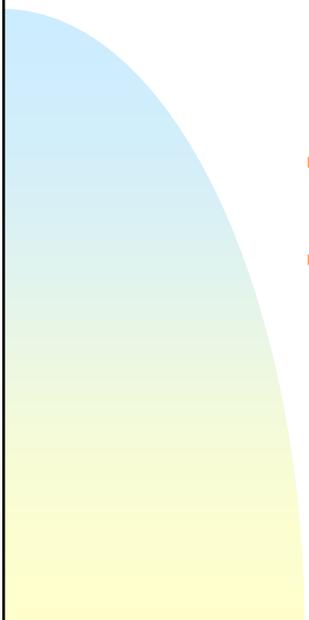


## Drug Treatment Courts

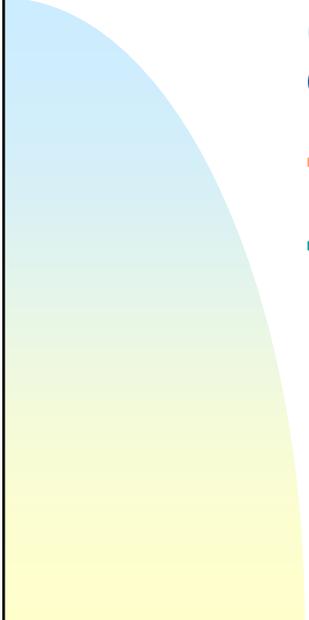
Drug Treatment Courts in  
Canada: Lessons from the  
Toronto and Vancouver  
Experiences

October 27, 2006



## Drug Abuse

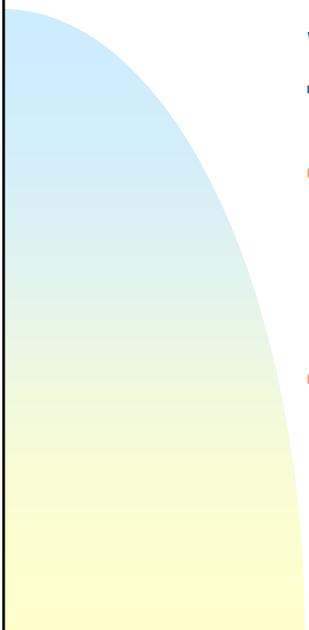
- a social, health, economic and criminal justice problem
- global in nature



## Drug abuse is a global, social and economic problem

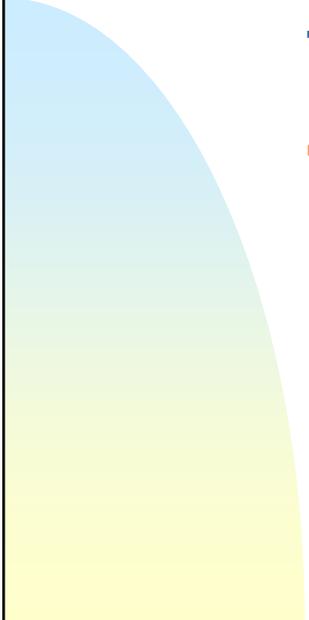
- 3-4 percent of world population consumes illegal substances regularly\*
- Over 140 million people use cannabis, 30 million amphetamines-type stimulants such as ecstasy, and 21-million use heroin and cocaine.\*

\* "United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNDCP) World Drug Report", 1997, pp 29 – 32, Oxford Press



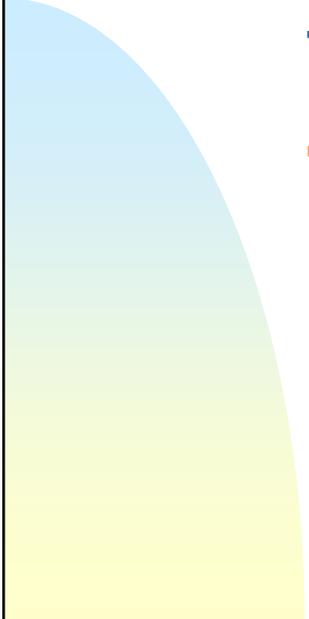
## What Are Drug Treatment Courts?

- Courts specifically designed to supervise cases of drug dependant offenders who have agreed to accept treatment for their substance abuse.
- They combine the traditional processes of the justice system with the treatment community



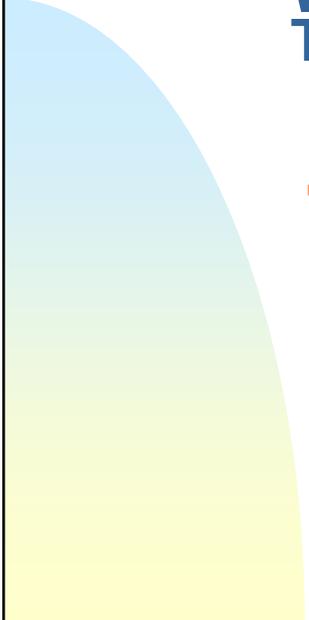
## What are Drug Treatment Courts?

- The objective of Drug Treatment Courts is to reduce substance abuse, crime and recidivism through the rehabilitation of persons who commit crimes to support their substance dependency



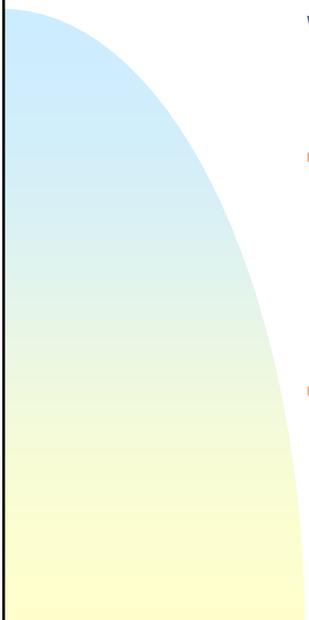
## What are Drug Treatment Courts?

- Drug Treatment Courts provide the focus and leadership for community wide, anti-drug systems, bringing together criminal justice, treatment, education and other community based partners in the reduction of substance dependency, abuse criminality and related harm



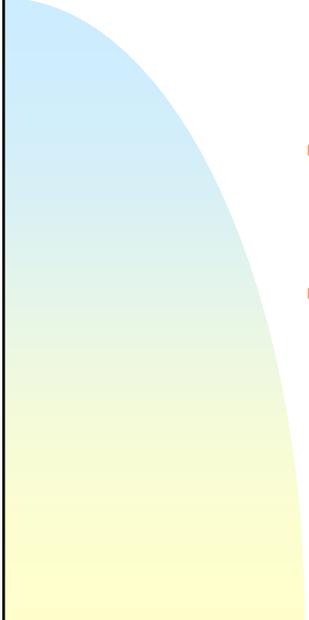
## What are Drug Treatment Courts?

