



Annual
Report

Presented January 15, 2020

2019

Page left blank intentionally (back of cover)



**WHEN THERE'S
NOTHING
2
EAT**

bc211 **we can help**
In partnership with
the United Way

simply dial 2-1-1
free • confidential • multilingual • 24/7

Table of Contents

2019 Resources	3
2019 Membership List	4
Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021	5
Chair's Report	6
Speakers	10
Signed Copy of Financial Statements	15
2019-2020 Budget	16
Subcommittees	17
Communications Report	18
Correspondence	19
Priorities Subcommittee Report	39
CRATSEY Report	53
Court Watch Report	54
Youth and Family Matters Report	56
Restorative Justice	58

*2019 Supporting Documents are in a separate document beginning this year

Anxiety BCwww.anxietybc.com**BC211 (Resources for all needs, all ages)**www.bc211.ca (or ph: 211)**BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services**www.bcmhsus.ca**Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance**www.caddra.ca**Chatterblock (Parenting Resources)**www.chatterblock.com**Dr. Ross Greene, Collaborative Communication**www.drrossgreene.com**Families for Addiction Recovery**www.farcana.org**Foundry (Health & Wellness Resources for Youth)**foundrybc.ca**Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre**www.keltymentalhealth.ca**Kids Help Phone**www.kidshelpphone.ca**Ku'uus Aboriginal Crisis Services**

1.800.588.8717

Need2 (Suicide Prevention Information and Support)<https://need2.ca>**Trans Lifeline**

1.877.330.6366

Two-Spirit, Trans, Queer & Allied Youth Drop-in and Family Support

250.475.7624

Vancouver Island Crisis Linewww.vicrisis.ca**Youth in BC (Crisis Intervention Services)**www.youthinbc.com**Youthspace**

Online chat for youth/young adults to age 30, 6 – 11 p.m. daily

Texting support #:778.783.8565

Island Sexual Health

250.812.9374

Text line for youth with sexual health questions and concerns

First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalitionfirstcallbc.org

Advance the interests of children and youth through public education, community mobilization and public policy advocacy

BC School Centred Mental Health Coalitionbcscmhcoalition.ca

Exists to advance the concept of “school connectedness” and the body of research and strategies that support the concept

Office Representative for Children and Youthwww.rcybc.ca

Serves children, youth and families who need help dealing with the child-serving system

Disability Resource Centredrcvictoria.com

Works closely with people who have a disability and with other community organizations to find and remove barriers that prevent full participation in life

Children of the Street Society

TCO2 Program (Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others), a unique and empowering workshop designed and delivered by youth, for youth about preventing sexual exploitation. VFCYJC partners in the delivery of these workshops to schools in the Greater Victoria area.

Indigenous Perspectives Societyipsociety.ca

Offerings include Cultural Perspectives Training and Gladue Report Writing

Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.www.ictinc.ca

Offerings include Indigenous Awareness, Indigenous Relations and Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples®

Crisis and Trauma Resources Institute – Canadaca.ctrinstitute.com

- Training and resources for mental health, counselling skills and violence prevention

Visit our website for more resources:

<https://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca/>

2019 Local Government Representatives	
Cynthia Day, Chair, Councillor (Colwood)	Andrew Kerr, Vice Chair, Citizen Rep (Victoria)
Bill McElroy, Treasurer & CRAT/SEY Chair (CRD*)	Georgia Peters, (CRD*)
Helen Hughes, (CRD*)	Geanine Robey, (CRD*) Communications Chair
Sigurd Johannesen, (CRD*)	Sandra Sarsfield, (CRD*)
Lee Mauro, Citizen Rep (Esquimalt)	Marie-Terese Little, Councillor (Metchosin)
Matt Sahlstrom, Councillor (Langford)	Barbara Fallot, Councillor (Sidney)
Heather Gartshore, Councillor (North Saanich)	Daleen Thomas, Citizen Rep (Central Saanich)
Sharmarke Dubow, Councillor (Victoria)	Esther Paterson, Councillor (Oak Bay)
Marilyn Holman, Citizen Representative (Saanich)	Marcie McLean, Councillor (Highlands)
Jeff Bateman, Councillor (Sooke)	Adam Flint, Citizen Rep (View Royal)
Terri O'Keefe, Councillor (Alternate-Sidney)	Stewart Parkinson, Councillor (Alternate Colwood)
Murray Weisenberger, Councillor (Alternate-N. Saanich)	Leslie Anderson, (Alternate-Highlands)
2019 School District Representatives	
Margot Swinburnson, Trustee, Sooke SD 62	Alicia Holman, Trustee, Saanich School District 63
Angie Hentze, Trustee, Victoria School District 61	
Diana Seaton, Trustee, Sooke SD 62 (alternate)	Deb Whitten, Trustee, Victoria SD 61 (alternate)
2019 Resource Agencies	
Gord Irving, Boys' & Girls' Club	Cate Bennett (MCFD)
Single Parent Resource Centre	Sylvia Burns, (MCFD, Director - Youth Justice)
Suzanne Beavan, (Youth Justice Team Leader)	Member, Youth Probation Officer
Sue Hendricks, Aboriginal Programs & Relationships	Mia Golden, Pacific Centre Family Services Society
West Shore RCMP	Victoria Court Registry
John Howard Society of Victoria	Central Saanich Police
Public Safety and Solicitor General	Sidney RCMP
Victoria Police	Saanich Police
*CRD – the Capital Regional District appoints up to seven (7) members at large	



Three-Year Strategic Plan

2018-2021

Mission:

To facilitate connections between municipal and First Nations governments, school districts, service providers, and the broader community in order to educate and advocate on the challenges and shortfalls facing youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system.

Vision:

Families and youth have access to timely and appropriate supports within their communities so that they may achieve their full potential.

Goals:

1. Increase awareness of the issues facing families and youth involved with the justice system, and raise the profile of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.
 - a. Identify gaps in services.
 - b. Support youth initiatives.
2. Pursue and promote meaningful reconciliation with the Indigenous community.
 - a. Committee members participate in Cultural Competency Training
 - b. Acknowledge and reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
3. Advocate for policies and initiatives that improve outcomes for families and youth who may come in contact with the justice system.
 - a. Give a platform to youth/ amplify youth voices.
4. Support equity of access to resources across the region.
 - a. Help other organizations leverage their resources in support of families and youth.
5. Facilitate collaboration between community service providers and governance bodies in the interest of better supporting youth and families.

Chair's Report

NEWS

"The Victoria Regional Transit Commission turned down a regionwide pilot project for fare-free youth transit, but Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps said her municipality is undeterred in going ahead with its own program."

Photograph By ADRIAN LAM, TIMES COLONIST



<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/no-to-region-wide-free-youth-transit-victoria-going-ahead-1.23914889>

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has heard from Resource Agencies that Youth as young as 12 and 13 are using Transit to come to downtown Victoria where they are vulnerable. Many gravitate to Centennial Square where street and gang entrenched youth frequent. Resource agencies reported to us that getting home later in the day can be much harder as transit times are less frequent, situations may be very different on the street in the evenings, and that these young children are at risk of being trafficked or abused. For many years youth crime statistics have been on the decline, however the committee has been made aware over the past few years that many youths are having multiple contacts, sometimes as many as 50 interactions, before charges are laid. Many services are only available after charges are made.

The *Times Colonist* reported "West Shore RCMP Const. Don McIntosh said in June that police focus on working with at-risk youth, and that **most of those they deal with have had more than 20 interactions with police**. A community meeting was organized at the time to discuss youth offenders."

https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/police-release-video-related-to-june-stabbing-attack-in-langford-1.24043830?utm_campaign=magnet&utm_source=entity_page&utm_medium=related_articles

NEWS



West Shore youth shines spotlight on mental health EJ Weston is the organizer of the third annual Start the Conversation conference at Royal Bay, with the goal of connecting youth with physical, mental and emotional health resources.

Feb. 28 conference connects students to services

<https://www.goldstreamgazette.com/community/west-shore-youth-shines-spotlight-on-mental-health-issues/>

Chair's Report (Cont.)

Pacific Center Family Services teamed up with Mobile Youth Services and the Surrey Safer Schools Committee to do training with local enforcement agencies on **Guns and Gangs in BC**. The two-day seminar was well attended, with participants benefiting from well researched PowerPoint presentations that compared BC with Chicago, LA, London, Toronto, and more. A full written report will be presented in 2020, but a quick takeaway was that our Youth are joining gangs for different reasons than those in the USA or Europe.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Current Provincial gang trends |  Identifying negative peer groups in school communities |  Creating an inventory of supports and services within your community |
|  Evidence informed prevention strategies |  Identifying if an individual is on the pathway to engage in gang associated behaviour |  Strategies for successful monitoring and enforcement of identified street gangs |
|  Data informed intervention strategies |  Developing a strategic community response plan to gang associated behavior |  Current conflicts and high-risk locations |

BC Gangs are opportunistic business relationships and youth are more likely to join them when they aren't connected to their community, feel unsuccessful, 'empty' or when they drawn to idealized Hollywood images. Presenters emphasized how we are all affected by the 'Gangsta' style we see in movies and on TV, and that youth are equally influenced. Presenters emphasized the transactional nature of BC Gangs, that gang members don't care about race, age or neighbourhood – they want success and partner with whomever can deliver. Speakers described how the release dates for movies depicting drive by shootings correlated to spikes in drive by shootings here in BC.

Gangster Movies Return In Big Way In 2019 "Filmgoers who admire "the classic gangster genre," as the American Film Institute terms it, hope that both films may help resuscitate 1930s movies that reflect the noir energy of Scarface, Public Enemy and Little Caesar — films with vivid characters and riveting action. "Let's be honest — violence is the most fun thing to watch," Tarantino famously observed." <https://deadline.com/2019/01/hollywood-gangster-films-return-in-2019-mob-history-movies-1202528574/>

Guns are not very prevalent yet in BC, but the message was that no gun (including a fake gun) is OK. There are very real risks even with a non working gun, and once it becomes the norm, it is much harder to get guns off the streets. This is a hot topic in Victoria with Northern California Prison Gang 'Nortinos' aligned with youth in Centennial Square wearing 'colours' and making 'signs' posted on Instagram and other social media platforms. There were news reports in Victoria after the Guns & Gangs workshops about fake guns.

"Victoria Police had a busy Saturday responding to four separate calls involving firearms in under five hours. They are not recommending charges in any of the incidents, but warn the public not to carry replica guns, as officers will treat them like real weapons. (Courtesy of VicPD)" <https://www.vicnews.com/news/vicpd-warn-public-on-fake-firearms-after-responding-to-four-gun-calls-in-just-five-hours/>

Chair's Report (Cont.)

Disturbing sexual, criminal trends with Greater Victoria youth on the rise

Nov. 14, 2019 4:30 p.m.

Jennifer Munro, clinical director for Pacific Centre Family Services Association, and CRED program coordinator Mia Golden, are concerned about recent trends in the sexual behaviour of youth. (Rick Stiebel/News Staff)

Family counsellors see unprecedented rise in youth sexual assaults and exploitation of children

<https://www.vicnews.com/news/disturbing-sexual-criminal-trends-with-greater-victoria-youth-on-the-rise/>



[in-canada/](https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/parliamentary-secretary-mitzi-dean-1.5311111)

West Shore Voice News Reported on Parliamentary Secretary Mitzi Dean, whose office was responsible for organizing the 37th annual meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women was pleased to have set the scene to “bring the voices of people who are really impacted by gender-based violence and discrimination”, to better understand how to address the structural barriers for reducing discrimination and vulnerability. **‘Don’t make decisions about us without us’ was a key message**, she told *West Shore Voice News*. Dean says indigenous communities are “not going to wait for governments to take action”. She said those at the meeting heard from indigenous leaders: **“We know there are things we can do, and we’ll do what’s within our ability and our mandate so that women and girls are no longer at risk of being murdered.”**

[https://westshorevoicenews.com/gender-equity-ministers-chart-the-way-forward-for-women-](https://westshorevoicenews.com/gender-equity-ministers-chart-the-way-forward-for-women-in-canada/)

Police investigate break and enter and sexual assault of Colwood resident West Shore 2019-10-24

[http://bc.rcmp-](http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2127&languageId=1&contentId=61818&fbclid=IwAR3cy1_oy3hHcuZ_X7miVu3hUbWemtHyoI7VfsiSefOlKSPWMLUjInx9IUQ)

[grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2127&languageId=1&contentId=61818&fbclid=IwAR3cy1_oy3hHcuZ_X7miVu3hUbWemtHyoI7VfsiSefOlKSPWMLUjInx9IUQ](http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2127&languageId=1&contentId=61818&fbclid=IwAR3cy1_oy3hHcuZ_X7miVu3hUbWemtHyoI7VfsiSefOlKSPWMLUjInx9IUQ)

As Brothers Keepers gang migrates to the island, police warn of street violence

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/as-brothers-keepers-gang-migrates-to-the-island-police-warn-of-street-violence-1.4463760>



[Scott Cunningham](#) Journalist, CTV Vancouver Island
Published Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Chair's Report (Cont.)

