



The Well

A gathering place for the CCJC community...

Summer 2008

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Editorial

Stephanie Ehret

In this summer edition of The Well, you will find news, thoughts and reflections on a variety of areas in which CCJC is involved. Included in this edition are two reflections about an event held in Ottawa on May 6th called “[Race to Imitate: Should Canada import failed U.S. criminal justice policies?](#)” an evening with U.S. sentencing expert Marc Mauer. CCJC co-sponsored this event with the John Howard Society of Canada and we invited Martha and Howard to Ottawa to help introduce it. Who are Martha and Howard, you might ask? More information about who they are and their work is provided in the article entitled “[The week Martha and Howard visited Ottawa](#)”. We thank Bob Russell, a new member of CCJC, for his [reflections on our AGM](#) this past May. On a special note, Lorraine Berzins writes about [Hans Mohr](#), who passed away last April.

Please be sure to also check out [In the News](#) and the [Upcoming Events](#). Please feel free to forward news stories or information about upcoming events if you’d like to them to be included in the next edition of The Well.

Many thanks to each contributor, you all helped to make this issue both enjoyable and thought-provoking. I welcome all [feedback](#) and I hope you all enjoy this edition.

As I do the final preparations for this newsletter, there is a spectacular thunderstorm taking place. I am awed and humbled by it, reminded of the beauty and power of the works of the Creator. I wish you peace and light (but not too much of the lightning kind!) for a wonderful summer season!

Soul Food

"Last year, I had an opportunity to speak on CoSA* at the "What Works Conference" put on by Corrections Canada in Ottawa. I recall listening to Stephen Harper and his Justice Minister speak about the new crime bill that is presently awaiting royal assent.

This Bill will automatically label an individual as a Dangerous Offender after he has been convicted of three violent offences including sexual assault...

Three convictions equal at least three victims.

What if more funds were allocated to CoSA across Canada and after the first violent sexual assault, the offender had access to a Circle. With the documented success of CoSA would that not translate into two less victims?"

By Wendy Leaver, detective with the Sex Crime Unit of the Toronto Police and member of the Toronto [Circles of Support and Accountability \(CoSA*\)](#) advisory board – at a benefit concert for [CoSA Ottawa](#) on May 24th, 2008.

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Tough on crime, or tough on taxpayers?

By Lorraine Berzins

In the 2006 federal election campaign, all political parties pledged to get tough on crime. The minority Conservative government tabled a number of bills in Parliament to tackle it. New sentencing legislation passed into law, including Bill C-2, the Tackling Violent Crime Act, with provisions to put more offenders in prison for longer periods. The government's "Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety," released in December, 2007, proposes changes that would keep many of them there even longer.

Are these "tough on crime" sentences needed? Will keeping more people in prison make Canadian communities safer? What will it cost?

Canada's national crime rate reached a 25-year low in 2006, down 30 per cent from its peak in 1991, according to Statistics Canada. The total number of Criminal Code incidents divided by the population dropped by 3 per cent in 2006, after a 5-per-cent decline in 2005.

At a time when crime data shows a general downward trend, it makes more sense to target specific problem areas with proven measures than simply to impose harsher sentences. For more than 20 years, the United States enacted harsh sentencing provisions similar to those now being introduced in Canada; a comparison of both countries' crime and imprisonment rates shows that the U.S. approach is an expensive way to reduce crime by very little.

In 1985, prior to president Ronald Reagan's "war on drugs" and the enactment of strict sentencing laws, there were 200 prisoners for every 100,000 people living in the United States. In 2004, the rate was 723 prisoners for every 100,000 Americans — almost seven times the Canadian rate of 107 prisoners for every 100,000 adults.

If harsh prison sentences deter crime, U.S. crime rates should be a lot lower than Canada's. However, exactly the opposite is true. The rates for serious crimes targeted by Canada's new "tough on crime" policies are higher in the United States. The U.S. homicide rate is three times higher than Canada's and aggravated assaults are at twice the Canadian rate.

