

Annual
Report

Presented January 20, 2016

2015

Victoria Family Court and
Youth Justice Committee



2015 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

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2015 Membership

- ❖ **Cynthia Day, Chair**, Councillor (Colwood)
- ❖ Lilja Chong, Councillor (Alternate Colwood)
- ❖ **Ron Mattson, Vice Chair**, Councillor (View Royal)
- ❖ Moralea Milne, Councillor (Metchosin)
- ❖ Olga Liberchuk, Councillor (Esquimalt)
- ❖ Susanne Currie (Esquimalt)
- ❖ Sigurd Johannesen, (Oak Bay)
- ❖ Lanny Seaton, Councillor (Langford)
- ❖ Matt Sahlstrom, Councillor (Langford)
- ❖ Tim Chad, Councillor (Sidney)
- ❖ Peter Wainwright, Councillor (Alternate-Sidney)
- ❖ Jack McLintock, Councillor (North Saanich)
- ❖ Geoff Orr, Councillor (Alternate-North Saanich)
- ❖ Murray Weisenberger (Alternate-North Saanich)
- ❖ Michelle Kirby, Councillor (Oak Bay)
- ❖ Bill Warburton (Oak Bay)
- ❖ Marilyn Holman, (Saanich)
- ❖ Marcie McLean, Councillor (Highlands)
- ❖ Leslie Anderson, (Alternate-Highlands)
- ❖ Ebony Logins, Councillor (Sooke)
- ❖ Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Councillor (Victoria)
- ❖ Helen Hughes, (Victoria)
- ❖ Geanine Robey, Restorative Justice Resource Group
- ❖ Jennifer Gibbs, Mobile Youth Services Team
- ❖ Jana Sawyer, Saanich Police
- ❖ Ranj Atwal (MCFD), Youth Probation (Team Leader)
- ❖ Cate Bennett (MCFD)
- ❖ Sue Hendricks, Director, Aboriginal Programs and Relationships
- ❖ Gillian Lindquist, Restorative Justice Victoria
- ❖ Jessica Rourke, Restorative Justice Victoria
- ❖ Georgia Peters, CASA for Children
- ❖ Mitzi Dean, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association
- ❖ Marie Bourque (Central Saanich)
- ❖ **Bill McElroy, Treasurer & CRAT/SEY Chair**
- ❖ Joel Conway, The Fortress Foundation
- ❖ Christine Kenwood, Single Parent Resource Centre
- ❖ Tim Dunford, Trustee, Saanich School District 63
- ❖ Barb Menzies, Trustee, Saanich School District 63
- ❖ Ravi Parmar, Trustee, Sooke School District 62
- ❖ Dianna Seaton, Trustee, Sooke School District 62
- ❖ Deb Whitten, Trustee, Victoria School District 61
- ❖ Jordan Watters, Trustee, Victoria School District 61
- ❖ Kathy Rochlitz, West Shore R.C.M.P.
- ❖ Bryson Hill, West Shore R.C.M.P.
- ❖ Gord Irving, Boys' & Girls' Club
- ❖ Shirley Williams-Yuen, John Howard Society of Victoria
- ❖ Victoria Court Registry, Ministry of Attorney General (Vacant)
- ❖ Public Safety and Solicitor General (Vacant)
- ❖ Central Saanich Police (Vacant)

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Chair's Report

Our job as the *Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice (VFCYJ) Committee* is **to be aware of the circumstances for youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system.** We represent the community for government - local, provincial and federal.

The committee closely follows reports from the *BC Children's Representative* www.rcybc.ca . **Her investigations have found system failure after system failure, year after year.** 2015 was no exception. Following up on "Paige's Story" and actions taken by the City of Vancouver, the Committee urged all CRD Municipalities and School Districts to call for Provincial action. School District #62 (Sooke) passed this resolution:

"That School District 62 urges the BC Government to take action to improve the delivery of the BC Child Protection services, to fully fund the office of the BC Representative for Children and Youth, and to follow the provisions in the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Children."

The resolution will be brought forward to the *School Trustees Association*, to be endorsed by school districts throughout Vancouver Island and BC. The *City of Colwood* (and others) passed the same resolution. Through Colwood (and other municipalities) the Resolution will be brought forward to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to lobby the provincial government for action.

The VFCYJ Committee continued to lobby to retain youth services and containment facilities here on Vancouver Island, with full support from all 13 municipalities, and 4 school districts. Despite the province's insistence that the Youth Containment Facility must close for financial reasons, the facility remained open although local youth were sent to mainland facilities. We continue to advocate for building family and community connections with supportive services close to home and recommend compatible programming to offset building and staff costs.

The Family Court litigation process continues to do much harm to children and families - draining financial resources, impacting access to food, lodging, activities and taking many years to conclude. Through CASA, the Court Watch subcommittee is being reinvigorated - allowing informed observation of Court processes which will be a major focus for the committee in 2016. A number of lawyers have come together in Victoria to advocate for youth, as they have become increasingly concerned that *Children's Rights* as defined by the *United Nations* are not considered in this process. Casa continues to advocate for those rights, and especially for aboriginal families so very far away from their cultural community at Court. The system is so big and so fast that volunteers describe it as 'a big machine just gobbling families up'.

The *Crime Reduction Education Division (CRED)*, of Pacific Centre Family Services, works with youth exiting gangs throughout the CRD. In 2015 the *FCYJ Committee* lobbied for increased municipal support, with most municipalities providing some bridge funding to continue this valuable program. CRED was successful with Ministry funding for this past year, but the program is again in jeopardy as they now apply annually for civil forfeiture funds. The work is part time,

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with the CRED worker joining the Mobile Youth Services Team at least once a week, attuned to gang and sexual exploitation – issues that are closely intertwined.

The committee is keenly aware that youth who do not have a safe secure home are more vulnerable to exploitation. Protective factors include friends, relationships and community connections. The *Mobile Youth Services Team* continues to advocate for youth who have run away from home, are dealing with addiction issues, or who have been sexually exploited. Youth continue to be highly mobile within the Capital Region and additional resources that cross all boundaries would be helpful to youth and families dealing with bullying, mental and physical well-being, exploitation, pimps, gangs and criminal influences. I am aware of the MYST worker identifying one suicide this year, which is reportedly typical, but still one too many.

Threshold continues to expand housing options for youth through the *SHY* (Safe Housing for Youth) program, actively searching out “youth-friendly” landlords who will accept youths as tenants. The SHY program attempts to house *quickly* that segment of the at-risk population who are high functioning, low needs, and motivated to seek independence but need affordable and stable housing. The target population is at-risk youth transitioning into adulthood that have barriers (mainly age, minimum wage jobs and no savings). <http://thresholdhousing.ca>

Each Spring, *CRATSEY* brings **Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others**, (TCO²) an interactive theatre style presentation put on by **The Children of the Street Society**, to local middle and high schools to help inform youth. Presentations are based on the real life experiences of youth who have worked with the Society and this helps to provide tools to prevent exploitation. Bookings are coordinated through the Mobile Youth Services Team (Jgibbs@oakbaypolice.org).

