

# The Sparwood Project in Youth Justice

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The Honourable Judge D. Kent KIRKLAND\*

Much attention has been focussed on the theory of restorative justice throughout this conference. The Sparwood Project offers us the opportunity to see some of the practical results of this theory.

The Sparwood Project began about two and a half years ago in south eastern British Columbia and is expanding rapidly throughout various regions of Canada, particularly in British Columbia. Through the combined efforts of Sergeant Jake Bouwman, R.C.M.P., Sparwood, B.C., and defence counsel Glen Purdy, Barrister, a meaningful approach to youth justice, fashioned after the Australian and New Zealand models has been given life in Canada. Justice for youth, victims, communities and law enforcement services based upon restoration, rather than retribution has given a whole new look to the field of youth justice.

What better way to hear first hand of these innovations than through the authors themselves, and that will be our benefit today. After you hear their description of the events of the growth of this strategy, I think many of you will want to hurry home with enthusiasm and ideas.

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