The United States now has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. As a result, it's home to more prisons than Wal-Marts, faces major overcrowding and has far less money left for education, health care and social services. The United States spends more than \$60-billion a year on correctional services. If every \$1-million spent on prisons was used for education and drug abuse programs, the crime reduction would be 15 times greater. Americans are starting to realize that keeping large numbers of offenders in prison is a very poor investment.

In 2005-06, the annual average cost of keeping an inmate in a Canadian penitentiary was \$88,067 a year. It costs substantially less to maintain an offender in the community: \$23,105 per year, with comparable or better outcomes.

The new "tough on crime" policies will require vastly increased prison capacity, for which the government has not yet put forward a budget. The estimated construction cost of a proposed "super jail" for 2,200 prisoners is at least \$640-million. Abolition of statutory release will require about 2,310 new cells, a construction cost of around \$924-million and annual maintenance costs of \$203-million. New prohibitions on using conditional sentences will result in as many as 6,000 more inmates a year, at a cost of \$400-million.

The money will come from taxpayers. Choices will have to be made.

Canada's health-care system and transportation infrastructure are in need of major investment. Anti-terrorism measures represent a large ongoing cost. Rising food and energy costs are posing new challenges to the economy. What will taxpayers have to sacrifice in order to build and maintain more prisons?

[Article published by the Globe and Mail on June 19th, 2008.](#)

On July 17th, Statistics Canada released the data for crime rates in Canada in 2007, showing a 7% drop in crime rate – continuing the downward trend since 1991. [Follow this link for more information.](#)

On July 19th, the Toronto Star launched its [Crime and Punishment Series](#) to examine whether or not spending more money on incarceration works. Journalist Sandro Contenta interviewed CCJC for an article published on the same date entitled "[Getting tough on crime is toughest on the taxpayer](#)". [Follow this link](#) to watch the first video of the series, which talks about Mandatory Minimum Sentences.

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The week Martha and Howard visited Ottawa

By Maristela Carrara

Martha, Howard and Skippy are plywood characters created by Stephen Goldsmith of the Urban Design Coalition in Salt Lake City, US. Stephen wanted to raise awareness about downtown problems and successes but, as many of us in the non-profit sector, lacked resources to invest in a large campaign. This is how Martha, Howard and their dog Skippy were born. They appeared in public in 1989 and did a great job at calling media and public attention to the issues they were discussing (taped dialogues played along with their display). They became the every-man-and-every-woman's voice when issues of public interest were discussed by the media.

This Spring, Martha, Howard and Skippy came to visit their Canadian cousins in Ottawa at CCJC's invitation. They had been following the American Criminal Justice policy and were shocked to learn that Canada is adopting many of the measures that their government implemented about 30 years ago – now proven to be a huge failure. They could not help but express their confusion about the Canadian [“tough on crime”](#) agenda while they were doing their sight-seeing visits to the Rideau Street, downtown market, Sparks Street, City Hall, and while they were waiting for their bus at Billings Bridge and Hurdman stations. They carried with them about 260 educational pamphlets, which were taken by curious pedestrians.

CCJC counted on the help of many volunteers to make this happen. From re-drawing Martha, Howard and Skippy to recording their voices, obtaining city-permits to display them, transporting and watching them at these busy places during rush hour. Without the dedication of our volunteers none of this would have happened. I was fortunate to be part of every step of the process and to be present when Martha, Howard and Skippy were making their surprise appearances in public. It was a very challenging but rewarding campaign!

The issues Martha and Howard were discussing were not very popular. Our American visitors were not talking about tax increases, gas prices, or such issues that clearly affect our lives and our pockets. They were talking about an issue that actually appears to be a non-issue – after all, don't we all want more safety, and isn't incarceration the way to get it? And that is how crime bills such as C-2 get passed, despite all the research that point to another direction, because public perception is not always guided by sound evidence. And while these problems seem too far from our daily lives to seem worthy of consideration, they do affect both our pockets and our level of safety – which in fact is pretty high in comparison to our Southern neighbours.

