



Victoria Family Court
& Youth Justice Committee



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented January 19, 2022



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An archive of Annual Reports from the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and a regularly updated wealth of supporting documents, resources and links to relevant organizations in the Greater Victoria region can be found at the VFCYJC website. victoriafamilycourt.ca

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meets on the unceded Coast Salish Territory of the Lekwungen-speaking and WSÁNEĆ nations. We acknowledge and thank the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, also known as the Songhees, Esquimalt and Beecher Bay First Nations communities for allowing us to live on their lands.

The VFCYJC further acknowledges that the capital region spans the Traditional Territories of Coast and Straits Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples and that, by virtue of being represented by all 13 municipalities, our committee is responsible to help build respectful and enduring relationships with our First Nations neighbours.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Members shall at all times conduct themselves with propriety, decency and respect and with the understanding that all members of the committee and guests are to be treated fairly with dignity, courtesy, and empathy.
2. Members understand that the meetings often discuss issues where confidential personal identifying information is included. Any such confidential information shall be treated as confidential and not discussed outside of the committee.
3. Members shall act in a manner that fulfills the mandate and the mission of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice (VFCYJ) committee;
4. Members shall respect the due process and the authority of the Chair, Vice-Chair or the Presiding Officer;
5. Members shall give fair consideration to diverse opinions and viewpoints;
6. Members shall demonstrate professionalism, transparency, timeliness, accountability in completing tasks undertaken by the committee;
7. Members shall strive to attend all meetings, sending apologies to the Chair for necessary absences.
8. Members will prepare for the meeting by reading the agenda, papers and any emails before the meeting.
9. Members if they need to clarify anything about the agenda, process or mandate contact the Chair.
10. Members agree to arrive on time for the meeting and strive to stay to the end.
11. Members are encouraged to fully participate in the meeting.
 - a. Listen to what others have to say and keep an open mind.
 - b. Contribute positively to the discussions.
 - c. Be concise
 - d. Be respectful of others opinions and time
 - e. Minimize the side conversations
12. Members shall have the best interests of the VFCYJ committee in mind at all times.
13. Members shall draw attention to any potential conflicts of interest that may arise in the meeting.
14. Members shall fulfil any responsibilities assigned to them at the meeting and be prepared to report back on your progress at the next meeting.
15. Each member of the committee will receive a copy of this Code of Conduct.



2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Cynthia Day, Councillor (Colwood), VFCYJC Chair
Marie--T r se Little, Councillor (Metchosin), VFCYJC Vice-Chair, and Chair Court Watch Subcommittee
Bill McElroy, Treasurer, Chair CRAT/SEY
Adam Flint, Citizen Representative (View Royal), Chair, Communications Sub-Committee
Marilynn Holman Citizen Representative (Saanich), Co-Chair Youth & Family Matters Sub-Committee
Marcie McLean, Councillor (Highlands), Chair, Priorities Sub-Committee
Sandra Sarsfield, CRD, Co-Chair, Youth & Family Matters Sub-Committee
Leslie Anderson, Councillor (Alternate-Highlands)
Jeff Bateman, Councillor (Sooke)
Nathalie Chambers, Councillor (Saanich)
Barbara Fallot, Councillor (Sidney)
Heather Gartshore, Councillor (North Saanich)
Lynda Hundleby, Councillor (Esquimalt)
Ron Mattson, Councillor (View Royal)
Terri O'Keefe, Councillor (Alternate-Sidney)
Stewart Parkinson, Councillor (Alternate-Colwood)
Patricia Pearson, Council (Alternate-North Saanich)
Esther Paterson, Councillor (Oak Bay)
Sarah Potts, Councillor (Victoria)
Matt Sahlstrom, Councillor (Langford)
Kari Sloan, Citizen Representative (Victoria)
Daleen Thomas, Citizen Representative (Central Saanich)

2020 SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Angie Hentze, Trustee, Victoria SD 61
Alicia Holman, Trustee, Saanich SD 63
Margot Swinburnson, Trustee, Sooke SD 62
Diana Seaton, Trustee, Sooke SD 62 (alternate)

2020 RESOURCE AGENCIES

Ranj Atwal, MCFD, Director of Operations, South Vancouver Island
Suzanne Beavan, Youth Justice Team Leader Member, Youth Probation Officer, Saanich Police
Cate Bennett, MCFD - Youth Justice
Pat Bryant, Mobile Youth Services Team
Alesha Doran, Executive Director, Indigenous Perspectives Society
Mia Golden, Crime Reduction & Exploitation Diversion Program and Mobile Youth Services Team
Sue Hendricks, Aboriginal Programs & Relationships
Melissa Hyland, Director, Resiliency Rising Society
Gord Irving, Executive Director, Victoria Boys & Girls Club
Gillian Lindquist, Executive Director, Restorative Justice Victoria

Darin Reimer, Executive Director, Youth Sanctuary
Colin Tessier, Executive Director, Threshold Youth Housing
Vanessa White, School District 62
Central Saanich Police
John Howard Society of Victoria
Pacific Centre Family Services Association
Public Safety and Solicitor General
Saanich Police
Sidney RCMP
Single Parent Resource Centre
Sooke RCMP
Victoria Court Registry
Victoria Police
West Shore RCMP

THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

2018-2021

The VFCYJC will be developing its next three-year strategic plan in 2022.