In December Annie Smith, Executive Director of McCreary Centre Society, presented the “Results of the 2013 BC Adolescent Health Survey” for South Vancouver Island, www.mcs.bc.ca mccreary@mcs.bc.ca There were many local improvements, for example “decreases in the percentage of youth trying alcohol, marijuana or tobacco” however there was an increase in *recent* smoking from 38% in 2003 to 44% in 2008 and to 51% in 2013. 21% of local students had at least one *mental health* condition, and there was an increase in the percentage of local students who did not access services because they did not want their parents to know and because *they did not know where to go*. Females were more likely to have at least one condition (25% vs 16%) and to have multiple conditions (10% vs. 4%)

“The survey identified protective factors that appear to be linked to better outcomes for even the most vulnerable youth. These included physical activity, nutrition, and sleep. Findings also highlighted the importance of supportive relationships with peers and adults, including family, teachers and other professionals.”

Youth engagement was beneficial for youth who had been teased, excluded, or assaulted in the past year. Youth who felt their activities were meaningful were more likely to feel good about themselves and more likely to rate their mental health as good or excellent.

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Early Childhood Connectedness, a keynote (also presented in December) by Dr. Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Island Health focused on the importance of early childhood education, noting that investments in early childhood education are an efficient and effective tool for economic and workforce development. He said waiting until age 3 was too late. Without nurturing, close relationships and a sturdy foundation to support development through their teens and into adulthood, children are at higher risk of obesity, diabetes, various cancers, addiction, and mental illness. The children are also “more likely to fall behind in school, engage in criminal behavior, be in abusive relationships and have trouble holding down a job.” “The problems and conditions can be passed from generation to generation, BUT *intervening early and often can have a tremendous influence* to promote positive outcomes and minimize or mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences and events.” “Early childhood care and education in Canada lags behind other developed countries, including Norway, Sweden and France, ...Canada spends far below the OECD standard 1% of GDP.” http://successby6victoria.ca/sites/default/files/Dr%20Stanwick_Success%20BY%20Six.pdf

The FCYJ Committee has found that Restorative Justice (RJ) Programs, seen as an alternative to costly court systems, are beneficial and the groups who administer them are well connected within the community. ***The disconnect between the provision of cost effective restorative justice services and the availability of the long-term, stable funding needed to maintain RJ continues.***

The committee is well aware of the financial pressures on all levels of government. We also observe that the costs of inaction continue to be unmonitored and there is a lack of long term data. Many programs provide excellent reports on the positive benefits to their participants and the extent of their impact. Member reports ***consistently identify the need for long term stable funding*** for programming. Data on the costs of ***not providing resources*** to families and youth would be beneficial, like data on the costs of providing housing vs. supporting homelessness.

Policing, undeniably the largest municipal expense, continues to often be the only resource available. Youth, families and the local community continue to be relatively unaware of the perils present in our communities – the use of drugs to lure kids into gangs, prostitution and illegal activities; the vulnerability of youth to online harassment and coercion; the impacts of the family court system on families’ ability to provide food, lodging and support for youth; the lack of resources to treat and support recovery from addiction, trauma and parent or youth health issues. There are also few resources for aboriginal families working with the court systems. Additional resources may be brought in if the situation is extreme, but there is no regular recognition of the cultural factors affecting First Nations families accessing court.

The costs of not having early access to appropriate resources – when costs are lowest – are landing on local taxpayers and impacting the quality of life for youth and families.

Cynthia Day, Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Guest Speakers 2015

January 21

Victoria Police Chief **Frank Elsner**, on youth issues; And
Melanie Mark, Deputy Representative, Advocacy, Community Relations and
Youth Engagement

May 20

Children of the Street Society

Taking Care of Ourselves Taking Care of Others or 'TCO²' Presentation
Website: www.childrenofthestreet.com

June 17

Suzanne Williams, International Institute for Child Rights and Development
(IICRD) , Victoria BC V8W 2Y2

www.iicrd.org

IICRD Child Protection in Development
Community of Practice

www.cpid.iicrd.org

September 16

Judge E. Quantz, on the Victoria Community Court Initiative

November 18

Linda Nehra, West Shore Local Action Team

lindanehra@gmail.com

*No Meetings: **March, July, August, November, December**



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Annual Financial Statements
December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015

Opening Balance December 1, 2014: **\$ 26,187.58**

Expenses:

Lunches:	\$ 2,347.01
Secretarial:	\$ 2,400.00
Office Supplies/Internet:	\$ 319.92
Grants: (See Note 1)	\$ 6,364.25

Total Expenses: \$ 11,431.18

Revenue:

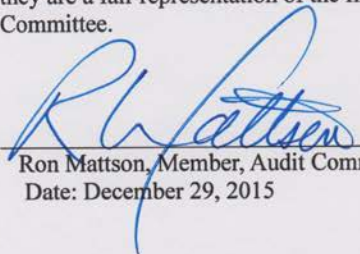
CRD Grant:	\$ 14,655.00
Interest:	\$ 25.55
Total Revenue:	\$ 14,680.55

Closing Balance November 30, 2015: **\$ 29,436.95**

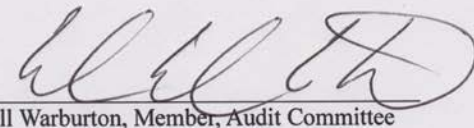
Notes:

1. \$3000 Grant to CRAT
\$2750 Pass through to PCFSA for CRED [donated by Municipalities in 2013-14]
\$614.25 Conference Registration
2. \$10,000 reserved for Mental Health Project
3. Financial Statements compiled on a cash basis
4. VanCity Shares (not included in Financial Statements) \$5.99

We have reviewed these financial statements and the accompanying documentation and confirm that they are a fair representation of the financial position of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.



Ron Mattson, Member, Audit Committee
Date: December 29, 2015



Bill Warburton, Member, Audit Committee
Date: December 29, 2015

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Priorities Committee

The Priorities Committee (Committee) consists of the VFCYJC Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and one member appointed by the Chair. The Committee reviews applications received for extraordinary funding and grants to other agencies. Members of the Committee include: Ron Mattson (Chair), Bill McELroy (Treasurer), Cynthia Day (ex officio as FCYJC chair) and Marcie McLean.

Committee Mandate:

The Committee's goals are outlined in the Priorities Purpose document. It represents the belief of the Committee that simply observing the circumstances for youth is not enough, members of the committee want to manage our scarce resources to maximize our knowledge and investigate options that could possibly make a difference for youth and their families so that we can make informed recommendations to local, provincial and federal governments. In 2016 the Committee will review its mandate to consider expanding the grants criteria.

Application Process:

The Committee works to ensure that when a grant request comes forward to the committee, all the necessary information is in place to allow for an informed decision. The application is reviewed via email and a recommendation (with additional information if needed) is brought to the main committee for a decision, usually through a formal report.