Erich Kelch, CRD First Nations Relations, agreed to present to our committee so that we could better understand the First Nations Relations Committee and determine how we might work in a mutually supportive way to meet our goals of an inclusive community, true reconciliation, and to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in care, in custody, and at risk. Our relationship is mutually beneficial and regular updates on engagement opportunities have been well received.

Members have been given the opportunity to learn about Reconciliation and Indigenous traditions through the Indigenous Perspectives Society training to increase our awareness and help us become good allies for our Indigenous neighbours. Training opportunities are ongoing with our goal being to ensure that many of our members receive the training.

This year the Committee became very concerned with the loss of Victoria Police Department's School Liaison Officers due to resource shortfalls. As chair I assembled some history and gathered input from School District members and the committee sent letters to the Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board to advocate for reinstitution of School Liaison Officers as soon as practical. This material follows the Communications Report.

In previous years we were honoured to meet at Esquimalt Nation where the late Chief Andy Thomas generously hosted our meeting. Chief Thomas impressed on us the need to keep in contact and provide information on what the committee is doing. We are challenged to keep this commitment but continue to honour that request by delivering our annual reports in person in the hope that we will arrive on the right day, at the right time, and develop mutually beneficial relationships with all our indigenous neighbours.

For the first time this year I have included news articles that demonstrate what we hear from our Resource Agencies, in an effort to demonstrate the truth of what we hear and make this report more colourful and appealing to readers. We have also launched our website where we hope to gain a wider audience and where a more colourful annual report can be displayed.

As a committee mandated by both Provincial and Federal Legislation, with members appointed by Local Governments and School Districts, and liaising with local resources including Ministries, Police, and other youth and family service agencies, it is incredibly challenging to communicate our complex mandate. This is true for Youth Justice Committee's throughout Canada. Service Agencies continue to struggle to meet the needs of their clientele with nearly all reporting that they lack secure long-term core funding, including Restorative Justice and Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. This also makes it challenging to keep track of resource agencies, as they disappear when funding is not available. Our new website has a resource listing, a living document, where youth and families can find options for assistance. We ask everyone to help us by letting us know through our web contact form if we should add or remove any of these as times and programs change.

We have been working to address the harmful effects of violent sexually explicit material on children since 2015 and found an ally in MP Arnold Viersen who introduced motion M-47 to review these health impacts. Correspondence from MP Viersen is included following our Communications Report, and you can see that we are credited in this YouTube video <https://youtu.be/DEbt6zbwG2s>

Respectfully, Gila'kasla

Cynthia Day

Chair, Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Guest Speakers 2019

Linda Amy, Executive Director

Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, LindaA@vsac.ca

The clinic is available 24hrs a day, 7 days a week

To access clinic services, call the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888.



Jen Harrison, Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator and Wellness Navigator

Foundry Victoria, jharrison@foundryvictoria.ca

818 Douglas Street, C 250-216-8389, T 250-383-3552 <https://foundrybc.ca/victoria/>



Erich Kelch, Community Engagement Coordinator

CRD First Nations Relations Committee, ekelch@crd.bc.ca , www.crd.bc.ca



Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, BC Childrens Representative

Jennifer.Charalesworth@rcybc.ca

<https://www.rcybc.ca/>





Victoria Sexual Assault Centre

Who are we?

VSAC

Education

Healing

Prevention

Who are we?

VSAC

Education

Healing

Prevention

Sexual Assault
Response Team

Integrated Sexual
Assault Clinic

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre Integrated Clinic



Innovative and collaborative.

The first and only clinic in Western Canada.



VSAC Integrated Clinic



MEDICAL CARE

Survivors can access medical care, preventive medication,



FORENSIC EXAMS

Survivors can have evidence collected during a forensic exam from a specially trained Forensic Nurse Examiner



POLICE INTERVIEWS

The clinic is equipped with closed-circuit recording systems, secure interview rooms, a gun locker, panic buttons, & emergency exits.



CRISIS SUPPORT

Provide immediate safety and stabilization support to survivors of recent sexualized violence

VSAC Integrated Clinic

Improved Results and Increased Demand



FASTER SART RESPONSE

Forensic Nurse Examiners treatment takes aprx. 1 hour vs. over 3 hours in a hospital setting.



INCREASED DEMAND

Since opening the Clinic, intervention responses from our Sexual Assault Response Team have increased by 154%.



FASTER RETURN TO PATROL

With reduced wait times, less travel time, and the support of crisis workers, police officers are able to return up to 66% faster.



MORE SUPPORT = MORE STATEMENTS

SART-supported interviews jumped from 11 to 47 in the years since the clinic opened and the vast majority have occurred at the clinic.

Impact on Policing and Public Safety



LACK OF PREDICTABLE, CORE FUNDING

The clinic is reliant on grants and donations. Our crisis line was closed last year to ensure clinic doors stayed open. The clinic has an operating budget of a \$180k.

Challenges



SEEKING SECURITY FOR THIS VITAL SERVICE

Consider the long-term relationship between the Clinic and your Department.

Help us advocate with local, provincial and federal governments.

Donate!

Notes from Speaker: Erich Kelch

Special Task Force on First Nations Relations



Established in 2015, the Special Task Force on First Nations Relations is a clear signal to neighbouring First Nations governments that the CRD is making a serious commitment to working together. Erich has been working with the CRD for 5.5 years. When he had his first meeting with a Chief, they wanted to know his ancestry. His ancestry is German and Irish. He is not First Nations. When meeting members of the First Nations, it was very important for them to know who he was and where he came from.

→ It is very important to understand that at many meetings and events First Nations are not present.

Six years ago, the CRD started to do outreach with the First Nations when they were looking at their regional growth strategy. At this time the CRD hired 2 staff people in a role of liaising with First Nations.

→ It is important to note that the CRD boundaries do not match with First Nations boundaries.

Building relationships is very important. It is important to show up with no agenda and find ways to assist and add value. You need to be someone that they can trust. First Nations are deluged with requests, one Nation said they were dealing with 27 agencies operating in their territory.

→ One of the questions that CRD asked was how do we share governance? First Nations that are not pursuing modern treaty are not included as part of the local government act.

There was a special task force on First Nations Relations created as guiding principles. https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/plans-reports/first-nations/stf-finalreport2018.pdf?sfvrsn=dd11f0ca_6

→ One First Nation said that 80% of their members are experiencing unemployment

Eric stressed the importance of open and honest communication. CRD is hoping to host a meeting soon with municipalities and First Nations.

→ First Nations often don't have the same resources as local governments do.

→ CRD is trying to find ways to be more accountable to First Nations.

→ The CRD will be hosting a blanket exercise on November 22nd.

→ The Urban Reconciliation Dialogue will be hosting an event in February at the Saanich fair grounds.

The CRD is not aware of what municipalities are doing in terms of their response to the Truth and Reconciliation document. C. Day hoped that VFCYJC could get information from municipalities and agencies to share with CRD and on our website. Eric thinks that this would be valuable work that VFCYJC could be doing. Eric is also not aware of what School Districts are doing. D. Seaton said that every child matters and there is a lot of wonderful work going on in School Districts. G. Peters said that reconciliation should be focused on healing and that First Nations want their land back. S. Sarsfield said that Reconciliation is a process not an agenda. It is not a box that you tick. You can read more about this CRD Service Initiative here: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/first-nations-relations/truth-and-reconciliation>

The Committee is pleased to be receiving regular updates from Erich supporting members to be involved in Indigenous Relationship Building Events and sharing knowledge to help build meaningful supportive relationships within all our communities.



Financials Scan here

Budget 2019-2020

Revenue		Totals
CRD Grant	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Expenses		
Secretarial	\$4,000.00	
Office	\$1,000.00	
Lunches	\$4,000.00	
Special Events (Co-sponsoring, such as tco2, Restorative Justice, youth criminal justice workshops, registration fees, etc	\$2,000.00	
Equipment (Computer, peripherals)	\$1,000.00	
Professional Development (conferences, displays)	\$1,000.00	
Website Development Completion	\$2,000.00	
Total:	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

Sub Committees

We ask that members join one of the subcommittees to assist in developing materials to bring forward to the main committee. Meetings may be held via email, at any appropriate venue, and chairs may incur expenses up to \$200 to facilitate meetings without advance approval. Chairs are encouraged to present a motion to the main committee for extraordinary expenses. Our goal is to make it easier for volunteers to meet, while still maintaining fiscal accountability. The practice has been to try to reserve funding for work that supports youth and families, while also supporting those who give freely of their time and expertise.

Committee	Chair	Email
Communications	Geanine Robey	geanine_robey@outlook.com
Priorities	Marcie McLean	marciemclean@shaw.ca
Court Watch	Georgia Peters	geipeters@shaw.ca
Youth & Family Matters	Marilyn Holman/ Sandra Sarsfield	maholman@gmail.com / sarsfieldlaw@shaw.ca
CRAT	Bill McElroy	bill@mcelroys.ca
Youth Mental Health	Cynthia Day	cday@colwood.ca

Communications - supports outgoing communications, website design, Facebook and Twitter.

Priorities – supports applications for extraordinary expenses and coordinates information presentation for partnership opportunities that the committee may consider.

Court Watch – coordinates Native and regular Court House visits to observe and report on the circumstances for youth and families.

Youth & Family Matters – brings information to the main committee on Family Matters, Youth Matters and monitors the circumstances that youth and families encounter during separation, divorce, and custody arrangements as well as documenting hot button issues for youth and encourages youth involvement.

CRAT – stands for Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth, advocates with expertise meet to address sexual exploitation, grooming, pimping, coercion, youth sex work and pornography.

Youth Mental Health – youth mental health has been a focus because of the strong correlation between mental health, youth offenders and recidivism. Resolutions put forward to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities have resulted in more youth service centres, but much work remains to be done. The BC School Centred Mental Health Coalition has been coordinating agencies, ministries, unions, parent associations, unions and school boards to meet regularly to increase support. www.bcscmhcoalition.ca

Communications Report 2019

New Website - <https://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca/> An entirely new website needed to be built from scratch this past year as we are unable to update key sections of our old one such as our membership composition. Some of the site's content had been coded such that it was not editable by us. We appear to be the first BC Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to have our own website. Having a strong on-line presence will help to elevate our profile, better serve our members and provide valuable and timely information to the public. Previously, our Committee's outreach and reporting functions have been met by our AGM reports which we ask our members to share with their respective Councils, and by our Chair, Cynthia Day's yearly presentations to the CRD.

The quote from Ideazone for our new site was based on several considerations:

- That the VFCYJC is volunteer-run and operates on a tiny budget
- That our developer, an engaged community person himself, discount his services to accommodate us (a comparable product for non-profits often falls in the range of \$10 - \$15K)
- That volunteers work over the Committee's summer break to supply all of the documents at one time in the early Fall. (This was overly ambitious on our part, but our developer accommodated us by receiving content in several batches and agreeing to a certain amount of tweaking in exchange for a later completion date.)

The Communications Committee worked hard over the summer finalizing the structure of our website, writing and assembling content. Given the committee's lengthy history and changes in membership over the years, our work has entailed combing through paper archives kept by Cynthia in her home, reviewing the past decade's digital records, researching, writing content for our website and compiling and vetting local resources.

In addition to its public offerings, the new website has a members-only portal that includes both Steering Committee and All Member meeting agendas, minutes, confidential correspondence/presentations and reading materials. This will eliminate the volume of email that we currently contend with and will ensure an easy, one-stop experience for our members.

An additional feature of our new website is its social media integration. This allows users to quickly navigate to their chosen network to find additional content and to share it with others. Our two social media accounts are: **Twitter (@vfamcourt)** which has been in operation since 2014 and **Facebook** (same as our name), new in 2019. The latter allows us to post content in more depth. **If you have content to share (events, training opportunities, news, research, reports etc.), kindly email me with your request to share.** Many thanks to my fellow members of the Communications Sub-Committee, Cynthia Day, Jeff Bateman and Marilyn Holman and to our Secretary, Marnie Essery, for your help and support.

Geanine Robey, Communications Chair

The following History was assembled in March in support of CRD programs for Youth.

