

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Notice of Meeting on **Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 11:30 am**

Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Meeting to be conducted electronically and in-person.

M. Little (Chair)	J. Bateman	C. Chaytors	C. Day	S. Duncan
K. Guiry	A. Holeton	K. Kwan	C. Lervold	K. Loughton
R. Mattson	J. McClintock	B. McElroy	M. McLean	E. Paterson
S. Rapoport	J. Rondeau	D. Rotchford	T. Vanwell	M. Westhaver

Welcome to the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, in whose traditional territories we are blessed to live, work and play.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for May 23, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1. Adoption of the April 25, 2024 Minutes ([attachment](#))

Recommendation: That the minutes of April 25, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of May 9, 2024 ([attachment](#))

Recommendation: That the notes of the May 9, 2024, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.

5. Chair's Remarks

6. Presentations/Delegations

(All presentations shall be limited to 10 minutes unless a longer period is approved by a majority vote of those Members present. Resource Agencies may present during this item.)

7. Committee Business

7.1. VFCYJC Open House 2024 – Summary of Open House

7.2. School Police Officer Liaison Program – Backgrounder Update ([attachment](#))

7.3. Youth Empowerment Society Grant Application 2024 ([attachment](#))

Recommendation: That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee approve the grant funding request of \$5,500.00 from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society towards their 2024 Summer Opportunities Program.

8. Sub-Committee Business

- 8.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)
- 8.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (Bill McElroy)
- 8.3. Family and Youth Matters (Cynthia Day)
- 8.4. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little)
- 8.5. Communications (Jeff Bateman)
- 8.6. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

9. Correspondence

10. Notice(s) of Motion

11. New Business

12. Roundtable (time permitting)

13. Adjournment

Next meeting: Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 11:30 am in the CRD Boardroom

Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:30 am in the CRD Boardroom. There are no meetings in the months of March, July, August & December.



Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting held Thursday, April 25, 2024 CRD boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street

PRESENT:

Municipal Representatives: Marie-Térèse Little, Chair (Metchosin); Adam Flint, Vice Chair (View Royal); Jeff Bateman (Sooke); Cynthia Day (Colwood) (EP); S. Duncan (Sidney) (EP); Kimberley Guiry (Langford); Krista Loughton (Victoria); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Esther Paterson (Oak Bay); Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate) (EP); Mena Westhaver (Saanich)(EP)

Capital Regional District (CRD) Representatives: Cheryl Chaytors; Andrew Holeton (EP); Samantha Rappaport, (EP)

School District Representatives: Teri Vanwell (School District 63 Trustee) (EP); Karin Kwan (School District 61 Trustee) (EP); Christine Lervold (School District 62 Trustee) (EP)

Resource Members:

CRD Staff: Steve Carey, Senior Manager, Legal & Risk; Sharon Orr, Senior Committee Clerk, Legislative Services; Marnie Essery, Secretary (EP)

Regrets: Micayla Hayes (Saanich); Bill McElroy (CRAT); Jack McLintock (North Saanich); Darlene Ratchford (Esquimalt); Jim Rondeau (Central Saanich)

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

A. Flint provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made around the room and online.

3. Resource Agencies

There were no members from the resource agencies in attendance.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by A. Flint **SECONDED** by M. McLean,
That the agenda for April 25, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.
CARRIED

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1. MOVED by E. Paterson, **SECONDED** by J. Bateman

That the minutes of the February 22, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee A be adopted with the following amendment:

- to add Darlene Ratchford, Jim Rondeau, and Christine Lervold under regrets.

CARRIED

5.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of February 8, 2024

MOVED by E. Paterson, **SECONDED** by A. Flint

That the notes of the April 11, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.

CARRIED

6. Chairperson's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the 3 new CRD appointed members in attendance.

7. Presentations/Delegations

7.1. Ashling Ligate, RN, MEd, BScN Manager of Programs & Services, Victoria Youth Clinic, Foundry Victoria

A. Ligate did not present.

8. Sub-Committee Business

8.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)

There was no report.

8.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (Bill McElroy)

There was no report.

8.3. Family and Youth Matters (Rose Stanton)

R. Stanton spoke to item 8.3. and stated that she attended the Village Presentation last month.

8.4. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little)

M. Little spoke to 8.4. and noted the following:

- Orca Lelum Youth Wellness Centre north of Nanaimo has introduced a wellness centre on Snaw-Naw-As territory offering detox services specifically for Indigenous youths.
- Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) announces Victoria's first culturally supportive housing for Indigenous youth aged 12-19 years old.

8.5. Communications (Jeff Bateman)

J. Bateman spoke to 8.4. and noted the following:

- he encouraged the committee to check the website and social media and provide feedback.
- the UVic Law Centre will be invited back to present to the committee at a future meeting.

9. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

E. Paterson stated that the CRD financial statement for the year ended 2023 has a surplus balance of \$42,879 in the VFCYJC account. The surplus is higher than the budget estimate of surplus \$39,743 and is mostly due to lower than anticipated grants being awarded to resource agencies.

10. New Business

10.1 VFCYJC Open House 2024

The Agency Reception will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 3-6 p.m. at Victoria City Hall in the Ante Chamber. The invite is being approved by the VFCYJC Executive and will be emailed out shortly. 3 dignitaries have been invited; we are waiting to hear back.

10.2. Location and Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:30 in the CRD Boardroom, except for the months of March, July, August & December. Upcoming 2024 meeting dates are: May 23, June 27, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28. Meetings take place in person and electronically.

11. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Roundtable

An informal roundtable took place.

14. Adjournment

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by K. Loughton,
That the April 25, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be
adjourned at 12:37 pm.
CARRIED**

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee **Steering Committee Notes – May 9, 2024**

Attendees: Marie-Terese Little, Marcie McLean, Esther Paterson, Rose Stanton, Jeff Bateman, and Cynthia Day

Marie-Terese called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM

* DRAFT Agenda for May 23, 2024 regular meeting discussed and drafted.

* Guest speaker – Jeff will ask Ashling Ligate, Registered Nurse (she/her) Manager of Programs & Services at Foundry. Their mission is to support young people in living a good life. This mission was co-created by a diverse group of youth, families, caregivers, staff and service providers across the province. foundrybc.ca

Rose will reach out to Coroner's service for an updated talk about Coroner's service

Marcie will have an update on- Victoria Youth Empowerment Society

Cynthia- suggestion for roundtable questions to help move the discussion along

Marcie asked what is happening with Youth Indigenous Court visit in Duncan- Marie-Terese to reach out again.

Marcie -For new members- write up on subcommittee functions should be distributed

No treasurer's report this month. CRD financial statements will be shared quarterly.

Problems with dates of Open house as many people have Council meeting this night

Cynthia has a box of old documents and links to two videos to hand over to committee.

Location and Dates of Upcoming Meetings – May 23, June 27, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, 2024, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the CRD Boardroom and via Zoom unless otherwise notified.

* Future guest speakers tentative for later this year: Cathy Peters, anti-human trafficking advocate with the Be Amazing campaign and Jennifer Charlesworth, BC Representative for Children and Youth. Bill recommended we invite a rep from Foundry BC, and he'll look into it. Other potential guests recommended to date include Victoria PD Chief Dal Manak and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth.