To be more specific, here is one example of what Martha and Howard had to say about some aspects of the new Canadian Crime Legislation that imitate failed American policies:

- Howard: I'm so glad we came to visit your cousin, Martha. It's good to come back to Canada. It's been too long.*
- Martha: Yes, Howard, it certainly has been. But, I heard that the government here is thinking of doing what we've been doing back home in the States as far as crime goes.*
- Howard: What do you mean?*
- Martha: You know, longer minimum sentences, harsher penalties, that sort of thing.*
- Howard: Yes, but that's going to make people safer isn't it, Martha?*
- Martha: Now, Howard, I don't know about that. I read the other day that the US has more people in prison than any other country in the world – even China!*
- Howard: Yeah, I saw that, too. In the States, we have more prisoners than farmers and more prisons than Walmarts!*
- Martha: But, our crime rates are still higher than in Europe and here in Canada, too. So, what does that mean?*
- Howard: Well, and remember when Governor Terminat...er...Schwarzenegger in California actually ordered a state of emergency because of prison overcrowding?*
- Martha: Yeah – and even sending that many people to prison didn't seem to keep people from going back to jail when they got out, either – 70% of them!*
- Howard: Maybe minimum sentences don't work to keep us safe. Haven't they found that it's the likelihood of getting caught that makes a difference? You know, policing? Not the sentence?*
- Martha: Well, all I know is that we've already begun to change our laws back in the US to get rid of mandatory sentences. I sure hope people here ask questions. Because if those types of policies don't actually work to keep people safe... well... it'd be a shame to repeat our mistakes.*
- Skippy: Woof!*
- Howard: Even Skippy agrees!*

Observing people passing by Howard, Martha and Skippy was quite interesting. Many looked puzzled at the odd display in the middle of the sidewalk, but not curious enough to stop and listen or take a pamphlet. Many who picked up a pamphlet quickly returned it after realizing the topic was criminal justice. Some stopped despite the fast pace, and stayed for a while to listen to what the plywood guys had to say. Others picked up a pamphlet and read on the way to their destination. One man even asked me if they were for sale! Many people noticed we were with Martha and Howard, and talked to us about what we were doing there. Mostly people who have been harmed by crime – they know exactly what we are talking about.

One of our volunteers commented: “I, for one, enjoyed my shift with MHS. Driving around in Lorraine's old VW camper van, unloading MHS outside a busy downtown department store, watching the reaction of the pedestrians as they passed by, the kids turning off the tape, people returning the brochures rather than throwing them away, the whole sense of public protest done in a creative way with a sense of humour. I am reminded of Saul Alinsky - a community organizer in the 60-70's adept at social protest - his actions were subversive, non-violent and always had a sense of fun and humour to make a point.”

I left with the impression that those who ignored the display are exactly those who need to read more about these issues. They probably think that criminal justice policy does not affect their lives - and as long as the “bad elements” are locked away, everything is good. It is incredible how people can fool themselves into believing that the “bad guys” simply disappear after they get caught and that putting more people in jail has no consequences to their pockets and safety. The link between gas prices and personal satisfaction seems to be way clearer than this.

I also wonder if the 260 people that picked up a pamphlet actually read it and gave it some thought. It would be too optimistic to think that they all did, but that’s what public education work is all about. It may take years for enough people to realize that what is sold as public safety is actually a failed policy - and that this is unacceptable and disrespectful towards the taxpayer. But someone has to take on the task. And we are so very grateful for the many organizations, professionals, academics, government workers and individuals who share this view and thus provide us with invaluable support every day.

This campaign was connected to a public forum sponsored by CCJC and the John Howard Society of Canada. To read more about the forum “Race to Imitate – Should Canada import failed U.S. criminal justice policies?” please visit our website at www.ccjc.ca – where you can watch the videotape of this event.