- 1992** The Youth Empowerment Society came into being. Before that date, the Alliance Club (Youth Development Society) and the Association for Street Kids had been doing work with “street kids” in Victoria since **1986**. These two organizations amalgamated late in 1992. At the time of amalgamation, the only programs that existed within YES were the Alliance Club, GOALS and the Storefront Drop-in. There were 5 staff and a budget of approximately \$200,000. Currently, YES has approximately 60 full and part-time staff and a budget nearing \$2,000,000.
- 1994** The **first Youth Outreach Team (YOOTs)** is formed, pairing a youth outreach worker and a Victoria City Police Officer. A **second team is added in 1996**.
- 1998** The Liaison Worker for Sexually Exploited Youth begins at YES
- 1998** **CRATSEY** – Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth formed
- 2000** **Area police departments create MYST** (Mobile Youth Services Team) a regionally funded position designed to focus on the problems of Sexually Exploited Youth and find strategies for assisting young people in living safe productive lives
- 2002** **over 1500 youth** estimated **involved in the sex trade** in greater Victoria
- 2003** Specialized **Youth Detox goes full time** and moves to a new location. YES is awarded the contract for the Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter
- 2003** **NCECC – National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre** established
- law enforcement component of Canada's National Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet. **Targets the exchange of child sexual abuse images and child luring.**
 - Mandate to reduce the vulnerability of children to Internet-facilitated sexual exploitation by:
 - Identifying victimized children
 - Investigating and assisting in the prosecution of sexual offenders
 - Strengthening the capacity of municipal, territorial, provincial, federal and international police agencies through training and investigative support
- 2003** **Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Mandate to:**
- Educating the community about the severity of youth exploitation
 - Targeting pimps, johns and recruiters
 - Gathering criminal intelligence on the activities of child sex workers
- 2004** YES continues to work with the Victoria Youth Clinic and various funders and supporters to open a Youth Clinic at the 533 Yates location.
- 2005** **Youth medical clinic opens** at 533 Yates
- 2006** YES opens The **OARS (Outreach and Recreational Services)** one-year program.
- 2007** YES begins **The Mental Health Liaison Program** (3-year project).
- 2007** **VicPD hires 18 new officers and 8 civilian employees**
- Aging demographic and fierce competition with other police agencies leads to approval of 19 new officers (total of 241 sworn members for 2008).
 - Since 2004 calls for service in the downtown core have increased by almost 90%.
 - Computer Forensic Investigators assisted international investigations regarding child pornography
 - Promises additional officers in 2008

2008 Youth Hospitality Training Centre opens at the Taj on Herald St.

2009 Esquimalt requests Provincial Audit of Victoria Police

- “It is imperative to note that there are key components of any policing service – such as infrastructure, specialized forensic and investigation services, and **community liaison**, to name a few – that are difficult to quantify for the purposes of this review. As such, these policing functions are not fully reflected in the analysis. However, **the intrinsic value of these services was considered** in the audit team’s major findings and recommendations.”
- “Victoria’s daily population is much higher than its resident population.” ... “Adding full time commuters to Victoria’s resident population could increase its daily population by as much as 27%.”
- “In 2008, case loads ranged from a high of 61 cases per member ... to a low of 28 The average for all independent municipal forces was 44 cases. The comparative figure for Victoria was 55.”
- “factors such as dispatched calls for service or share of Criminal Code offences should not be used alone to determine the breakdown of costs between Esquimalt and Victoria. The audit team also **agrees with the practice in other jurisdictions of subjecting the funding allocation formula to periodic review**, such as every three years.”

2010 Esquimalt Hosts Public Input Sessions

- “School Liaisons Great” identified as Strength in October 27 workshop
- “Youth Officer or School Liaison” Opportunity identified as part of November 10 workshop
- “Not enough community involvement – this is our problem to work with police” barrier at Nov 10 workshop
- “Opportunity – to develop policing model separate from criminal” Nov 10 Workshop

2011 YES is awarded the Core Victoria Youth Services contract. The **Life Skills Program**, **Youth Services Outreach Program** and the **Youth and Family Outreach Program** begin. YES is awarded the contract for the **Supported Independent Living Program (SIL)**.

2011 MYST reports out to local Councils (details from Sooke presentation)

- **over 65 files** since the New Year, many significant that ended with charges
- **located missing youth, gathered intelligence**, liaised with outside agencies
- **over 10 presentations on Drug/Sexual Exploitation** to school students in grade 10
- worked closely with the youth investigators, Victoria youth officers, Saanich youth officers, SCIT workers, and Social services.
- Met monthly for high risk youths, Regional Crime Unit, West Shore Probation, Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth and Family Court & Youth Justice & youth court

2013 YES partners with GT Hiring Solutions on a pilot project, the **Employment Liaison Program**

2012 – 2014

- the number of webpages dedicated to the sale, trafficking, sharing of **abuse materials up 147%**
- Children **10 and under portrayed in 80% of images** shared
- **355 offenders** actively engaged in the trade of child exploitation materials on Vancouver Island
- **149 offenders associated with IP addresses in the Capital Regional District**

2014 YES - **Victoria Youth Clinic** opens fulltime at the 533 Yates location. **Employment Liaison Program ends.**

2015 The Crime Reduction Exploitation Division (CRED), of Pacific Centre Family Services created

- Clinical Counselor works with MYST and youth exiting gangs throughout the CRD
- gang and sexual exploitation issues are closely intertwined
- Mainland gangs actively recruiting in the Capital Region

2016 MYST reports:

- Mobile Youth Services Team is under review
- Most youth they serve are **girls who are drug addicted and chronically go missing**
- Homes are primarily foster homes, group homes etc.

- Youth continue to be highly mobile within the Capital Region
- available services in short supply: many **agencies losing funding, closing or reducing services**
- Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee writes letter to support MYST:
“Broad municipal support for MYST is at risk whenever this difficult job (a job that relies so much on the relationships with youth and youth serving agencies) is not done extremely well. It works best when the worker is consistent and experienced, and every municipal government wants the best value for their budget dollar.

2016 YES begins You(th) Can Cook program.

2017 YES begins The Mental Health Liaison Program and Down to Earth program ends. YES celebrates 25 years of youth services in Victoria



March 4, 2019

Dear Police Chief Manak,

I am writing to apologize for comments made on twitter regarding the attached letter drafted by our Youth Matters subcommittee chair. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee works hard to be a collaborative, facts based partnership advocating for the best possible resources for our communities.

We are charged with being aware of the circumstances for youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system. Our members represent all 13 municipalities, the CRD and all CRD based school districts, as well as our service delivery partners throughout the region. We understand the incredible pressure that our resource partners are under in meeting the diverse needs in our region and the fact that when every other agency has gone home, the police step up and offer whatever resources they can to make our community better.

We want to support you in making the case for needed services to ensure that youth and families have the best possible community support to enable them to live well, play happily and work towards an inclusive and supportive community. We work best when we have open, respectful dialogue and time to carefully consider our actions. We don't usually meet in March due to spring break. Not having that venue to discuss our advocacy may have contributed to this moving forward without an opportunity for the committee to discuss the best way to influence this important resourcing.

We agree with your comments in the Times Colonist that the crime statistics can be deceiving. Our understanding is that while the number of files may be declining (depending on location), in many cases youth may have had 50 or more interactions with police before they are charged with a first offense. This increasing complexity is having an effect on policing throughout the region, on alternative measures like Restorative Justice, and on our Court Resources and was discussed recently at the committee.

Committee members would welcome the opportunity to present facts about the importance of Liaison Officers in schools (and elsewhere). We will also be seeking to present to the Council's of Victoria and Esquimalt. We know that the Police Board and their Municipal Councils are the decision makers and that those decisions are taken in the best interests of the community.

Please accept my sincerest apologies for any discomfort we may have caused. I hope that we can find ways to work together to ensure that the best possible resources are available.

Yours truly,

Cynthia Day
Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Attachment: March 1 Letter by Ryan Painter, Youth Matters Subcommittee Chair

Cc: Ryan Painter, Youth Matters Subcommittee Chair
Andrew Kerr, Vice-Chair Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC)
Geanine Robey, Communications Subcommittee Chair, VFCYJC
Bill McElroy, Treasurer, VFCYJC
Secretary, VFCYJC

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



March 1, 2019

Victoria Police Department
Attn: Chief Del Manak
850 Caledonia Ave Victoria, BC V8T 5J8

Dear Chief Manak,

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the Youth Matters Committee, which is a subcommittee within the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. Our committee is particularly seized with issues of import to the youth and families of the South Island, which range from mental health and addictions to youth and family engagement with the justice system.

I write with respect to the recent announcement that the Province of BC has ordered that Esquimalt and Victoria work to hire six new police officers.

On September 5, 2018 the Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, Colwood Councillor Cynthia Day, wrote about concerns regarding the loss of school liaison officers. As you know, when the initial decision to not fund additional officers was made by the Municipality of Esquimalt, three school liaison officers were redirected to general duty. You have heard from many in the community, including the Greater Victoria School Board and the Greater Victoria Teachers Association, that these school liaisons play an important role in their local school communities. I am writing to express our hope that, within the framework that has been set out by the province, three police officers be provisioned to fill the three school liaison officer positions that were repurposed.

We look forward to a positive response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Painter
Greater Victoria School Board Trustee Chair,
Youth Matters Committee Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

cc: Lisa Helps, Mayor of Victoria
Barbara Desjardins, Mayor of Esquimalt
Jordan Watters, Chair, Greater Victoria School Board
Jason Gammon, President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association



September 5, 2018

VICTORIA-ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD
c/o Victoria Police Department
850 Caledonia Avenue
Victoria, BC V8T 5J8

Dear Co-Chairs Mayor Lisa Helps and Mayor Barb Desjardins,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee have great concern about the loss of School Liaison Officers in Victoria and Esquimalt. I understand that the Police Board will be meeting on September 18 and would appreciate your consideration of our input at that time.

From your last meeting in July, it is clear that "digital technologies are producing unprecedented levels of online child abuse material and incidents of exploitation and trafficking. From 2012 to 2014, the number of webpages dedicated to the sale and trafficking, as well as the sharing of sexual abuse materials of children, increased by 147%, with children 10 years and under portrayed in 80% of incidents" and that "355 offenders were identified as actively engaging in the trade of child exploitation material on Vancouver Island, with almost half (149) of the offenders associated to Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses located in Victoria and the surrounding area."

Our committee includes the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT) and we are doing our very best to educate youth about the risks of online exploitation. The lack of Police Liaison Officers in our schools will not help to address this major issue and represents a considerable loss to our youth police relationships. Relationships are the greatest defence for our youth.

In February of 2019 we will again be bringing TC02 presentations free of charge to local schools, put on by Children of the Street Society and facilitated by CRAT and MYST. This major undertaking of the Family Court Committee has been accomplished annually for more than 10 years and represents our continued commitment to preventing child exploitation and increasing youth safety through education, which will now be even harder for us to do without partners like our school liaison officers. (Please feel free to share the attached poster.)

Sincerely,

Cynthia Day, Chair

Cc: Del Manak, Victoria Police Chief
Victoria City Council
Esquimalt Council

Times Colonist Editorial Mar 1, 2019

“For this year, Manak asked for a six per cent increase to add six officers and one civilian. Instead, council limited him to a \$1.8-million increase, which effectively cuts \$1.1 million or nine officers and civilians.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps and Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins said Thursday that the department shouldn’t be forced to cover the new employer health tax out of its regular budget, which adds about \$690,000 back into the mix. Victoria council wants to see a new budget breakdown before it approves even that.

Nevertheless, even though Helps said the councils will have to fund the six officers requested last year, it looks as if the department still won’t have all the officers it asked for.

Times Colonist Feb 28 Katie Derosa/Bill Cleverly:

“Simon Fraser University criminologist Rob Gordon said it’s curious that the province used a heavy hand with Esquimalt while being cautiously hands-off when it comes to Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum’s bid to replace the RCMP with a municipal police force.

“It’s a game of tippy-toe in Surrey and a clashing of antlers in Esquimalt,” Gordon said.

Gordon wondered whether the province’s strong response to the disagreement between Esquimalt and Victoria could be a “dress rehearsal for what the province wants to do in Surrey.”

When the six new jobs weren’t approved, Police Chief Del Manak responded by redeploying all three school liaison officers, one intelligence officer, one reserve constable and one community services officer to patrol duty.

Tonia Enger, acting director of the Police Services Division said in a letter to Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, who co-chair the police board that the officers are a “necessity.” Enger added a condition that when the six officers are deployed, there must be an allocation to meet Esquimalt’s needs “without regard to the demands driven by the downtown core and to ensure consistency with the Framework Agreement.”

Desjardins said she was disappointed with the decision, but happy that Enger ensured some of the new resources will be dedicated to Esquimalt.

Times Colonist Feb 17, 2019 Ruth Annis:

“That emphasis on being visible to the community, establishing relationships with community members, using those relationships to respond more safely and effectively, and working in partnership with other systems, serves our downtown best. Cuts to these kinds of services hurt.”

Times Colonist Jan 16, 2019 Letter from Police Chief Del Manak :

“A more reliable comparison would be that of net police expenditures as a percentage of general operating budget, excluding utilities, capital and debt. While Bartlett is correct that VicPD’s budget for providing policing in Victoria is 22 per cent of the City of Victoria’s general operating budget, this is the same as in Saanich (22 per cent) and less than for the other police services he highlighted, New Westminster (23 per cent) and Abbotsford (26 per cent), in an “apples to apples” comparison.

VicPD has not had a single permanent officer added to our strength in eight years, a period that has seen significant growth in the population of our jurisdiction and the region as a whole. Our officers are bearing the brunt of this growing gap every day and every night, and that story is being told, unfortunately, through the increase in operational stress injuries, both physical and mental, among our men and women. I welcome and encourage a meaningful conversation about police resourcing in our part of the world. I would only encourage that it be based on fact and evidence, so we can all make the best decisions possible.”

