The Circle

Restorative Justice and the Indian Community

By Robert Desjarlais

In understanding the impact of their work with the Indian Claims Commission and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, restorative justice practitioners in Canada are coming to appreciate the potential of this model in addressing the legacy of colonization and the need for reconciliation. The Circle, a conference held in September 1998, brought together community leaders from across Canada to explore the use of restorative justice in addressing the harms caused by historic injustices.

The Circle was a space for dialogue and reflection, where participants brainstormed ways to apply restorative justice principles to Indian communities. The conference highlighted the importance of engaging in a pain and transforming the way in which we approach the past.

The Circle was an opportunity for Indian communities to take control of their own healing process. It was a space for sharing experiences and learning from one another. It was also an opportunity to challenge the dominant paradigm of justice and explore alternative means of addressing harm.

The Circle was an important step towards reconciliation and healing. It was a testament to the power of community and the potential of restorative justice in addressing the harms of the past.

The Circle was a time of reflection and hope. It was a time when Indian communities came together to explore the potential of restorative justice in addressing the harm caused by historic injustices. It was a time when Indian communities took control of their own healing process.