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



Family Court Committees and Youth Justice Committees in Canada complement the judicial system with input from the community on the judicial services provided. In Greater Victoria we have both of these mandates under a single committee where services

for youth and families in the region can be investigated, reported on, and advocated for.

This has been the first year with a National Reconciliation Day and a sad year as we all felt the impact of the discovery of children's graves at residential school sites in BC and across Canada. Advocacy for the recommendations of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has materialized into our strong support for Indigenous Reconciliation training among our members.

2021 has been a year of review and the committee has worked hard to envision the most effective ways to organize a committee representing a diverse region and embodying best practices. The roles and responsibilities of our committee are outlined in both the Provincial Court Act (specifically, section 5, Family Court Committee) and the Youth Criminal Justice Act (specifically, section 18, Youth Justice Committees) and were last reviewed in 2010.

Our extensive review process has included the formation of working groups to look at specific aspects raised as staff at the CRD assisted in identifying how to both work in compliance with

our legislated purpose and in conformity with other CRD committees and commissions. The working groups have provided written reports and recommendations that have been presented for consideration at regular VFCYJC meetings. The motions are presented at the Annual General Meeting with notice to all members for approval.

Notable improvements include putting community resource representatives at the top of our agendas, thus allowing them to inform us quickly of developments, challenges, and successes without needing to sit through the administrative aspects of our meetings. Support from the CRD to assist with meeting the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, finances, and in-camera and code-of-conduct has been helpful to the committee. The new direction of the VFCYJC will allow for greater workload sharing among the members, and I hope, more longevity for this committee as we are now structured to support greater transfer of knowledge.

COVID-19 continues to impact our ability to have less formal discussions among members, the few minutes at the beginning or end of a meeting. I trust that we have put forward a structure that can support the community as our Indigenous partners have taught us: 'In a Good Way.'

Respectfully,

Cynthia Day

Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT



Due to the COVID-related provincial restrictions regarding in-person meetings, members of the VFCYJ committee and sub-committees have not had the opportunity to meet in person. All meetings in 2021 were completed on the Zoom virtual platform.

I continue to be dedicated to this committee because I believe that this committee provides value in the education of elected municipal representatives and advocacy for children and families who encounter the provincial courts.

The main focus for the committee in 2021 has been to address the CRD review of the VFCYJ committee. My main focus has been to provide a framework to establish and support the Working Groups to discuss the CRD's recommendations. I would like to express my gratitude to the Chair of this committee and to all those committee members that contributed to providing a thorough review of the recommendations and its implications. This review has caused a great deal of work for the sub-committee members. However, I believe that the VFCYJ committee will be more grounded and better equipped and supported to work towards our stated mission to facilitate connections between municipal and First Nation governments, school districts, service providers, and the broader community to educate and advocate on the challenges and shortfalls facing youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system.

In 2022, I look forward to working with other committee members on the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan which will afford us the opportunity to review our mission, vision, and goals. More than anything else, I welcome the opportunity to resume in-person meetings with my social justice colleagues and establishing a new normal when it is safe to do so.

Marie--Térèse Little,

Vice-Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee





Annual Financial Statements 2020-2021
(for the period December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021)

Opening Balance December 1, 2019: **\$ 21,021.45**

Expenses:

Secretarial	\$ 3,800.00
Office Supplies: see Note 2	\$ 260.75

Total Expenses: \$ \$4,060.75

Revenue: nil

Closing Balance November 30, 2021: **\$ 16,960.70**

Note 1: Accounts kept on a cash basis.

Note 2: Zoom subscription reimbursement \$224, Domain name renewal \$36.75

Note 3: Shares in Vancity Credit Union \$ 7.28

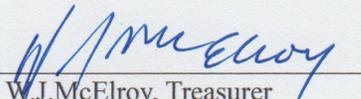
Note 4: VFCYJC Audit Committee met electronically January 5, 2022. The Treasurer presented the Financial Statements,

Motion: Esther Paterson Second: Jeff Bateman

“The Annual Financial Statements for the period December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021 be approved, and

That the Annual Financial Statements for the period December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021 be presented at the 2022 Annual General Meeting for The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, for approval.”

