perform birch bark biting in a positive, supportive environment. All the teachings were spoken in Cree. Bark was kept moist by wetting it with water or a damp cloth. It was then warmed in the participants’ hands to make it more flexible. After folding the piece in the appropriate manner, participants would imagine what they wanted their biting to look like, then using their thumb as a guide, would bite into the bark to make patterns, continuing until their lines were finished.



On the second day, events continued with bark biting coupled with discussion led by Elders focused on why culture is so important and how critical it is for community members to take pride in and ownership of their communities. “We wanted to provide an open dialogue on topics of preventing vandalism, cultural pride and self-respect,” says Sarah. “The aim of the workshops was to create a positive experience and to have the youth view our learning structures with pride.”

Both Sarah Dow-Imrie and her husband, Rob Imrie (Director of Programs at ACCI), are former educators and saw the chance to add value and permanency to the project by developing learning materials to share with the Youth Department. “The teachers showed real enthusiasm and community building in their participation so providing lesson plans for both Native and non-Native classes seemed like a logical step,” declares Sarah. “I’m very proud of this program because it was very comprehensive. We were able to take a project and have results, because we could put the teachings into the schools and reach the youth we wanted to reach. It’s more than just the workshop, it’s about the longevity and the knowledge that gets transmitted to the youth to promote traditional culture.”





## Community Integration Work Program Corrections

Jim MacLeod, Owner and President of Enviro Cree Environmental Services, has led the Community Integration Work Program for three years now alongside his retired brother Donald MacLeod who acts as the program's supervisor, helping to reintegrate young offenders back into the community and the workforce.

Approximately 12 to 15 clients are eligible each year to work in the project, which runs from July to March of the following year. Aiming to instill Cree values such as respect for others, self-esteem, leadership and responsibility, traditional activities include going out on the land to build camps, snaring, setting up fishing nets and sharing catches with elders in the community. Participants are also offered a chance to help out at traditional gatherings as well as manual labour like shoveling driveways and walkways, piling wood, and fixing porches and fences, which is vital to the community's Elders and widowers and also provides the participants with opportunities to give back to their community.

"In the Fall, participants help local hunters and trappers prepare their large game and camp sites," explains Jim. "Some went moose hunting... learning traditional skills is so important when reintegrating into the community. It builds the client's self-respect and sense of belonging - it keeps them busy too!"

Participants are able to receive various certifications if not already equipped, such as First Aid training, Safety on Construction Sites course, boat licence course, and computer skills like Microsoft Office Word 2016.



One of the program's first activities was going out on Mistissini Lake and seeing camping spots overgrown, damaged shelters and lots of trash in need of cleaning. Participants of the program set to work rebuilding, cleaning, painting, hauling garbage, and installing signage to remind people to keep the area clean, which is now a usable area for the community.

"These boys and girls need a second chance and someone to talk to," says Jim. "We meet sometimes on Mondays and Fridays at the office and just talk about whatever they want to. It's a free space. They open up to us. It takes a while and there can be issues of lateness or absenteeism, but we work with them to get through it. We don't give up on them."

Jim remembers one boy who was shoveling an Elder's walkway. Once the job was done, the Elder told the boy that a long time ago the youth used to help their elders all the time, just like this, in the Cree community. The boy was filled with pride and was very touched that he was able to take part in a tradition of helping an Elder.

The majority of participants find the reintegration program successful as it identifies the hard and soft skills and then, and for some helps with integration into the workforce by introducing them to business owners and paying their salary. Often times participants are then hired by the business after the program has completed its cycle. To maintain participant involvement in decision making and teamwork as well as cultivate respect and acceptance from community members, participants participate in the conception and planning for upcoming sessions.

"The community has been happy with the program and there were many comments of how participants were improving and helping the community," says Don MacLeod, program supervisor. "Many in the community are happy to get to know the participants and include them in traditional activities."

As for the future, Jim and Don hope to focus the program more, with larger activities. "We have reapplied and are waiting on funding," Jim says. "We are now looking to advance our projects, like building a greenhouse or a solar-powered cabin; something that participants have to show for their efforts."

## Footprints: A Walk Through Generations Crime Prevention

It has taken four years of careful planning and development, and this year the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI) launched its first traveling art and artifact exhibit - Footprints: A Walk Through Generations.

