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PART TWO

The Mutual Respect Paradigm in Practice

Overview of Part Two

The Mutual Respect Paradigm of protest crowd–police dynamics emerged from training as an intervention, which morphed into Participatory Action Research. The initial insights were generated without knowledge of the history of protest, crowds, and policing that inform Part One. The intervention took place between the Summer of the year 2000 and Spring, 2002; the historical and background research was completed in the subsequent years. The spirit of hope and optimism we hold for a new paradigm is nurtured by our experiences in which we witnessed the power of dialogue and creative scenario development that dissolved stereotypes and generated options that went beyond what we might have imagined.

The story of our experience is told in chapter eleven. It provides an account of the initial training seminars that brought representatives of protesters, police, targets and bystanders together for shared experiences. These seminars took place within a context and organizational structure that included an advisory council and eventually focus groups. Part of the story includes a G20 gathering of Finance Ministers in Ottawa, Canada during which the police–protest crowd dynamics went off track. Follow-up gatherings of police and protesters generated many new insights which informed the Mutual Respect Paradigm described in Part One and provided lessons learned for the intervention methodology in Part Two.

Our story is followed by essays from various representatives of the different stakeholder groups in chapter twelve which gives voice to some of those involved in the process. In chapter thirteen, we provide some practical suggestions for implementing a new paradigm. It provides a model and methodology for people who wish to initiate processes for stakeholders in protests to share understandings, generate insights, and develop scenarios for protests that can be effective in promoting justice and transforming institutions.