- Drug Treatment Courts have the responsibility to handle cases involving the drug using offender through a system involving comprehensive supervision, mandatory drug testing, treatment services (and other therapeutic interventions) and immediate sanctions and incentives



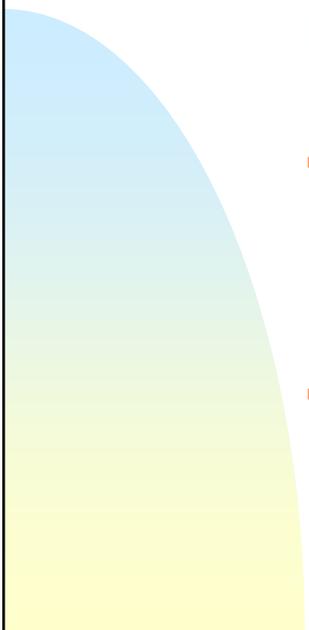
## Why did DTCs develop?

- Experience has shown the treatment systems and criminal justice systems operating independently have been ineffective in dealing with certain types of offenders who commit crime to support their drug addiction.
- The marriage of the justice and treatment communities can better deal with drug abuse by criminal offenders than either treatment or the courts alone.



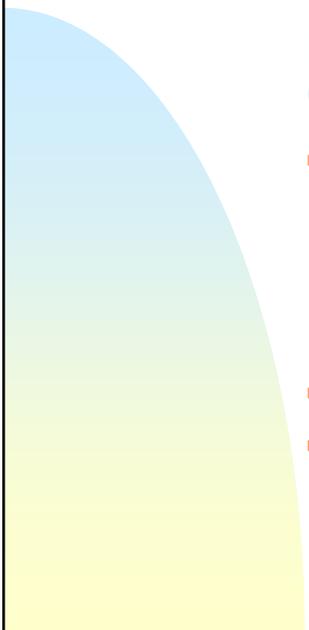
## An International Phenomenon

- The first DTC developed in Miami in 1989. Today there are over 1000 DTCs in the United States
- There are now DTCs in several countries including Canada, Australia, Scotland, Ireland, Bermuda, Jamaica and Brazil



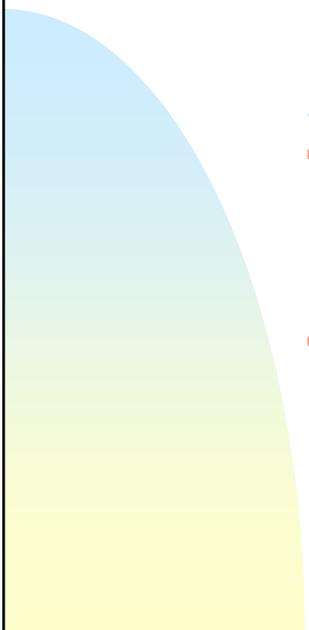
## DTCs in Canada

- There are currently six DTCs in Canada with dedicated program funding: Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Regina, Edmonton and Winnipeg
- There are two other DTCs without dedicated program funding: Saint Johns and Oshawa



## Do Drug Treatment Courts Work?(DTC)

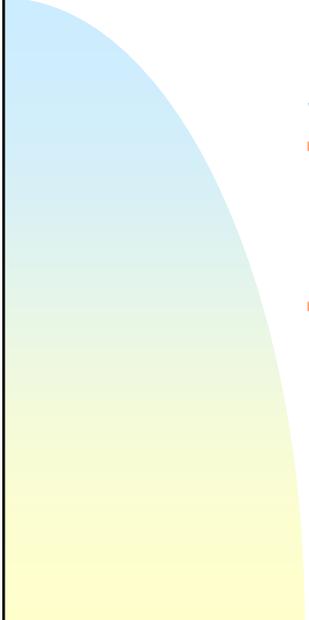
- Evaluations in various jurisdictions show DTCs are effective in reducing ongoing drug dependency and criminal behaviour
- cost effective compared with prison
- not a 'soft option'...close monitoring



## Drug Treatment Courts Decrease Criminal Recidivism – United States\*

- Only 16.4% of a nation wide sample of 17, 000 drug treatment court graduates were rearrested and charged with a felony offence.
- Chester County, Pennsylvania Drug Treatment Court - 5.4% of Drug Treatment Court graduates rearrested versus 21.5% rearrested in the control group.

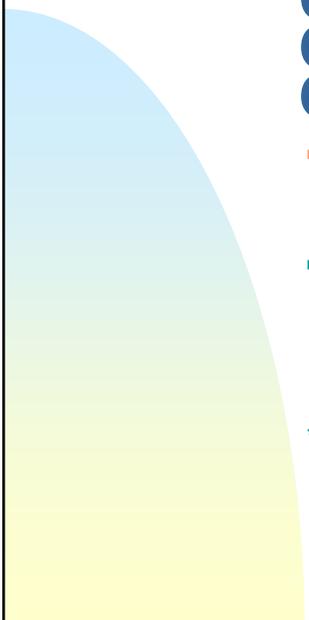
\*\*Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and other Problem Solving Courts in the United States", Huddleston, Freeman-Wilson, Boone, May 2004, National Drug Institute. p.1-2



## Drug Treatment Courts Decrease Criminal Recidivism – United States\*

- Dade County Florida Drug Treatment Court – 33% of Drug Treatment Court graduates rearrested versus 48% in the control group.
- Dallas, Texas - 15.6% rearrest rate for Drug Treatment Court graduates versus 48.7% rearrest rate for the control group.

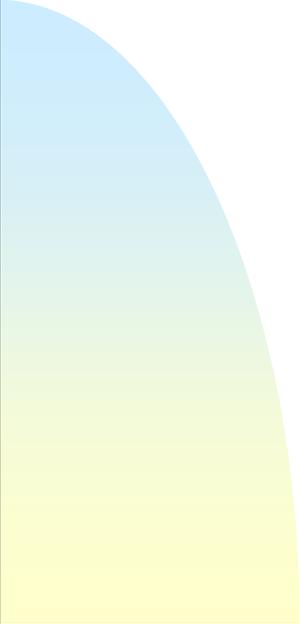
\*\*Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and other Problem Solving Courts in the United States, Huddleston, Freeman-Wilson, Boone, May 2004, National Drug Institute". p.1-2



## Drug Treatment Courts Decrease Criminal Recidivism – Canada\*

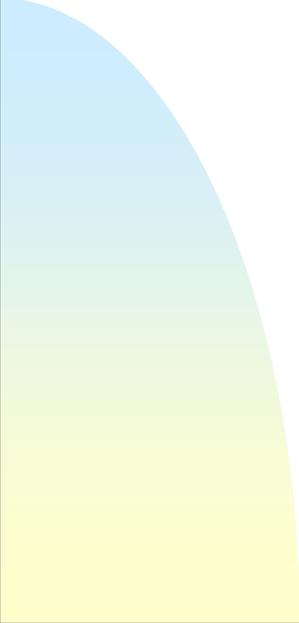
- 95.5% of drug treatment court graduates attribute the cessation of their criminal activity to participation in the program.
- 59.5% of participants who were unable to complete the drug treatment court program attribute the reduction of their criminal activity to their participation in the program.

