

Justice Programs

- Indigenous Community Justice •
- Restorative Justice Liaison •
- Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin (I'm a Kind Man) •
- Criminal Courtworkers •



Nechee Friendship Centre

Agenda

- **Indigenous Community Justice**
- **Restorative Justice Liaison**
- **Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin**
- **Criminal Courtwork**
- **Questions**



Indigenous Community Justice

“all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders.”
Section 7.18 (e), Criminal Code of Canada



Nechee Friendship Centre

Eligibility:

- Referrals to the ICJP are made by the programs such as Indigenous Court workers, ICJP Coordinator or Restorative Justice Liaison. Applications for diversion must be approved by the Crown Attorney's Office or Police services.

Program Goals:

- Culturally-based pre and post charge diversion for Indigenous adults and youth, utilizing a community driven wellness model that aims to restore balance to participant's lives.
- After completing a diversion application and obtaining approval, the participant is diverted into the Program. Participants then meet with the ICJP's Community Council. These Circles involve working with Community Council members to address one's offence, and the underlying or 'root' issues.



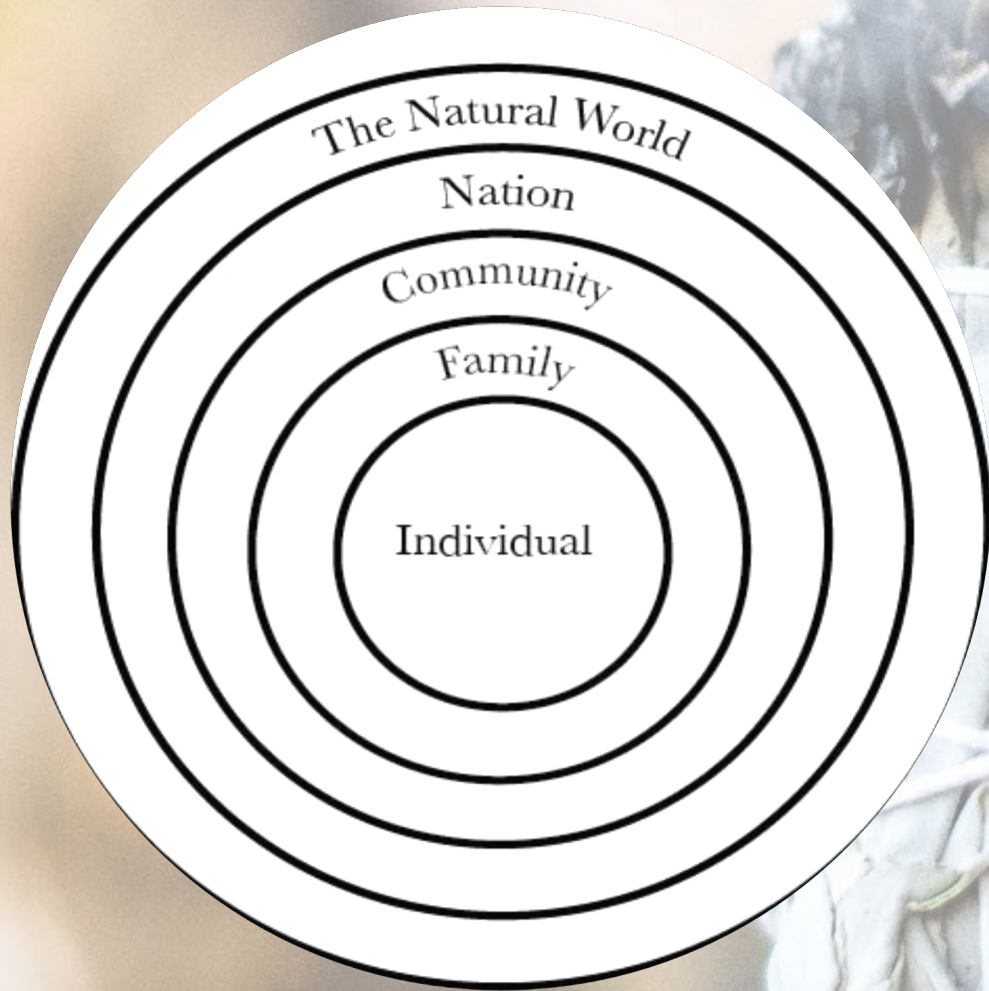
Healing Plan

The Healing Plan is an agreement between participant and the ICJP representing their diversion from the courts, to complete tasks that address the wrong(s) committed.

