

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies

Annual Report 2011-2012



**UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

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Message from the Director

Welcome to the first “official” Annual Report of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies. The reason we can say it is official is because on May 19, 2011, University Council formally approved a proposal for the Centre. Having addressed questions from, and consulted with, numerous people both from within and outside the University over the previous two years, the proposal was adopted without question (always a good sign in this context). So we are particularly pleased to have now acquired Centre status at the University of Saskatchewan.

A second milestone achieved in the last year has been the acquisition of our first full time research associate for the Centre. With his extensive experience in program evaluation, particularly with organizations in Saskatchewan, Dr. Chad Nilson (see page 4) substantially expands our capacity to conduct evaluations in the field of criminal justice. He also brings extensive experience in police research, which has been absent among Centre staff and members. Dr. Nilson will work out of the Centre office as well as in Prince Albert where he maintains a strong network of contacts with justice and aboriginal agencies in the field.

As the year ends, the Centre remains very active in a couple of important initiatives that it has undertaken in the last year. The first pertains to our efforts to bring a Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate in Corrections program to the University of Saskatchewan campus (see page 10). Working in tandem with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, we are now in the final steps of bringing this innovative program to a reality. Although the program will be small in numbers (i.e., three students per to this two year program), we are enthusiastic about the prospects of bringing senior correctional administrators and clinicians to a forum that will assist them in the development and implementation of evidenced based correctional programs and offender supervision in their agencies.

Secondly, the Centre made a commitment in the fall of 2011 to assume a major responsibility to ensure the continued offering of a long standing justice and corrections conference. Consequently, the 14th Biennial Symposium of Violence and Aggression is now slated for June 3 to 5, 2012. For the first time, it will be held on the University of Saskatchewan campus. After considerable deliberations with representatives from the Correctional Service of Canada, we believe that this move was prudent and necessary to ensure the continued life of this highly valued conference, one that has brought world experts together with correctional administrators, clinicians, policy makers and front line workers.

I would also like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the inaugural members of the Centre Executive Committee, who were elected by a group of their peers, the Centre membership in November, 2011 (see page 5-6), and to the inaugural Centre Advisory Board (see page 6), whose members were appointed between September, 2011 and February, 2012 and which met for the first time in March, 2012. We are grateful to both groups for their

assistance, consultation and commitment to the centre as it takes its first few steps to becoming an important force in the justice community.

Finally, on behalf of all of us associated with the Centre, I extend my thanks and appreciation to the Centre Coordinator, Ronda Appell, who has worked tirelessly to keep the Centre machinery running smoothly over the last year. Without her efforts, none of the aforementioned initiatives would have been realized or progressed to their current state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Stephen Wormith', written in dark ink.

J. Stephen Wormith
Director, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science & Justice Studies

Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies

WHO WE ARE

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies was established at the University of Saskatchewan in 2011 to foster interdisciplinary research, education and community engagement related to crime, justice and corrections. Drawing on a wealth of expertise spread across the Colleges of Arts and Science, Law, Medicine and Nursing, and in unique partnership with the Correctional Service Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, the Centre is a gateway to information, knowledge and inquiry into the vast and multi-faceted social, justice and health-related issues that impact the criminal justice system and that influence the care, treatment and rehabilitation of offender populations including but not limited to aboriginal peoples, women and youth.

Centre Staff

The Centre is led by Stephen Wormith, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychology and former Research Chair in Forensic Psychology (1999-2005). Dr. Wormith's research interests pertain to the assessment and treatment of offenders, including particular offender groups such as young offenders, sexual offenders, and gangs. He consults with corrections departments in Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Canada, serves in court as an expert witness on matters of offender assessment and treatment, and conducts training of offender risk assessment in Canada and internationally.

Ronda Appell, Centre Coordinator, provides management, research and administrative support for all Centre activities. Ronda holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters in Health Administration. Prior to joining the Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies Initiative in 2010, Ronda worked as a Project Manager in the Strategic Health Information and Performance Support unit of the Saskatoon Health Region.