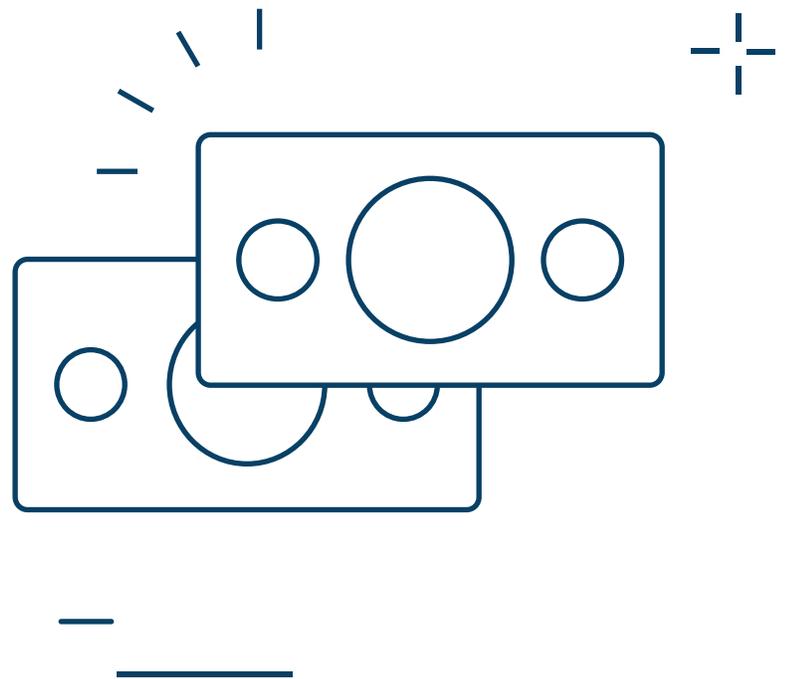
Motion Approved



W.J. McElroy, Treasurer
January 5, 2022

2021 BUDGET

Revenue	Totals	
CRD Grant	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Expenses		
Secretarial	\$4,800.00	
Office	\$1,200.00	
Lunches	\$4,000.00	
Special Events (Co-sponsoring, such as tco2, Restorative Justice, youth criminal justice workshops, registration fees, etc	\$2,000.00	
	\$1,000.00	
\$2,000.00		
Equipment (Computer, peripherals)	\$1,000.00	
Professional Development (conferences, displays)	\$1,000.00	
Website Development Completion	\$1,000.00	
Total	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00



SUB-COMMITTEES

The COVID pandemic again affected all aspects of society in 2021, including the work of our sub-committees. Due to provincial restrictions regarding in-person meetings, members of the Court Watch sub-committee did not have the opportunity to view any Family or Youth Court hearings. The Capital Region Action Team (CRAT) met via Google Teams. The Communications Committee continued to regularly maintain and update the website and social media channels.

VFCYJC members dedicated extensive hours to working groups formed as part of our organizational review under the Capital Regional District. Groups met virtually in 2021 to discuss the following areas: i) Mandate/Procedures; ii) Succession Planning; iii) Policies and Community Charter; and iv) Finances and CRAT. Recommendations were forwarded in turn to the main committee.

Our established sub-committee protocols remain intact: We ask that members join one of the Sub-Committees 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.

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

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 has been a VFCYJC focus because of the strong correlation between mental health, young offenders and recidivism. Resolutions put forward with VFCYJC input to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) have resulted in more youth service centres (FOUNDRY as well as school-based health clinics) and a BC-wide coalition to help coordinate needs and resources, including liaison with provincial ministries.

The BC School Centred Mental Health Coalition coordinates agencies, ministries, unions, parent associations, and school boards to meet regularly to increase supports for mental health and ensure healthy environments for students and instructors. VFCYJC members can sign up to attend via its portal: www.bcscmhcoalition.ca

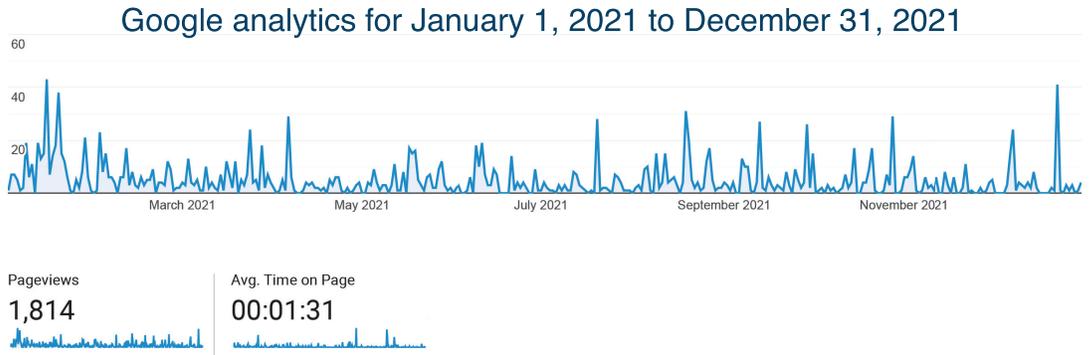
COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

www.victoriafamilycourt.ca | www.facebook.com/vfamcourt | www.twitter.com/vfamcourt

2021 saw the new-in-2020 website expanded and well-used. We still appear to be the first BC Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to have our own website.

