



Executive Directors Report January 2023

Financial

- JHSC federal grant \$35,000 per year.
- Local Societies approximately \$45,000.
- City of Edmonton grant for \$16,500 application in February 2023.
- Casino 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2023.
- 6th Alberta Criminal Justice Symposium (see report below)
- History of the JHS project ongoing
- Grant submission in December 2022 for \$120,000 to Public Safety Alberta (see report below)

Human Resources

- Frank will continue as Assistant Executive Director on a full-time contract basis through to December 2024.
- LaBrie Bookkeeping will continue as our bookkeeping services and Bergeron and Company will be our auditor for the 2023 fiscal year.
- Bergeron and Company to be our auditor for 2023.
- Contract with Tim Dixon for IT and website services will continue to December 2023.

Activities

- We continue to plan our 6th Biennial Criminal Justice Symposium scheduled for May 2023. A number of meetings with MacEwan University and the Government of Alberta have taken place since January 2022. Discussion with the JHS ED's on June 9 2021 about their wishes in terms of pillars, themes, topics of interest to them and their staff. This is a move toward incorporating more collaboration with the other JHS's in Alberta.

As of December 2022, we have secured 4 key-note speakers and a moderator. Our themes are fully in place, the website is complete and active, and our registration page has been open since mid-December for conference participants

to register as well as submissions for workshop presentations and tables for organizations to purchase to promote their organizations.

- We were successful in our AB Government RFP application for the Guns and Gangs research project back in 2021. This project was completed in the Fall of 2022 and our research was disseminated to the Local Societies via our SLACK online sharing system.
- The JHSA will apply for the 2023 summer student STEP program. We have been successful in our previous 7 years of applications. Our intent, similar to 2022, is to ask the Local Society ED's for research topics that the summer student will complete.
- The JHSA is in conversations with British Columbia and the JHSC and I have also brought in the EJHS and the CJHS to the conversation concerning the CBSA program. We are working together discussing the changes to the program with the Federal Government in terms of the recent discussion by a number of provinces on the inappropriate use of jails as a housing mechanism for those illegally within Canada and/or awaiting hearings. I will update you at our next meeting when I have more information.
- From July to September 2022 the Provincial Office worked to create a shared site for all Local Societies to use to upload documents that all Local Societies can benefit from. Examples include, meeting minutes, insurance, benefits, RFP applications and so on, The site is now being utilized by some of the local societies but the primary user and entity uploading documents right now is the JHSA. That is, we have uploaded our current research we have done and various documents relating to benefits etc. However, we anticipate this limited usage will change when the other local societies have time to upload their documents. Also, we do anticipate usage to increase as it was the local societies that requested the JHSA create such a site.
- Frank Kense attended the National/Provincial ED meetings in Charlottetown third week of May 2022 and I will attend the next meetings in Quebec City in October. The main purpose of Frank attending the meetings in May was to propose a 2 year research project on the History of the John Howard Society in Canada. This project was widely accepted by the ED's in May and then further discussions occurred in July with the JHSC. At the October JHSC meetings in Quebec City I raised this project again with a more formal request for funding. Once again, all of the ED's were in favor of the project. This then led to a discussion at the JHSC Board level about funding and the JHSA was granted (in principle) \$50,000 with the caveat that this funding will only be released once it is shown that other JHS across Canada will also provide funding.

In early January 2023, I met with the JHS of Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. Both of these entities agreed to approximately \$8000 each in funding. My plan is to now go to Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia In January 2023 with a similar ask. Further, I intend to now contact the JHSC to indicate that other affiliates are now providing support and so I will ask that the JHSC remove that caveat and release the funding so that the project can commence.

I will also be seeking funding in 2023 from other external sources for this project such as the Heritage Fund of Canada.

- Since about June 2022 I have worked diligently with the Public Safety Alberta to bring back our yearly grant that we have received for over 40 years but disappeared in 2019. I have had many discussions with the Assistant Deputy Minister, the Executive Director and other staff to this end. Over the past 6 months we have discussed and negotiated several projects that they might be interested in partnering with the JHSA. To date, I have now created 4 separate and growing grant applications as this has been an ongoing discussion and negotiation process. The final submission (see attached document) discusses three funding components for a total of \$120,000.

