

Keeping you up to date on events and resources essential for healthier schools and communities

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**About Us**

**Our Vision:** Children and youth in British Columbia are nurtured in safe, caring, and inclusive schools and communities to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential.

**Our Mission:** To facilitate the use of evidence-informed approaches to promoting safe, healthy, and inclusive schools and communities.

**Our Mandate:** To provide research and resources which support the creation of safe and socially just schools and communities throughout the province.

**To learn more about us and what is available through our centre...**

Visit us online: [www.bccssc.ca](http://www.bccssc.ca)  
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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 – 4:30 pm  
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**Theme: Restorative Justice**

There is a growing interest among schools to implement restorative justice principles and practices because it is perceived to be a more inclusive and effective approach for responding to a wide range of youth anti-social behaviour, including bullying, than the youth criminal justice system. Restorative justice is a consensus-based method of dealing with conflict or crime in a way that promotes offender accountability, empathy building, and restoring trust. Though sometimes viewed as being “soft on crime”, when implemented and supported fully within organizations, restorative justice provides an effective alternative to punitive strategies.

Much of the interest in restorative justice stems from the disappointing and alienating outcomes from utilizing zero tolerance policies. These approaches are based on the belief that delinquent or criminal behaviour must be punished. Under a punitive model, school-based responses to incidents of violence, including bullying, often range from parent interviews, anger management, detention, suspension and/or exclusion, counseling, or police involvement (Thorsborne, 1999). John Braithwaite, a pioneer in the field of restorative justice, claims that:

**rapid escalation to punishment makes young people more angry than thoughtful; that if the goal of any intervention is to instill a sense of community and relational thinking, then isolating someone (as in suspension and exclusion) is exactly the worst way to achieve it” (Thorsborne, 1999: 5).**

This aligns with research that has long established that those who bullied others tended to have lower levels of empathy, were more impulsive, and frequently retaliated when they were punished for their behaviour (Olweus, 1993).

Applied to the school setting, restorative justice views student misconduct not so much as rule-breaking behaviour (and therefore a violation against the institution), but as a violation against the people and relationships within the school and the broader community. This stands in contrast to punishment-based responses that have been criticized for creating a condition where offenders are more apt to consider their behaviour from an individualistic perspective (Thornsbome, 1999).

One of the defining features of schools that have integrated restorative practices is that they place an emphasis on the obligations and responsibilities that all members of the school community have toward each other (Masters, 1998). This means that when things go wrong, rather than controlling students' behaviour through externally-driven responses, schools guide students to reflect on their actions and the effect of their behaviour on those around them. This not only promotes internal transformation by teaching 'offenders' in the use of self reflection, but holds them accountable for their behaviour, while engaging both the victim and offender in a process of creative problem solving. This creates conditions for healing and learning from past failures, while promoting a climate of safety.

Since aggression is often learned from an early age, supporting children to develop into responsible, peace-loving, and contributing members of society depends on effective modeling, guidance, and support. To sustain restorative climates within schools, three mechanisms are needed: practices that support behaviour; systems that support practices; and data to support decision-making (Elliot and Gordon, 2005: 48). Introducing restorative measures early in the lives of children through relationally-based institutional practices will lead to better long term outcomes for youth and the communities that aim to support them.

### **Recommended Reading on Restorative Action in Schools**

A recommended list of readings on the theme of Restorative Action in Schools has been gathered from the District of Mission's, Restorative Resolutions (RR) book shelf. These titles offer valuable information for applying restorative practices in school-based settings. CSSC is grateful for RR's willingness to network in this practical way. To review the book list, [click here](#)

To learn about a 12 step process for assessing organizational readiness and guiding organization change for restorative justice, [click here](#).

## **Further sites and publications to promote restorative justice: (click on title link)**

**Community Justice Initiatives** – a BC-based agency delivering Restorative Justice training and services for the criminal justice system, churches, schools, businesses and private settings. For training and resources, visit their website.

**Justice Education Society** – provides programs and resources to improve access to BC's justice system.

**BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General** – become informed about the Ministry's Framework for Restorative Justice and other initiatives.

**The John Howard Society of British Columbia** - John Howard was a prison reformer in the 1700s. Today, this organization reaches its objective of preventing crime and concern for justice through a variety of programs both in BC and internationally. The website has a wealth of information to inform restorative policies and practices at the community level.

**Centre for Restorative Justice** (SFU) – has an extensive database of Restorative Justice literature, as well as many other resources and services to promote the principles and practices of restorative justice in BC.

**Restorative Justice in Schools** – learn about the power of restorative justice through stories. Application of RJ in Schools

**Heartspeak Productions** – a BC-based organization has produced a number of DVD's for public performance or personal/non profit use. For previews and purchasing information, visit their website.

**Aboriginal Justice** – find a listing of community-based justice programs in British Columbia from the Department of Justice Canada's website.

**Restorative Justice and People with Developmental Disabilities: A Booklet for Family Members, Advocates, and Community Living Service Providers:** To obtain a copy of this 20 page booklet [click here](#).