\*\*"Toronto Drug Treatment Court Evaluation Project, Interim Evaluation Report, Executive Summary", Gliksman, Newton-Taylor, Greenaway, Patra, Samant, December, 2003 p.1



## Drug Treatment Courts Save Money

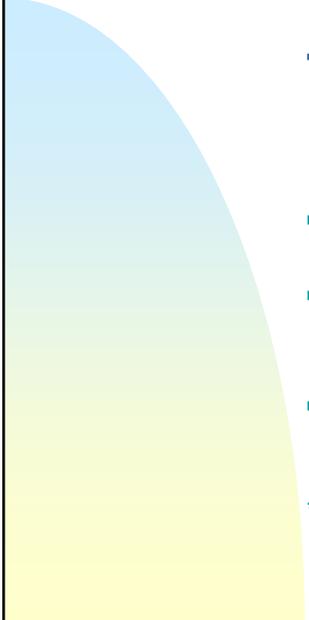
- The recurring nature of criminal behavior among drug addicted offenders typically results in significant criminal justice, health care, economic and social costs.
- A number of studies have been published that indicate that Drug Treatment Court programs can save tax payers money.



## Cost savings studies – United States\*

- 254 million saved in incarceration costs by diverting 18,000 non violent drug offenders into treatment
- 18 million is saved per year in the State of California as result of the operation of California's Drug Treatment Courts
- For every dollar spent on Drug Treatment Court in Dallas, Texas, 9.45 dollars was saved over a forty-month period.

\*“Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and other Problem Solving Courts in the United States”, Huddleston, Freeman-Wilson, Boone, May 2004, National Drug Institute.p.4

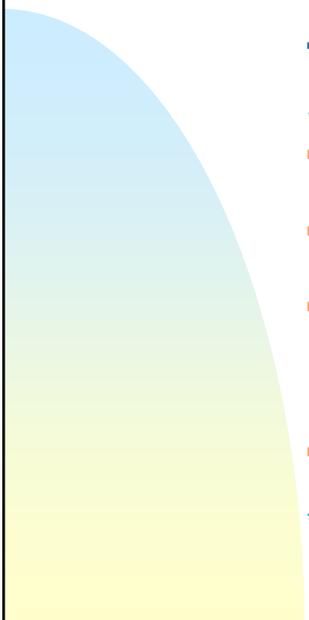


## Drug Treatment Courts Increase Retention In Treatment\*

Four national studies in the United States (1968 – 1995) concluded:

- Time spent in treatment is a reliable predictor of post treatment performance
- Beyond 90 days in treatment outcomes improved in direct relation to length of time spent in treatment
- Twelve months duration generally found to be the minimum amount required for effective treatment.

\* “Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and other Problem Solving Courts in the United States”, Huddleston, Freeman-Wilson, Boone, May 2004, National Drug Institute.p.4



## Drug Treatment Courts Increase Retention In Treatment – United States\*

- 40 – 80% of drug treatment clients drop out of treatment within the first 90days
- 80-90% drop out of treatment within the first twelve months
- Between 67 and 71 percent of drug treatment court participants, nation wide, complete the drug treatment court program in twelve or more months
- This represents a six-fold increase over previous efforts.

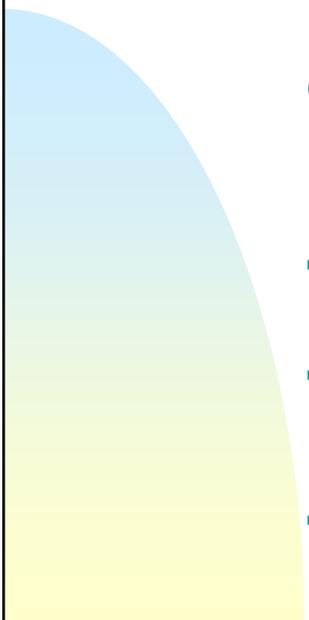
\*”Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and other Problem Solving Courts in the United States”, Huddleston, Freeman-Wilson, Boone, May 2004, National Drug Institute.p.4



## Drug Treatment Courts Increase Retention In Treatment – Canada\*

- At one month or less retention – 25.3%
- At 2 months: retention – 32.7%
- At 3 months: retention – 38.7%
- At 5 months: retention – 40%

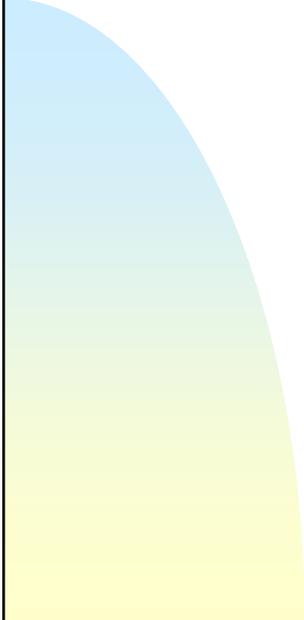
\*"Toronto Drug Treatment Court Evaluation Project, Interim Evaluation Report, Executive Summary", Glikzman, Newton-Taylor, Greenaway, Patra, Samant, December, 2003 p.4,9



## Drug Treatment Courts reduces or eliminates drug use\*

Results of a Canadian study of Toronto Drug Treatment Court participants reported:

- Drug use in most drug treatment participants decreases whilst in the program.
- 95.8% of drug treatment court graduates attribute their elimination of substance abuse to the drug treatment court program.
- 59.5% of drug treatment participants who were unable to complete the program attribute the reduction in their substance abuse to the program.

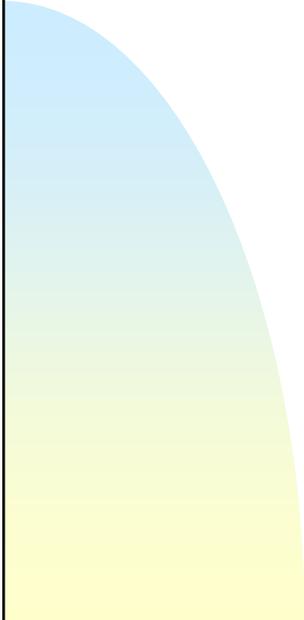


## Drug Treatment Courts increase the overall well being of participants\*

Canadian study of Toronto Drug Treatment Court participants:

- Drug Treatment court participants displayed significant overall improvements in physical and general well being, improved social stability and decreased substance abuse.
- 95.7% of Drug Treatment Court graduates say participation in the program *improved their lives*.

