

News Release

For Immediate Release

Therapeutic Justice Pilot Launch Celebration

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut (March 26, 2019) – The Department of Justice today announced the launch of the Therapeutic Justice Program pilot project in Cambridge Bay.

"This project aligns with *Turaaqtavut*'s priority of *Inuusivut*, which commits us to work together for the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities. This program will provide culturally sensitive, community-based programing that supports a path to rehabilitation outside the correctional system to facilitate a successful reintegration into society," said Minister of Justice Jeannie Ehaloak.

The Therapeutic Justice Program is a community based program that aims to address the causes of criminal behavior such as mental health, addictions and trauma. It is a holistic approach to justice that aligns with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles.

The program begins on April 1, 2019, and has two main components. The first is a clinical element that offers support from mental health counsellors, clinicians and psychologists. The second component is cultural, offering support from community counsellors and Elders, and participation in areas like on-the-land programs. Clients will be referred to the program by RCMP officers, prosecutors and defense lawyers.

The pilot project is jointly funded by the federal Department of Justice and the Government of Nunavut (GN)'s departments of Justice and Health. The Department of Healthy Living of Cambridge Bay has also contributed to the realization of this pilot project. Justice Canada allocated a total of \$750 000 to this project, from 2018 to 2020.

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