

We Have Come A Long Way....

Indigenous Courtworkers began to attend courts in the 1960's. The program has developed to a point where it has now earned the respect of the police, the courts, the judiciary, as well as other related agencies along with the federal and provincial governments.



The ACCWP is administered by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) across the province with funds jointly provided by the Federal Department of Justice and the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.



Ontario Federation of Indigenous
Friendship Centres



North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre

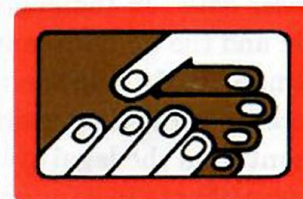
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Indigenous Criminal Court Work Program



North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre



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The Indigenous Criminal Court Work Program ICCWP



The goal of the ICCWP is to assist Indigenous people in conflict with the Criminal Justice System. When a person is accused of a crime, the system can be complicated, confusing and even a frightening experience.

The criminal justice system can be particularly difficult to understand due to language and cultural differences between Indigenous people and the mainstream system. ACCW's help their clients receive fair and equitable treatment from the legal system and assist clients in gaining a better understanding of their rights and obligations in the legal system.

The ICCW WILL:

- Provide a variety of services to Indigenous people who require support in criminal court
- Deliver services to all Indigenous people in strict confidence
- Explain the procedures of criminal court
- Assist Indigenous individuals by acting as a liaison between the individual and the court
- Explain to the individual the reasons for their arrest, their legal rights and responsibilities and information regarding the charges they face
- Obtain the services of Indigenous language interpreters when needed, and Aboriginal cultural interpreters if it has bearing on the case
- Explain to clients the decisions the court makes at various stages of the court process
- Explain to a person placed on bail and/or probation what this means and what is expected of them
- Work with community agencies and referral sources to assist client to meet their immediate and long-term needs/goals
- Make contact with the Native Inmate Liaison Worker if the client is sentenced to a provincial institution
- Attend jails in their area to provide information and moral support

- Act as a liaison between the client and their family in preparation of a release plan
- Provide information to sureties when required
- Advocate for diversion when applicable
- Assist victims of offences to understand their rights and refer them to appropriate supportive services, provided there is no conflict of interest with accused person

The ICCW Will NOT:

- Provide legal advice
- Supervise bail, probation or parole
- Act as a language interpreter

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