

**VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE**  
**Notice of Meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 11:30 am**  
**Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC**

**Meeting to be conducted electronically and in-person.**

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Welcome to the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, on 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 September 26, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**4.1. Adoption of the Minutes (attached)**

**Recommendation:** That the minutes of June 27, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

**4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of September 12, 2024 (attached)**

**Recommendation:** That the notes of the September 12, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.

**5. Chairperson's Remarks**

**6. Presentations/Delegations (10-minute max per participant including questions from committee)**

**6.1. Resource Agencies**

**6.2. Panel Discussion** – Challenges faced by vulnerable youth in our region

**7. Sub-Committee Business**

**7.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)- Recommendations for 2 Grant Applications**

**7.1.1. Human Nature Counselling Society (attached)**

**Recommendation:** "That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee support the Human Nature Counselling Society's grant request for the amount of \$5,500.00 for their 2024 New Roots program."

**7.1.2. Umbrella Society (attached)**

**Recommendation:** "That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee support the Umbrella Society's request of \$4,746.00 to be applied to their 2024 project titled: Umbrella 101-Navigating Substance Use and Mental Health for Students."

**8. Treasurer’s Report- (Esther Paterson) (attached)**

**9. Election of Vice Chair**

9.1. AGM (January 2025); Interest in Interim Vice-Chair

**10. New Business**

**11. Notice of Motion**

**12. Correspondence**

12.1. Mobile Youth Service Team Business Case Report (**attached**)

12.2. CRD Staff Report from Steve Carey (**attached**)

12.3. Letter from Minister Farnworth (**attached**)

**13. Adjournment**

Next Scheduled Meeting October 24, 2024



**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held  
Thursday June 27, 2024, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC**

**PRESENT: Municipal Representatives:** Marie-Térèse Little (Metchosin); Krista Loughton (Victoria); Kimberley Guiry (Langford); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Esther Paterson (Oak Bay); Sara Duncan (Sidney) (EP); Cynthia Day (Colwood); (EP).

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

**Capital Regional District (CRD) Representatives:**

**Resource Agencies:** Kisae Petersen, (Operations Manager, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society)

**Guests:** The Honourable Grace Lore, (Minister of Children and Families)

**CRD Staff:** Sharon Orr, (Senior Committee Clerk; CRD); Tamara Pillipow, (CRD) and Marnie Essery, Secretary & Recorder (EP)

**Regrets:** Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate); Cheryl Chaytors; Samantha Rappaport; Bill McElroy (CRAT); Micayla Hayes (Saanich; Ron Mattson (View Royal); Mena Westhaver (Saanich); Darlene Rotchford (Esquimalt); Jim Rondeau (Central Saanich); Jack McClintock (North Saanich); Andrew Holeton (CRD Appointee) Jeff Bateman (Sooke).

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 am.

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

K. Guiry provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

Welcome and Introductions were made around the room and online.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Request to move 5.1 on the Agenda to top of agenda to hear Minister Lore's presentation first.

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by K. Guiry, That the amended agenda for**

**Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of June 27, 2024 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

### **3. Adoption of Minutes**

#### **3.1. Adoption of the May 23, 2024 Minutes**

Amend minutes to read that Rose Stanton is the Chair of Family and Youth Matters subcommittee. VFCYJC's Vice Chair Adam Flint's Celebration of Life will take place this Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. at the Sequoia Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive.

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

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

**CARRIED**

#### **3.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of June 13, 2024**

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by K. Guiry, That the meeting notes of the Steering Committee of June 13, 2024 be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **4. No Chair 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** gave a PowerPoint presentation titled Youth Justice Services Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) to our committee. This presentation will be emailed out to our committee members after today's meeting. To learn more, visit:

- [www.gov.bc.ca/SAJE](http://www.gov.bc.ca/SAJE)
- To check eligibility, fill out:
  - Request for SAJE Eligibility Check
- To ask questions and request a referral:
- call 1-866-623-3001

- email [MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca)

[SAJE \(Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

[Ministry of Children and Family Development - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

The Minister was thanked for her work and for being with us today.

## **6. Committee Business**

### **6.1. Mobile Youth Services Team Funding Request**

**MOVED** by K. Loughton, **SECONDED** by T. Vanwell,  
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.  
**MOVED** by M. McLean, **SECONDED** by K. Loughton,  
That the main motion be amended by adding the following words at the end of the motion: “with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families within the CRD.”  
**CARRIED**

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

**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, with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families within the CRD.**  
**CARRIED**

### **6.2. Financial Report (Esther Paterson)**

The Treasurer verbally indicated that an updated report is not available until the end of June. A report will be provided for the September 26<sup>th</sup> VFCYJC Meeting. Open House costs yet to come.

**6.3. Adam Flint & Celebration of Life** – Saturday, June 29, 2024-2 p.m. at Sequoia Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive and everyone is welcome to attend.