Background: School based Police Liaison Officers

Excerpt from the Youth Matters Subcommittee **Oct 2012 Report**:

"School Counsellors Caseloads Rising. School counsellors play an important role in ensuring every child has the best possible chance to thrive. But increasing workloads and a widening ratio of students to school counsellors means that counsellors in BC are facing difficult challenges in giving children the support they need. Carrie Swiggum highlights the problem in an article for The Tyee. In BC, the number of school counsellors has decreased by 11.2% over the last 9 years. Dr. Lynn Miller, professor of counselling psychology at UBC, says that prior to 2002 the BC government set the maximum number of students per counsellor at 360, but in 2002 teacher-student staffing ratios were removed from teachers' contracts, including school counsellor staffing ratios. According to Miller, this means that today a counsellor can have as many as 1,200 students in their care. Even though the bills passed to make these changes were deemed unconstitutional in April of this year by the BC Supreme Court, staffing ratios have not yet been put back into contracts, according to BCTF president Susan Lambert. School counsellors are overstretched, and their work has become reactive. Miller says that: "A very significant part of your day is reacting to whatever the big problem is that day, that week, in that child's life rather than being proactive and preventive... we're trained to be thinking about preventive activities. So, teaching kids skills of emotional regulation, making good decisions, friendship development, conflict resolution. These are very hard to plan when you're reacting to a death, a crisis, a divorce, a fight or suicide threats." Counsellors have also seen their roles change. Jameel Aziz, president of the BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association, says that their administrative responsibilities have increased, leaving less time for personal counselling." <http://thetvee.ca/News/2011/09/08/Fewer-Counsellors-BC/index.html>

In 2012 both Youth Outreach Officer positions were cut from the Victoria/Esquimalt Police. The committee felt that the presence of Officers with whom youth had a trusting relationship was supportive of both the youth and the community and represented a continuum of care 'safety net'.

The **Committee sent a letter to the Police Board on January 8, 2013.**

The Chair **met with Insp. Keith Lindner, Victoria Police Department**, OIC West Division on January 22, 2013 to follow up on concerns that youth resources were critically important, and cuts would result in less services to those youth in need and less trust in the resources that they did not have a relationship with.

The committee also heard from the Youth Matters in February 2013 that "In liaising with community partners who have also tried to run youth focus groups, suggestions for better attendance include 'taking the groups to the youth' by holding the sessions in schools, malls or other locations where youth congregate." This supports having police participate with youth 'where they are' including at school.

The Times Colonist, April 26, 2018 kderosa@times-colonist.com

On Wednesday he announced that all three school liaison officers, one intelligence officer, one reserve constable and one community services officer would be redeployed to patrol and a new alternative response unit that will handle calls over the phone. "I have no choice," said Manak, a former school liaison officer.

"I have to prioritize. Do I not follow high-risk sex offenders or monitor high-risk offenders? "What about the illicit overdoses that are happening in our community? "Whichever way I look, there are no good options here."

Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins slammed the move, saying the liaison officers are the first line of defence in preventing students from falling into criminal behaviour and are particularly crucial during the overdose crisis.

"We're extremely concerned about it. We value our school resource officers, we value our community policing approach," Desjardins told the Times Colonist. "This is taking away the preventative measure that reduces your load in other ways." Desjardins said she has already received emails from concerned Parents.

Peter Kasianchuk, a member of Esquimat High's parents advisory council, said parents feel "completely blindsided" by the news. "We're exceedingly dismayed," he said. "The value of the school liaison officers can't be overstated." The school liaison officer was particularly critical when the school was on lockdown in November due to a robbery in the area, Kasianchuk said.

Kasianchuk said it's "tone deaf" for Manak to mention the overdose crisis as a justification for the redeployment, pointing to the overdose death of 16 year-old Oak Bay High student Elliot Eurchuk as evidence this issue is affecting students. "He's playing politics with our kids' lives," Kasianchuk said.

School liaison officers maintain a presence in a school, attend school and community events and are the main point of contact between Victoria police, students, teachers and parents.

Manak agreed that "school liaison officers are critical" and acknowledged that teachers rely heavily on those officers in dealing with at-risk students. Teachers often turn to liaison officers when a student is exhibiting worrying behaviour that might not be criminal but is above the capacity of a counsellor or teacher, Manak said. "The police are in there to be able to guide and help and mentor and to bridge the

gap and provide support. Unfortunately, that support will no longer be there," he said.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps said Manak had to make a tough decision to ensure that officers can quickly respond to emergency calls. Helps said the school-liaison program "is a very valuable program, without question. But I think that the whole public should be concerned if they call 911 and it takes police a long time to get there because they're six officers short on the front lines.

"It's a very difficult position for the chief to be in." Desjardins said school liaison officers and community resource officers were a key part of the 10-year framework agreement reached between Esquimalt, Victoria and the police department in 2014.

The agreement ensured the Township of Esquimalt received dedicated officers and laid out a funding formula after Esquimalt threatened to contract out to the RCMP instead.

In March, Esquimalt council voted 4-3 against spending \$40,778 to fund its share of hiring six additional officers. Esquimalt is responsible for about 15 per cent of the police budget, while Victoria covers the balance. Several councillors were confused as to why the department needed new officers when quarterly police statistics have regularly shown reductions in calls and crime rates. Manak responded that disclosure requirements have made investigations more time consuming.

In January, the City of Victoria voted in favour of a \$528,000 increase to the Victoria-Esquimalt police budget to fund the new officers. Victoria coun. Ben Isitt, who voted against any staffing increase, said the move to cut the school resource officers is a political one, hopes the chief reconsiders his decision and maintains those positions and retreats from this political power play."

The province has been asked to step in and solve the dispute over the six officers, which is the process under the Police Act when two municipalities disagree on funding matters. The province has the power to overrule Esquimalt council's decision and force the municipality to pay for the new officers. VicPD, which has about 240 sworn officers, hasn't had an increase in its ranks since 2010.

2018 Police Liaison Officers (PLO) Feedback:

Esquimalt High:

Our PLO supports our school with education around policing, drugs and alcohol and driving. Our PLO often does restorative justice with us to support students in moving forward. Our PLO will go with us to student homes to do check-ins and offer support with complex home situations. Students seek out our PLO with sensitive information because of the established relationship. When something significant occurs in community (death by suicide, overdose, car accident etc) our liaison officer contacts us to let us know so we can respond, and support accordingly and then supports us through the critical phase that follows.

Rock Heights Middle School:

At Rock eights Middle School, the police liaison officer is an asset. Overall, PLO presence in the school and at events allows all our students to see police as trustworthy, caring and approachable community members. In a more focused way, the PLO is available to assist us when we have sensitive, timely o intense needs with our most at-risk and vulnerable student and/or their families. The PLO is broadly and deeply involved in the work we do to support and assist students and families, building a more powerful capacity because of the expertise and connections they possess. Our PLO is in the school several times per week and often daily, and is always available with immediacy.



November 8, 2019

Dear Capital Regional District Local Governments and School Boards,

RE: IMPLEMENTING CALLS TO ACTION FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

As BC celebrates the introduction of Legislation on October 24, 2019, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, our committee is keenly aware of the work still ahead. "It's about ensuring that fundamental human rights in this province are for everyone," Premier John Horgan told reporters. "This is a stepping stone to a brighter future... This is not an event, it's not a moment, this is the start of a process to build relationships that we all want to see."

The Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee is broadly mandated in provincial and federal legislation to be the voice of the community, to understand how youth and families are impacted by Family and Youth Justice programs. Investigations since 2000 have focused our work on the 'whole story' for youth and how our systems impact youth and families and to advocate for improvements at all levels.

At UBCM in September this year, Butterflies in Spirit danced at the session on 'Financing Reconciliation'. <https://levelvf.ca/2019/06/26/butterflies-in-spirit-dance-healing-mmiwg/> They spoke passionately about the racism they experience and danced to remember their missing and murdered family members. The Final Report of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls reflects many of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>.

In 2015, the TRC Final Report made [94 Calls to Action](#) and in 2019 it is reported that "... There has been no progress on more than a quarter of the calls to action." <https://thetyee.ca/Tyeenews/2019/10/18/Indigenous-Housing-Water-Election/> and that "Many Canadians have found themselves wondering what Reconciliation is and what their part in it may be" and "This is a profound commitment to establishing new relationships embedded in mutual recognition and respect that will forge a brighter future." https://levelvf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/11-YPPPPolicyProject_SavannahW.pdf

A major goal in our strategic plan is to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the Justice System. In 2016, we analyzed the Calls to Action and identified those which fall within the mandate of local governments, writing in 2017 to ask all of you to help us document your actions. (2016 Report with Table attached for easy reference.)

WE WANT TO SHOWCASE YOUR INITIATIVES! We would like to share what each local government is doing to move forward on reconciliation in our Annual Report this year. The deadline for submissions to be included is November 30. Our Annual Report is distributed to both Federal and Provincial Governments as well as the public and is an opportunity for all local governments and School Boards to be recognized for their leadership.

Yours truly,

Cynthia Day
Chair, Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Attachment

	Call to Action	Request to FCYJC
30	We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.	Ask BC government for reports – review at CRD committee. Request Federal Corrections issue annual reports that we can review.
31	We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.	Ask Federal and Provincial governments to report on funding.
34	We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including: i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD. ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD. iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community. iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.	Ask governments what reforms are being proposed, request more integrated courts and improve FASD diagnosis process.
35	We call upon the federal government to eliminate Aboriginal healing barriers to the creation of additional lodges within the federal correctional system.	Request update on action to address this.
36	We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.	Request an update and details of a plan.
37	We call upon the federal government to provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services.	Request an update and details of a plan.
38	We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.	PRIORITY: request details of plans.
39	We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.	Request information of the Federal plan.

40	We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.	Request an update and details of a plan. Lack of aboriginal – specific Victim services workers: a major gap.
42	We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> , and the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> , endorsed by Canada in November 2012.	Ask for the plan for declaration.
43	We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> as the framework for reconciliation.	Ask for the plan for declaration.
44	We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> .	Ask for an update on national action plan.
47	We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and <i>terra nullius</i> , and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.	Ask FCYJC to ask municipal representatives what their municipal plan is to address this. How do municipalities acknowledge their privilege and what strategies do they have for their relationships with aboriginal committees?
55	We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to: i. The number of Aboriginal children—including Métis and Inuit children— in care, compared with non- Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies. ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves. iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non- Aboriginal people. iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services. v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade. vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes. vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.	Ask governments to provide reports plus more advanced analysis – especially of advantage / disadvantage of Provincial / Federal funding models.

57	We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> , Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.	Ask municipal representatives to ask their councils how they will provide education to public servants and how they will give recognition to cultural safety qualifications in contracts.
66	We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.	Request this is given priority and engage youth and youth organizations in how this is addressed.
82	We call upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument in each capital city to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.	How is Greater Victoria planning to address this? How can the FCYJC support this process?

Truth and Reconciliation Actions – Responses Received

District of Sooke

* Memorandum of Understanding created with the T'Sou-ke First Nation in March, 2007 and now in review. Establishes terms of government-to-government relations between the T'Sou-ke and the District; acknowledges respective boundaries (including traditional and potential treaty settlement lands); and invites "mutually beneficial and ongoing discussions with regards to enhancing the economic, recreational and environmental status of the Sooke area through a positive and meaningful relationship."

* Sooke and T'Sou-ke councils met twice in 2019, once in the T'Sou-ke band hall, then at the District's Municipal Hall. The MOU Working Group will be meeting regularly in 2020.

* Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan includes the following objective: "Strongly advocate together with First Nations, other local governments, and organizations to the provincial and federal governments."

* The Strategic Plan's multi-faceted Action Plan includes:

1. "Work with T'Sou-ke Nation to identify and plan mutually beneficial initiatives."
2. "Community Energy - Expand Solar City (i.e., T'Sou-ke energy programs) to the rest of Sooke."
3. "Create signage in the community to recognize First Nation territories, language and place names."

* First Nations territorial acknowledgement has been a regular feature of Sooke council and committee meetings since the 2018-22 Council's inaugural meeting. The practice is now formalized in the new Sooke Procedure Bylaw (2019).

* Consultation with the T'Sou-ke in creation of multilingual signage and maps for a new urban trail system created by the District in collaboration with the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society. Respectful use during council meetings of T'Sou-ke place names, i.e. "Long Spit" (Whiffin Spit), "Big River" (Sooke River), and "Little River" (DeMamie Creek)

* District of Sooke representation on the Te'mexw Treaty Advisory Committee.

* District's Building Inspection officials have been collaborating with, and offering skills training to, T'Sou-ke members as the First Nation develops its own building permit department.

Other initiatives of note within the District of Sooke ...