2015 Applications:

Applications for funding assistance approved in 2015 include:

1. West Shore Policing Advisory Committee – request for a \$2,000 scholarship. The following motion was approved by the FVCYJC: That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee support the West Shore Community Police Bursary with a one-time \$1,500 grant to be matched by West Shore Community Policing to provide three \$1,000 bursaries over three years, provided that 1) a member of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee be invited to sit on the selection committee and 2) that the VFCYJ committee receives annual reports on the bursary program.
2. Georgia Peters – request for \$614 to attend the Access to Justice for Children Conference (approved);
3. Capital Region Action Team (CRAT) –request for \$3000 to hold the 4th Sexual Exploitation/Human Trafficking workshop. (approved)

These applications follow; **please note that not all applications received the full amount requested, amounts are as detailed in the treasurer's report.**

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Mattson, Chair Priorities Committee

Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Priorities Sub-committee

Form for Goods and Services Submissions

(Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to rmattson@shaw.ca and vfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

1. Name of organization / person(s) applying:

CRAT (Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth)

2. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:

CRAT was formed in 1998 in response to increasing numbers of youth selling sex on Victoria's streets. Since then we have worked to raise awareness and to educate youth and youth workers about this issue. We do this mainly by bringing over TCO2 (Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others) from Vancouver once a year and putting on a workshop/symposium about sexual exploitation/human trafficking every 18 months or so. CRAT is part of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

3. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:

To allow those who work with youth to acquire a greater understanding of the sexual exploitation of youth and human trafficking in BC and Victoria. This will be the 4th such workshop since 2011. Sexual Exploitation and trafficking have changed dramatically in the past 20 years from recruiting at schools and places where youth congregate to online luring. Youth workers, parents, teachers, social workers, etc. need to know more about this issue so that they can support youth who are being groomed. We want to ensure that the risks of youth entering the Criminal Justice system are reduced. Admission is free and refreshments, including lunch, are provided free of charge to ensure that those who work with youth will not have barriers to attend.

4. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application:

This request will provide funding for a day-long symposium, including lunch, for members of the public who work with youth.

5. Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. In the Greater Victoria area or within your organization).

Yes, WestShore RCMP, Victoria Police Department, Mobile Youth Support Team (MYST), Pacific Centre Family Services, Children of the Street Society, Deborah's

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Gate, PEERS, Boys and Girls Club, and several other organizations working with youth.

6. Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:			
VFCYJC	Applied	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
In kind donations	Confirmed	\$1,000.00	
CRAT	Confirmed	\$1,650.00	
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$5,650.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Expenses:			
Rent and supplies		\$400.00	\$250.00
Refreshments and Lunch		\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
Admin, organization	In kind	\$1,000.00	
Travel, honoraria, fees for speakers/panels		\$1,500.00	
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$5,650.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

Due to health issues of organizer, other funding avenues and partners have not been explored.

8. Catchment area served – target population:

Throughout the CRD.

9. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

Sexual Exploitation on the internet is a growing concern. Human Trafficking in the Greater Victoria area is growing. Most of this activity is hidden from public view. We need to raise the awareness of those who work with youth so that they can identify these issues and provide the necessary supports.

10. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):

Projected attendance is 150 youth workers, students, parents, community volunteers, Police, Government Employees and other professionals.

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11. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)

This will be a one-day project September 24, 2015 at First Metropolitan Church in downtown Victoria.

12. Evaluation framework:

Evaluation forms at end of workshop.

**Excerpt from the May 20, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice
Committee Meeting Minutes**

c) Priorities Application

VFCYJC Received a Priorities Application to cover part or all of Georgia's expenses to attend The **Access to Justice Conference in Vancouver**. The conference has already happened and Georgia was able to get her registration costs reduced to \$614.25. Georgia shared that there was impressive participation from the First Nations and lots of high profile people there and she was able to network and make some good connections. She has some ideas for future plans for VFCYJC and she will follow up with Mitzi Dean, Chair of the Youth Matters subcommittee.

Motion: VFCYJC to reimburse Georgia \$614.25

R. Mattson/O. Liberchuk

CARRIED

Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Priorities Sub-committee

Form for Goods and Services Submissions

(Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to rmattson@shaw.ca and vfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

1. Date of Application: 6 October 2015
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying: **Westshore RCMP Community Policing Advisory Committee**. Chair Heidi Rast
3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects: The Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) was established by the Westshore RCMP detachment when it was formed. The committee has approximately 12 members representing the 5 member municipalities, Restorative Justice, SD62, Seniors Center, Rotary, Songhees First Nations, Chamber of Commerce, Greater Victoria Victim Service, Belmont Student Council and Royal Roads University.

Back in 2011, the municipalities of Langford, Colwood and View Royal agreed to give 10% of the money that the West Shore detachment collects on their behalf for criminal record checks to CPAC to be used in the creation of a local grant and scholarship program. The Community grant has been in place since 2012 and CPAC is now gathering enough revenue to get the scholarship program up and running.

We are looking at starting 2 distinct scholarships. The first is for students entering into a 'Helping Profession' (e.g. policing, nursing, social work, justice studies, firefighter, counselling etc...).

The second scholarship, in which we are hoping to partner with you, is the 'Full Potential' Scholarship which is to be awarded to an individual in recognition of their ability to overcome adversity and is enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution.

Our committee is able to commit \$500 a year to this scholarship and we are hoping the VFCYJC would be willing to commit \$500 a year for a 5 year term (with possible extensions).

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Our committee would be happy to have a representative from your organization sit on the selection committee for the awarding of the scholarship.

I have attached the draft Scholarship Guidelines at the end of this application for your benefit and would appreciate any feedback that you may have.

4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:

This scholarship is targeting students who were heading down the wrong path (drugs, gangs, absenteeism, violence, crime, etc...) but have worked hard and chosen another path. There are numerous root causes to why a youth may be losing their way and these can be very significant obstacles to overcome (loss of a parent, poor home life, abuse, addiction, etc...). Not only does this scholarship recognize what is a very significant achievement, it also helps to provide a small financial assistance as the youth enters post-secondary education. It is CPAC's belief that education is a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of poverty and violence.

5. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application: Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. In the Greater Victoria area or within your organization).

CPAC is hopeful to award the first scholarship in June 2016.

6. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:	CPAC will set aside each year \$500 from the 10% of Criminal Record Check funds that it receives from Langford, Colwood and View Royal	\$500	
	Looking for an external partner to match the \$500 (Hopefully VFCYJC)	\$500	
<u>Total</u>			\$1000
Expenses:			
	\$1000 Full Potential		\$1000

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	Scholarship		
Facility		\$	
<u>Total</u>		\$	\$1000

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

No other funding avenues are being pursued at this time.

8. Catchment area served – target population:

The area serviced by the Westshore RCMP including Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Songhees First Nation and Esquimalt First Nation.

9. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

CPAC needs to finalize and adopt the Scholarship guidelines, develop selection criteria guidelines and a reporting structure.

10. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):

One \$1000 scholarship to be awarded annually.

11. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)

CPAC is hopeful to award the first scholarship in June 2016.

12. Evaluation framework: N/A



2015 Annual Report

CRAT met 5 times during the year in donated space at Victoria City Hall. Our thanks to the City of Victoria for donating space for the meetings. We were able to provide light lunches to the meeting and to cover expenses for materials and presenters through an annual \$1500 grant from the Capital Regional District. During the year, we continued to raise awareness of the issue of sexually exploited youth in the Capital Regional District and worked to identify gaps in service for these youth. Youth are now being groomed and stalked on the internet, which makes it more difficult to detect and help them. Gangs are also becoming a factor.