In January, 2012, the Centre was pleased to welcome Dr. Chad Nilson, Inaugural Research Fellow. Dr. Nilson joined the Centre after spending six years as a consultant providing research, evaluation and program development services to various agencies, non-profit, government and Aboriginal organizations. He holds a B.S. and M.A. in Criminal Justice and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Political Science. Chad has developed a strong research agenda in elderly abuse, has helped First Nations communities develop strategies for peacekeeping services, and has provided numerous evaluations of crime prevention programs throughout Saskatchewan.

Centre Members

Centre members are recruited from faculty and/or other researchers within the University of Saskatchewan community who are actively involved in justice and forensic-related research and practice. Government and community partners are also welcome to hold Centre membership and participate in Centre activities and events, although only University of Saskatchewan faculty are able to elect members and hold positions on the Centre Executive Committee.

Following the formal establishment of the Centre in May, 2011, an initial call for membership was sent out in July, 2011. A total of 16 faculty and community members representing a variety of Colleges, Schools and disciplines responded to the call by formalizing their interest in and ties to the Centre. The Centre is thus proudly comprised of members representing the Departments of Psychology and Sociology (College of Arts and Science), the Colleges of Law, Medicine, and Nursing, the Schools of Public Health and Public Policy, as well as several community members who have current and/or former ties to the University of Saskatchewan. The breadth of its membership is a testament to the vast array of expertise that exists at the University of Saskatchewan and in the community and to the strong potential for meaningful interdisciplinary engagement and collaboration.

Executive Committee

The Centre Executive Committee consists of the Centre Director and three individuals elected from and by University of Saskatchewan faculty members of the Centre. The Centre Executive Committee works with the Director to develop and implement strategies to foster interdisciplinary research, promote public awareness, engage external partners, encourage faculty and student involvement, as well as to approve processes related to internal programs, and oversee Centre budget and finances.

Current (Inaugural) Executive Committee members include:

- **Glen Luther, Q.C., Associate Professor, College of Law.** Professor Luther has extensive practice experience as a criminal lawyer and has argued cases throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan at all levels of courts including the Supreme Court of Canada. His academic interests include police powers, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, criminal law and sentencing, trial procedure, evidence, and Law and Psychiatry.
- **Mark Olver, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Science.** Dr. Olver is a Registered Doctoral Psychologist with the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists. His research interests include risk assessment and treatment (e.g. sex offenders), psychopathy, sexual deviance, and the evaluation of offender change.

- **Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, R.N., M.Sc., Professor, College of Nursing.** Professor Peternelj-Taylor has extensive experience in professional role development for students and nurses who practice with vulnerable populations in forensic mental health and correctional settings. Her research interests include issues that emerge within the therapeutic relationship. She is also Editor of the Journal of Forensic Nursing.

Advisory Board

Established during 2011-12, the Centre Advisory Board consists of invited University and non-University representatives and is Chaired by Dr. Harley Dickinson, Vice-Dean, Division of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Science, as designate of the Vice-President Research, University of Saskatchewan. The Board provides input and advice on a range of issues fundamental to the long-term viability of the Centre, including but not limited to research and programming initiatives, policies and partnerships.

Inaugural Board members include:

- **Dr. Shirwan Kukha-Mohamad**, Clinical Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, College of Medicine
- **Dr. Olajide Adelugba**, Psychiatrist and Director of Research, Regional Hospital, Regional Psychiatric Centre (Prairies), Correctional Service Canada
- **Ms. Cynthia MacDonald**, Regional Administrator, Assessment and Interventions, Prairie Region, Correctional Service Canada
- **Mr. Bob Mills**, Superintendent, F Division, Operations Strategy Branch, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- **Dr. Brian Rector**, Executive Director, Clinical and Rehabilitative Services, Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Additional members from the University of Saskatchewan and the Aboriginal community are to be added in the next year.

WHAT WE DO

The Centre seeks to foster and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration across three domains: *Research and Evaluation*, *Education and Training*, and *Community Engagement*. A summary of Centre activities over the past year within each of these domains is provided below.