Having a strong, regularly updated on-line presence will help to elevate our profile, better serve our members and provide valuable and timely information to the public. It anchors the Committee's outreach and reporting functions alongside our AGM reports (which we ask our members to share with their respective organizations) boards and councils, and Chair Cynthia Day's yearly presentations to the CRD.

The members-only section was created as an area to share information securely with VFCYJC members. It is password protected and the password was made available to members of the committee in October 2020. This section includes steering committee and all member meeting agendas, minutes, confidential correspondence, presentations and reading materials. This will eliminate the volume of email that is currently sent to committee members.



Page	Pageviews	% Pageviews
1. /home/	624	34.40%
2. /about-us/	226	12.46%
3. /contact-us/	163	8.99%
4. /community-resources-reports/	150	8.27%
5. /members-area/	138	7.61%
6. /annual-reports/	100	5.51%

An additional feature of the new website's home page is its integration with our social media accounts. This allows website users to quickly navigate to their chosen network to find additional content and to share it with others. Our Twitter feed (@vfamcourt) has been busy since 2014, and our Facebook page (/vfamcourt) is now into its second year of regularly updated content.

Members are encouraged to interact on social media – bring the community in!

If you have any general or specifically related content you'd like us to share -- articles, events, training opportunities, reports, news, etc. -- please email the links to Marnie Essery at vfamcourt@gmail.com and she'll forward them to the committee for posting. Visiting, liking and sharing our Twitter and Facebook posts is much appreciated.

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 their help and support.

Respectfully,
Adam Flint
Chair, Communications sub-committee



October 14, 2021

Honourable David Eby
Attorney General
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

RE: Roads to Revival: An External Review of Legal Aid Service Delivery in British Columbia

Dear Honourable Minister Eby,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee was honoured to have **Jamie Maclaren, QC**, as its keynote speaker at our Annual General Meeting in January 2021. He focused on the *Roads to Revival* review he delivered to your office in early 2019, highlighting the achievements to date along with recommendations he hopes will be addressed by the Province in the future.

In preparing the report, Mr. Maclaren received submissions from 130 individuals and 12 organizations, and heard from 240 people across 37 municipalities representing a wide range of stakeholders -- Legal Services Society staff, judges, lawyers, legal advocates, articulated students, law students, legal-aid plan administrators, non-profit service providers and the public included.

At the close of our AGM, committee members (comprised of elected representatives from CRD municipalities, trustees from Greater Victoria school boards, citizen appointees and frontline service providers) moved that the VFCYJC formally write you in support of Mr. Maclaren's report and urge your renewed attention to this critical document.

We send our sincere thanks to you and Ministry staff for addressing a number of the report's 25 "highest" recommendations. In particular, those related to Indigenous aid were emphasized in your Nov., 2020 mandate letter from the Premier: *"Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities, and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy and to improve access to culturally appropriate justice, including continuing to establish Indigenous Justice Centres across the province."*

We thank you in particular for the following:

* The development of **Indigenous Justice Centres** in association with the BC First Nations Justice Council as culturally safe sites for holistic aid: Three IJCs (Merritt, Prince George, Prince Rupert) are now operating, and we understand as many as 15 more are planned across BC in future.

* **Creation of a child-protection clinic** to help children in contested protection matters: IJCs offer this service, and we understand a dedicated clinic is planned.

* Funding and support for an integrated network of **independent legal aid clinics with teams of lawyers and advocates providing law services**: Five such clinics are operating (Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Surrey, Victoria) and more are planned.

* Development of a strategic network of **specialty legal aid clinics: Disability, immigration/refuge and housing clinics** are operating in Vancouver.

This said, there are a number of other priorities -- rated as "high" and "higher" -- in the *Roads to Renewal* report that require renewed consideration and potential funding. These include:

* Creation of an **experimental Criminal Law Office** in Metro Vancouver with a team of criminal staff lawyers, paralegals, administrators and support workers.

* Development of a **Major Case Team of Legal Services Society staff lawyers and paralegals** for long and complex criminal case work.

