



2013/2014

WET'SUWET'EN UNLOCKING ABORIGINAL JUSTICE

Advisory Committee Application

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"In partnership with the Canadian Justice System, we are committed to strengthening and enhancing our Wet'suwet'en traditions and laws, to restore peace and balance in our nation."



Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice

The Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice Program (WUAJ) is a community-driven restorative justice project initiated and operated by members of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

The process of the justice system we have is within the Traditional Territories and not a matter of creating a new system, but rather a matter of UNCOVERING our LAWS AND PRACTICES and having them RECOGNIZED.

In the Wet'suwet'en system, both the offender and the victim are drawn into the process. The Western justice system concentrates on the offender; usually the only victim involvement consists of providing a victim impact statement. In the Wet'suwet'en approach, decisions are made by consensus, aiming to restore balance and harmony in a fair, just way. WUAJ also utilizes the traditional approach of a "Peace tea" when dealing with conflict resolution. Both parties will have the opportunity to meet in a safe and structured setting with the common goal of holding the offender accountable while providing support and assistance to the victim. Providing opportunity to discuss the affects of the crime committed and agree to a resolution.

We have drawn from our own experiences through, work and continual learning. The Western Justice System has been very successful in standing in the way in our efforts in dealing with our problems. The ultimate responsibility for justice relies on all of us, as House members, as Wet'suwet'en.

Bonnie George, former Program Coordinator:

"WUAJ means to achieve the alternative that will allow our traditional laws and practices as Aboriginal people to combine with the existing Canadian justice system." She stressed that Aboriginal laws and practices had been in use "for thousands and thousands of years before contact" with non-natives. "For the Aboriginal people, justice is part of our life," she said, adding, "Problems that occur are looked at holistically."

"Working as one for the betterment of all."

COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

WUAJ has taken a leadership role in establishing restorative justice to address crime. To be effective, these programs are best developed at the grass-roots level in partnership with the local justice system.

There are many compelling reasons for communities to have such a program:

- Communities are able to expand their roles and responsibilities in the justice process.
- They become better able to address some of the underlying causes of crime.
- Offenders are held accountable for their actions and are encouraged to acknowledge the harm they have done.
- The needs and concerns of victims can be addressed as they have an opportunity to be heard and to actively participate in the reparation process.
- The social bonds of the community are strengthened.
- Communities are able to apply a positive impact on the lives of those involved in minor offences, thereby reducing the probability of further offences.
- WUAJ can build partnerships with justice system personnel and other service providers to resolve less serious offences successfully. This allows the justice system to focus its time and resources on protecting the public from violent offences and other serious crimes.

Advisory Committee Volunteer Representative

RECRUITMENT

WUAJ program will need dedicated volunteers who are trained to work with and support victims and offenders.

Volunteer training is an ongoing process. Its goal is to ensure that volunteers who work with victims and offenders respect the rights of these individuals and strive to meet their needs.

Adequate training will be provided to ensure that volunteers feel prepared and able to fulfill the tasks assigned to them.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Maintaining confidentiality when dealing with victims, offenders, and the community is extremely important. An oath of confidentiality will be required and further discussion on this topic will be covered in training.

REFERENCE CHECKS

It would be practical to conduct reference checks therefore, in addition to criminal record checks for volunteers. This will allow us to assess character and suitability of each volunteer and provide us with information on work experience, skills, knowledge, and abilities. A minimum of three references from each applicant will be required.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

A criminal record check is a database search carried out by police to determine whether a person has a criminal record.

All those who apply for volunteer positions within WUAJ will be required to complete a criminal record check. The results of the check may or may not disqualify you from involvement in the program.

Fingerprints may be required to complete the process. Results will be sent to the program and held in high confidence. Applicants will have the opportunity to explain any findings that may preclude you from the involvement in the program.

Responsibility and Accountability

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibilities of the Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice Advisory Representative identified are;

1. To act immediately to protect victim and offender,
2. Hold offenders accountable and insist on active involvement of interested parties in the resolution process,
3. To provide the local resources for victim and offender to seek their healing,
4. To provide public education and serve as a model for peaceful conflict resolution processes, and
5. Seek the efficient sources of types of recurring conflicts and encourage growth as they seek the factors that contribute to their addictions.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- To help improve public safety and reduce criminal behaviour
- Promote shared responsibility in dealing with local issues and have the potential to influence policy development
- Assist in rehabilitating offenders
- Successfully reintegrate offenders into the communities
- Deter reoffending
- Provide compassion to victims
- Provide compassion to the community
- Promote responsibility in offenders
- Tend to the needs/ concerns of victims
- Encourage community involvement in justice processes
- Reduce the public's fear of crime
- Respond to crime in a timely manner
- Promote fairness in the justice process
- Practice effective sentencing policies
- Address the harms of crime
- Reinforce the Wet'suwet'en values and traditions
- Effectively respond to youth crime in a non-judgmental and non-invasive way.

APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____
First Middle Last Familiar Name

Clan: _____

House: _____

House Chief: _____

Residence:

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Employer:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Type of business or organization: _____

Primary service(s) and area/population served: _____

Preferred method of contact () Work () Residence

Please list boards and committees that you serve on, or have served on (business, civic, community, fraternal, political, professional, recreational, religious, social).

Organization	Role/Title	Dates of Service
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Fax completed form to: (250) 847-5381 or kindly drop off at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en 3873 First Ave. Smithers, B.C. Thank you.

"Working as one for the betterment of all."

Education/Training/Certificates:

Optional – Have you received any awards or honors that you'd like to mention?

How do you feel Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice would benefit from your involvement on the Advisory Committee?

Skills, experience and interests (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Education, instruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel, human resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration, management | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit experience | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach, advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet'suwet'en cultural knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent Wet'suwet'en speaker | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Please tell us anything else you'd like to share.

Thank you very much for applying.

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Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice Program Volunteer Agreement

I, _____, freely and voluntarily agree to represent the
_____ clan on the Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice
Advisory Committee. I understand that this is a two (2) year term, if I should want to remove myself from
this Committee I will submit a letter to the **Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice** program and
notify my House Chief of my request to resign.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2013 at _____, B.C.

Signature

Witness

Print Name

Print Name

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