Focusing on crime prevention by inspiring youth and community to share traditional and contemporary James Bay Cree culture in an art context, Footprints travelled across the Eeyou Istchee from January to March 2018. The main theme of the exhibit is walking in the Cree culture, from journeys to healthy lifestyles to ceremonies and everything in-between. This exhibit has been a source of pride for all members of the Eeyou Istchee.

Headed by Director of Programs for the ACCI, Rob Imrie, the project was developed and designed in partnership with the Chisasibi Heritage and Cultural Centre and curated by Natasia Mukash with a fully functioning museum staff for the process of care and handling of objects. A former educator and originally from Manitoba and the North West Territories, Rob lives in Ouje-Bougoumou where he is committed to the community, especially the youth, by fostering a sense of belonging to their Cree culture through this exhibit.

"Footprints is 150 objects - archeological objects such as arrowheads, clay pipes, beads, clothing, items that go along with the Walking-out Ceremony. There's also a young boy's outfit, bow and arrow, a woman's hood, slippers, mittens... The clothing is community owned," says Rob. "People came forward with their

items, through the curator and Facebook; they were more than happy to loan them and very excited to participate."

From the project's impetus, Rob was very eager to include youth and have them tour with the exhibit, acting as interpreters, spokespersons and role models for their communities. Three young women expressed great interest and committed themselves wholeheartedly to the tour, which lasted three months; not an easy task when away from family and living out of a suitcase!

Set-up and take-down of the exhibit would last two days, respectively, with three days in between open to the public. For three months, over 20 crates were loaded and unloaded, some weighing as much as 700 pounds and carrying over 150 objects with 150 mounts to be placed into museum furniture, displaying its original look and feel. Some might think this a daunting task, but the youth leaders were hands-on in this process, steadfast in the face of the rewarding challenge.

"I'll be honest, it was a tough three months but overall, we will never forget the amazing experience. Many times, we came across difficulties such as housing or timing issues regarding installation, which left us tired and working odd hours - but to see the smiles on people's faces made up for all the challenges," says Shirleanne Etapp, one of the three youth leading the Tour. "We received amazing feedback from adults, elders, even young children, about the effort and shared experience of our culture! Our last stop in Whapmagostuui was overwhelming; sad and happy, it was an emotional time as we finally closed our last crate and headed back home. It made us feel closer to our culture. I would happily work on another project like this."





This powerful and inspiring exhibit is planned to tour through the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and possibly Western Canada. “We were recently hosted by Val D’Or’s Chamber of Commerce at their fundraising event,” Rob offers. “We have had some interest from the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), Canadian Museum of History, and the McCord Museum. It will be travelling to the Museum of Civilization in Quebec, as well as to Peterborough.”

The second phase of the project is to continue to actively engage youth (ages 13 to 19) in cultural activities and foster that sense of identity and belonging, which will work to help reduce and prevent crime in the community. Rob and the ACCI developed supporting educational materials for classrooms in conjunction with the museum visit: materials for grades 1 to Secondary 3 including topics such as science, math, geography and language.

Since the community tours wrapped up, one of the three youth leaders has been hired on at the ACCI as a full-time employee. Because of her unfailing dedication to the tour and overall thoughtfulness with the objects, she is now learning the museum setting and is on a training program.



“This was such an amazing experience,” says Rob. “Those who are considering applying to the Funds should learn the process. Even if denied, you will still learn. And if you don’t get accepted the first year, reapply! It’s ok sometimes to be denied because you can learn why and improve your own process. We couldn’t have done this without the Justice Department - thank you so much!”

### Youth Fusion Crime Prevention

Developing meaningful, lasting connections between youth, community and traditional Cree ways is crucial in the process of crime prevention. Since 2011, Youth Fusion, a non-profit organization, has been working in the Eeyou Istchee region to develop relevant, exciting programming for youth at the elementary to high school levels.

Operating in over 250 Indigenous and non-Indigenous schools, Youth Fusion is a charity started 10 years ago in Montreal with the mandate to contribute to perseverance, employability and civic engagement of youth by implementing innovative learning projects that are hands-on and focused on developing crucial soft skills like communicating effectively, self-esteem, and team work. Laura Turmel, Assistant Director of Educational Programming - First Nations Communities, has been working for the non-profit for the last 5 years, recruiting and training coordinators that are in university or are recent graduates.

