



Half a Century of Community Corrections: Exploring the Role of National NGOs within the Criminal Justice System

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Overview

In today's presentation, we will:

- Tell you about a bit about us
- Define Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and what we mean by community corrections
- Explore the history of community corrections grounded in the halfway house movement in Canada
- Explore the legitimization of national criminal justice organizations
- Facilitate a discussion of the role and value of national organizations for corrections reform in Canada




Who We Are and What We Do

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a membership based, charitable organization founded in 1967.

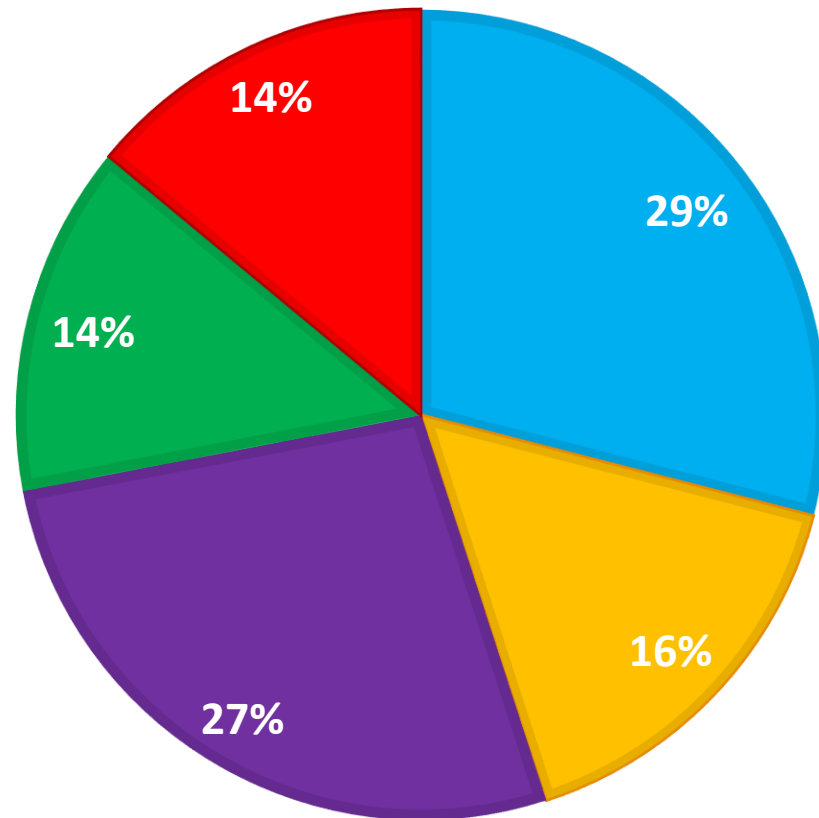
Mission: To provide a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities.

Activities:

- Endorse evidence-based approaches to criminal and social justice;
 - Conduct research and develop policy;
 - Support member affiliates; and,
 - Advance collaborative relationships and communication among individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice.
- 

SLSC Activities: General Breakout

- ADMIN. (FINANCIAL & STAFF MANAGEMENT) (29%)
- RESEARCH & POLICY (16%)
- MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE (27%)
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS (14%)
- RESEARCH PROJECTS (FUNDED) (14%)



MYTH or REALITY?

The federal government led community corrections in Canada



Myth!

The reality is:

Citizens were active in the community long before a formal community corrections system was established

Many initiatives were adopted by government after originating within the voluntary sector

Types of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

NGO generally refers to:

