



Context

Between 2009 and 2011, the level of crime recorded in Nunavik increased by 29%. Since 2008, the number of criminal cases heard by the itinerant court has jumped 119%. Despite adjustments and improvements made by police, the itinerant court and correctional services, crimes and violence in the region are having unacceptable impacts on the well-being of residents as a whole and are closely associated with alcohol and drug abuse. Almost 80% of crimes in the region are committed while the offenders are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

A Few of the Challenges

For many years, police, justice and correctional services, health and social services, education and employment services, and other local initiatives have tried to respond each in their own way to the worsening problem of alcohol and drug abuse and crime. The results of this work have clearly not re-established a sense of well-being, safety and social peace in the region.

Alcohol and drug abuse, and the crime it contributes to, continues to increase mainly because of a lack of specialized, adapted and coordinated resources and services.

The justice system is currently designed to punish offenders and to deter potential offenders most often through sentences/punishment. Notwithstanding, it is well documented that sentences/punishment are not effective deterrents for people struggling with alcoholism or drug addiction.

Police, the itinerant court and correctional services alone can not solve the problem of crime and violence in Nunavik. It is now time to explore alternative approaches to reconstruct social regulation in the region.

Solutions and Priorities

The Working Group on Justice in Nunavik was created in 2008 and includes representation from the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government, and the Québec-government departments of justice and public security. It has a mandate to analyze justice-related issues and propose solutions and guidelines to the problems encountered in the delivery of justice and correctional services.

In 2011, the Working Group on Justice in Nunavik in particular recommended implementation of the project described in *Reconstructing Social Regulation in Inuit Communities: A Field for Action and Public Policy*. This recommendation is being followed up under the leadership of the Regional Partnership Committee.

Through the mobilization of existing regional and local resources the Reconstructing Social Regulation project aims to improve the way service stakeholders and families work together to deal with behaviour that leads to crime. This approach combines and balances public health services with traditional policing,