At the January meeting, Bill McElroy was acclaimed Chair, and Joel Conway agreed to be Vice-Chair. Bill presented the financial statements, showing a balance of about \$2617. The District of Oak Bay keeps the financial records for CRAT: all funds given to CRAT are deposited with Oak Bay and they pay all expenses by cheque. Many thanks to staff at Oak Bay for providing this service.

During the week of May 19 to May 22, Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (tco2) made 12 presentations at 8 locations to 740 participants, including during the regular meeting of the VFCYJC on May 20. Special thanks to Mia Golden and Constable Jennifer Gibbs for coordinating the presentations. After consulting with school counsellors, tco2 will be doing school presentations during the week of February 22-26, 2016.

On September 24, we held our 4th Sexual Exploitation/Human Trafficking workshop. The event was held in downtown Victoria at First Metropolitan Church, 932 Balmoral Avenue. We had more than 125 registered attendees. The evaluations were very positive, with an average score of 9 out of 10. The only issue that scored low was the lack of parking, which is always going to be a problem with downtown events like this. There were presentations from the Victoria Police Chief, the WestShore RCMP, Office to Combat Trafficking In Persons, Melissa Hyland, Fortress Foundation, MYST, Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Deborah's Gate, Children of the Street, PEERS, Boys and Girls Club Victoria, and Victoria YES.

Submitted by Bill McElroy, Chair, December 2015

Communications

The primary communications is via email to vfamcourt@gmail.com with support from our website www.victoriafamilycourt.ca . The following Correspondence is from 2015.



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

January 7, 2015

Re: CRED Program

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is mandated through federal and provincial legislation and appointed by local governments to be aware of the circumstances for children and families who may come into contact with the legal system. We have held numerous events to liaise with the community and especially with youth and have youth and family service agencies from all sectors attend our monthly meetings.

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is intimately aware of the benefits of the CRED program which provides counseling support services to youth who are attracted to a romanticized notion of gang life, who have been indoctrinated into a gang or who exhibit signs of being groomed for entrance into a gang. We have had presentations on the effectiveness of the program and subsequently provided some funding (\$2,500) from our own minimal resources as well as lobbying for additional funding from our local governments, providing an additional \$2,750 funding.

Gangs respect no boundaries and we are only a short boat ride away from the centre of some very active gang areas. Gang countermeasures in those areas provide great incentive for gangs to move to smaller centres like Vancouver Island. Associations may also be formed by island youth sent to containment centres on the mainland, leading to a greater level of awareness of the opportunities for manipulation in an area with less gang specific enforcement.

The CRED program has a history of success and provides a good return on investment. The benefits are obvious locally, but CRED also helps demonstrate to youth provincially the difference between healthy relationships and manipulative exploitation. Youth involved in programs like Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (Children of the Street Society's Interactive Theatre production) demonstrates how survivors often become leaders.

The Committee is strongly supportive of CRED.

Sincerely,

Councillor Cynthia Day, Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Date: March 16, 2015

To: All Capital Regional District Partners and School Districts

From: Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Chair, Cynthia Day
c/o City of Colwood, 3300 Wishart Road, Victoria, BC V9C 1R1

Re: CRED Program Update

The Crime Reduction and Education (CRED) Program at Pacific Centre Family Services Association began as a two year pilot project, funded by the Ministry of Justice, to provide prevention, intervention, and mentorship to youth who have come to the attention of the law or who are vulnerable to becoming involved in criminal and gang activities. Although the funding from the Ministry of Justice came to an end in August 2014, PCFSA succeeded in offering the program in a part-time capacity through the investment of independent funds and acquiring small grants, including \$2,500 from the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, \$500 each from the Municipalities of Sooke, Esquimalt, Colwood, North Saanich, View Royal, Metchosin, and \$250 from the District of Highlands as well as an additional \$500 pending from Central Saanich. This valuable bridge funding allowed for the retention of knowledge and relationships while provincial grant applications were being made and I congratulate these municipalities for their support.

The overall goal of the CRED program is to prevent youth involvement in gang activity in the Capital Regional District (CRD) by providing targeted intervention and support to youth at high risk of gang involvement, youth displaying gang-related behaviours, and youth who are gang-entrenched.

It is my great privilege and pleasure to advise you that PCFSA was successful in both of their applications to the Ministry of Justice for funding that will support our regional youth gang prevention program. CRED also helps demonstrate to youth the difference between healthy relationships and exploitation. Youth involved in programs like *TCO² - Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others* (Children of the Street Society's Interactive Theatre production) demonstrate how survivors can become leaders.

With this good news, I would also like to invite you to come and see a short presentation of *TCO²* during our May 20 Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting at the Victoria City Hall Council Chambers. Please RSVP to vfamcourt@gmail.com if you would like to join us for lunch. Together with CRATSEY (Capital Regional Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth) we bring these great programs to Victoria area schools - at no cost - to help showcase youth leadership and raise awareness about exploitation.



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

November 20, 2015

All Capital Region Municipal Councils, The Capital Regional District Board, and School Districts of the Capital Region

Dear Mayors, Councillors and Capital Regional District Directors, and School Board Chairs and Trustees,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is charged with being aware of the circumstances of youth and families who may come into contact with the Justice system. According to the UN, Children's Rights include general principles including non-discrimination, that the best interests of the children be a primary consideration, that the child has the right to be heard and addresses specific rights (protection from physical or mental harm, the highest attainable standard of health, education, play, etc.)

In July BC's Children's Representative spoke to Vancouver City Council about "Paige's Story" (www.rcybc.ca) and they passed a resolution in response advocating for the government to do more to address the issues of children like Paige including ending the automatic aging out of care, increasing Rapid Response capacity, and adopting the May 2015 recommendations from the Representative. We hear from our police resources that they experience the loss of a child in the Capital Region at the rate of about one per year. The committee and our resource members find that unacceptable.

Local law and children's rights advocates are concerned by the actions that continue to plague interventions in the name of protection and request that we adhere to the principles enunciated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We therefore ask that the CRD Board, every Municipal Council and every School Board of the Capital Region bring forward the following resolution:

That (the Boards and Councils of Greater Victoria unanimously) request that the BC Government take action to redress the failings of the systems that continue to plague intervention into children's lives in the name of 'protection' and adhere to the principles enunciated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Day, Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Restorative Justice Victoria's Funding Predicament & Backgrounder on Political Context

by Geanine Robey, April 2015 (with post report updates)

RJ Victoria loses key funding source

Restorative Justice Victoria (RJV) finds itself in yet another funding predicament, only this time the impact is the most significant to date. The program was informed on March 23, 2015 that the funding application it had submitted to the United Way of Greater Victoria was not approved. The grant in question was in the amount of \$75,000 over 3 years and has been RJV's second largest source of funding to date (2014 revenue: \$95,390; expenses \$103,625). When the United Way initially called RJV to inform them that the grant would not be renewed, they suggested that the staff member seek funding through the provincial government or victims services. A few weeks later when staff attempted to get more concrete feedback from the United Way as to why the funding was not approved, United Way indicated that every year they get more requests than they have funding for. Also, they said that they tend to prioritize organizations that provide services to those in significant need/crisis situations (e.g. poverty, homelessness, food banks). United Way declined to provide a letter with any clear statement as to why funding had not been approved, apart from the original response letter (next page).