■ \*Toronto Drug Treatment Court Evaluation Project, Interim Evaluation Report, Executive Summary", Gliksmann, Newton-Taylor Greenaway, Patra, Samant, December, 2003 p.9

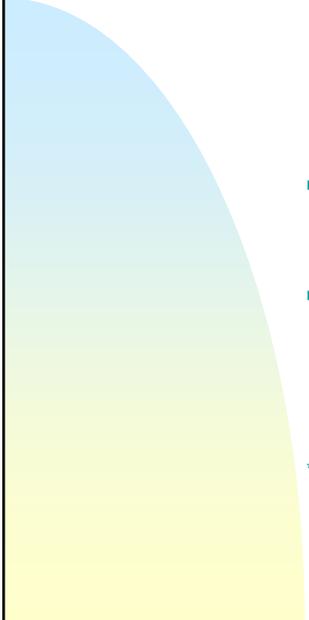


## Drug Treatment Courts increase the overall well being of participants\*

Toronto study continued:

- 61.4% of Drug Treatment Court participants who did not complete the program say the program *improved their lives*.

\*Toronto Drug Treatment Court Evaluation Project, Interim Evaluation Report, Executive Summary", Gliksmann, Greenaway, Newton-Taylor, Patra, Samant, December, 2003 p.9

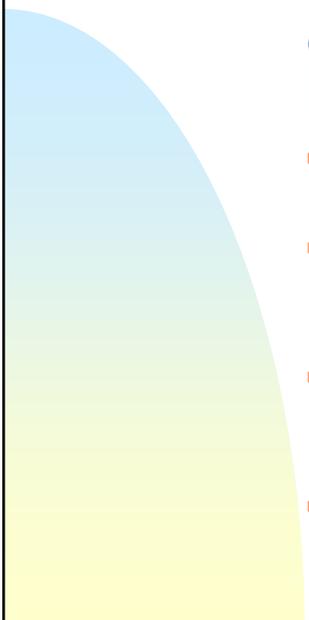


## Drug Treatment Courts helps drug addicts stay in treatment\*

Canadian Study continued:

- 95.7% of Drug Treatment Court graduates say participation in the program helped them stay in treatment.
- 77.3% of Drug Treatment Court participants who did not complete the program say the program helped them stay in treatment.

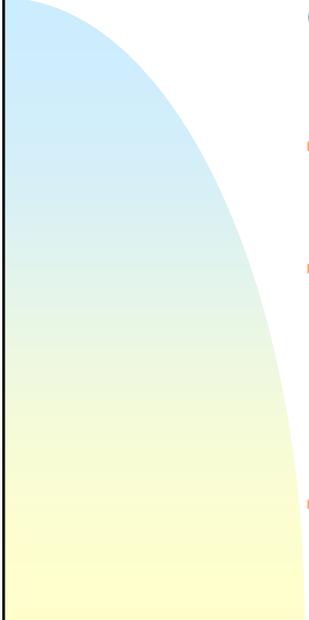
\* "Toronto Drug Treatment Court Evaluation Project, Interim Evaluation Report, Executive Summary", Gliksman, Newton-Taylor, Greenaway, Patra, Samant, December, 2003 p.9



## Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver Results\*

- Reduction in drug use and reduction in criminal behavior
- Decline in such behavior increased the longer the participant stayed in treatment.
- Frequency of new charges declined as the length of program participation increased

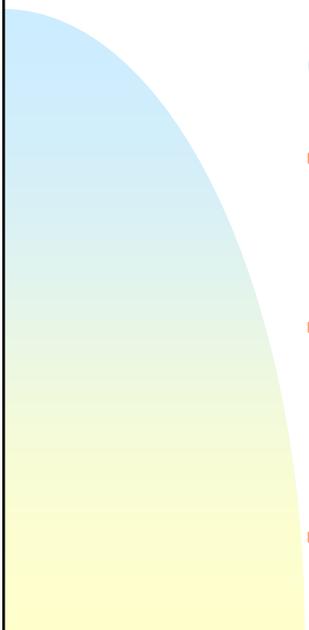
\* Obris Partners Drug Treatment court of Vancouver Final Report



## Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver (DTCV) Results\*

- The frequency of new charges and drug use declined as the length of program participation increased
- DTCV graduates exhibited considerably lower rates of new charges and convictions when compared to participants who were discharged by the program or the Crown or voluntarily withdrew from the DTCV

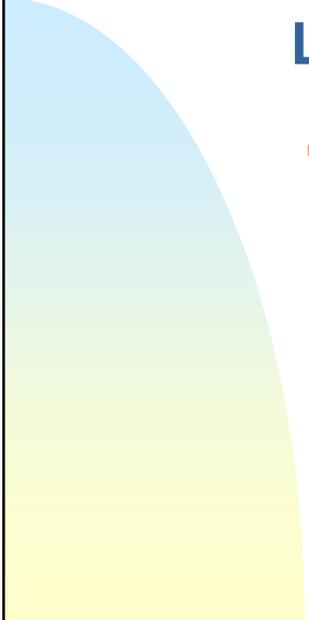
■ \*\* Obris Partners Drug Treatment court of Vancouver Final Report



## Maryland Juvenile Drug Courts – Interim Report\*

- After a 12 month period the number of juvenile drug court participants charged with new offences decreased by 71%
- After 12 months the number of new convictions among chronic Youth offenders( offenders with three or more new convictions) reduced by 75%

■ \* NPC Research Portland, Oregon. February 2006



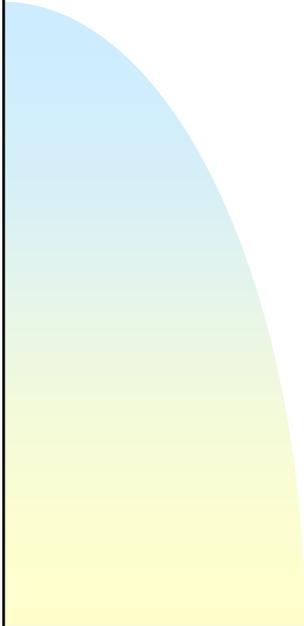
## Lessons learned:

- DTCs adopt a cognitive behavioural approach and are not appropriate for the seriously mentally ill



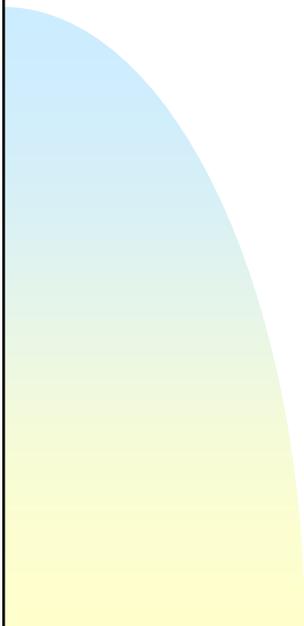
## Lessons Learned

- **Marriage of Treatment and community services with the court process is essential**
- The collaboration of these systems is superior to each working alone



