



*International Centre for
Criminal Law Reform
and Criminal Justice Policy*

Corrections Communiqué

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◆ Community Reintegration of High-Risk Offenders *What Works* Conference 2006 ◆

“It marks a big step in your development when you come to realize that other people can help you do a better job than you can do alone.”

**Scottish born American industrialist
Andrew Carnegie**

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It is a hazard of working: even in the middle of an important and socially-valued organization, the distraction of details and the pace of our everyday work sometimes obscure the big picture. In late November, I had the opportunity to take a break from my everyday work in Communications and participate in the What Works conference sponsored by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada and the National Joint Committee of Senior Criminal Justice Officials. The theme of this years' conference was What Works in the Community Reintegration of High-Risk Offenders.

I sat close to the front of the Ballroom in the Fairmont Château Laurier. The room was full. More than 275 people from a variety of specializations had traveled from across Canada and around the world to collect and share their knowledge and experiences in the area of preventing recidivism among our most challenging criminal cases.

There were lawyers and law enforcement officials, doctors of psychology and correctional professionals, researchers and non-governmental agencies; there were participants from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the United States, Australia and a delegation from China. All were gathered to share and establish national and international best practices.

Surveying that room and seeing the various professionals there sparked the profound realization that there are thousands of dedicated and influential people in our country and abroad who are working every day to improve the way we manage and treat high-risk offenders and to actively prevent their re-offending.

I watched the Chinese delegation nodding attentively and taking copious notes as they listened to Canadian authorities discuss our clinical knowledge of high-risk and mentally-disordered offenders and our practical approaches to preventing behaviour patterns that end in violence or aggression. It was a reminder that Canada enjoys a strong reputation for excellence in corrections. In a sad way, it was also somewhat reassuring to hear that the issues and challenges we face in corrections in Canada are shared by our neighbours around the world.

Opened by Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day and closed by then-Justice Minister, Vic Toews, the conference had a strong presence from the federal government. With the current government emphasis on tackling crime, it is not surprising that they would be supportive of a gathering of this nature.

Aside from the political support, there were two strong messages that I want to share with



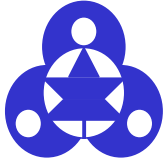
China Prison Society & Friends at the 2006 Ottawa What Works Conference

you. The first is that CSC is widely praised by our provincial colleagues in corrections, by those in the judiciary, and especially by Canadian law enforcement agencies for the tremendous advancements we have made in the collection and sharing of relevant information for offenders under supervision orders. Many times over the course of the two-day conference, CSC was credited with providing timely access to information that directly enabled the swift intervention of police when a criminal pattern of behaviour became evident.

The other consistent message was that well-trained, dedicated Circles of Support and Accountability are the best method for the safe supervision of high-risk offenders.

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◆ This article by **Jennifer Millenor**, Horizontal Communications Coordinator, Media Relations, Communications & Citizen Engagement Sector, Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) appeared on CSC's website <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/> on January 23, 2007



The National Joint Committee (NJC) –A Collaborative Venture

The National Joint Committee is managed by the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. The NJC was originally established by the National Parole Board and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to meet the need for increased communication understanding and cooperation among the police, courts and correctional authorities in reducing crime and protecting the public.

The program is based on the principles that none of the agencies within the criminal justice system can operate in

isolation and that all agencies must maintain strong and efficient communication, consultation and coordination to ensure that the criminal justice process more effective.

The committee formed in 1973, now enjoys a unique position in criminal justice in five regions and approximately twenty five districts and zones across Canada. It brings together, through its network of committees, personnel at various levels from participating agencies to discuss policies, procedures, programs and initiatives that cut across their jurisdictional lines.

It plays a vital role in promoting mutual understanding of roles and issues among criminal justice agencies. The NJC acts as an agent of change in fostering cooperation and support of activities in the areas of communication, sharing of information education and training. NJC encourages the direct exchange of data and police information to ensure effective development within the system and, as a result, it has become as recognized mechanism for consultation by participating agencies.

Canada–China Cooperation Programmes

In 2006, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy continued its projects of cooperation with partner organizations in the People's Republic of China in the area of criminal justice. The Implementing International Standards in Criminal Justice in China Project (IISCJCP) and the Canada China Procuratorate Reform Cooperation Project (CCPRCP) logically draws and builds upon the relationships and substantive expertise that the International Centre and its Chinese partner institutions

have developed over the last eleven years of project cooperation.

