

a closer glimpse...

based on our 2008 clients' evaluations:

96% successful completion rate of resolution agreements
(youth who upheld the agreement made)

100% Persons Harmed who felt that the youth accused
had taken responsibility and apologized

71% Youth accused felt the conference helped them
regain the trust and respect of their family and friends

100% of Persons Harmed thought the agreement would
significantly repair the harm that was caused

typical agreement components

Letters of apology, financial restitution, community work
hours, essays, counseling, verbal apologies...

*"What I liked most about
this process is that I was
able to express how much
everything hurt me"*

- PERSON HARMED

restorative questions

for the person who was harmed:

how have you been harmed/affected?
what is the hardest or most difficult part for you?
what would you like to see happen?
what do you need to heal?
is there anything else you would like to do?

for the person who caused harm:

what happened?
what were you thinking at the time?
what have you thought about since the incident?
who has been harmed/affected by your actions?
what needs to be done to repair the harm?
what could you do differently next time?



communities embracing restorative action

community youth justice program



communities embracing restorative action

www.cerasociety.org

644 poirier st
coquitlam, bc
v3j 6b1

t 604 931 3165
f 604 931 3176

info@cerasociety.org

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Anmore • Belcarra • City of Coquitlam
City of New Westminster • City of Port Coquitlam
City of Port Moody

a healing response to crime

our mission

to enhance the quality of justice
in the communities we serve
through restorative measures

what is restorative justice?

Restorative Justice is a philosophy that focuses on the harms done rather than the laws that have been broken. It views crime as a violation of relationships, which creates obligations for a person who has harmed another to make things right. Restorative justice provides an opportunity for youth and those harmed to resolve conflict by involving all in a safe and respectful dialogue. It is a process in which all parties most affected by a crime work together toward the restoration and healing of those harmed, by empowering them to understand and responding to their needs. Restorative justice also supports young people by encouraging them to understand, accept, and carry out their obligations to make amends. We believe that restorative justice promotes collaboration and reintegration, rather than coercion and exclusion.

"I was treated with dignity, and hadn't felt that in such a long time. I went home and cried"

– PERSON HARMED

who is cera society?

Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Society is a non-profit organization serving the communities of Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody. Our belief is that all individuals should be treated respectfully and that everyone has the potential to be law-abiding, contributing citizens.

what is the community youth justice program (cyjp)?

The CYJP accepts referrals from both police and Crown on matters relating to youth offences. Based on restorative justice principles, our program provides a viable and effective alternative to the court system for offences committed by youth. We used trained volunteer facilitators and a resolution conference approach to involve all parties in processes to 'right the wrong'.

"I learned how my choices affect so many people"

– ACCUSED YOUTH

what is a resolution conference?

A resolution conference is a meeting in which two co-facilitators involve the person harmed (victim), the person who caused harm (offender), their families and supporters in a circle-shaped forum. The conference is an opportunity for all parties to discuss the conflict, share their experiences of the impact of the incident, and repair the harm caused. A restorative justice process typically involves the use of a restorative conference. However, because restorative justice is philosophy, processes are flexible to meet the needs of the participants. Ultimately, the intent is to address everyone's needs so that all can move on.

Parties are supported in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement as to how to repair the harm, which the facilitators formalize in writing.

The accused youth is supported in completing his/her agreement.

Once the agreement is completed, the youth is successfully diverted out of the criminal justice system, with no criminal record of the incident.

"I learned what it means to take real responsibility"

– ACCUSED YOUTH