Meeting adjourned: 12:15PM

Backgrounder Ver. 4 – Updated May 2024

Greater Victoria SD #61 School Police Liaison Officer Program

School District #61 FAQ (published April 2024)

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/splo-faq/>

1. What was the School Police Liaison Officer (SPLO) program and how was it delivered in the Greater Victoria School District?
2. Does the SD61 pay for SPLOs?
3. How often were SPLOs in schools?
4. What led to a review of the program?
5. How was the review conducted?
6. What consultation process was used during the SPLO program review?
7. Why did the Board of Education end the SPLO program?
8. According to the SD61 survey the majority of survey participants support SPLOs. Why should we end the program because of a few concerns?
9. Are police allowed in schools?
10. Are police being tracked/monitored on school grounds?
11. Is crime increasing in schools?
12. What about police taking a more trauma informed approach in schools, for example wearing golf shirts and not carrying firearms?
13. What change in services can students expect since the Board of Education's decision?
14. More Information

Victoria PD Chief Del Manak: [Statement on Student Safety in SD #61](#) (Feb. 27, 2024)

Recent Municipal Motions

- Oak Bay (April 8, 2024)

Item 12.1 from the agenda: "That the Mayor write a letter to the Board of Education for School District No. 61 asking them to work with the Oak Bay Police Board to implement a re-defined Police Liaison Officer position." CARRIED

"Dr. Lisa Gunderson spoke in favour of the motion, referencing the [Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Council](#)'s research, and encouraged Council to review the data". + [VCPAC's SPLO List of Service Provisions](#)

- **City of Victoria** (April 4, 2024)

Item H.1 from the agenda: “That Council request the Mayor to write to the Chair of the Board of Education for School District 61 requesting reinstatement of the Police School Liaison Officers and that the letter be copied to the appropriate Provincial bodies, other School District 61 school hosting municipalities, and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.”

Final motion amended as per the April 4 minutes:

1. That Council request the Mayor to write to the Chair of the Board of Education for School District 61:

1. requesting information on the rationale informing its decision to end the police school liaison officer program,

2. urging SD61 to engage directly with diverse community interests,

3. and further requesting reinstatement of the Police School Liaison Officers.

2. That the letter be copied to the appropriate Provincial bodies, other School District 61 school hosting municipalities, and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

CARRIED: 5-4

Opposed: Caradonna, Dell, Kim, Thompson

- **District of Saanich** (March 11, 2024)

Item H from the agenda “That Council request the Mayor write to the Chair of the Board of Education for School District 61 requesting reinstatement of the Police School Liaison Officers and that the letter be copied to the appropriate Provincial bodies, other School District 61 school hosting municipalities and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.”

CARRIED + Subsequent letter from Mayor Dean Murdock dated March 14

2024 News Clippings

- **“Board’s opposition to police in schools puts racialized people in ‘victim role,’ says youth counsellor Mia Golden”** – Times Colonist, May 1

- **“School Police Form Letters Aimed at City Hall”** – Times Colonist, May 3

- **“SD #61 Trustees Say Police Liaison Submission Not Appropriate”** – Times Colonist, May 7

- **“VicPD chief reiterates calls to reinstate school police liaison officers”** – CHEK News, April 23

- **“Victoria Area Municipalities Call For Return Of Police In Schools”** – CBC News, April 10

- **“Victoria motion to send letter asking for school liaison officers to be reinstated narrowly passes”** – CHEK News, April 5

* **Facebook Group**: **Parents & Police Together for SD #61 and SD#62**

Backgrounder Version 3 – November, 2023

Reference: SD #61 motion

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/board-of-education/approved-motions/page/2/>

May 31, 2023

Approved Motion: Add three Community Presentations under A.3. A.3.c. Mark Jenkins A.3.d. Matt Christie A.3.e. Elaine Ho

Action: Three Community Presentations were added under A.3. A.3.c. Mark Jenkins A.3.d. Matt Christie A.3.e. Elaine Ho

Approved Motion: That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to end the SPLO Program; AND FURTHER the Superintendent will ensure that protocols are established in relation to the following matters: school emergencies, lockdowns, critical incidents, Violent Threat Risk Assessments and ongoing District tracking of all student interactions with Police while in the care of the Board of Education; AND FURTHER The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education with a list of the services no longer provided by SPLOs and suggestions for service provision moving forward.

Action: Superintendent to end the SPLO Program; AND FURTHER the Superintendent will ensure that protocols are established in relation to the following matters: school emergencies, lockdowns, critical incidents, Violent Threat Risk Assessments and ongoing District tracking of all student interactions with Police while in the care of the Board of Education; AND FURTHER The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education with a list of the services no longer provided by SPLOs and suggestions for service provision moving forward.

Updated for Backgrounder Ver. 3.0

Note to VFCYJC from SD #62 trustee/VFC appointee Cendra Beaton:

“Here is the role that school liaison officers provide in our district:

- supporting students dealing with crisis or needs.
- creating a strong support system and relation with students
- building connections and community engagement
- partner with classroom teachers to build understanding around the use and misuse of drug and alcohol substances, as well as the safe use of social media
- schools are part of the broader community and this creates a partnership and relationship with the district and students

I want to be clear that I have no intention to oppose the will and direction of other school districts. I just wanted to share the great work happening in our school district to benefit our students and staff overall.

It just so happens that we will be releasing a video in the near future, through our district’s social media, that will detail the partnership and role that liaison officers provide for us to help build a greater sense of understanding of what they do. Please stay tuned. I will be happy to share once it is released.”

Sept. 15/23 Updated material for Backgrounder Ver. 2.0

Letters in support of SPLO have been sent to Westshore RCMP this summer by ...

- Town Of View Royal
- District of Highlands
- City of Langford
- District of Metchosin

*** Town Of View Royal letter to Westshore RCMP – June 22, 2023**

States that View Royal Council supports and encourages school liaison programs in View Royal schools, including, but not limited to, crime prevention, traffic and personal safety programs.”

See pg. 529

<https://pub-langford.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=6610>

*** District of Highlands Council Minutes – July 17, 2023**

Correspondence, Town of View Royal, June 22, 2023 (0400.60)

RE: SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAMS IN VIEW ROYAL SCHOOLS

Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird That Council direct staff to send a letter to Supt. Todd Preston, West Shore RCMP along the lines of the handwritten submission by Councillor McLean, attached to and forming part of these minutes as ‘Appendix A”, regarding the School Police Liaison Officer Program. With copies sent to the Greater Victoria School District 61, 62 and 63, Songhees First Nation, Esquimalt First Nation, City of Victoria Police Chief, District of Saanich Police Chief, District of Central Saanich Police Chief, Ian Lawson, City of Colwood, City of Langford, City of Victoria, District of Metchosin, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, District of Central Saanich, District of Sooke.

See Highlands letter sent on Aug. 2, 2023 on pp. 135/36 here:

<https://metchosin.civicweb.net/filepro/document/13751/Council%20Meeting%20-%202014%20Aug%202023%20Agenda.pdf?widget=true>

*** City of Langford – Council meeting of July 17, 2023**

School Liaison Programs in View Royal Schools

MOVED BY: SZPAK SECONDED: HARDER

Motion CARRIED.

