

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Notice of Meeting on **Thursday, June 27, 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. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for June 27, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. Adoption of the May 23, 2024 Minutes (attachment)

Recommendation: That the minutes of May 23, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

3.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of June 13, 2024 (attachment)

Recommendation: That the notes of the June 13, 2024, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.

4. Chair's Remarks

5. 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.)

5.1. Presentation: The Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development

6. Committee Business

6.1. Mobile Youth Services Team Funding Request

Recommendation: That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee recommends the Governance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that the CRD Board Chair send an advocacy letter to the Province to encourage renewed support for the Pacific Centre Family Services Association's Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and its crime reduction and exploitation diversion (CRED) program.

6.2. Financial Report (Esther Paterson)

6.3. Adam Flint & Celebration of Life – June 29, 2024

7. Sub-Committee Business

7.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)

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

7.3. Family and Youth Matters (Cynthia Day)

7.4. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little)

7.5. Communications (Jeff Bateman)

8. Correspondence

9. Notice(s) of Motion

9.1. **Motion with Notice: Advocacy Action Regarding Pedophilia and Online Grooming of Youth (K. Loughton)** (attachment)

Recommendation: That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee requests that the Committee Chair, Mayor Marie-Terese Little, write to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, and all of the MPs, MLAs, Police Chiefs, and Municipal Councils in the CRD, to encourage support to stop the online sexual exploitation and grooming of children and youth. The following list of legislative changes are recommended but are not exhaustive to fight against online sexual offenses against children and youth:

1. Add minor amendments to S.152 of the Criminal Code to specify online activity. The language does mention “indirectly” but the Crown often misses it and thus the language needs to be clear.
2. Change to S.153 of the Criminal Code by replacing language regarding the person being
3. When children and youth are victims of sexual offences the sentencing is typically the minimum recommended. There should be an increase to the minimum or a recommendation that sentencing should lean to the maximum.

10. New Business

11. Roundtable (time permitting)

12. Adjournment

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

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 meeting held Thursday May 23, 2024, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC

PRESENT:

Municipal Representatives: Marie-Térèse Little (Metchosin); Jeff Bateman (Sooke); Krista Loughton (Victoria); Kimberley Guiry (Langford)(EP); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Esther Paterson (Oak Bay); Micayla Hayes (Saanich); Sara Duncan (Sidney)(EP); Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate)(EP)

School District Representatives: Christine Lervold (School District 62 Trustee) (EP)

Capital Regional District (CRD) Representatives Cheryl Chaytors (EP); Samantha Rappaport (EP)

Resource Members Gord Magee and Mia Golden (MYST)

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

Regrets: Bill McElroy (CRAT); Cynthia Day (Colwood); Ron Mattson (View Royal); Mena Westhaver (Saanich); Darlene Rotchford (Esquimalt); Jim Rondeau (North Saanich); Jack McClintock (Central Saanich); Karin Kwan (SD61); Terri Vanwell (SD63); Andrew Holeton (CRD Appointee)

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:39 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Little provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made around the room and online.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by E. Paterson, **SECONDED** by K. Loughton,
That the agenda for Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of May 23, 2024 be approved.
CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1. Adoption of the April 25, 2024 Minutes

MOVED by J. Bateman, **SECONDED** by E. Paterson,
That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of April 25, 2024 be adopted.
CARRIED

4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of May 9, 2024

MOVED by J. Bateman, **SECONDED** by E. Paterson,
That the meeting notes of the Steering Committee of May 9, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

5. Chairs Remarks

Chair Little shared with great regret that Vice Chair A. Flint had suddenly passed away. Our thoughts go out to Adam's family. He will be missed greatly. VFCYJC will update everyone on details about his celebration of life soon. The committee will receive nominations for Vice Chair at the meeting in September.

6. Presentations/ Delegations

MYST provided an update.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- business plan and that it should be complete soon
- increase in youth violence that coincides with school summer break
- proposed improvements needed to levels of provincial and provincial legislation for on-line pornography and social media
- increased stress on young people by lack of School Police Liaison Officers
- advocacy opportunities
- regional need for ICE teams and child protection teams
- Impact of sexualized violence amongst youth
- sustainable funding for MYST

7. Committee Business

7.1. VFCYJC Open House 2024 – Summary Open House

J. Bateman spoke to Item 7.1.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- 36 people attended, 16 committee members and 20 agency representatives attended the 2nd annual open house.
- inviting resource agencies to future meetings
- 15 Agencies were represented including Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Threshold Housing, Legal Aid, Human Nature Counselling Society, Single Parent Resource Centre, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, Mobile Youth Services Team, John Howard Society, Indigenous Justice Centre, Alliance to End Homelessness, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society, Victoria Native Friendship Centre Family Service Team and Youth Worker and School District 63 Trustee and School District 63 Community Outreach Coordinator.
- feedback shared that they are so busy doing social service work that they don't have time to connect with others doing similar work and they appreciated the forum to do this.

7.2. School Police Officer Liaison Program – Backgrounder Update

J. Bateman spoke to Item 7.1.

Discussion ensued regarding inviting representatives from School District 61, Victoria Police Department, Saanich Police Department, and MYST for a discussion regarding solutions related to the removal of School Police Liaison Officers from schools.