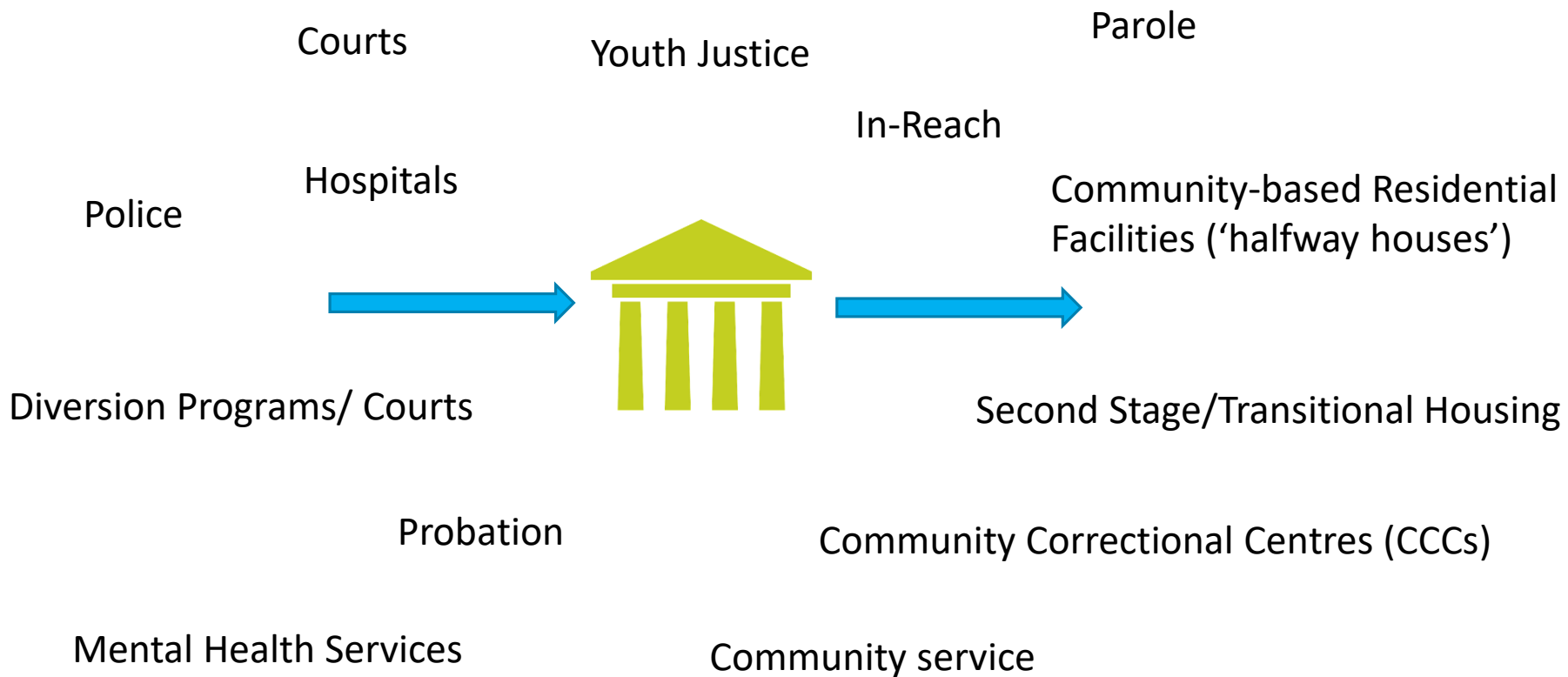
1. Registered charities
2. Foundations
3. Not-for-Profit corporations

Accountability Matters

NGOs:

- Comply with Federal, Provincial, Territorial & Municipal legislation (i.e. Acts of Incorporation, Statutes, Charters, regulations, policies & standards)
 - Also includes standards established by CSC (i.e. security, staffing, intake, etc.)
- Most NGOs are accountable to a Board of Directors, conduct independent audits and maintain balanced budgets