OPPOSED: Councillor Guiry, Councillor Harder, Councillor Yacucha

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to Superintendent Preston (Westshore RCMP), with a copy to the Chair of School District No. 62 (Sooke) as well as the following organizations: Songhees First Nations; Esquimalt Nation; City of Colwood; City of Victoria; District of Highlands; District of Metchosin; District of Oak Bay; Township of Esquimalt; Inspector Rose Westshore RCMP

Stating that Langford Council wish to support and encourage the ongoing School Liaison Program in School District No. 62 (Sooke) schools with their current approaches.

City of Langford letter sent on July 18. See pg. 133:

<https://metchosin.civicweb.net/filepro/document/13751/Council%20Meeting%20-%2014%20Aug%202023%20Agenda.pdf?widget=true>

* **District of Metchosin – Meeting of Aug. 14, 2023** Excerpt from minutes, see pg. 12:

<https://metchosin.civicweb.net/filepro/document/14123/Council%20Meeting%20-%2011%20Sep%202023%20Agenda.pdf?widget=true>

c) City of Langford, School Liaison Programs in Sooke School District No. 62 Schools

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Epp and Donaldson that Council through the Mayor send a letter to School District No. 62 regarding the School Liaison Programs in Sooke Schools.

Carried Councillor Gray opposed the motion.

d) District of Highlands, School Police Liaison Officer Programs in School District No. 61 Schools

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Epp and Donaldson that Council receive the correspondence from the District of Highlands regarding School Police Liaison Officer Programs in School District No. 61 Schools for information. **Carried**

- [Westshore RCMP Comments, Parents Survey](#) – *Island Social Trends* (Aug. 9, 2023)

- [Langford Council Wades Into RCMP School Liaison](#) – *Island Social Trends* (July 19, 2023)

* **From the June 22 VFCYJC Minutes**

9.4. SD #61 Termination of School Police Liaison Officer (SPLO) program

J. Bateman prepared a backgrounder on the issue for VFC&YJ Committee meeting.

Discussion

- In general, VFC&YJ Committee members considered SPLO programs provided benefits for kids/families and cancelling SPLO programs could have negative unintended or undetermined consequences. Youth cannot be turned away from SPLO programs, as may be the case with other agencies.
- Confidentiality of information makes it difficult to get this empirical data.
- SPLO programs foster building relationships and establishing trust with School Districts.
- Law enforcement, schools and the broader community needs to work together re youth exploitation and the concern re gang recruitment.
- The School Police Liaison Officer program often is the first line of communication to avoid youth entering justice system. If the funding is removed from the police budget, it will be very hard to get it reinstated.
- VFCYJ Committee members are interested in gaining understanding of School District 61 rationale for deciding May 31 to end their SPLO program.

To receive this as information and continue the conversation in September.

*** Email from VFCYJC appointee Councillor Zeb King**

On Thu, Jun 22, 2023 at 3:11 PM Zeb King <zebking@zebking.ca> wrote:

Thanks to all for the excellent discussion at today's Victoria, Family and Youth Justice Committee meeting and particularly regarding SD61. I found the School District 61 Board meeting that lasted over 1.5 hours – on May 31, 2023. The presentations and discussion were fascinating and informative from both sides of this issue and included police boards, police, a psychiatric social worker, parents, teachers, the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA) and others. There were also letters citing some data.

The decision of the nine School Board 61 trustees apparently followed a three-year review and was unanimous on not only one motion but three individual motions. The entire meeting remained on this topic for over 1.5 hours.

I'm sharing this link to assist and I completely recommend listening: <https://www.youtube.com/live/EAAqB0aP9CA?feature=share>

I found the deliberation of trustees to be profoundly considered. I heard them express concerns about safety, gangs, crime and more.

Thanks for educating me on this topic. I wasn't looking to spend more time listening to another jurisdiction's meeting, but I'm glad that I did.

With appreciation,

Zeb King

[SD61 May 31 Agenda](#) + [SD61 May 31 Supplemental Information](#)

June 2023

VER. 1.0 BACKGROUNDER

Prepared in early June for submission to the June 22, 2023 VFCYJC Committee meeting

Greater Victoria SD #61 School Police Liaison Officer Program

Timeline

- **Sept. 2020:** Greater Victoria SD #61 board moves to form a committee to review its School Police Liaison Officer Program

- **Nov. 26, 2020:** First meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, continues monthly meetings through 2022

The Committee has 21 members, including four student representatives, one representative from the Esquimalt Nations, two representatives from GVTA, two representatives from CUPE, two representatives from VCPAC, one representative from Victoria Police Department and two representatives from Saanich Police Department, two members of the Senior Leadership Team, two School Administrators, one School District Communications staff member, and two Trustees.

- **Oct. 12, 2021:** Public survey launched - <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/news/title/greater-victoria-school-district-seeks-input-on-school-police-liaison-officer-program/>

- May 31, 2023: Board of Trustees meeting ...

- Board agenda: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2023/05/May-31-2023-Special-Open-Board-of-Education-Meeting.pdf>

- **Video replay:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAAqB0aP9CA> (starts at 2:35)

Two motions: (read and voted on at 1 hour 25 minutes ... both passed unanimously)

1. *To direct the superintendent to end the SPLO program;*

- and further the superintendent will ensure protocols are established in relation to the following matters: school emergencies, lockdowns, critical incidents, violence threat-risk assessments; and ongoing district tracking of all student interactions with police while in the care of the Board of Education;

- and further that the superintendent will supply the board with a list of the services no longer provided by SPLOs and suggestions for service provision moving forward.

2. *Second to advocate with the ministries of Education, Children & Families, and Solicitor General to immediately commission research into impacts of SPLO programs on K-12 students in BC.*

(Transcribed; no text version of these motions was found.)

See agenda pp. 62-71 for recommendations from the Greater Victoria School District's SPLO Program Review Ad Hoc Committee.

See pp. 72-77 for Chair Duncan's reports re: Ad Hoc Committee meetings in 2020/21

See pp. 86-102 for final report on the SPLO Program Survey

See pp. 102-105 for Nov. 24, 2022 letter from BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner Kasari Govender, which concludes: *"Out of respect for the rights of our students, I strongly recommend that all school districts end the use of School Liaison Officers until the impact of these programs can be established empirically."*

See pp. 147-173 for *Overview of School Police Liaison Officer Job Descriptions* prepared by Jennifer Chambers, GVSD District Counsellor)

Agenda's correspondence package (pp. 4-61) includes letters ... Note from Nicole Duncan: SD 61 also received letters in support of the program that were not included in the agenda.

