



It gives me great pleasure to call upon all Mayors, Chiefs, Reeves, Councillors and community leaders from across Canada to **proclaim Restorative Justice Week 2012**. The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has been an active partner in the restorative justice community for more than a decade and has been proud to provide leadership to the annual celebration since 1996.

Restorative Justice Week 2012 will be held in Canada, and throughout the world, from **November 18th - 25th** for the purpose of sharing the concrete learning and results that have come from the growing experience of practitioners and stakeholders in the application of a restorative justice approach and processes.

The theme this year is **“Diverse Needs; Unique Responses”**. This theme recognizes that restorative justice is an approach that addresses the various needs of people impacted by crime and conflict that are created when a person has been harmed or treated unfairly. Restorative justice processes, in response to crime and conflict, are highly adaptable to different people, environments, and systems as the identified needs of the people involved help formulate the unique response that can contribute to a person’s sense of safety, justice and well-being.

Municipal recognition of Restorative Justice Week increases from year to year. In 2011, 301 municipalities across Canada proclaimed Restorative Justice Week representing 17.19% of the Canadian population. In addition, the provinces of Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and British Columbia proclaimed the Week. Restorative Justice Week was also celebrated in at least 19 other countries. This year, with your support, we hope to build on this success. Here are some ideas of what you could do as leaders in your community:

- Declare / proclaim Restorative Justice Week 2012. Included with this letter is a copy of the proclamation. A printable version can also be found on our website: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rj/rj2012/genproc-eng.shtml>;
- Host a town hall meeting to promote and raise awareness about how restorative justice is expressed in your communities;
- Challenge your community partners to create a local planning committee for Restorative Justice Week 2012 activities;
- Invite a guest speaker from your community, who is involved in restorative justice, to share their perspectives.

Should you require someone to talk to your city council or if you would like more information, please contact CSC’s Restorative Justice Division at restorativejustice@csc-scc.gc.ca. **Please fax a copy of the proclamation or the minutes of the meeting declaring/proclaiming Restorative Justice Week 2012, as well as your contact information, to 613-943-2171.**

For more information on Restorative Justice Week 2012 and available resources, or to let us know if your city, town or village is planning an event, visit www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rj/index-eng.shtml. Not only will your Restorative Justice Week event be posted online, it will also be published in the Restorative Justice Week National Report.

Note: If for any reason policy precludes your jurisdiction from proclaiming events, please advise as this information is collected annually for statistical purposes and reflected in the National Report.

Don Head
Commissioner





WHEREAS, in the face of crime or conflict, restorative justice offers a philosophy and approach that views these matters principally as harm done to people and relationships; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice approaches strive to provide support and opportunities for the voluntary participation and communication between those affected by crime and conflict (victims, offenders, community) to encourage accountability, reparation and a movement towards understanding, feelings of satisfaction, healing and a sense of closure; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme for Restorative Justice Week is "*Diverse Needs; Unique Responses*", it is an opportunity to learn about restorative justice, educate and celebrate along with other communities across the country during the week.

THEREFORE, I, _____, do hereby
(Title and Name),

proclaim November 18 - November 25, 2012 as Restorative Justice Week in the
_____ of _____.
(type of municipality) (name of municipality)