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(*if applicable)*

Restorative Conferences in Nunavik :
Potential Collaboration with School Board Trained Facilitators

PRESENTED TO

**PUBLIC INQUIRY COMMISSION ON RELATIONS BETWEEN
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICES IN QUÉBEC :
LISTENING, RECONCILIATION AND PROGRESS**

BY

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1 – CONTACT DETAILS

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2 – BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Although I am submitting this as a private individual, I am a full time employee of the Kativik School Board (Kativik Ilisarniliriniq). I have a doctorate in education and in psychology, and work at present as a pedagogical counsellor for the Compassionate Schools department. In this capacity I regularly visit the schools on the Ungava Coast and Hudson Strait, where I advise teachers, principals support professionals in the management of student behaviour. Like all of my colleagues in Compassionate Schools, I have received formal training in Restorative Practice from the International Institute of Restorative Practice, and am qualified to facilitate formal Restorative Conferences.

3 - SUMMARY

OUTLINE OF THE MAIN IDEAS AND PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Policing in Nunavik can be overwhelming to young officers who are not part of the community and may have little experience with the culture.

- 2 The Compassionate Schools Department of the Kativik Iisarniliriniq, in collaboration with the International Institute for Restorative Practice, has offered training for school personnel in most communities. This qualifies them to arrange and formal Restorative Conferences, of the kind that could that could be mandated by the court either in lieu of a trial or as a condition of parole.

- 3 Evidence from other indigenous communities suggests that A Restorative Justice approach to dealing with young offenders would help to establish a higher level of trust between the police and the members of the community.

4 - REFLECTIONS

OPINION, REFLEXION, OPINION, IDEAS, PROPOSITION, NEW APPROCHES

New Approaches: The Kativik School Board, Compassionate Schools Department, intends to continue to train school personnel in a restorative approach to justice, especially when dealing with young offenders. ***Law enforcement officers would be most welcome to participate in this training.***

It would be helpful for Judges be aware that there now are trained Restorative Justice practitioners available in all Nunavik communities, and to consider mandating a Restorative Conference (eventuating in a binding agreement) as an alternative to fines or to jail time. Restorative Conferences can also be mandated as an alternative to a sentence, or as a condition of parole.

Evidence-Based intervention: Restorative Practice has a very impressive record of reducing recidivism when used as a condition of parole.

Culturally appropriate intervention: Restorative Practice developed out of studies of traditional aboriginal practices in several parts of the world. Its evolution and its connection to traditional practices in indigenous communities is documented in the manual entitled *Restorative Justice Conferencing: Real Justice and the Conferencing Handbook* (Ted Wachtel, Terry O'Connell, Ben Wachtel), published by the International Institute for Restorative Practice.

It would be beneficial for judges working in the north to read *Restorative Justice Conferencing (see above)*

The Centre de la justice réparatrice in Montreal also has resources and experience that could be useful in working with young offenders, particularly sex offenders, in the north.