



Mission

Effective, just and humane responses to the causes and consequences of crime.

Description

The John Howard Society of Canada is an organization of provincial and territorial Societies comprised of and governed by people whose goal is to understand and respond to problems of crime and the criminal justice system. They are fiscally responsible for the continuance of the work and service of the National Office.

Methods

In furtherance of its Mission, the Society:

- Works with people who have come into conflict with the law;
- Reviews, evaluates and advocates for changes in the criminal justice process;
- Engages in public education on matters relating to criminal law and its application, and promotes crime prevention through community and social development activities.

Report from the President

It is with mixed feelings that I present my final annual report as I complete my third term as President of the John Howard Society of Canada.



*Trish Cheverie, President,
JHS Canada*

We are proud of the accomplishments of the Society over the first year of the five year, Five Point Plan to improve the corrections system in Canada.

Our prisons are violent and over-crowded, lacking in essential medical services, particularly for the mentally ill, and providing increasingly shrinking rehabilitative programming. The consequence is the eventual release into the community of people who are much worse off with diminished resources and capacities, then when they entered jail.

The “tough on crime” federal agenda has also significantly impacted the capacity of the provinces to provide needed services to their burgeoning jail populations. The result is not safer communities but growing recidivism, and increased human suffering.

The Five Point Plan has been embraced by the membership and has proven to be an effective vehicle for our agenda, facilitating clear, persuasive and consistent communication.

John Howard Canada continues to build on a successful litigation strategy challenging unfair laws designed to put more people in jail for longer. Our intervention in *R. v. Nur* in which the Supreme Court of Canada struck down mandatory minimum sentences for gun crime, contributed to that success.

Most recently, we have partnered with the B.C. Civil Liberties Association in a lawsuit alleging a failure to protect the Charter rights of prisoners in solitary confinement and we watch attentively as that case progresses.

We continue to seek partnerships and opportunities for collaboration in work towards a rational justice system and prison reform which is both humane and effective.

While the National Grant has been confirmed to 2017, many of our members share our struggle to develop non-governmental sources of funding. As we look to the future we recognize that our capacity as a federated organization operating on a national level gives us a unique opportunity to assist our membership in delivery of services to rural, remote and needy communities across the country. What national opportunities exist and how might we work together to do more?


There are tough questions to be asked and difficult discussions to be had about how we can address together future challenges, improving our collective capacity to achieve our common goals.

Staff are already working on plans for the May 2016 staff conference in Vancouver where John Howard affiliates will once again have the opportunity to share information on effective services and programming.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our Executive Director, Catherine Latimer, Mary Lou Howarth, Manager Finance and Development and Past President, Catherine Gogan and each member of our Board of Directors for their unfailing and valuable advice and support over the past three years. It is a rare thing to have the opportunity to develop personal relationships with so many who share the values that motivate me every day.

I am extremely humbled to have had the privilege of working with each of you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Cheverie', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Trish Cheverie, President

Report from the Executive Director



*Catherine Latimer,
Executive Director*

Another challenging year in criminal justice and corrections has reinforced John Howard Society's commitment to the pursuit of just, effective and humane approaches. Many of our prisons in the federal, provincial and territorial systems are crowded, under-resourced and not adequately supporting the rehabilitation and successful reintegration of prisoners into our communities. The 5-Point Plan to Improve Corrections continues to provide a foundation for our efforts.

Last year's resolution from the Annual General Meeting of the John Howard Society of Canada calling for limits on administrative segregation prompted us to join with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association in a law suit to clarify whether current federal practices and legislation conform to Charter-protected rights of prisoners in segregation. There was widespread media coverage of the challenge and editorials were written in most of the major newspapers opposing current administrative segregation practices.

Media coverage of John Howard Society of Canada's efforts to improve the corrections system has been robust and supportive throughout the year. This included opportunities for commentary on television and radio on proposed legislative reforms, editorials in newspapers, and participation in open line radio programs. My longer interview with Michael Enright on CBC's Sunday Edition permitted a more in depth discussion about the current problems in the justice and corrections system and our plans to address them. Not only did the media presence help to raise the profile of the John Howard Society, it likely led to some of the generous donations we received, some of which were directly targeted to our litigation efforts.

Relations with federal officials having a mandate in justice and corrections remain constructive. The John Howard Society of Canada was one of the few agencies participating in Correctional Services of Canada's consultation on administrative segregation. We were also active participants in information exchange sessions with Public Safety Canada and CSC and in a day-long forum with Public Safety and the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice on the challenges of mental illness

and the criminal justice system. I am particularly encouraged by Public Safety's interest and support for our efforts to test a "Through the Prison Gate" social enterprise in a Canadian context. With Public Safety's financial assistance and the active support of CorCan, John Howard Society of Kingston, a co-operative developer, senior CSC officials at Bath Institution and members of the Kingston community, we were able to produce a feasibility study and business plan for a small appliance recycling enterprise.

John Howard Society of Canada continued to work in collaboration with other organizations with shared justice interests. We assumed a leadership role in the National Associations in Criminal Justice. We wrote letters of support for funding for the *Collaborating Centre for Prison Health and Education* (CCPHE), for the study to answer John Howard Society of Canada's questions about reintegration support and health issues. The research is underway with support from John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland, among others in the Vancouver area. We are also participating in research projects coordinated through St. Michael's Hospital and Carleton University. The John Howard Society of Canada is now a member of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA)'s newly formed Working Group on Offender Substance Abuse intended to promote best practices in supporting successful community reintegration for offenders with a history of substance use problems. We are also planning a presentation for some Trudeau Foundation members on the 5-Point Plan.

One of the highlights over the past year was the "Let's Unlock Change" campaign with the Algonquin College Public Relation students and John Howard Society of Ottawa. The Algonquin Public Relations students, through a competitive process, selected John Howard Society of Canada as the charity it would support during its annual campaign. A dozen different events, ranging from coffee houses to carnivals to bubble soccer were held in Ottawa over a few weeks. Not only did the students raise more than \$25,000, they raised our profile in Ottawa and our spirits through their energy, commitment and professionalism.