In relation to seeking funds from the province, this is the same feedback that was given to RJV in 2011 when it lost its yearly grant from the municipality of Esquimalt. Therefore, there seems to be a theme amongst funders that RJV's services are a responsibility of the provincial government. This is of grave concern, as the provincial government provides only minimal funding through the Community Accountability Program (\$2,500 per agency annually; RJV now receives \$5,000 annually as part of a special arrangement with the province because of the additional partnership with the Oak Bay Police Department following the dissolution of RJ Oak Bay in 2014.)

It is important to note the quality of RJV's services was not a factor in the United Way's decision, and indeed the feedback from the United Way during the course of the three years it provided financial support was very positive. In fact, while receiving United Way funding (2012 – 2014), Gillian Lindquist, Executive Director, received a national restorative justice award (2013) from Correctional Services Canada for advancing the use of restorative justice approaches within the workplace, academic institutions and the criminal justice system. Also, RJV's extensive program evaluation continues to show outstanding results and satisfaction levels amongst participants. Additionally, in 2014 RJV did a recidivism study with the Victoria Police Department that showed only a 13% recidivism rate amongst offenders who went through restorative justice at RJV. Therefore, there is significant evidence to show that the quality of services provided by this organization are of the highest level. Core funding for RJV is from the Gaming Commission -- frozen for a number of years at \$46,000 in spite of a rising case load -- and must be applied for yearly. Civil Forfeiture grants are for one-time projects only and are also open to applicants outside of the restorative justice community.

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Restorative Justice Victoria receives **\$17,000** in municipal funding from Victoria and Esquimalt through the police budget (an increase of \$5,000 over 2014) and **\$1,000** from Oak Bay. (*Author's note: Since this report was issued in April 2015, Esquimalt has made a new grant to RJV in the amount of \$4,000.*) The Ministry of Justice does not provide any funding for Crown referrals although it has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RJV to receive such referrals (23 cases in 2014, and 21 as of November 18, 2015.)

Many municipalities contribute to their local restorative justice programs. These programs principally receive their referrals from their local police/RCMP and schools: In 2013, Abbotsford Restorative Justice (**\$120,000** plus rent and other overhead costs worth **\$26,882**), North Shore Restorative Justice in Vancouver (**\$58,000**), Communities Embracing Restorative Action in the Fraser Valley (**\$49,106**), Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy Association (**\$31,000**), Richmond Restorative Justice Program (**\$95,000**), Comox Valley Community Justice Centre (**\$40,000**), Restorative Justice Society in North Okanagan (**\$38,000** in office and operating costs), Arrowsmith Community Justice Society in Parksville-Qualicum (**\$25,000** office and operating costs) and Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program (**\$50,000** office and operating costs). *Note: Detailed information on municipal grant funding per capita, case numbers, population served and municipal expenditures per case are provided in the 'RJ Municipal Funding Comparison Survey 2013', page 4. Also, RJ Victoria Cases and Case Cost Calculations, pages 12 and 13)*

It is important to note that the type of referrals programs receive (ranging, for example, from minor shoplifting and mischief files to violent assaults and dangerous driving resulting in death), other services they provide to the community (to schools, campuses, ICBC, municipal government by-law enforcement etc), whether or not they routinely work with offenders and victims, incorporate skilled mentorship services, provide on-going and advanced training for volunteers, conduct evaluation etc. varies widely among restorative justice programs across the province.

It is also worth noting that representatives from the following ministries have engaged with, or are currently engaged with, restorative justice programs and initiatives: *Attorney General, Education, Children and Family Development, Health Services, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Transportation and Infrastructure/ICBC* (in relation to referrals for auto insurance fraud), *Agriculture and Lands* (in relation to RJ for federal Fisheries and Oceans cases) and, *Community and Rural Development* for RJ in matters related to municipal by-law enforcement. (*Vancouver Island Region Restorative Justice Association, 2009.*)

Page 4 Restorative Justice Municipal Funding Comparisons 2013 Government funding for Restorative Justice in contrast to Victim Services

There is a huge disparity in funding between restorative justice and victim services in B.C., both of which operate under the Division of Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. The only funding available exclusively for restorative justice programs (non-Aboriginal) is from the Ministry of Justice in the amount of \$2,500 per year and takes the form of a yearly grant requiring a lengthy application process. In its response to a 2009 UBCM resolution, the government stated that it "... continues to support over 50 CAP programs across

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BC -- \$150,000 has been identified for this purpose in 2009-10. The BC government has repeatedly stated that restorative justice programs are community-based, and therefore, the responsibility of municipalities and other local funders (hence the name, Community Accountability Program.)

By contrast, Victim Services receives millions. There is no itemized budget breakdown in any Ministry documents available on the internet, but the Ministry's 'Resource Summary Table' on page 10 shows a budget of \$40,017,000 for Victim Services and Crime Prevention in 2014/15. A response from the province to a Union of BC Municipalities resolution from 2009 is also illuminating in that it states:

"The province has increased funding for victim services programs. The 2008 Budget included an increase of \$17.1 million from the Victim Surcharge Special Account for Victim Services in B.C. This additional funding provides an opportunity to expand and enhance programs, services and strategies to victims and their affected family members in B.C. ... In May 2008, an additional \$2.7 million was provided through the introduction of an updated interim funding formula to strengthen police and community based victim services programs in B.C.; an average funding increase of 22 percent..."

Additionally, a Department of Justice Press Release dated February 11, 2015 states that:

Today, Justice Minister Peter MacKay announced funding of \$1,688,788 for the enhancement of victim services to the Victim Services and Crime Prevention division of the British Columbia Ministry of Justice."

Municipal responses to Restorative Justice core funding issue:

Municipalities across BC have been calling on the province to fund restorative justice (beyond \$2,500/year) for years. Communities assert that restorative justice programs divert youth from further involvement in increasingly serious criminal activity, reduce justice system costs, encourage communities to take an active role in the repairing of harms to victims and communities, support offender accountability, facilitate victim satisfaction, decrease recidivism and promote community safety.

Numerous resolutions have been made over the years at UBCM AGMs calling on the government to adequately fund Restorative Justice in BC yet funding has not improved. Still, a citizen might surmise from the Ministry of Justice's own budget document, page 7, that Restorative Justice is a funded service of government along with policing, prosecution services, court services, correctional services, civil forfeiture and victims services.

2000 "...THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Ministry of Attorney General forthwith to fund Restorative Justice Programs as a provincial responsibility."

2001 "...THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that the Attorney General provide funding to match core funding provided by communities to sustain restorative justice initiatives..."

2003 "... THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to use funds in the Victim Surcharge Special Account to

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participate in the ongoing funding of restorative Justice Programs.”

2006 “...THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that the UBCM appeal to the appropriate federal and provincial ministers to provide sufficient, continuous funding to enable the establishment of restorative justice programs, where desired, by local governments throughout the province.”

2007 “...THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Ministry of Attorney General to provide ongoing funding of restorative justice programs.”