- In support of ending the program and seeking alternatives:

1. Greater Victoria Teachers' Association
2. Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour
3. Letters of support from community members

- Against ending the program:

1. Victoria PD Chief Constable Del Manak
 2. Tillicum Elementary School PAC
 3. Tillicum Community School
 4. Saanich Police Department Chief Constable
 5. Saanich Police Community Engagement Division
 6. Victoria Principals and Vice-Principals Association
 7. Tillicum Elementary teachers
 8. West Shore RCMP Officer-In-Charge Todd Preston
 9. Saanich Police Community Engagement (Jody Pavesic)
 10. Greater Victoria SD Secondary District Counsellor Jennifer Chambers
 11. Oak Bay Police Department
- Plus: citizen correspondence

- May 31 board supplemental agenda: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2023/05/C.3.a.-Nicole-Duncan-Memo-SPLO-Ad-Hoc-Memo-Spring-2023.pdf>

June 2023 statement by Chair Duncan: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/news/title/statement-from-board-chair-duncan-regarding-the-school-police-liaison-officer-program/>

Related News Clippings

June 7, 2023: Victoria Now:

https://www.victorianow.com/watercooler/news/news/Victoria/Greater_Victoria_School_District_board_votes_to_end_police_liaison_program/#fs_125896

<clip> "Police are being asked to fill in gaps in student support and to take on roles that should be filled by individuals with specialized expertise, such as youth and family counsellors and social workers," explained Duncan. "Further funding is required for this specialized support, and the board has committed to advocating for this funding from the provincial government."

June 2, 2023: <https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/greater-victoria-school-board-votes-to-end-police-school-liaison-program-7084904>

<clip> **Saanich Police Chief Dean Duthie** called the school board decision “very disappointing,” noting that it ends decades of participation in the program by his department.

The decision effectively means the six officers who work full-time in the program will be immediately leaving their roles at 25 schools, Duthie said. “I met with our team [Thursday] morning and our officers are emotionally taken aback,” he said. “They’re upset at a deep level because they’re so committed and so passionate about their work with students, making a difference in their lives.”

Positive relationships that have developed are being lost, Duthie said. “It’ll essentially be removing police officers from schools on a daily basis, with the educational presentations they give, the informal engagements that happen, the drop-ins, the one-on-one discussion, the prevention talks about bullying, about online safety, about drug and alcohol awareness.”

<clip> **School board chair Nicole Duncan** said trustees had to consider the “trauma and harm” that police presence can mean for some students, including those who are Black and Indigenous. The Greater Victoria School District said in a statement that the program has seen “many positive interactions,” but the board is committed to providing “trauma-informed support and inclusive spaces for all students.”

While the board is looking to end the program, Duncan said, it has directed the district’s superintendent to develop protocols “to ensure that, where it’s appropriate and necessary to have police involved in the goings-on at our schools, that we do so in a clear fashion.”

That can involve having police at schools for such things as emergencies, lockdowns or the assessment of threats, Duncan said. “We really want to continue to have a good and strong relationship with police when it’s appropriate to do so,” she said. “The police will -continue to be our partners in raising awareness and providing the public with information around the risks of gang recruitment.”

May 3, 2023: <https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/greater-victoria-trustees-mull-future-of-school-liaison-officer-program-6942960>

March 22, 2023: <https://www.vicnews.com/news/funding-remains-amid-calls-to-end-victoria-polices-paused-school-liaison-program/>

Sept. 2021: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/greater-victoria-school-board-seeks-input-police-liaisons-1.6219953>

Depending on who you ask, police liaisons make students feel more or less safe in schools. It’s a question the Greater Victoria School District (SD61) is currently grappling with. School police liaisons are officers that spend time in schools, making safety presentations and assisting in any way the school asks.

But in June 2020, after the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer, a school trustee in Victoria, B.C., put forward a motion to suspend the program in his district. He was outvoted, but the board did agree to review the program — to see if there are improvements to be made, or if the program should be scrapped entirely.

<clip> *Dominique Jacobs of the Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Color ... has been advocating for an end to the program since the motion to suspend it was introduced last year. “We’ve told SD61 over, and over, and over, that BIPOC families do not want police liaison officers in the schools. So it seems a little bit redundant, and also insulting, when you are constantly feeling like you’re being dismissed.”*

<clip> Mia Golden, a counsellor, says she sees in her work how valuable liaison officers can be. Golden works with schools and police on initiatives to prevent child exploitation. She says she's seen the positive relationships liaison officers can build with students, and that those relationships can pay off in tough situations — for example, if a student has to report a sexual assault. "If they have to provide a statement to a complete stranger, that only compounds that distress and that traumatic event," she said. Instead, liaison officers can provide comfort to students, she says.

- **June 23, 2020:** "Vancouver, Victoria School Trustees vote to review police school liaison program" (Vancouver Sun) <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/vancouver-victoria-school-trustees-vote-to-review-police-school-liaison-program>

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (past advocacy)

Sept. 5, 2018 - Cynthia Day letter to Victoria-Esquimalt Police Board re: loss of school liaison officers in Victoria and Esquimalt ... see pg. 15 of the 2018 Annual Report
<https://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2018-VFCYJC-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>

September 5, 2018 VICTORIA-ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

Dear Co-Chairs Mayor Lisa Helps and Mayor Barb Desjardins,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee have great concern about the loss of School Liaison Officers in Victoria and Esquimalt. I understand that the Police Board will be meeting on September 18 and would appreciate your consideration of our input at that time.

From your last meeting in July, it is clear that "digital technologies are producing unprecedented levels of online child abuse material and incidents of exploitation and trafficking. From 2012 to 2014, the number of webpages dedicated to the sale and trafficking, as well as the sharing of sexual abuse materials of children, increased by 147%, with children 10 years and under portrayed in 80% of incidents" and that "355 offenders were identified as actively engaging in the trade of child exploitation material on Vancouver Island, with almost half (149) of the offenders associated to Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses located in Victoria and the surrounding area."

Our committee includes the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT) and we are doing our very best to educate youth about the risks of online exploitation. The lack of Police Liaison Officers in our schools will not help to address this major issue and represents a considerable loss to our youth police relationships. Relationships are the greatest defense for our youth.

In February of 2019 we will again be bringing TC02 presentations free of charge to local schools, put on by Children of the Street Society and facilitated by CRAT and MYST. This major undertaking of the Family Court Committee has been accomplished annually for more than 10 years and represents our continued commitment to preventing child exploitation and increasing youth safety through education, which will now be even harder for us to do without partners like our school liaison officers. (Please feel free to share the attached poster.)

Sincerely, Cynthia Day, Chair

Cc: Del Manak, Victoria Police Chief, Victoria City Council, Esquimalt Council

Miscellaneous

- Saanich Police Department Community Liaison Section: <https://saanichpolice.ca/community-programs/community-liaison-section/>
 - “Keeping Police Out of Victoria and Esquimalt Schools” (blog post, Nov. 2019) <https://www.needsmorepikes.com/blog/2019/11/keeping-police-out-of-victoria-and-esquimalt-schools>
 - New BC Provincial Policing Standards (effective July 30, 2023)
 - * Promotion of Unbiased Policing <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/standards/6-1-1-promote-unbiased.pdf>
 - * Community Partnerships and Equitable Policing <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/standards/6-1-2-community-engagement.pdf>
- Vancouver** – “New Vancouver School Board Trustees Moving to Reinstate School Liaison Officers (Globe & Mail, Nov. 22, 2022) <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-new-vancouver-school-board-trustees-moving-to-reinstate-school-liaison/>
- “Despite Claims, School Liaison Officers Received No Special Training” (The Tyee, Jan. 13, 2023) <https://thetyee.ca/News/2023/01/13/School-Liaison-Officers-No-Special-Training/>

**REPORT TO VICTORIA FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024**

SUBJECT **2024 Grant Applications – Youth Empowerment Society**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES!) has applied for summer program funding of \$5,500.

