

NAACJ • ANIJC



Social responsibility
Responsabilité sociale

The National Associations Active in Criminal Justice

Les Associations nationales intéressées à la justice criminelle

Susan Haines, Executive Director

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NAACJ was founded in 1975 to provide a network of knowledge and support to national voluntary sector organizations working in criminal justice in Canada.

Currently comprised of 19 national agencies, NAACJ enhances the capacity of its Member Organizations to contribute to a humane, fair, equitable and effective justice system.

Membership Policy

Membership is open to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that:

- work in the field of **social and criminal justice**,
- maintain an identifiable membership governed by a board of directors which is **distinct from government**,
- recognize the importance of **due process** provisions in the law,
- value **research as the basis for sound social policy**,
- support **social development** rather than punitive responses to crime,
- operate on a **national** basis and for **the good of the public**,
- are supportive of **human rights, the Charter**, or are otherwise equality seeking, and
- agree to attend meetings regularly, participate in NAACJ fora and events.

Two Options for Membership

Full Members meet membership criteria, pay dues, are admitted by the board, and nominate a Director to serve a two-year term on NAACJ's Board of Directors.

Associate Member Organizations meet most criteria, pay dues, and are *not* eligible to delegate a Director, but may designate someone to vote at Annual and Special Meetings.

Just to refresh your memory...

The Social Determinants of Health (in Canada) include:

- Aboriginal status
- Disability
- Early life
- Education
- Employment and working conditions
- Food insecurity
- Health services
- Gender and gender identity
- Housing
- Income and income distribution
- Race
- Sexual orientation
- Social exclusion
- Social safety net
- Unemployment and job security

Member Organizations

Association des services de réhabilitation sociale du Québec:

Book Clubs for Inmates

*Canadian Association of Community Living**

Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Criminal Justice Association

Canadian Families and Corrections Network

Canadian Friends Service Committee, Quakers Fostering Justice

Canadian Psychological Association

Church Council on Justice and Corrections

Circles of Support and Accountability Canada

Frontier College

John Howard Society of Canada

Mennonite Central Committee Canada

Native Counselling Services of Alberta

Salvation Army

Seventh Step Society of Canada

St. Leonard's Society of Canada

*The Centre for Justice Exchange**

Our Purposes

- Contribute to the education of its member organizations, partners, government and the public.
- Contribute to the capacity of member organizations to carry out their purposes.
- Provide collective support for actions undertaken by individual member agencies, where feasible.
- Support the activities of member organizations in the development of policy and practice.
- Promote the role and importance of the members in consultation and policy fora with the federal government.

By doing so, naacj bolsters its members' ability to serve as catalysts for change relating to their missions of **effective justice responses that uphold and promote human rights.**

Members Value NAACJ because it . . .

- Provides information and creates a forum for knowledge exchange
- Energizes individuals and organizations to continue & persevere in their work
- Brings passionate, like-minded people together and facilitates personal & professional networking
- Sparks ideas and opportunities to collaborate
- Respects differences and perspectives
- Shares voices that are often unheard, e.g. prisoners, children of incarcerated parents
- Allows Members to share wisdom, expertise and struggles

Current Activities Include:

- **Responding to Members**, e.g. information & research, resources & contacts
- **Staying on top of federal initiatives, legislation and contacts**, e.g systemic & overt racism in the criminal justice system; criminal records & pardons; segregation & mental health; Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism, safe & affordable housing
- **Maintaining a Federal Presence**
- ***How Criminal Justice Communities Overcame COVID: Perspectives from the Voluntary Sector***: to understand the approaches, promising practices and lessons learned about community-based correctional programs and services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Amending the Criminal Records Act, and reducing barriers for people with a criminal record**
- **Communications**: To raise awareness about what works, bust myths, and share facts about justice & effective corrections.
- **NAACJ/CSC Joint Community Corrections Working Group**: Improving discharge planning, particularly for Warrant Expiry Releases; Promoting greater access to Work Release; Examining Revocations & Suspensions.

Why NAACJ is Valuable to Federal Government

NAACJ provides:

- Access to credible, quality members with front line “lived” knowledge and experience
- On the ground perspectives from agencies that work with people inside and outside of the justice system, across the criminal justice continuum.
- An entrepreneurial and resourceful history of collaboration and innovation.
- Strong, effective relationships with key partners in the fields of social and criminal justice.

Connect

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Executive Committee:

President:	Anita Desai (SLSC)
Vice-President:	Emilie Coyle (CAEFS)
Treasurer:	David Henry (ASRSQ)
Secretary:	Bonnie Wepler (CCJC)
Past-President:	Catherine Latimer (JHSC)