2008 “...THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC and Government of Canada provide additional and adequate funding to fully support Restorative Justice and Victim Services programs in BC.”

2009 “...THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide sustainable ongoing funding for community based restorative justice and victim services programs and complementary service to British Columbia’s justice system.”

2009 “...THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General to implement a stable long term funding source for Restorative Justice Programs in the Province of British Columbia.”

2009 “...THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide an adequate level of funding for Community Accountability Programs throughout the province at a level that provides for sustainability of the ongoing operation expenses of these programs.”

2013 “...THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division of the Ministry of Justice create a working group including representation from community-based restorative justice programs, the RCMP ‘E Division and other stakeholders to act on the recommendations from the report, ‘A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century’, to develop protocols and program/service standards for restorative justice programs, in concert with review of existing funding structures to provide recommendations for sustainable restorative justice program funding.”

2014 “...THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government consider greater funding to cost share in the Restorative Justice programs across the province.”

Notes: 1) In 2012, the Ministries of Attorney General and Solicitor General were merged into the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General 2) Complete UBCM Resolutions, pages 14 – 26

Page 8 bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2015/sp/pdf/ministry/jag.pdf

9 Regional Police Roundtables lend support to RJ but no mention made in BC Policing and Public Safety Plan

All nine policing regions across BC included restorative justice in either their comments or recommendations. Our Capital Region police recommended expanding restorative justice programs. Several regions mentioned proper funding for restorative justice and that restorative justice programs should be an integral part of the justice system. In the Executive Summary, it is

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clearly stated that participants in general wanted to see expanded use of alternatives to the criminal justice system, including restorative justice programs. The commonly held view was that restorative justice is a promising practice for addressing criminal activity in the community in a focused way that educates certain offenders while holding them accountable and supporting the needs of victims. In spite of all the input on restorative justice, nothing on the subject was mentioned in the ‘BC Policing and Public Safety Plan.’

Government responses to repeated calls for supporting RJ in BC

In February 2012, the BC government launched its Justice Reform Initiative to identify actions that government, the judiciary, the legal professions, police and others could take to give British Columbians more timely and effective justice services. Geoffrey Cowper, QC, was appointed to identify long term, fiscally responsible solutions to improve outcomes and accountability and issued a report, ‘A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century.’ This was followed by the Province’s ‘White Paper Part Two: A Timely and Balanced Justice System’ as well as the ‘BC Policing and Community Safety Plan.’

In 2013, Darryl Plecas, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Crime Reduction, convened a Blue Ribbon Panel of experts to study crime reduction opportunities. The Panel conducted a series of roundtables to elicit feedback from stakeholders across the province (including many from the restorative justice community); identified individuals and subject matter that could assist and provide advice to the Panel, and finally, created a report and recommendations issued in June 2014 regarding crime reduction opportunities.

As a guest of Victoria FCYJC in April, 2014, MLA Plecas was asked this question by Restorative Justice representative, Geanine Robey:

*“Numerous and substantive recommendations in support of restorative justice were made in the Cowper Report on Justice Reform in advance of the BC government’s Justice Reform White paper – i.e., expanded and innovative funding for RJ, a province-wide plan for diversion, including RJ and a performance goal for increased use of RJ programs) yet the net result was some funding for brief regional volunteer training and nothing more. Similarly, with the BC Policing Roundtable consultations, all 9 regions made recommendations with respect to supporting RJ, none of which was mentioned in the government’s BC Policing and Public Safety Plan. This has been very discouraging for the RJ community, especially considering that Nova Scotia, a have-not province displeased with poor justice system outcomes, deemed RJ a cost savings and funds it yearly to the tune of \$1.5 million for programs and \$1 million to date for research and evaluation. **What will it take for the BC government to recognize the value of Restorative Justice and to fund it as a justice partner?”***

Mr. Plecas replied that he would be recommending funding for evidence based restorative justice programs in his final report but that he felt that funding would be contingent upon the development of LNG in BC.

In his final report (<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/policeservices/shareddocs/BlueRibbonPanel-CrimeReduction.pdf>), however, MLA Plecas clearly takes the position that municipal governments are willing to continue to fund RJ programs: *“The importance of effective RJ programs was*

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*reiterated at nearly every roundtable meeting. The Ministry of Justice currently supports community-based restorative justice responses through funding for *Community Accountability Programs. The need to provide adequate funding for these programs was frequently raised and it was suggested that a different funding formula should be adopted. Municipal governments often contribute to funding these programs and are apparently willing to continue to do so. It is clear that some impressive and valuable RJ programs are already in place in a number of communities. However, it was also clear to many stakeholders that the quality of existing programs across the province varies and that provincial standards should be adopted and their implementation monitored.” *\$2,500/year*

Announced April 13th: Restorative justice to be allocated a portion of \$115 million in Small Community & Regional District Grant and Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grant Programs

On a more promising note, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development announced on April 13th that \$115,000,000 in funding will be dispensed to communities to use at their discretion to meet their needs in various ways *“including more policing, restorative justice programs, new equipment, increased community safety initiatives, infrastructure, administration and service delivery priorities.”*

These funds are dispensed on a yearly basis to 70 municipalities across the province. When she was Minister of Community, Sport and Culture, Ida Chong told Geanine Robey that Traffic Fines Revenue was intended to be operational funding for community-based restorative justice programs and that the onus was on communities to ensure these funds were directed to their respective restorative justice programs.

Clearly, local government has the means at its disposal to allocate to RJV a portion of this funding on par with other programs doing similar work (i.e., Crown and police referrals) and thus provide a measure of stability to this valuable program until such a time that the Ministry of Justice decides to directly fund qualifying programs.

Author’s Note July 3, 2015: With respect to Traffic Fines Revenue, there is no reporting mechanism in place that requires municipalities to inform the provincial government how these funds are spent. Adding this money to general revenue accounts of municipalities is permissible for “funding without designation.” The problem with failing to require that Traffic Fines Revenue be spent on restorative justice programs (where they exist) is that the funds are often applied to other critical services, such as policing which results in competition for available dollars.

Restorative Justice Victoria Case Report 2014 AGM



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Constitution

1. The Family Court Committee shall consist of:
 - a) One elected representative appointed by each of the following jurisdictions:
 1. City of Victoria
 2. City of Langford
 3. City of Colwood
 4. Municipality of Oak Bay
 5. Municipality of Saanich
 6. Municipality of Esquimalt
 7. Municipality of Central Saanich
 8. Municipality of North Saanich
 9. Town of View Royal
 10. Town of Sidney
 11. District of Sooke
 12. District of Highlands
 13. District of Metchosin
 14. School District #61
 15. School District #62
 16. School District #63
 - b) Notwithstanding a) above, each jurisdiction may appoint a non-elected alternate representative to the Committee.
 - c) Up to seven members at large shall be appointed by the Capital Regional District for a minimum of two years.
2. From among the voting members, the Capital Regional District shall appoint a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer according to Sub-section 3 of Clause 4 of the Provincial Court Act. Nominations to be submitted by the Family Court Committee for ratification.
3. Representatives of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Education, Children and Family Development, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Health, Housing and Social Development and police forces and First Nations may be invited to attend as non-voting resource members.