*The Sooke Reconciliation Group is a citizens initiative now in its third year of monthly (September to April) meetings at the Lazzar Building on T'Sou-ke Nation land. Founded in 2017 by Edith Newman, Margaret Critchlow and the late Linda Bristol, it is dedicated "to sharing and learning how we can move toward the restoration and healing of the Canadian relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples." Highlights have included talks by authors Monique Gray Smith and Michael Kusugak, residential school survivor Alex Nelson and storyteller J.B. Williams; a KAIROS Blanket Exercise; and a walkabout on T'Sou-ke Nation land led by Chief Gordon Planes.

*Orange Shirt Day is marked annually with a ceremony in Sooke's town centre

*Edward Milne Community School is on First Nation land. The school's Aboriginal Education department assists First Nation students with scholarships and bursaries, instruction in the "Aboriginal Way of Learning," cultural resources (including books, kits, lessons plans and role-model speakers), an eldership program, and a Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

Sincerely,
Jeff Bateman

On behalf of Mayor Tait and Sooke council





1903 Mt. Newton Cross Road | Saanichton, BC Canada | V8M 2A9 | 250.652.4444

November 28, 2019

File No: 0360-20-09/19

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Attention: Cynthia Day, Chair

Dear Ms. Day,

Re: Implementing Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 8, 2019 offering to showcase the steps we are taking to move forward with reconciliation in your Annual Report. I have included some information below on a few of the initiatives that the District has organized and participated in along with a few pictures.

The District of Central Saanich is located on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEC people which includes WJOLELP (Tsartlip) and SXÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nations and has a long history of working with the First Nations Community. Tsartlip and Tsawout are part of the Corporation of District of Central Saanich Letters Patent, a unique inclusion within British Columbia and in Canada.

In 2017, Council passed a resolution to declare 2017 a Year of Reconciliation and that the District of Central Saanich adopt the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation.

The District continues to engage the Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations through the Union of BC Municipalities Community to Community (C2C) program. Through the program we have identified a number of common interests and provides opportunities for on-going relationship building.

Some examples of events organized through the C2C program include a forum held in 2017 in partnership with Tsawout First Nation which was attended by representatives of First Nation, local and provincial governments. The forum provided an educational opportunity to learn about the historical context of the Douglas Treaty and an opportunity to exchange thoughts, view and opinions.

In 2018, representatives the District of Central Saanich along with Saanich Peninsula community leaders attended a blanket exercise hosted by Tsawout First Nation. The exercise is to provide people with a different perspective of settlement and colonialism but also recognized the leadership being displayed in Canada by young Indigenous People.

These events not only educate community leaders about First Nation history but provide an opportunity to establish effective relations and a framework that will strengthen, enhance, and honour our historical, political, social and cultural relationship.

The District of Central Saanich will continue to participate in and develop partnerships with other local governments to expand opportunities for education and cultural awareness training.

Yours Truly,

Liz Cornwell
Corporate Officer



District of North Saanich

November 22, 2019

Cynthia Day, Chair

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee vfamcourt@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Day:

Re: Implementing Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Thank you for your correspondence to Mayor and Council regarding the above noted matter. At the meeting held November 18, 2019, North Saanich Council received your correspondence and referred it to staff for a response.

As a result of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Council adopted the following resolution in 2017:

That Council:

- (a) declares that the District of North Saanich is committed to learning from the lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and taking action to ensure the needs and aspirations of Indigenous peoples are fully acknowledged;
- (b) is committed to a renewed nation to nation relationship with Indigenous people based on truth, dignity and mutual respect and on recognition of rights, co-operation and partnership;
- (c) is committed to honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action by supporting in a practical way the following pathways to reconciliation:
 - (i) fostering communities, alliances and hope, to demonstrate the District's commitment to reconciliation;
 - (ii) advancing awareness and recognizing rights, to commit to truth-telling and commemoration;
 - (iii) improving health and wellness initiatives.

In 2018, at Council's direction, the District developed options to enhance its relationship with its neighbouring First Nations. The District canvassed other local governments and reviewed a number of reports including: Guide to Community to Community Forums in British Columbia, Kitchen Table Dialogue Guide (Reconciliation Canada); Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, Public Service Action for Reconciliation: Plan, Educate and Engage (IPAC); and Pathways to Reconciliation (FCM).

Council shared the options developed by the District to its neighbouring First Nations to seek their input.

Beginning in 2019, Council included an initiative in its Strategic Plan to explore ways to make progress on First Nations matters, including the option of establishing a committee to focus on enhancing communication with First Nations.

To date, Council and the District continues to seek the input from its First Nation neighbours on the options developed to enhance its relationship, as well as opportunities for reconciliation.

On behalf of Mayor and Council, I trust the above is satisfactory, please contact the undersigned if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,



Curt Kingsley

Deputy CAO / Director of Corporate Services

cc. Mayor and Council

Sooke School District #62



11/22/2019

Sooke School District Response to Recommendations:

Our story includes three key system layers to respond to the recommendations; specifically, to the addressing the legacy of education recommendation 10 of

- 'improving education attainment levels and success rates';
- developing culturally appropriate curricula';
- 'protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses';
- 'enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children'; and
- 'Respecting and honouring treaty relationships'

Indigenous Role Model Programs: K-12

Role Model Program consists of --- community role models that bring teachings into the school to reflect students' culture, language, treaty relationship topics, curriculum development with role models and teachers. The role model is inclusive for all students. Many of the role models are aunts, uncles, parents, guardian, grammas, grandpas, and/or Indigenous friends and Indigenous or local First Nation community leaders, such as, Chiefs of the local nations. To date we have 50 role models and a maximum of 1,300 classroom presentations this school year 2019-2020.

Elder-in-Residence Program: We are proud to share that SD62's Elder-in-Residence Program has grown to include 15 schools with 8 Elders in the program. The Elders are selected in consultation with local First Nations and the District Principal of Aboriginal Education. As the school district resides on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish and Nuuchah-nulth, we are honoured to have both Coast Salish and Nuuchah-nulth Elders be part of the program. Elders work at their assigned school for 5 hours on an established weekday from October through to the end of May.

They share the belief that the whole school is their classroom which we believe contributes to the success of the program. In 2018-19, 4 Elders worked at the secondary level and 3 Elders worked at the middle school level. In addition, 2 Elders continued to deliver Sencoten and Hul'q'umi'num' Language Awareness Programs to 6 elementary schools throughout the district (their programs operate for a combined 15 hours/wk). The Elder-in-Residence Program is maintained by the Aboriginal Education Curriculum Coordinator who meets regularly with the Elders to support their needs, teacher/classroom requests, program development, and other. The program strives to meet the goals of SD62's Na'tsa'maht Enhancement Agreement, and although programming is unique to the Elder in each school, it truly personifies the FPPOL and has proven to be a powerful means of deepening understanding and building relationships between staff, students, and the greater community – all of which contribute to Aboriginal student success.

Aboriginal Education Council, A.E.C is a council that monitors and advises the Sooke School District on Reconciliation and programming to with the one main objective of our First Nation local communities to 'improving education attainment levels and success rates'. The Aboriginal Education Council consists of members from Scia'new First Nation, T'Sou-ke First Nation and Pacheedaht First Nation, Metis community service providers or advocacy groups as well as Indigenous partners Camosun College and UVIC to best connect us to future post-secondary considerations.

Equity In Scan

If you have any questions regarding the use of this Self-Identification form, please do not hesitate to contact either Kathleen King at: kking@sd62.bc.ca , telephone 250 474-9879, or Leslie Morison at: lmorison@sd62.bc.ca, telephone: 250-474-9833.

Hych'ka or HÍSWĶE **Kleco Kleco** or [Ĳekoo Ĳekoo!](#) **Gilakas'la** **Marsee Thank-you**

Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal

From: <Arnold.Viersen.A2@parl.gc.ca>

Date: Fri, Dec 20, 2019 at 11:02 AM

Subject: Update: Fighting online sexual violence

Friends,

The 43rd Parliament is back in session and I will be continuing efforts to combat the child exploitation, sexual violence and human trafficking fueled by the pornography industry.

The reality in Canada is that these companies

- have unrestricted access to kids
- create content online that would be illegal to sell or buy in a physical format

Sexual Violence

The harmful impacts are growing as multi-billion dollar companies produce content that glorifies misogyny, torture and violence against women and vulnerable populations.

We know that violent sexual content is impacting peoples behaviours: [How the murder of British backpacker Grace Millane exposed a dangerous change in sexual behaviour fuelled by online porn](#). While these cases are being exposed in other countries, they are not being brought to light in Canada.

Health

While in Canada we have had a lack of research, this is changing. Rachel Barr, a neuroscientist at Université Laval, has been researching the impact on the human brain and [warns](#):

'It is already clear that the mental health and sex lives of its widespread audience are suffering catastrophic effects. From depression to erectile dysfunction, porn appears to be hijacking our neural wiring with dire consequences.'

Also 2-part article series was just released on this in *The Canadian Nurse*. More here: [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)

In the News

I have attached a document with articles on pornography that my office has catalogued over the 2019 year – both Canadian and international coverage.

E-Childhood in Australia has just released a new report [MOBILISING A PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE](#)

- Fight The New Drug just released an [in-depth analysis](#) on Pornhub's 2019 Annual Report

Next steps

I am working on legislation that addresses both the accessibility to children as well as the violent and harmful nature of content available on 'legal' sites.

But I need your help.

1. **Data.** Can you inform me of when cases arise in Canada that feature a link between pornography consumption and sexual violence towards women or youth? It is difficult for media and politicians to dissociate this connection when we can point to the impact it is having in our cities and communities.

Review. Would you be willing to provide your feedback on potential legislation? I hope to have a draft ready in the spring.

Thank you for all you do to help protect youth and end sexual violence.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a wonderful new year.

Sincerely,

Arnold Viersen, MP

Peace River – Westlock

arnold.viersen.a2@parl.gc.ca

Tel: 613.996.1783 Fax: 613.995.1415



Priorities Committee Annual Report

Committee:

The Priorities Sub-committee (Committee) consisted of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC) Chair, Treasurer and one or two members appointed by the Chair as per the VFCYJC Terms of Reference.

Consideration of Priorities Application(s) Process:

The Committee reviews the applications for Goods and Services Submissions and Extraordinary Committee Member Expenses requests and this may involve, questions posed to applicants via the Chair of the Committee, verbal or email discussion amongst the Committee members, and a determination made by the Committee, then, the Committee makes a recommendation in the form of a motion which is placed on an agenda for the main VFCYJC for their consideration and a decision at that main meeting.

The Committee works to ensure that the applications are complete and dovetail with the intentions of the mandate for VFCYJ or its Strategic Plan. The Committee Chair may follow up with approved applicants regarding the success of the event and the evaluation framework.

For 2019 the Committee members were Cynthia Day (Chair VFCYJC), Bill McElroy (Treasurer), Marcie McLean (Chair of the Committee), Geanine Robey.

In May 2019 VFCYJC received a letter from CRD, COA Robert Lapham we provide the following excerpt: “We note that at page 56 of the Supporting Document for the Family Court Committee (FCC) there is a grant application form, which may give third parties the impression that FCC is a granting authority. We respectfully suggest that you remove this grant application form from your documents.”

It is understood by VFCYJC that a review of VFCYJC finances will be undertaken by the CRD.

Respectfully submitted, Marcie McLean, 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

(*application submitted on an older form)

1. Date of Application: **March 31, 2019**
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying: Youth Matters Committee on behalf of the **Relmaging Masculinities Conference 2019**

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

On May 11, 2018 the Relmaging Conference gathered and included seventeen speakers from across the CRD and from across Canada. We reached 200 individuals attending - including 100 youth from schools across the CRD - and as many as 100 individuals watching online.

The project was planned and executed by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from Island Sexual Health, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, as well as local business owners, and community activists.

We were partnered with the Men's Trauma Centre, UVic Women's and Gender Studies and the program, Man Made.

This initiative was recognized by the Parliamentary Secretary for Status of Women Canada, the BC Parliamentary secretary for Gender Equity and both the Moosehide and White Ribbon Campaigns.

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

This project addresses a core mandate of the Youth Matters Sub-Committee by supporting the delivery of a project for youth.

First, the funds will be used to livestream those portions of the days program targeted to Youth at the Relmaging Masculinities Conference. The livestream is intended to be used classrooms and across social media, and to create video assets that can be used long into the future by educators and youth service providers to engage youth on the issues around toxic masculinity and gender-based violence.

Second, the funds will be used to set aside up to 100 seats for use by youth across the region to attend all or part of the day.

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).

This conference aligns with the Federal Governments Gender Based Violence Prevention Strategy, and other burgeoning initiatives in the Greater Victoria School District.

It also dovetails with advocacy being pursued to Union of BC Municipalities and the BC School Trustees Association.

The government of BC appointed a Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity last year and ReImagining Masculinities aligns with the goals of that office.

