



Report to Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee October 19, 2023

1. **crat.ca:** In the Spring of 2023 our website came up for renewal, but we were not informed about this. As a result, we lost the crat.ca domain name and the internet provider agreed to sell it to us for \$5,000. We declined to buy our domain name back and instead secured a new site, capitalregionactionteam.ca The material from our old site has now been successfully moved over to the new site. We are still working on learning how to update the site.
2. **Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST):** MYST has been carrying on with its mandate throughout Covid, and have begun making presentations to schools. Covid has increased the use of the internet for grooming and recruiting youth. Gangs are getting more involved.
3. **Impact of VFCYJC reorganization:** a proposal was circulated and is attached. A subcommittee of 3 met to discuss the options and decided that the best option was to maintain the status quo for a year, to determine what the impact of the new structure of the VFCYJC within the CRD, and the role of CRAT within that structure.
4. **CRAT members:** because of Covid and the decision made by CRAT not to use Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (tco2), it has been difficult to get participation in CRAT meetings, particularly because of the high turnover from Agencies which usually attend CRAT and the fact that we were not doing anything concrete. The Chair will contact the agencies that have attended CRAT in the past to have them name new representatives.
5. **Graphic Novel:** in 2012 we received a legacy of \$12,000 to develop a graphic novel which could be handed out at awareness workshops given in schools. This would be designed to help teens understand the issues of the youth sexual exploitation. A writer was engaged to write the script, but because of Covid, we have lost contact. We have also met with several people who have the capacity to construct a graphic novel. We continue to put the pieces together, so that we will have a finished product in the Spring or Fall of 2024.
6. **Future Meetings:** there was an overwhelming response that the meetings should continue during the lunch hour. However, since we now have several Councillors on CRAT, it has become increasingly difficult to find a day on which those Councillors are available. In the meantime, we will continue to meet on Tuesday 12 noon, in the week before the VFCYJC meeting. Hopefully, we will be able to start meeting again in person. We are working on a schedule of 4 meetings per year, which will integrate with the VFCYJC meetings, which are 8 times per year.
7. **Finances:** Oak Bay Municipality has agreed to continue providing accounting services for CRAT. They have been doing this for 25 years and deserve our thanks. Our balance in the account is \$13,693, with \$12,000 reserved for the graphic novel project.

Submitted by Bill McElroy, Chair