The year ahead will bring its own set of challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working with you all in advancing just, effective, and humane responses to the causes and consequences of crime.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Liam Han", is located at the bottom left of the page.

Member Societies across Canada

The John Howard Society of British Columbia worked on a number of initiatives this year to enhance community inclusion and safety, improve the lives of our clients and communities, expand evidence base practices and prepare for the future. We continue to address issues and provide solutions for the betterment of persons involved or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.



*Julia Payson,
Executive Director*

One step in the development of our provincial capacity has been the establishment of a fulltime Executive Director. The position was filled in May and has allowed for greater organisational development.

The client base in BC has continued to expand by regional work with traditional justice partners, but also community living and health authorities. The regional client base continues to expand with new community living, homelessness prevention, and housing programs. Regional societies continue to diversify their funding bases through these new contracts, as well as looking at innovative partnerships, self-funding models, and finally developing major donors and ongoing giving programs.

JHSBC continues to partner with the Ministry for Child and Family Development to provide Advocacy Support in Youth Custody Centres throughout the Province. Our rights based advocacy and training initiatives have enhanced the voices of youth persons incarcerated within the Province. Custody counts continue to decrease under the Youth Criminal Justice Act in British Columbia which is commendable. As a result, the Victoria Youth Custody Centre closed for long term youth in the 2014-15 fiscal year, although it continues to provide short term transfer beds.

The Youth Advocacy multi-year agreement is contracted with the JHS Lower Mainland, Northern John Howard Society and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver. With the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Centre, the contracting with the JHS Victoria ceased.

As a result of this ongoing decrease of youth in formal custody centres, we have undertaken research funded by the Law Foundation of BC to look at the application of rights to youth when they are held outside of custody centres. This work will be ongoing into the next fiscal year

JHSBC developed a 2 year Strategic Direction which was ratified by the board in September 2014. A number of regions have also undergone recent strategic planning process, and engaged the provincial Executive Director in this process. Three regions have retained new leadership staff which has led to new approaches and perspectives. The balance of long term and new leadership staff has greatly benefited the Executive Directors group in our teleconferences and three face to face meetings this year.



*Pamela Smith-Gander,
Director JHS BC and JHS
Canada*

JHSBC continues to engage with media on provincial and, when appropriate, national issues. There were multiple media opportunities this year to provide information and foster discussions about solitary confinement and administrative segregation, housing, homelessness after prison, effective strategies for reducing recidivism for sexual offenders, community residential facility management, mental health care continuity in provincial prisons, and federal legislation proposals. In addition to this reactive public education, JHSBC has also started some proactive media strategies, including a partnership with Langara School of Journalism which will lead to new media tools for 2015.

Through our external partnerships, JHSBC participates on provincial issues. We had partnerships with the BC Alliance for Mental Health and Substance Use, the United Way Public Policy, Communities Coordinating for Women's Safety / Ending Violence Association, and Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies. Through these associations JHSBC was also able to work more directly on provincial issues related to offender intervention programs related to domestic violence, and the CMHA Partners in Change review which focused on effective strategies for increasing mental health continuum of care in BC Provincial Corrections.

As we continue to evolve, our focus remains on effective, just and humane responses to the causes and consequences of crime. By building on better practices like trauma informed practice, and housing first, John Howard Societies in BC are working to continually improve our services, our sustainability, and to ensure that we build government, institutional and public support of the work that we do.

Julia Payson
Executive Director

John Howard Society of the Northwest Territories



Lydia Bardak,
Executive Director

This year saw an office re-location. After seven years in a basement, we now enjoy seeing outside and it is a vast improvement.

We continued to receive Territorial Government funding for our three programs: the Fine Option Program, Community Service support/supervision, and the Community Justice (diversion) Program. Our programs are available to males and females, youth and adults.

We held volunteer recruitment and orientation for new volunteers on two occasions in the past year and currently have 14 active members available for the Justice Committee which continued to meet weekly. Community agencies continued their support to the Fine Option Program and Community Service by supervising volunteers as they complete their court ordered volunteer hours. Those include the Center for Northern Families, the Salvation Army, the SideDoor Youth Center, the YWCA, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the City of Yellowknife to name a few.

Case loads increased in Court Diversions but without research, it is difficult to say why. Fine Option files are still lower than in previous years.

The John Howard Society of the Northwest Territories (JHSNWT) continues to enjoy strong partnerships with the staff in the Community

Justice Division of the Territorial Justice Department, Probation Workers, the RCMP, and Crown Prosecutors.

We were not able to secure start-up costs to open a halfway house, however, a four-bed Community Residential Facility recently opened at the Salvation Army in space that they had available for that purpose and we sit on the Admissions Committee for that CRF and now have a stronger relationship with the local Parole Office.

We also strengthened our relationship with the local Correctional Center by being in the facility one half day per week for one-on-one visits. We look forward to exploring some group programs for literacy and life skills.

In terms of community engagement, we partnered with Department of Justice staff to provide diversion training and orientation to about half of the RCMP members in the Yellowknife Detachment and on another occasion to members of the NWT chapter of the Canadian Bar Association. Additionally, we partnered with staff of the local Correctional Center to deliver Mental Health First Aid to 20 front-line staff of various local agencies including the Salvation Army, the Center for Northern Families, the Friendship Center and to our Citizen Response volunteers.

The City of Yellowknife has disbanded the Yellowknife Area Policing Advisory Committee and the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition. We continue our involvement in the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence. The Coalition Against Family Violence program for men who use violence in intimate relationships has recently re-started in a new agency and we continue to be involved in an advisory capacity with this much needed initiative.

Our office support worker is now working part-time due to a lack of funds to cover a full-time position. We are exploring funding to hire a part-time volunteer coordinator to support our volunteers in the Community Justice Committee, the Citizen Response Team, and other initiatives that we are exploring for the local correctional center (including but not limited to



*Michael Keohane,
Director JHS NWT and
JHS Canada*

Freeing the Human Spirit yoga and meditation program and a potential literacy team).