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Race to Imitate

An evening with Marc Mauer

By Stephanie Ehret

On May 6, 2008, Marc Mauer, executive director of the [The Sentencing Project](#) and author of “Race to Incarcerate” participated in a public interview conducted by CBC’s Michael Enright. About 160 people attended this event, which was co-sponsored by CCJC and the John Howard Society of Canada at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

To set the context for the evening, Craig Jones, the executive director of the John Howard Society, noted that the Canadian government has been moving to adopt many of the “get tough” policies promoted in the U.S. in recent decades. These initiatives include: the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug crimes, the end of statutory release, the national anti-drug strategy, and the prospect of penal ‘super’ complexes costing millions of dollars.

Throughout the evening Mauer cautioned that the experience with ‘get tough’ initiatives in the U.S. has been counterproductive with consequences reaching far beyond prison walls.

Regarding **privatization**, Mauer emphasized that we must ask whether a power of the state, a power to determine liberty and punishment, should ultimately be turned over to a profit-making institution. He also reminded us that these private institutions are not just promising that they will do it cheaper but they are accountable to their shareholders to make a profit.

Mauer also dispelled the myth that increased incarceration has resulted in lower crime rates, explaining that there is no direct connection between the two. Starting in the 1960s, the ‘get tough’ movement became more dominant with incarceration increasing and while it is true that in the 1980s and 90s the crime rates then started going down, the best estimate is that the rise in incarceration may have been responsible for about 25% of the decrease in crime in the 1990s. This means **at least 75% of the decrease in the crime rate had nothing to do with the increasing incarceration rate.**

In terms of **the media**, it is the sensational and the extreme cases which are reported in the evening news and seen on TV. In the course of an hour, what are the crimes that we see on many of the current crime shows? Typically we see a murder, a serious sexual assault, or an armed robbery or something like that. However, as Mauer noted, if TV shows reflected crime reality, you’d have about 150 shows about auto theft for every one about a murder.

How do we decide how much punishment is enough? The basic framework should be that we would use prison if no other option will guarantee public safety, to protect the public from people who present a real threat, or if no other punishment will express the will of the community. In the US, people are finally beginning to realize how much money is going into prisons. However, getting **beyond prisons** requires expanding opportunities to all people in society. So, how do we have a conversation about how to build a society where everyone matters? This needs to be explored in different ways. There are many places it could come from such as through restorative justice or from faith communities.

At the end of the evening, two thought-provoking questions were posed:

1) **If there were things that could be changed tomorrow in the justice and prison systems, what do you think they should be?**

Mauer replied that the approach on the war on drugs needs to shift so that more funds are spent on prevention rather than incarceration. Secondly, we need to get away from the mandatory sentencing policies where one-size-is-supposed-to-fit all so that we can return to letting judges be judges.

2) **How do we go about changing public attitudes about ‘getting tough’ on crime?**

Mauer answered that the ‘cost argument’ is one starting point. We need to ask whether we are making the best investments we can to produce public safety. As well, people are beginning to realize that there are few families that don’t have drug and/or alcohol issues. People are finally starting to make these kinds of connections. Lastly, we have to tell the stories. The ones that we’ve been told are of the relatively rare and extreme crimes. While these are real, there are also compelling stories about people losing years in mindless incarceration and stories of triumph where people have turned their lives around. Stories such as these should also be told.

Throughout the evening, Mauer emphasized the importance of remembering that prisoners are human beings. Even lifers, people who have done terrible things, are human beings. Imagine if every person could spend 2

hours inside a prison, we would have an entirely different conversation. Of course everyone can't spend 2 hours in a prison. But we can listen and learn from the stories of those who have been there.

“Race to imitate” was videotaped and is now available on [our website](#) – where you can also read articles on this event published by the Ottawa Citizen and Toronto Star.