“Youth Fusion has a catalogue of activities in different domains that schools can request,” says Laura. “Science of the Land, Robotics, Healthy Living, Video Game Design, Leadership Arts & Media... each school sends in a request and Youth Fusion hires the coordinators to work 37 weeks of the school year, 30 hours per week for in-class and after school activities. High school level projects are actually brought out into the community.”

Originally launched in 2011 as a pilot project in Waswanipi and Waskaganish, Youth Fusion is a partner of the Cree School Board and is now working in 5 Cree communities and 7 schools. Activities help at-risk youth develop their connection to traditional values, such as respect for themselves and others, compassion and love, as well as the self-confidence necessary to improve their relationships to their peers, family and community. Programs offer concrete alternatives to loitering and delinquency for at-risk youth, combatting challenges like social isolation and peer relationships; nutrition, physical activity, and mental health; use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs; self-esteem and motivation.



“If we want young people to attend and succeed in school, we must ensure that the school provides a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for everyone,” states Laura. “Youth Fusion shares the Department of Justice’s objectives of reducing violence, delinquency and victimization, and of enhancing community safety for youth.”

One highlight of many was the Best Screenplay award received for the short film **Reclamation**, created by 13 students from Willie J. Happyjack Memorial School, Waswanipi, who took part in the CLIP media project, part of Youth Fusion’s Leadership, Arts & Media program. Students had weekly meetings to write the script, plan filming, shoot, edit, and even create a movie poster. Presented in Montreal in May during the CLIP festival, students’ shorts films often address difficult social realities faced in their communities.

After traveling to Montreal to attend a formal gala and showcase their short film, students spent time exploring Montreal.

Youth Fusion will also be launching its mentorship program in each community to connect youth with professionals and introduce them to careers that will be relevant to their communities. Coordinators will reach out to community members to get them involved with projects and ultimately, with youth.

Of course, programs such as these are most effective when they continue supporting the connections that have been built. Laura says that some animators are now being hired directly from the pool of students in the community who have been through the programming and want to continue on as animators.

“In Eastmain, for the first time, the program was run only by local youth,” Laura states, proudly.

“They had gone through the program with a Coordinator and been on the student council throughout the year. They then worked part-time with Coordinators to learn the ropes. This really reflects the positive legacy and longevity of the program.”

“Since the beginning of high school I’ve been part of the student council. Two years later, Youth Fusion came and that’s when I started going to their activities,” says Nikita Mayappo, Leadership & Healthy Living Coordinator, Eastmain. “When I was in secondary 5 as a part-time student, I became an animator for Youth Fusion and eventually, a coordinator. It is a great experience overall, especially for those who like to work with youth or children and meet new people!” Nikita was also nominated by the Cree Nation of Eastmain Youth Council to attend the Dialogue For Life Conference and received training about suicide prevention and intervention with youth.

Local animators are also flown to Montreal for week-long training with the rest of the team and then back to their community for training with a supervisor. Many have expressed the desire to return next year.







Each year, at springtime, Youth Fusion organizes Cree Youth Leadership conferences where a delegation of students involved in leadership activities year-round gathers for four days to take part in dynamic and traditional activities.

"This year there was a real buzz amongst graduates who were saying they wanted to become coordinators!" says Laura. "The animators are taking ownership and are really providing feedback on changes. We want to see more Eeyouch taking on the employment and training opportunities that Youth Fusion offers in their communities."

Youth Fusion plans to continue to work with local organizations, parent committees and Band Councils as well as ask for feedback to keep improving programming and making sure it responds to the needs expressed by the communities.

As far as the process of applying for funding, Laura's experience has been straightforward, and she sees the advertisement of the Funds as effective. For first time applicants or those who run into a few snags, she recommends contacting the Fund administrators who are there to offer support to applicants. "The Cree community is always open to youth initiatives. Year after year our coordinators get better, building on the previous year, filling out the final report so that next year's coordinators can hit the ground running."