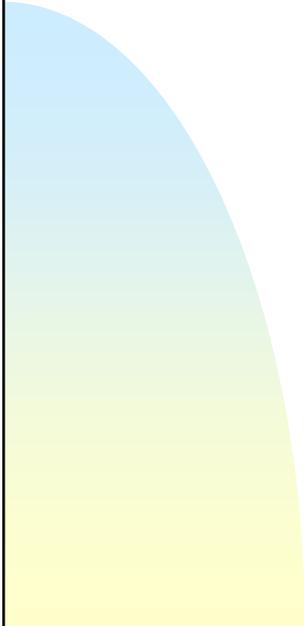
## Lessons Learned

- The trauma of a significant life event, such as a criminal arrest, makes more participants receptive to treatment.
- DTC participants should be identified early and placed in DTC program



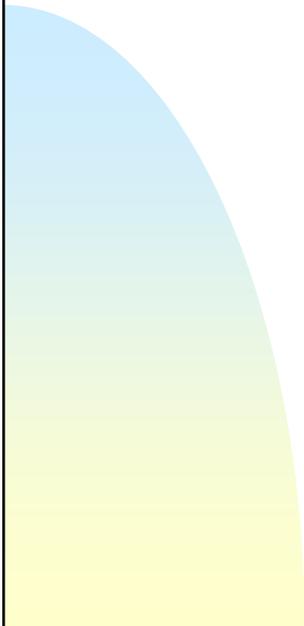
## Lessons Learned

- Many DTC participants initially comply with DTC program to avoid court sanctions
- Successful DTC participants are those who convert this initial external motivation into an internal motivation to change



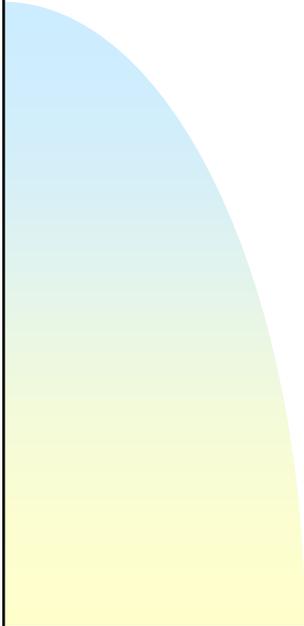
## Lessons Learned

- There should be clear and objective eligibility criteria
- determine how and by whom the screening will be done



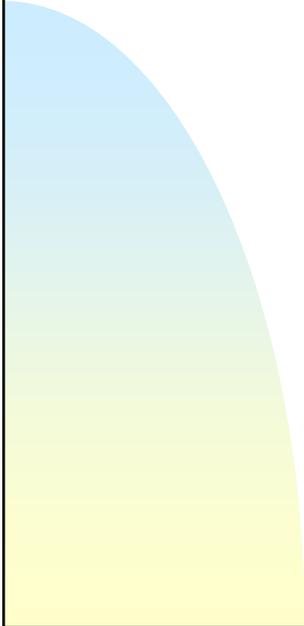
## Lessons learned

- DTC team usually includes judge, prosecution, defence counsel, probation office, treatment provider and/or court treatment program liaison and in some programs the police
- A non adversarial approach to decision making is essential



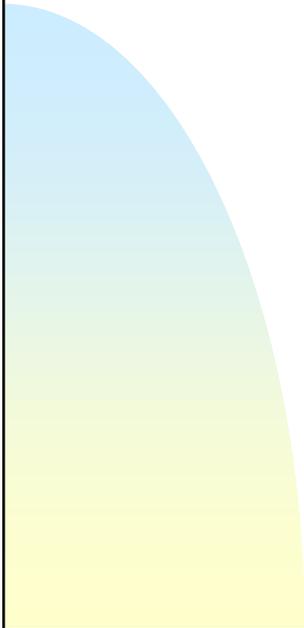
## Lessons learned

- DTC members must be trained to work as a team
- the judge's ability to interact with other team members and listen are critical
- Interdisciplinary training is a key component of the ability to work as a team



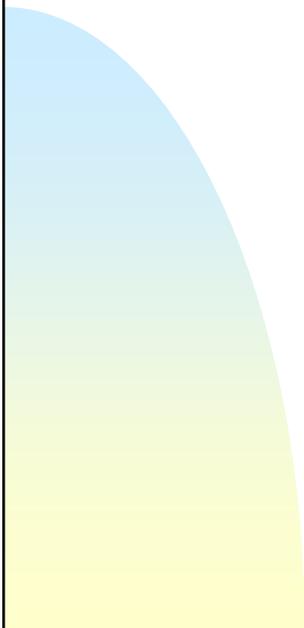
## Lessons Learned

- development of multi-disciplinary approach takes time and patience
- pre-court discussion among the judge and each DTC member is vital



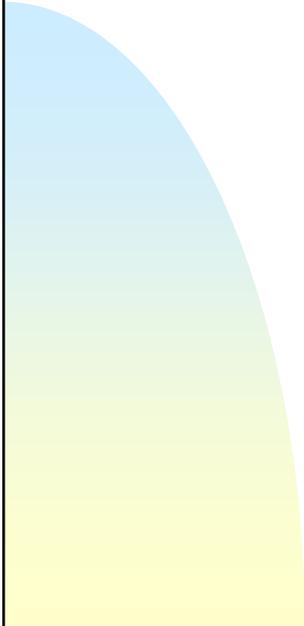
## Team Work

- Video clip of Toronto Drug Treatment Court Team meeting



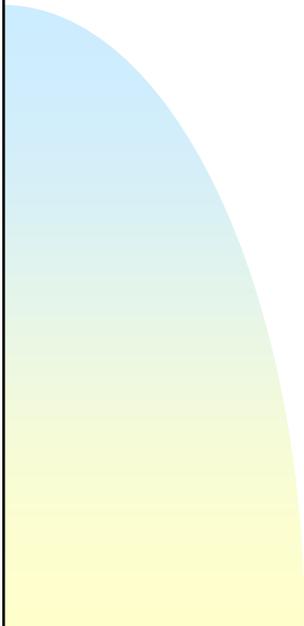
## Lessons Learned

- A coordinated strategy should govern responses of the court directed treatment and rehabilitation program to ensure compliance with the program by offenders.



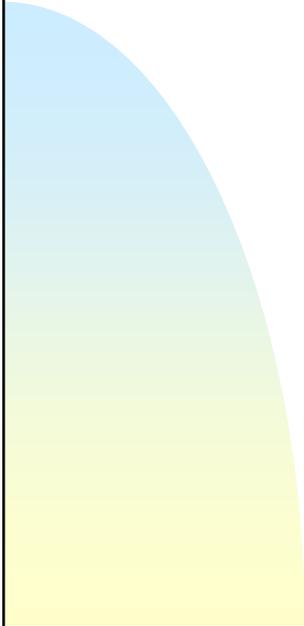
## Lessons Learned

- A range of graduated incentives and sanctions should be developed
- Sanctions graduated, swift, certain but flexible
- Focus should be on providing “Therapeutic justice”