Tasks may include:

- Ceremonies
- Healing work with an Elder or Knowledge Keeper
- Self-directed learning projects
- Presentations
- Counseling
- Community service hours
- Letters of apology
- Restitution to the victim, etc.

Completion of one's Healing Plan may result in charges being stayed or withdrawn.





OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres

2021 Evaluation Report

Finding #1

- Relationship-based practice is a fundamental component of the ICJP and critical for its success. This evaluation demonstrated that it is primarily external factors that inhibit positive program outcomes

Solution

- Create binding obligations for police services and Crown Attorneys to provide referrals to Friendship Centres, so that self-identified Indigenous adults and youth can access the ICJP and other culture-based, wholistic programs and services
- Police services must be trained to routinely utilize pre-charge diversion options that provide referrals to the ICJP, as well as other Friendship Centre programs
- Crown Attorneys must be required to proactively seek non-custodial outcomes for Indigenous accused, in all appropriate circumstances, through providing referrals to the ICJP and the Friendship Centre



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres

2021 Evaluation Report

Finding #2

- The ICJP addresses the root causes of offending behaviour through a trauma-informed approach to navigating services, including aftercare supports in Friendship Centre communities.

Solution

- To effectively address the complex needs of direct-service users while in the ICJP and support aftercare service navigation, enhanced fiscal allocation to support a two-worker model is required.
- Increase capital investments and operational funding for affordable and supportive housing programs, including activities that directly support chronic and episodic homelessness with urban Indigenous partners, including the OFIFC and Friendship Centres. There is an acute need for 21 Indigenous-led housing programs, across the housing continuum, particularly short-term housing for individuals who are justice involved;
- Provide increased funding for urban Indigenous led mental health and addictions treatment supports



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres

2021 Evaluation Report

Finding #3

- Culturally relevant alternatives to mainstream justice approaches are imperative to support the long-term healing for urban Indigenous community members.

Solution

- Invest in urban Indigenous community based research that demonstrates the effectiveness of culture-based practices and Indigenous legal principles as the requisite approach for addressing the underlying circumstances of criminal behaviour and recidivism rates.
Indigenous Community Justice Program
Evaluation | 2021
- Mandatory Indigenous-led, ongoing cultural awareness training for Police Services (local and provincial), the Ontario Bar, and the Judiciary be implemented. It is critical that all justice system actors build knowledge and awareness of impacts of colonization and understand that Indigenous-led approaches to justice will address offending behaviour



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres

2021 Evaluation Report

Finding #4

- The ICJP is more cost-effective than engagement with the mainstream justice system (i.e. remand and custodial sentences)

