Indigenous Justice Paradigms

This presentation flows from research that examines the role, place and function of Elders who lead healing programs in Correctional Service of Canada Institutions (prisons). From the knowledge collected and assessed in that process we will examine the dichotomy between the retributive justice paradigm applied in the dominant culture and Indigenous methodologies that are vested in a different worldview. This presentation focuses on the methodology (Ritual, Ceremony and Indigenous knowledge) applied within Elder Led healing programs and argues that retributive justice and restorative justice paradigm approaches currently applied within the dominant culture cannot produce successful community reintegration for men and women of Indigenous descent as effectively as Indigenous approaches because they cannot overcome the effects of intergenerational trauma carried by the disproportionate population of incarcerated Indigenous men and women held under federal warrant in Canada.

Dr. Robin Quantick is a new member of the adjunct community at UPEI. He holds an M.Ed. from Queen’s and a Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies from Trent University. His research work seeks to address the disproportionate representation of incarcerated men and women of Indigenous descent who are held under federal warrant in Canada. In the 20 years preceding graduate school he worked in correctional education where he ran Excalibur Learning Resource Centre. For more than 25 years Excalibur held contracts with the Correctional Service of Canada to provide teachers and associated education services to institutions in Atlantic, Ontario and Prairie regions. In this work he managed and taught incarcerated men and women in every security level. By far the most successful of these experiences was working in living skills and lower level Adult Basic Education settings. In the more recent past he has divided his time between his work with Excalibur in family mediation and workplace (human rights investigation) contracts and responsibilities as a Sessional Instructor at the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies at Trent University.

Thursday, April 12th
4 - 5 pm
MCDH 242

Email: EdGradAdmin@upei.ca to register for this free event.