

# The Bridge

The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of BC

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Open Golf Tournament You Are Invited!

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The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland, in partnership with the BC Criminal Justice Association, will host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Open Golf Tournament on June 13, 2008.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Open will be held at the Ledgeview Golf and Country Club – a premiere golf course in the heart of the Fraser Valley. Nestled on a picturesque hillside, the Ledgeview golf course is highly regarded for its beautiful scenery, professionally designed course, and outstanding service. You won't want to miss out.

Proceeds will support restorative justice programs for youth and public education on criminal justice-related

issues. To learn more about these programs please check out our website at: [www.jhslmbc.ca](http://www.jhslmbc.ca)

The Justice Open is restricted to 120 golfers. Power carts and green fees are included in your registration fee. Tournament spots fill up quickly, so Register Now! You have the option, if you elect not to golf, to attend the catered dinner and auction.

Registering for the golf tournament, for dinner, or for both, is easy. You can pay by cheque or Visa. Email your information to [events@jhslmbc.ca](mailto:events@jhslmbc.ca) or call Kim at JHS's Regional Office 604-872-5651 #309 if you have any questions.

The Justice Open will provide great opportunities to network with professionals working in the criminal justice field.

If you are unable to attend and would like to support the tournament we have many sponsorship opportunities available from prize donations to the silent auction or random draws to hole sponsorships.

We look forward to seeing you at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Open Golf Tournament. **Please go to page 7 of this newsletter to fill out a golfer invitation form.**



# Community Services – New Hours, New Location

As most of you already know, the Community Services Office has been relocated to 752 Kingsway. Now, we are sharing office space with the Outreach Team and the Provincial Homelessness Outreach Workers.

These are exciting times for Community Services. Not only do we have new space to work out of, we also have new hours of operation 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. Additionally, our volunteer base has grown which will allow us to provide more services to JHSLM community residential facilities and to our community partners as well.

I invite everyone to drop by and check out our new digs. Please encourage anyone you know who would benefit from our services to contact us.

## What We Do

The Community Services Office provides services to those who are incarcerated, or those who have recently been released from an institution, family or friends of the incarcerated, and those who pose a risk for homelessness.

The Community Services Office can help clients replace lost social insurance numbers, birth certificates, and BC Medical Cards. A lack of identification can make it difficult for people in need to access services. Community Services staff and volunteers work with individuals to acquire the necessary forms, collect information, and in some cases even provide a secure mailing address for those who lack a fixed address.

The Community Services Office can help clients locate safe, affordable housing, and provide you with a

Tenant Starter Kit to help you get settled in your new home. The start up kit is a free resource which provides living essentials such as cleaning and cooking supplies to those who are establishing themselves in a new living environment and who may have come from an institution or been homeless. Additionally, volunteer staff members compile a weekly



resource list of all publicly listed living units with rents \$650 and below. This list is shared with a number of community resources including community residential facilities, and outreach programs geared toward at risk youth just to name a few.

The Community Services Office can help clients complete their income tax. Staying up to date with income tax is a necessity in order to participate in certain government programs. Additionally, completing taxes may provide clients with much needed income which can help them re-establish themselves in the community.

The Community Services Office can facilitate contact with mental health teams, addiction services, outreach programs, emergency sheltering facilities, job clubs and employment programs, life skills development

programs, volunteer engagement, community recreation and leisure activities, and other services as required.

The Community Services Office can provide you with information and support to apply for Adult Basic Education, trade school programs, and post secondary education.

These are just a few of the ways in which we can help our clients. We encourage potential clients to call or write to us to see if we can assist them with their unique needs.

The Community Services Office provides a walk-in service at 752 Kingsway and facilitates requests for service through emails, letters, phone calls, and one-on-one contact. There will be occasional interruptions to the 11:00 – 7:00 pm schedule therefore, **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE A COMMUNITY SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE COMING TO THE OFFICE.**

Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to serving you.

- Court

## John Howard Celebrates Staff and Volunteers

The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland hosted its annual Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, February 28, at Howie's Bistro & Bar in Burnaby.