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CCJC from the perspective of a new member

By Bob Russell

As a practicing Christian throughout my life, I recently had the pleasure & opportunity to attend CCJC's Annual General Meeting in May at St. Paul University in Ottawa. I am a new member of CCJC and I feel this is where I want to be at this stage in my life. Several influences within my life that have brought me to this crossroads include my early retirement from the Ontario Criminal Justice System & my current undertaking of a Diploma in Lay Studies at Wycliffe College. My long term goal is to work part-time in a role within Restorative Justice. In my 29 years with Ontario Corrections, I have seen the role of victims take on a greater importance within our justice process but still having a long way to go! In some ways, there appears to be a paradigm shift taking place here.

What impressed me the most during my three days at this A.G.M. was the great amount of work being undertaken by CCJC on behalf of its members. In fact, on the second day of this meeting were 21 persons that had a voice around a large Board Room Table. The President had a large agenda to work from but at the same time had to maintain department and limit interactions around the table regarding the numerous matters under discussion. One thing that caught my attention was how all of the different faith representatives appeared to set aside their faith practices to find common ground in dealing with all of the agenda items in a productive and cooperative manner. There was even an ex-offender at this meeting who made his presence known. His struggles with his past were apparent but his healing was shared in a positive way with others at our meeting. His ability to engage with others impressed me, but in my personal opinion he will go to his grave with his past despite having done his time under the law.

On the evening of May 6th I participated in an open forum with Marc Mauer, Executive Director of The Sentencing Project in Washington D.C. He was interviewed by a dynamic CBC radio personality on criminal policy in the U.S.A. The audience was made of criminal justice professionals, criminology students and members of the general public. Members of the audience were told not to follow in the footsteps of the U.S., which jails more of its citizens than anywhere else in the world. The current Canadian government has made crime fighting a major plank in its platform. The passage of the Tories Tacking Violent Crime Bill will result in more people behind bars for longer periods. A question & answer session following the presentation allowed for enlightened discussions between our audience and our guest speaker.

In reflection, what impressed me most about CCJC's AGM was the collaborative and productive approach that CCJC takes in its dealing with criminal justices matters. It's well earned reputation is now evident to me based on what I personally experienced during my three days in Ottawa. This NGO has been around for over thirty years and has had me start on a very positive footing as a new member. I am looking forward to hearing from CCJC on how my skills can be effectively used. I sense it will be a good fit for myself and will enjoy working with CCJC's various partners, staff and Board.

Mr. Robert Russell is a CCJC Member and a retired officer of the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services.

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Book review

Sawbonna: I See You. Dialogue of Hope (forthcoming)

By Margot Van Sluytman

Sluytman lives in Calgary, Alberta and she tells of this book being written because the man who murdered her Father in 1978 had read about an award she received for work creating and facilitating growth experiences through experiential workshops in the US and in Canada and contacted her. They have shared encounter with forgiveness and “Sawbonna: I See You. Dialogue of Hope” is a book about this experience. More information about Sluytman’s talks, presentations, and lectures, about what happened between her and Glen Flett is available at [The Sawbonna Project](#).

Howard Zehr, PhD has written in the Foreword:

“Ultimately, restorative justice is about values. Three key restorative values stand out for me: respect, responsibility and relationship. Margot’s remarkable story in Sawbonna: I See You. Dialogue of Hope, embodies all of these values. She speaks from the heart with clarity and eloquence, affirming her mantra that poetry is both art and healing. In doing so, she demonstrates once again the humanity of both those who have been harmed and those who have been the cause.”

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In the news

Tough on Crime / Higher prison costs

In an Ottawa Citizen article, Don Butler writes about findings by an expert on criminal sentencing, Marc Mauer, telling Canada that it is headed down a ‘discredited’ path by embracing U.S.-style tough-on-crime policies. [Click here](#) for the complete article.