Research and Evaluation

Needs Assessment and Environmental Scan of Forensic Mental Health Programs and Services for Offenders in Saskatchewan

A Needs Assessment and Environmental Scan of Forensic Mental Health Programs and Services for Offenders in Saskatchewan was conducted between February, 2010 and December, 2011 by the Forensic Interdisciplinary Research Saskatchewan Team. Based on interviews with family members of offenders and an on-line survey conducted by a wide variety of government and community service-providers, the Needs Assessment/Scan has provided a baseline of information on the current needs of offenders with mental disorders in the province of Saskatchewan and the programs and services that are presently available. A final report is in preparation.

Review of Cultural Programs and Services in Provincial Correctional Facilities in Saskatchewan

In order to develop a common understanding of and framework for the cultural programs and services provided in Saskatchewan correctional facilities, the Centre has partnered with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections Public Safety and Policing (CPSP) to conduct a review of its programming for First Nations and Métis offenders. The review will examine and quantify the variety of programs and services currently being offered and explore their overall purpose and intended outcomes in order to provide a foundation for further program development and evaluation activities.

Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment Instrument Re-Validation

The Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment (SPRA) tool is a validated instrument used in adult corrections to predict the likelihood of future generalized re-offending. Results are used to guide management decision-making related to risk management and risk reduction strategies. A project to re-examine the predictive ability of the Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment (SPRA) instrument was initiated at the request of CPSP, with a view to confirming the psychometric qualities and predictive validity of the instrument, to examine the relationship between criminogenic needs and the likelihood of re-offending as measured by the SPRA, and to determine whether the instrument's resulting risk categories could reliably be further refined to include very-high or very-low risk categories.

Process Evaluation of the Restorative Action Program

The Restorative Action Program (RAP) is a community-driven initiative developed in 2003 by members of Saskatoon Rotary clubs in response to issues of bullying, violence, crime, and other forms of conflict within the youth population. The program is delivered via RAP Workers located in seven high schools across Saskatoon, who provide conflict resolution training and services, as well as leadership and life skill development for high school youth. The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies is presently conducting a process evaluation of RAP, including of a detailed review of individual and group-based activities and internal data collection processes in order to assess consistency with program theory and objectives, and develop recommendations for improved program monitoring and preparation for subsequent outcomes evaluation.

Process Evaluation of the STR8-UP Program

STR8-UP is a gang intervention and prevention program operated by the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan. It provides support to young men and women who wish to exit gang life and activities aimed at preventing other youth from becoming involved in gang activity. At the request of program operators, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies has initiated a process evaluation of the STR8-UP program with a view to examining the program's activities and services in relation to its goals and objectives as well as in relation to existing theory, research and evaluation on gang intervention programs and services that exist elsewhere. Semi-structured interviews with STR8-UP staff, members, and community and government stakeholders will also provide further information with which to guide program improvement/development and provide a foundation for ongoing program monitoring and future outcomes-focused evaluation.

Provincial Indicator Development – Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime

In cooperation with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies is involved in a process to support the evaluation of community-level strategies and projects developed through the province's "Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime" initiative. The initiative is a new integrated approach to crime reduction in Saskatchewan that recognizes the need for partnership across all parts of the justice and human service systems and community-led intervention strategies in order to effectively address the complex issues facing children, youth and families and successfully reduce crime and victimization. The Centre will continue to work with CPSP and its across-government and community partners to provide evaluation and research support as needed to this important and ongoing initiative.

Faculty Research Awards

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies offers research development grants to faculty of the University of Saskatchewan whose research investigates a topic of crime, justice or corrections from a social science, health science, legal, management or interdisciplinary perspective. In its second year of offering faculty grants, the Centre is pleased to have supported the following projects:

- **Award Recipient:** Dr. Isobel Findlay, Associate Professor, Management and Marketing, Edwards School of Business, and Scholar, Centre for the Study of Cooperatives
Award Value: \$10,763
Project Title: Through the Eyes of Women: What a Cooperative Can Mean in Supporting Women Through Confinement and Integration

- **Award Recipient:** Dr. Phil Woods, Professor and Associate Dean, Research, Innovation and Global Initiatives, College of Nursing.
Award Value: \$9,893
Project Title: Piloting Violence and Incident Reporting Measures on a Forensic Mental Health Unit

Education and Training

Graduate Student Research Awards and Research Assistantships

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies provides two types of support for University of Saskatchewan graduate students whose academic and/or research interests pertain to the areas of crime, justice, and corrections. **Research Awards** provide project-specific funding to help student researchers cover the direct cost of research activities while **Research Assistantships** provide general scholarship support for students pursuing graduate studies in an area of relevance to forensic behavioral science and justice. Students in receipt of a Research Assistantship award must fulfill a work commitment of up to 10 hours per week through which they contribute to a variety of ongoing Centre research projects and activities.

