



Alberta Court of Justice

St. Paul Indigenous Court Healing to Wellness (Edmonton Region) Practice Note

Effective: February 27, 2024

The St. Paul Indigenous Court also known as the Healing to Wellness Court (HTWC) was established in 2023 to provide a culturally relevant, restorative, and holistic system of justice for Indigenous individuals, including offenders, victims and the community harmed by an offender's actions. The HTWC is a response to the unique challenges and circumstances of the Indigenous people. It seeks to address the issue of over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system and is a step forward in implementing recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as well as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls National Inquiry (MMIWG) Report.

The HTWC focuses on a restorative justice approach to crime through peacemaking and connecting accused people to their cultures and communities. Subject to some exceptions, the HTWC will deal with all offences approved by the Crown for referral to the Court. Currently offences involving sexual violence, homicide, aggravated assault, and robbery are not eligible for referral to the Court.

The HTWC will consider individuals at either the pre-plea or post plea stage of a proceeding. Healing Plans will be developed engaging Indigenous community support agencies to assist in reintegrating offenders into the community, and, where appropriate, also encourage offenders to learn about and reconnect with their Indigenous heritage. A ceremony may be held in the HTWC to acknowledge the successful completion of the Healing Plan.

The HTWC sits the Second and Fourth Friday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 002 of the St. Paul Court House.

The HTWC utilizes dedicated Justices who are either Indigenous or experienced in Indigenous Restorative Justice, a designated Crown Prosecutor, designated duty counsel and Indigenous Legal Counsel, Restorative Justice Peacemakers, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous Court Workers, and community support agencies.