In a May 7, 2008 article in The Guardian, it is argued that “Investing in prisons makes no economic sense” because it ignores the compelling business case for investing in social programs that would reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system in the first place, and returning once they have left it. [Click here](#) for the complete article.

“After a decade of heartache, and with her sons still serving time, Karen Garrison has a warning for Canada: ‘Be careful with these mandatory minimums -- the punishment doesn’t often fit the crime,’ she says. ‘It can destroy families.’” To read the complete National Post article entitled “Canada’s drug crime bill brings calls for caution from U.S.”, [click here](#).

Victims

“[Why me?](#)” is an UK Organization launched May 13, 2008, in the UK, by a crime victim who benefited so greatly from restorative justice that he wants it to be available for all crime victims. The victim, the offender and the Restorative Justice Consortium (UK’s national voice for Restorative Justice), are co-sponsoring “Why me?” which aims to raise awareness of Restorative Justice “through speaking to the media, giving talks, and providing our own real-life experiences as case studies showing the difference RJ makes,” said Will.

- [Click here](#) to view a video about Peter and Will’s story and learn more about “Why Me?”.

- In an article from The Sunday Times, Peter and Will tell of their impact restorative justice has had on their lives. [Click here](#) for the full article.

Human Rights

On May 21, 2008 the Correctional Investigator of Canada released a report entitled “A Failure to Respond”. The report into the October 2006 death of an inmate has found Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) staff failed to respond adequately to a medical emergency, allegations of discrimination toward a First Nation offender who died, inaccurate communications about the incident, and excessive delays in the investigative process. [Click here](#) to view the report.

In May 2008, Amnesty International released its report for 2008 on the “State of the World’s Human Rights”. Canada did poorly. Among the list of concerns, Amnesty International highlighted the use of the use of electro-shock weapons by police in Canada. [Click here](#) to read the Canada.com article entitled “Amnesty criticizes range of Canadian policies”.

- To read the full report by Amnesty International, [click here](#).

Restorative Justice

In an interview for “A Human Future”, Danny Graham states that “The allure of our retributive, punitive system is strong...” and speaks of “the disconnect between what people perceive they want in the punitive retributive criminal justice system and what could happen if they asked their questions in a different way.” [Click here](#) for the full article (Vol. 7, No. 2 - 2008).

NY Faith & Justice, a rising movement of diverse churches, faith organizations and individuals dedicated to addressing poverty-related injustice is calling on New York Police Commissioners to endorse the Conversations for Change project and, in addition, to mount a city-wide truth commission on police-related violence. [Click here](#) to read more.

Youth Justice

In a narrow 5 - 4 ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada decided that it is the responsibility of the Crown to prove young offenders convicted of violent crimes should be sentenced as adults. Before the ruling, the onus rested on teens to prove they should be dealt with as minors. This ruling means minors have a constitutional right to be treated differently from adults.

- For more information about the court ruling, [click here](#) to read the May 16, 2008 CTV News article.
- According to a May 20, 2008 article in The Gazette, the law-and-order agenda took a direct hit and this ruling comes at a good time. [Click here](#) to read more.

In an article for The Times entitled “Youth Crime: no, prison doesn’t work”, Magnus Linklater argues that to find tough solutions for tough crime problems, the best place to start is in tough cities. He notes that in these cities, prisons are viewed to simply ‘breed’ the next generation of criminals and benefits of addressing youth crime in the community are lauded. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Mental Health

In a Times & Transcript article entitled “Jail isn't the answer to mental health problems”, states that our prisons have become defacto asylums because jails and prisons are currently the only institutions that cannot say "our beds are full" or "you don't fit within our mandate.” [Click here](#) for the complete article.

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Upcoming Events

ICOPA XII - Creating a scandal – prison abolition and the policy agenda

July 23, 24 & 25 2008

Kings College, London

[Click here for more details](#)

Sisters In Spirit Justice Community Awareness Workshops

Workshops in the following cities are being offered!