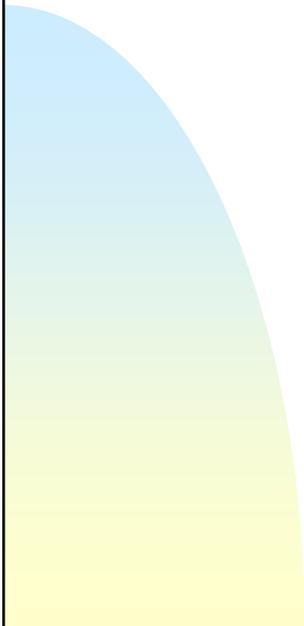
## Lessons Learned

- Sanctions and incentives are important to ensure honesty and accountability by the offender
- Smart sanctions and incentives that build on the participant’s strengths are important . This is particularly important for youth



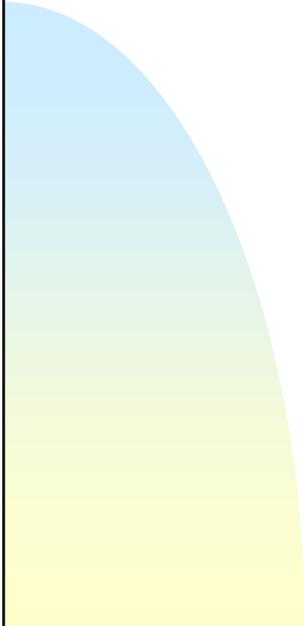
## Team Work

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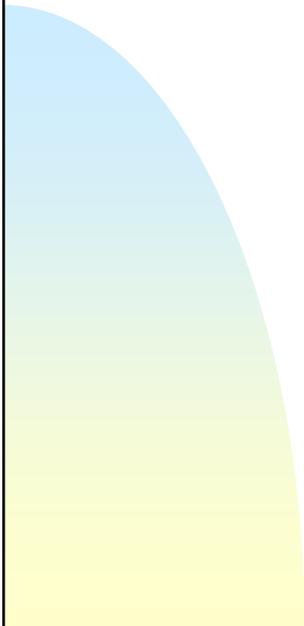
## Lessons Learned

- Compliance in DTC must be objectively monitored by frequent substance testing
- Urine testing must be random and used only as part of a comprehensive therapeutic strategy



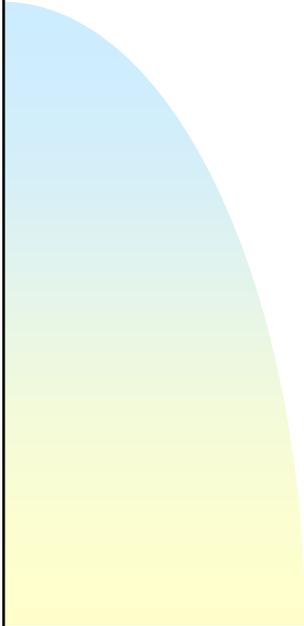
## Lessons Learned

- Ongoing judicial interaction with each offender in the program is essential
- Interactions with DTC participants should be designed to enhance self esteem



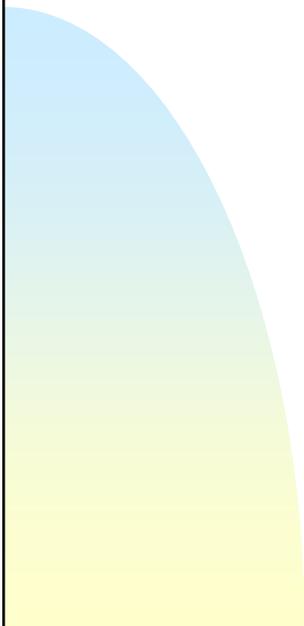
## Lessons Learned

- Interactions should promote accountability and responsibility among participants
- Members of DTC team are important as role models particularly among youth



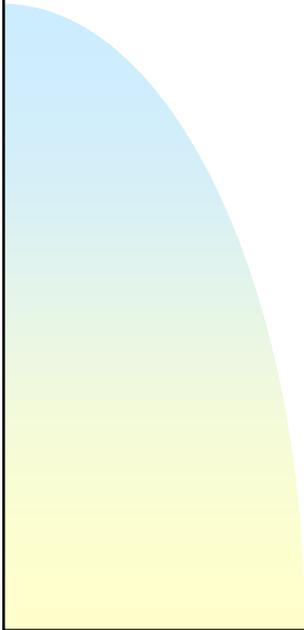
## Lessons Learned

- Video clip of judicial interaction with a participant in the Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver



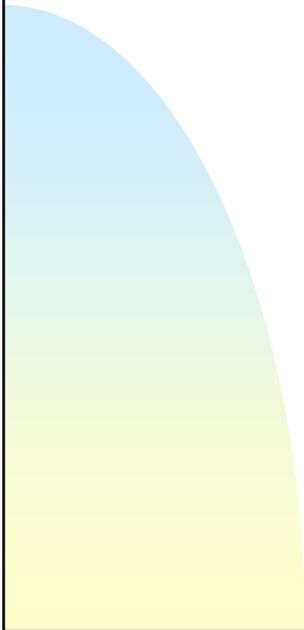
## Lessons Learned

- Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness
- Evaluation procedures should be part of the program
- both process and impact evaluations are important



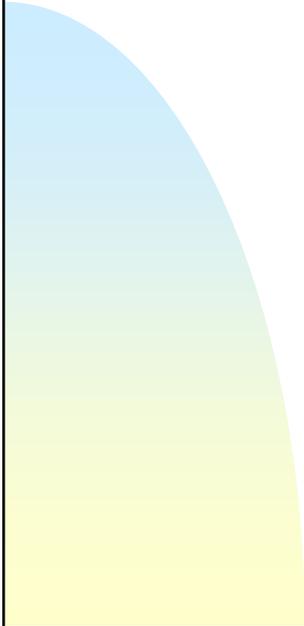
## Lessons learned

- DTC participants present with a myriad of issues other than drug addiction
- Community partnerships to ensure access to a continuum of substance dependency treatment and other rehabilitation services is essential



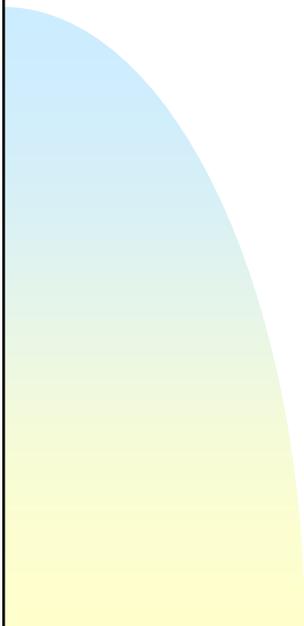
## Lessons Learned:

- Partnerships with public agencies and community based organizations generates local support and enhances program effectiveness.