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:			
<u>Total</u>			
Expenses:			
Livestream of youth component of the conference	University of Victoria Audio Visual Services is producing the livestream including all cameras and production.	\$4,000 value, University of Victoria is providing it at cost (\$2,000 sponsorship)	\$2,000
Support youth attendance at conference	Sponsor student registration (includes lunch) and transportation		\$1,000
Facility		\$	
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$3,000</u>

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

BCGEU, Island Sexual Health, University of Victoria, and Pursuing a variety of other corporate funders

8. Catchment area served – target population:

The target is youth, educators and youth service providers in the CRD, however, the assets will be used to reach youth across the country.

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

Mental health and social- emotional well-being of boys and men. Toxic masculinity contributes to boys and men being more likely to be perpetrators of violence as well as at higher risk of being victims of violence and self-harm. The project also works to combat gender-based violence, and is intersectional in its approach addressing misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and racism.

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

Livestream of the youth component of the Conference and supporting local youth in attending the conference in person by covering youth conference registration.

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

The event takes place May 10, 2019 and the assets developed will be leveraged online going forward. (Date was changed to November 16, 2019 at UVIC due to conflicts in scheduling.)

12. Evaluation framework:

A complete report will be provided to the VFCYJ Committee in person, and in writing for inclusion in the Annual Report. The evaluation will include the engagement with the conference, with the livestream, and the overall impact of the conference.

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 and yfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

1. Date of Application: May 7, 2019
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying: Bill McElroy, as CRAT Chair and Treasurer
3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:
Bill has been a member of VFCYJC and Chair of CRAT for 12 years
4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate: To attend the Global Youth Justice Training Session in June 18-20, 2019
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). To gain knowledge about peer courts and youth courts on 5 different continents, and to determine if they would work in the CRD

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:			
	VFCYJC		\$1,200.00
	Self	\$500.00	\$500.00
<u>Total</u>			\$1,700.00
Expenses:			
	Travel	\$500.00	\$700.00
	Accommodation	\$250.00	\$250.00
	Meals	\$250.00	\$250.00
	Registration	\$250.00	\$250.00
	Exchange rate	\$250.00	\$250.00
Facility		\$	
<u>Total</u>		\$	\$1,700.00

Note on Budget. This will take the form of reimbursement for actual expenses as shown by receipts tendered.

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored: None
8. Catchment area served – target population: CRD
9. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work: Explore options for youth justice in other parts of the world
10. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided): Report to VFCYJC
11. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?) Conference is in Las Vegas June 18-20. Projected travel June 17 with return on June 21
12. Evaluation framework: Report to future meeting of VFCYJC

The priorities application for attendance at this International Youth Justice Conference was the subject of two priorities applications, one in 2017 which had to be cancelled, and one in May 2019 when another opportunity was brought forward to attend. In June I understood that the exchange rate had increased significantly from that which was used to estimate the costs. There was debate and it was decided to wait until all amounts were known. Although receipts are not individually available, we have been provided with credit card statements showing the transactions.

I have asked our representative for more information and received the following: "One of the problems is that I made a Priorities application in the amount of \$1200, which was based on the \$1000 we previously approved in November 2017, plus \$200 to allow for an increase in exchange rates. After the meeting, my plane reservations were significantly higher than what I was able to find in early May. Also, the exchange rate on June 20 when I got to Las Vegas was \$1.32.

When I packed to come home, I left behind most of my receipts, because I was already over the \$1200. Another \$200 would be great as I had receipts totaling \$1464. The conference provided one breakfast and two lunches. On the other days, I paid out of pocket, but didn't keep the receipts. I got the US dollars from an ATM, which was at the \$1.32 exchange rate."

Partial Expenses Victoria to Las Vegas Return

Date	Item	US\$	Cdn\$
2019-05-22	Conference Registration	\$150.00	\$270.04
2019-05-23	Tuscany Suites Room Deposit		\$78.33
2019-05-23	Air Canada return flight to Las Vegas		\$549.07
2019-06-04	Travel Insurance		\$98.35
2019-06-15	Tuscany Suites Room		\$384.26
2019-06-16	Shuttle Airport to Hotel	\$8.50	\$11.13
2019-06-17	China Max Restaurant		\$7.81
2019-06-18	Shinya Maru Restaurant		\$26.24
2019-06-21	Red Lobster Restaurant		\$31.42
2019-06-22	Tim Horton's meal Calgary Airport		\$7.43
	<u>Total:</u>		<u>\$1,464.08</u>

	<u>Travel Advance</u>		<u>\$1,200.00</u>
	<u>Difference</u>		<u>\$264.08</u>

Not included: 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners, US roaming fees for cell.

“When submitted for approval, the exchange rate was approximately 20%. By the time of the actual trip, it was more than 33%. As part of the trip was used for personal benefit, the member is prepared to accept the \$1200 travel advance as payment in full. Only those items charged to the credit card, which automatically calculates the exchange rate, are itemized.”

The attending member has asked to be excused for these deliberations. The amount approved was \$1200 in Canadian Funds and the expenses total \$1464 in Canadian Funds. The committee can choose to provide additional funding or not, but a motion is required to complete this process.

MOTION APPROVED: Approve that Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee Reimburse the attending member \$264.00 Canadian for expenses to attend the International Youth Justice Conference for actual expenses as submitted.

Report on the 22nd Annual Youth Global Justice Training **Las Vegas Nevada, June 18 to 20**

The primary purpose of the Global Youth Justice Institute is to bring Youth Courts to all parts of the United States. Youth Courts are called various things in different States and Countries: Youth Courts, PEER Courts, Teen Courts, Student Courts. For simplicity, they are collectively referred to as Youth Courts. The Global Youth Justice Institute is the largest advocate for Youth Courts, and operates 2-3 training sessions each year. Only 50-60% of applicants are accepted into each Training session. (Yes I had to apply before being approved to attend). There were over 120 attendees for the training I attended, almost all of whom were from the USA. There was 1 from Canada (me) and 4 from Guyana. Guyana is a Commonwealth Country and has a similar legal system to Canada. They are examining Youth Courts as a way of diverting youth from the Criminal Justice System.

Currently, Youth Courts are active in about 20 states in the USA, as well as England, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Germany, South Korea, Bangladesh, South Africa, Liberia and Japan. They are becoming more popular Internationally as an effective and low cost alternative to the Criminal Justice System.

In the US, there is no National diversion program: each state develops their own. There are only about 20 states which have any form of youth diversion programs. In most states, youth have to plead guilty before they can be referred to a Youth Court. The punishment at Youth Court is usually community service. This is not a common idea in the US, as the presenter had to explain to the trainees what community service is. However, School Districts can set up their

own diversion programs and many have their own Youth Courts. School Districts do not have to submit reports to the Department of Justice, so the number of school-based youth courts and diversion programs is not known.

It should be noted that Juvenile justice in the US is based on punishment of Juvenile offenders, not on diverting them from the Criminal Justice System, as we are used to in Canada. The idea of bringing Juvenile offenders before some kind of Youth Court throughout the US would be a major paradigm shift in the administration of Justice.

There can be many variations on Youth Courts: Judges can be adults or youth, Defence and Prosecution can be adults or youth. However, juries are usually youth. Training for those positions is usually held 2 hours per evening, over a 6 week period. However, this varies widely. Senior Law School students, recent Law School grads and Articling students are often recruited to provide training and supervision.

Youth Courts seem to work. It has been shown that youth do not trust older people, regardless of race or gender, and that they are most influenced by their peers. The recidivism rate for youth who have gone through some kind of Youth Court process varies from 6-9% in the states that keep records. That is more than 2.5 times lower than in states without Youth Courts. How is recidivism measured?

- re-arrest
- convictions
- incarceration

One of the anomalies of the US Justice system is that those who associate with people committing a crime can also be charged. For example, if a group of friends are in a store, and one of them shoplifts, the entire group can be charged with theft. Or, if a group of teens are at a party and one is found in possession of drugs or alcohol, all those at the party can be charged. A list of the top 25 offences for which youth are charged is attached. Many of these would not be considered a crime in Canada, and certainly not one that merits incarceration. Crimes which are considered violent, sexual or psychological are not usually referred to Youth Courts.

#1 Theft/Larceny Typical Cases:

- Shoplifting
- Stealing a Bicycle
- Stealing from Backpacks and Lockers

#2 Vandalism

- Tagging and Graffiti
- Drawing on Public Restroom Walls
- Keying a Car and Cutting Auto Tires

#3 Alcohol Offenses

- Underage Purchase or Possession
- Underage Consumption of Alcohol
- Providing Alcohol to Underage Persons
- Possessing an Open Container in Public/Car

- #4 Disorderly Conduct
 - Fighting in a Public Place
 - Cursing at a Teacher
 - Flashing, Mooning and Indecent Exposure
- #5 Simple Assault or Battery
 - Bullying when it Amounts to Assault
 - Child/Parent Physical Disagreements
 - Shoving or Pushing a Person
- #6 Possession of Marijuana
 - Possessing Small Amounts of Marijuana
 - Smoking Marijuana in a Public Place
- #7 Tobacco Offenses
 - Illegally Purchasing Tobacco
 - Chewing or Smoking Tobacco at School
 - Providing or Enabling Youth to Use Tobacco
- #8 Curfew Violations
 - Sneaking Out of Home After Curfew
 - Walking Home After Curfew
 - Violating a Park Curfew
- #9 School Disciplinary Offense
 - Disrupting Class
 - Food Fights and Cheating
 - Violating the Dress Code
- #10 Traffic Violations
 - Speeding or Failing to Yield
 - Not Wearing a Seat Belt
 - Riding in the Back of a Pickup Truck
- #11 Truancy
 - Cutting Class
 - Having Excessive Tardies
 - Violating Court Order to Attend School
- #12 Criminal Trespass
 - Entering a Vacant Building
 - Entering Land or a Dwelling Without Permission
 - Returning to a Store After Being Banned

#13 Mischief/Criminal Nuisance

- Damaging a Mailbox
- Egging or Toilet-papering a House
- Picking Flowers in a Restricted or Private Area

#14 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

- Having a Pipe in Pocket with Resin
- Using Drug Paraphernalia to Use a Controlled Substance
- Possessing Drug Paraphernalia to Grow Marijuana

#15 Harassment

- Bullying
- Making Telephone Calls Without Good Reason
- Insulting or Taunting Another Person to Provoke a Disorderly Response

#16 Fraud

- Writing Bad Checks
- Impersonating Another Person
- Committing Fraud Via E-Mail

#17 Burglary

- Enter Friends or Relatives Homes to Steal Something
- Entering a School Building to Steal Something
- Entering a Home/School and Causing Damage

#18 False Reporting

- Pulling a Fire Alarm
- Calling in False 911 Calls
- Calling in a Bomb Threat

#19 Loitering

- Hanging Out in a Group in Front of a Building
- Smoking in Groups on the Street Corner
- Being in a Park or Store After Closing

#20 Possession of Stolen Property

- Having a Bicycle you know is Stolen
- Receiving Stolen Goods from a Friend
- Being in the Company of Someone Who is Stealing

#21 Possession of a Weapon

- Unlawfully Possessing Pepper Spray
- Possessing a BB or Pellet Gun While Underage
- Carrying Weapons like Metal Knuckles or Nunchucks

#22 Reckless Endangerment

- Throwing Snowballs at Cars
- Hanging on to a Moving Car
- Speeding Out of a Parking Lot

#23 Resisting an Officer without Violence

- Lying to a Police Officer, including one's Age
- Running Away from Law Enforcement
- Refusing to Move When Ordered by an Officer

#24 Runaways

- Running Away from a Noncustodial Parents House
- Going to another City/State when Forbidden by a Parent
- Staying at a Friend or Families House without Parent Permission

#25 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

- Driving Without a License
- Unlawfully Using All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's)
- Taking Parents or Friends Car without Permission

For youth to participate in Youth Courts, they must get approval from elected officials. In the US this could mean the Police Chief, District Attorneys, Mayors, etc. If those officials ran on a program of cracking down on Juvenile crime, approval is unlikely to be given. The exception is schools; they can refer students to community service. One of the biggest supporters of the idea of Youth Courts is the American Bar Association.

13. 129,540 youthful offender referrals are made each year to these programs.

14. 116,114 of the 129,540 youthful offender referrals made to these programs are accepted each year.

15. 111,868 of the accepted 116,114 youthful offender referrals proceed each year in these programs.

16. 97,578 of the 111,868 referrals that proceeded in these programs completed their peer imposed sentence.

17. 1,925,596 hours of mandated community service were completed by the 97,578 youthful offenders who completed their peer imposed sentences.

18. 96.6% of the 89.6% juvenile offenders referred proceeded in the program.

19. 86.3% of the juvenile offenders that proceeded in the program completed their peer imposed sentence (This is a very respectable completion rate).

20. The afternoon session was about youth and the criminal justice system. It was referred to as the “school to incarceration track”. Students who are incarcerated are 3 times more likely to have a learning disability, literacy issues, hearing issues or cognitive problem. Another phrase this presenter used was that someone was “fatally policed”.

Often one event can result in a youth charged in separate jurisdictions, as the crime could take place in one jurisdiction, or where the youth live, or where non-custodial parents live, etc. 1/3 of youth can be in 2 systems at the same time for the same offence.