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4. It shall be the duty of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to submit annual reports and budgets to the Capital Regional District, the participating municipalities and to the Ministry of the Attorney General as per Clause C of Sub-section 4 of the Provincial Court Act.

5. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee shall develop terms of reference for the conduct of its affairs.

Approved by Committee January 18, 2010

Terms of Reference

A. General Meetings

1. Whereas the Capital Regional District electoral year ends November 30, and whereas the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the Committee) year ends June 30, therefore, appointees from the municipalities shall hold their positions until the first of January following the November municipal elections.
2. The Committee will normally meet monthly but no fewer than four times a year with additional meetings at the call of the Chair.
3. A quorum shall be seven (7) voting members.
4. The rules of order shall be the same as those outlined for Municipalities in the Local Government Act
5. A vote in abstention is a vote in favour
6. The chair shall exercise a vote and, in the case of a tie, the motion is defeated.

B. Amendment of Terms of Reference

A proposed amendment shall be presented at the meeting previous to the meeting at which it is to be discussed. It shall be circulated also to all the committee members in advance of the meeting. One-half plus one of the voting members is required to approve an amendment.

C. Amendments to the Constitution

A proposed change to the Constitution may be initiated by a member of the Family Court Committee or by a participating municipality. The same procedure for amending the Terms of Reference shall apply. Amendments to the Constitution approved in committee will be communicated to participating municipalities and the Capital Regional District for Ratification.

D. Officers of the Family Court Committee

1. The Chair and Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Capital Regional District under Clause 2 of the Constitution. A nominating committee will be formed in September comprised of retiring members and/or one or two members of the Committee whose responsibility will be to solicit nominations for the Officer's positions as well as to appoint a chair for the Annual General Meeting (someone not running for the executive, such as a past president or long time member).
2. If an Officer or Member of the Committee is unable to complete their term, their appointing agency will be requested to make a new appointment. In the case of an Officer, the committee will be requested to make an interim appointment (from the membership available) to perform those duties until the next AGM.

E. Duties of Officers

8. The Chairperson shall:
 - a. Chair all the meetings of the Committee
 - b. Appoint sub-committee chairpersons
 - c. Prepare all agendas for Committee Meetings
 - d. Have charge of all correspondence
 - e. Be an ex-officio member of all sub-committees
 - f. Have signing authority for funds jointly with the Treasurer
9. The Vice-Chair shall:
 - a. Undertake duties of the Chair in his or her absence
 - b. Be an alternate signing authority for funds
10. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Have charge of all monies
 - b. Prepare monthly statements of expenditures and revenues
 - c. Have signing authority for funds
 - d. Prepare annual financial statements and budgets for year ending March 31
11. The Secretary shall have responsibility for:
 - a. Recording of minutes
 - b. Distribution of agendas
 - c. Notices of meetings, and
 - d. Any other secretarial duties as required through the Chair.

F. Committees

Each sub-committee or task force chair shall be appointed by the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Chair at the Annual General Meeting or the nearest possible meeting. The Chairs of the sub-committees may invite interested persons to serve on his/her sub-committee who are not members of the main Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. The sub-committee Chairs will make reports to the main committee and will recommend speakers, agenda items or other projects be included through the steering committee.

The sub-committees are:

- Communications/Planning
- Youth Matters
- Family Matters
- Priorities
- CRATSEY
- CASA for Children
- Court Watch

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The Youth Mental Health Task Force was created in 2005 and is still functioning to support the creation of a school based medical clinic pilot project that could address youth mental health issues.

The Steering Committee will be comprised of the sub-committee chairs, the executive and the secretary who may meet physically or electronically to plan the agenda.

Ad Hoc Committees may be created from time to time to study and report on specific matters.

G. Annual General Meetings

The AGM will be held in January to receive the annual report and the annual financial statements for the previous year. The financial statements shall be provided to the Capital Regional District to be included in their Audit. The Annual Report shall be approved prior to distribution to the Attorney General, other ministries, and the Capital Regional District and the participating Municipalities.

The Chair of the AGM will open the AGM with an approval of the Agenda. If there are not seven voting members present for quorum, the AGM shall be postponed to the next regularly scheduled meeting date and notification of the postponement shall be sent to the municipalities and the CRD with a list of those absent from the meeting.

The first order of business shall be a call for Nominations from the floor. Officer's Positions require only one member to make a nomination. If there is only one nomination for a position, no election will be held but the committee shall make a motion to appoint the Officer(s). If there is more than one nomination for the Officer(s) positions, the vote shall be taken via a secret ballot where each member present shall write the name of their preferred candidate(s) on a slip of paper which the Chair of the AGM shall collect and count with the supervision of the recording secretary. If there is any dispute, a recount will be taken in full view of all voting members. Once the election process is complete, the Chair will declare the election results and the committee will make a motion to appoint the Officers as per the election results.

The Chair of each subcommittee and task force shall be appointed by the Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee at the AGM, or the nearest possible committee meeting.

H. Membership

If a vacancy occurs during the year, the body represented by the departed member should appoint a new representative to complete the term. If there is an alternate, they may continue to represent the body that appointed them.

If a member is absent for more than two consecutive meetings, without notice, a letter will be forwarded to that member soliciting future intent. If no response, or a third absenteeism, a letter will be forwarded to his/her sponsoring agency advising of the lack of representation.

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9.1 TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION

A. Conferences and Seminars - Authorization

Authorization for attendance at all conferences and seminars for which expenses will be claimed is to be obtained in advance in accordance with the following:

1. Committee Member

Approval is to be obtained in advance from the Committee by motion at a regular meeting.

B. Seminars, Conferences and Meetings for which over Twenty-Four Hours absence from Place of Residence will be Required.

1. Per Diem Allowance

Where the absence from place of residence will be in excess of twenty-four hours, an approved per diem allowance will be provided to cover the following:

- a. Meals
- b. Gratuities
- c. Taxi Fares – excepting extraordinary expenses
- d. Cleaning Expenses
- e. Parking Expenses
- f. Telephone calls but not long distance phone calls

Where the common carrier departs after 12:00 noon or returns before 12:00 noon, one half of the per diem rate shall be paid providing the absence is in excess of one-half day.

Adjustments will be made to the per diem rate only where any meals are included in conference registration fee.

2. Accommodation

Accommodation or lodging expenses will be paid based on single occupancy rates.

3. Transportation

a. Lower Mainland to Hope and Vancouver Island including the Sunshine Coast:

Travel by automobile will be paid in accordance with the current automobile expense reimbursement rate. Travel by bus, train, ferry or air-economy class will be paid for the actual expenses incurred.

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b. Travel outside of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island:

Travel allowance will be paid on the basis of economy class air fare equivalent plus ground transportation when applicable or current automobile expense reimbursement rate where the overall travel cost will be more economical by automobile.

4. Other Expenses

Registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars, etc., will be paid for single participation only.

C. Seminars, conferences, and Meetings for which Less than Twenty-Four Hours Absence from Place of Residence will be Required.

Where absence is less than twenty-four hours, actual out-of-pocket expenses, including mileage in accordance with the current automobile expense reimbursement rate will be paid. No per diem will be paid.

