

Victims Input towards Restorative Justice

- Restorative Justice acknowledges that victims need a chance to speak about their feelings and have the power restored to them that was taken away by the experience of the offense, as well as the recognition of the pain and suffering they have endured as a result of the incident.
- The restorative process is committed to clearly define the impact the offense has had upon the victim. The resulting emotional and financial consequences of a crime must be included in every part of the process.
- Victims will be encouraged to participate within an atmosphere of safety that is dedicated to assisting with their own healing and also affords them input into any plans, which are developed.
- The victim always has the choice to participate and to determine the extent of their involvement.
- The options of participation will be clearly defined with complete information about the particular restorative process in which the victim is invited to participate.
- Each victim receives the services and resources he/she needs as a result of the crime. The needs of the victim are very important in restorative justice. The special needs, which a victim may have in order to participate in a restorative process will be considered.
- The goals are to keep victims well informed, feeling safe and to ensure that their needs are addressed.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Justice begins with you! Volunteering is an enriching experience in so many ways. When you volunteer at Onashowewin, you have an opportunity to:

- Get training
- Gain work experience
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Cultivate personal growth
- Take on new challenges
- Take pride in sharing your knowledge and abilities
- Apply your current skills and gain some new ones
- Meet new people, make new friends and develop professional contacts
- Make a difference in your own community
- Opens up new opportunities and challenges
- A sense of satisfaction in knowing you made a difference in someone's life
- It's fun

The three areas where we need volunteers are:

- In-House Support
- Special Events
- Administration

Volunteer applicants must have a criminal record check and child abuse registry check. For more information or if you would like to volunteer call Rhonda Head, the Volunteer/Special Events Co-ordinator at 204-336-3604 or email at: rhead@onashowewin.com.



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Onashowewin Inc.

Winnipeg's

Aboriginal

Restorative

Justice

Rekindling the Spirit

Mission Statement

Onashowewin Inc. is a community based, non-profit organization dedicated to establishing restorative and holistic approaches for achieving justice that take into account the needs and strengths of the community.

Healthy Decisions Program

The Healthy Decision Making Program is a three-week program for individuals who have been involved in a variety of offences. This program provides an opportunity for participants to learn about positive lifestyle changes. We will work towards developing strategies to build self-esteem and to overcome peer pressure. This program gives participants an opportunity to listen, learn and share their life experiences.

Who's Involved?

Youth, adults, and family supports, guest speakers and two trained facilitators who will guide us through this process.

Eligibility?

We are accepting people who are willing to take responsibility for their actions and behaviours. We are also looking for people who want to find new ways of dealing with life's challenges. Prior to the Healthy Decision Making Program, a person MUST agree to attend all three sessions.

Topics of Discussion?

May include but, not limited to: Self-Esteem, Self-determination, Cultural Awareness, Self-Identity, Controlling your own destiny, Knowing ourselves, Self-Empowerment.

Upon successful completion of the Healthy Decision Making Program the candidate will receive a certificate of completion. In addition, Onashowewin will make a recommendation that charges should not proceed in court.

Mino-Pamatezwin Auto Theft Program

The Mino Biinaajiwowin Auto Related Program which provides preventative education opportunities for youth 12 to 17 who have been charged with auto theft related offences. Originally delivered by the C.P. 1879 Youth Diversion Program. It has been continued by Onashowewin as part of our commitment to culturally relevant in house programming.

The sessions are structured to deliver different themes throughout the duration. The ultimate objective of the program is to promote, responsibility, respect, caring, ownership of behaviours, and independence to form their own thoughts and actions.

The program is constantly seeking new ways to improve on the delivery and content of the sessions. In the near future it is intended that the cultural content will be integrated to a more prominent role throughout the sessions.

Mino-Pamatezwin Theft Under Program

Our Theft Under Programs are geared towards offenders who have been charged with shoplifting offences.

Clients deal with their charges by attending facilitated sessions with: Business owners, police officers and elders.

These meetings are set up to work together on ways to resolve matters outside of a court setting.

What is Onashowewin?

Pronounced (O-Nash-O-Way-Win)

Onashowewin accepts referrals from the Crown Attorney's office for people who have been charged with a variety of offences. We accept both young offenders as well as adults at various points in the justice system. We offer victim/offender mediation, Community Justice Forums, conciliation as well as programs for offenders.

Our program is not retributive, as is the mainstream justice system. We do not punish, even though we do hold offenders accountable for their actions. We do not judge people based on a single criminal incident. Our approach is to try and address underlying issues that have led to criminal behaviors. Our objective is to help restore, heal and transform relationships and the community.

When we meet with an offender, we help identify issues that may be contributing to criminal behaviors. In cases in which the victim is willing to participate we also work with the victim to help them deal with issues stemming from the incident.

We may facilitate victim-offender mediation, peacemaking circles and conciliation. These may lead to agreements in which the offender provides a formal apology, pays restitution, performs community service, etc. We may also have the offender take one of our in-house programs (Theft Under \$5000, Auto Related Offences, Healthy Decision Making), or we may refer them out to other community programs, services or assessments. We also have a list of community Elders that clientele may request to be referred to.

We network with a variety of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal agencies, as well as government departments, police, Crown prosecutions, community Elders and Restorative Justice programs throughout the city, province, country and world.