VFCYJC might want to consider setting up a scholarship in his name. We will put this on our September 26 agenda to talk more about.

## **7. Sub-Committee Business**

**7.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)-** Two grant applications were received one in late May with some incomplete/missing information which had not been received yet upon request, and the other was recently received mid June which was too late for processing for this June meeting. Both applications require some scrutiny and both applicant programs are already underway, with a Summer break, both applications appear to have adequate funds for their programs and are awaiting on additional grant funds they have applied for.

Therefore, the Chair wrote to each applicant to suggest that if they are still in need of funds in early September the Priorities Subcommittee will commence the “initial” review of their separate applications. The Chair expressed that she felt this process was reasonable based on the information contained within the 2 separate grant applications.

**7.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (Bill McElroy)-**no report

**7.3. Family and Youth Matters (Rose Stanton)-**Rose is not here today but C. Day shared that the City of Colwood did host a Safer Schools Presentation.

**7.4. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little)-**no report

**7.5. Communications (Jeff Bateman)-** J. Bateman is absent today, however without Adam Flint’s expertise and assistance with the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee website plus the preparation of our required Annual Report, we would like to seek members of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee that may have experience with websites. Noting that the CRD’s IT Dept have indicated through S. Carey that they will not administer a website that is just for the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. E. Paterson provided some verbal information about the website on back ups and recoveries. Chair Little indicated that budgeting for the website will need to take place in September. Member C. Lervold has offered her help and reported that she found our website to be a valuable resource.

**8. Correspondence-**none

**9. Notice(s) of Motion**

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

**MOVED by K. Loughton, SECONDED by M. McLean**

**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 Police Boards, Superintendent Todd Preston, Westshore Detachment RCMP, BC Attorney General, Nikki Sharma, and Minister of Justice and Federal Attorney General Arif Virani, 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 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.**

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by K. Loughton,**

**That the main motion be amended by adding the following words after the word “Chiefs”:  
“and Police Boards, Superintendent Todd Preston, Westshore Detachment RCMP, BC Attorney General, Nikki Sharma, and Minister of Justice and Federal Attorney General Arif Virani”**

**CARRIED**

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

**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 Police Boards, Superintendent Todd Preston, Westshore Detachment RCMP, BC Attorney General, Nikki Sharma, and Minister of Justice and Federal Attorney General Arif Virani, 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.**

**CARRIED**

**10. New Business**

**11. No Roundtable today.**

**12. To Adjourn at 1:05 pm**

**MOVED by T. Vanwell, SECONDED by M. McLean**

**CARRIED**

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.



## **Notes- Steering Committee meeting September 12, 2024**

Discussion about setting agenda for September 26, 2024 VFCYJ committee meeting

Panel discussion (1130 am- 1pm) will be main focus of the upcoming meeting.

Panel discussion will focus on how best front-line service agencies, school authorities, the police and the Provincial government can collaborate to serve and support youth and families dealing with a disturbing range of issues – gang recruitment, sexual predation, bullying and drug use included.

Marcie to reach out to superintendent of SD 61 to see if she wants to participate in panel discussion.

June 27, 2024 draft minutes to be revised by Marcie.

Priorities Sub-committee recommendations for 2 grant applications will be presented

Election of the interim- Vice-chair position (to the next election at the AGM, 2025)

10 min presentation Victoria Youth Empowerment Societies outcomes from their Summer Opportunities or written report to be done in October.

Correspondence to include in agenda package:

1. Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Business Case Report for information and potential discussion as to what VFC&YJC might do with it if anything?
2. CRD Staff Report by Steven Carey which was on the CRD Board Agenda of July 10, 2024 topic MYST funding,
3. Letter from Minister Farnworth to the municipalities of: Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Victoria Re: Integrated Crime Units for Electronic Exploitation of Children/Youth (ICE) for information, possible funding towards MYST??

Next scheduled VFC&YJC meeting Oct. 24, 2024.

September 21, 2024

To: Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC)

From: Marcie McLean, Priorities Sub-committee Chair

Subject: Grant application received from Human Nature Counselling Society (HNCS)

Website address: [humannaturecounselling.ca](http://humannaturecounselling.ca)

A grant application was received from HNCS in mid-June 2024 which was too late for us to start processing. The HNCS has requested a grant from VFC&YJC in the amount of \$5,500.00 for their New Roots program which started up again in September. Their total proposed budget is \$9,700.00, with a private donour providing the balance and other potential donours.

The HNCS is a BC registered society and their application indicated that they are a Registered charity. The Mandate, Mission and Vision can be located on page 1 of their application. The applicant has indicated by email reply to me that the project location is Victoria and will be held at the Government House gardens on Rockland Ave. Plus a rental for a group therapy space likely at Burnside Gorge Community Centre or Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group for the Parent Sessions.