## Regional Canoe Brigade 2017 Youth Engagement Fund

The Cree Nation Youth Council along with support from the Cree Nation's ten local youth councils organized a regional canoe brigade that traveled traditional routes from Mistissini to Waskaganish. Two members from each community made up the majority of the participants. Along with the selected youth were three guides, three youth group leaders, two cooks and two trained first responders.

Promoting healthy lifestyles, the Brigade focused on cultural and traditional activities and the participants found it challenging and rewarding. Youth were able to take a break from their sedentary lifestyles and social pressures from living in the communities for a chance to live out on the land like their Cree ancestors.

Taking place at the first community stopover in Nemaska, a workshop was held in collaboration with Nemaska Cree Justice employees on youth development and well-being with highlights including respecting the land as well as other community members, and strategies to make healthy life choices.

Participants were given the opportunity to visit with old acquaintances and to develop new relationships while they canoed along traditional routes through rivers, lakes, portages, and camp sites. They were able to strengthen their bond with the land and natural Cree way of life, exchange valuable knowledge and experiences, and empower each other by sharing in this adventure.



## 6. Continuous Improvement

**Growth and engagement are significant indicators of success in the 2017-2018 year:** more projects were funded, project scopes expanded, and positive impacts on our Cree Nation were seen and felt throughout the year. Encouraging results!

Our key elements of success include:

- An informed and excited community;
- A fair and timely application process;
- A robust support system for the multitude of projects across all communities;
- An engaged public through traditional and relevant programming;
- An evaluation process measuring immediate and long-term project impacts;
- An efficient reporting process.

This year, our processes were reviewed and updated once again to continue to be effective. With support tools in place, we strive to provide the necessary conditions to ignite community participation and equip individuals with what they need to succeed.

We are actively informing applicants that our Fund Administrators are available to guide them through this process; mentorship of applicants is crucial to project realization and return applicants who are familiar with the process are encouraged to continue to get involved.

Applicants can now benefit from community tours that include Fund Administrators travelling to all communities across the region to host events, where they present information about the Funds locally:

- Pitch events: Hosted by the Justice team at a local Justice building, these events are a component of the community tour and travel through all communities in the region, giving community members a chance to pitch their project ideas, get feedback and guidance, and hear the ideas of other potential applicants.
- Reporting clinics: Also a part of the community tour, Fund recipients can sign up to meet with a Justice team member to discuss their interim or final report and receive help to complete it. They can also gather information and guidance in preparation of completing their reports.



- Specific tools such as our project expense budget tool, and our database systems to manage and track funds, will continue to help 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.

Overall, the DOJCS is encouraged by the third funding cycle and will continue to invest in improving the process to ensure ease of partnership with members of the Eeyou Istchee. We will also continue to improve the process of inspiration and empowerment of individuals 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 2018-2019 funding year is well underway and another round of applications will be submitted in September 2018. The response remains positive and the momentum continues to build as more community members and entities get involved.

Next deadline to submit an application	Ongoing
August 31 2018 Feb 1 2019 May 31 2019	Reporting and monitoring: Please check your agreement for terms and due dates.

In the coming months, the DOJCS will continue the promotion of the Funds at the community level, and guide and mentor applicants to submit by the next deadline. As our ambassadors, Fund Administrators will be touring communities, hosting Pitch Events, sharing ideas, giving presentations, and providing information and support wherever needed. Community visit dates will be posted on our website soon. As well, look for the DOJCS booth at the Annual General Assembly in Mistissini where you are encouraged to ask questions and pick up printed materials.

Furthermore, we have designed and finalized project evaluation tools 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:
- support community members and regional entities in initiating projects;
  - help in the prevention of crime and reintegration post incarceration;
  - build community empowerment and capacity;
  - reinforce Cree values and traditions;
  - connect participants to each other and the wider community;
  - provide opportunities for holistic healing and wellbeing.

A particular focus of importance will continue to be our Cree youth and our support for programs that focus on encouraging youth to connect to themselves and their communities. Through cultural/traditional learning and activities using fun, focused and relevant methods, Cree youth can build confidence and skills to reach their fullest potential.

Ultimately, 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.

8. Thank You! Meegwetch!



We would like to acknowledge the support of the Cree-Quebec Judicial Advisory Committee, and the Cree Nation Government for the continued support for these Funds in their implementation. We acknowledge the hard work of the Department of Justice and Correctional Services 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. Our shared desire and vision to make this Nation and our communities safe and ever-stronger encourage us to keep offering such Funds.





