

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Restorative Justice Society – North Okanagan**

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the newly formed Restorative Justice Society – North Okanagan (RJS–NO). (The RJS–NO was formerly known as the North Okanagan Restorative Justice Program and the Lumby and District Restorative Justice Program.)

The Board represents the North Okanagan with the following members Warren Smith, Vernon/ North Okanagan RCMP Safe Communities Unit; Carole Lyons, RJS-NO Volunteer Practitioners; Cindy Brewer, Okanagan Indian Band; Flemming Bech-Hansen, Bech-Hansen Bookkeeping & Consulting; Sandra Lynxleg, School District #22; Lawrence Williams, Spltasin First Nation; David Mardiros, David Mardiros Law Office and Rob Culos, Culos & Company Law Corporation; with special mention for Jonathan Oliphant (posthumously) and Jean M. Brown (Spltasin First Nation) and many others that have supported this process.

The RJS–NO services the Vernon/North Okanagan RCMP Detachment Area: Falkland, Spallumcheen, Armstrong, Enderby, Vernon, Coldstream, Lumby and the Regional District of the North Okanagan. Referrals for restorative justice (RJ) services are received directly from the RCMP and Schools within the North Okanagan.



Our logo represents the person harmed, the person who caused harm, the guardians and supporters, the community and the RJ Team coming together in a circle to reach an agreement on how to repair the harm.

Our vision is to build safer and healthier communities through restorative justice principles and practices.

Our mission is to connect individuals, to strengthen relationships and to build safe and healthy communities by repairing harm with the persons affected and the person who caused harm.

The RJS-NO is supported by a core group of volunteers Practitioners that form RJ Teams, making this a community-based service. Over the past years, RJ services have supported and advocated on behalf of over five hundred (500) persons harmed and over two hundred (200) persons who caused harm. Funding and on-going support for the development of the RJS-NO is through the City of Vernon and the Public Safety and Solicitor General's Community Accountability Programs and many restorative justice programs within BC.

For more information on the Restorative Justice Society – North Okanagan and/or to become involved contact Margaret Clark at (250-550-7846) or email [mclark@vernon.ca](mailto:mclark@vernon.ca).