**Victim – Offender Mediation (VORP)** - Victim-offender mediation is a voluntary process through which a trained community-based mediator prepares interested victims and offenders to communicate and provides them with the opportunity to meet in a safe, structured setting. Correctional Services of Canada

**Howard Zehr's Blog** - Dr. Zehr is professor of Restorative Justice at Eastern Mennonite University's graduate Centre for Justice and Peacebuilding and is the editor of The Little Books of Justice and Peacemaking series.

**Centre for Conflict Resolution (JI)** – learn about where you can take courses in conflict resolution

## Important Dates:

### **November 8, 2010 – First province-wide multi-media child rights awareness campaign launch**

B.C.'s first multi-media child rights public awareness campaign is being launched, to challenge attitudes and assumptions about children and their role in society. To learn more, [click here](#)

### **November 14 – 21, 2010 – Restorative Justice Week**

The focus of this year's celebration *Reflexions Past, Present, and Future* acknowledges that the beginning of a new decade is a good time to reflect on the growth and achievements of the past; to take stock of the present; and to set new future objectives. Read more about how you can celebrate and promote restorative action in your community from [Correctional Service of Canada](#).

### **November 14-20, 2010 National Bullying Awareness Week**

For tools and information to promote respectful relationships among youth in schools and communities, [click here](#).

### **November 14-20, 2010 - National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week**

The National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week campaign will promote an addictions free lifestyle for communities, families, and individuals by enabling communities to develop activities that increase knowledge and awareness of addictions and how addictions can be addressed. [Read more](#)

### **November 20, 2010 – Canada's National Child Day**

On November 20, 2010, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrates 21 years of existence. Advocate for children and youth in your community by planning an activity in celebration and to raise awareness! [Read more](#)

### **BC is a leader in Canada regarding its own Child Rights awareness initiative.**

Watch for transit ads, posters, and psa's in public areas across BC, and learn more about how you can become involved by visiting

[everychild.ca](http://everychild.ca) Click on logo to read more.

### **December 1 - World Aids Day**

Light the town red! Take action to tackle HIV prejudice and to protect yourself and others from HIV transmission!

### **December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**

Modern slavery works against human rights. Click [here](#) to obtain flyers, posters, leaflets, and newsletters directed toward abolishing slavery and the slave trade.

### **December 5 - International Volunteer Day**

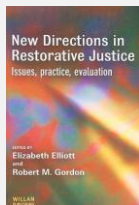
A chance to promote the contributions of volunteers in developmental work at local, national, and international levels.

### **December 6 - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

*National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women* in Canada was established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada to mark the anniversary of the 1989 murders of 14 women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal.

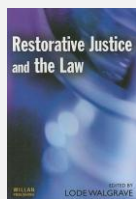
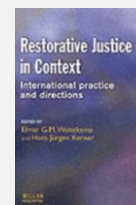
## Library Corner

The BC Centre's Library collection has many resources to promote a better understanding of child rights and related issues. Below is a sample of book titles that can be borrowed from our library:



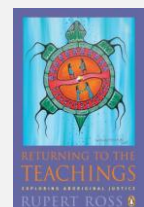
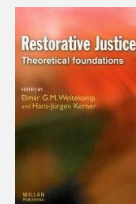
***New Directions in Restorative Justice*** addresses key themes and developments in restorative justice, based on papers presented at the 6th International Conference on Restorative Justice held in Vancouver. Several new areas of practice within restorative justice concerning youth, aboriginal, victimization, and evaluating restorative justice are explored.

***Restorative Justice in Context*** moves beyond a focus on restorative justice to a broader concern with an application of restorative justice in such areas as corporate crime, family violence, and the application of restorative justice in cases of extreme violent crimes. The information draws from experiences in Europe, North America, Australasia, and Japan.



***Restorative Justice and the Law*** explores the social and ethical foundations of restorative justice, seeks to position it in relation to both rehabilitation and punishment, and examines the possibility of developing and incorporating restorative justice as a mainstream response to crime in terms of constitutional democracy.

***Restorative Justice: Theoretical Foundations*** covers a wide range of fundamental questions about how the core essence of restorative justice is determined, how conceptual pitfalls can be avoided, and how traditional models of peacemaking and healing can be integrated in the justice system.



***Returning to the Teachings*** examines the affects of Anglo-European culture on the native North American culture. It provides a description of cultural differences, and points out some of the challenges of communication between the two cultural groups.

***Aboriginal Restorative Justice:*** This interactive CD-ROM offers an introduction to the principles and practices of Aboriginal restorative justice. It explores four BC Aboriginal restorative justice programs through interviews with program coordinators. Scenes of restorative justice "circles" used by each program and a bail hearing in Criminal Court demonstrates the differences in how victims and offenders are treated in the two justice systems. Aboriginal Restorative Justice shows how restorative justice circles bring the community, victims, and offenders together to develop a peaceful resolution to a problem in keeping with the tradition of the community.

The Centre's library has resources for a wide variety of safety and social responsibility-related themes. We welcome you to search our [on-line catalogue](http://www.ufv.ca/bccssc) at <http://www.ufv.ca/bccssc> or call us for more information at 1-888-224-7233.