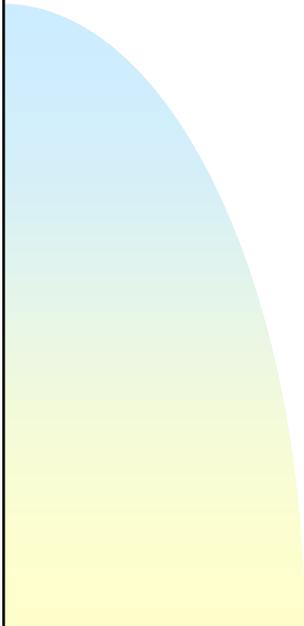
## Lessons Learned

- Important to develop strategies to engage your community and to access community resources, for example DTC information sessions and DTC community advisory committees.



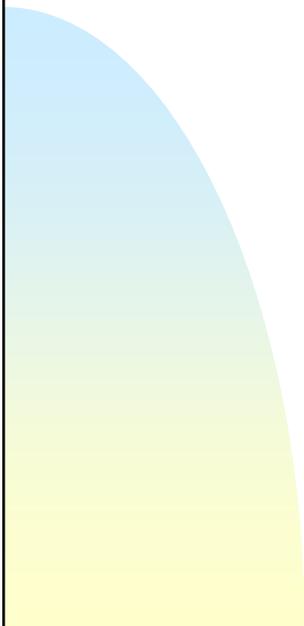
## Lessons Learned

- Case management is important
- Offenders must obtain access to health care, stable housing and secure jobs and/or be retrained
- case managers must be assigned to each offender to assist them in reintegrating into the community



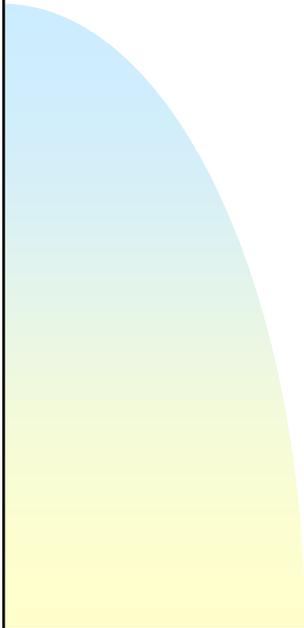
## Lessons Learned:

- Program must be flexible
- treatment must be responsive to the needs of the offenders
- Program demographics and other related characteristics may change periodically
- Mechanisms should be in place to facilitate the periodic reevaluation of program structure and services to ensure that the needs of program participants are still being addressed.



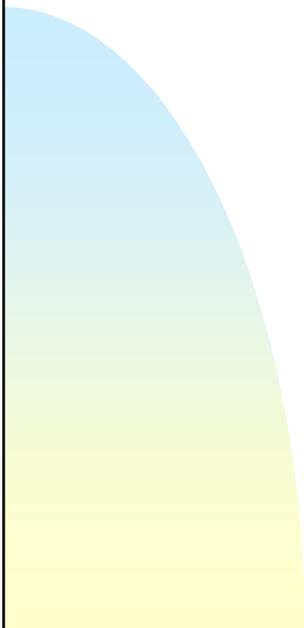
## Lessons learned

- Sentencing practices in a jurisdiction where DTC participation is voluntary, is an important factor in determining the characteristics of the DTC population.
- DTC participants in Vancouver and Toronto are high risk and high needs offenders
- This a high recidivist population



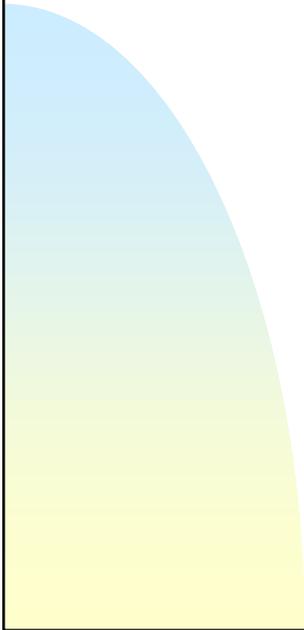
## Lessons learned

- For this high recidivist population outcomes focused only on the *elimination* of criminal activity and drug use may be too ambitious
- Outcomes measures must also focus on *reductions* in criminal behaviour, drug use and improvements in quality of life.



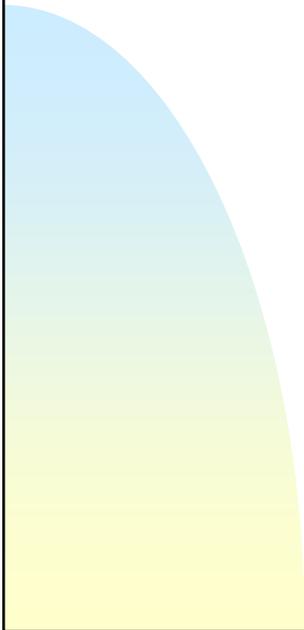
## Lessons Learned

- Adult and youth are at different stages of maturation and development
- DTC programs for Adults and youths must be structured very differently and kept separate



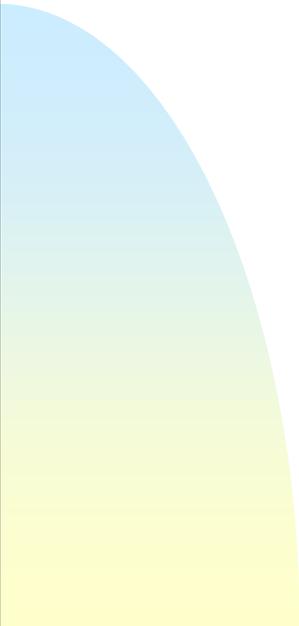
## Lessons Learned

- Youth and adults typically have multiple risk factors
- Both populations will usually present a broad range of issues other than drug addiction.



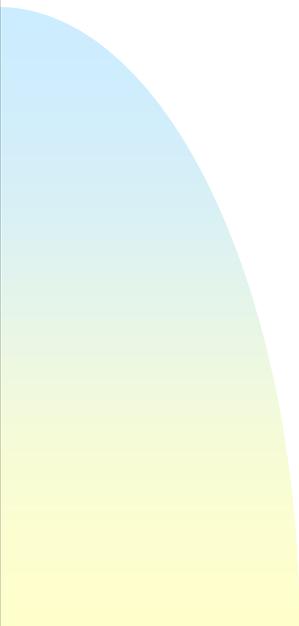
## Lessons learned - Youth

- Youth often experience lack of engagement with school or other productive activities
- There are usually delinquent peers and difficult family situations



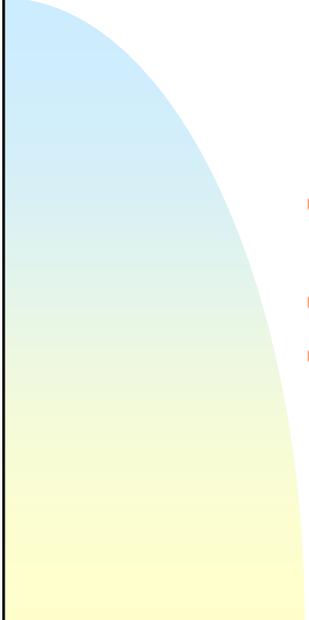
## Lessons learned - Youth

- Youth DTC programs should be designed to serve youth in the least restrictive environment possible
- Provide community based treatment whenever possible
- Maintain and enhance the youth's natural support system wherever possible example: family and peer counselling strategies