- Halifax, Nova Scotia – September 9, 2008
- Thunder Bay, Ontario – September 11, 2008
- Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – October 17, 2008
- Regina, Saskatchewan – October 21, 2008

[Click here for more details](#)

"Restoring Community in a Disconnected World"

The 11th World Conference of the International Institute for Restorative Practices

Toronto, October 22-24, 2008

For more information: www.iirp.org/on08

Restorative Justice Week 2008

November 16 to 23, 2008

["Fostering a Restorative Worldview"](#)

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SPECIAL NOTE

About Hans Mohr - How can CCJC re-member

By Lorraine Berzins

Many in the CCJC 'family' will be saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of long-term Member and Past-president, Hans Mohr. Hans was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer on April 4th and passed away one week later on April 11th 2008. Hans was a very important mentor to CCJC who marked and shaped it profoundly. CCJC was founded by people of faith who also understood very well how our criminal justice system works; and what it is about the way it works that is very damaging to community life and Canadian society. Hans Mohr became one of its greatest leaders in that regard.

He was a member of Canada's Law Reform Commission of that time. It was after his term at the Law Commission had been completed that he was appointed Member of CCJC by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, moving on to serve as President in the 1980's. Hans volunteered tirelessly with us to put his in depth knowledge of the law at our service in terms of policy analysis for responses to legislative proposals and educational development. And he gave many hours of his personal time to reflect with us on the issues and help us 'wake up' and have the courage to 'declare ourselves' in matters of our own moral responsibility about the harm crime, and our criminal justice system, can do.

Hans also realized that his own faith tradition has had some negative influence in fostering a culture of justice and legal institutions that have been steeped in retribution, in ways that have worked to further marginalize often some of the most vulnerable citizens of our communities. As a coalition that has been mandated to assist Christian churches to reflect upon this, he urged us often to call our own constituency to conscience, to help undo this harm that has been done. He believed our most important work was to equip faith community members

to reach out to each other to help change the conditions that produce crime and to work towards the healing that needs to be done when individuals and communities are damaged by criminal activity. He continually reminded us that what is needed is a change of heart and mind, more than a change in any law. He did believe, however, that it was important to challenge any law that worked against that. But he considered that our finest contribution was when we produced educational resources like Fire in the Rose, Churches Exploring Abuse and Healing- the rest, he believed, was just 'damage control'.

Hans believed new experiences await him now... in his words in his last week “*all possibilities are now possible*”. In his last letter to me he had written “*I have withdrawn to figure out why the ideas I still believe to be valid have been so submerged. ...There is a war against ‘evil’ as if we had a sound notion of the good. I have been struck by Hannah Arendt’s ‘The Banality of Evil’ when observing Eichmann in Jerusalem. What strikes me now is rather ‘The Evil of Banality’ when I follow through the various controversies*”. Hans was a very special mentor not only to CCJC but to a whole generation of justice seekers working in and around the criminal justice system. He had a profound influence on many leading justice thinkers of his time. With his own unique style of sparring and probing, riddles and signature one-liners, he invited us to think critically, to dig past our lazy assumptions about ourselves and about our interactions with each other.

We who remain feel a sense of responsibility to carry on the torch... but how? We are pondering how best to both celebrate and spread his life and work beyond his passing so that what we have been privileged to learn about seeking justice is not lost for too long to future generations.

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Get in touch with CCJC

Your comments and suggestions are most welcome! Please send us news and articles you would like to see shared in this newsletter. To get in touch with the CCJC, please contact Maristela Carrara at mcarrara@ccjc.ca or 613-563-1688 x4.

We are located at 507 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1Z5.

CCJC welcomes donations and new memberships, and we can issue you a charitable tax receipt. To make a donation online, please use CanadaHelps.org. If you prefer to send your donation by mail or to become a member, please use [this form](#).

P.S.: We are looking for volunteer translators!

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