Youth Engagement

Project Title	Project Objectives	Intended Impact	Community
Youth Week	A week-long event hosting various activity to celebrate youth. With a different theme for each day, youth learned collaboration, self-awareness and leadership in a fun, game-oriented environment of activities and workshops. Themes included culture, sports and leisure, social wellbeing, education and art with traditional activities such as fire making, beading and trap making.	Participants learned Cree culture, language and history; drug and alcohol-free living strategies; suicide prevention; and anti-bullying strategies such as teamwork and self-awareness.	Ouje-Bougoumou
Birch Bark Biting	Ouje-Bougoumou Youth Department, in association with Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI), held two birch bark biting workshops targeting youth aged 10 to 12, yet open to community Elders and all youth aged 13 to 35. Two Elders from different communities taught and facilitated the workshops where. Staff from ACCI and the Youth Department collected the raw materials beforehand to ensure enough supplies for all to have hands-on learning.	Discussion focused on why having a cultural center such as ACCI is important. Citizenship was a major component of the discussion with the aim to create an opportunity to talk about the issue of vandalism and to have the Youth view learning and employment structures with pride.	Ouje-Bougoumou
Fish Net Making	A collaboration with the Youth and Culture Department and the Justice Committee, this Fish Net Making project was 3 to 4-weeks long and hosted by the community at the Cultural Village. Elders taught youth and teachers traditional net making. Community members shared testimonies to encourage youth to choose healthier, crime-free lifestyles.	Through the promotion of Cree culture, language, history and tradition, youth and Elders strengthened their relationships, the role of Elders as community leaders was fostered, and youth were encouraged to make better choices in their day-to-day lives.	Ouje-Bougoumou
Eeyou Divers Open Water	A positive social environment for youth who have difficulties in the community, the program connects youth to their role as caretakers of the land while attending mentoring workshops on topics such as addictions, destructive behaviours and crime. Activities focused on the environment and aquatic habitats.	The goal of this program is to connect youth to the land and community in order to build a stronger sense of identity and self-esteem. Youth and the community experienced trust, cooperation and accountability.	Ouje-Bougoumou & Nemaska
Youth Canoe Brigade 2017	Participants and guides left from Wawagosic River and canoed 231km, camping nightly for one week. Elders provided daily traditional teachings and activities with the program ending in a traditional feast enjoyed by participants, family and friends.	Youth learned to take responsibility for the traditional knowledge passed on to them from Elders. They connected with the land and traditional Cree ways, which instills a sense of pride and accountability. Youth will be able to make better life choices and develop strategies to cope with substance abuse issues.	Washaw Sibi
Regional Canoe Brigade 2017	Local youth councils along with the Cree Nation Youth Council organized a regional canoe brigade that traveled traditional routes from Mistissini to Waskaganish. Two members from each community made up the majority of the 30 participants. Along with the selected youth were three guides, three youth group leaders, two cooks and two trained first responders. A workshop was held in partnership with Nemaska Cree Justice on youth development and well-being by respecting the land and others, as well as strategies to make healthy choices that keep youth on the right path.	The purpose of the project was to promote a healthy lifestyle while participating in cultural and traditional activities. The canoe brigade is a challenging project and very rewarding. It removes youth from a sedentary lifestyle and social pressures to living out on the land like their Cree ancestors.	Multi-community