This dinner was well attended by staff, volunteers, and supporters. Guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner, sinful dessert buffet, and non-stop entertainment. A good time was had by all.

Ron Dan opened the festivities with drumming, singing, and storytelling. Later, Ron, a 16 year veteran of the

Agency, was presented with the 'Spirit of John Howard Award'.

Ron was also the lucky winner of a two nights stay at Whistler. Congratulations Ron!

Special thanks to talented duo Andrea Klatt and Louise LaFleur for planning and coordinating this fabulous party.

- Elaine



## Mental Health in the Workplace

The BC Business and Economic Roundtable on Mental health has reported depression in the workplace costs the BC economy \$2 billion every year in lost time and productivity. The Provincial Health Services Authority has developed a Antidepressant Skills at Work manual to help people affected by depression in the workplace, whether the depression is a cause or effect of workplace issues. The manual teaches antidepressant skills

based on cognitive behavioural therapy and empowers individuals to take charge of their own mental health, the self-care guide is not intended to replace medical treatment. The anti-depressant Skills at Work is on three steps: Solving problems effectively – earning how to identify and tackle workplace problems with effective solutions. Realistic thinking – identifying and changing distorted, depressive thinking that make work and life

situations worse. Reactivating your life – setting specific and achievable goals to improve the quality of life at work and at home.

This full report is available at [www.bcmhas.ca/research](http://www.bcmhas.ca/research).

- Tim

## Shaping our Communities

As a First Nation's person working in the criminal justice system in Canada, I see many roadblocks for people who are caught in this particular system who are trying to rebuild their life. Programs and services may not be available for many of these people that can leave a sense of hopelessness and despair.

However, my time here at the John Howard Society, has shown to be a positive experience because what I

have seen is an agency that tries its best to bridge the gaps for people who are trying to restore their life.

The people that I have worked with have shown compassion, respect, and a belief that people have the ability to rebuild ones life. More importantly, there is a strong sense that there is a common goal of not only to assist people but to ultimately restore our community. The John Howard Society has built

a platform for its staff to do its part on the frontlines to help shape our community and that, for me, has made coming to work fulfilling.

- Brandon

# A Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety

In May 2007 Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, introduced a Review Panel to provide an analysis of the Correctional Service of Canada's operational priorities, strategies and business plans. The final report produced 109 recommendations highlighting five priorities.

- Offender Accountability
- Eliminating Drugs from Prison
- Employability/Employment
- Physical Infrastructure
- Eliminating Statutory Release; Moving to Earned Parole

To summarize our observations we endorse offenders taking greater accountability and responsibility for themselves, the elimination of drugs from prison, better employment and

employability programs and improved physical infrastructure. We do not support the elimination of statutory release (see article Moving towards Earned Parole; Eliminating Statutory Release).

We believe this report is an opportunity to progress the Correctional Service of Canada towards a model of enhanced education and support for offenders to promote rehabilitation. It is apparent the existing operations are not adequate to address the needs of our most vulnerable populations including women, aboriginal persons, those with mental health needs and the changing offender population.

We encourage CSC to improve operations by focusing on building relationships with and fostering accountability and responsibility in all

aspects of operations. Mentorship, role modeling and motivation must become staff's primary objective to ensure offenders become accountable and responsible. (To view a complete copy of the JHS response visit our website at [www.jhslmbc.ca](http://www.jhslmbc.ca))

- Tim

## Goal for a Paperless Office

As we move through 2008, we would like to use more electronic communication. We believe in keeping administrative costs as low as possible so we can get the funds directly to our clients. Please fill out the information below, cut this section out and mail it to us. Alternatively, you can send us an email with your own email address and a request that you receive future correspondence via email. Our email is: [personnel@jhslmbc.ca](mailto:personnel@jhslmbc.ca)

Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for responding!  
The John Howard Society of the LM  
763 Kingsway  
Vancouver, BC V5V 3C2

# Moving towards Earned Parole; Eliminating Statutory Release

At first glance moving towards earned parole seems like a great idea! Then one thinks of how this will impact the operations of Federal Corrections and how Public Safety may be impacted. Moving to earned parole would result in the elimination of Accelerated Parole Reviews and Statutory Release.

