

## WEST CENTRAL ALBERTA JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

#### *Applicant requirements:*

- *Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age*
- *Must live within the area serviced by the Rocky Mountain House RCMP detachment*
- *Undergo a RCMP and Social Services record search and clearance process*
- *Attendance at committee meetings*
- *Attendance at training sessions*
- *Possess or willing to learn effective communication skills*
- *Commit to confidentiality agreement*
- *Have strong desire to create and serve a safe and caring community*

*To request information, or an*

Members of the West Central Alberta Justice Committee (WCAJC) work with the RCMP, Crown Prosecutor and Probation Office to offer an alternative to the traditional justice system for individuals who have been impacted by crimes committed in Rocky Mountain House and surrounding area.

Instead of simply punishing individuals who have committed a crime, the WCAJC gives individuals who are in trouble with the law the opportunity to:

- Take responsibility for their behavior
- Understand the full impact of their action on others, and
- Repair the harm done to their victims

Justice Committees offer the following confidential alternatives to the court process:

1. Panel hearings – Members of the Justice Committee meet with the offender, victim(s), and support persons to review the circumstances of the crime and decide what the offender will do to repair the harm. If the offender is successful in performing the tasks outlined in a written agreement, he/she will not have a criminal record as a result of this crime. If they do not do what they have promised they are usually sent back to the traditional justice system.
2. Victim – Offender Mediation. When there is a relationship between the victim and the offender the parties meet in the presence of a mediator,

discuss the circumstances of the crime and its impact on the individuals involved. Once the individuals feel understood, they come to a mutual agreement as to how the offender will make amends for the crime. The goal of this process is to not only repair the harm done to the victim but also repair the damage done to the relationship.