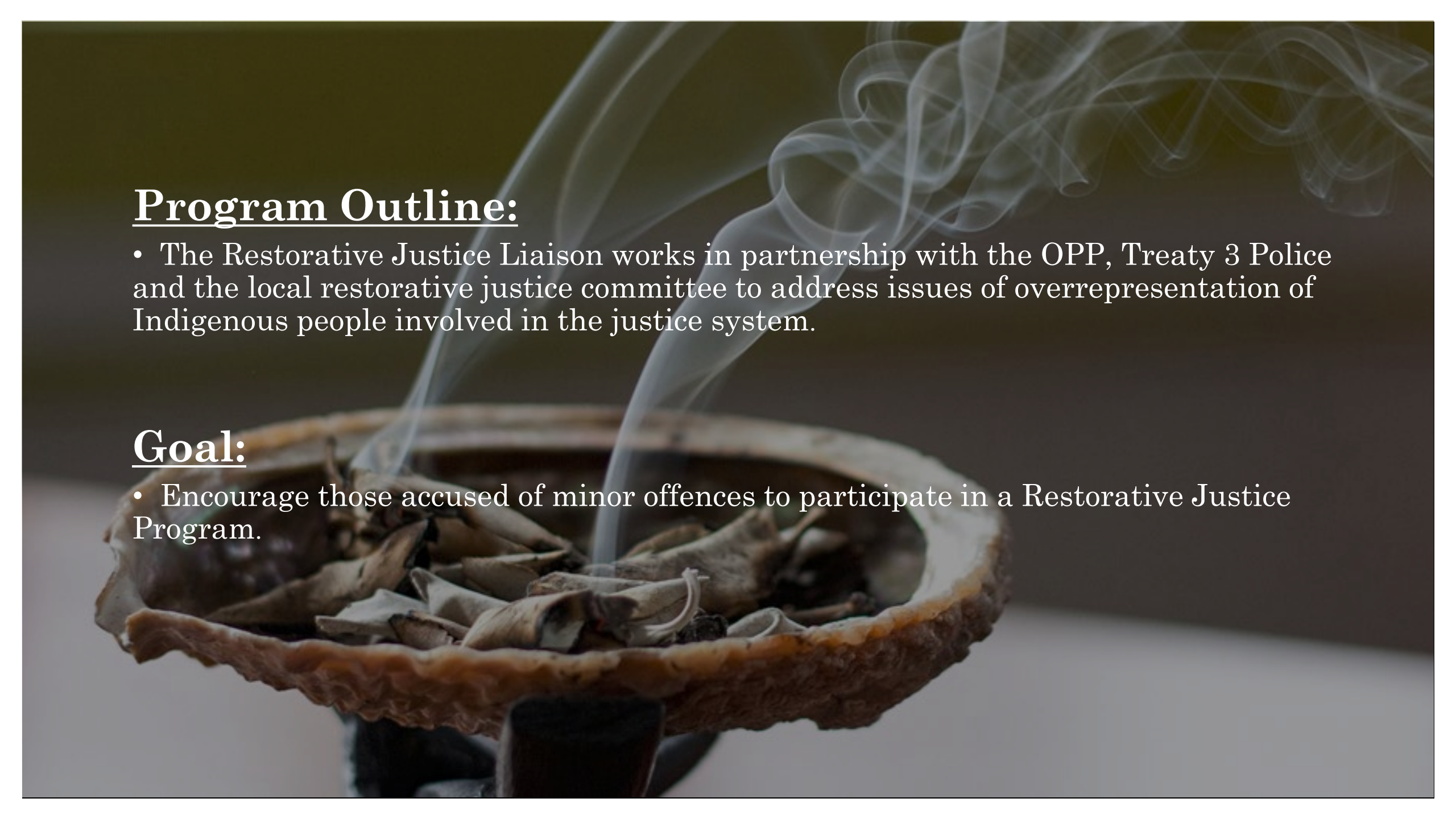
Solution

- The Ministry of the Attorney General, Legal Aid Ontario and the Department of Justice commit to sustainable, evergreen funding model for the ICJP and an expansion of the program to other Friendship Centre communities.

Restorative Justice Liaison



Nechee Friendship Centre



Program Outline:

- The Restorative Justice Liaison works in partnership with the OPP, Treaty 3 Police and the local restorative justice committee to address issues of overrepresentation of Indigenous people involved in the justice system.

Goal:

- Encourage those accused of minor offences to participate in a Restorative Justice Program.