The New Roots start date is Sept. 15, 2024- Dec. 15, 2024. The project is intended to be recurring and the proposed use of the funds is for: Program planning and facilitating, equipment and supplies, snacks and a celebratory dinner, site rental and further from their Detailed Budget submitted Part D on page 7 of their application, wages for clinical supervision, and travel. However, by reply the applicant has indicated that HNCS does not charge fees for the New Roots program.

Page 3 of their application indicates that the target population for the New Roots program is youth ages 13-16 in the Victoria/Westshore areas who are struggling with anxiety and are motivated to transform their relationship with it. It is a nature -based mental health and wellness initiative, which provides age-appropriate psychological education and therapeutic interventions to help youth understand anxiety and effective strategies to manage it. The program also offers 2 sessions to parents/caregivers of these youth to assist them in understanding anxiety and how to support their youth. The participants are youth who are in need of mental health services, but are unable to access private counselling or government funded services due to a myriad of factors, including long wait-lists, costs, the indoor environment not appealing to them or they prefer to be in a group peer versus individual sessions.

The New Roots program appears to align with VFC&YJC Mandate as the applicant outlines also on page 3 of their application. Also, the program's outcomes are indicated on page 3.

The program is offered on a weekly basis for 8 weeks, each session is 2 hours long and includes many activities located on page 4 of their application. The program is for 15 youth and approximately 20 parents. HNCS also provides the families with the outcomes after closure of the New Roots program with a final evaluation report with additional referrals if needed. The applicant is willing to present to the Committee upon completion of the program.

The HNCS Constitution indicates the Society's purpose: To enhance the well-being of people and families across the life span through delivering accessible nature-based therapy services.

Within the HNCS's 2023 Financial Statements which are purposely not attached to this report nor placed in the public domain due to confidentiality reasons, page 4 under Assets indicates since 2022 significant short term investments. Also noted on page 4 under Net Assets- Unrestricted and Internally restricted are significant funds since 2022.

On page 11, Under Financial instruments and concentration of credit risk, under Liquidity risk it states: The Society is exposed to risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from 4 donors totalling \$453,489.00 (2022, 3 donors totalling \$450,000.00). Management is confident of the continued funding support from these and other donors. These donations represent 37% of total revenue (2022 43%).

**The Priorities Sub-committee recommends that the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee support the Human Nature Counselling Society's grant request for the amount of \$5,500.00 for their 2024 New Roots program.**

**Alternatively, the Committee may consider to not support the HNCS grant request.**

**Or, the Committee may wish to consider adjusting the amount requested to a lesser amount.**

**Rationale for the Sub-committee's support for the HNCS grant request is well-being education and support for youth and their families, knowing many youths' and families levels of anxiety and stress have increased greatly throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic, plus financial impacts and climate changes impacts and how it has been demonstrated that being outdoors in particular quiet natural places can in itself release some of that anxiety with assistance in understanding the consequences of anxiety on human beings.**

Respectfully submitted, Marcie McLean

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 [VFCYJAdmin@crd.bc.ca](mailto:VFCYJAdmin@crd.bc.ca) for distribution.

PART A - CONTACT INFORMATION			
Date of Application: June 13, 2024	Legal Name of Applicant / Organization Human-Nature Counselling Society		
Address 743 Vancouver Street	Telephone Number [REDACTED]	Website humannaturecounselling.ca	
Name of Contact Person David Segal	Telephone Number of Contact Person [REDACTED]		
Email Address of Contact Person david@humannaturecounselling.ca			
Alternate Contact Person Melissa Taylor	Telephone Number of Alternate Contact Person [REDACTED]		
Email Address of Alternate Contact Person melissa@humannaturecounselling.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> S0072377	
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 Human-Nature Counselling Society		Date the Organization was Created (yyyy/mm/dd) December 9th, 2019	
Mandate and main activities of the organization or applicable history of related projects:  Mission: Human-Nature Counselling Society (HNCS) enhances the mental health and well-being of children, youth and families through the delivery of effective, innovative and low-barrier mental health counselling services and programs, through the approaches of Nature-Based Therapy. Vision: We believe that everyone in the HNCS service area who strives for mental health and wellness has access to counselling services and programs they can afford, that foster their sense of belonging within family, community and the more than human natural world.			

