

A Restorative Community Conference is an opportunity for a young person who has been charged with an offence, or who has been directed under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, to meet with the people affected by his or her behaviour in a facilitated process that addresses:

- what is the harm;
- how can the harm be repaired; and
- who is responsible for repairing the harm.

Personal healing and accountability are key components of conferences.

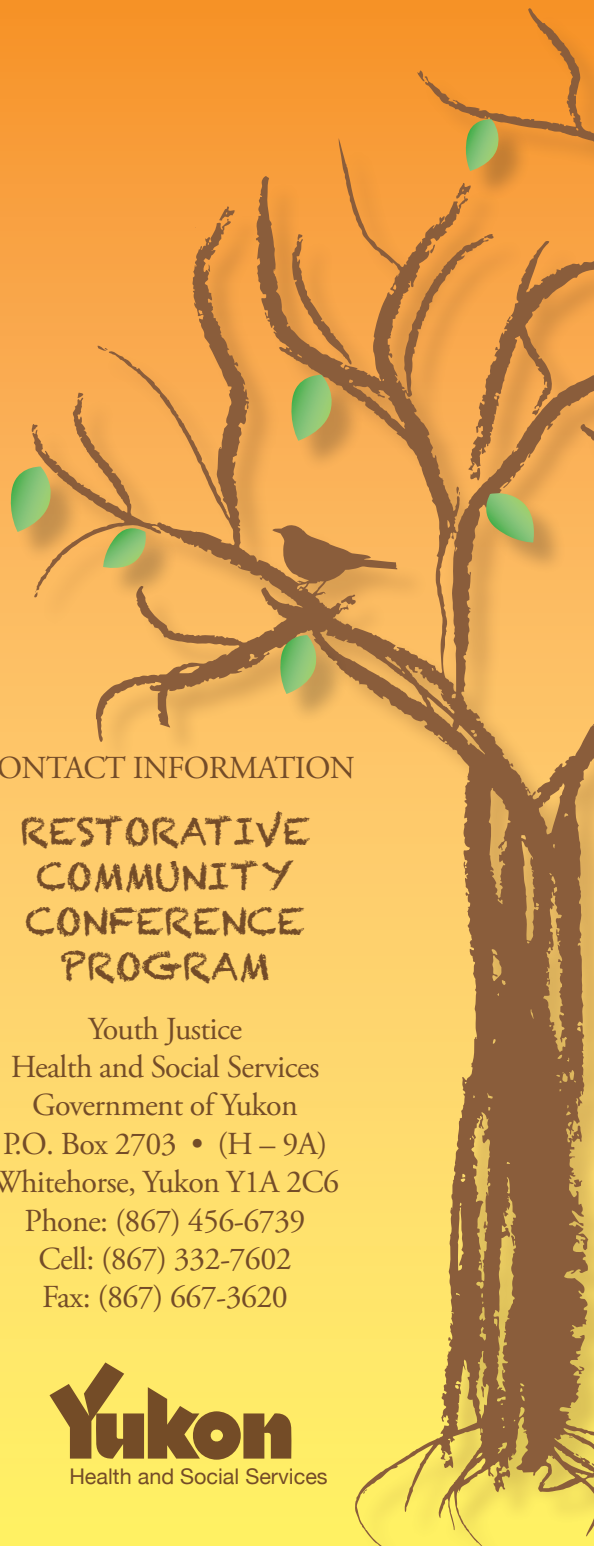
FOUR KEY VALUES:

ENCOUNTER: Creating opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who choose to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath.

AMENDS: Expecting young persons to take steps to repair the harm they have caused.

REINTEGRATION: Seeking to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society.

INCLUSION: Providing opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution.



CONTACT INFORMATION

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Reparation
(about the victim)

Rehabilitation
(about the young person)

Reintegration
(about the community)





OVERVIEW

The Restorative Community Conference Program works with young persons, their families, victims of crime and the community. The program promotes the restoration of relationships by talking about the harm caused to the victim, supporting young persons while they accept responsibility for their actions and asking the community to become involved in repairing the harm.

GOALS

The Restorative Community Conference Program is designed to:

- provide opportunities for the young person to accept responsibility for his/her actions and repair the harm he or she has done;
- rebuild relationships between the young person and family, community and victim;
- reintegrate the young person into his/her family and/or the community;
- reduce repeat offending;
- give victims an opportunity to tell their story, identify and talk about their needs and involve them in deciding on a way the harm can be repaired; and
- strengthen communities.

The restorative community conference process encourages all participants to be directly involved in decisions that affect their lives.

WHO CAN BE REFERRED?

- Young persons aged 12-17 years who are accepting responsibility for their actions in criminal matters.
- RCMP can make direct referrals under YCJA s. 6.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A CONFERENCE?

In a conference, participants sit in a circle with the victim(s) or their representative(s), the young person(s), supporters for both and other people who are affected by the event. Participation is voluntary and is based on the willingness and readiness of each individual. Conferences use restorative justice principles and values, including meaningful accountability.

HOW LONG DOES THIS TAKE?

The conference process from start to finish can take as little as two weeks or as long as a few months. This includes the meetings with offenders and victims and those who will support them through the process. The conference itself can last anywhere from two to four hours.

All the participants determine the outcomes (decisions) of a conference.

WHEN TO CONFERENCE

When the young person is accepting responsibility for his or her actions (the harm they caused).

At the victim's request.

OTHER INFORMATION

To further assist communities in developing crime prevention initiatives, the Restorative Community Conference Program provides training in:

- Restorative Justice: Principles, Practices and Implementation
- Facilitating Restorative Community Conferences Training