

FAQ

What are Justice Circles?

All of our meetings are held in Circle format (sometimes called 'Peacemaking Circle' or just 'Circle'). In a Circle, everyone sits in (you guessed it!) a Circle, and typically 2-4 facilitators (what we call 'Circle Keepers' or 'Co-Keepers') guide the conversation by establishing group guidelines and values, maintaining safety within the group, asking thoughtful questions, and helping the group reach consensus. Justice Circles, that are centered around a crime or conflict, involve individual meetings with the responsible parties (those that committed the harm) and the affected parties (those that were harmed), and if all parties wish to do so and the Keepers deem it safe, then all participants will come together in a Circle together to talk about their experiences, the impacts and what they would like to see done to heal the harm (typically written down in a 'Resolution Agreement.')

What kind of cases are usually referred?

Theft under \$5000, assault, harassment, and break and enter are our most common case referrals. Non-criminal cases could involve peer conflict or bullying.

Where do the referrals come from?

Criminal referrals come from the RCMP and Crown Council. We also accept referrals from the community, including schools.

How many cases would we be expected to facilitate?

Referral amount varies. Currently, we are receiving about 3-5 youth cases a year, but we anticipate this number increasing as we build our capacity. Most cases consist of approximately 3-10 Circles depending on the complexity, spanning anywhere from 1 month to 1 year. Depending on the number of youth caseworkers and their engagement, you could expect to be on 1 to 4 cases per year.

How are caseworkers assigned to cases?

Once we receive a youth referral, a 'case call-out' will go out to the team, giving a short, non-identifying summary of the case. Volunteers will put their name forward if this is a case they would like to facilitate, and staff members will choose two youth caseworkers that are the best fit for the case based on a number of criteria.

How much honoraria do caseworkers get for working a case?

Caseworkers will receive \$40 per Circle. For the mandatory quarterly team meetings, volunteers will receive \$20 per meeting.

I'm interested in being a caseworker, but I am nervous as I have no experience doing something like this and not sure I have the skills needed. Should I still apply?

Yes! All caseworkers need to complete 22 hours of training, with additional training sessions throughout the year. In addition, there will always be at least one experienced adult caseworker to work alongside you and another youth caseworker. They will be there to mentor, support, and meet you at your comfort level.

Is there another way to volunteer if I don't want to do casework?

Yes, Youth Restorative Action currently has a school club that meets at Brooks Secondary bimonthly. Their main activities are workshops & presentations to students and SD47 staff, and hosting Dialogue Circles within the school and outside in the community. If you are not a student at Brooks, there are other opportunities in community engagement, committee work, admin support like social media, and more! You can contact us for more information. Please note that due to the nature of our funding sources, honoraria is only provided for casework and the quarterly team meeting that all members of Youth Restorative Action attend.



Phone: 604-414-4203 / Fax: 604.485.9244

Email: qCJ@qathetCJ.org

Office: #116-4801 Joyce Ave, Powell River, BC

Mailing Address: #218-6975 Alberni Street, Powell River, BC V8A 2B8