Our experience with accelerated parole review has been too many individuals are being released from incarceration without addressing their correctional plan. This appears to be due to an increase in short sentences less than five years. The APR provisions of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA)* provide for the selection of first time federal offenders who have not committed an offence listed in Schedule I (violent offences) of the *Act* and who have not received judicial determination of their parole eligibility with an offence on Schedule II (drug offence) of the *Act*. If the offender meets the APR criteria they are reviewed by the NPB for parole without the need for a hearing. Where CSC and the Board can find no evidence in the criminal and social history to indicate that the offender is likely to commit a violent offence before the completion of the sentence, then the Board must direct the release on parole. The parole criteria are different in that the Board need only satisfy the condition that the offender is unlikely to commit a violent offence, rather than the normal parole criteria which requires that the offender be unlikely to commit a new offence. In addition, no parole hearing is required if the offender is directed for release. Addressing social

factors that led to person's behaviour and involvement in the criminal justice system remain unaddressed upon their release to the community. Many of these individuals benefit from substance abuse programming or cognitive behavioural life-skills programs but are placed on waitlists within the Institution or are released prior to programs coming available.

We cannot support eliminating statutory release. Currently, our experience has shown many offenders are released on Statutory Release due to being unable to make progress on their correctional plans. The turnover in Institution Parole Officers, wait lists for programs or being screened out of programs has made addressing correctional plans difficult for offenders. This should not be misconstrued with taking away offender's accountability and responsibility to improve one-self while incarcerated.

Statutory Release provides support and structure for offenders on release as they benefit by having a Parole Officer assist them in their transition to the community. Community Residential Facilities also are available to those who receive a residency condition from the National Parole Board. Evidence based practice has reinforced gradual transition of offenders to the community is the most effective way to ensure success in offenders and ensuring Public Safety. Eliminating Statutory Release will remove the support offered by a parole office and community residential facility.

Section 810 of the Criminal Code provides for additional conditions of supervision, however, supervision is provided by Provincial Probation and support services of community residential facilities or structured housing along with programs are extremely limited. Many are speculating if the elimination of statutory release is passed in Parliament the judiciary will impose sentences with Long Term Supervision Orders attached to ensure offenders receive support on release from incarceration. This could result in an even greater challenge for the CSC as sentences of incarceration could be shorter with longer community supervision.

A recommendation that was not considered by the panel would be to review and modify the current detention criteria in the CCRA. We hope further consultation and discussion will occur prior to this change being implemented. Releasing persons after periods of incarceration without measures of support and assistance on their warrant expiry date is not in the interest of communities and contradicts our mandate of public safety.

- Tim

## “Changing the World One Person At a Time”

I attended a conference a few weeks ago called “Changing the world one person at a time”. The name of the conference was so significant because to me it signified all the hard work everyone at John Howard does for our community and the individuals we support every day. The purpose of this conference was for people all over Canada to share their process of transforming a social service agency that delivers traditional staff residential and day supports to more individualized service delivery system.

The conference provided a forum for everyone to think about person centered ways to support people to live good lives in welcoming communities. It is about options and choices for people to live the best life possible. It is our responsibility as people and agencies to provide options, choices and hope for a better quality of life for people with disabilities. I am happy to say that we as an Agency already do that, we have opened up two new low income apartment buildings Miller Block and Tims Manor in the past several years and have provided people with a chance to live as independently as possible within the realms of supports if needed. I believe we are moving in the right direction not only for the agency as a whole but for the betterment of the individuals we support.