Training for youth courts usually takes place for 2 hours a night, over 6 nights. Training is usually not carried out over the summer. Transportation is a real issue for youth as there may not be any buses running and they may not have access to a car ride. The YMCA is very involved in Youth Courts and has produced some excellent training manuals.

As part of the “Justice reforms” in the 1990's, youth can serve their sentences in adult prisons. Some youth are sentenced to adult prisons as young as 11 years of age. To prevent youth from learning new methods of criminal activity from adults, a law was passed to prevent mixing adults with youth. The net effect was that youth were put in solitary confinement with only 1 hour per day outside the cell. There are tribal youth courts developing so that indigenous youth can be tried with a bridge to their cultures.

Youth Courts cover Grades 7-12. Federal funding was \$600 Million in 1990's, but now is only about \$400 Million. The Youth Court process has become more dependant on donations and non-profit societies. Youth are told that they should not sign up for a Youth Court if they are not prepared to finish it. If it is not finished, then youth will think it's a joke. There are several models on the Global Youth Justice website, www.globalyouthjustice.org

The 3rd day was mainly different organizations talking about their programmes. Youth Courts seem to work and there were many good outcomes reported. If you have a criminal record in the US, you can't join the Military, many Colleges will not accept you and many employers will not hire you. By attending and completing youth court, the offence is not reported to the FBI and there is no criminal record. If a youth does not complete their Youth Court sentence, they go back to the criminal justice system and you get a record if found guilty. As mentioned, Youth have to plead guilty before they can participate in a Youth Court. They have to accept responsibility for their actions. Mental Health is recognized as a component in Juvenile Crime, as are learning disabilities.

Some of the punishments coming from Youth Courts are community service, writing an essay, writing a letter of apology, or a combination.

Gun violence is an issue. Most School districts have their own Police Force. Many schools have metal detectors at the entrance. Youth are angry, both genders, and all races. They don't trust older people. This reminded me of the 1960's mantra: Don't trust anyone over 35. You have to be mindful of the home situation. One student lived with his grandparents who were both crackheads. One student was suffering academically—he had 2 part-time jobs, as his mother had abandoned him at age 14, and he was paying his own rent. He wanted to buy a car, so he could live in it and give up his apartment. Then he would only need one part-time job. He was charged with assault, because he was being bullied and fought back.

Hunger is an issue with many students. If kids are hungry, they can't be taught. For some youth, the only meal they get each day is the school lunch. On weekends and holidays, they have to rely on Soup kitchens. One youth worker reported a youth selling sexual favours to earn enough money to buy school lunches.

One youth was autistic and loved to draw. One day a teacher told him to stop drawing and when he wouldn't, she threw his drawing materials in the garbage. When he took them out of the garbage, the Police were called and he was charged with assault.

I use these examples to show how easily some kids can get involved with the Criminal Justice system in the US.

Conclusion:

Although the Criminal Justice system for youth is quite different in the US from what we are used to in Canada, the idea of a Youth Court seems to work Internationally, and may provide a method of dealing with some of our youth who are repeat offenders and who have been diverted many times. Because it is Peer driven and decided, it seems to have a greater impact on the young offenders themselves. This is one of the reasons that it is being taken up by jurisdictions around the world.

There are 2 training sessions per year offered by the Global Youth Justice Institute: one on the Eastern Seaboard and the other in Las Vegas. The training is excellent, but is mainly geared toward the Juvenile justice situation in the US. As a result, I have concluded that there is limited benefit to Canadians in attending, especially considering the costs. As usual at conferences and training session, the main benefit is hearing about what various agencies are doing, and meeting those who are involved with Youth Courts.

There has been attendance at past Training Sessions from other Provinces. There needs to be more research done, and we should connect with other Provinces to see what they are doing. According to the Global Youth Justice Executive Director, Alberta is embarking on a series of Youth Courts, as are some areas in Ontario.

Recommendation:

The VFCYJC should liaise with other Provinces to find out what is working for them and whether there is merit in developing a made-in-BC Youth Court process.

Submitted by Bill McElroy,

August 2019.

Insert 2019 – Start the Conversation Application VFCYJC Grant.pdf

- NOTE The application was approved by committee and the CRD Board, but the event was complete before the funding could be delivered.



2019 Annual Report

During 2019 we met 3 times during the year in the Esquimalt Nation Room, which is provided for free by Victoria City Hall.

CRAT is a sub-committee of the VFCYJC and has two main goals: raising awareness about the sexual exploitation of children and youth within the CRD and identifying gaps in services available to those youth. Youth are now being groomed and stalked on the internet, which makes it more difficult to detect and help them. Gangs are increasing their presence.

At the January meeting, Bill McElroy was acclaimed Chair, and Marilyn Holman agreed to serve as Vice Chair if required. 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.

We brought over Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (tco2) during the week of February 25 - March 1. There were 9 presentations to a total of 1,311 people, mostly middle and secondary school students. Although tco2 puts on their performances for free, we pay their way to and from Vancouver, and provide accommodations and meals. In 2019 the costs were over \$1700, due to increased costs of travel, food and accommodation. We received additional funding of \$1000 from the VFCYJC to cover the shortfall.

Long time member and CRAT advocate Helen Hughes resigned after more than 20 years' service for CRAT. The Chair acknowledged Helen's contributions and will prepare an appropriate recognition for her service.

During the year, we received a one-time bequest of \$12,000 in order to prepare a graphic novel that we can hand out at tco2 presentations. A working group was struck, and it was decided that we will produce a short, animated film about sexual exploitation, along the lines of the Consent video. The first step is to prepare a script, and we have engaged an experienced writer to do that. We expect to have the video produced and ready for distribution in 2020.

Bill made a presentation to the Westshore Soroptimists, which was well received. Several members expressed an interest in joining CRAT.

Submitted by Bill McElroy, Chair, December 2019

Court Watch Report for 2019

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is mandated under both the Provincial Court Act of BC as well as the Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act. The areas of oversight for the committee involve children, youth and families who are before the Courts or at risk of becoming involved in the court system. Consequently, a subcommittee was formed years back to provide opportunities for the Committee to learn about the system and advocate where necessary, when they saw the need for reform.

I became chair of the Court Watch Committee after professor Jim Hackler retired from the committee and as chair of Court Watch. He brought an international understanding as to what other countries were doing to address family and children's issues involved in the court systems. There has been no prescribed format for this committee. I saw my roll as bringing information to the committee about current issues impacting youth and families in the court systems, providing opportunities for committee members to attend Court, both the regular and First Nations Court, and provide opportunities for debriefing after. Attendees then shared with the larger committee their views of the experience. The larger committee's role has been one of primarily educating members, through guest speakers, literature reviews, Commission reports, along with advocacy in areas of shared concern by other social justice providers.

On the advocacy front, the Committee supported First Call's, 'a provincial advocacy body whose core functions relate to early childhood best practices', **call for reforms to the BC Employment Standards Act**. The primary issues related to the need **to better protect youth from work place injury and risk of exploitation**. The Committee also supported the reform advocacy of member of Parliament for the Peace River district, MP Arnold Viersen. He introduced a private members bill into the House of Commons, M-47, dealing with on-line sexual violence. in May of 2018, which was unanimously adopted. His speech is captured on You Tube in which he states that he obtained support for this Motion from Coast to Coast, *including support from the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee*.

The Committee's advocacy support has figured prominently in the Federal House of Commons debates. As chair of Court Watch, I have maintained contact with MP Viersen to follow outcomes. More locally, we learned that violence in our school systems are increasing, that the school is no longer a safe haven for the students. Lockdowns are now happening in our municipalities. The Committee was extremely concerned with the budget cuts for policing in Victoria which has left Victoria schools without school liaison officers. Moreover, these officers provide an opportunity for youth to see authority figures who are there to uphold the law but also there to protect them as well. With reported stress levels increasing for youth, to have go to resource persons at hand, can be de-stressing.

The Committee has heard over the last few years about the decline in crime, on the one hand, but **learn from service providers that youth are seen multiple times by the police before they ever enter the system**. This has now escalated to near out of control situations in some municipalities. This is an area that needs heightened advocacy and by having members attend youth courts, meet with service providers, demanding answers to some questions, can help raise the profile of this issue.

With respect to Indigenous persons involved in the system, members have attended the First Nations Court in Duncan. A report was filed with the Committee regarding that experience. Following the recommendations from the TRC, now along with the report from the Murdered and Missing Women and Girls Inquiry, **judicial reform is absolutely necessary on all legal fronts to reduce the human rights violations, the over-incarceration rates for indigenous offenders and apprehension of Indigenous children into government care.**

Court Watch Report for 2019 (cont.)

Taken from the MMIWG Inquiry under the *Calls for Justice For All Canadians*, an advocate said, " **Become part of the community, We need to see your hand in order for us to shake it**".

In closing I have a few recommendations for structure: as pre-requisites for representing one's community on this committee:

- that each member be required to attend both a non-indigenous and an Indigenous court setting to gain a better understanding,
- that each member be required to take some form of cultural training, if they have not done so,
- and that each member contact their local enforcement authorities, to obtain a snap shot of what is happening and report back, finally,
- that Justice Education Society be invited as a guest speaker when there are new members on the Committee who have not been involved or know about the Court System. Their website at 'www.justiceeducation.ca' is extremely helpful. They also provide opportunities for Court watch throughout the Province.

For Victoria the contact person is Ann.Young@JusticeEducation.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Peters, Court Watch Chair



2019 Family and Youth Matters Report

This sub-committee met to talk about the purpose and direction of the sub-committee going forward. Present was Marilyn Holman, and Sandra Sarsfield.

1. We agreed that at this time, we could do some advocacy on a number of fronts.
 - A. First, Youth upon release from jail are often released in situations where they have outgrown the clothes in which they went into custody, and have no appropriate clothes to wear upon release. Also, [a larger variety of supports/programs could be offered](#).
 - B. Secondly, The McLaren Report, in particular the recommendation that [the Legal Services Society fund and support an integrated network of independent community legal clinics with teams of lawyers, and advocates providing poverty law services](#). Poverty Law services include residential tenancy disputes (e.g. renovictions), disputes about social assistance payments, disability benefits, and workers compensation disputes. We agreed that we could advocate that these clinics should go ahead and should include and support services and [should also provide family and youth services](#).
 - C. The McLaren Report also recommends that a [strategic network of specialty legal clinics be funded and nurtured to serve specific communities of legal need](#). We agreed that many isolated communities, Indigenous communities and some northern communities need these specialty legal clinics, which are accessible to them.

The way forward regarding the advocacy [required will need more thought and input from the VFCYJC as a whole](#), and other members of the Family Matters sub-committee. Perhaps a letter to the AG encouraging the implementation of recommendations in this report might be a next step.

2. I happened to be in Family Court in the Western Communities, on Monday June 3, which is family “list” or remand day there. It made me think about [the issue of the growing population in the Western Communities and how it was obvious on Monday that court services for that community are behind the times](#). It also made me think about Sidney and the closure of the courthouse there about 20 years ago. This situation really impacts on the populations, especially indigenous populations in those regions in terms of access to justice. Services are centralized in downtown Victoria, and for many that is a barrier on many fronts: cost, transportation, culture, time. Just a possible suggestion; the Victoria Justice Access Centre (JAC) could send some of their Family Mediators, and Family Law Lawyers to each of the Western Communities, and to Sidney either weekly or bi-weekly to provide services there, instead of having those citizens holding the burden of getting to downtown to access those services. Another suggestion is that a sitting judge could be assigned to the Western Communities Court, so that there is a consistent presence there to oversee the administration of the court, and the development of local knowledge of the issues there.
3. [The low priority that is given to Family Law matters in the administration of the courts is a matter worth considering](#). The majority of family law clients attend court without legal counsel. They tend to be people who are in the early stages of a family breakdown situation, or people who have been in that situation for a while but who are particularly charged in their ongoing conflict. These are people who are emotional, don’t necessarily listen well, because they are distraught, on their own, and don’t know what to expect. [More time is needed to deal with family matters](#).

They do receive the services of family duty counsel, but they are clearly told by the judge at the outset that [at family remand their issues will not likely be solved](#), and [there is not much time to address their issues](#). With criminal matters the clients usually have a lawyer, and the Crown lawyer has usually communicated with the defense lawyer to determine what will happen in court. There is a certain predictable order to things. Things are not so predictable or orderly in family court. What occurred in family court on Monday was illustrative. Family court was shut down so that a criminal matter could be heard. Those who were there for family court were sent to wait in the lobby while a video link was set up for another judge to complete hearing the list by video. This took some time. This was a most unsatisfactory situation because [the judge on video was unable to see the complete files of those people, time was even shorter and people were even more distraught and rushed](#). Families in crisis at every stage need to be offered free counselling services, and such services available at family remand dates would be very valuable.