Community Corrections



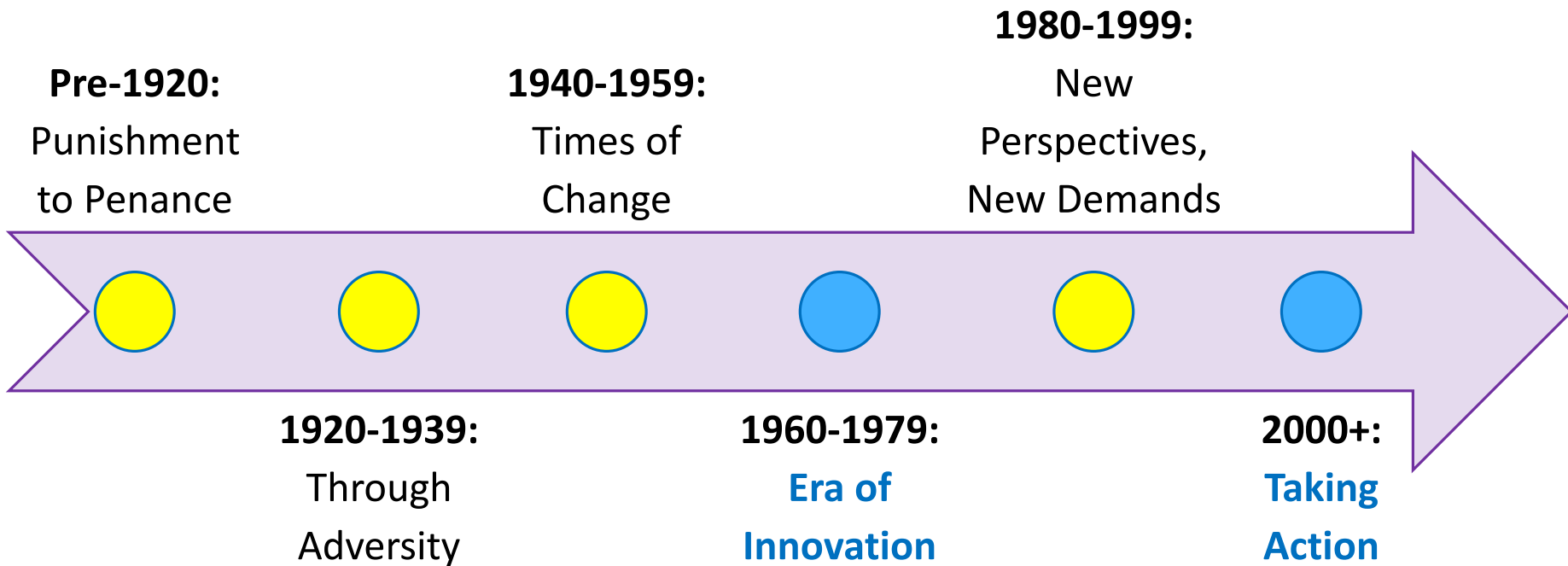
What We Mean By Community Corrections

- Integration and habilitation of federally sentenced people in community-based settings, i.e.:
 - Targeting root causes of criminal behaviour
 - Prevention (i.e. tertiary) through interventions that meet unique needs
 - Supporting safe communities
 - Public education and social action
- Rooted in evidence-based practice and informed by lived experience
 - Graduated release as a best practice

**“Crime is a
community
problem, and
demands
community
solutions”**

*- Skip Graham, former
Exec. Dir. St. Leonard's
House Windsor (2012)*

History of Community Corrections





1962: The Genesis St. Leonard's House Windsor



- Reverend T. N. Libby saw a need for a “re-entry residence” for people released from prison to support their return to the community
- Saint Leonard, patron saint of...
- **“The transition can only be made safely and successfully in a community where acceptance is possible.”**
– Kenneth Bolton (1982)



R. Barnes T. N. Libby

The Founders

Rev. T. Neil Libby



M. Sumner



L. Drouillard

All Saints Anglican Church Board

Mike Sumner

Robert Barnes

Lou Drouillard



THE WINDSOR STAR, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1992.

Council should have resisted placing of killers here

St. Leonard's neighbors fear lifers in their midst



By Mark Stewart/Star Police Reporter

Newly Robert Green the day the news her daughter's murderer passing through her neighborhood.

"What if my granddaughters safety is playing in the park and runs into the man who shot her mother," Robert said during a public meeting on a new halfway house for convicted killers. "How do we protect the victims?"

St. Leonard's Society of Windsor is preparing to expand its Victoria Street halfway house to accommodate parole-terminating life sentences.

The new Life Line program came under fire Monday night, when nearly 20 nervous neighbors of All Saints Church expressed their fears about "lifers" in their neighborhood.