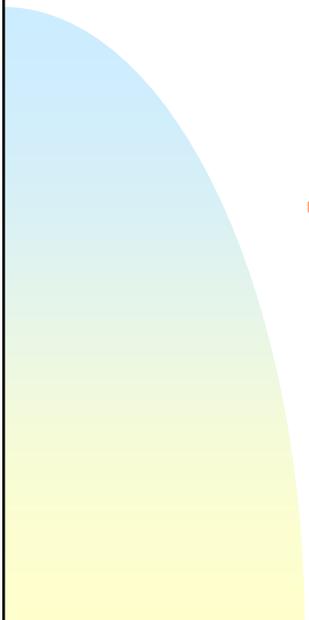
## Lessons Learned

- As word of the intensive nature of the DTC program spreads among the DTC target population, the number of DTC applicants will decline.
- Strategies must be developed to ensure that DTCs continue to reach target populations



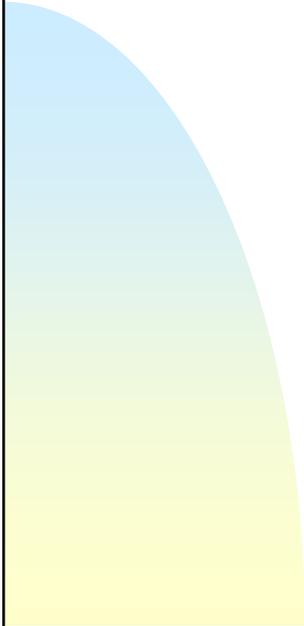
## Lessons Learned

- **An operational manual should be created**
- **ensures consist approach**
- **become historical memory for the team as members leave**



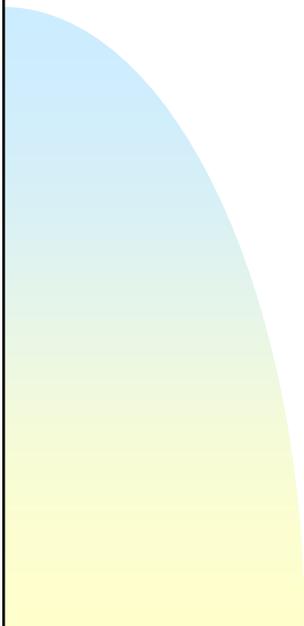
## DTC Alumni

- **Video clip of DTC Alumni telling their stories**



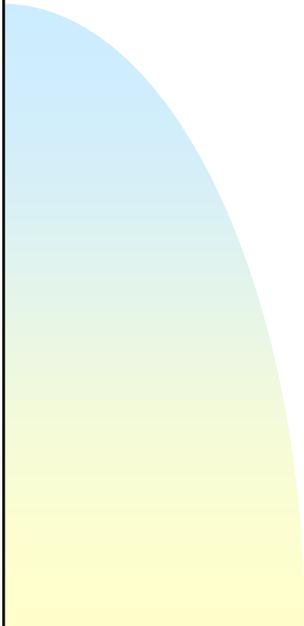
## CADTC

- The Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court is a non-profit Association
- It is made up of judges, lawyers, treatment providers, academics, probation officers, police officers etc



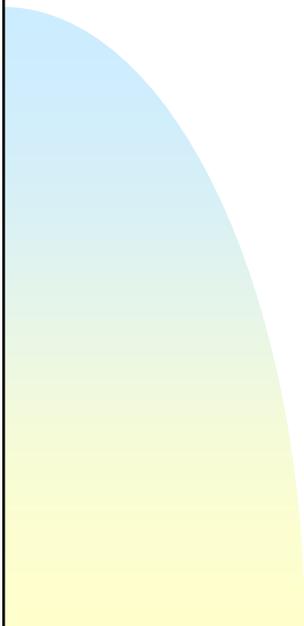
## CADTC OBJECTIVES

- Assist Drug Treatment Courts in helping to reduce substance related harm, crime and recidivism among non-violent persons who commit crime for the purpose of supporting their addiction or dependence on controlled substances.



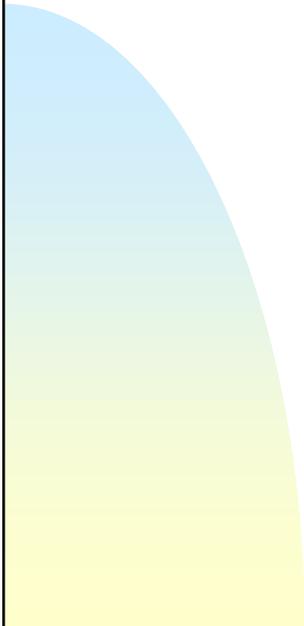
## CADTC OBJECTIVES

- Provide a forum through which Drug Treatment court best practices can be developed, identified and disseminated
- Provide technical assistance and training to those interested in planning, implementing and establishing Drug Treatment Courts



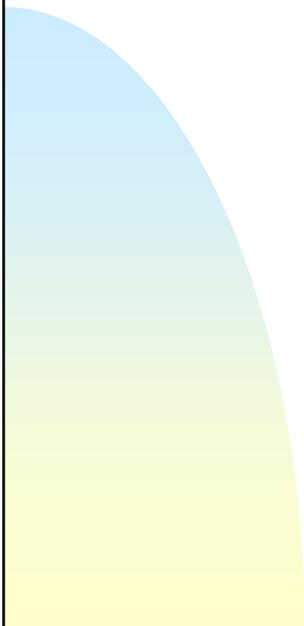
## CADTC OBJECTIVES

- Gather and disseminate information and evaluations about the effectiveness of Drug Treatment Courts
- Establish public awareness of the effectiveness of Drug Treatment Courts



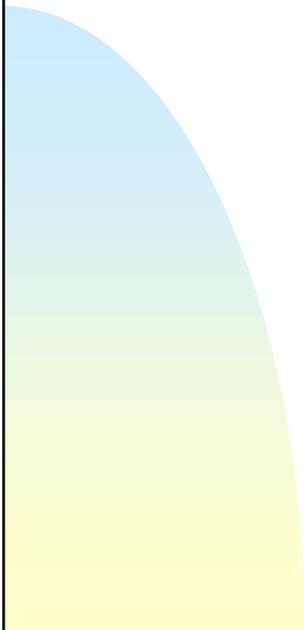
## CADTC OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information, materials, expertise and effective practices among the members of **CADTC**
- Encourage other court based intervention programs based on the underlying principles of Drug Treatment Courts



## CADTC OBJECTIVES

- Provide advice and make recommendations to governmental and non governmental organizations on Drug Treatment Court issues.
- Perform such other related activities to accomplish **CADTC's** objectives



# CADTC

- [www.CADTCconference2006.com](http://www.CADTCconference2006.com)
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