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

Human-Nature Counselling Society specializes in supporting children, youth, and families through our evidence-based, experiential and engaging Nature-Based Therapy approach. Our dynamic team of 23 highly trained, skilled practitioners are leaders in the growing field of Nature-Based Therapy across Canada. HNCS's mission is to enhance the mental health and well-being of children, youth, and families, through the delivery of effective, innovative and low barrier mental health counselling services and programs, through the approaches of Nature-Based Therapy. Since 2012, we have done just that, providing a distinctive approach by hosting counselling services in a low-barrier, connective way -- Based in the CRD, we meet clients in local parks near their homes, effectively taking counselling to them (or, via telehealth services online). This approach has been warmly received, especially by those facing mental health challenges that make traditional office settings less appealing. Beyond individual counselling services, HNCS hosts many nature-based group programs. Notable programs include "Family Roots" for solo parents in need of support, "Waves of Change" for adult women dealing with anxiety, "Guam Guam Specums" for Indigenous youth in school settings, "Coyote Tracks" and "Lynx Tracks" for youth seeking social and emotional support, and "Active Grief: Active Hope" for youth grappling with ecological anxiety and grief. Over the years, we have learned that removing barriers and reaching the most vulnerable is essential to our approach. Thus, we structured our group programs differently than our income-based sliding scale for individual counselling, and 95% of our group programs are offered at no cost to the clients thanks to the support of generous donations. We believe that centering the client/family as the experts in their own lives is paramount to our services. Across all of our programs and services, participants can expect to learn skills and tools to help foster and strengthen connections with themselves, their communities, and the natural world. In our programs, participants run, play, hide, feel challenged, and discover new ways of being, that enhances their resilience and ability to thrive. Founders Dave Segal and Katy Rose have been practicing Nature-Based Therapy for over 15 years, and are leaders in the field. In 2019, they co-authored and published "Nature-based therapy: A practitioner's guide to working outdoors with children, youth, and families" alongside Dr. Nevin Harper from the University of Victoria. All of HNCS's facilitators hold Master's level degrees in counselling psychology or equivalent experience and training, and have additional education in nature-based therapy, family therapy, addressing trauma, and working with pertinent issues related to children and youth mental health.

**PART C - PROJECT DETAILS**

Project Name: New Roots	Project Location: Victoria BC
Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2024/09/15	Completion Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2024/12/15
Amount of Grant Requested: \$5,500	Proposed Use of Grant Funds:  -Program planning and facilitation -Equipment and supplies -Snacks and celebration dinner -Site rental
Is the grant request for a one-time or recurring project: ONE-TIME <input type="checkbox"/> RECURRING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	List of previous grant requests made to VFC&YJC, and indicate if Awarded: N/A

Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

According to the 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey, administered by the McCreary Center Society, 89% of youth, or 9 out of 10 youth, experience high levels of anxiety and stress. New Roots directly addresses this issue through its highly engaging, and effective programming that includes the family and a supportive peer group in the project. Furthermore, increases in screentime and particularly social media use among youth has been linked to declining mental health outcomes and a reduction of positive coping strategies (E.g., extra-curricular activities). The New Roots program aims to get youth outside in nature, amidst peers in an

<p>engaging therapeutic process. Following the Covid 19 pandemic, HNCS has seen a surge in demand for our services and we have found group program in particular is an effective and required response to the declining mental health outcomes of youth in our community.</p>
<p>Catchment area served – Target population</p> <p>The target population for New Roots are youth ages 13-16 in the Victoria/Westshore area who are struggling with anxiety and are motivated to transform their relationship with anxiety. The program also offers two sessions to parents/ caregivers of these youth to assist them in also understanding anxiety and how to support their youth.</p> <p>The participants are youth who are in need of mental health services, but are not able to access private counselling or government funded services due to a myriad of factors including long wait-lists, cost, the indoor environment not appealing to them, or they prefer to be with a peer group versus doing individual sessions.</p>
<p>Please indicate goals and objectives of the project and its relevance to the VFC&amp;YCJ mandate, including how Project will educate and raise awareness to youth and families, thereby reducing risks and involvement with judicial court systems:</p> <p><b>Goals and Objectives of New Roots:</b></p> <p>The New Roots program is a nature-based mental health and wellness initiative specifically designed for youth aged 13-16, aiming to transform their relationship with anxiety and worry within a supportive group environment. By immersing participants in the natural world, New Roots seeks to cultivate connections to nature, oneself, and peers, fostering a deep sense of belonging. The program provides age-appropriate psychological education and therapeutic interventions to help youth develop a thorough understanding of anxiety, its mechanisms, and effective strategies to manage it. Additionally, New Roots offers two parent sessions tailored to support parents in understanding anxiety and better supporting their youth. By directly addressing anxiety and promoting mental health wellness, New Roots aims to reduce the risk of youth becoming involved with judicial court systems, instead supporting them to integrate and contribute positively to their communities.</p> <p><b>Relevance to the VFC&amp;YCJ Mandate:</b></p> <p>New Roots aligns closely with the VFC&amp;YCJ mandate, which seeks to improve outcomes for youth and families while reducing their involvement with the judicial court system. By focusing on mental health improvement, the program addresses risk factors, such as harmful coping strategies, isolation, and poor decision-making. Through nature-based group sessions with peers, New Roots fosters a sense of belonging and connection, providing a safe space for youth to explore anxiety, learn coping mechanisms, and build supportive peer relationships. Group sessions, facilitated by mental health professionals, will help participants understand anxiety and practical strategies for managing it. Moreover, by involving and educating parents about anxiety, the program ensures a supportive home environment, essential for sustained mental health and thriving in youth.</p> <p>By focusing on mental health, community integration, and family support, New Roots aims to significantly reduce the risk of youth becoming involved with the judicial court system, ensuring they become well-integrated and contributing members of their communities.</p>
<p>Statement of intended outcomes (deliverables, goods and services to be provided):</p> <p><i>Program intended outcomes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Increased Understanding of Anxiety and Empowerment:</b> Increase youth's understanding of anxiety and support them in managing how their mental health impacts their lives.</li> <li>● <b>Enhanced Connections:</b> Foster positive connections and relationships with oneself, peers, and the natural world, enhancing overall mental well-being.</li> <li>● <b>Positive Coping Strategies:</b> Equip youth with tools and strategies for cultivating a healthy mindset, promoting positive coping mechanisms.</li> </ul>

