

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Healing Between Cultures: UWinnipeg Panel to Discuss Restorative Justice

WINNIPEG—Can there be healing between cultures? The Faculty of Theology at The University of Winnipeg is bringing together a panel of faith leaders to discuss the place of restorative justice in our broken world.

Restorative justice is a response that looks at the harm caused by an incident and seeks to repair or heal this harm. Restorative justice particularly applies to the relationship between the dominant culture and the indigenous peoples of Canada.

*Faith and Restorative Justice:
Exploring the Multi-Faith Dimension of Restorative Justice*

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The University of Winnipeg, Manitoba Hall Room 31 (4M31)

Everyone is welcome.

The panel will include faith leaders from the Aboriginal, Christian, Islamic, Jewish, and Buddhist communities. Rev. Dr. Gordon MacDermid, Dean of Theology at The University of Winnipeg, will serve as host for the evening. Comments and questions from the audience will be fielded by panel members once the faith leaders have shares their views of Restorative Justice from their individual faith perspectives.

Richard Bredsteen

A student of Sogyal Rinpoche (*Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*) since 1981, Richard Bredsteen (M.S. Communications, S.F. State University) was engaged in citizen diplomacy efforts in the Middle East with Earthsteward Network in 1993-94. He served as a board member and resident at Lost Valley Education from 1990-93, an intentional consensus directed community in Oregon, U.S. He has been involved with the clinical pastoral education program through The University of Winnipeg for three years, focusing particularly at Health Science Centre (HSC) and Headingly Corrections. He presently facilitates meditation sessions at these two institutions along with on-call spiritual care at HSC.

Rev. Stan McKay

Born at Fisher River First Nation Reserve, a Cree community in Northern Manitoba, Rev. McKay attended Fisher River Indian Day School and the Birtle Indian Residential School. A teacher and United Church Minister, McKay has taught and ministered in Norway House, Nelson House, and Fisher River. Former Director of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre, and Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rev. McKay is presenting an advisor for First Nations on Education, Health, and Development.

Darlene Rempel

Darlene Rempel's faith journey began shortly after the death of her son in 1984. Since that time she has been working with the victims of violent crime, the majority being families of homicide victims. In 1989, she took on the role of Executive Director of Victims of Violence for Manitoba and in 1999 she helped bring together The Manitoba Organization of Victim Advocates Inc. (MOVA) and was hired in 2001 as the group's Executive Director. In 1991, Rempel became a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Correctional Service of Canada, working as a volunteer out of the Manitoba/NW Ontario District Parole Office (Winnipeg Parole). This experience provided her with a first-hand look into the correctional system, insights which she has since been able to pass along to victims.

Rabbi Neal Rose

Rabbi Neal Rose is an ordained rabbi and a Senior Scholar in the Department of Religion at the University of Manitoba. He is also a Family Therapist in private practice and a long-time interfaith activist. Rabbi Rose is married, a father of five, and a grandfather of four.

Shahina Siddiqui

Shahina Siddiqui is a freelance writer and a social and community activist. Siddiqui is President of Islamic Social Services Association Canada and a member of the board of the Council on American Islamic Relations – Canada.

The Most Reverend V. James Weisgerber

James Weisgerber was born in Vibank, Saskatchewan. He was ordained as a priest at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina in 1963. He was Dean of Arts at Notre Dame College (now Athol Murray College) in Wilcox, Saskatchewan, where he taught philosophy, religious studies, and French. Weisgerber worked for several years as the director of pastoral and social justice offices in the Regina Archbishop's Office and served as Rector in parishes in Regina and Fort Qu'Appelle. He was named the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Among his many tasks, he currently serves on the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, is co-chair of the Anglican-Catholic Bishops' Dialogue, president of the Western Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is a member of the international Catholic/Methodist Dialogue.

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