Front-line service providers are invited to drop-in and inform us of their work, issues and concerns at the start of our regular meetings, which are held seven times annually on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM.

Please visit our website at www.victoriafamilycourt.ca for meeting dates and locations, annual reports, links to our social media pages, and a comprehensive directory of related community organizations, resources, statistics and reports.

****

Established in 1966 under the BC Provincial Court Act and expanded under the Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act, the VFCYJC is dedicated to educating elected representatives regarding the juvenile justice system and related issues. We also advocate for needed changes within the system and provide grant funding to applicants working in this field.

The committee is uniquely positioned to connect regional and municipal decision-makers with frontline service providers. Our voting members are elected representatives from the Capital Region District's 13 municipalities and three school districts as well as CRD citizen appointees.

In brief, our goals are two-fold:

■ To **educate** by providing a safe space within which regional decision makers and leaders can meet and learn from those doing the frontline work and take these lessons home to their own councils, service providers and local contexts.

■ To **advocate** for service agencies as they work on behalf of families and children throughout the CRD.

Our sub-committees include Court Watch, Youth and Family Matters, Communications, Priorities/Grants and the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth.

As a result of our broad legislated mandate, the VFCYJC over its 57-year history has engaged with many sectors of our community: children, parents, caregivers, teachers, youth-serving agencies, social workers, lawyers, judges, police, probation officers, and restorative justice and victim services professionals, among others.

Now a delegated commission of the Capital Region District, the Committee is re-energized with a revised strategic plan and a refreshed commitment in continuing the VFCYJC's long-standing mandate and tradition.

Chairperson: Marie-Terese Little, Mayor of Metchosin (mtlittle@metchosin.ca)
Secretary: Marnie Essery (vfamcourt@gmail.com)

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE
GRANT PROGRAM

Application forms available at www.victoriafamilycourt.ca

The VFCYJC provides modest funding for community projects educating and assisting youth and families who are at risk or may come into contact with the criminal or family legal systems. Projects should focus on prevention, education and/or diversion.

Applications to our Priorities Sub-Committee must clearly define how the proposed project will enhance the quality of public education and youth advocacy, improve services for youth, reduce negative interactions with the justice system, and include strategies for measuring and assessing the project's impact.

Grants over the years have been awarded to Greater Victoria organizations for events, workshops, scholarships, and special projects and programs. These include:

- Boys and Girls Club of Victoria
- Capital Region Action Team
- Communica Dialogue and Resolution Services
- Cornerstone Youth Society
- Healthy Minds Canada
- Mary's Farm Society
- Mary Manning Centre
- Metchosin Foundation
- Pacific Centre Family Resources Society
- Reimagining Masculinities conference
- Sidney Youth Clinic
- Victoria Child Abuse Prevention Counselling Centre
- Victoria Sexual Assault Centre
- Victoria TeenFest and Exhibition
- Victoria Restorative Justice Society
- Volunteer Victoria
- West Shore Arts Council
- West Shore Policing Advisory Committee
- West Shore Youth Housing Task Force

Please note that we now accept applications in any amount year-round for consideration at our regular meetings in **January, February, April, May, June, September, October** and **November**.

Questions? Please contact VFCYC Secretary Marnie Essery at vfamcourt@gmail.com or the CRD's Stephen Carey at scarey@crd.bc.ca.