4. There is now [a government program that pays tuition for foster kids](#) who want to further their education e.g. university, technical, trades. They apply at 19. [It would be great if they could apply when they graduate from secondary school](#). Kids are generally 17 or 18 when they graduate. If they can't get the tuition paid until 19, they are waiting a year or two. If a person has no other support, no parents who will help etc. that is a long time to wait. This is something we could advocate for.
5. There is also [a government program that helps kids with housing](#) etc. when they are taking further education, [but it only applies in situations where the state is the guardian](#), or if, for example the parent's whereabouts are unknown. So, kids that have been in foster care but the parents are still guardians, do not have this option. Non-profits, such as Threshold take on kids at age 16. They provide mentors, counselling, a place to live etc. while they get their education. They also support them until they have a job. Perhaps government could support this kind of thing. We could advocate for that.
6. Another idea we talked about was to propose the idea of using [UVic Law students and Masters Counselling students to set up a community service under those UVic faculties](#). Something similar to The Law Centre in downtown Victoria now, but in a different location such as Esquimalt where they would be close to First Nations, and lower income clients, and with more counselling. It would be a good opportunity for students at UVic or other post-secondary institutions to have practical experiences and assist people under the supervision of qualified lawyers and counsellors with family and poverty law matters.

In conclusion, there are lots of improvements that can be made to improve access to justice for ordinary people in our Capital Regional District, and this grass roots VFCYJC committee may be in a position to advocate and assist.

Respectfully Submitted

[FAMILY AND YOUTH MATTERS SUB COMMITTEE](#)

Co-Chairs: Marilyn Holman and Sandra Sarsfield

Highlights of RJV in 2019

<i>Where Referrals Came From</i>	<i># of Cases Referred</i>
Victoria Police	47
Victoria Crown Counsel	14
Western Communities Crown Counsel	3
Oak Bay Police Department	1
Community member (self-referral)	1
Saanich, Westshore and Victoria Probation	5
Victim Services	1
RJ Program	3
School	2
Other	3
TOTAL:	80

December 9, 2019 - Case Statistics (Year to Date)



[People vector created by pikisuperstar - www.freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/people)

Highlights of RJV in 2019 (cont.)

Offences Referred

Type of Offence	# of Offences Committed
Assault	19
Assault causing bodily harm	3
Assaulting a police officer	1
Assault – Intimate partner violence	3
Assault with a weapon	1
Breach of undertaking or recognizance	1
Break & enter	3
Causing a disturbance	2
Causing animal distress	1
Extortion	1
Forcible confinement	1
Human rights complaint	1
Mischief \$5000 or under	7
Possession of stolen property over \$5,000	1
Robbery	1
Sexual assault	4
Shoplifting - Theft under \$5000	30
Theft under \$5000	2
Theft over \$5000	1
Traffic fatality	2
Uttering threats	5
Willfully resisting a police officer	1
TOTAL:	91

Highlights of RJV in 2019 (cont.)

Status and Outcomes of Referrals

Case Statuses and Outcomes*	# of Cases
CASES THAT ARE PRE-APPROVAL OR IN-PROGRESS	
• Cases that are pre-approval	19
• Cases in progress (pre-dialogue)	10
• Cases in progress (post-dialogue)	9
TOTAL:	38
CASES THAT DID PROCEED	
• Offender completed all terms as agreed	13
• Offender completed all terms as agreed w/time extension	1
• Offender completed all terms as amended	2
• Offender did not complete any terms	0
• Dialogue process only (completed - no agreement)	2
• Conciliation (informal resolution with no dialogue)	2
TOTAL:	20
CASES THAT DID NOT PROCEED	
• Unable to contact the offender	9
• Offender does not consent to the process	3
• Other	3
• Offender went missing after contact	1
• Victim does not consent to referral being made	1
• Offender unable to participate due to mental health/addictions	1
• Offender disputes facts of case	3
• RJV refuses to accept	0
TOTAL:	21

*These outcomes were recorded as of December 9, 2019. The outcomes related to cases that are pre-approval and in-progress will change.

Highlights of RJV in 2019 (cont.)

Restorative Processes Used

Restorative Justice Victoria (RJV) uses a variety of processes to meaningfully address an offence in a manner that best suites the needs, desires, and capacities of the participants. These are:

- **Restorative justice dialogue:** In this process the victim of the offence participates in some significant way. This typically means that they attend the dialogue in person. However, in some cases they may choose an alternate form, such as writing a statement or sending a representative on their behalf.
- **Community accountability dialogue:** This process is used when there is no victim participation. This is the case when the victim chooses not to participate (but still consents to the matter being dealt with in restorative justice) or when there is no identifiable victim (e.g. shoplifting offence at a large corporation). In these dialogues, 1 – 2 members of the community who have relevant lived experience and/or surrogate victims attend to share their perspective on the offence, offer various view points, and help participants understand the impact.
- **Abbreviated dialogue:** This process is used when the offence referred is minor in nature and there is no victim involvement (e.g. shoplifting an item valued under \$30). In the other processes, considerable case development is conducted to prepare the participants, which entails multiple meetings with the restorative justice team. In the abbreviated dialogues, the matter is addressed via one meeting or through an intake and dialogue to shorten and simplify the process to reflect the severity of the offence.



Agreement Terms

The restorative justice agreements that were developed in 2019 provided outcomes catered specifically to the needs of participants. Some of the most common agreement outcomes in 2019 were:

- Financial restitution to victims
- Attending counseling
- Conducting volunteer work in the community or donating to a community organization
- Letters of apology to those impacted
- Self-reflection through journal entries, letters to self, mission statements, or learning plans
- Communication and conflict management skills education and training
- Addictions support or commitment to monitoring and/or reducing substance use
- Researching and discussing the impacts of specific harm
- Art projects (to be used to develop insight into the offence, as an educational tool, or provided as a gift or donation)
- Researching or enrolling in education

Complex Cases

Over the past three years, Restorative Justice Victoria (RJV) has seen a steady increase in complex cases referred to the organization. We define complex cases as those that involve one or more of the following: a serious type of offence; complex relational dynamics between clients; or clients with serious mental health, addictions, lower cognitive functioning, and/or trauma issues.

- 58% of our completed or ongoing cases from the last year are classified as complex
- 46% had at least one client with mental health issues
- 23% had at least one client with trauma from the offence or impacting their capacity
- 20% had at least one client with addiction-related issues and/or drugs/alcohol were a factor in the offence
- 10% had at least one client with lower cognitive capacity



Client Feedback

RJV uses a three-point evaluation system that ensures thorough and rich feedback is gathered from clients at multiple points in the restorative justice process, as well as two months after the files are closed. This feedback is regularly reviewed and used to adjust the program to better meet client needs. In 2019, as in other years, RJV received positive feedback, with almost all clients reporting being “satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” with the services that they received.

100% of our clients said they would recommend restorative justice to others.

Below are some comments that clients made in their evaluations from 2019.

- *“The people involved were incredible.”*
- *“I really appreciate the mentorship from my mentor. She gave me a lot of confidence and motivational push to actually complete these commitments.”*
- *“The genuine concern for both sides was evident in the support delivered by my mentor and RJV staff.”*
- *“It provided an excellent opportunity for introspection and reflection which lead to a positive healing experience.”*
- *“To be able to have someone to talk to without fear of judgement was an incredible experience that I've not often had.”*
- *“Through and through the people of RJV were compassionate but held me responsible and did not just push through.”*
- *“It has put a drive in me to live a healthier life and to be more aware of my role and the impact I have on everyone around me.”*
- *“My entire experience with RJV has been nothing but positive and has changed me in many ways.”*
- *“This is an amazing resource, an effective way of resolving harm done and addressing contributing reasons for the act done.”*

Volunteers

RJV is incredibly grateful to its volunteers, who contribute in so many ways. Currently there are 68 individuals volunteering with the organization, filling the following 92 positions:

- 20 facilitators and mentors
- 31 community members
- 21 scribes
- 20 other (board members, committees, admin, etc.)



Funding

Stable, consistent, core funding continues to be a major challenge for RJV. In 2019, RJV received funds from the following sources:

- BC Gaming Grant
- Community Accountability Program
- Civil Forfeiture Grant
- City of Victoria and Township of Esquimalt
- Sisters of Saint Ann
- The Victoria Foundation
- The Allardyce Bower Foundation
- The Rachel Davis Fund
- The Victims and Survivors of Crime Week Grant
- Donations and fundraising
- Training and pay per services fees

Only one of the above sources provide ongoing or multi-year funding. Each other requires some form of application or submission and none are guaranteed, meaning **staff are spending considerable time writing applications and the organization is regularly facing financial uncertainty.** The complex nature of many of our files means that we require substantial resources in order to provide safe and ethical services in line with the standards we are known for.

Gillian Lindquist, Executive Director

Fundraiser

We hosted our third annual fundraiser, Shoes, Brews & Blues, at Hermann's Jazz Club on November 17, 2019. It was a big success, as it sold out a week before the event and raised \$12,000.



Other Projects

In 2019, RJV engaged in the following projects:

- **Complex Caseworker Capacity Building Project:** We received a three-year grant to provide on-the-job training and workshops to develop our current volunteer caseworker skills to respond to the increasing complexity of our cases.
- **Evaluating for Restorative Results Project:** We are working with Just Outcomes Consulting and over 20 other RJ organizations across the province to develop a standard set of evaluation criteria of our work in order to build a strong base of evidence regarding the success of RJ.
- **New RJV Website:** We received funding to remodel our website in order to make it a resource for victims of crime and to provide detailed information to potential and current clients.

From the RJV Newsletter:

Volunteers seek to increase visibility of restorative justice in Powell River area

Program aims to bring community together, says coordinator

Alexander Cosh / Powell River Peak NOVEMBER 16, 2019 07:00 AM



DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS: qathet Community Justice volunteers in the Powell River region come from a variety of backgrounds and include [back row, from left] Drew Blaney, Tammy Siddall, Barry Stuart, Paul Miniato, Keely Sills, Siobhan Brown, Stuart Clark, DJ Fourchalk, [front row, from left] Pat Thompson, Theresa Verdiel, Verna Francis, Vicki Pierobon, Marilyn Carey, Jane Waterman, Marion Stookey and Bonnie Robinson. Contributed photo

qathet Community Justice volunteers will spend restorative justice week, November 17 to 24, rebranding the program as they prepare to seek out more sources of local funding. Originally established in 2004 as Texada Restorative Justice, the program gradually encompassed the rest of the Powell River region over the years before taking its current name. Now local high school students are designing the program's new logo. "We have students at Brooks [Secondary School] who are designing a logo for us, which is really exciting," said program coordinator Siobhan Brown. "As soon as the new year hits, we're going to be working really hard to get our visibility up, and our vision." That vision, Brown explained, centres on resolving conflicts through inclusivity, respect, compassion, accountability and relationship.

"The goal is really about bringing community together, using conflict as an opportunity to have healing conversations and more effective communication with one another." "It's not just for crime," added Brown. "We also can do neighbourhood conflicts. We're working with Brooks Secondary. The principles can reach a lot of situations." After the program receives a referral, either from the RCMP or through a self-referral, each case goes through four stages: establishing suitability, undergoing preparation, participating in a discussion circle and meeting for a follow-up talk. "This can happen at any stage in the legal process," said Brown. "It does not have to be either court or restorative justice. They can run parallel to one another. If a victim feels they're not being heard enough in the court

system, the court case can still go on and the victim can access restorative justice services to have a bit more of a voice.”

The entire process, added Brown, is carried out by hardworking volunteers. “It’s all from extremely dedicated volunteers; a lot of people come with their own professional expertise,” she said. “We have trained mediators, we have teachers, we have a former probation officer, we have former mental health workers.” The program is classified as a Community Accountability Program, meaning it receives its core funding from the province. Although that funding increased this year, from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per year, the group is looking to establish more local and more reliable sources of financial support.

“At the moment we’re entirely dependent on provincial and federal and specialized grants, and it’s incredibly time consuming, and you never know one year to the next what your funding is going to look like,” said Brown. Last summer, the program had a Canada Summer Jobs intern position for eight weeks, allowing the program’s volunteers to work on grant applications and focus on coordination work. “We received some grants this year, which was really excellent, so we’re just kicking it up in the level of professionalism and time that we can dedicate to coordination,” said Brown. In the meantime, Brown encourages anyone who is interested in the program to get in touch by calling 604.485.2004 or emailing gcj@prepsociety.org. “Get the conversation going about the potential this has for our community,” she said, “because I think it could do a world of good in a lot of different areas.”

[How Sexual Assault Survivor Marlee Liss is Finding Healing Through Restorative Justice](https://canadianwomen.org/blog/finding-healing-through-restorative-justice/)



<https://canadianwomen.org/blog/finding-healing-through-restorative-justice/>

“Restorative justice can be looked at in different ways in different communities and can have different names and components – like a [“sentencing circle”](#) or a [“healing circle.”](#) It can include therapy, actions to propel growth and transformation, and other innovative approaches to justice. Essentially, it’s about moving through a process which involves gaining empathy for one another, seeing where people came from, apologizing, and working towards forgiveness. It’s more rehabilitation-focused than punitive.”