In 2015-2016, we will continue working to strengthen the Citizen Response Team (a street outreach project) which came as a result of Town Hall meetings on public safety hosted by the RCMP, the City of Yellowknife, and the Government of the Northwest Territories Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services. And we will also explore new program ideas for North Slave Correctional Center, including Yoga and an Institutional Fine Option Program. We will also continue to be involved in monitoring the programming for men who use violence in intimate relationships; and we will seek the support of additional volunteers to support our work in the community.

Lydia Bardak

Yellowknife Community Justice Coordinator/Executive Director

The John Howard Society of Alberta celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2009 as an incorporated Society. Since its inception, the JHSA has been committed to creating safety and harmony in our communities. It has



*Chris Hay,
Executive Director*

grown from a handful of volunteers and staff in the 1950's, supporting a minimum of services to Albertans, to a large organization consisting of hundreds of employees, and even more volunteers, dedicated to understanding the true nature of criminal activity and alleviating the risk factors associated to offending. The JHSA has conducted business now for over 60 years and in that time there have been several milestone changes.

However, our overall vision, mission and philosophies have not changed significantly. The Provincial Office specific goals for 2015 and into 2016 are:

- To build on our relationships with the JHS affiliates in Alberta and throughout Canada;
- To strengthen our relationships with our funders and government partners municipally, provincially, and federally;
- To extend further into the community for criminal justice education

purposes;

- To increase our profile through significant media attention;
- To engage in significant primary and secondary criminological research; and
- To secure further operating funding.

The strength of the JHSA is best demonstrated through the work and dedication of its Provincial Local Societies. While the core mission of these affiliates lies with the client services and programs that they provide on a daily basis to Albertans, their work develops from an evidence-based or research approach, which the Provincial Office supports and provides.

The Alberta John Howard Societies (JHS), coordinated through the Provincial Office, are strongly involved in supporting and participating in local community education and social justice developments. As an example, one program, offered by the Local Societies and coordinated by the Provincial Office, is called the Criminal Justice Education (CJE) program. This program is unique within the John Howard Society family across Canada in that it only operates in Alberta. The CJE program provides age appropriate information on the Youth Criminal Justice system and other aspects of the law to young people in the school system and reaches over 45,000 students a year. A couple of products that we produced and utilize in this program are, “The Youth Criminal Justice Act Handbook” and the “Youth Criminal Justice Parent’s Guide”.

The CJE program is fully supported and mostly funded by the Alberta Law Foundation and, thanks to its support, the program has operated for over 20 years. In 2014, over 45,000 students in Alberta were visited in their classrooms and participated in the program. This number is expected to increase in 2015 and 2016. Further, in 2010, the JHSA received Alberta Law Foundation funding to secure a full time curriculum developer, with the goal being the creation of online modules of the CJE program to reach teachers and students in more rural communities in Alberta.

To further support the JHS’s work across Alberta, the JHSA has recently undertaken a number of initiatives. The JHSA has started to create critical and succinct “fact sheets” on a number of topics to support the JHSA affiliates in strong evidence-based research. Further, the JHSA, in an attempt to better educate the public, has increased its media discussions and discussions at post-secondary institutions and community forums.

For example, the Provincial Office participates in a television program known as Alberta Primetime on a regular basis and this office has conducted several speaking engagements at conferences, and over a dozen other media (print and news) stories. Further, a comprehensive presentation was created to have frank discussions with community forums and post secondary institutions in order to dispel the myths that currently exist about offending and how our justice system operates. The JHSA also organizes and hosts a 3 day international criminological conference every two years. The last one, in May 2015, had 34 speakers, 5 key note speakers, 22 individual sessions and had an attendance number of just over 220 people. This was a significant even and is our 3rd in the past 6 years. Our next international conference will be in May 2017 and will have a youth justice focus. Finally, the JHSA continues to conduct primary and secondary research into criminological issues, risk factors, recidivism, and reintegration strategies that are available to all interested parties (some of which will be highlighted further in the document). In fact, for the past three years we have partnered with the Solicitor General and Alberta Justice office to conduct research important to both our operations. In 2015 our main research project with Sol Gen/AB Justice is a full review and analysis of the video visitation project currently operational at the Edmonton Remand Centre.

It has been a pleasure to work with our justice partners to create safety and harmony in our society. We could not have succeeded without the generous support of our Federal Government partners. In fact, we would struggle to exist as an office without this funding and, therefore, truly appreciate the federal support.

Chris Hay
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Manitoba, Inc.

Manitoba incarcerates a higher percentage of its citizenry than any other province in Canada. It also has the highest percentage of innocent people in custody – those being held on remand and not released on bail. These two statistics are linked, of course. One solution to the ever-growing numbers of those held in custody is to look at why the remand rate is so high.

In the summer of 2014 the Canadian Civil Liberties Association released a report looking at bail across the country. The John Howard Society of Manitoba helped organize the release of the report locally and have discussed its findings now with three different Attorneys General of Manitoba over the past year (there has been some turnover). Manitoba has a zero tolerance policy in terms of bail condition violations, which means someone is returned to custody for any infraction, no matter how small or isolated it was. We have frequently raised ‘zero tolerance’ as an issue with the province and have asked that the government reconsider its position in this regard.



*John Hutton,
Executive Director*

Manitoba has recently created a special unit of prosecutors to review all new cases in an effort to ease a large backlog of cases. JHSM made a presentation to this unit recently, to brief them on our Bail Support and Supervision Program which has been very successful in helping those who would not otherwise receive bail move back into the community where we offer support and supervision.

Manitoba passed a Restorative Justice Act last year. JHSM is part of a steering committee that seeks to create a Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba to coincide with the Proclamation of the Act, expected later this year.