- **Increased Access to Support:** Provide mental health support to youth facing barriers, ensuring accessible and inclusive assistance.
- **Parent Support and Education:** Value parents' perspectives by offering support and education regarding anxiety, enhancing their ability to assist their children.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Enhance youth's understanding of the local ecosystem and instill a sense of responsibility for its protection.
- **Reduction of Anxiety Symptoms:** Decrease anxiety symptoms amongst participating youth and increase their coping skills, leading to improved mental health outcomes.

Timeline for project delivery (if applicable). Please list stages and anticipated outcomes.

We offer this program on a weekly basis for eight weeks; ideally, the program is run twice a year, once in the spring and (March-June), and once in the fall (September-December). Each sessions in two hours long and includes activities such as:

- opening and closing check in circles
- psycho-education pertaining to anxiety and coping
- mindfulness and other mind body activities (e.g.yoga)
- practicing positive coping strategies
- expressive arts (improv, clay sculpting, journaling, collaging)
- quiet solo time in nature
- environmental education and restoration projects
- two parents sessions, tailored to the specific needs of parents. Topics typically include understanding anxiety and how it impacts their child's nervous system; the avoidance cycle; strategies for connecting with their youth, and helping them take charge of anxiety versus needing to turn to harmful coping strategies.

Timeline:

**August and September:** Intake and Planning. Outcome: We have secured participants for this program and have their parents committed to attending the parent sessions. We have finalized the curriculum and plan for the program.

**October-December:** Program Delivery. Outcomes: We deliver 8 sessions, plus 2 parent sessions to 15 youth and approximately 20 parents, impacting over 50 people when other family members living in the home are included. This is a highly cost effective manner to deliver high quality mental health services, when compared to individual therapy or more acute crisis intervention, such as emergency room visits and residential care.

**January-February:** Program closure. Outcomes: We have a final evaluation report completed and assist families with additional referrals as required.

#### **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):

See budget included below.

Other funding avenues/partners being explored: Harbourside Rotary, The Keg Spirit Foundation, and a private donor. So far we have secured \$4200 of the required \$9700, which leaves a balance of \$5500. If we are successful with the other grants, which we will only know in the fall, we will have funds secured for future offerings of this program.

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

We will know this program has been a success based on the following criteria:

#### **Attendance and participation**

- Youth “vote with their feet”, which means if we are able to maintain high enrollment and attendance, it will indicate that the program is engaging and meeting the needs of the youth attending. This has been the case in previous offerings of this program and we anticipate the same for future sessions.
- Participants demonstrate increased engagement in the group throughout the program, as indicated in their willingness to share and contribute to group discussion and activities.

**Self-report Questionnaires**

- Participants indicate that their level of understanding regarding anxiety and how it impacts their lives has increased since attending the program.
- Participants are able to describe and implement different coping tools to help them manage their anxiety in positive ways, compared to when they started the program.
- Participants report feeling connected to other group members.
- Participants report an enhanced connection to the natural world.
- Parents report an increased understanding of anxiety, how it operates, and how to support their youth in ways that addresses avoidant coping and creates a safe environment for their youth to reach out for assistance versus turning to harmful coping strategies.
- Parents report a decrease in their youth’s anxiety symptoms and an increase in their positive coping strategies.

