



Programs, Training and Volunteer Opportunities

mcco.ca/rj

PROGRAMS

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)

Teams of volunteers and staff, supported by professionals, meet with men and women with histories of sexual offending to hold them accountable for their actions and support them as they reintegrate into the community after release from prison. CoSA results in fewer victims of violent and sexual crimes across the country, making our streets and communities safer.

Volunteer Opportunities Available: Kitchener, Hamilton, and Greater Toronto Area (GTA) all host CoSA Program Circles and require volunteers.

Faith Community Reintegration Projects (FCRP)

Funded by Correctional Services Canada, Chaplaincy Division, FCRP provides multi-faith supports for pre-warrant expiry ex-offenders that are interested in connecting with a faith community to support reintegration.

Volunteer Opportunities Available: Individuals from multi-faith communities may support this program. FCRP hosts programming in Brampton, GTA with female participants and London with both female and male participants.

Grand Valley Institution for Women (GVI)

MCC works within the institution to support blanket making at the main unit and a sewing skills program in the minimum-security unit in Kitchener. The sewing skills program has developed a small social enterprise, "Handmade for Change", with proceeds going to GVI programs or to support local organizations. GVI programs create a safe and welcoming environment for inmates to meet volunteers from the community and build sewing and relational skills.

Volunteer Opportunities Available: GVI is located on Homer Watson Road in Kitchener

and blanket making programs run on Thursdays from 12:45pm-3:30pm. There is some availability for weekday mornings for sewing skills or for a special wall hanging project (for advanced sewers). Volunteers require special training from Correctional Services Canada in addition to MCC. Reliability level screening from the Federal government is required and can take up to 6 months to begin in this role.



TRAINING

Training Active Bystanders (TAB) is a three-hour workshop providing participants the opportunity to see themselves as Active Bystanders who can intervene when witnessing abusive, isolating or stigmatizing behaviour. The training teaches about pro-social behaviour, making participants more aware of why they may be hesitant to intervene and encourages them to consider taking action in the future. The program focuses on behaviours relating to interpersonal violence (such as abuse, bullying/hazing, physical violence, dating/relationship violence, and sexual violence) and signs of loneliness or emotional distress.

Encouraging bystanders to intervene when witnessing problematic situations empowers individuals to be a positive influence in their community by caring and supporting others.

You Got Booked is a workshop about the impacts of the criminal justice system. Originally focused on mass incarceration in the United States, this version has been adapted to a Canadian context. It highlights some of the flaws in Canada's justice system, pointing to how the different intersections of identity can lead to varied experiences of justice. In **You Got Booked**, participants travel around a life-sized board game building resources and avoiding prison. Each player/group begins with different resources, but all are expected to reach the same end goal.

Workshop Opportunities: Upcoming events are advertised on the MCC website or Eventbrite, and private group workshops are available upon request for a fee through MCC or one of our TAB partner organizations.

Workshop Group Size: 6-20 participants, 1.5 hours.

Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding Workshops

Whether through restorative justice, peace circles or conflict analysis, we promote a variety of approaches to building peace.

Workshops Available: Small and large group workshops are available for faith communities and organizations and available upon request. Cost per participant or workshop may apply.

Annual Restorative Justice Week Events (November)

MCC Restorative Justice program participates in, sponsors and supports various restorative justice week initiatives annually. Typically, these events happen at Warkworth Institution near Brighton and Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, and are attended by about 200 inmates collectively.

Circle of Grace Curriculum

The goal of the Circle of Grace curriculum is to educate and empower children and young people to ensure a safe environment for themselves and others. This curriculum is part of our work in abuse response and prevention initiatives. MCC is licenced to provide the curriculum, (from the Archdiocese of Omaha) used for Kindergarten to Grade 12, within a faith community. See <https://abuseresponseandprevention.ca/> for more details.

Curriculum Content: Call or email to discuss details.

Sponsorship of Restorative Justice Activities/Events

MCC Restorative Justice Program occasionally works in partnership to sponsor special projects focused on restorative justice projects that align with our strategic objectives. Projects in the past have included theatre plays focused on restorative justice.

Other MCC Ontario Restorative Justice Involvements

We provide a voice on the National Association of Organizations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ). We are also active in supporting the ongoing development and best practices of the Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) with CoSA Canada the organization that oversees 14 sites across Canada.

International Restorative Justice Involvement

Our Restorative Justice program has supported MCC Zambia in the delivery of training for officers within the Zambia Correctional Services to use restorative practices to promote peace and reconciliation within 7 prisons (and communities) within Zambia.



APPLY

Apply here to become a Restorative Justice Volunteer

<https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/be-restorative-justice-volunteer>

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