BACKGROUND

YES! has applied for summer program grant funding. The Priorities Sub-Committee has endorsed the application (Appendix A). In 2023, YES! received \$5,300 for the same program, which was successfully delivered and served many youth in the community.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee approve the grant funding request of \$5,500.00 from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society towards their 2024 Summer Opportunities Program.

Alternative 2

That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee not approve the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society grant funding request.

IMPLICATIONS

The Committee provides small grants to youth and family projects in the Capital Region. In 2023, it funded YES! and the Sanctuary Youth Centre in a total amount of \$8,300; and so far in 2024, it has funded the MYST program in the amount of \$5,000. The Committee has a healthy surplus and providing grants, particularly those with direct benefit to youth, falls within its mandate.

CONCLUSION

The YES! grant falls within the mandate of the Committee's grants program and is endorsed by the Priorities Sub-Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee approve the grant funding request of \$5,500.00 from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society towards their 2024 Summer Opportunities Program.

Submitted by:	Steven N. Carey, B.Sc, J.D., Senior Manager, Legal Services & Risk Management
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ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix A: Priorities Sub-Committee Review
- Appendix B: Grant Application 2024

May 11, 2024

For inclusion of the May 23, 2024 Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) Regular meeting Agenda for the **Priorities Sub-committee report.**

Priorities Sub-committee, Chair, M. McLean: verbal background plus attached sub-committee recommendation to the main Committee.

The Priorities sub-committee has recently received a grant application submission from the **Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES)**. The sub-committee has reviewed the application and applicable documents provided, together with the Mandate of Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) in mind and, respectfully provides the following recommendation to the VFC&YJC for their consideration at the May 23, 2024 meeting:

“That, Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee approve the grant funding request of \$5,500.00 (total amount) from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society towards their 2024 Summer Opportunities Program.”

Priorities Sub-committee rationale in support of funding the Project/Program:

The Project would:

*Facilitate connections between service providers and the broader community for youth and families in the Capital Regional District,

*Help the Society leverage their resources in positive support of families and youth,

*Facilitate a 8 week Summer Program, 5 days a week, 4 hours a day, to engage youth and provide free, supervised fun and positive recreational, social and cultural activities, and education in a number of areas relevant to life skills with marginalized youth ages 13-18 at a safe supervised location in downtown Victoria, providing healthy relationships, and wrap-around model services, with free meals,

*Ensure the goal of YES’s Summer Opportunities Program target population is provided services so they do not experience an increase in vulnerabilities over the summer months,

*Continue to be a cost efficient program if the Summer Opportunities Program has the past numbers of 120-200 youth participate,

The Society’s identified goals and objectives appear to be relevant to the VFC&YJC Mandate as they focus on prevention and diversion during the summer months in order to reduce youths’ overall risks, thereby also reducing the risks of youth possibly becoming involved with the judicial court system.

Respectfully submitted, Marcie McLean, Chair Priorities Sub-committee

Project Number

GRANTS AND PRIORITIES FORM AND APPLICATION

- Carefully read the attached application and terms. You will attest that you have read and understood these by signing this form.
- The term “applicant” is used throughout to refer to an individual, society, or other organization.
- All fields are mandatory and must be completed by the applicant.
- In the event that the project does not proceed, all monies provided for the project are to be returned to the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee c/o CRD Legal Services, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, V8W 1R7.
- A new application is required where the project is substantially changed.
- Where the applicant is a minor, a responsible adult must be identified.
- Submissions should be submitted to vfycjadmin@crd.bc.ca.

PART A - CONTACT INFORMATION			
Date of Application: April 16th, 2024	Legal Name of Applicant / Organization: The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society		
Address: 533 Yates St, Victoria BC, V8W 1K7	Telephone Number 250-383-3514	Website www.vyes.ca	
Name of Contact Person Julie-Ann Hunter	Telephone Number of Contact Person 250-383-3514		
Email Address of Contact Person: executivedirector@vyes.ca			
Alternate Contact Person: Kisae Petersen	Telephone Number of Alternate: 250-383-3514		
Email Address of Alternate Contact Person: operationsmanager@vyes.ca			
PART B – ORGANIZATION DETAILS (If applicable)			
Is the Organization a Registered Society in BC? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>		Registered Number under the BC <i>Society Act</i> S-29717	
Is the Organization a Registered Charity? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Is the Organization a Business? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Legal or Tradename of Organization or “NA” if individual YES		Date the Organization was Created (yyyy/mm/dd) October 30 th , 1992	
Mandate and main activities of the organization or applicable history of related projects:			
<p>For over 30 years, the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) has offered services for vulnerable youth and families/caregivers throughout the CRD. Each year, the Agency supports over 1000 youth and families to get their needs met. Our mandate is twofold: First, to assist youth to remove themselves from the high-risk environment of the street and make the transition to healthier and more constructive life situations and second, to help youth and families make positive choices, which will prevent involvement in at risk behaviour or connection</p>			

with the street scene. Our vision is to provide a continuum of care that empowers positive choices in the lives of multiple-barrier youth by providing accessible, innovative, and proactive programs. YES, provides prevention, intervention, treatment & education services to youth and their families in an accessible manner that meets clients where they are at.

The main activities offered by YES include: youth & family counselling, community outreach, assessments, specialized interventions, assistance with health issues, advocacy, meeting basic needs (shelter, food, clothing etc.), emergency crisis response (Including emergency/crisis shelter services), community development, life skills training, independent living support/transitional planning, consultation, community kitchen/garden, healthy recreational activities & assistance w/ issues related to addictions, mental health, employments, housing, education etc. All activities are geared towards maintaining the mandate of supporting youth to remove themselves from the high-risk environment of the street to create positive opportunities for them to meet their goals.

Current Programs Include: The Alliance Club a drop-in center for youth 13-19 years old that provides meals shower/laundry facilities, hygiene products. The Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter is a 10-bed facility where crisis response workers are able to respond to a wide range of matters, including parent/teen conflict, issues of abuse & youth homelessness. Specialized Youth Detox is a 5 bed non-medical withdrawal management program for all youth who want support with detoxification from alcohol & drugs. The program offers 10-day residential service for youth to detox & stabilize both physically & emotionally. The Life Skills program provides individual & group work, to advance youth in areas such as: self-esteem, healthy relationships, stress management, healthy relationships, family dynamics, anger management etc. The Supported Independent Living program provides the support necessary for successful transition of youth to independence and housing placements. The Youth & Family Support program provides short & longer-term family counselling & outreach services to youth and parents. The Youth Services Outreach Team provides urgent contact with youth in crisis to provide support with service options, advocacy, and facilitate prevention/diversion, early identification & intervention to reduce

risks. The Youth Wellness Program, a workshop based program focused on improving youths' mental health, particularly in the areas of isolation, loneliness and anxiety. The Summer Opportunities Program is a recreation, social and educational activities program designed to meet the needs of marginalized youth to prevent destabilization over the summer months. More Information is available at our website www.vyes.ca.

