



PROVINCIAL COURT OF SASKATCHEWAN

NEWS RELEASE

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REGINA DRUG TREATMENT COURT CELEBRATES HUNDREDTH GRADUATE

After nearly 14 years of helping participants get back on their feet, the Regina Drug Treatment Court is celebrating its hundredth graduate on June 30.

“It’s a milestone,” said Judge Pat Reis, who currently sits in the court. “It is very encouraging to know that our program is working and having the successes that we’re having. To have four graduates, especially with the epidemic of drug abuse taking place in Regina and with the COVID-19 pandemic, is very encouraging to me.”

The Regina Drug Treatment Court is a collaborative partnership between the federal Department of Justice and the provincial Ministries of Justice and Health, along with a number of other partnering agencies and institutions.

“Congratulations to the Regina Drug Treatment Court on achieving one hundred graduates,” Minister of Justice and Attorney General Don Morgan said. “Through the hard work and dedication of staff and participants, the Drug Treatment Court is changing lives and making a difference in our communities.”

The Court is a voluntary program where participants begin by pleading guilty to the crimes they are accused of before entering an intensive treatment program that includes spending hundreds of hours in programming and counselling, being demonstrably clean for at least three months and finding employment or continuing studies.

“Its purpose is to break the cycle of addiction and crime by offering treatment,” said Judge Cliff Toth, who helped to start the Regina Drug Treatment Court and was the first to sit as judge in it. “Treatment courts address the major social issues that bring people before the courts – addiction, mental illness and domestic violence – and offer treatment rather than incarceration.”

The Regina Drug Treatment Court’s legacy is its graduates, many of whom meet regularly to encourage both fellow graduates and current participants in their journey towards recovery from drug addiction and avoiding criminal activity.

“What the Drug Treatment Court allows us to do is slow the system down and help each person individually,” said Judge Reis. “We have a bright future, we’re having successes, and we have a good treatment team in place.”

“We think the court can make a real difference in people’s lives.”

The Regina Drug Treatment Court runs every Tuesday.

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