Are you willing to present to the Committee upon completion?      YES       NO

**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
<b>Revenues</b>	Private Donor and Grants	We have secured a donation by one of our long-term supporters towards this program.	\$4200	\$4200

	VFCYJCA	We are hoping to be successful with this grant application to cover the balance of funds required	\$5500	\$5500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$9700</b>	<b>\$9700</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	Planning and Facilitation	Program design, client intake and facilitation by Master's level clinicians for 8 sessions, plus 2 parent sessions	\$7044	\$7044
	Clinical Supervision	Program oversight as well as clinical supervision for the facilitators as they plan and deliver treatment to the youth	\$1406	\$1406
	Equipment and Supplies	Site rental, journals, experiential activity supplies (e.g. art supplies)	\$350	\$350
	Healthy Snacks and drinks	Snacks for each session, plus food for the final celebration, including the parents	\$500	\$500
	Travel	Mileage for team members to travel to and from the location as well as supporting youth to travel to the site when required.	\$400	\$400
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$9700</b>	<b>\$9700</b>

#### 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](mailto:VFCYJCAAdmin@crd.bc.ca) and in copy to [scarey@crd.bc.ca](mailto: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 [VFCYJAdmin@crd.bc.ca](mailto:VFCYJAdmin@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): David Segal	
Signature	
Position Title: Executive Director	
Date (YYYY/MM/DD) 2024/06/13	

*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](mailto:kkim@crd.bc.ca) or (250) 360-5673).*

<b><u>Human Nature Counselling Society</u></b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>
<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>For the Year 2024</b>			
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Fee for Service (Cost Recovery)	\$380,000	\$495,358	\$515,000
Grant Revenue	150,000	149,013	185,000
Professional Trainings	20,000	54,683	75,000
	550,000	699,054	775,000
Donations - General/Events	32,000	33,555	35,000
Donations - Key funders	370,000	483,489	550,000
Interest received	8,000	18,766	15,000
	410,000	535,810	600,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$960,000</b>	<b>\$1,234,864</b>	<b>\$1,375,000</b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>			
Salaried Personel - clinical	502,170	482,109	584,949
Salaried Personel - operations	239,844	206,612	278,265
Indirect -CPP/EI/Health benefits	89,678	78,381	107,505
Associate Counsellors	196,458	309,121	271,750
	1,028,150	1,076,223	1,242,469
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	<b>81,850</b>	<b>84,941</b>	<b>107,531</b>
<b>Program expenses</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,634</b>	<b>25000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,130,000</b>	<b>1,181,798</b>	<b>1,375,000</b>
<b>Net reciepts over expenditures</b>	<b>-\$170,000</b>	<b>\$53,066</b>	<b>\$0</b>

September 21, 2024

To: Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC)

From: Marcie McLean, VFC&YJC Priorities Sub-committee Chair

Subject: Priorities Sub-committee recommendations for the grant received from the **Umbrella Society (US)** legal name: Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health

Website address: [umbrellasociety.ca](http://umbrellasociety.ca)

The US is seeking a grant from VFC&YJC in the amount of \$4,746.00 for their program titled: Umbrella Society 101-Navigating Substance Use and Mental Health for Students.

The US has Federal Charitable status and is a registered society in BC. US eventually provided all of the required document copies in order for the Sub-committee to process their application.

BC Provincial legislation was brought in awhile ago directing high schools in BC to provide training in the administration of Naloxone for students and teachers. This was confirmed by researching the Provincial website.

The intent of the US project according to their senior grants adviser is to have peer workers provide substance use and mental health education and information in schools.

The project would occur at various High and Middle Schools in Greater Victoria. And, the application indicates that it is not reoccurring. With grant funds being contributed to US costs to administer approximately 40 presentations within 2024, about mental health and substance use to over 1,000 students.

The application further indicates that the Umbrella 101 project is administered by 2 Umbrella employees being an Education Manager and a Peer Support Worker, please see their application pages 2, 3 & 4 for further details.

The US presentations are 2 hours taking place in home rooms (ideally), vulnerable young people would have opportunities to contact US after the sessions to ask for help. US wishes to provide Naloxone training kits and training to all classes and faculty that request it. They plan and hope to provide education and training to Belmont Secondary, Dunsmuir Middle School, Royal Bay Secondary School, Westshore Secondary School and Rock Heights Middle School in 2024.

It is intended that they will monitor and evaluate after each presentation, and they also plan to complete a final report at the end of the project detailing quantitative and qualitative outcomes. Please see page 5 of their application for further details.

The US's Constitution indicates the purposes of the Society are:

2.1 to work toward breaking down the stigma around addictions, including dual diagnoses issues;

2.2 to work towards changing the way those who struggle with addictions see themselves or are viewed by others;

2.3 to undertake public education initiatives intended to foster better understanding of addiction and dual diagnosis issues;

2.4 to address gaps that exist in the current system of care by encouraging new relationships between a wide variety of individuals, governments, non-profit agencies and private sector organizations who will work together to create solid, practical and seamless support for those affected by addiction and dual diagnoses issues;

2.5 to disseminate various means of all information acquired by the Society;

2.6 to do all such other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the foregoing purposes.