"I live in residential fear that someday I'll run into my daughter's killer — his parents still live three blocks away," Graham said.

In February 1991, 18-year-old Jacqueline Robinson was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Steve Foxman. Convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to a maximum of 20 years in jail, Foxman could be eligible for release to a halfway house by 1994.

"I don't think anyone who commits murder here should be allowed to escape back," Robinson said. "I don't want to ever see the man who did this to her again."

But St. LEONARD'S executive director Skip Graham said concerns of victims like the Robinsons would be a factor when selecting partners for the Life Line program. He said an intensive screening of inmates will begin in prison, with input from victims, police and neighbors.

or he like it or not," Graham said, noting that some lifers have already been through the St. Leonard's facility. "We need the resources in the community to program these men from 20 years."

He said the current breed of lifers is far more unsocialized because of the longer life sentences imposed since Canada abolished capital punishment in 1976.

OFFENDERS CONVICTED of first degree murder are now sentenced to a maximum of 25 years, in jail before being eligible for parole. They can apply for a judicial review and early release after 12 years.

Graham said the Life Line program would send parolees to a supervised residential facility to three years.

Victor Larocque — father of convicted baby killer Raymond Larocque — argued that parole boards are letting murderers out of jail too early to ensure the public's safety.

"If they get 25 years, they should serve 25 years," said Larocque, who was leader of the local chapter of a group fighting for tougher sentences.

"Otherwise, who will be responsible for the dead body on the street? Who will be responsible for the program failure?"

Graham said St. Leonard's is not promising early parole but simply trying to integrate lifers effectively and assure a safer community.

"It's far better than letting them stumble out of their own," he said.

Gail Dohy, who lives a few blocks from St. Leonard's, said the neighborhood is being used as a "dumping

APRIL 8 1990

St. Leonard's wants to build apartments for ex-inmates

By David Morell Star Staff Reporter

Crossing the street or buying groceries might seem routine to most. For a prison lifer it could be a fearful

THE WINDSOR STAR THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1990

Halfway house no image booster

Experts say Windsor's tradition of tolerance makes it the ideal location for Canada's first halfway house for killer convicts.

Translation: Here's the perfect dumping ground, a city so demoralized by past results it will meekly submit to plans to make it a glorified garbage can for the nation's overcrowded penitentiaries.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE easy marks. Doormats, even. Flatter make us feel guilty and you can't away with anything. Yes, we'll and rave for a few days but, in the spotty and a short attention span triumph and downfalls. We will end up with another monkey back.



Gord Henderson
Windsor Star columnist

its living housing criminals, with no fewer than eight prisons and two halfway houses? Talk about convenient. No bus fares. No long-distance calls. Home sweet home.

Personally I think the right choice would be within a block or two of 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa. Let's test the social tolerance of our heavily guarded prime minister and his comfortable mandarins and cabinet ministers. Let

originated right here in Windsor. Parole board officials must have been ecstatic to learn Windsor's St. Leonard's House was eager to play guinea pig with lifers from across Canada.

Skip Graham, St. Leonard's executive director, convinced me during an interview this week that a halfway house program for lifers is necessary.

He said the Windsor halfway house has hosted dozens of lifers over the past 28 years without any of them

"I see you roared your approval of the house in your column the other night... Why should I support some guy who ended up in prison? He got there by himself."

- Letter to the editor, Windsor Daily Star, Dec. 1962

The Windsor Star

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1990

Halfway house for killers coming here

by Star Staff and Wire Services

for the rehabilitation of "lifers."

"Most people would rather throw away the key. They're not just aware the prison does things both ways."

Graham said proper rehabilitation is effective in reducing recidivism. "You can look across the street to see the other solutions of longer prisons and longer sentences... Or we can put our heads (in the sand) like ostriches and pretend it's not happening."

Windsor Police Chief Jim Adria said this morning he would be willing to accommodate Windsor's serving life sentences but not answer every problem. "I don't mind taking my share. But, I don't want to import them here. I don't want them from all over Canada and I don't think it's fair to the citizens of Windsor," he said.