Students granted a **Research Award** during the 2011-12 year are shown in the following table:

Recipient	Amount	Program/Dept.	Research Area
Justina Sowden	\$5,000	Ph.D. student, Clinical Psychology	Sex offender risk assessment
Cailey Strauss	\$5,000	Ph.D. student, Clinical Psychology	Victim-offender mediation
Sarah Takahashi	\$8,100	M.A. student, Applied Social Psychology	Validity of substance use psychometric measures and patterns of substance use among young offenders
Carolyn Camman	\$150	M.A. student, Applied Social Psychology	Role of dehumanization in attitudes towards community reintegration of sex offenders
Richard Coupland	\$6,000	Ph.D. student, Clinical Psychology	Dynamic risk, protective factors and treatment in violent offenders

Students granted a *Research Assistantship Award* during 2011-12 for the 2012-13 academic year are listed below:

Recipient	Amount	Program/Dept.	Area of Research Interest
Storm Lee Sanders*	\$18,000	Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Studies	Trans-generational issues and social determinants of offending among indigenous offenders with compromised mental health and/or criminogenic worldviews
Myles Ferguson	\$18,000	Ph.D. student, Applied Social Psychology	Reciprocal stereotyping and treatment under- performance by Aboriginal offenders
Craig Moore	\$9,000	M.A. student, Applied Social Psychology	Mental illness training in Canada's criminal justice system
Christopher Terepocki	\$9,000	LL.M. student, College of Law	Critical examination of Saskatchewan Corrections disciplinary hearings
Sudheej Krishnan	\$9,000	M.Sc. student, Dept. of Health Sciences, College of Medicine	Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder among mentally disordered offenders in Saskatchewan correction facilities

Recipient	Amount	Program/Dept.	Area of Research Interest
Nicole Misura	\$9,000	M.A. student, Applied Social Psychology	Early intervention and treatment of individuals prone to aggression, violence and offending
Gabriela Corabian	\$9,000	M.A. student, Clinical Psychology	Adolescent psychopathology, risk assessment and treatment

*due to January admission, Research Assistantship award is for the 2012 calendar year.

Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate in Corrections

In collaboration with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP), the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies is working to develop a postgraduate degree specialization certificate in evidence-based correctional practice. Targeted to senior professionals currently working in the field of corrections, this largely applied 2-year training program emphasizes advanced knowledge and professional skill development in the areas of offender assessment, case management, clinical supervision, program evaluation and research. Program instruction will be delivered by Senior Clinical Directors from CPSP as Professional Affiliates of the Department of Psychology, as well as by two Department of Psychology faculty members. Implementation is targeted for September, 2012.

Women`s Centered Training Awareness Session

In October, 2011, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies worked with the Women Offender Sector, Correctional Service Canada to make available a one-day Women-Centered Training Awareness Session to faculty and students of the University of Saskatchewan and government and community partners of the Centre. Aimed at anyone who conducts research, works with and/or provides services to female offenders, the session provided an overview of the history of women`s corrections and issues related to responding to women offender`s needs, relationships and boundaries, mental health, self-injury, and self-care. The session was delivered by two experienced Correctional Service of Canada trainers, and attended by faculty and students of the University of Saskatchewan, staff of Mental Health and Addictions Services of the Saskatoon Health Region, as well as a number of staff and managers of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Community Engagement: Fostering Academic and Public Dialogue

