

“Alternative Measures” What is it?

The Alternatives Measures Program is a way to address crime in conjunction with the present criminal justice system.

This Program addresses the criminal actions of the accused while preserving their dignity and requiring them to be accountable for their behaviour. It attempts to make things right by taking a problem solving approach to crime, which emphasizes forgiveness and healing while helping to repair relationships between the victim, the accused and the community.

This is consistent with the move towards a responsive system that tries to deal with criminal behaviour in a proactive manner.



How does the program work?

The police will usually make a recommendation to the Crown Prosecutor if they feel the offender is a candidate for the Alternative Measures Program.

If, in the opinion of the Crown Prosecutor, the program would be an appropriate way for the offender to be held accountable for his or her behaviour, they may be referred to the program.

A person who is referred to, and chooses to participate in, the Alternatives Measures Program must admit responsibility for the offense. A meeting is then arranged between the victim, the offender & community members. Each is given an opportunity to express their thoughts & feelings with respect to the offense. With the assistance of the Facilitator, all parties come to an agreement which they believe is fair.

The agreement could involve the offender doing volunteer work for the victim or the community, paying the victim for the damage caused, attending counseling, or any other activities acceptable to all parties.

This process often leads to the restoration of harmony between the victim and the offender.

“Making a Difference”

Within the Melfort & District Community Justice Committee, the following statistics are offered on 2007-2008 Alternative Measures Referrals.

33 Referrals in total.

These offences included: theft, possession of stolen property, mischief, causing a disturbance, possession of narcotics, forgery & careless use of firearms.

Through mediation, the following occurred:

Three letters of apology

35 hours of community service

\$650 donated to D.A.R.E.

\$400 in restitution paid to victims

\$450 donation to Melfort Wildlife Association

Five instances where mediation did not work and cases were returned to court.

16 Youth Cases:

These offenses included: theft, mischief, assault, possession of stolen property & forgery.

Through mediation the following occurred:

10 letters of apology

\$1180 in restitution paid to victims

15 hours of personal service work for a victim

One essay

One instance where mediation did not work and the case was returned to court.



Who are the members
of the Melfort &
District Community
Justice Committee?

This committee consists of
representatives from the following
groups:

- City of Melfort
- Community members at large
- Ministry of Social Services
- Melfort & District Chamber of
Commerce
- Melfort & Naicam RCMP
Detachments
- MUCC Youth
- North East School Division
- Ministry of Corrections &
Public Safety
- Ministry of Justice
- Seniors
- Town of Kinistino
- Town of Naicam
- Town of Star City
- Town of St. Brieux

**CONTACT
INFORMATION:**

Melfort & Naicam RCMP
Detachments
752-6420

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**MELFORT &
DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
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COMMITTEE**