* Creation of a **Criminal Resource Centre providing free co-working space**, training and shared resources to tariff lawyers, pro bono lawyers and other legal aid service providers.

Sincere thanks for your ongoing attention to improved legal service delivery in BC. The *Roads to Revival* report is rooted in the principles of user-centered design, evidence-based analysis, collaboration and experimentation.

As Mr. Maclaren notes:

*"It is time to move beyond speculation and anecdotal information in redesigning legal aid services. System reform should not be a linear process led by experts, but rather an **iterative process involving continuous learning and adaptation that leads to improvement from the perspective of users**. I have adopted this approach throughout my report, along with Access to Justice BC's Triple Aim Framework, with its three core pursuits of **better user outcomes, better user experiences and lower system costs**."*

Sincerely,

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

cc The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
cc Premier John Horgan



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

VFCYJC Facebook and Twitter Highlights

BC's Representative for Children and Youth Jennifer Charlesworth's report on Injuries to Indigenous Children in Care includes data that «shows that the highest number of injuries were reported for First Nations children in permanent care under a continuing custody order, and that Indigenous children and youth suffered more than two times the number of injuries of the non-Indigenous in permanent care.»

Our guest speaker at the virtual VFCYJC Annual General Meeting is Jamie Maclaren, QC, the founding Executive Director of Access Pro Bono BC. APB operates a free lawyer referral service and several pro bono programs serving the critical legal needs of people and non-profit organizations across BC. He's the author of Roads to Revival: An External Review of Legal Aid Service Delivery in British Columbia, prepared in 2019 for Attorney General David Eby.

After a COVID delay, amendments to the federal Divorce Act come into effect in March 2021. «Custody and access cases are guided by provincial and territorial family laws, as well as the federal Divorce Act. Each level has a 'best interests of the child' test: According to the federal test, courts are told to consider such factors as the views and preferences of the children; parents' willingness to support contact between the children and the other parent; and each parent's stability, past parenting and plans for parenting in the future.»

Pause for Appreciation: Victim Services - Greater Victoria. «Our Service Delivery Model is based on empowerment through information, options and alternatives, so individuals can make well-informed choices to assist them in their personal paths to recovery.»

Remembering Constance Dora Isherwood. «Connie, who practised real estate, family and civil law, became the first woman to receive The Law Society of BC's highest honour, for lifetime achievement ... In an interview on her 100th birthday, Connie said her philosophy was to keep going and be with people. 'Be approachable. Let them come to you and you help them. That's a good recipe. And I will close by saying 'Think.' That always sees you through.'»

The path to reconciliation: Great news in February as the Capital Regional District Board approves bylaw changes that will allow the inclusion of First Nations elected representatives on CRD standing committees. This means First Nations representatives can formally participate and vote on items of interest at those committee meetings.

With the support from the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, we were able to launch the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) Youth Council ... (In 2020/21), remote meetings have served as critical touch points for youth experiencing an increase in feelings of anxiety, depression and isolation due to lack of social interaction. As a result, VNFC is continuing to keep at-risk youth engaged and connected, ultimately improving educational outcomes while supporting the next generation of Indigenous leaders. ~ VNFC Executive Director Don Rice

Pause for Appreciation: Foundry «is forging a new, province-wide culture of care through the development of a network of centres and e-health services — co-created with our health and social service partners, young people and families in communities across British Columbia. Powered by the BC Children's Hospital Foundation.»

The Law Society of BC invites submissions to its «innovation sandbox,» a testing ground for proposals from

individuals, businesses and organizations with an interest in providing legal services that assist those with unmet legal needs. «According to a 2020 Ipsos-Reid survey, 85% of British Columbians who experience a serious, difficult legal problem either get no legal help or get legal assistance from someone other than a lawyer. In order to expand the ability of these citizens to obtain legal advice and assistance, the Law Society has created an innovation sandbox.»

A COVID-era lifeline: The Canadian Mental Health Association's 70th annual Mental Health Week begins on May 3. #GetReal about how you feel with the CMHA's 2021 Toolkit.

Pause for appreciation: CRAT - Capital Region Action Team and its Chair Bill McElroy. «CRAT has now been in operation for almost 20 years. Among the concrete changes we have seen in that time: Establishment of a full-time Youth Outreach Team; creation of a network of six "safe homes» where young people who are ready to break away from a life of sexual exploitation can live safely; cooperation and collaboration between the five municipal, two RCMP and military police forces in the Capital Region; and the issue of youth sexual exploitation has become one that is openly discussed in many situations within the Capital Region.»

Getting Out: A National Framework for Escaping Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Canada (Covenant House, Feb. 2021)

Good news from the BC budget: «British Columbia's Mental Health and Addictions Minister Sheila Malcolmson says 60 new full-time family support workers will be added over the next three years to help deliver services for children with emotional, behavioural and developmental challenges ... Five integrated child and youth teams currently exist, but the province is aiming to add more teams to another 15 communities by 2024, based on where need is greatest.»