Community Forum: Addressing Canada's Law and Order Agenda

In partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies co-hosted a community forum regarding recent and proposed changes to criminal justice legislation and planned prison expansion in Canada. The forum provided an opportunity to consider both the human and financial impact of these changes and further encouraged participants to imagine how governments and communities might work together to reduce crime and incarceration through alternative investment in areas such as mental health, addiction services, education, youth services, employment and housing. Keynote speakers included Shannon Stewart, Manager of Investigations at the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada, Justin Piché, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at Carleton University, Kim Pate, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, and Brett Enns, Prince Albert Community Mobilization Project. Participating organizations included AIDS Saskatoon, Battleford Tribal Council Indian Health Services, Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC), Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op, John Howard Society of Saskatchewan, Kinsmen Activity Place, Meewasinota Aboriginal Healing Centre, Mennonite Central Committee, Quint Development Corporation, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatoon Police Service, and Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program.

Guest Presentation: Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren

Partnering with the Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judges Association, the Centre hosted Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren of Broward County Florida who served as the Mental Health Court Judge for the United States' first court dedicated to the decriminalization and treatment of the mentally ill in the criminal justice system. Presenting both at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and at the Provincial Court Judges conference in May 2011, Judge Lerner-Wren shared her experiences and insights into the success of the Broward Mental Health Court, which has been hailed as a national model and best practice in the area of therapeutic justice. The University of Saskatchewan presentation was open to and well attended by faculty and students from across the University, representatives of federal and provincial corrections departments, and a variety of local community organizations and agencies that work with and/or provide services to offenders.

Graduate Student Research Presentations

In conjunction with its Open House held in June, 2011 to celebrate the achievement of official 'Centre' status, the Centre hosted a presentation to showcase the work of two graduate students who were recent recipients of a Centre Research Award. Catherine Stewart, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, shared the results of her study entitled, "Risk Assessment of Federal Female Offenders" and Nicola Chopin, M.A. Applied Social Psychology, presented her findings related to "A Fear Appeal Approach to Web-Based Sexual Offender Community Notification". This event, open to faculty and students from

a broad range of Colleges and disciplines, as well as government and community partners, provided an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion and engagement and allowed the Centre to highlight two areas of research that have been supported by the Centre.

Conferences

Each year, the University of Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the Regional Psychiatric Centre, hosts either the Violence and Aggression Symposium or the International Custody and Caring Conference. These alternating conferences bring together researchers and professionals working in the criminal justice, health, and mental health fields, and provide opportunities to explore current theories, research and practice related to the care, treatment and rehabilitation of offenders and issues unique to working in forensic and correctional environments.

12th Biennial International Custody and Caring Conference

The 12th Biennial International Conference on the Nurse's Role in the Criminal Justice System was held in Regina, Saskatchewan, October 5-7, 2011.

14th Biennial Violence and Aggression Symposium

The 14th Biennial Symposium on Violence and Aggression will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, June 3-5, 2012.

FUNDING

Summary of 2011-12 Revenues and Expenditures

The Centre receives financial support through a 5-year Memorandum of Agreement with the Correctional Service Canada (2009-10 to 2013-14), and a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (2010-11 to 2019-20). The following tables summarize the use of these government contributions over the 2011-12 year. Expense categories identified in the tables below reflect the categories of funding specified in the respective funding agreements.

MOA-Correctional Service Canada-Regional Psychiatric Centre			
Revenue	\$ 120,000		
Expense	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
Admin/Research Support	\$ 27,000	\$ 18,230	\$ 8,770
Centre Operations - non salary		\$ 1,349	\$ (1,349)
Graduate Student Research Support	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,593	\$ (593)
Faculty Research Development Support	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,763	\$ 14,237
Academic & Public Dialogue	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,353	\$ 2,647
Total	\$ 120,000	\$ 96,288	\$ 23,712

MOU - Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing			
Revenue	\$ 150,000		
Expense	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
Office Set-up/furnishing	\$ -	\$ 4,355	\$ (4,355)
Research Personnel*	\$ 97,850	\$ 20,397	\$ 77,454
Research/Admin Assistant	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,347	\$ (347)
Student/Faculty Research Support	\$ 22,586	\$ 21,781	\$ 805
University Overhead	\$ 19,564	\$ 19,564	\$ -
Total	\$ 150,000	\$ 76,443	\$ 73,557

*surplus due to hiring of Research Fellow in January, 2012 instead of September, 2011.

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