



Exciting Announcement
Our public education initiative is
LIVE!!

The Calgary John Howard Society is excited to share that we have launched [I Am More Than My Criminal Record](#). This public education initiative was created to reduce the stigma associated with a criminal record and give individuals involved in the criminal justice system an opportunity to share their experiences and voice who they truly are. You can find us in the following social media platforms:



[@iammorethanmycriminalrecord](#)



[@iammorethanmyrecord](#)



[@iammorethanmycriminalrecord](#)



[@morethanarecord](#)

What sparked the vision of this public education initiative?

A client in the Pathway to Employment Program was explaining his frustrations over always being asked questions about his criminal record on job applications. He had been told time and time again that they could not hire him due to his criminal history, even though he met the qualifications for the job and had the required experience. As he tried to remain composed and hold back the tears, he said “I am not the person I used to be when I committed those crimes. I have changed. I am more than that...I am more than my criminal record”.

The conversation with this client took place in the midst of the economic downturn in Alberta’s oil and gas industry, which made it increasingly difficult for people like him to obtain employment. The Calgary John Howard Society’s employment team has focused its efforts on building relationships with employers, expanding the available training options for clients and tailoring casework to an individual’s needs/goals. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, clients have continued to struggle with finding work. This challenge prompted us to identify the employment barriers unique to individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system, and to develop a strategy to address these barriers so that they can find employment in Alberta’s competitive employment market.

One of the main barriers identified included the societal stigma associated with criminal justice system involvement and the discrimination often faced by those seeking employment. Through the process of gathering stories from individuals directly affected by their involvement with the law, it became apparent that we needed to provide a platform for people to share their experiences and voice who they truly are. Please visit us at www.iammorethanmycriminalrecord.com and help us spread the word!