

## A MESSAGE FROM THE JUSTICE PROGRAM



### Members and Residents of Couchiching First Nation

***Have you been charged with a criminal offence,  
such as assault, break and enter, trespassing, shoplifting,  
vandalism or mischief?***

Members of Couchiching or people who live on our reserve who are charged with an offence may be eligible to have their charges addressed by the Couchiching community instead of the court — and may avoid building a criminal record.

#### **How Our Diversion Program Works:**

1. Our Restorative Justice Program requires individuals who are charged with an offence to participate in a healing circle with the victim of their behaviour and an Elder, who represents the community.
2. At the circle, a facilitator will help all of the participants to share what happened, why it happened, and to explore how the relationships between the circle participants can be repaired. The accused must take responsibility for what took place, but this is not an admission of guilt and cannot be used against them in court.
3. The accused person will be required to make reparations to the person they have harmed and to the community — this will include participating in a traditional or cultural learning experience and attending Couchiching Treatment & Support, if alcohol or substance abuse is an issue.
4. After the reparations have been completed, the charges against the accused person may be withdrawn — they will not be added to their criminal record.

*We strive to provide ongoing support to  
cooperative and successful program participants.*

**For more information, speak to Duty Counsel at the courthouse,  
or contact us at (807) 274-3228 or CouchichingJustice@gmail.com.**