Inside

What is Restorative Justice?

Pg. 2

The Restorative Justice Process

Pg. 3

Restorative Justice vs. Regular Sentencing

Pg. 4

FAQ of the Restorative process

Pg. 5

Contact Information

Pg. 6

Tungasuvvingat Inuit

Restorative Justice Client Factsheet

INFORMATION TO BEGIN HEALING HARMS AND CREATING HARMONY THROUGH TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a method to justice where the answer to a crime is to bring the victim, offender and sometimes the community to meet to talk about the crime, what the crime has done to the victim, family and community. And for everyone to agree on how to the offender will make things right.

This allows you the chance to take responsibility, a chance for the person who has been hurt to have their voice heard. This also allows the community a better understanding of why things happened and how they can help with healing and restoring harmony.

Being able to go through the Restorative Justice process is made possible through the Bill C-41 sentencing amendments:

> **718.2 A court that imposes a sentence shall also take into consideration the following principle(s):**
>
> **(e) all available sanctions, other than imprisonment, that are reasonable in the circumstances and consistent with the harm done to victims or to the community should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders**

HOW CAN TI HELP YOU?

TI will help you (***COST FREE***) connect with programs and services that are based on Inuit values and cultural needs. Your healing plan is made for specifically for you.

There are too many Inuit going through court and too many Inuit in prisons. TI will support you help you so that you do not repeat crime and that you don't end up back in prison.

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS

HOW DO I START THE PROCESS?

There are 4 main ways you can enter the restorative justice process. The more serious the crime, the later you usually are able to start RJ:

- Pre-Charge Diversion - when you have been arrested for a crime, but the Police decide not to charge you.
- Post-Charge Diversion – when you have been charged with a crime, but the Crown decides not to bring you to trial.
- Sentencing - After you have have been found guilty of a crime.
- Re-integration – After you have been released from prison/jail.

You can also start the process yourself, a community member or community organization may want to start the process for you.

You can contact the Restorative Justice Liaison (see p.6 for contact info) and they will answer any of your questions and get you started.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I AM REFFERED?

After you are referred:

- You will meet or call the Restorative Justice Liaison and talk about what happened, what to expect from the program and what is needed from you.
- Agree to meet with the Restorative Justice Committee facilitator, to get ready to meet with the victim or community (if they wish to be part of it).
- During the meeting or conferencing, you take responsibility for your actions. Work with the victim and or the community to make things right.
- You will be given support options through T.I. and the community to help with your healing and wellness plan.
- Continue to meet with the Restorative Justice Liaison and members of the Justice Committee to complete the work you agreed to do.
- Once you are done, a written and signed report or agreement by everyone will be given to the courts. This would include recommendations for the judge to consider when deciding on your case.

  Note: Both victims and offenders are provided with supports like access to elders, counselling, and other Inuit specific programming.

HOW IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR COURT SENTECTING?

Regular court sentencing focuses on punishments, such as prison time. When the judge is sentencing you, he or she has no idea about your life, why you are in trouble or what kinds of help you need.

This does not help you or the justice system, it does nothing to stop you from breaking the law again in the future.

Healing and wellness plans are made by you, the Restorative Practices Liaison, the Facilitator of RJ Committee and victim. You may end up in culturally relevant and culturally appropriate programs and services, counselling, addictions, healing circles, or any other programs and services that meet your needs.

Restorative Justice works to start healing the from the suffering, hurt, pain and hard times. The goal is for you to begin living a healthy lifestyle.

RJ gives you a voice, no matter if you are the person that hurt someone, or you are the one that got hurt. This allows everyone a chance to heal the hurt and move forward. RJ connects you with your community instead of pushing you away.

TI has made sure that the **8 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) guiding principles** are included in the Restorative Justice program, this helps everyone through the process:

- **Inuuqatigiitsiarniq**- Respecting others, relationships and caring for people.
- **Tunnganarniq**- Fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.
- **Pijitsirniq**- Serving and providing for family and/or community.
- **Aajiiqatigiinniq**- Decision making through discussion and consensus.
- **Pilimmaksarniq**- Development of skills through practice, effort and action.
- **Piliriqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtigiingniq**- Working together for a common cause.
- **Qanuqtuurniq**- Being innovative and resourceful
- **Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq**- Respect and care for the land, animals and the environment.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN AND WHY?

WHO CAN USE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

- All Inuit in the Ottawa Urban community.

WHY USE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, WHAT IS THE GOAL?

- Restorative Justice helps you take responsibility, begin to heal, work on yourself and it helps you stay out of jail.

WHEN CAN I USE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

- You can use Restorative Justice if you want to take responsibility for something you have done that hurt someone else or the community.

WHERE DOES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TAKE PLACE?

- At Tungasuvvingat Inuit's 150 Elgin Street location and at the Indigenous Peoples Court (IPC) at the 161 Elgin Street Courthouse.

WILL THIS COST MONEY?

- NO! TI does not charge any fees. It is absolutely free for you.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO LIVE IN OTTAWA TO USE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

- It does not matter how long you have lived or stayed in Ottawa. All Inuit can use Restorative Justice.

WHO CONTACTS ME FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

- TI's Restorative Justice Liaison will contact you to set up your meetings.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF ME?

- That you are ready to take responsibility for your actions.
- That you are on time for any meetings that are set up.
- We only ask you to be open, honest, and trust the process.

HOW LONG DOES THIS PROCESS TAKE?

- This is based on your individual case and needs and can be different for each person.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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