It gives me great pleasure to call upon all Mayors, Chiefs, Reeves, Councillors and community leaders from across Canada to proclaim Restorative Justice Week 2013. The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has been an active partner in the restorative justice (RJ) community for more than a decade and has been proud to provide leadership to the annual celebration since 1996.

Restorative Justice Week 2013 will be held in Canada, and throughout the world, from November 17-24 for the purpose of sharing the concrete learning and results that have come from the growing experience of practitioners and stakeholders in the application of a RJ approach and related processes.

The theme this year is "Inspiring Innovation". RJ is a philosophy and an approach that views crime and conflict as harm done to people and relationships. It is a non-adversarial, non-retributive approach to justice that emphasizes healing in victims, accountability of offenders, and the involvement of citizens in creating healthier, safer communities.

Inspiring Innovation encourages us to share and draw from leading edge examples of RJ as an inspired approach to justice. In addition to showcasing the field’s achievements, the hope is that the theme will motivate those working in RJ to seek novel ways to contribute further to this valuable work by through new technologies, resourcing options, service models, etc.

Municipal recognition of Restorative Justice Week increases from year to year. In 2012, 273 municipalities across Canada proclaimed Restorative Justice Week, representing 19.64% of the Canadian population. Restorative Justice Week was also celebrated in over 20 other countries. This year, with your support, we hope to build on this success. Here are some ideas of what you could do as leaders in your community:

- proclaim Restorative Justice Week 2013. Included with this letter is a copy of the proclamation;
- host a town hall meeting to promote and raise awareness about how RJ is expressed in your communities;
- challenge your community partners to create a local planning committee for Restorative Justice Week 2013 activities;
- invite a guest speaker from your community, who is involved in RJ, to share their perspectives.

For more information on Restorative Justice Week 2013 events and available resources, visit CSC’s Restorative Justice Division website at www.csc-scc.gc.ca/restorative-justice/index-eng.shtml.

Please send a copy of your signed proclamation or the minutes of the meeting proclaiming Restorative Justice Week 2013, as well as your contact information, by email to restorativejustice@csc-scc.gc.ca or by fax to 613-943-2171.

Note: If policy precludes your jurisdiction from proclaiming events, please advise as this information is collected annually for statistical purposes.

Don Head
Commissioner
WHEREAS, in the face of crime or conflict, restorative justice offers a philosophy and approach that views these matters principally as harm done to people and relationships; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice is a non-adversarial, non-retributive approach to justice that emphasizes healing in victims, accountability of offenders, and the involvement of citizens in creating healthier, safer communities.

WHEREAS, this year's theme for Restorative Justice Week is "Inspiring Innovation", it is an opportunity to learn about restorative justice, educate and celebrate along with other communities across the country during the week.

THEREFORE, I, ________________________________, do hereby

proclaim November 17 - November 24, 2013 as Restorative Justice Week in the

_________________________ of __________________________

(type of municipality) (name of municipality)