The International Centre, as an institute affiliated with the United Nations, has the distinct advantage of being an independent, non-governmental institute with cross-cultural legal expertise in the reform of criminal laws and development of criminal justice policies. This special characteristic has allowed the International Centre to act, together with other international donors, as a primary Canadian source of technical

assistance to support the promotion and implementation of international standards in China.

Both the IISCJCP and the CCPRCP are supported by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Dr. Vincent Yang, IISCJ Programme Director, ICCLR & CJP and Associate Dean, Faculty of Law Macau University

Auxiliary Constable Volunteers Her Time



**Auxiliary Constable
Winnie Shiu**

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Auxiliary Constable Winnie Shiu moved from Hong Kong to Vancouver as an immigrant in 1988. With a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia in 1992, she received a Master of Business Administration from the Simon Fraser University in 1998.

Currently working for The Bank of Nova Scotia, she has been an RCMP Auxiliary Constable in Richmond since 2003. This

has involved Program Coordination, Vancouver International Airport Patrol, Community/ Policing Crime Prevention Displays, Personal Safety Lectures and Demonstrations, and various Community Police Stations activities and involvement in the Home Security Check and Bait Car Programs . Auxiliary Constable Shiu was also a Reserve Constable with the Vancouver Police Department from 2000 to 2002 and following

that became a member with the Vancouver Police Department Traffic Authority, directing traffic in community events such as marathon, fireworks, and parades.

Auxiliary Constable Shiu, as a member of the Corrections Communiqué Newsletter Committee and translator makes a significant contribution to this publication.

NJC—A Network of Working Groups

Since 1973, five regional subcommittees and approximately twenty-five district and/or zone subcommittees were established across Canada. These groups operate under the same mandate of the National NJC organization and bring together personnel with a multitude of skills and expertise in all areas of criminal justice. Close to fifty meetings are held each year including major workshops in all regions.

The National Joint Committee and its working groups have sponsored many workshops concerning a variety of issues and projects. Committee members and staff meet regularly with law enforcement, judicial

and government officials, practitioners, academics and others. These consultants serve as a sounding board for new ideas and proposed recommendations and are found at the national, regional and local levels; their knowledge and experience assist committees throughout the country. The successful November 2006 *What Works* Conference was a prime example of a collaborative, inter-agency event that addressed a significant, contemporary criminal justice issue.

In addition to meetings of the NJC and subcommittees, members participate on a continuing basis, by the nature of their work in the system, in discuss-

ing issues, preparing materials and developing solutions to various problems raised at the committee level. Many of the regional and zone subcommittees now enjoy the participation of judges, provincial correctional personnel and after care agencies.

Officials from two key federal ministries: the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; and, the Justice Department are invited to participate in the discussions to share information about their work, initiatives and legislative proposals of their Ministry.



Constable Ronda Rempel
Richmond RCMP, Editorial and
Production Committee Member

Implementing International Standards in Criminal Justice in China

Through an integrated and collaborative approach to address some of the particular challenges that China faces in its transition to the rule of law, the IISCJP seeks to complement and strengthen the work of key Chinese partners and institutions in reforming the criminal law and criminal justice processes. To this end, through collaboration, the project:

1) Strengthens the technical capacity of Chinese partners and continue to assist their efforts to promote reforms in the areas of criminal procedure, substantive criminal law, and

the administration of criminal justice consistent with international legal and human rights standards and norms.

2) Supports Chinese partners and participants to effectively disseminate and use the information and expertise acquired through program activities to enhance the expertise of law and justice professionals and students in China.

3) Enhances the building and supporting of linkages and networking among and between Chinese organizations and professionals with Canadian and international organizations, for

stronger international cooperation and assistance with the legal and criminal justice reforms in China.

The current IISCJP continues to use similar methodological tools as previous successful projects including; joint research; field investigative studies; study tours; joint conferences and workshops; development of training activities; publications and information dissemination.