Last year we were also able to expand our peer literacy tutor program (training men in custody to tutor others inside jail using teaching kits provided by JHSM) to a second correctional centre. As a result of last year’s expansion, in June we received funding to pilot a literacy training program at a *third* centre - that pilot program wrapped up last week.

Response from all three Correctional Centres has been very positive and we are looking at ways to expand the program further to include Stony Mountain Institution as well. The approach gives our literacy services a broader reach and we have had a very positive response from correctional staff as the tutors tend to take on other leadership roles on the units.

In the early spring of 2014 we were asked to support and promote the development of a new aboriginal based initiative that would offer services designed for those on the higher end of the FASD spectrum using a strength based and recovery lens infused with cultural teachings and awareness. With our support Oshki Giizhig was able to receive start-up funding from the Winnipeg Foundation and additional monies from United Way of Winnipeg. Currently they are working with up to eight clients and are seeking to double this number over the next few months. They have already taken a step towards independence as they now administer their own funding and should be fully independent once they receive charitable status.

We continue to sit on the advisory council of a unique community, police and government partnership looking at reducing levels of crime in Winnipeg's north-end through targeted and coordinated responses. As well, we helped organize the annual Communities March for Peace through the downtown/West end of Winnipeg last week. A dozen agencies and over two hundred people took part, to bring attention to the need for peace in communities most affected by crime (a need that is no less acute despite a plethora of 'tough on crime' measures implemented at both the Federal and Provincial level over the last decade.) Lastly, JHSM has agreed to be part of The Prison Transparency Project spanning three provinces and four cities. The project will last three years and look at the impact of incarceration by interviewing former inmates and detainees.

Our public outreach and advocacy work this past year has focused mainly on issues related to jail overcrowding, 'zero tolerance', and the need for a strategy to reduce the unacceptably high rate of Hepatitis C among federal inmates. With the federal election campaign ongoing, we are once again putting together a voter's guide, complete with campaign material that we will be distributing to every correctional centre in the Province. We do this each election cycle to encourage inmates to exercise their rights to vote in an informed way. We will also be helping to organize a candidate's

forum on Community Safety to be held just before the election, as we have done during past elections.

We were in support of the actions taken by JHSC along with JHSBC, to mount a legal challenge against the excessive use of solitary confinement within federal corrections. And we're looking forward to the one-day conference being organized this year in Ottawa and the opportunity to learn about the work being done under the John Howard banner across the country.

John Hutton
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Ontario

It has been another busy and productive year for the John Howard Society of Ontario. 2015 marks the implementation of our new Operational Business Plan which focuses on five goals: to be a key change agent and influencer for an effective, just and humane criminal justice system; to be a leader in criminal justice research; to support our local offices; to promote evidence-based programs and services that produce positive outcomes; and, continue to strengthen our organization.



Paula Osmok, Executive Director

Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development

This past year, the Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development (the Centre) at the John Howard Society of Ontario, through its research, policy and public education work has actively been raising awareness about the wide-ranging and detrimental impacts of police records and the increasing reliance on police record checks as a screening tool across many sectors and industries.

The Centre's 2014 report *Help Wanted*: Reducing Barriers for Ontario's Youth with Police Records*, which examined the hiring practices of Ontario employers in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties, continues to bring awareness to the barriers facing individuals with police records, and in

particular, how the disclosure of non-conviction information on police record checks is impacting thousands of Ontarians.

Also in this past year, the Centre and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) teamed up to deliver educational workshops on police record checks across the province of Ontario. This workshop series, entitled *On the Record*, funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, has been delivered to over 1850 attendees in venues all across our province. The feedback received in response to these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive, and the demand for more workshops continues.

As part of this project, the Centre and CCLA launched detailed *On the Record* information guides in November 2014 aimed at two distinct audiences: 1) Ontarians affected by non-conviction records and/or the social service providers and legal professionals who assist them; and 2) those frequently requesting police record checks: employers, volunteer organizations, human resources personnel, educational departments and vocational associations in Ontario.

The Centre's knowledge mobilization and collaboration efforts, along with face-to-face consultations, were a key driving force behind the updated *Guideline for Police Record Checks* issued by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (2014), and the provincial government's commitment to regulating police record checks in Ontario.

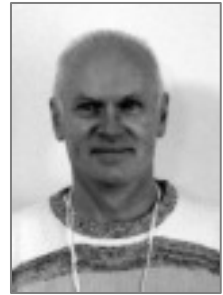
The Centre, in collaboration with JHSO's Executive Directors' Mental Health Committee, finalized and launched our comprehensive report on the intersection between mental health issues and the justice system. The report, entitled *Unlocking Change: Decriminalizing Mental Health Issues in Ontario*, has garnered tremendous media coverage and generated much public interest in this important issue.

Program evaluation continues to play a vital role at the JHSO as we continue to provide services which yield the positive impacts we target. Program evaluation enables us to examine what works, what does not work and why, so that the necessary changes can be made to ensure effective service delivery.

New Building: Renovations continue on the new site for JHSO on Queen Street East with plans to formalize our move by the end of 2015.

Consolidated Website: Significant collaborative efforts, involving all JHS offices in Ontario, culminated in the successful launch of our consolidated website. We continue to add elements to make our website the most inviting, user-friendly and informative in our sector. Feedback from both within JHS and the broader community has been very positive. We encourage everyone to become more engaged with the John Howard Society of Ontario's exciting work by regularly visiting our website at johnhoward.on.ca.

JHS Local Offices: As part of a capacity building exercise, Executive Directors from across Ontario updated our collective Work Plan with four core capacities – Leadership Capacity, Adaptive Capacity, Management Capacity and Technical Capacity – identified as key to our effectiveness. Our vision is to build the Ontario-wide capacity of the John Howard Society through three key goals: strengthening our brand through measuring and marketing; business development; and strengthening our collective capacity.



*Ken Doan, Director
JHS ON and JHS
Canada*

JHS Ontario continues to implement our annual feedback survey in order to ensure that the services and supports we provide to our local JHS offices continue to be both relevant and effective.