Experience/qualifications of personnel responsible for and participating in the project (including volunteers):

The Summer Opportunities Worker is contracted specifically for the duration of the Summer Opportunities Program. The Summer Opportunities Worker is responsible for organizing and implementing recreational, social and educational activities designed to meet the needs of youth accessing the program.

To perform the job successfully a Summer Opportunities Worker must be able to consistently perform the following essential duties adequately:

Youth Engagement and Service Planning:

- Works with youth and others when appropriate, to facilitate initial and ongoing assessments of individual needs of youth accessing the program.
- Facilitates referrals to appropriate community services, including identified legal, medical, mental health, trauma, addictions, and family services.
- Provides direct on-site supervision and support of youth accessing the program.
- Provides behavioural management skills to best support youth and create a safe and stable environment.
- In conjunction with the program supervisor, plans, organizes and implements recreational, social and/or educational activities and programs designed to meet the needs of youth accessing the program.
- Provides a positive role model for youth.
- Encourages and facilitates the participation of individuals in the program.
- Plans activities that are seen by the youth and community as desirable and constructive.
- Supports youth to participate in the development and implementation of individualized short-term goals as appropriate.
- Provides crisis intervention and support for youth when required, particularly around issues such as suicidal ideation, mental health and addictions.
- Demonstrates a level of cultural sensitivity and understanding of the client population.
- Forms mutually respectful partnerships with persons served to address any issues and problems they face.
- Accepts the clients' rights to self-determination and individuality and must not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, religion, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age, abilities, socio-economic status, political affiliations, or national ancestry.
- Demonstrates a youth centred strength based approach.
- Maintains a positive conviction about the capacity of people to grow and change.

- Sets appropriate boundaries, intervenes appropriately and maintains a helping role to meet the needs of the persons served.
- Recognizes persons with special needs and makes appropriate referrals.

Program Development and Administration:

- Maintains a collaborative and cooperative working relationship with other YES programs, agencies, professionals, ministries police, and the community.
- Collects client and program feedback from youth and stakeholders and initiates on-going program evaluation with youth and referral agents.
- Writes reports and attend staff meetings as required by the Youth Empowerment Society.
- Fulfills the requirements of health and safety policies and emergency procedures and protocols.
- Works respectfully in partnership with other team members in the Agency.
- Participates in supervision meetings with the Operations Manager as required.
- Monitors and manages own attitudes, behaviours, well being, and professional development in relation to increasingly challenging client populations and complex or sensitive presenting issues such as trauma and abuse.

Experience and Special Requirements

The Summer Opportunities Worker will preferably have 1-2 years experience working with youth and families, in particular:

- Knowledge and experience working with high-risk youth and their families.
- Experience working with high-risk youth in a counselling or other helping capacity.
- Experience with community-based programs and related community support systems.
- An understanding of child and adolescent development.
- An understanding of brief assessments, counselling and intervention approaches.
- Established practice in maintaining appropriate and confidential boundaries and other basic counselling ethics.
- Demonstrated awareness of community resources for youth and families.
- Must have clearance from the *Authorization for Criminal Records Search* prior to commencing employment.

The Summer Opportunities Worker will be supervised by the organization’s Operations Manager. Staff orientation is provided to ensure the workers are familiar with past program planning Initiatives, budget preparation, agency policy and procedures, health and safety regulations and practices, agency Information management systems and provide a linkage to other agency and community programs. The supervisor is in daily contact with personnel to provide guidance and oversight. The Supervisor will meet daily to debrief the day's activities and on a weekly basis to review any case management matters, program planning and provide

feedback. Additionally, weekly contact with personnel is provided to enhances their skills, to discuss any areas of concern, budget needs, appropriate Intervention strategies, and assistance with program planning. The supervisor will ensure the participants adhere to Agency administrative standards and contractual obligations, review their assessment skills, proficiency of referral competencies and discuss areas such as ethics , legal requirements, boundaries, self-care and secondary trauma, and risk factors for mental health and additional concerns.

While the Summer Opportunities Worker is the one who facilitates the program, any volunteers who support the program must have the following qualifications:

Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and pass a criminal record check. Ideal candidates will exhibit special interest in working with at-risk youth and will possess life skills or interests that can be conveyed to the youth, through positive role modeling and mentorship. They must follow Follows the Code of Ethics, Mission Statement, and Policies and Procedures of The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society and abide by the relevant rules and reporting guidelines as set out by the Ministry for Children and Families and other appropriate governing bodies. All volunteers are also supervised by the Operations Manager.

PART C - PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: Summer Opportunities (SOP)	Project Location: 533 Yates St
Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2024/7/08	Completion Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2024/08/30
Amount of Grant Requested: \$5,500.00	Proposed Use of Grant Funds: Contracted Worker to Deliver Program and Program Supplies
<p>Is the grant request for a one-time or recurring project:</p> <p>ONE-TIME <input type="checkbox"/> RECURRING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>List of previous grant requests made to VFC&YJC, and indicate if Awarded:</p> <p>Awarded \$5,300.00 in 2023 for Summer Opportunities Program</p>

Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

The Summer Opportunities Program was created as a directed result of the notable increase in the number of youth (13-18) who congregate in downtown Victoria during the summer months when school is typically not running. Without positive supports and adult connections, youth may engage in activities that increase their vulnerability, leading to increased interactions with police and potential connections to the justice system. Without free healthy activities for youth in the downtown core, youth are left on their own to make connections with others, which often are not healthy positive peer relationships.

To address the need for safe, supported summer recreational activities for vulnerable youth, The Summer Opportunities Program offers free recreational, social, and cultural activities throughout the summer in downtown Victoria in an environment that also offers counselling and intervention services. This model ensures that if a youth begins to destabilize, our wrap-around service model can identify what actions need to be taken to ensure that the youth has support. This approach enables marginalized youth to establish positive, trusting, and supportive

relationships with skilled workers in a congenial setting and enhances the opportunity for positive long-term choices. It also allows for the creation of consistent connections between families and services that can support them both in the summer and throughout the year if needed.

As the years have gone by, the cost-of-living crisis has created another barrier for youth to engage in healthy activities over the summer. This cost-of-living crisis means that vulnerable youth continue to lose their connection to traditional extracurricular and leisure-based activities due to socio-economic issues that make paying for these programs a challenge. When this isolation occurs, these youth miss out on valuable opportunities to build positive social skills and find interests, resulting in a decrease in their mental health and wellness and an increase in higher risk behaviours.

2024 has seen this trend continue, and we are anticipating that this year more families who will not be able to pay for traditional summer activities and will rely on the Summer Opportunities Program for their youth. By offering healthy rec activities in the summer, YES can ease one area of financial burden vulnerable families feel over the summer and decrease risk for youth across the CRD.