The full list of 230+ recipients in the province's 2020-21 Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant program was announced in May. Result: \$8.6 million in essential funding for BC organizations working in the fields of child and youth advocacy, crime prevention, domestic violence prevention/intervention, gender-based violence and sexual assault, human trafficking/sexual exploitation, Indigenous healing and restorative justice.

Pause for appreciation: The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre «is a feminist organization committed to ending sexualized violence through healing, education, and prevention. We are dedicated to supporting women and all Trans survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, through advocacy, counselling, and empowerment.»

*Download BC Ombudsperson Jay Chalke's report Alone: The Prolonged and Repeated Isolation of Youth In Custody. As BC Minister of Children and Family Development Mitzi Dean states: «"I want to thank the Ombudsperson for this thorough report and the work that went into it. We are committed to the same goals: ensuring that youth in our care receive the best possible services to help them stay safe, be healthy and fulfil their potential. We accept the spirit and intent of the recommendations in the report and will incorporate them into the development of our youth justice framework.»

Link to the archive of Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools «Snapshot Newsletters» published by the Greater Victoria School District (thanks for the share to our SD #61 trustee representative Angie Hentze)

Recommended read: Safer Schools Together's 2020 Gangs and Guns report for educators.



We need to talk about the society we want ~ an inclusive society that does not tolerate hate speech that involves all of us.» ~ Premier John Horgan. «The Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network is funded by the Province of BC and supported by the Victoria Immigrant-Refugee Centre Society. This province-wide network promotes safe, inclusive communities through education, outreach tools and the distribution of a community incident response protocol. Contact: resiliencebc@vircs.bc.ca»

BC Law Institute's report Modernizing the Child, Family and Community Service Act. «Keywords: child protection, child welfare, abuse & family violence, family law, Child, Family and Community Service Act, youth aging into the community»

A new mental health response team will be coming to Victoria as part of a pilot project that will serve as an alternative to police response. Funding received by the City of Victoria will be used to create the 'Peer Assisted Crisis Team'. The team will be the first to show up mental health crises, where normally the police are first.»

Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Case Data and Trends via the Ministry of Children and Family Development

Newly launched (Sept. 2021): A one-stop website from the BC Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions dedicated to wellness and wellbeing -- substance abuse, anxiety, stress, addictions, depression + paths to wellness through harm reduction, healthy living and emotional and social resilience.

Pause for appreciation: Children of the Street takes a collaborative and comprehensive approach to preventing the sexual exploitation of children and youth. «Our primary prevention tool is education and awareness workshops – we facilitate over 500 workshops, in approximately 30 B.C. communities, with more than 25,000 participants annually!»

Latest regional snapshot data for these challenging times in the Victoria Foundation's 2021 Vital Signs report.

A Pathway of Hope year-two update from Minister Sheila Malcolmson and the BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. «This roadmap lays out government's 10-year vision for mental health and addictions care that gets people the services they need to address problems early on and support well-being. At the heart of A Pathway to Hope is a three-year plan to begin transforming mental health and substance use care for children, youth, young adults, adults, families and Indigenous populations to reach them where they are – in their homes, communities and schools.»

West Shore RCMP update: «In the first half of 2021, there were seven restorative justice referral cases involving 16 offenders, multiple victims and community representatives, according to the West Shore RCMP's biannual report.»

Pause for Appreciation: Adoptive Families Association of BC. «Each year, hundreds of children and youth join British Columbia families through adoption or another form of permanency. But around 300 children and youth in British Columbia are still waiting to find permanency. Every child needs a support system that makes them feel secure and loved.»

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE VICTORIA

While Restorative Justice Victoria is not a VFCYJC Sub-Committee, most restorative justice organizations in BC began with involvement of a Youth Justice Committee and we are particularly proud to support the one operating in the Greater Victoria region.

Each organization is unique in response to the needs identified in our communities. The VFCYJC was a contributor to RJV's evolution in Victoria – funding the production of video presentations, supporting youth-led initiatives, and facilitating volunteer education through the provision of resource materials.

Restorative Justice Victoria has come a long way as demonstrated again in its 2020 Annual Report. It is very much a success story, overcoming the differences in the provision of police services to become an organization of accomplished, skilled volunteers who can be relied on to support better outcomes for all participants who access this 'accountable option' after a crime.

RJV's volunteers are asked to provide these better outcomes for increasingly complex cases throughout the CRD even while RJV funding remains critically insecure. No less than 15 resolutions about restorative justice were sent to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities between 1999 and 2018 calling on the provincial government to support restorative justice. While 11 of these resolutions were carried by the UBCM membership, substantial action is still required.