Year Ahead

We look forward to accomplishing the mission-based targets set out in our Business Plan and advancing evidence-based solutions to social and criminal justice issues that are effective, just and humane and help create a truly effective criminal justice system – one that serves us all, that confronts crime and its causes and that fosters safer communities.

*Paula Osmok
Executive Director*

*Ken Doan
JHS Ontario Representative*

The John Howard Society of Quebec

This year, the JHSQ developed and carried out a pilot project focusing on youth at risk. The project focused on 10-13 year olds with the objective of engaging these youth in the Montreal area in authentic environmental projects that benefit their community. It involved positive psychology, health awareness and environmental education to give adolescents the opportunity to make commitments to better their world and their development. As young people begin to care about what is beyond the home environment and the vision they have of themselves, their world can change drastically.

The Challenge: Worldwide, one of the most common social ills is related to a group of children known as *youth at risk*. These children tend to be those who often do not receive the required attention they need with regards to time or resources. This situation generates not only risk margins for young people themselves, but extends its impact to society in general.

Risk situations are understood as a set of factors that determine damage or vulnerability and are defined by biological, psychological and social imbalances understood and recognizing the mutual influences between these spheres.

Youth at risk currently constitute a social group often consumed by uncertainty about their future and inadequate opportunities for personal fulfillment. They are immersed in questions relating to adolescence, to their current relationship with family, their community, and the overall system they live in. This challenges organizations like the John Howard Society to develop structured programs with experts in the field of developmental psychology, leadership training and education to implement innovative action-based projects for youth at risk. The benefit of such programs have far-reaching positive consequences for society in terms of health, education and sustainable futures.

JHSQ Response: **The John Howard Society**, in partnership with **CCS Community Services**, is committed to developing leadership programs that include the type of protective factors youth at risk need to experience. These programs can benefit both individual and group development,

enhance the ability to maintain or regain health and can offset the effects of risk factors and thus reduce vulnerability.

Teaching Strategies & Guiding Principles:

- An action research method was used to engage students in a real-world local issue that they will be challenged to resolve through a team approach.
- Group projects provided the opportunity to develop insight and sensitivity to self and others in group settings by participating in actual group experiences.
- An experiential and cooperative approach was emphasized. Participants were challenged with projects and problems away from the distractions of home life.

Content: Guided group outdoor activities such as tent upkeep, hiking trips and overnight, environmental service projects (e.g. building a reef for fish, helping establish a farm on site, building an outdoor solar shower, etc.) as well as all traditional camp activities (campfires, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, games...).

Program: We encouraged individuals to be themselves and explore their passions. Camp is a conducive environment to highlight and bring awareness to our beautifully interconnected world.

Sustainable Happiness (SH) encouraged the boys to proactively participate to their own personal growth, that of their surrounding community and even on a larger global scale of well-being. They are also taught to live happily without exploiting the world around them.

Participants were encouraged to rationalize their thoughts before reacting, in order to achieve a level of perspective on any given situation. They were given tools to better understand their emotions, reactions, thoughts and feelings, in turn helping them create well thought-out decisions. We want to encourage overall positive thinking.

We created a *Sustainable Happiness Passport* to encourage small acts of kindness and appreciation initiatives. It is a booklet filled with activities, which helps to provide activities for the boys to practice gratitude while highlighting the positive aspects in their world. Each activity was designed with the participants' and the environmental well-being in mind. A

trained staff of camp specialists (nature, sports and art) help to teach the boys in new and interactive ways. The activities taught them about different cultures and the world around us, while practicing life skills – such as teamwork, creativity, responsibility, respect and understanding.

We hoped to make the participants feel important, talented and unique. We also strived to support them in making their passions into achievable goals, in order to increase their long-term happiness. By encouraging campers to talk through their emotions when a stressful situation arose, they took ownership of their actions and used the appropriate tools to reconcile the conflict. The program's daily schedule provided campers with a balance between programmed activities and time to interact freely with their peers. We offered special activity blocks (known as *Specialties*) where campers can sign up to learn and perfect a skill they would like to develop – for example; cooking, outdoor survival, dance and painting.

Results: Pre and post outdoor program sociograms were administered and showed that group cohesion increased by 27% in 7 days. Boys reported making more friends, feeling safe emotionally and physically and appreciated having good food.

Comments from parents post-experience at camp:

- noticed improvement and a more self-assured boy after camp.
- mom couldn't believe the change; he now helps out more and asks questions he didn't before.
- mom was really pleased with how he behaved after camp with others and his brother - positive!!
- can't wait to go back, many thank you's from his parents. They can't say it enough!

Future Programs: The most immediate plan, is for JHSQ with its partners CCS and Earth Value Institute to follow up with these children in their school environment during the school.

Based on this success, the plan for Summer of 2016 is to bring back the same boys for an eight weeks camp program. The eight weeks program has demonstrated with all children a major positive effect on them. Also there is a plan to bring a new group of boys for an initial 12 days.

Next year perspective, JHSQ: We aim to employ a part time employee to manage these projects and to further investigate opportunities for funding and possible partnerships with other community organizations.

*Pierre Cinq-Mars,
President of The John Howard Society of Quebec.*

The John Howard Society of New Brunswick Inc. has had a diverse and very active year, while pursuing our mission to promote just, peaceful, and safe communities by understanding and responding to the problems of the criminal justice system. The Society experienced a number of natural program service closures while developing new services, but it is a constant battle for funding and new fundraising initiatives. Certainly this year's activity was curtailed when the provincial government funding cuts affected the Provincial Office.



*Bill Bastarache,
Executive Director*

Partnerships with Health Canada allowed for us to work with the local branch/affiliates to address illicit drug use of young persons through a Strengthening Families Program. We also embarked on the natural service closure of the Career Focus Program (employment readiness) and the Quantum Opportunities Program (youth-at-risk) as the federal funding was complete. Unfortunately, we also failed to host a Skills Link Program which secures sustainable employment for the most vulnerable members of our community.

