

A MESSAGE FROM THE JUSTICE PROGRAM



Notice Regarding BCR Appeal Process

Band Council Resolutions (BCRs) are periodically used to remove individuals from our community who threaten the safety, health, and wellbeing of others. These are legal instruments that are endorsed by Chief and Council and can be enforced by Treaty 3 Police.

While it is always unfortunate to rescind the welcome and generosity of our community from one of our own or a visitor, this mechanism is used in limited circumstances where an individual shows blatant disrespect for authority, demonstrates a repeated propensity for violence, has recurrent run-ins with law enforcement and numerous criminal convictions, is unwilling to cooperate with treatment or rehabilitative plans or programs, or continues to introduce or expose our community to illegal or addictive substances – the effects of which impact all of us.

Obviously, the prospect of losing access to one's home is daunting. A decision to issue a BCR which may have this effect is never taken lightly. It is for this reason that Council has instructed the Justice Program to take responsibility for the administration of BCRs, and to implement an appeal process for individuals who are currently subject to BCRs.

Council's goal in taking these measures is to standardize BCR appeals, and to improve the transparency of the process for individuals who are subject to a BCR and wish to return and reintegrate to our community.

Our appeal process has been designed with the goals of restorative justice, community empowerment, and rehabilitation in mind. The appeal form is entitled the *Petition to Appeal a Band Council Resolution*, and it forms the basis of any request to Council to lift a BCR.

**For more information, contact the Justice Program at
(807) 274-3228 or CouchichingJustice@gmail.com.**