

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CONFERENCE?

The community conference is a formal meeting involving the victim and offender with their families/supporters, as well as other community members. The goal of the conference is to create a consensus-based group agreement, which will repair the harm and damage created by the offending behaviour and to provide reconciliation for all participants. This restorative justice process is available to those offenders recommended by the RCMP or Crown Counsel to the program.

Other characteristics of a community conference:

- Organized and led by a trained conference facilitator.
- The conference and its outcome belong to the participants.
- Held in a community location
- A safe environment for all participants to tell their story.
- A safe environment for all participants to express how they have been affected by the offence.
- All participants are encouraged to develop the resolution agreement.
- Provides a written copy of the agreement for victim and offender.
- Mentors are available to assist offenders.

## ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE SOCIETY

### COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

Oceanside RCMP Detachment  
727 West Island Highway  
Parksville, BC, V9P 1B9



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*Printing costs provided by the Collins Family  
in memory of  
Frank Collins, ACJS Founding Member*



## ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

*A Restorative Justice Process*

*Our vision is  
a community in harmony.*

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- \* Youth and adults who could be charged with a minor offence under the criminal code, including but not limited to: theft, possession of stolen property, fraud, mischief, vandalism, causing a disturbance, etc.
- \* The accused must acknowledge the essential facts of the offence and must be willing to accept responsibility for the harm done.
- \* The accused must be willing to participate in a face-to-face community conference and comply with the signed conference agreement as an alternative to the court process.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

The conference is a confidential process between the conference team and the participants. Statistics of conferences and their outcomes will be tracked and recorded by the Society and the RCMP for on-going evaluation of the program.



*Xwiyu'los'tel - Look After Each Other*

## THE BENEFITS

### Victim Benefits

- A safe place to tell the offender how the incident has affected you.
- An opportunity to understand the offender's behaviour
- An opportunity to participate in the resolution of the offence
- An increased possibility of receiving restitution.
- An opportunity to experience a sense of closure regarding the offence.

### Offender Benefits

- An opportunity to become aware of the harm suffered by the victim
- An opportunity to participate in the resolution of the offence.
- An opportunity to acknowledge responsibility for the harm caused and take action to resolve and repair it.
- An opportunity to avoid a criminal record in respect to this offence.

### Community Benefits.

- A speedy way of resolving conflicts
- A cost effective alternative process
- Offender is less likely to re-offend (research based)
- An opportunity for citizens to participate in community peace making.
- By "looking after each other" we create a healthier and safer community.

## WHAT IS THE ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE SOCIETY

The Society is a community organization whose purpose is to administer a community-based justice program(s) and service, to promote conferencing as a resolution and peacemaking mechanism for conflict in the community and to involve interested community citizens and resources to accomplish the above services.

## WHO ARE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS?

City of Parksville  
Qualicum First Nations  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Oceanside Detachment  
School District #69  
Town of Qualicum Beach

## HOW CAN CITIZENS GET INVOLVED?

For more information about the Society or community conferencing and how to become involved contact the program coordinator at the Arrowsmith Community Justice Program office. The address and phone number is on the back of this brochure.