On the First Nations building front, we received a generous contribution from Justice Canada's Aboriginal Affairs to enhance the capacity of the JHS First Nations Affiliates in the Province. We worked extensively with the affiliate boards to develop strategies and began taking actions on local issues. The ACIS (Awakening Cultural Identity and Spirituality) Program provided elder support to parolees which resulted in the opening of a residential home for male First Nation parolees. Efforts are also being made to open a safe home for female First Nations members. The Provincial Society is also working with Tobique First Nations community

members to establish a group home for youth. Finally, the agency sponsored a workshop for the First Nations affiliates which was designed to highlight opportunities for First Nations employment.



*Harold DeCoursey,
Director JHS NB and
JHS Canada*

Unfortunately, due to the government's fiscal restraint, we had to close one branch (JHS Charlotte County) and lost a full time staff of another branch (JHS Miramichi). The John Howard Society of New Brunswick Inc. assumed the day by day operations of both branches to maintain a presence in the region. Thus, we were able to return the Charlotte County region to Saint John and secure a contract for the Miramichi office to maintain operations.

To further support the John Howard Society advocacy work, the agency brought forth a motion to the John Howard Society of Canada to limit the use of solitary confinement and ban its use for prisoners with a mental illness. The Society is also advocating the provincial government to put restrictions on the payday loan industry and improve upon conditions for the working poor.

There remains much to do. Our biggest challenges now are related to improving the Society's financial position during this time of fiscal restraint and transforming the John Howard Society throughout the province in light of the changing criminal justice landscape.

*Bill Bastarache
Executive Director*

*Harold DeCoursey
Board President*

The John Howard Society of Nova Scotia

This is a very special year for The John Howard Society of Nova Scotia. This year we celebrated our 65th Anniversary. Many things were different when our Society launched in 1950. Our country was still rebuilding after the Second World War and had a Liberal Prime Minister, Louis St. Laurent. Canada was starting to develop more comprehensive social programs to benefit all Canadians.



Flora MacLeod, President

“The political climate has changed a great deal in terms of attitudes toward our client base.”

Fast forward to 2015 and things have changed a great deal for our country and for our Society. Many programs that we have had over the last 65 years have come and gone. New ones have been developed. We have had active and prosperous years and some lean years and now we are well on our way to rebuilding our Society for the next 65 years.

It is my honour to be a part of this rebuilding process. The political climate has changed a great deal in terms of attitudes toward our client base. This has been one of our biggest challenges over the last few years and will continue to be a challenge in the coming years.

Recognizing the opportunity is the key to our future success. It sounds simple enough, but the reality is that organizations are not good at seeing the opportunity when they are focused on the change. “If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change”.

It has been a great experience serving on the board so far and I look forward to helping move the Society forward in the months and years to come

*Flora MacLeod, President
The John Howard Society of Nova Scotia*



The theme for The John Howard Society of Nova Scotia (JHSNS) this past year was “A Journey Through Time” and in June we held one of our most successful Annual General Meetings with 42 people in attendance. Past and current members, staff, many of our volunteers, and past JHSNS alumni helped us celebrate the past 65 years of service to Nova Scotians.

*John Peach,
Executive Director*

When I started as the Executive Director at JHSNS, eight years ago, I naively thought that it would become easier as I went along. Was I wrong! Perhaps it is my desire to be better at serving our clients, in spite of the current environment in which we find ourselves. The idiom “control the purse strings and control what they can do” is so applicable to the not-for-profit sector, where much of our funding is derived from government support for our programs. Many have been cut and other programs have not seen an increased in their funding allocation for many years.

The theme of every new government seems to be that there is no money, or we need to cut because of our deficit. Yet, in spite of these challenges, we continue to find ways of helping our clients. We continue to improve our collaborative efforts and look for new sources of funding.

JHSNS did manage to grow in 2014/2015. A great deal of our focus was spent on staff training. In June, after five years without a Director at the Halifax Regional Office, Adrienne MacDonald, was named to the position. This means that I have been able to step back from the day-to-day operation of Halifax and focus more on the overall provincial role of JHSNS.

Finally, I would like to thank our President, Flora MacLeod, for her service and wise counsel. I would also like to thank the JHSNS members, our staff, and the Board of Directors for making this another successful year.

*John Peach
Executive Director*

John Howard Society of Prince Edward Island

It has been another financially challenging year for the John Howard Society of PEI as, due to the bleak provincial economic climate, we, once again, experienced a financial reduction in our 2015/2016 contractual agreement. While we were fortunate to be able to maintain our present level of service delivery, if this trend continues, as it has over the past three years, we will certainly find ourselves in a series of budget reduction exercises.



*Donna Hartley,
Executive Director*

A five year Funding Agreement (2014-19) was signed between the Government of Canada (HPS Designated Communities Fund) and the John Howard Society of PEI as the Community Entity, to oversee the allocation homelessness funds for the designated communities of Charlottetown and Summerside. A Homelessness Community Advisory Board is in place to provide oversight to this funding. Over the past fiscal year seven projects were supported through this funding source. In addition to project management we are responsible for ensuring that a defined Community Plan is in place, an updated Governance model, the development of a strong community engagement process and adhering to the ongoing Service Canada funding requirements.

In our role as Community Entity a five year Funding Agreement with the Government of Canada to administer the Rural and Remote funding. The Rural and Remote Advisory Board was created to provide the necessary oversight to the allocation and monitoring of project funding. This Board supported four projects throughout the fiscal year; two of these projects are based on the Housing First Model within the rural communities. While the Rural and Remote Advisory Board is mandated to support individuals who are homeless in the rural regions of PEI, they also continue to work toward developing strategic priorities and provide a focused approach to rural homelessness.

