

Interested in Volunteering?

Contact the Manager,
Volunteer Engagement

volunteer@beaconcs.ca

Phone 250-507 5680

Interested in Knowing More about Restorative Justice

www.SaanichPeninsulaRJ.ca

info@saanichpeninsularj.ca



Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice

Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice is a community-based initiative staffed by volunteers trained in restorative justice principles and practice.

It has the support of several local institutions and operates under the Ministry of Justice guidelines.

We facilitate community restorative justice conferences as an alternative to the court system, facilitate restitution and girls' circles in district schools, and train volunteers in restorative practice and process.

Training is Offered

Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice is operated by community volunteers committed to and trained in the philosophy and practice of Restorative Justice and Restitution.

Training is offered for volunteers to learn how to be community conference facilitators and school volunteers.

The public is welcome to attend general information meetings. Please contact by email at volunteer@beaconcs.ca or call 250-507-5680



Beacon Community Services
9860 3rd St, Sidney BC V8L 4R2



Saanich Peninsula
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

**Justice
Begins
in the
Community**



Our logo uses West Coast colors, inclusive figures, and a cedar frond to symbolize community, balance, resilience, and healing.

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Restorative Justice through Community Conferencing

The community conference is a formal meeting facilitated by trained program volunteers and involves the victim and offender with families or other supporters, as well as other community members.

The goal of the conference is to have participants reach an agreement which:

- repairs the harm caused by the offending behavior
- provides restitution to those harmed; and
- restores relationships.

This process is initiated on the recommendation of the police, school principals or Crown Counsel when they believe it will provide more benefit than the formal court process.

Other Conference Characteristics

- Organized and led by trained volunteer facilitators
- Outcomes belong to the participants
- Held in a neutral community location
- Safe settings for all participants to tell their stories

Who is Eligible?

- A member of the community who has been harmed and who wishes to participate in a restorative process as an alternative to court.
- Youth and adults who could be charged with an offence under the Criminal Code including, but not limited to, theft, possession of stolen property, vandalism, break and enter, fraud and mischief.
- The person who caused harm must acknowledge the essential facts of the harm caused and must be willing to accept responsibility for his or her actions.
- The person who caused harm must be willing to participate in a face-to-face conference and comply with the terms of the agreement signed at the end of the conference.

Confidentiality

The conference is a confidential process between the facilitator and the participants. Statistics of conferences and their outcomes are tracked and recorded by the program and police for evaluation purposes only.

The Benefits

For Affected Party (Victims)

- A safe place to tell the offender how the incident has affected them
- An opportunity to understand the offender’s behaviour
- An increased chance of receiving restitution
- An opportunity to help the offender repair the harm

For Responsible Party (Offenders)

- An opportunity to understand the harm suffered by the victim
- An opportunity to avoid a criminal record
- An opportunity to acknowledge responsibility for the harm caused
- An opportunity to make things right and restore the relationship

For the Community

- Speedy resolution
- Cost effective
- Reduced risk of re-offence
- An opportunity for peace making



Community Partners

- Central Saanich Police Service
- District of North Saanich
- Municipality of Central Saanich
- School District #63
- Sidney/North Saanich RCMP
- Town of Sidney

How to Get Involved

We welcome anyone interested in learning more about Restorative Justice in our community to contact, by phone or email, listed in this brochure.

A criminal record check is required of all volunteers. Guests are welcome at any of our general meetings.

Testimonials

“The facilitators were patient, took time to make things clear. They were very nonjudgmental.”

“the circle process was comfortable and the facilitators were kind and caring.”

“Now that months have passed since the case closure, I’m very satisfied we did the best with the process before, during and since.”

“Since the case completion, I benefitted by the learning experience to be more responsible for my actions. It was helpful to interact and talk with each other; we could clear up misconceptions and misunderstandings.”