



SCO Justice Program Spring Report 2020

Mandate

The Southern Chiefs' Organization established its Department of Justice in 2001. SCO's First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS) is a community-based program that provides restorative justice and mediation services with professionalism, respect and dedication to the wellbeing of our communities.

Service Communities

SCO employs 6 Community Justice Workers and Community Justice Development Coordinator in the following communities:

- Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation
- Pinaymootang First Nation
- Pine Creek First Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation
- Sandy Bay First Nation
- Waywayseecappo First Nation



Strategic Relationships

SCO CJWs and CJDC work throughout the year to establish, develop and maintain relationships with various stakeholders including: Winnipeg Police Service, RCMP, Manitoba First Nation Police, Manitoba Justice, Crown Attorneys, Community and Elder Justice Committees, and other community organizations.



Program Update

The SCO Justice program began its new fiscal year on April 1, 2020. The year was off to an unusual start with the COVID-19 pandemic putting a hold on everything and changing the way the Justice program operated. The Manitoba Court suspended most court sittings, including all of the circuit court locations on March 16, 2020. During this time, the CJWs were unable to continue with most programming and services. The CJWs got creative and began using virtual means to communicate with their clients and deliver one-on-one programming. The CJWs continued to receive referrals for the diversion program from the RCMP, WPS and Crown Attorneys. The Manitoba Court is anticipating opening up circuit courts in July which will be a busy time for the CJWs as they handle the backlog of matters since the closing.

Governance

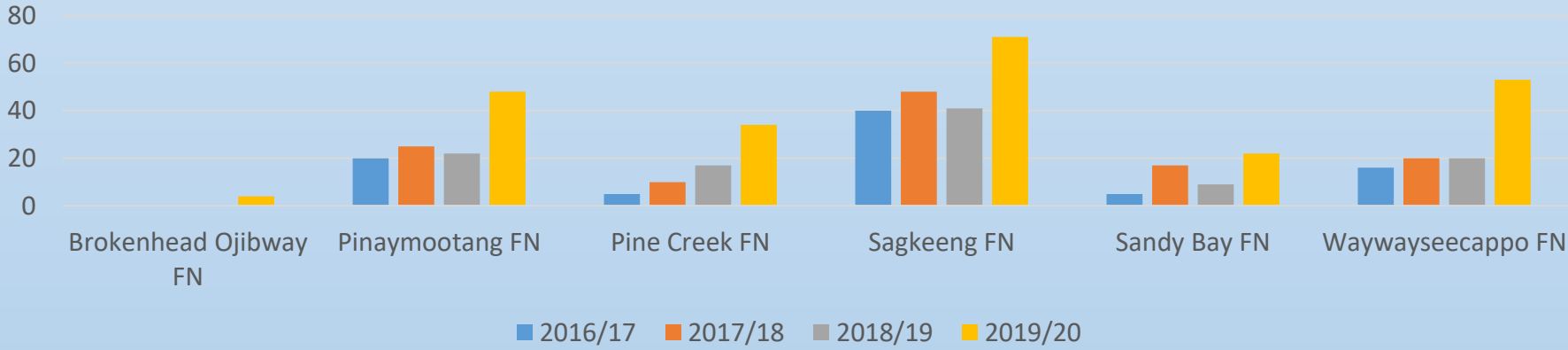
The SCO Justice Program and CJDC reports to the Chief Standing Committee on Child Welfare (CSCCW) for direction and guidance. The CSCCW is comprised of: Chair Chief Deborah Smith (Brokenhead Ojibway FN), Chief Cornell McLean (Lake Manitoba FN), Chief Cameron Catcheway (Skownan FN), Chief Karen Batson (Pine Creek FN), Chief Lance Roulette (Sandy Bay FN) and Chief Viola Eastman (Canupawakpa FN). The knowledge and leadership of the CSCCW is instrumental in shaping the direction of the SCO Justice Program to meet the needs of the First Nation communities.



Key Accomplishments

- CJWs attended Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, MB for a 5-day retreat including workshops and ceremony
- SCO hosted the Annual Community Justice Worker Gathering in Winnipeg, MB bringing together CJWs from all over Manitoba for 3 days of training and workshops
- SCO welcomed a new CJW, Crystal Brown, in Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation in November 2019
- SCO partnered with Assiniboine Community College to develop and deliver the Restorative Justice Certification Course which began in January 2020
- Participation with Policing and Public Support COVID-19 Response Team

Referrals to SCO Justice Program



Upcoming projects for Summer 2020

- Creation of the new Youth Empowerment Program diversion program
- Develop protocols with the RCMP and WPS to foster positive working relationships
- Continuation of the SCO/ACC Restorative Justice Certification Program
- Preparation for a SCO CFS and Justice Summit

Contact

For any inquires, please contact the Community Justice Development Coordinator Serena Ehrmantraut at:

Serena.Ehrmantraut@scoinc.mb.ca
 (204) 946-1869