

# SPIRITUAL HEALING LODGE

The Men's Spiritual Healing Lodge has the capacity to house 30 men that are low risk federal offenders. Correctional Service Canada (CSC) Section 81 & Section 84 Offenders are housed at the Healing Lodge.

## SECTION 81

- a. facilitate the care and custody of an offender in an Aboriginal community where such services predominately address the rehabilitation of offenders through culture, spirituality and traditions of the community;
- b. to provide, services and benefits in a culturally-sensitive manner, which will assist the Aboriginal offender to become a law-abiding citizen; and
- c. Facilitate the development of skills on accessing the broader Aboriginal social and community services network that support the reintegration of an offender, who would benefit from these specialized services.

## SECTION 84

### *Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA)*

Section 84 is a right under the law. The Corrections and Conditional Release Act states ...

"Where an inmate who is applying for parole has expressed an interest in being released to an Aboriginal community, the service shall, if the inmate consents, give the Aboriginal community

- a. adequate notice if the inmates parole application; and
- b. an opportunity to propose a plan for the inmate's release to the Aboriginal Community"

The Men's Spiritual Healing Lodge re-opened in December 2013 and received their first relatives in May of 2014. In November 2014, the Lodge has been filled to capacity.

- To date, the Healing Lodge is at capacity (12) with federal "relatives"

- Elders from all four sectors provide guidance and share their knowledge
- Drum, Rattle making and tanning hides when hides are available
- Relatives attend various weekly programs in Prince Albert such as AA, NA and Church.
- Relatives are paid for doing jobs such as cooking and cleaning, maintenance etc. around the Lodge and are expected to keep all areas including their room neat and tidy at all times
- Relatives can apply for Escorted Temporary Absences (ETA) for Personal Development, Community Service, Family Contact, etc.
- Unescorted Temporary Absences (UTA) are decided by the Parole Board of Canada and there are no exceptions

*"There has been some measurable progress in Aboriginal federal corrections in the past few years and some of the early results are very encouraging. For example, in 1998 the Research Branch determined that Aboriginal Healing Lodges were reporting a re-offence rate of 6% for Aboriginal offenders completing their sentence at a healing lodge. When compared to the national rate of 11% for all offenders in CSC, it is indeed a positive sign."*

*Correctional Service Canada*

