# Presentation to Smiths Falls Council April 28th, 2025



Repairing Relationships & Building Stronger Communities with Restorative Practices

Our Vision: A community that embraces restorative practices to repair harm, build community and strengthen relationships.

Tamara Derkzen – Board Chair Marilyn Bird – Board Member

## **Our Programs**

- Court Diversion
  An alternative to the traditional Criminal Justice System.
- Restorative Parenting / Restorative Families Support for parents and other family members in connecting, repairing past harms and collaborating with teen children to find new ways forward.
- Restorative Practices for Educators Training
  Workshops teaching restorative practices in deaking nty
  with conflict in schools.

## **The Restorative Process**

- Referral from either Police, the Crown or the Community
- 2. Intake Process / Risk Assessment
  - Key issues
  - Accountability

- Identify Participants
- Agreement
- 3. Assigned to **Facilitators** Lead, Co-lead and Observer
- 4. Interview the Participants and prepare for the forum



### What Happens at a Forum:

#### **Facilitators ask:**

- The Complainant to describes the Impact on them because of the crime.
- What happened, who was harmed, what were you thinking at the time, what have you thought about since, how can you make things

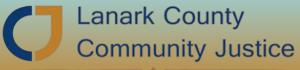


- Accused+ support
- Complainant+ support
- Facilitators & Observers



A **Legally Binding Agreement** is agreed upon, which is supervised and supported. Referrals can be made to other agencies to support accused and victime

Result: Charges avoided, withdrawn or



### Who Benefits?

#### The Criminal Justice System:

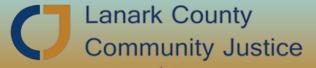
RJ is **Less Expensive** (thousands \$ saved). RJ **Reduces Recidivism**: 30% vs 5%-8%. RJ is a **Community Response** to crime and

The Accused: No criminal record; is not labelled or stigmatized.

They understand the consequences and accept responsibility.

**Apologizes** to the Complainant. **Reconciliation** and forgiveness may result. Avoids legal costs.

The Complainant(s): Have a voice in the process and agreement / traumatization is reduced / receives compensation & apology / reconciliation is possible. Increased feelings of safety & security.

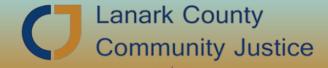


# Does it

Measure	Justice System	LCCJ RJ Process
Satisfaction with how the case was handled	68%	90%
Would recommend to another complainant	24%	98%
Days to complete	150	82
Recidivism	30%	5%-8%
Cost per case	\$20,000 +	\$2,000

#### So:

- Recommendation rate 4 x the justice system,
- Half the time,
- 75% less likely to re-offend,
- One tenth of the cost.



## How Can People Help?

- 1. Become a volunteer facilitator
- 2. Join our Board of Directors
- 3. Provide free meeting space for community justice forums
- 4. Ask for Restorative Justice when harm has occurred in your community