It is noted within the US, 2023 Financial Statements (which are not provided to the VFC&YJC for confidentiality purposes) however which the Priorities Sub-committee did review. On page 6 number 1. Purpose of the organization states that: Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health is a not-for-profit organization that actively promotes understanding, acceptance and support for people affected by substance use and mental health issues through advocacy, education and other assistance. On page 8 under 5. Economic dependence, the Financial Statement states: The Society is economically dependent on revenues received from Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). The Society received 72% of its total operating revenues from VIHA (2023). With 2022 being revenues from VIHA at 65%. Page 3 under Revenues and Expenditures indicates for 2023- Excess in revenues over expenditures at \$269,954 which is an increase from 2022 figures.

Additional financial information can be seen on page 5 of US's grant application under Part D-Budget Details

US wishes to present to VFC&YJC in the future.

After reviewing all of the submitted documents and the Umbrella Society's grant application the Priorities Sub-committee recommends to the VFC&YJC that the Committee support the grant application in the requested amount of \$4,746.00.

Alternatively, the Committee may consider not supporting the Umbrella Society's grant request.

Or, the Committee may consider reducing the requested grant amount.

The sub-committee's rationale for support of the intent of the application: is it appears that their application is consistent with VFC&YJC objectives.

Based on the recommendation from the Sub-committee, I provide the following proposed motion for the Committee's consideration at their Sept. 26, 2024 meeting.

“That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee support the Umbrella Society's request of \$4,746.00 to be applied to their 2024 project titled: Umbrella 101-Navigating Substance Use and Mental Health for Students.”

Respectfully submitted by:

Marcie McLean

Project Number
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## 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 [VFCYJAdmin@crd.bc.ca](mailto:VFCYJAdmin@crd.bc.ca) for distribution.

PART A - CONTACT INFORMATION			
Date of Application: June 3, 2024		Legal Name of Applicant / Organization Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health	
Address 8-415 Dunedin Street, Victoria BC, V8T5G8		Telephone Number [REDACTED]	Website www.umbrellasociety.ca
Name of Contact Person Sharlene Law		Telephone Number of Contact Person [REDACTED]	
Email Address of Contact Person sharlene@umbrellasociety.ca			
Alternate Contact Person Kiran Bolaria		Telephone Number of Alternate Contact [REDACTED]	
Email Address of Alternate Contact Person kiran@umbrellasociety.ca			
PART B – ORGANIZATION DETAILS (If applicable)			
Is the Organization a Registered Society in BC? YES <input type="checkbox"/> X NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>		Registered Number under the BC Society Act 86186 7190 BC0001	
Is the Organization a Registered Charity? YES <input type="checkbox"/> x NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Is the Organization a Business? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	
Legal or Tradename of Organization or “NA” if individual Umbrella Society		Date the Organization was Created (yyyy/mm/dd) 2000-11/01	
Mandate and main activities of the organization or applicable history of related projects:  <b>Umbrella’s Mission:</b> Umbrella demonstrates excellence in the development and delivery of innovative and unique services to support individuals and their loved ones struggling with substance use issues. <b>Umbrella’s Vision:</b> Those affected by substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges have access to a broad range of appropriate and connected community supports. <b>Overview:</b>			



For over 20 years Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health has been supporting individuals and their loved ones struggling with mental health and substance use issues in Greater Victoria. Peer support and system navigation is at the heart of our work; we employ over 60 peer support workers who meet with clients in the community, in hospital, providing referrals to detox, addiction treatment, assistance with paperwork, whatever the need is we do our best to address it. Over the last 5 years we have expanded significantly, into housing, support groups, and partnerships throughout the community. We now operate three recovery houses, each with a different level of support and programming. Umbrella was awarded the Housing Provider of the Year award by the BC Non-Profit Housing Association in 2019. Umbrella provides counselling to family members and their loved ones, and we support practicum students completing their master’s degree in counselling. Umbrella also hosts several support groups for community members, including a Women’s Support Group. Connections (in partnership with Island Health) for those requiring immediate support, Hammer Time for construction workers, AIR (Anxiety in Recovery) for those experiencing anxiety and other mental health challenges, plus 4 other weekly groups. We have an Indigenous-led Indigenous Outreach Team. Our concurrent disorders team has a youth specific worker supporting clients that experience both mental health and substance use challenges. Umbrella peer services can be found at RJH and VGH hospitals, and we are proud to be a vital part of the system of care in Greater Victoria. We helped over 18000 individuals with our outreach program in 2023 alone. Umbrella is constantly evaluating need in the community, and we seek to continue to grow and innovate.