Kathleen Macdonald,
A/Executive Director, ICCLR &
CJP

Centre's President Reflects on the Past 20 Years

Upon reflecting on both his history of cooperation with our Chinese colleagues and his participation in the June 2006 Death Penalty Workshop held at Beijing Normal University Daniel Préfontaine QC, President of the International Centre shared the following, "After 20 years of

working in China on legal reform I was struck by the remarkable openness on the part of the Chinese officials and academics to point out that reforms to the death penalty were essential. Of course, the emphasis was on reduction of the number of offences and the

actual use of the death penalty, in distinction to the abolition of it during this period of reform in China. As in all matters of change and reform in any country, a critical factor is combining timing and the right environment"

Visits Garner Mutual Respect



Director Corrections Programme Mr. R.E. Bob Brown and China Prison Society Vice President Mr. Wang Hengjin

I have now participated in three visits to China over the past 18 months and have during the same period of time been directly involved with four delegations to Canada from the China Prison Society. These visits have garnered mutual respect amongst the many participants involved in the respective delegations, participants who are all striving for the humane treatment of offenders and safer communities. As Director of the Corrections Programme at the International Centre I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the many representatives from the China Prison Society who have contributed to the success of our mutually supported China/Canada Corrections Programme. The continued support of the Canadian International Development Agency and the Correctional Service of Canada is also acknowledged and sincerely appreciated.

It is hoped that this Corrections Communiqué will contribute to further enhancing the mutual respect and cooperation in the future.

R.E. Bob Brown

Director Corrections Programme, ICCLR & CJP

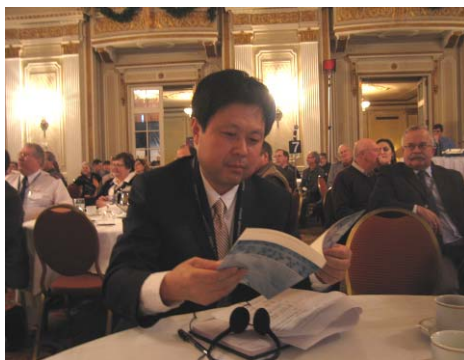
What Works Conference *continued from Page 1*

Circle members are often professionals. They have direct access to the police officer who is responsible for each particular case file; they may have access to the offender's psychologist or other medical professionals to report any abnormalities in behaviour. Circle members dedicate many volunteer hours to the offender, for a coffee, a meal or a late night telephone call. Often, the offender simply needs to be reassured that there are people who believe he can succeed and also be reminded that those same people won't tolerate any action that might jeopardize their community's safety.

It's an intuitive message, really. There is a greater likelihood for successful and crime-free reintegration of the offender - most often a marginalized member of society without many positive social networks - to find success, build self-esteem, and begin better patterns of behaviour when he is "circled" by caring members of the community. These respectable community members offer positive, sensitive and caring role models and they are clear that their role is to support the offender in his efforts to live in a way that society will accept. They do not tolerate behaviour that is contrary to the offender's release order nor that offends society or harms its citizens.

The way I see it, the Circles program is the ultimate in community corrections. It offers communities ownership and collaboration with the thousands of professionals who work tirelessly to ensure that we continue to enjoy safe and healthy communities. If that isn't an international best practice in community collaboration, I don't know what is.

The organizers of this remarkable conference received many notes of praise for this conference but for me the following one, in particular, captures the spirit of *What Works 2006*:



China Prison Society delegate reviews a Canadian criminology text. at "What Works"

"In the permanent Canadian collection of the National Art Gallery in Ottawa, there is a large canvas by a virtually unknown painter called *The Smiths*. The piece depicts a number of ironworkers struggling over hot coals in an apparent effort to bend an iron bar. The next time you are there, look closely at the man depicted on the left side of the piece. You will note on his face a rather obvious smile. To me, the painting conveys a satisfaction which is borne of collegiality, hard work and collaborative effort. That is what the latest installment in the *What Works* conference series has been about for me."

The *What Works* conference took participants around the world of corrections from Holland to Australia and introduced us to people whose expertise and dedication are

humbling. After two days and thirty-one pages of notes, I've realized that the details of our everyday work at CSC are important - not only because they contribute to a body of knowledge ensuring safe communities in Canada - but also because our knowledge and experiences connect us to a broad international group of professionals pursuing everyday details of their own. Together, imagine what we can accomplish.

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