Restorative Justice Victoria's 2021 Annual General Meeting can be viewed online here. Regular VFCYJC attendee Gillian Lindquist, RJV Executive Director, delivers an overview of 2020 case reports (starting at 14:15 on the AGM video). Gillian points to the continuing rise in violent crimes (assault, partner violence) as a percentage of the cases they facilitate.

RJV received 75 referrals for crimes and harms within the Victoria region in 2021. It currently operates on an annual operating budget of approx. \$250,000 with six staff members -- Lindquist, Acting Program & Volunteer Manager Rachael Seeley, caseworkers Lane Foster, Carol Larsen and Jessica Rourke, and school project lead Julie Cormier.

Learn about RJV's referral process at rjvictoria.com/referring-agencies

Skilled volunteers are welcome. «As a small non-profit organization, RJV is only able to accomplish all that we do with the help of our volunteers. Whether you volunteer on cases, in the office, or at a fundraiser, you are part of a compassionate and dedicated group that is supporting justice in our community.»

Keep track of RJV activities in its monthly email newsletter, available by request.



CRD REVIEW OF VFCYJC

The VFCYJC history dates to the 1960's. It is guided by both provincial and federal legislation through the BC Provincial Court Act, Family Court Committee Section 5, and the Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act, Youth Justice Committees Section 18 (1). Part of the Committee's mandate comes from those statutes. The VFCYJC was formally declared a Youth Justice Committee (added to its Family Court mandate) by the Honourable Brian Smith, QC.

In October 2019, the CRD Board directed staff to “work with the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to review the committee's mandate, governance, finances and communications, and prepare a report with recommendations.»

The CRD staff report went to the CRD Governance & Finance Committee meeting of Oct. 7, 2020. Its recommendation to the Board was “that staff be directed to report back on the process to restructure the committee in accordance with the recommendations set out in Appendix H”; and “that the report be referred out to all member municipalities.» At the CRD Board meeting of Nov. 18, 2020, that motion was endorsed.

The VFCYJC formed working groups in early 2021 to undertake a review with support and guidance from the CRD's Corporate Officer Kristen Morley and Manager, Legal Services, Steven Carey.

This Annual Report includes the following documents as appendices:

- i. Priorities-Grants Working Group Minutes (Aug. 27, 2021; including Feb. 26, 2021 letter to VFCYJC from Steven Carey)
- ii. Succession Planning Meetings Work Group Report (Aug. 16, 2021)
- iii. Procedures, Policies and Community Charter Working Group Report (Oct. 28, 2021)
- iv. October, 2021 letter from Paul Craven, Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Services Branch, BC Government
- v. Letter from Committee Chair Cynthia Day to the CRD Board dated Oct. 20, 2021
- vi. Letter from Committee Chair Cynthia Day to the CRD Board dated Jan. 10, 2022.

The following motions will be presented to the VFCYJC for consideration at the Jan. 19, 2022 Annual General Meeting:

Committee approved motions from the working groups:

- a. Succession Planning: THAT the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee adopt the recommendations of the Succession Planning/Meetings Work Group as outlined in the Work Group's August 16, 2021 Report to the VFC&YJ Committee, specific to: 1. Term Limits; 2. Committee member numbers and committee appointments (members & volunteers); and 3. Meetings.
- b. Priorities/Grants: THAT the Priorities-Grants Working Group's recommendations within their report/ minutes of August 27, 2021, be supported.
- c. Policies/Procedures: THAT the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee adopt the recommendations of the Procedures, Policies, and Community Charter Working Group as outlined in the Working Group's October 28, 2021 Report to the VFC&YJ Committee, specific to:
 - I. Formalizing Meetings: Complying with Community Charter, holding meetings that are open to the public and provisions for closed meetings, Steering committee purpose and function, adoption of CRD's procedure bylaw (with reasonable variations) including guidelines pertaining to minutes, agendas, and meeting and speaking times.
 - II. Follow existing CRD policies. Members of the VFCYJ committee will follow the Capital Regional District Commission Handbook 2020 and CRD Bylaw 3828, CRD Procedures Bylaw (with reasonable variations) to ensure compliance with privacy, safety, information management, and expenses. Importantly, the VFCYJ committee will comply with all laws regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the corporate policy and procedure regarding a respectful workplace, debate and conduct.



BC RESOURCES DIRECTORY

Anxiety BC

www.anxietybc.com

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)

www.foundrybc.ca

Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre

www.keltymentalhealth.ca

Kids Help Phone

www.kidshelpphone.ca

Need2

Suicide Prevention Information and Support

www.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 Line

www.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

Text line for youth with sexual health questions and concerns.