The society hosted two Community Engagement workshops in October and November 2014. There were approximately 80 individuals representing various levels of government and community organizations in attendances. The focus of the Workshops was to inform, connect, and engage the broader stakeholder community in the preliminary phase of

the development of a Housing First approach for PEI. It also provided the opportunity to seek the participant's response to the proposed delivery model to ensure it employs a systematic approach to connecting housing and complementary services to achieve maximum results. We were fortunate to have as key note speaker the Medical Director of the At Home/Chez Soi Housing first Research Project from Moncton, NB, as well as a participant in the project.

In this province there are very few visible homeless and most of the homeless population can best be described as "hidden" in that they may be couch surfing or housed in a facility (addiction, mental healthier, corrections, etc) with no subsequent residence identified.

After considerable consultation a process was developed which included conducting a Homelessness Point in Time Caseload Review. To collect the necessary caseload data those who work directly with clients in Charlottetown and Summerside were asked to conduct a full review of their open cases and complete an online survey on those clients whose housing situation fits specified homeless criteria. The review took place over two day -January 14 - January 15, 2015. The response definitely surpassed our expectations.

This year the Board of Directors hired a consultant to conduct an environmental scan to explore the feasibility of options that would bring additional revenue and help the organization re-focus on our Mission. In addition, the consultant facilitated a half day workshop of Board members and staff to work together on a vision, future direction and prioritizing organizational goals.

In terms of the Employment Services, we continue to be extremely successful in placing ex-offenders in full time employment positions. During the past year staff provided service to 53 individuals with 30 of those clients securing full time employment.

The Outreach Work at the Provincial Correctional Centre continued again this year with 200 inmates seeking services, in particular to develop exiting plans that would include pre arranged Income Support appointments and, in many cases, housing approved.

Regrettably, due to amended criteria, the Wraparound Process funding Agreement was not renewed. An application was submitted to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Rural and Remote Program to deliver the Housing First Model to the rural areas of Prince Edward Island. Our application was approved for a nine month period and will be reviewed in October, 2015 to determine future financial support.

The provincial society delegates attend three national meetings during the year and contact is maintained with the national office on a regular basis.

Provincial Correctional Update

Community and Correctional Services, with funding support from Justice Canada, is conducting research and the evaluation of programs and services offered by Youth Justice.

The Division is updating their Youth Client Profile, an exercise that always provides invaluable data.

The Provincial Correctional Centre offers the Integrated Correctional Program Model. Since 2013, 21 participants have successfully completed the program. In May 2015 the Division added a new ICPM Coordinator's position to lead this program.

The Electronic Supervision Program is being put into operation later this year. A new Electronic Supervision Coordinator's role has been created to deliver and oversee the Program.

Donna Hartley
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Newfoundland & Labrador

The past year marked the 63rd anniversary of the John Howard Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. It was a busy year as we maintained all existing services, expanded services into the provincial correctional center in St. John's, purchased and moved to a new building, and were approved for funding to build some much needed supportive housing.



Cindy Murphy
Executive Director

The Society's Learning Resources Program (LRP) which began in 1996 was developed to provide correctional programming to individuals who are conditionally sentenced, or to those who were currently serving a period of probation in the community. While the agency was providing a substance abuse program in the provincial correctional center, the LRP has now expanded services to provide additional correctional programming including anger management and sex offender treatment to provincial inmates.

During the year we were pleased to finally find and purchase a new building for our Provincial Headquarters' office. Our new facility will also accommodate the Society's Learning Resources program and our Employment Services. It will enhance service delivery to our clients while providing a great location with easy access. With ample space for future growth, we expect the building will service us well for many years to come.

After a long period of advocating for the return of the Family Violence Intervention Court, the provincial government announced it will be re-establishing the court in the fall of 2015. As we have in the past, the Society will once again be providing the treatment component for the court. The provincial government has further committed to pilot a second court on the west coast of the island and it is anticipated the Society will also provide the treatment component of the specialty court through our Stephenville office.

During the past year the Society has been working hard to secure funding to build some much needed supportive housing in St. John's. We were delighted to have that funding approved. Using a "housing first" approach, the Society will eventually provide supportive housing to clients who require a more supportive living environment. The proposed site is on Society-owned property located next to our halfway house and will be ideally situated to provide easy access to programs and services. In an effort to help minimize any possible neighbourhood opposition (NIMBY), the Society worked closely with the City Council to garner support and also met with the neighbours to disseminate information about the

project. And while there were plenty of questions, we have had very limited opposition to date. We hope to break ground in the late fall.

The Society's efforts to expand services to Labrador are on-going. Over the past year, in partnership with the United Way, we were able to conduct individual stakeholder consultations as well as hold a stakeholder engagement session in late May. Board Chair Bryan Purcell, along with provincial board member Gwen Watts, who resided in Labrador, assisted with the consultations. The consultations were invaluable in assisting the Society with future planning and we hope to engage the provincial government to assist with our efforts.

In June, the JHS Canada Board was in St. John's for a national board meeting. We were pleased to host a lunch and provide an overview of some of the services of JHNL. As always we appreciate the efforts of the National Board and staff and we were happy to have them enjoy some of our province's hospitality.

Throughout the year, the Society was involved in outreach and advocacy and participated in numerous consultations on correctional matters such as the need for additional supportive housing along with issues relating to reintegration and access to justice. We were pleased to be selected to the Premier's Council on Crime and Community Safety. The Council was appointed to make recommendations to the Premier and the Minister of Justice and Public Safety using information gathered through consultation with stakeholders, the general public and recognized experts, as well as through the study of relevant literature and the assessment of innovative practices already used in other areas of Canada. By late summer most of the consultative work was completed and recommendations to the Premier should be ready by late fall.

JHSNL continues to enjoy strong relationships with our justice partners and we look forward to an exciting year as we continue to forge ahead on the plans developed during 2014-2015.

