



June 30, 2026

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to raise concern about the ending of funding for the Mobile Youth Services Team and to ask Council to consider municipal support for this essential regional program.

The Mobile Youth Services Team operates across the CRD. It is a joint engagement model in which a Pacific Centre Family Services Association counsellor, MCFD social worker and a police officer meet directly with youth to support justice-system participation for victims and divert youth who have offended, or are at risk of offending, from deeper justice-system involvement.

This program provides real-time outreach, engagement, clinical and criminal justice service navigation based on the youth's needs in the moment. It reaches young people who may not attend office-based appointments, navigate services independently, or stay engaged long enough for delayed referrals to work.

The need is serious. Many youth supported through this program are facing violence, gang recruitment, sexual exploitation and trafficking, substance use and contact with police or the courts. These are not issues that can be addressed effectively through fragmented or delayed responses. For youth who have been victimized, especially those impacted by sexual assault or exploitation, the Mobile Youth Services Team helps reduce barriers to justice-system participation. A coordinated response from a counsellor and police partner can help a youth access protection and justice. For youth who have offended, or are at risk of offending, the program provides early intervention before justice involvement becomes entrenched. Youth on the edge of gang involvement, violence, or criminal exploitation often need immediate relational intervention, not a referral weeks later.

The funding gap for the counsellor position in this program sits between federal, provincial and municipal responsibility. Federal funding has supported this important work, but that funding is ending. Provincial systems are directly connected to the outcomes of this work, including policing, courts, victim services, child and youth mental health, and social services. When those funding streams end or fail to align, the impact is felt locally first. That is why municipal support matters. The risks this program addresses show up in local parks, schools, neighbourhoods, recreation spaces, shopping areas and transit exchanges. When youth are pulled into gang activity, sexual exploitation, violence, or deeper justice involvement, municipalities carry the consequences through increased policing pressures, community safety concerns, family distress, public disorder, and greater demand on local services.

This is also a regional issue. Youth do not stay neatly within municipal boundaries. A young person may live in one municipality, attend school in another, spend time socially in another, and come into contact with police or services somewhere else entirely. A shared regional funding approach is therefore more realistic and



effective than leaving each municipality to respond alone.

Losing this program would remove a practical prevention model at the exact point where intervention can still change outcomes. It would place more pressure on police, schools, families, community agencies, crisis services, and counselling programs.

I am asking Council to consider municipal funding for the Mobile Youth Services Team, ideally through a shared regional funding approach with other participating municipalities for a sustainable long-term solution.

The current annual operating cost for the counsellor position is approximately **\$150,000**. We are proposing a cost-sharing model based on municipality size and service demand, with approximately:

- **Victoria:** 43.3%
- **Saanich:** 35.7%
- **Oak Bay:** 6.7%
- **Esquimalt:** 6.0%
- **Sooke:** 5.3%
- **North Saanich:** 1.0%
- **Metchosin:** 1.0%
- **Highlands:** 1.0%

This proposal does not include the **City of Langford** or **City of Colwood**, as both municipalities already contribute to a similar but separate youth service funding model in the Westshore. The proposed distribution is intended to reflect a comparable shared-responsibility approach without duplicating existing municipal contributions.

We recognize that municipal budgets for the current fiscal year have already been finalized. Accordingly, we are asking Council to consider participating in a long-term regional funding model for the Mobile Youth Services Team and, in the interim, to advocate for and help identify bridge funding from municipal, provincial, or federal sources to ensure the service can continue while a sustainable funding model is established.

Youth need timely, coordinated, relationship-based intervention. This program provides it, and its loss would be felt across the region.

Sincerely,
Julia Leggett
Manager of Counselling Programs
Pacific Centre Family Services Association