

Peace Regional
Restorative Justice:
*A Community Driven
Approach to Resolving the
Harm Caused by Crime*

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Goals for our time together

- To pique your interest in restorative justice as a meaningful and effective response to crime
- To offer ways in which restorative justice principles and practices may be applied to crime prevention initiatives
- To showcase some of the good work being done around Alberta to address crime in a person and community-centered way

What is Restorative Justice?



[Correctional Services Canada Video](#)

Crime through different lenses

Criminal Justice

- Crime is a violation of law and the state.
- Violations create guilt.
- Justice requires the state to determine blame (guilt) and impose pain (punishment).
- Central focus: offenders getting what they deserve.

Restorative Justice

- Crime is a violation of people and relationships.
- Violations create obligations.
- Justice involves victims, offenders, community members in an effort to put things right.
- Central focus: victim needs and offender responsibility for repairing harm.

What is Restorative Justice?

- “Restorative justice is based upon an old, common sense understanding of wrongdoing.”

Howard Zehr

- “The restorative justice movement is grounded in values that promote both accountability and healing for all affected by crime.”

Mark Umbreit

How is RJ done?

- Principles
- People
- Practices
- Place



RJ in Alberta

- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General supports RJ organizations via the Alberta Community Restorative Justice Grant
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association



How does restorative justice benefit individuals and communities...

- Empowered victims who get needs met
- Accountable offenders who also get support
- Decreased pressure on our courts and law enforcement resources
- Reduced recidivism
- Better understanding of root causes of crime
- Reduced fears and increased sense of safety
- Community connectedness and wellbeing

...and how does this relate to crime prevention?

What about RJ might influence crime prevention initiatives?

- Principles
- People
- Practices
- Place



THANK YOU!

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