



LADYSMITH RESOURCES CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Heart on the Hill

LADYSMITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

A Program of the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association (LRCA)

What is Restorative Justice?

Asking “Who is the villain?” is the prologue to asking who should be punished. But asking “What are the conditions that led tot his?” leads us to consider how to change those conditions so that the situation is less likely to happen again.

Matthew Gindin



RJ is a process and a philosophy

It is a shift in thinking from blame and punishment to repairing harm

It gives victims a voice by being engaged in the process

It is part of the Criminal Justice System (does not replace it)

The United Nations Working Group on Restorative Justice defines it in the following way:

A process whereby parties with a stake in a particular offence resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications for the future.



RJ Applications

RJ can be used in a variety of ways and referrals can come from a variety of sources, including:

The Criminal Justice System

(from pre-charge to post incarceration)

The School System

The Workplace

Institutions

Community Groups or Organizations

HOW DOES IT WORK?



A 5-STEP PROCESS



1. Referral received / consent obtained
2. Intake and assessment
3. Preparatory meetings with all parties
4. A forum (dialog / circle)
5. A written agreement reached by consensus

VICTIM – OFFENDER - COMMUNITY



Crime is a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right. Justice involves the victim, the offender and the community in a search for solutions which promote repair, reconciliation and reassurance.

Howard Zehr

What RJ does for the affected party (Victim)



- Increased access to information
- Facing offender to tell their story
- Having a 'voice' in the process
 - Vindication and validation
 - Restitution
- Safety and protection (decreased post-traumatic stress)
 - And more – each victim is unique

What RJ does for the responsible party (Offender)



- Opportunity to make things as right as possible
 - Learn from mistake
 - Consider true impact of harm
 - Demonstrate remorse / apologize
- Consequence often fits the crime better than arms-length punishment
- Youth often report more positive attitudes towards police and criminal justice system

What RJ does for the COMMUNITY



- Increased public safety due to lower recidivism rates
 - Re-integration of offender
 - Root causes of crime can often be addressed
 - Frees up system for more complex / serious cases
- Increases public confidence in criminal justice system
 - Cost savings for the system

Roadmap for a new paradigm



Restorative justice offers a new paradigm for our modern society, rooted in ancient traditions of repairing harm, restoring harmony and societal re-integration.

This shift in thinking and reacting to harm and conflict is proving to be a viable and humane option, informing public policy, judicial reform and social justice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Call the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association

250-245-3079

info@lrca.ca