250-812-9374

First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

www.firstcallbc.org

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

BC School Centred Mental Health Coalition

www.bcscmhcoalition.ca

Office Representative for Children and Youth

www.rcybc.ca

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

Disability Resource Centre

www.drcvictoria.com

Indigenous Perspectives Society

www.ipsociety.ca

Offerings include Cultural Perspectives Training and Gladue Report Writing.

Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.

www.ictinc.ca

Crisis and Trauma Resources Institute – Canada

ca.ctrinstitute.com

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

Ku'uus Aboriginal Crisis Services

1-800-588-8717

Capital Region Action Team

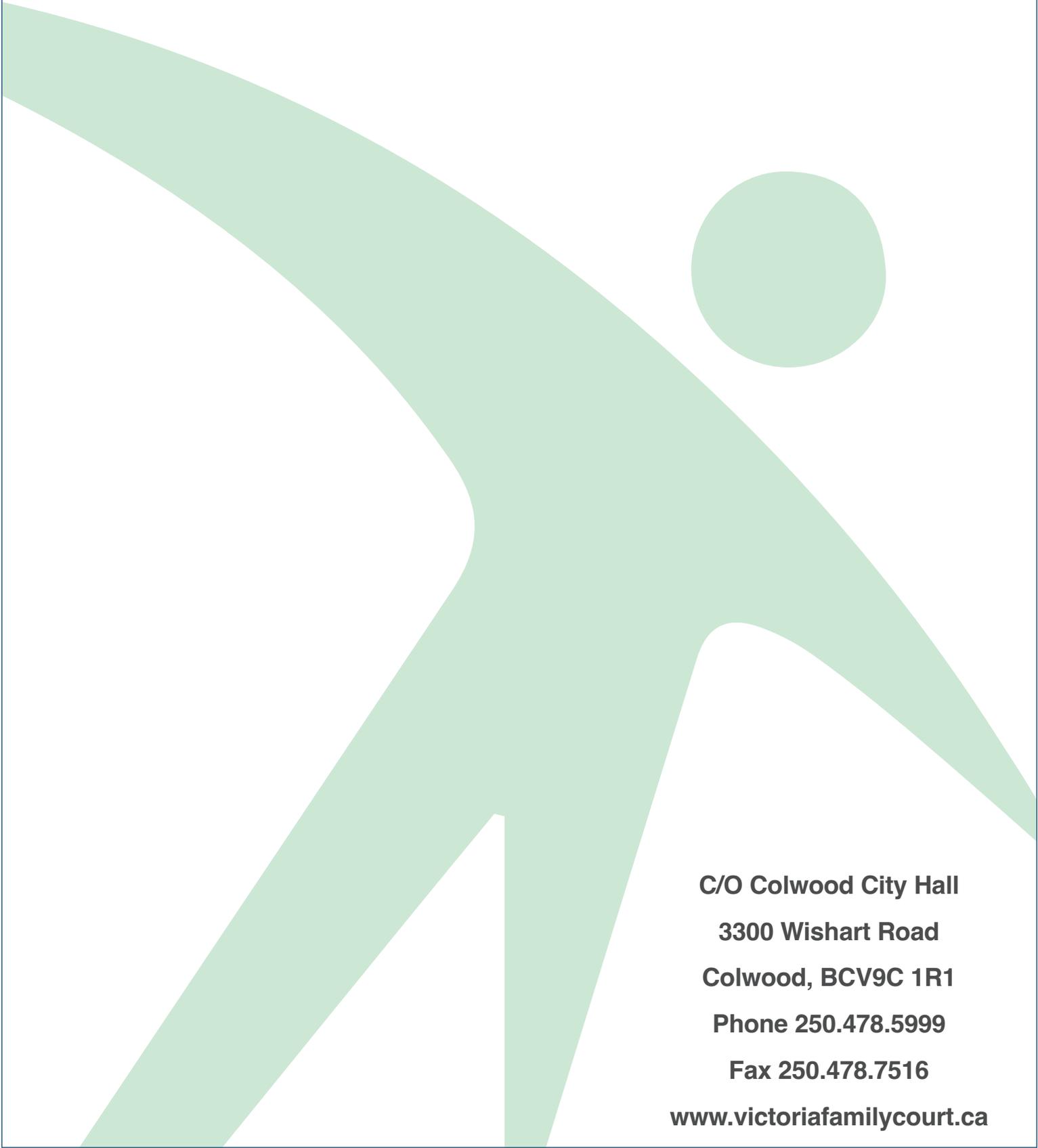
www.crat.ca

Mobile Youth Services Team (M.Y.S.T.)

www.pacificcentrefamilyservices.org/crime-reduction-exploitation-diversion

Restorative Justice Victoria

www.rjvictoria.com



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