

Questions?



There is a problem. First Nation's people living in Reserve communities are being excluded from sitting on juries.

This is a problem because juries are supposed to be chosen from all of the available adults in Ontario.

Frank Iacobucci, a retired judge from the Supreme Court of Canada, has been asked to study the problem and is coming to talk with you in your community. But first, it is important that we talk together.

What is a jury's job?

When a person is accused of a serious crime, they get to choose between a trial with a judge or trial with a jury. Also juries are used in lawsuits and Coroners Inquests about deaths in the community.

In a criminal case, if a person accused of a crime picks a trial with a jury, 12 people from the community are chosen to come to court. They sit in court and listen to all of the facts.

When they have heard the whole story, the 12 people talk until they all agree on whether the person is responsible for the crime or not.

Why are First Nations people living in Reserve communities being excluded from juries?

This is because the court workers who ask people to be on juries do not know the names of people living in Reserve communities. NAN has shown that the court workers have not tried hard enough to make sure that First Nations people are picked as jurors.

The federal government used to give the court worker the names of people living in Reserve communities. But ten years ago they stopped. Now the court needs a new way of collecting the names so that people can be asked to be on juries.

Why does any of this matter to me?

You have the right to sit on a jury, just as you have the right to vote.

There are lots of reasons why you might not want to – as the justice system has not been fair to First Nations people.

There are also lots of reasons why it is a good idea for you to sit on juries. Juries work best when they have many different people who have had many different experiences. If there are no First Nations people living in Reserve communities, then certain ideas and views will be missing.

Either way, we now have the chance to talk about what has gone wrong in the past, and to make the justice system work for First Nations people in the future.



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COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**First Nations People
and
Juries**

Thank you

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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