



June 6, 2025

Attention: The Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General and Deputy Premier

Dear Attorney General Sharma,

On April 24, 2025, the members of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC) unanimously passed the following resolution:

THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of recommendations raised with the Committee by the [Be Amazing](#) campaign's Cathy Peters, namely:

**** [Funding/training for law enforcement to better enforce the federal \[Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act\]\(#\).](#)***

**** [A BC provincial public awareness campaign.](#)***

**** [A human trafficking task force in BC like those in \[Alberta\]\(#\), \[Saskatchewan\]\(#\), \[Manitoba\]\(#\) and \[Ontario\]\(#\).](#)***

We applaud and appreciate the substantial work undertaken in recent decades by the Province through the [Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#) (OCTIP) to address the crisis of human sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and child sexual trafficking. In collaboration with provincial ministries, federal departments, municipal governments, law enforcement agencies and community organizations, OCTIP aims to prevent human trafficking and coordinate services for trafficked persons in BC.

We're also aware of the vital efforts of the tireless Ms. Peters as well as such organizations as the [Children of the Street Society](#) (which publishes a [toolkit for service providers](#)) and Covenant House Vancouver (responsible for the [Anti-Human Trafficking Toolkit](#)).

The formation last year of the [Human Trafficking Prevention Network of British Columbia](#) initiated by former Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin is also strong, encouraging evidence that there is widespread commitment to public awareness, support for organizations combating human trafficking and, critically, assistance to survivors in their recovery and transition.

This said, we have been moved to write you following Ms. Peters' passionate and persuasive committee presentation. "Organized crime and international syndicates operate freely in British Columbia," she noted. "Drug and sex trafficking are lucrative and increasing with no deterrent. Currently, gang recruitment is occurring around the province. I am in touch with all 60 School Districts to warn them that youth are being aggressively targeted (online and in person)."

Ms. Peters' top three recommendations for immediate action by the Province of BC are included in our resolution that we are respectfully forwarding today for your consideration and support.

We note that an update on [BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#) (2013) was seemingly last undertaken after its [third year \(2016\)](#). Perhaps this can be a starting point for any new task force you might consider as it revisits this action plan's urgently needed recommendations in the context of the strong initiatives undertaken, guided and funded by successive NDP governments since 2017.

In closing, and related to this letter, please note that in July, 2024 the VFCYJC resolved to ask enforcement authorities to **seek amendments to sections 152 and 153 of the Criminal Code** to more effectively stop online sexual exploitation and the grooming of youth and young adults. As we have learned from Ms. Peters, Greater Victoria police representatives and members of the Mobile Youth Services Team, this a critical issue impacting children and young people. It must be addressed with all due urgency.

Thank you for your dedication and good work on so many vital fronts that impact the lives of all British Columbians. We look forward to your reply in the near future.

Sincerely,

Marie-Terese Little,
Chair, Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
Mayor, District of Metchosin
Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District Board of Directors

cc The Hon. David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Cathy Peters, Be Amazing Campaign
Cliff McNeil-Smith, Chair, Capital Regional District Board of Directors
Kimberley Guirey, VFCYJC Vice-Chair and Councillor, City of Langford
Jennifer Charlesworth, British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth
Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care
Hon. Gary Begg, Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Hon. Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development

<http://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca>.