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

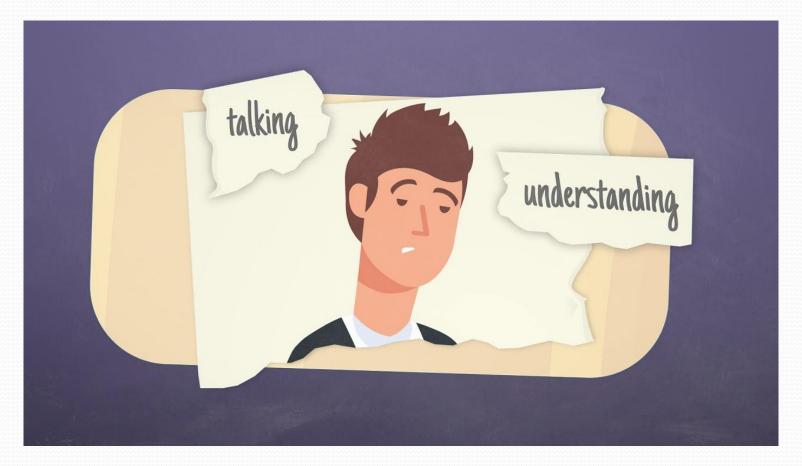
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Goals for our time together

- 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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