The daily maximum limit for meals and gratuities is as established from time to time by the Committee.

Meal expenses to the above maximum level will be paid if departure from place of residence is before:

7:00 am – breakfast

12:00 pm – lunch

6:00 pm – dinner

Expenses to the above maximum levels will be paid if return to place of residence is after:

12:30 pm – lunch

6:00 pm – dinner

Reimbursement will not be made for any meals included in conference registration fees.

D. Receipts

Receipts are required in support of the following types of expenditures:

1. Fares – air, bus, train and ferry
2. Accommodation
3. Miscellaneous:
 - a. Registration fees

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- b. Extraordinary taxi expenses
- c. Long distance telephone calls
- d. Parking

4. Per Diem Expenses

Receipts are not required to support those expenditures covered by per diem allowance.

F. Claims Procedure

Claims for travel expenses are to be submitted to the Treasurer of the Committee within thirty days of the period in which the expenses were incurred.

G. Advances

To obtain a travel advance, a written request must be completed and approved by the Treasurer at a regular meeting in advance of the date for which the funds are required.

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Priorities Sub-Committee

Philosophy:

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (FCYJC) will consider support in the form of seed money for community agencies or persons who provide services for youth and/or families having contact with the justice system.

Purpose:

Evaluate applications to the FCYJC for goods and services using set parameters and criteria.
Make recommendations to the FCYJC on applications for goods and services.

Structure:

- * Three or more members of the FCYJC
- * Chair to be appointed by FCYJC Chair
- * Meet as required

Process:

- * Meet at request of Chair on receipt of application(s) to the FCYJC for goods and services seed money. (May communicate via email for simplicity)
- * Review application using criteria as set by the FCYJC
- * Enlist resources from outside the sub-committee as necessary to answer any questions prior to making a recommendation to the FCYJC.
- * Provide summary of review including recommendations, with rationale, to the FCYJC - the recommendations will include a budgeted amount.
- * Project liaison to provide accountability of project progress to the FCYJC

2015 Membership:

Chair: Ron Mattson (VFCYJ Vice-Chair)	Cynthia Day (VFCYJ Chair)
Marcie McLean, Councillor (Highlands)	Bill McElroy (Treasurer)

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Form for Priorities Submissions (Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to rmattson@shaw.ca AND yfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

1. Date of Application:
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying:
Contact person for follow-up:
3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:
4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:
5. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application:
6. Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. in the Greater Victoria area or within your organization)
7. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative, please include funding from other sources and feel free to attach a spreadsheet if needed:
8. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:
9. Catchment area served – target population:
10. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:
11. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):
12. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)
13. Evaluation framework (How will you know if your project has been a success and how will the Family Court Committee know?)
14. Would you be able to present to the committee upon completion of your project?

This form is intended for your convenience and that of the FCYJC. Please use it for your submission and as a guide.

(Form updated; Jan, 2015(C. Day)

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

The Family Court Committee may:

- be a force in educating the public on issues related to Family Court
- sit in on court hearings to monitor the actions of all officials concerned with the welfare of youth and assist judges upon request
- report to the Capital Regional District Board and member municipalities problems which are of concern
- enter and monitor both open and secure custody facilities
- comment upon legislation concerning families and youth and –
- make recommendations to appropriate legislative bodies concerning any matters deemed to be covered by our several mandates

In addition, the Family Court Committee must report annually to the Ministry of the Attorney General and its member municipalities.

2015 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

AUTHORITY OF THE FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE

The Family Court Committee is constituted under the *Provincial Court Act* with powers and duties as listed under Section 4.1 in addition, it has been designated by the Attorney General of British Columbia (as of June 27, 1984) to be the youth Justice Committee, under section 69 of the *Federal Young Offenders Act*, Bill C-61 (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3).

The Victoria Family Court is authorized by the Ministry of Children and Families to the Community Committee that reviews the circumstances of youth in custody in our local containment centre, and physical environment and programs provided them. To that end, we are assured entry to the youth Containment Centre and access to all necessary information. Centre staff attends the committee as resource people as they are able.

FINANCING AND STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Since the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the Committee) services the Greater Victoria area, it is responsible to the Capital Regional district (CRD) from whence it receives its funding (see Sections 4.5 and 4.6 for CRD Bylaws). The budget is submitted and approved each year in December. However, grants are not received until August of the next year.

One representative is appointed annually by each of the Municipalities of Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Langford, Colwood, Central Saanich and North Saanich, the Districts of Saanich, Metchosin, Highlands and Sooke, the City of Victoria and the Towns of Sidney and View Royal. We also have appointed members from the School Districts of Victoria (61), Sooke (62) and Saanich (63). Up to seven members at large may be appointed by the CRD (selected from nominations received from the Committee and other interested organizations). In total there are up to 23 voting members.

The Committee's mandate involves working with the Ministries of the Attorney General, Public Safety and Solicitor general, Education, Children and Family Development, Social Development, and Health Services. Resource People from these ministries attend general meetings as non-voting personnel, and have also been expected to assist at the sub-committee level. With the increasing workload, only specific projects can expect to receive assistance from Ministry staff, whose assistance is most appreciated.

Memorandum of Agreement Between Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Victoria

Program

The intent of this memo of agreement is to specify the relationship between the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (FCYJ) and CASA Victoria in order to provide high quality services to vulnerable children and their families within the Greater Victoria area. The FCYJ is incorporated under the Capital Regional District (CRD). Pursuant to FCYJ policy CASA has submitted an application which was approved September 8, 2010 following recommendations from a Task Force comprising the FCYJ Youth Justice Sub-Committee and CASA representatives.

The CASA Mission Statement states that:

CASA: Greater Victoria advocates for the best interests of at risk children who are before the provincial court pursuant to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. The safety and well being of children is the major concern and a stable family is the preferred environment for the care and upbringing of children. The child's best interest and where feasible the views of the child will be heard and represented to the court. This will be achieved through trained volunteers with notice and disclosure to all parties.

This is consistent with the mandate of the FCYJ Committee to serve youth at risk through issues handled in court under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

CASA Victoria started through a community needs project by volunteer members of Leadership Victoria who consulted with many local groups and individuals followed by a conference of community leaders who confirmed the need for a CASA program in Victoria. CASA is a well established in the USA and the development of CASAVictoria has been supported throughout by the National CASA organization.

The FCYJ and CASA Victoria agree to the following:

1. CASA will operate as an independent sub-group of the FCYJ but be part of the FCYJ family. Eventually CASA may develop its own Board of Directors under the Society Act (B.C.) but initially will be guided by a CASA Development Group comprised of members of the community.
2. Following agreements, CASA will pilot the program in an agreed upon jurisdiction. At the end of the pilot term, CASA will undertake an evaluation of the pilot for presentation to the FCYJC prior to expanding into other jurisdictions.
3. CASA will report monthly to FCYJ meetings. A delegate from CASA will be selected by CASA and will be appointed to the FCYJ Committee by the Capital Regional District.
4. CASA will keep its own accounts and operate its own budget. Seed money may be allocated by FCYJ at their discretion. CASA will seek other sources of funding that do not conflict with FCYJ. CASA will prepare an annual report for inclusion in the FCYJC Annual Report.