My most memorable experience was attending a workshop where the presenters were self advocates titled “It’s really about us”. These individuals told us their stories and their continued fight towards a better life for themselves and others. They talked about choices, hope and a better life for themselves and their peers. I have met many self advocates throughout my

life, and as an agency we are very proud to have the President of the BC Self Advocacy Foundation among us living at Miller Block. Not only is his story heartwarming but his “voice” is inspirational. It takes only one person to make a difference in someone’s life and I believe that Richard has achieved that. This is Richard’s story:

### “No Place to Be”

Richard MacDonald lived for 10 years in Woodland Institution. He now lives a fulfilling life in the community and is an active self advocate. He is president of the BC Self Advocacy Foundation and sits on many committees and groups working to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. In recent interview, Richard shared some of his views regarding deinstitutionalization and his involvement in the process.

“I wouldn’t have my dog living in an institution. I wouldn’t have it go through the abuse we’d gone through. I suggested for associations to gather together and work on closing down institutions. The longer they’re open the more abuse there is. The abuse has to be stopped. We had had to have them closed down. Now that we’ve closed them down, other provinces have started closing them down also”.

“Life is great now. It feels good to live a normal life. Even on a fixed income you can do a lot of things. I got friends, do things that you normally can’t do in an institution. I go bowling, go to the gym, take walks, shopping for my own home. You can get out and do things. You’re not trapped. It’s good because you meet a lot of people, when you are friendly like I am.

They’ll say “Hey, he’s got everything going for him”.

‘I was in From the Inside/Out. It was one of the 28 people in that. It is important because it is the truth and people will say ‘He was there, he knows what he is talking about’. I was in it to make sure everyone gets the support to get out.’

“I was part of the Woodlands Memorial Garden Group. The garden was the best thing that ever happened. It was incredible. It shows the public that what happened at the institution. It was like telling the public not to let this happen again. The Memorial Garden is for Self Advocates, by self advocates. It’s a gift for the future. We’re telling everyone ‘keep this as a memorial – we have to remember the history’. It is our turn to make sure it doesn’t happen. It is a reminder to other institutions that they should be closed. An institution is no place to be’.

- Jen

## 2008 Justice Open - Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**In Partnership: John Howard Society & BC Criminal Justice Association**

### Registration Form

✓		Price	No.	Total
	Golf Only	\$ 125.00		
	Golf + Hole Sponsor	\$400.00		
	Team of 4 Golfers	\$475.00		
	Team of 4 Golfers + Hole Sponsor	\$650.00		
	Dinner Only	\$ 35.00		
	Hole Sponsor Only	\$300.00		
	Putting Contest Sponsor	\$400.00	1	
	Course Beverage & Snack Sponsor	\$1,000.00	2	
	Tournament Sponsor	\$5,000.00	1	
	Prize or service item (please mail or we will pick up)			
	Donation only			
<i>Registration fee for golf includes green fees, power cart and dinner. Registration fee for hole, putting green and beverage sponsors include prorated charitable tax receipt, hole signage, recognition in tournament program and your logo &amp; link on our website. Your name on our website and charitable tax receipt provided for prizes, service items and donations.</i>				
Company Name				
Address				
Phone				
Player Name(s)				
Team Name <i>(if desired)</i>				
Check Enclosed				
Visa Card No.		Exp Date		
Signature				

**Mail form to: The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of BC**  
**763 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5V 3C2**  
 Fax to: 604-872-8737  
 Need Information Contact - Elaine or Kim  
 Call 604-872-5651 ext 311 or 309  
[events@jhslmbc.ca](mailto:events@jhslmbc.ca) OR [personnel@jhslmbc.ca](mailto:personnel@jhslmbc.ca)

**JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF THE  
LOWER MAINLAND OF BC**

763 Kingsway  
Vancouver, BC V5V 3C2



[www.jhslmbc.ca](http://www.jhslmbc.ca)

*A Registered Charitable Society  
#10754 2573 RR001  
Member of the United Way*

## How can I help the JHSLM?

Yes, I want to

Be a Member

Make a Donation

Be a Volunteer

Be notified of the Justice Open

Donate Clothes

Pass this newsletter along  
to a friend

Price

\$15.00

Method of Payment

Check

Cash

Visa

\_\_\_\_\_  
Visa #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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Phone