

## 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 Priorities Sub-committee focused on the CRD review. The Communications Sub-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) Succession Planning; ii) Policies and Community Charter; iii) Priorities/ Grants Working Group, and iv) 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

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

**Priorities** The Priorities Sub-committee reviews completed applications in conjunction with existing VFC&YJC policies and makes a recommendation in the form of a proposed motion together with their rationale to the main committee for their consideration at a regular meeting.

**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: