

This is an area that appears to be an oversight and one that in view of past and current events, needs immediate attention. It may be covered in UBCM policy or elsewhere, however in the event it hasn't, it needs to be spelled out. In view of the mandate of VFCYJC focus on youth who are involved in the Youth Justice system or at risk of becoming so, any indication that municipal representation on the Committee has undertaken any action that could be inferred as detracting from or in fact impacting negatively the above described youth should not be allowed to sit on the executive until such issues are resolved. Normal conflict of interest rules require any person who has a duty to more than one person or organization then cannot do justice to the actual or potentially adverse interests of both.

In view of the fact that both councils of Sidney and North Saanich supported a motion alleging that the VFCYJC failed to meet it's mandate and had become irrelevant are issues of the kind that attract 'conflict' laws, in my opinion. As a consequence , no council member from either should seek nomination for the Chair or Vice Chair, nor should they be allowed to vote, until those allegations have been withdrawn, or otherwise dealt with in a manner that the public can have assurance those municipal representatives have the best interest and the 'spirit ' of the legislation uppermost in their reasoning for participating.

Another more public example is the ongoing battle that the municipality of Metchosin is having with the Boys and Girls Club in their area. The Boys and Girls Club is not only a local, but provincial and national organization who deals with youth before the courts , along with providing other desperately needed resources . Gord Irving who works with the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria is the manager of the youth justice programs, and is listed as a resource to the VFCYJC . Until this matter is resolved, formal participation by Metchosin on the committee, no matter how well meaning the incumbent may be, the conflict issue is real.

Respectfully, Georgia Peters, past chair of the Court Watch Committee