

Alan Edwards and Alana Abramson

Alan Edwards and Alana Abramson have been working together and separately in restorative justice for 25 years. Jointly, they served for two years as the RJ training development specialists for the Department of National Defence's Restorative Engagement Program, a program that facilitates communication between survivors of sexualized violence and senior defence representatives, within the Canadian Armed Forces. In 2012-14, they were part of a training team that developed and delivered advanced RJ training to practitioners in British Columbia. Since 2018, they have developed and delivered the course "Are We Fulfilling the Promise of Restorative Justice for Victims: Moving towards Victim-Centred Practice", offered to RJ programs in BC. In 2022, they delivered the well-received "RJ and Sexualized Violence Cases: Practitioner Skills" Pre-Conference training at ARJA's annual conference; they will be delivering a version of this course at the 2023 National Restorative Justice Symposium.

Dr. Alana Abramson is involved in the field of restorative justice as researcher, educator, practitioner, and trainer. She has extensive experience implementing restorative justice in community, prison, and school contexts. Her research has discussed the role of police and community related to restorative justice and she has organized and participated in numerous conferences on issues related to restorative justice, trauma and mental health, victim/survivors of crime, and prison justice. Alana's doctoral and current work explores restorative justice in post-secondary education, most recently advancing the philosophy and practice of restorative justice as an approach to academic integrity. In 2017, Alana was the recipient of the Restorative Justice Award from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. She also worked to develop the first victim-sensitive principles and standards for restorative justice providers in BC. Dr. Abramson is currently a full-time Criminology Instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Co-Chair of the Restorative Justice Association of BC, Coordinator and Facilitator for the Alternatives to Violence Project, Board Member for BC Bereavement Society and trainer for Achieve/Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute.

Alan has developed and delivered training in restorative justice throughout Canada. And, like Alana, he has spoken about restorative justice philosophy and practice to government leaders, correctional staff, victim serving agencies, gender-based violence workers, and university students. Since 2004, Alan has worked as a facilitator exclusively on cases of serious and violent crime, in the Restorative Opportunities Program of Correctional Service Canada. He has co-authored several papers on restorative justice and violence. He was a co-author of the 2018 ARJA publication "Serving Crime Victims Through Restorative Justice: A Resource Guide for Leaders and Practitioners". In 2017-18, he was a member of the University of Alberta's Working Group on Restorative Initiatives for Sexual Violence. Alan presented advanced, Pre-Conference training at both the 2018 and 2020 Canadian Domestic Violence Conference in Halifax; as well, Alan presented in 2020 to the roundtable forum "Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence: Revisiting the Conversation in British Columbia". In 2016, Alan received the Ron Wiebe National Restorative Justice Award, in recognition of his contributions to the field of restorative justice.

Alana and Alan continue to develop and deliver RJ trainings that focus on trauma-informed practice, gender-based violence, working with violence, and victim-centred practice.