



FASD and Justice Issues at the Community Level in the NWT Community Justice Division 3-year Crime Prevention Project

Why is it important to carry out this project?

Experts have demonstrated that youth and adults who are diagnosed with, or suspected of being impacted with FASD, are more prone to being involved in the legal system as suspects, accused, offenders, victims, or witnesses. They may:

- Not be able to understand the relationship between the crime committed and its consequences
- Be followers, and therefore be easily misled
- Be impulsive
- Have a high potential for addictions, and
- Have memory deficits

These challenges increase the likelihood that individuals may become repeat offenders.

People with FASD are at a higher risk to become victims of crime. They are victims of assault, sexual assault, robbery, physical and sexual abuse more often than are members of the general population

People with FASD experience difficulties as they progress through the legal system:

- Understanding the Criminal Justice process
- Complying with conditions of court orders
- Realizing the consequences of their actions
- Inability to maintain focus (programs, every day life)
- Victims may not be believed, while offenders may be viewed as remorseless



What is the approach of the Community Justice Division?

- To gain an understanding of the number of youth affected with FASD who are involved in the justice system,
- To gain an understanding of the impact youth with FASD have on the justice system and the impact the justice system has on youth with FASD
- To assist justice stakeholders to recognize and accommodate the needs of youth who are, or may be affected by FASD.
- To assist offenders and victims of crime that may be living with FASD to be dealt with in a manner that deters advancement in the criminal justice system.

How will we do this?

We will travel to any community or region in the NWT, when invited, to deliver presentations and workshops to interested groups and organizations.

Contact Doreen Reid, FASD Consultant and Project Coordinator 867-873-7010 for more information.