The Restorative Justice Committee:

The Restorative Justice Committee is a group of Justice Partners that developed a streamlined and efficient pre-charge diversion referral process. The Restorative Justice Committee accepts referrals regardless of Indigenous background, but its main priority is the Indigenous population. The Committee works to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous People in the criminal justice system and aims to reduce recidivism rates.

The Restorative Justice Committee Consists of:

The OPP, Treaty Three Police Services, The Ministry of the Attorney General, Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, Direct Accountability, The Youth Justice Committee, Grand Council Treaty 3, Kenora Chiefs Advisory and Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services.





Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin



Nechee Friendship Centre



**Specifically designed to
encourage men and boys of
our community to speak out
against all forms of violence
and abuse towards
Indigenous women. Kizhaay
Anishinaabe Niin Program
provides culturally specific
healing for men who abuse
and are ready to take
responsibilities for their
actions.**

Goals:

- To provide education and support for men and boys to address issues of violence against women.
- To re-establish traditional responsibilities by acknowledging that our teachings have never tolerated violence and abuse towards women.
- To inspire men and boys to engage other men to get involved and stop the abuse.
- To support Indigenous men who choose not to use violence.
- To offer a safe, secure and healthy environment where men can feel confident to express themselves in a positive manner.
- To educate on traditional roles and responsibilities, increase cultural pride and promote healthy role modelling in and around our communities.

Services:

Individual Care:

- One to one support
- Peer Counselling
- Service navigation
- Individual advocacy support
- Justice related individual support

Group Based Support:

- Two 12-week sessions per year
- Educational Workshops
- Networking and partnership building
- Promote cooperation between service providers to improve ease of access
- Public awareness activities
- Anger management training

Criminal Courtwork Program

‘ Provides advocacy and support services to people involved in the Canadian Justice System to help ensure they understand their rights, options, and responsibilities when appearing before the courts’



Nechee Friendship Centre

DISCLAIMER

Indigenous Court workers WILL NOT:

- Provide Legal Advice
- Act as a language interpreter for the courts
- Act as a probation officer
- Select lawyers for their clients BUT will provide a list of lawyers.

Information We Provide:

- The nature and consequences of the charge(s) service users are facing.
- The rights, responsibilities and options of the service user under the law including alternative justice processes.
- Information on Court procedures.
- Disposition or direction given by the court or community to the offender.
- Appropriate resources to enable service users to address the underlying problems (housing challenges, mental health, addictions, etc.), which contribute to their charges

Services We Provide:

- Liaising between service users and criminal justice personnel to help overcome communication barriers (may include being able to provide appropriate information to the court and/or speaking on behalf of the accused).
- Informing justice officials about concerns of the Indigenous community and the perspective of Indigenous alleged accused.
- Promote understanding within the Indigenous community of the existing criminal justice system .
- Assistance with Legal Aid Applications
- Provide services users support through court processes
- Reviewing disclosure/crown screening with individual (where appropriate)
- Access to phone, scanning, faxing
- Explaining court terminology in plain terms
- Referrals
- Assist in bail planning
- Support, advocate, and assist those who are self-representing
- Provide updates to family members/significant others on accused matters (where appropriate)

Contact Information:

Indigenous Community Justice

Trish Therrien

Email: communityjustice@nechee.org

Restorative Justice Liaison

Trish Therrien

Email: RJlision@nechee.org

Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin

Email: kizhaayniin@nechee.org

Criminal Courtwork

Elaine Kewequom

Email: criminalcourtwork2@nechee.org

Amelia Illman

Email: courtwork@nechee.org

Healing & Wellness

Email: healingandwellness@nechee.org



Nechee Friendship Centre

The background of the slide features four terracotta-colored bowls arranged in a square pattern. Each bowl contains a different type of dried herb. The top-left bowl has light green, leafy herbs. The top-right bowl contains darker green, needle-like herbs. The bottom-left bowl is filled with a mix of green and brown, fibrous-looking herbs. The bottom-right bowl contains dark brown, crumbly dried plant material.

Questions?



Nechee Friendship Centre