Statistics show most murderers are one-time offenders, Graham said. A lifer's needs are more complex than an offender serving a shorter term simply because they've been removed from society for so long.

"People don't realize in a single sex society you lose a lot of nonpersonal skills — vocational skills you may have had when you went in," Graham said. "We just want to deal with them more effectively. We look don't as the best interest of the community and the lifer."

Windsor was chosen as the site of the halfway house in 1962 and is



The Champions & Supporters

John Braithwaite
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Bishop John Cody
Right Rev. George Luxton
Margaret Libby
Kenneth Bolton
Milton Meretsky



J. Braithwaite



J. Cody



G. Luxton



M. Meretsky



K. Bolton

M. Libby

1967: National Impact

St. Leonard's Society of Canada

1. To assist in the development of Community Residential Centres
2. To study legislation and engage in penal/correctional reform
3. To liaise with government bodies and legal authorities
4. To establish minimum standards for Member Community Residential Centres
5. To conduct, on a national basis, public education and fundraising, including government funding of Member Community Residences
6. To incorporate evaluation and research in all of these programs, and
7. To operate the National Corporation



National Associations Active in Criminal Justice

NAACJ's mission is to enhance the capacity of member organizations to contribute to a **just, fair, equitable and effective justice system**. Its objectives are to:

NAACJ · ANIJC



Social responsibility
Responsabilité sociale

1. Contribute to the **education of its member organizations, other organizations from the governmental and voluntary sector and the general public**
2. Contribute to the **capacity of the member organizations to carry out their purposes through activities that share and generate expertise** and to serve as a **catalyst for action**
3. Support the activities of its member organizations in the **development of policy related to criminal justice**

Timeline: 22 NAACJ Members

- 1883 - The Salvation Army
- 1899 - Frontier College
- **1919 - Canadian Criminal Justice Association**
- 1920 - Mennonite Central Committee
- 1926 - Canada Canadian Association of Social Workers
- 1931 - Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
- 1939 - Canadian Psychological Association
- 1958 - Canadian Assoc. for Community Living
- 1962 - Association des Services de Réhabilitation Sociale du Québec
- 1962 - The John Howard Society of Canada
- **1967 - St. Leonard's Society of Canada**
- 1969 - Canadian Associations of Elizabeth Fry Societies
- 1970 - Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- 1972 - The Church Council on Justice and Corrections
- 1972 - National Assoc. of Friendship Centres
- 1973 - Seventh Step Society of Canada
- **1975 - NAACJ**
- 1983 - Canadian Training Institute
- 1993 - Canadian Families and Corrections Network
- 1993 - Innocence Canada (formerly AIDWYC)
- 2008 - Book Clubs for Inmates
- 2013 - Centre for Justice Exchange
- 2015 - Circles of Support and Accountability Canada

The Value of Partnership

We can achieve more through collaboration, than through solitary effort! Benefits of collaboration include:

- Bringing new perspectives and advice
- Narrowing the gap between institution and community
- Facilitating connections among organizations, jurisdictions, sectors and fields
- Providing encouragement, motivation and stimulating hope
- Increasing understanding
- Breaking down silos to address complex, inter-related issues



To Recap...

1. Develop an infrastructure for residential care
2. Understand/engage meaningfully on legislative and correctional reform
3. Liaise with partners (i.e. government)
4. Establish minimum standards
5. Raise awareness/educate, fundraise, and seek government support for local agencies
6. Incorporate evaluation and research into programs/service delivery, and
7. Operate nationally



“If we can, as a society, address individual needs and concerns in an ongoing way and cooperate among our disparate branches of service; if we can avoid the stigmatizing labels which isolate whole groups of people – then there will be not only a future for corrections in our communities, there will be a future for our communities that is positive for us all.

Community corrections has a place in our culture as a significant, but not isolated part of our social justice response to crime”



Elizabeth White,
former Executive
Director of SLSC.
Excerpted from, *Is
there still a place for
corrections in the
community?* Bolton
Symposium. (Nov. 5,
1997)



THANK YOU

ST. LEONARD'S SOCIETY OF CANADA

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