

JUSTICE:

Family Law Justice: For Islanders living in poverty and dealing with family law issues, access to justice is too expensive.
Criminal Law: For Islanders in the Provincial Correctional Center, attachment to the criminal justice system makes moving out of poverty even harder.

We heard... That there are limited supports for people leaving jail.

"I won't have enough money when I leave here to make rent, but I'll have enough for a really good night out. I guess I'll have to decide what to do when I get out."

"I'm glad you're doing this work. There's no hope left for me, but I hope someone makes a difference for the next generation."

"I want to do it for my daughter. I want to break the cycle for her."

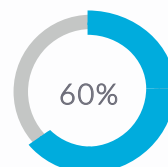
"We need to realize that if we take care of the people attached to the justice system, we reduce costs to society."

We heard... Women who can't afford to go to court to file separation papers or divorce papers.

We heard... Men who can't afford to pay child support payments due to low income.

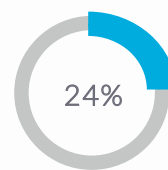
We heard... Women who have child support orders in place and the fathers' don't pay at all or don't pay consistently

One woman, in particular, attributed the legal costs associated with her divorce with her descent from the middle class to poverty. She was a homeowner with an income property, savings and a small retirement fund. The divorce proceedings took almost ten years and she lost everything in the process to pay the legal bills. She lives paycheque to paycheque in a rental home with no savings left.



In 2012-2013,
CLIA helped over 3000 people

FAMILY LAW CALLS



OF CHILD SUPPORT
ON PEI GOES UNPAID

-Dept. of Justice

JUSTICE SOLUTIONS OFFERED BY THE COMMUNITY:

Stiffer penalties for people who don't pay child support.

Subsidized lawyers.

More support with navigating the system.

Transitional housing for people leaving jail.

More counselling supports for employment, mental health and addictions.

Better coordination of services among justice, mental health, addictions and social services.