

YSB Youth Justice Services

Every young person has the potential to make choices—and sometimes those choices lead to conflict with the law. Working with a number of community partners, the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB) provides support **to youth aged 12 to 20** in the justice system with programs that promote positive behavioural change.

Rehabilitation: Facilities geared to young people

YSB helps youth by providing facilities that are geared for **young offenders aged 12 to 17**. Innovative programming and counselling are offered at two residential facilities: the William E. Hay Centre and the Livius Sherwood Observation and Detention Centre.

Both centres provide pre- and post-trial detention. Life skills training and educational options—from social skills to high school credit courses, from drug awareness to vocational courses—provide youth with the practical skills and knowledge needed in everyday life. The **Tamarack Trades Training Centre** provides training and skills development in the trades for at-risk youth.

Mental Health Support

Mental illness is a reality faced by many young offenders. The Youth Mental Health Court Worker program aims to identify and recommend alternatives for youth whose primary issues are related to mental health, not criminal behavior. YSB also provides an **Anger Management program**, working with youth to understand and address the links between anger and action, which can sometimes lead to conflict with the law. The program helps youth to develop new skills and re-build self-esteem.

Community Re-integration

The goal of the Community Re-integration program is to reduce recidivism by addressing underlying causes. Through counselling, youth in custody can begin to recognize the connections between behaviour and consequence. If they are able to observe their own behaviour and understand how they got to where they are, they are better equipped to build healthy relationships with others and focus on the future.

Media contact:

Suzanne Fraser, communications manager
613-729-0577 x 1206
sfraser@ysb.ca