



For immediate Release

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John Howard Society launches program for male victims of childhood sexual abuse

The John Howard Society of Manitoba has received four-year funding from the Department of Justice Canada to create an innovative new program which works toward healing for Indigenous male victims of childhood sexual abuse.

“We’re very pleased to see the needs of this group being recognized,” said John Hutton, executive director of John Howard Society of Manitoba. “And we see this funding as an acknowledgment of the expertise we’ve developed over the past six decades of working with incarcerated men, far too many of whom have been sexually abused as children.”

The new program will include instruction from an Indigenous Elder to develop strength and healing from a traditional and cultural perspective. Participants will work in a group setting and on a one-to-one basis with a professional case worker. The budget for the program is \$229,000 and it starts immediately.

“Most sexual assaults experienced by men are not reported,” said Sharon Perrault, program manager at John Howard Society of Manitoba. “We want to create a program where men can safely disclose their childhood sexual abuse and address the life struggles they face because of it,” she said.

The goal is to develop and refine a service that can thoroughly address the needs of men affected by childhood sexual abuse—especially those who have been in conflict with the law—and identify positive avenues of response.

“We also believe the program model and interventions developed by the John Howard Society of Manitoba will be of benefit to other service providers and their clients,” said Perreault.

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The John Howard Society of Manitoba supports men in conflict with the law before, during and after incarceration. There are chapters in more than 60 communities across Canada.

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