Catchment area served – Target population

The catchment area served is the CRD. The Summer Opportunities program is open to youth (13-18) of all backgrounds. The target population of the Summer Opportunities Program is marginalized youth who come downtown in the summer and may be experiencing challenges such as experiencing a wide range of vulnerabilities including poverty, poor physical health, substance use, isolation, social anxiety, and depression (among other mental health challenges). All these issues tend to be exacerbated over the summer with a decrease in access to things like food program through schools, a disruption in positive adult relationships and a decrease in consistency. The Summer Opportunities Program is designed to fill these gaps by integrating these needs into a summer program that is connected to the larger YES wrap-around model. The goal of this program is to ensure that this target population is provided services so that they do not experience an increase in vulnerabilities over the summer months.

The Agency makes a concerted effort to be culturally sensitive to, and inclusive of, the unique needs and characteristics of all youth and their families. The participation of all clients is welcomed equally regardless of their race, color, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical disability, mental disability, gender or sexual orientation etc. We acknowledge that our services operate on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Nations, including but not limited to the Lekwungen (Esquimalt and Songhees) and WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) Peoples. We respect indigenous people's connection to the land and respect their diverse traditions and practices within these territories. Through our work, we acknowledge that systemic racism has impacted generations of indigenous people and continues to harm the youth and families that we serve at YES.

Please indicate goals and objectives of the project and its relevance to the VFC&YCJ mandate, including how Project will educate and raise awareness to youth and families, thereby reducing risks and involvement with judicial court systems:

The objectives of the Summer Opportunities Program include:

- To provide a healthy option for youth who tend to gravitate to the downtown core in the summer and an alternative to 'hanging out' on the streets.
- To provide safe, supportive, and supervised activities/outings that enhance a youth's future likelihood of making better choices through fun leisure activities.
- To act as an access point for youth in need of assistance with issues such as family conflict, homelessness, unemployment, mental health, alcohol and drug misuse, etc.
- To provide a program for youth with very limited financial resources, who cannot afford to participate in the other summer activities/programs that may be available in the community.
- To expose youth to a range of social, educational, and recreational activities, that will broaden their positive connection to the community.
- To assist in meeting the basic needs of the participants.
- To provide a primary point of contact for many youth who are not connected with any support systems.
- To raise aware for youth and families regarding positive community connections that can support youth development.
- To educate youth regarding activities that increase their risk and identify healthy coping mechanisms for them to utilize.
- To improve outcomes for marginalized youth families, including those who have had contact with the justice system.

These goals and objectives are relevant to the VFC&YCJ mandate as they focused on prevention and diversion during the summer month in order to reduce youths' overall risk, thereby also reducing the risks of youth becoming involved with the judicial court system. By ensuring a continuation of positive activities throughout the summer months where youth tend to congregate, the Summer Opportunities Program provides a healthy alternative that youth will utilize and develop necessary connections through.

Last year, 143 youth participated in over 30 unique opportunities offered through the Summer Opportunities Program, indicating a strong need for summer recreational activities for youth in Victoria. On average, 35 meals were provided to youth per week and 48 referrals were made to support youth with community resources. The organization saw youth come back day after day to engage in programming. By offering this program through the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society, it creates additional protective factors for youth as they can be referred and supported by our other programs, meaning, if necessary, interventions can occur quicker, leading to better outcomes for these youth.

Statement of intended outcomes (deliverables, goods and services to be provided):

The Summer Opportunities Program will offer recreational, social and cultural activities Monday-Friday. The activities vary from educational to entertaining. This approach enables marginalized youth to establish positive, trusting, and supportive relationships with skilled workers in a congenial setting and enhances the opportunity for positive long-term choices.

Program Activities fall into two categories:

Community-based leisure activities: These activities foster youths' social skills and sense of belonging and community connectedness. They also develop youths' confidence and self-efficacy. Activities are tailored to youths' comfort levels, strengths, and boundaries. Activities may include swimming, bowling, trips to the beach, painting, cooking, beadwork, educational workshops, and outings to various Victoria attractions. Educational sessions are often provided in areas such as: alcohol and drugs, healthy coping strategies, anger management, leisure time usage, healthy relationships, etc.

Individualized support for youth and families: For youth and families who may require additional support, the Summer Opportunities worker is able to support them on a more individualized basis over the summer to ensure that community referrals are made and that their needs are monitored. Many of the youth who access Summer Opportunities are struggling with issues involving substance use, lack of secure housing, unemployment, health concerns and poor nutrition. The Summer Opportunities Program is designed to integrate these needs into healthy options for youth. Youth were given assistance with housing, job searches, resumes, and researching school possibilities. Summer Opportunities staff also collaborated with youth and families to assist with mental health issues, addiction services, and family counselling.

Intended Outcomes for the Summer Opportunities Program include:

Activities	Indicators	Outcomes
Create positive community inclusion opportunities through the offering of summer activities	# of community referrals/connections made #of participants in activities # of activities offered	Youth experience an increase in healthy activities/coping strategies/harm reduction
Create life skill development opportunities (examples: respectful communication, emotional regulation, positive peer relationships) through the offering of individual support as well as educational activities	# of youth who improve self esteem/confidence # of youth who can identify healthy coping mechanisms # of youth who improve communication skills	Youth experience improved emotional well being and coping strategies
Model and support healthy relationships through relationship building with the Summer	# of youth who participate in group recreation/social activities	Youth will experience positive peer and mentor relationships over the summer

Opportunities Worker as well as educational activities	# of youth who access referrals/community connections	
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Timeline for project delivery (if applicable). Please list stages and anticipated outcomes.

June 25th-July 5th: Prepare activity schedule and advertise program to community partners.

Anticipated Outcome of Planning Weeks: Program will meet current youth needs and youth and families will be aware of how to access the program.

July 8th-August 30th: Summer Opportunities Activities will be offered.

Anticipated outcomes: At least 130 youth will participate in healthy recreational activities over 9 weeks that maintain their stability throughout the summer.

September 3rd-6th: Write end of summer report that corresponds to outcomes and includes information such as number of participants, activities offered, and community referrals made.

Anticipated outcome: That proper reporting is complete and available to funders.

PART D – BUDGET DETAILS

Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative, please include funding from other sources (Feel free to attach a spreadsheet if needed):

The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society Summer Opportunities Budget
Youth Wellness Program Budget for July 8rd-August 30th 2024

Expenses	Explanation	Cost
Contracted worker engaged to undertake project activities	This one contracted individual would be responsible for delivering the Summer Opportunities Program for 20 hours a week for nine weeks July 8 th 2024-August 30 th 2024.	\$4,320.00
Program Supplies	Program Supplies include items such as art supplies, cooking ingredients as well as fees for activities such as museums and movies. The estimated cost per week is \$275 or \$55.00 per activity. It is estimated that 130 youth will participate in the program,	\$2,475.00

	which breaks down to 19.04 per youth for the nine weeks.	
Total		\$6,795.00

Revenue	Details	Costs
YFJCYC Grant	(Pending)	\$5,500.00
Victoria Youth Empowerment Society	Confirmed	\$1,295.00
		Total: \$6,795.00

YES keeps the costs of this summer program low by utilizing existing space, office supplies, and utilities included in our main building. By doing this, the costs remain low for a program that will serve 130 youth over the course of nine weeks.

Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

There are currently no additional funding revenues currently being explored, however YES has committed \$1295.00 from its fundraising efforts to offset some of the costs of the program.

Evaluation framework (How will you know if your project has been a success, and how will VFC&YJC know?)

Individual program excel spreadsheet track basic demographic information, number of participants across identified program components, and all referrals/connections made for youth.

Feedback from youth who participate in the program to identify how the program is supporting youth and allow youth to give input into the direction of the pilot project. Feedback categories will correspond to outcome categories and indicators.

All information and data identified above will be compiled into an end of program report and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Evaluation Framework for the Summer Opportunities Program:

Evaluation Framework	Success Marker	How will this be tracked
Number of youth who participate in healthy recreation activities over the summer	130 youth will have participated	Individual programs excel spreadsheet, through feedback forms that correspond to outcome measures listed above, including modeling, and supporting healthy peer/mentor relationships
Number of youth who identify an increase in life skill development	78 youth will identify increase in skill development	Through feedback forms that correspond to outcome measures listed above including life skill development opportunities
Number of youth community connections made	40 youth will be given information regarding community services that can support them	Individual program excel spreadsheet and outcome measures such as creating positive community inclusion opportunities

Number of families who increase their awareness of community services	12 families will be given additional information regarding community services that can support them	Individual programs excel spreadsheet and outcome measures such as creating positive community inclusion opportunities
<i>*Youth may achieve more than one outcome during the nine weeks of the program</i>		
<p>We will know that the program is successful by the number of participants as well as the number of outcomes that are achieved as outlined above. The VFC &YJC will know it is successful through the end of project report that will outline how many youth participated in the program, what community referrals were made and how many youth achieved each of the outcome categories. These outcome categories directly correspond to protective factors that would likely decrease a youth's involvement with justice services.</p>		
<p>Are you willing to present to the Committee upon completion?</p> <p>YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be an individual or organization operating in the capital region; and
- if an organization, the Board of Directors or shareholders must not receive remuneration of any kind from the VFC&YJC funds.

Individuals or organizations in arrears with any local authority, are bankrupt, seeking creditor protection, are insolvent, or under court supervision of any kind are ineligible.

Eligible Expenses

- travel expenditures that are necessary to the successful completion of the Project;
- costs associated with contractors engaged to undertake the Project activities, such as website developers or researchers;
- venue bookings;
- materials and supplies expenditures;
- equipment rentals;
- vehicle rental, lease, and operation expenditures;
- communication and printing, production, advertising, and distribution expenditures;
- costs associated with management and professional services required to support a Project; and
- other direct costs necessary for the completion of the Project that may be agreed to in writing by VYC&YJC from time to time.

Ineligible Expenses

- equipment purchases or other capital expenditures;
- salaries, business purposes, contest prizes, or competition sponsorship; and
- expenses for activities that have already taken place.

General

- Applicants may apply only once per calendar year.
- Approvals may be whole or in part. There is no obligation on VFC&YJC to make any awards.
- Upon completion of the project, the applicant must provide a brief written summary report on the project's outcomes and may be required to present this in person at a meeting of the VFC&YJC.
- The VFC&YJC title, name or logo will not be used without the prior written consent of the Committee.

- Funds are granted on these conditions. They must be used for the Project or returned in full within thirty (30) days of the oral or written demand.
- Grants may not be used to generate revenue for the Applicant or for purposes outside the project's scope.
- The maximum liability of CRD and VFC&YJC is limited to the provision of grant funds. The CRD and VFC&YJC will accept no liability whatsoever to any applicant, organization, or third party for any costs, claims, damages or losses however incurred relating to, occurring, or arising from the provision of grant funds or the Project. The applicant shall not be or be deemed to be, an agent of the CRD or the VFC&YJC and shall not present itself as such.

Application Requirements

- In the delivery of the program, the Applicant will conduct themselves in a professional and orderly manner, consistent with good public citizenship. Should, in CRD's opinion, this not occur, CRD may demand repayment of grant funds or request that the applicant appoint different staff or volunteers who will behave in a manner keeping with good public behaviour.
- The box titled "Revenues or Expenses" should equal zero. Ensure both columns in your budget are balanced, and the overall budget is balanced.
- A complete application consists of **two copies** of the completed application form and any attachments, signed by the person authorizing the application;

Assessment

- applications are assessed by the VFC&YJC Grants Subcommittee;
- notification of awards may take up to 90 days following submission; and
- the VFC&YJC will notify the applicant in writing of the Committee's decision.

Budget

	Item	Detail	Cost	Total Funds
Revenues	The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society	<u>Through fundraising YES has been able to raise funding towards the program.</u>		<u>\$1,295.00</u>
	VFC & YJC Grants	<u>The VFC&YJC Grant would allow YES to run the summer opportunities program in 2024</u>		<u>\$5,500.00</u>
Expenses	<u>Contracted Individual</u>	<u>The contracted professional would facilitate the program for 9 weeks.</u>	\$4,320.00	
	<u>Program Supplies</u>	<u>Program Supplies include items such as art supplies, cooking ingredients, as well as fees for activities such as museums and movies.</u>	\$2,475.00	
TOTAL			<u>\$6,795.00</u>	<u>\$6,795.00</u>

Conditions of Funding

- a grant must be used for the activity for which it was intended;
- activities must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding;
- submission of a final report within two months of activity completion;
- Applicant must comply with all laws applicable to the undertaking of the Project;

- Applicant must provide and maintain at their expense any insurance that they are required to provide by law or that is reasonably necessary to insure against any risks they may assume as a result of undertaking the project, including coverage for any employees as required by the *Workers Compensation Act*, and
- if the activity is not completed or a final report is not submitted, the VFC&YJC may request the return of the grant and refuse future applications.

Submitting an Application

- Completed applications must be submitted to the VFCYJCAAdmin@crd.bc.ca and in copy to scarey@crd.bc.ca.
- There is no deadline; however, the Committee does not meet in the summer months so applicants would be wise to submit as early as possible.

Application Checklist


What to submit:

- Completed and signed application form;
- Budget for the current year;
- Copy of the previous year’s financial statements (if applicable);
- List of current Board of Directors with full names, residential addresses and Board positions (if applicable); and
- Copy of the organization’s BC society registration certificate, incorporation certificate, or otherwise (if applicable).

Eligibility and acceptance of your application do not guarantee funding. Funding does not guarantee future support.

If you have questions about the application or eligibility of your project, contact VFCYJCAAdmin@crd.bc.ca

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND THE VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE MANDATE (<https://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca/>) . I DECLARE THAT ANY UNUSED FUNDS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE VIA CHEQUE WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROJECT UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED. I REPRESENT I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO BIND THE ORGANIZATION. (Check box)

Name of applicant/representative	
Name (Print) Julie-Ann Hunter	
Signature	
Position Title Executive Director	
Date (YYYY/MM/DD) 2024/04/16	

This personal information is collected by the Capital Regional District (CRD) under section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to [enter purpose for collection, i.e. administer information access requests under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act]. Should you have questions about the collection of this information, please contact Kevin Kim, Manager, FOI and Privacy, (kkim@crd.bc.ca or (250) 360-5673).