**MOVED by J. Bateman, SECONDED by M. McLean,
That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee invite Nicole Duncan, Chair School District 61; Del Manak, Victoria Police Department; Dean Duthie, Saanich Police Department; Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development; and the Mobile Youth Services Team to the June 27, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting.
CARRIED**

7.3. Youth Empowerment Society Grant Application 2024

M. McLean spoke to Item 7.3.

Discussion ensued regarding a tour of the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society's facility.

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by E. Paterson,
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.
CARRIED**

8. Sub-Committee Business

8.1. Priorities and Grants

M. McLean spoke to Item 8.1. and stated that the Youth Sanctuary Centre to submit a final report to the committee for the meeting in November.

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

There was no report.

8.3. Family and Youth Matters

There was no report.

8.4. Court Watch

Chair Little has contacted Duncan First Nations Court and First Nations Justice Committee to potentially arrange member attendance at one of their meetings if interested.

8.5. Communications

J. Bateman spoke to Item 8.5.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the committee's website support and current issues are being resolved
- a quote will be obtained regarding website development and support.
- K. Loughton, E. Paterson, M. McLean, and C. Lervold have volunteered to help with the Communications Subcommittee.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10. Notice of Motion

K. Loughton provided the following Notice of Motion to be brought back to the next meeting of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee:

“That the Committee have a discussion regarding advocacy action regarding pedophilia and online grooming of youth.”

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Roundtable

An informal roundtable discussion took place.

13. Adjournment

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by J. Bateman,
That the May 23, 2024 Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting be adjourned
at 1:04 p.m.
CARRIED**

CHAIR

RECORDER

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee **Steering Committee Notes – June 13, 2024**

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

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

- DRAFT Agenda for May 23, 2024 regular meeting discussed and drafted.
- move Discussion with Minister Lore and others to beginning of meeting.
- Jeff to facilitate the discussion with Minister Lore and others
- Jeff to send out letter to committee regarding questions for panel members and then a list of these questions to the panel
- Cynthia to give a brief update on VFCYJ committee advocacy regarding youth detention centre
- Cynthia suggests an email to be sent out to committee to ask for questions for panel and these questions will be circulated to the panel
- discussion about website- Esther suggests we need a policy regarding website- Esther has met with Ryan regarding hosting the website.
- Marcie to liaise with Krista regarding her notice of motion regarding pedophile activity in Victoria

Meeting adjourned: 12:15PM

Sharon Orr

To: Krista Loughton (Councillor)
Subject: RE: Motion for the VFCYJC meeting on June 27

From: Krista Loughton (Councillor) <kloughton@victoria.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Jeff Bateman <jbateman@shaw.ca>; Marie-Terese Little <mlittle@crd.bc.ca>; marciemclean@shaw.ca
Cc: Secretary Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee <vfamcourt@gmail.com>; Sharon Orr <sorr@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: Motion for the VFCYJC meeting on June 27

CRD IT SECURITY WARNING: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

Advocacy Action Regarding Pedophilia and Online Grooming of Youth

Background

On May 23, 2024, Youth Counsellor Mia Golden and Constable Gord Magee of the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) presented to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC) regarding the proliferation of online grooming of pedophilia among young people. There is a growing trend of pedophiles grooming their victims to become pedophiles themselves. When questioned about what the VFCYJC could do to support MYST with this issue, the response was to raise the alarm bells regarding online child sexual abuse and exploitation and to address legislative changes to the Criminal Code.

The data matches Golden and Magee's observations. In February 2023, Cybertip.ca, Canada's tipline to report online sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth, released metrics that show online sexual luring of children has risen to never-before-seen levels. The volume of luring reports grew from 220 in 2018 to 2,013 by the end of 2022 representing an astonishing 815% increase (Appendix A).

Golden and Magee have advised that the following changes to the Criminal Code would help to protect children:

1. Add minor amendments to S.152 of the Criminal Code (Invitation to Sexual Touching – Appendix B) to specify online activity. The language does mention "indirectly" but the Crown often misses it and thus the language needs to be clear.
2. Change S.153 of the Criminal Code (Sexual Exploitation – Appendix C) by replacing the language about the person being in a position of trust or authority to be "any person."
3. When children and youth are victims of sexual offences the sentencing is typically the minimum recommended. There should be an increase to the minimum or a recommendation that sentencing should lean to the maximum.

Recommendation

That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee requests that the Committee Chair, Mayor Marie-Terese Little, write to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, and all of the MPs, MLAs, Police Chiefs, and Municipal Councils in the CRD, to encourage support to stop the online sexual exploitation and grooming of children and youth. The following list of legislative changes are recommended but are not exhaustive to fight against online sexual offenses against children and youth:

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2. Change to S.153 of the Criminal Code by replacing language regarding the person being in a position of trust or authority to be “any person.”
3. When children and youth are victims of sexual offences the sentencing is typically the minimum recommended. There should be an increase to the minimum or a recommendation that sentencing should lean to the maximum.

Appendices

A. <https://www.cybertip.ca/en/campaigns-and-media/news-releases/2023/safer-internet-day-2023/>

B. S.152: Criminal Code ([justice.gc.ca](https://www.justice.gc.ca))

C. S.153: Criminal Code ([justice.gc.ca](https://www.justice.gc.ca))

Krista Loughton

Pronouns: she/her

Councillor

City of Victoria

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The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.