

**NAACJ • ANIJC**



Social responsibility  
Responsabilité sociale

## **The National Associations Active in Criminal Justice**

### **Les Associations nationales intéressées à la justice criminelle**

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## **First They Came: Pastor Martin Niemöller (1892–1984)**

When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews, I remained silent; I wasn't a Jew.

**When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.**



## Our Mission

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 21 agencies, NAACJ enhances the capacity of its member organizations to contribute to a **humane, fair, equitable and effective justice system.**

## 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

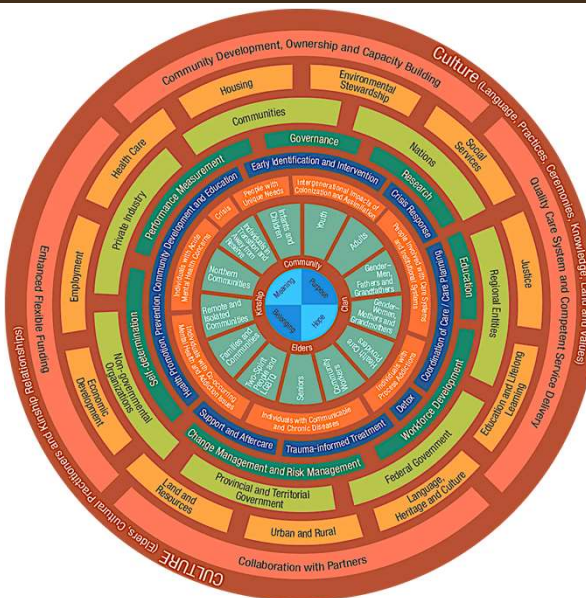
## AND ALSO:

### First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework

#### Five Key Themes:

1. Culture as foundation
2. Community Development and Ownership
3. Quality Health System and Competent Service Delivery
4. Collaboration with Partners
5. Enhanced flexible funding investments

Dr. Brenda Restoule, Native Mental Health Association of Canada c. 2015



## Member Organizations

Association des services de réhabilitation sociale du Québec:  
 Canadian Association of Community Living  
 Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies  
 Canadian Association of Social Workers  
 Canadian Bar Association  
 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  
 CTI Canadian Training Institute  
 Fronier College  
 Inncence Canada (formerly AIDWYC)  
 Joh Howard Society of Canada  
 Menonite Central Committee Canada  
 Natie Counselling Services of Alberta  
 Salvation Army  
 Seventh Step Society of Canada  
 St. Leonard's Society of Canada  
 The Centre for Justice Exchange

## Our Purposes

### NAACJ:

- Contributes to the education of its member organizations, partners, government and the public.
- Contributes to the capacity of member organizations to carry out their purposes.
- Provides collective support for actions undertaken by individual Member agencies where feasible.
- Supports the activities of member organizations in the development of policy and practice.
- Promotes 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.**

## Strategic Plan 2016-2018 (abridged)

### I Raise the Profile of NAACJ & its Members

- Supporting Member Projects
- Sharing Information, e.g. Research, emerging issues & trends, best practices & tools

### II Enhance and Expand Internal & External Relationships

- Creating Opportunities for Networking & Dialogue such as:
  - Corrections Roundtables with Public Safety Canada,
  - Business Meetings with Justice Canada,
  - Annual meetings with CSC,
  - Parliamentary receptions on the Hill,
  - Teleconferences on hot topics, government consultations

### III Engage and Educate Members, Partners & the Public

- Coordinating the Annual Joint Workshop with Public Safety Canada
- Participating in FCM/CSC/PBC/PS Canada Joint Committee on Community Corrections meetings

## What NAACJ brings to Public Safety Canada

By serving as a conduit to 21 national member agencies, their communities and their knowledge, NAACJ provides members and partners with:

- 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.

## NAACJ Members \*do\* Victim-Centred work!

Canadian Families and Corrections Network (CFCN) research on family members as victims of crime:

- *Forgotten Victims: The Mental Health and Well-Being of Families Affected by Crime and Incarceration in Canada*
- *Family-Victim Research: Needs and Characteristics: Ontario Region*

***“You feel helpless because your family member's actions are out of your control.”***

*“Just because someone does something wrong, you don’t stop loving them. You can’t make yourself stop loving a person, no matter what they do, whether it’s good or whether it’s bad. So, as their journey escalates, you’re taken along on their journey too. And no matter how bad it is or how good it is, you are part of it. So it affects every facet of your life. It affects you in every way.”*

## NAACJ Members \*do\* Victim-Centred work!

- **L'Association des Services de Réhabilitation Sociale du Québec (ASRSQ)** and the **St. Leonard's Society of Canada (SLSC)** and their networks contribute to victim prevention by working with those at risk of offending or reoffending.
- This is also true for the **John Howard Society of Canada** and its societies, which offer many programs and services to support victims of crime through direct services, restorative justice, and victim-offender mediation.
- **The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC)** has launched a successful program to provide "Victim Empathy" curricula inside federal institutions. The demand from men has been overwhelming. The program is now being adapted for women through a gendered lens.
- **Innocence Canada (formerly AIDWYC)** has contributed to the exoneration of 21 innocent people since 1993.

## A Few Considerations

- **Language and definitions matter.** Under the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (CVBR), can alleged victims, families, people wrongfully convicted who are exonerated and witnesses obtain 'victim services'?
- **A false dichotomy: "Victim or Offender."** Are survivors of Residential School and their children, or children from the Mount Cashel Orphanage who are incarcerated "victims" or "offenders"?
- **Unfounded:** (Thanks to media exposure & public shaming?) Reviews are being conducted across Canadian police forces to examine sexual assault allegations, as though they are promoting the involvement of the criminal justice system.
- **Victims First:** It's not pie. Well, it might be as messy as some pies. The Supreme Court has agreed that we must BALANCE RIGHTS. One right cannot trump or undermine another.

**"Equal rights for others does not mean less rights for you. It's not pie."**

## A Few (More) Considerations

- Redress for victims should not depend on the courts.
- How can the CVBR be effective and enforceable without adequate resources and investment? Similar to the YCJA, we must invest in options and alternatives.
- Victims services and supports are not readily accessible to everyone everywhere across our vast federation.
- Many victims do not lay charges and are therefore ineligible for victims services under the CVBR.
- Are individuals with a criminal record the victim of unfair, ideological legislation created in response to one or two sensational cases, e.g. Pardons/Record Suspensions?
- Paid time off for victims of domestic violence, or programming to prevent further harm and violence?

*Personal apologies, education, prevention,, integrated services, restorative/transformative practices, home support visits, peace bonds, nurses, counselors, social workers, trauma counselors, emergency housing, affordable housing and childcare, are all remedies that victims may consider meaningful.*

## A Final Thought

The United Nations'  
*Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime  
 and Abuse of Power*  
 was adopted by the General Assembly in 1985.

**The state is accountable to uphold rights and remedies.**

## Connect

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