

Capital Region Action Team - History

Pre-1994, pre-CRAT, the City of Vancouver produced an information guide titled *Being Aware, Taking Care*.

“In early 1996, the City of Victoria, concerned citizens, and youth -servicing agencies saw what they believed to be a severe and growing problem of sexual exploitation of youth in the Capital Region District (CRD).”

“In May, 1997, the City of Victoria initiated a committee to gather facts regarding sexually exploited youth in the CRD and to formulate an action plan to support sexually exploited youth and help them make changes to exit the sex trade.”

A committee was formed and divided itself into groups: Research, Inter-Agency Coordination, Legal and Legislative.

The inaugural meeting of the Capital Region Action Team (CRAT) occurred on February 10, 1998 at the Saanich Police Boardroom.

In 1999, CRAT received \$50,000 funding from the Department of Justice to raise awareness of the issue of sexually exploited youth. The project ran from February 2000 to January 2003. An Interim Report was completed in 2001.

CRAT hosted the International Conference on Sexually Exploited Youth at UVIC in May 2002 and held a number of community events to raise awareness.

In 2003, *A Community Plan for the Capital Region Action Team: Mobilizing a Community to Respond*, was prepared.

In 2005, CRAT displayed ads on Victoria Transit buses during Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Week, May 7-13, 2005.

An Overview of the CRAT was prepared by Bill McElroy in March 2007.

From about 2007 to 2020, CRAT annually brought over the educational program [Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others](#) through Vancouver-based non-profit [Children of the Street](#).

The 2019 VFCYJC annual report states that CRAT facilitated nine Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others presentations during the week February 25 - March 1. These reached a total of 1311 people, mostly middle and secondary school students.

During 2019, CRAT received a one-time bequest of \$12,000 to prepare a graphic novel that can be handed out at presentations.

Free School Workshops February 25 to March 1, 2019. TC02 Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others.

CRAT received the 2019-2020 Annual Review of the [All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#).

2023 was the 25th anniversary of the formation of CRAT.

Resources

- *Finding our Voice, a video for youth by youth.*

From the International Conference on Sexually Exploited Youth, Victoria B.C. Canada

- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General: Victim Services and Crime Prevention (Crime Prevention Information Series) - [Stopping the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth](#) (2002)