



Megan McKay

PEACE BUILDING

PERSONAL OVERVIEW/ PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHY

With almost two decades of experience, Megan believes that peace is a right and a choice available to everyone. Practical and efficient, she shows up with a robust peacebuilding toolkit which allows her to create a mediation process that is complex, but not complicated.

While being firmly planted in her small town Albertan roots, her first experience with mediation was in Ireland at a peace centre with paramilitaries who wanted to learn to represent the public as politicians. The magic she witnessed there sparked a passion for peacebuilding that has persevered through a range of activities, whether mediation, designing programs and spaces, teaching, or research.

Megan managed the court mediation program and worked with Municipal Affairs in Alberta, participated in facilitation processes in South Africa, and is exploring new avenues for building peace — between separated parents wanting a fresh start, and through her Métis heritage, addressing the deep-rooted conflict between ethnicities in Canada.

Megan's Master's thesis applied the learning from Ireland to mediation in Canada. Her goal was to better understand why deep-rooted conflict is so difficult to address and what are the best skills and process designs to do so. Her graduate research was funded by the Department of National Defence, and Megan has received a number of awards throughout her career, as well as having the opportunity to speak nationally at conferences, trainings, and lectures.

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

- Nearly 20 years of experience in: conflict analysis, process design, convening multi-party processes, facilitation, restorative justice, mediation, conciliation, negotiation, change management, conducting skill-based training, conflict coaching.
- Worked in Canada, Ireland, and South Africa with: politicians, municipal administrators, families, youth, victims/survivors of sectarian violence, ex-combatants, environmental activists, lawyers, university students.
- Completed 100 mediations to date including co and solo mediations in the areas of family law, civil law, and community disputes.