Cindy Murphy,
Executive Director

The John Howard Society of Canada National Awards October 2014, Regina SK

At the AGM in Regina SK, The John Howard Society of Canada was honoured to be able to recognize **Ross Greenwood, David Alper and John Peach** for their substantial contributions to the Society and to their communities. The **National Award for Community Service** was awarded to Ross Greenwood and David Alper. This award recognizes dedication, leadership and exceptional contribution to the operations and mission of the John Howard Society. John Peach was the recipient of the **Humanitarian Service Award**, in recognition of significant contribution to the welfare of offenders.

Since 1985 **Ross Greenwood** has contributed substantially and uniquely to the well-being and effectiveness of the John Howard Society. He has served on the boards of JHS Ottawa, JHS Ontario, JHS Lower Mainland, JHS BC and JHS Canada. During the 1990's he was a crucial contributor to the development of the board policy governance system that still is a key part of the Society's operations today. In 2005, Ross wrote what became known as the Statement of Organizational Values. Ross has seen the Society through some very challenging times and has always used his considerable interpersonal, analytical and leadership skills to help the Society pull together to build a strong and positive future.



(From l to r) Pamela Smith-Gander (JHS BC), Ross Greenwood, Catherine Gogan (Past President JHS Canada and, Bruce Simpson (JHS ON).

David Alper, is former Board Chair and long-time board member of the JHS Manitoba, Inc. David is a professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of St. Boniface and first became involved with the Manitoba JHS in 2004. He became Chair in 2010 and led the Society through a period of great expansion and growth. From his youth and university days in Montreal where he was an activist and supporter of many social causes, to the present where in addition to his work with the John Howard Society he campaigns to bring about more affordable housing, David demonstrates a deep concern for others.

John Peach, Executive Director of JHS NS has been involved with the John Howard Society for over 20 years as a provincial board member and as President of both JHS Nova Scotia and John Howard Society of Canada. Seven years ago, when JHS of Nova Scotia was going through some challenging times, John took over as Executive Director. John has been able to eliminate the provincial deficit, create a substantial reserve, develop a solid membership base, add new volunteers and staff and develop a fully modernized work environment. He has also developed several new programs to assist individuals incarcerated and those released to the community. John Peach is a unique individual and a terrific asset to the JHS Nova Scotia.

Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Financial Statements

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF CANADA

For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of The John Howard Society of Canada:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The John Howard Society of Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015 and the statements of revenue and expenditures and fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, The John Howard Society of Canada derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of The John Howard Society of Canada and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donations revenue, excess of revenue over expenditure, assets and fund balances.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The John Howard Society of Canada as at March 31, 2015, and its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

KINGSTON, Canada
July 17, 2015

Wilkinson & Company, LLP
Chartered Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2015

March 31, 2015

	Operating Fund \$	Senator Hastings \$	Total \$	March 31, 2014 Total \$
Current Assets				
Cash	70,161	37,738	107,899	151,702
Short Term Invest	153,686	214,542	368,228	210,259
Accts. Receivable	41,762		41,762	9,180
Prepaid Expenses	2,559		2,559	2,559
	268,168	252,280	520,448	373,700
Property, Plant & Equipment				
Tangible Capital Assets	52,806		52,806	57,398
Total Assets	320,974	252,280	573,254	431,098
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	18,005		18,005	10,430
Deferred revenue	184,302		184,302	54,482
Total Liabilities	202,307		202,307	64,912
Fund Balances				
Internally restricted		252,280	252,280	247,519
Investment in capital assets	52,806		52,806	57,398
Unrestricted	65,861		65,861	61,269
	118,667	252,280	370,947	366,186
	320,974	252,280	573,254	431,098

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF CANADA

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Fund Balances at March 31, 2015

	2015			2014 Total \$
	Operating Fund \$	Senator Hastings \$	Total \$	
REVENUE				
Donations	200,682		200,682	195,098
Grant – PSEP				
Provincial Allocations	337,871		337,871	337,871
Administration	98,774		98,774	93,756
Travel Pool	70,000		70,000	70,000
Projects	49,505		49,505	221
Interest	342	4,761	5,103	4,196
Member Assessments	1,100		1,100	1,100
Other Income	454		454	64
	758,728	4,761	763,489	702,306
EXPENDITURES				
Bank charges and interest	76		76	52
Dues and subscriptions	1,262		1,262	1,426
Equipment and computer	8,167		8,167	984
Grants to provincial societies	337,871		337,871	337,871
Insurance	4,397		4,397	4,377
Mail Campaign	33,518		33,518	35,732
Miscellaneous	(26)		(26)	103
National Staff Conference	15,051		15,051	
Occupancy	8,396		8,396	7,825
Office Supplies	24,383		24,383	23,509
Project Costs	23,626		23,626	2,701
Professional Fees	30,107		30,107	6,021
Publications	1,262		1,262	720
Salaries + Employee Benefits	189,252		189,252	181,482
Staff Development				1,022
Telephone	5,313		5,313	8,035
Travel - general	1,052		1,052	779
- Travel pool	68,070		68,070	67,096
- other	2,359		2,359	
	754,136	NIL	754,136	679,735
Surplus / (Deficit) before amortization	4,592	4,761	9,353	22,571
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	4,592		4,592	4,592
Surplus / (Deficit) after amortization	NIL	4,761	4,761	17,979
Fund Balances – beginning of year	118,667	247,519	366,186	348,207
Fund Balances – end of year	118,667	252,280	370,947	366,186

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF CANADA

Board of Directors

Executive

Trish Cheverie	President
Catherine Gogan	Past President
Bryan Purcell	Vice President
Bob Kowalchuk	Secretary/Treasurer

Provincial Representatives

Bryan Purcell	Newfoundland/Labrador
Paul Cousins	Prince Edward Island
Janis Aitken	Nova Scotia
Harold DeCoursey	New Brunswick
Jean Claude Bernheim	Quebec
Ken Doan	Ontario
Steve Plenert	Manitoba
Bob Kowalchuk	Saskatchewan
Farzad Bawani	Alberta
Pamela Smith-Gander	British Columbia
Michael Keohane	Northwest Territories

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*More information about John
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across Canada can be found on our
WEB site at:
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