First, after a postponement of 3 years due to the international covid epidemic restrictions, we are pleased to announce that plans are underway for the 6th Alberta Criminal Justice Symposium (ACJS). This biennial event is hosted by the [John Howard Society of Alberta](#) in partnership with the [Department of Sociology at MacEwan University](#), [Alberta Justice](#), and [Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services](#).

Although attitudes to, and practices of, criminal justice implementation have improved dramatically over the past century, there remain many aspects of the criminal justice system in the western world that still require new ways of thinking and implementation. These include effective rehabilitation, creative correctional practices and evidence-based approaches and practices that significantly prevent criminological behaviour or reduce recidivism. This symposium anticipates a diversity of speakers and workshop presentations that will explore current best practices and new approaches to rehabilitation and correctional reform both within Canada and internationally. We intend to provide two full workshops fully devoted to the issue of guns and gangs in Alberta. We will bring in at least 4 speakers who are experts in this field through academia and through practical work experience. For this portion of the project we are asking for \$40,000 which is the same amount that has been previously granted by the Alberta Government for past symposiums.

Second, after the symposium, the JHSA would like to hold two full day focus groups (one in Grande Prairie and one in Red Deer) where the JHSA would bring together agencies responsible for the reduction of guns and gang issues. We have chosen these two areas as they are the two John Howard Society's that recently received government funding to run programs and services to reduce gun and gang activity

through the Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund. Some of the entities we would bring together in these workshops are the police, the John Howard Societies, local government personnel, and other community organizations. The goal will be to extend what we have learned in the symposium but also to bring those responsible for mitigating guns and gangs (e.g., police, JHS, local government personnel etc) or affected by guns and gangs (e.g., the community) in these two locations together and pull all of the information together to improve our current services and programs concerning guns and gangs. For this portion of the project we are asking for \$30,000.

Third, approximately 2 years ago the Grande Prairie John Howard Society and the JHSA were each given a grant to conduct research on gang issues in the Grande Prairie and Central Alberta areas. The JHSA was responsible for the research in the Central Alberta area. We would now like to conduct the same research for the Southern Alberta area. This research will be primary in nature in that we will conduct face to face and Zoom interviews with entities responsible for impacting gun and gang issues similar to the entities interviewed when we conducted similar research in the Central Alberta region. For this portion we are asking for \$50,000 which is the same amount granted to the two John Howard Societies that were granted similar funding two years ago for similar research.

Each of these three components will be completed in the 2023 year and we intend to provide the Government with a full write and summary up of each component along with recommendations. The overall goal is to combine the three components; the work of the symposium, the two focus groups, and the research together to provide a cohesive document of what we have learned and recommendations for going forward. That is, we don't see each of these three components as stand alone items but rather each being complimentary and building off of each other.

- Research work with MacEwan University (see attached document). This project was granted by MacEwan University at \$20,000 used primarily to support MacEwan Honors students to conduct the research. The project is titled, Alternatives to Formal Justice: Placing Canadas use of Restorative Practices in Comparative Context. The JHSA will participate in 1) subject specific expertise and knowledge. 2) dissemination of results to the JHS across Canada and other like organizations. 3) assist in planning a one day conference on the subject after the project is complete. We will also participate in a SHHRC grant after this project is complete.
- Future planning. As you are aware, we have several goals/mandates at the JHSA:
 - First and foremost, we intend to continue to work on the three ends of the JHSA.
 - Ensure the sustainability of the Provincial Office financially. As in the past, sustainability today for the most part continues to mean one-off project grant requests.
 - Develop our May 2023, 6th Biennial Criminal Justice Symposium
 - Conduct media at the Provincial level.
 - Work jointly with the other JHS in Alberta on various projects some of which outlined above.

- Conduct primary and secondary research into the causes and consequences of crime and other related social science topics. Produce research papers, fact sheets, and infographics.
- Liaise with Government, non-profit, and other organization representatives to further the work of the Provincial Office and other JHS's in Alberta.
- Work with the JHS's in Alberta to ensure the overall health of the Society.
- Further the understanding and knowledge of Albertan's on criminal justice issues (e.g., public justice education).
- To give back by providing placements for students, volunteers, and summer student employment opportunities.
- Work with the government of Alberta toward criminal and social justice change.

Chris Hay
Executive Director
The John Howard Society of Alberta