Youth Engagement

Project Title	Project Objectives	Intended Impact	Community
Fall Wilderness Camp	The Wilderness Camp embraces and practices the Cree Culture by taking youth out on the land to hunt bear, fish, snare rabbit and harvest partridge without a gun. They are taught each hunting practice by Cree Elders, along with survival and safety techniques. Youth leave the Wilderness Camp with a better knowledge of the Cree way of life and the importance of taking care of the land. The Camp includes the annual Wilderness Camp Olympics, Scavenger Hunt and Bannock on the Stick Competition, and workshops about Cree culture.	Youth are taught to embrace their identity and find their life's purpose for their health and well-being, and better life choices. The participants ended the two weeks with a banquet to honor and recognize each and every one of them.	Waskaganish
Winter Survival and Traditional Skills Training Program	The Winter Survival and Traditional Skills Program is a 10-week project to introduce Survival Skills and Cree Traditional practices to the Youth of Whapmagoostui. A leader and experienced guides provide Cree traditional teachings to 12 youth split into 2 groups. They embark on weekend excursions out on the land by snowmobile to learn practices: winter shelter building, hunting animals, trap and clean various game such as caribou, porcupine, beaver, foxes, fishnet set up, fish hooks/lines, fish cleaning.	Youth gain knowledge and experience on the Cree way of life while becoming aware of their identity, respecting their peers, the land and animals, and in turn, the community as a whole. Activities create a sense of self-belonging, a desire to preserve the Cree identity and make better life choices.	Whapmagoostui
Canoe Brigade	Two youth canoe brigade sessions were held (13 to 17; 18 to 35 years old) to give youth a respite from pressures they face in the community such as drugs and alcohol. Groups paddled Mistissini Lake and Otish Mountains, respectively, for 4 weeks with leaders and support staff. Activities included life skills workshops - anti-bullying, crime prevention and self-esteem - and traditional teachings - fishing, carving, net weaving, summer camp building. Upon their return to the community, they were welcomed with a community feast to recognize the completion of the journey.	Youth return to the community with knowledge of the land and of themselves, with some tools to make better life choices, recognize the value of their Cree culture and new respect for the land.	Mistissini
Ice Fishing Trip	Through collaboration with the Youth Department, Culture Department and Justice Committee, this camping week was hosted at Nuuhchimi Weenuu camp where youth learned cultural traditions from Elders.	This was a week of cultural development for youth focused on crime prevention by developing relationships with Elders. Cree skills and knowledge were passed down and the role of Elders in the community as leaders and teachers was honored.	Ouje-Bougoumou
Traditional Teaching Practices	Youth and Elders were brought together throughout the year to share and connect. Elders are given the chance to pass down traditional knowledge and youth can experience their ancestors' way of life. Activities included storytelling, cooking, carving, snaring, sewing, snowshoe walks, ice fishing, trapping, skinning, and traditional gatherings.	Youth were encouraged to respect their Elders and the land, they gained ancestral wisdom, learned about historical events and different ways of cooking traditional foods. Traditions are kept alive by connecting generations of Cree peoples. Through the project the youth learned about adopting a lifestyle of respect when dealing with others.	Waskaganish
Eeyou Divers Scuba Follow Up Intake	A Professional Association of Diving Instructor (PADI) brought "The Way the World Learns to Dive" to the youth in their home communities. Adapted to place Elders in the role of teachers, youth aged 16 to 35 (with 12 high-risk clients) learn about traditional active lifestyles and the stories related to the waters. Lessons include three classroom sessions covering safety, career opportunities and practical instruction, and two pool sessions where student practice the five required skills. Youth will be prepared for optional supervised open water dives next summer or as a foundation for the certification training program.	The participants were selected by the local Justice department and committee to ensure an opportunity to provide life skills workshops for at risk youth. These practical and attainable skills support traditional values and and build towards the participants' sense of identity, well-being in lifestyle and decision making, self-esteem. trust, cooperation and accountability.	Nemaska