## **Upcoming Training, Conferences, and Events**

### **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre's Annual Child Care Conference, *Inspiring Excellence in Child Care and Early Learning***

November 20, 2010, Vancouver

### **Forever Families and Places Conference for Youth**

November 27, 2010, Burnaby

### **"Complex Issues. Clear Solutions." Managing Workplace Mental Health Issues**

November 30, 2010, Vancouver

### **Certificate in Restorative Justice, SFU**

For training dates and details, visit SFU site

### **In Search of Healing Wisdom; Community Dialogue**

A presentation on youth and ethnic gangs, restorative justice, and crime control. For more information, call 250-353-7779.

### **2011 Youth Gangs & Guns Training Symposium**

February 3 -4, 2011, Vancouver

### **National Conference on Restorative Justice**

June 8 – 10 2011, North Carolina

### **Community Restorative Justice Academy Training**

2011 – United Kingdom

### **14th World Conference of the International Institute for Restorative Practices**

June 15–17, 2011 Halifax, Nova Scotia, The Westin nova Scotian

### **Prison Fellowship World Convocation**

June 28-Jul 2, 2011, Toronto

### **Online Certificate in Restorative Practices**

Starts January 2011

### **The Psychologically Safe Workplace**

March 2 & 3, 2011, Vancouver Convention Centre

### **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**

5-day courses offered professional or personal development or for academic credit.



**BC Teacher Trainings - FRIENDS For Life** is an evidence-based resiliency and anxiety prevention classroom program available to students in BC. FRIENDS teaches life skills and coping strategies to help children manage difficult situations. 1-day FRIENDS trainings are open to BC teachers, counsellors, and educators who are committed to delivering the FRIENDS program in grades 4 & 5 (Child program - also available in French) and grade 7 (Youth program) classrooms. There are child and youth teacher trainings available. To view the FRIENDS training schedule, go to:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental\\_health/pdf/friends\\_training.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/pdf/friends_training.pdf)

To register for an event within your school district, contact your FRIENDS district liaison. If you do not know the name of your liaison and/or to register for an event outside of your school district, email the FRIENDS program at [mcf.cymhfriends@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mcf.cymhfriends@gov.bc.ca) for registration information. FRIENDS trainings, leader's guides, student workbooks, and FRIENDS supplementary materials are provided by the Ministry of Children & Family Development. For further information on FRIENDS in BC, please view the FRIENDS website at [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental\\_health/friends.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/friends.htm)

## Hot Topics and New Releases

### Extra Judicial Measures Database – New Police Training DVD

Funded by the Department of Justice Canada, the BC Centre for Safe Schools is working in partnership with the RCMP and Abbotsford Police Department to develop a referral database of youth-based mental health and substance abuse services. The database is intended to assist police in making referrals as part of the YCJA. Field testing of the database will begin in January of 2011. To view the training DVD, [click here](#).

### Mennonites and Peacemaking at UFV

The University of the Fraser Valley signed an agreement with the Mennonite Faith and Learning Society (MFLS) to establish a Centre for Mennonite Studies. Among a variety of activities, the Centre will undertake research and education related to peace and reconciliation . [For more info](#)

### Taking part in democracy - Lesson plans for upper secondary level on democratic citizenship and human rights education

(27/10/2010) – For synopsis and ordering information, visit Council of Europe’s on-line book shop. [For more info](#)

### Treat Us Like We Matter: Youth’s responses to the data on growing up in British Columbia

McCreary Centre Society has released a new report that gains youths’ feedback on the data collected to measure child and youth health. It also lists their ideas on how to improve health among youth in BC. [Read the report](#)

### Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in British Columbia

The province has released a report outlining it’s goals for addressing mental health over the next ten years. [For more info](#)

**Healthlink BC** – did you know that an on-line listing of community-based services and resources for youth or adults in your community is available? This resource is kept up to date and is easy to use! [For more info](#)

### Safe On-line Behaviours – Website Creation by School District 35 (Langley)

The instructional services department is pleased to share a website they have created to encourage and support staff, parents, and students to use safe on-line behaviours. [For more info](#)

### Information for BC Communities on Operation Red Nose

For more information about how to volunteer, get a ride home, or organize a party, visit the website. [For more info](#)

**A Feasibility Study on a Healing Centre for Survivors of Homicide** – L.I.N.C. Society recently completed a study to determine whether there is a need for a healing centre for survivors of homicide, and whether such a centre is a good fit for Long-term Inmates. [Read the report](#) to learn about the potential benefits of this concept.

**The First Nations Centre** - in keeping with national addiction awareness week, NAHO has on-line substance use fact sheets available for downloading. [For more info](#)

**AMSSA’s Newcoming Children Information Exchange** – read the latest bulletin distinguishing between refugees and immigrant that lends a greater understanding to some of the challenges faced by refugee children and families. [To read bulletin](#)

### We would love to hear from you!

If you have a request for information for future newsletters or an event to support the goal of promoting safer schools and communities, please call or forward your correspondence to [safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca](mailto:safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca) for consideration in upcoming newsletters. We look forward to hearing from you!

