



A RESTORATIVE APPROACH TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Community Conferencing brings together schools, families, police and community to change the way we deal with conflict. Some issues commonly dealt with using this model are theft, bullying, rumors/gossip, assault, and possession of a weapon. Conferencing can be used to resolve on-going behaviours that disrupt the teaching and learning or work environment, as an alternative to suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action and as a reintegration tool for returning from a suspension or leave of absence.

Community Conferencing Facilitator Training Workshop

This 3 day workshop is geared to those interested in learning more about a transformative approach to resolving conflict and facilitating conferences.

Community Conferencing is a restorative process where a person or persons who have caused harm are provided the opportunity to take responsibility and be directly accountable to those harmed through a face-to-face meeting. Those who have been harmed have a direct say in how the harm can be repaired. Community Conferencing facilitates the reintegration of the person(s) causing harm and those harmed, back into the classroom, school or work environment.

This is a process that effectively supports the principles of respect, responsibility, accountability and empathy. In schools, it also supports expectations laid out in Alberta's School Act requiring boards to provide support for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour as well for those who are impacted by it. In a supportive process, individuals are able to take responsibility for behaviors and contribute in a meaningful way to the resolution. Those who have been harmed are also able to contribute to the outcome. Supporters, including parents, caregivers, colleagues and others also participate and are able to express how they have been impacted as well as have a voice in the outcome.

This training will result in participants gaining a thorough understanding of the philosophy and theory behind restorative justice and the community conferencing process, the process itself, and the skills involved in facilitating a conference. Opportunities to participate in and facilitate mock conferences will be part of this training.