Crime Prevention

Project Title	Project Objectives	Intended Impact	Community
The exhibit titled “Footprints: A Walk Through Generations”	After two years of careful planning and development, the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI) launched its first traveling art and artifact exhibit - Footprints: A Walk-Through Generations. Focusing on crime prevention by inspiring youth and community to share traditional and contemporary James Bay Cree culture in an art context, Footprints travelled across the Eeyou Istchee from January to March 2018. The main theme of the exhibit is walking in the Cree culture, from journeys to healthy lifestyles to ceremonies and everything in-between. The exhibit includes approximatively 150 artifacts and is planned to show at various museums across Canada.	This exhibit has been a source of pride for all members of the Eeyou Istchee. The project highlighted a large social justice movement by the Cree youth in their walk to Canadian parliament to be heard and seen. Actively engaging youth in learning their history as well as cultural activities fosters a sense of identity and belonging, which works to help reduce and prevent crime in the community.	Multi-community
From Schools to Communities	A youth engagement program to encourage school perseverance and reduce juvenile delinquency by ensuring that schools provide safe, welcoming, and supportive spaces. Working closely with community organizations and elders, activities created strong links between the participants, the project coordinators, local animators, schools, and communities. A mentorship program will also be launched to expose youth to professionals and careers that are needed in their community.	The objectives of the program are to reduce violence, delinquency and victimization, and to enhance community safety for youth by engaging them in fun, hands-on activities that allow them to develop crucial soft skills, such as communication abilities, self-esteem, leadership, and team work, and that contribute to developing their professional aspirations.	Multi-community
Live Free Boundaries	A one-of-a-kind event where the general public, wellness professionals, educational and faith communities, members of the local workforce participate in a day-long conference focusing on boundaries. Boundaries are personal property lines that define who you are, as a person, and who you are not. They can be physical, mental, emotional and spiritual and they influence all areas of life.	This workshop is to certify individuals locally to become Boundary life coaches in order to work with others in resolving conflict in their relationships and lives in a positive way, while respecting each others’ boundaries.	Mistissini
D.A Cree Culture	Because culture and the land are essential to the Cree identity, this project will meet the need of students to have that cultural experience and training for one day bi-weekly, throughout the school year. In addition, once per month, families of the students are invited to join in the activities at the camp as well as participating in the family healing circle.	There are three objectives pursued by the project: prevent criminalization amongst youth, develop in our youth, a strong cultural identity and strengthen the family unit. This is vital to revive our indigenous culture and language as well as creating conditions for them to flourish.	Mistissini
Mikw Chiyâm	Designed to provide an alternative positive space for creative learning, this interdisciplinary program aims to increase high school retention by reinforcing First Nation’s identity through artistic expression. The residency program promotes art appreciation and collaboration by bringing high school students, professional Canadian Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, teachers and community members together.	The program works with at-risk students and youth within schools and community workshops. It provides a safe environment to discuss serious youth issues and improve engagement and life choices.	Multi-community

Crime Prevention

Project Title	Project Objectives	Intended Impact	Community
Crime Prevention Program	A fourteen-week camp that brings different groups, composed of participants age thirteen to thirty years old, to Waswanipi Lake. Cree culture education and awareness are the main program focus. Cree language is used throughout the diverse activities whether it is learning about fishing, participating in a workshop or group discussions.	To create experiences and provide tools that help create Cree self-identity that will enable participants to can empower themselves to live a healthy, clean and sober life.	Waswanipi
Cree Mentorship Project	An eight-week cultural experience for three youth selected by the local justice committee who will learn about Cree culture and traditions, more specifically all components related to survival out on the land.	The goal of the project is to promote change and to address early risk factors with individuals to avoid them coming into contact with the justice system in the future. It is important for at-risk youth to learn about the Cree way of life because it provides a solid foundation for their future endeavours, as they discover their identity.	Mistissini
Preventing Violence Against Cree Women and Girls	This project focuses on preventing family, conjugal and other forms of violence against women in Eeyou Istchee. Two phases of the program include the creation of a non-violence committee and the development of a Violence Prevention and Awareness Toolkit for Eeyou Istchee.	The primary focus is prevention of violence against women and girls through public awareness, strengthening women’s skills and knowledge, and improving social services. The empowerment of women and the creation of valued partnerships is key to addressing family and conjugal violence.	Multi-community

Corrections

Project Title	Project Objectives	Intended Impact	Community
Community Integration Work Program	This project aims to help reintegrate young offenders back into the community and workforce. Approximately six clients are eligible each year to work in the project, which runs from July to March of the following year. Aiming to instill Cree values such as respect for others, self-esteem, leadership and responsibility, traditional activities include going out on the land to build camps, snaring, setting up fishing nets and sharing catches with elders in the community. Clients are also offered a chance to help out at traditional gatherings and pow wows as well as manual labour like shoveling driveways and walkways, piling wood, and fixing porches and fences, which is vital to the community’s Elders and widowers.	The majority of clients find the reintegration program successful as it identifies their hard and soft skills and then, for some, helps with integration into the workforce by introducing them to business owners and subsidizing their salary. Often times clients are then hired by the business after the program has completed its cycle. To maintain client involvement in decision making and teamwork as well as cultivate respect and acceptance from community members, they are invited to participate in the conception and planning for upcoming sessions.	Mistissini