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

Our project, Umbrella 101, is administered by two Umbrella employees:

- 1) Umbrella’s Education manager, who has been with Umbrella for 10 years, first as an outreach worker, then in the Addiction Medicine Consult Service at Royal Jubilee Hospital, and now as the Manager of Education.
- 2) We have chosen an experienced and trained Peer Support worker, who has been with Umbrella for 2 years, to work on this project due to her skill in public speaking and rapport building with youth. Both have been cleared to work with vulnerable populations and have worked to develop the curriculum topics for this initiative. They have been very successful and well received by students and faculty with the roll out in the initial stages of Umbrella 101 at local schools, which began in early 2024.

**PART C - PROJECT DETAILS**

Project Name: Umbrella 101 – Navigating Substance Use and Mental Health for Students	Project Location: Various High and Middle Schools, Greater Victoria
Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2024/01/01	Completion Date (yyyy/mm/dd): 2024/12/31
Amount of Grant Requested: \$4746.00	Proposed Use of Grant Funds: Grant funds will contribute to Umbrella’s costs in administering approximately 40 presentations about mental health and substance use, to over 1000 students.





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

Each Umbrella 101 presentation is two hours in length, ideally taking in place in homerooms and not large assemblies, to keep the presentations more intimate in scale. Ahead of each 2-hour session, anonymous questions from students about mental health and substance use will be collected, to be answered during the presentation. During the session, our workers will tell their stories of recovery, and will tell students how to reach for help for themselves or a loved one. Plenty of opportunity for discussion will be allowed. All of this will take place in a safe and judgment-free environment, and for any youth interested, they may contact our team later for confidential conversations. Our experience has been that vulnerable young people will not speak up in the session, but will come to us later, confidentially, to ask for help for themselves. This is why this model is so successful – they trust our workers and feel safe enough to reach out. We can then offer them individual counselling, connect them with our support groups or outreach team, connect them with community health support, and even refer them to treatment centres. We will stay connected with any youth that requests our help, becoming a trusted ally and mentor.

Curriculum development is tailored to each school – for example, some schools choose to have a harm reduction component, while others prefer to emphasis recovery and education – based upon the predominant issues faced by each student body. This requires meetings with faculty ahead of time and maintaining open communication channels after the presentations. Built into our model is the ability to do multiple additional presentations, as needed or requested, to maximize the impact for students.

An important part of our curriculum is Naloxone training, which is part of a new BC Government initiative which mandates school education for all public high school students For Naloxone. Umbrella will provide kits and training to all classes and faculty who request it.

Our program has already rolled out to two local schools - We began our presentations with St. Michael's University School in early 2024, providing 8 sessions to youth homerooms in grades 9-12, which reached approximately 160 students. We have also completed 4 presentations to both students and faculty at Stelly's School. These were so successful that Umbrella has been asked to become part of the regular curriculum at both St. Michaels and Stelly's.

With funding we have secured from other sources, we have begun expanding this program to 5 other schools– specifically- Belmont Secondary School, Dunsmuir Middle School, Royal Bay Secondary School, Westshore Secondary School, Rock Heights Middle School - thereby increasing the reach to over 1000 students in 2024. The funding we have requested from VCYJ will further bolster the quality and reach of our program.

Timeline for project delivery (if applicable). Please list stages and anticipated outcomes.

Project Timeline:

- Project Kickoff: January 1, 2024
- Curriculum Development: January 1 - January 31, 2024 with ongoing refinements and specifications unique to each school.



- 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 VFC&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
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Revenues	Please see attached budget			
Expenses				
TOTAL				

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
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- 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](mailto:VFCYJCAAdmin@crd.bc.ca)

X  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) Sharlene Law	
Signature	
Position Title Executive Director	
Date (YYYY/MM/DD) 2024/05/24	

*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](mailto:kkim@crd.bc.ca) or (250) 360-5673).*

<b>UMBRELLA 101 – Mental Health and Addictions School Presentations Costs - 2024</b>				
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>School Presentations</b>	40 presentations 2 hours each	Staff costs: Education Manager - \$40/hr; Youth peer outreach worker - \$28/hr	Education Manager = \$3200 Peer = \$2240	\$5440.00
	Extra support for students after presentations 80 hours	Staff Costs: Youth peer outreach worker - \$28/hr	Peer: \$2240	\$2240.00
	Travel Costs: 40 hours	Staff costs: Education Manager - \$40/hr; Youth peer outreach worker - \$28/hr	Education Manager = \$1600 Peer = \$1120 Estimated Shared Mileage costs 15 km at .68 per km	\$2720.00 \$306.00
	Preparation - curriculum development and refinement: 80 hours	Staff costs: Education Manager - \$40/hr	Education Manager = \$3200	\$3200.00
<b>Community Outreach with schools</b>	Develop relationship/ establish presentation times: 160 hours	Staff costs: Education Manager - \$40/hr	Education Manager = \$6400	\$6400.00
<b>Promotion</b>	Publicize through social media, flyers	Approximate cost per year		\$1500.00
<b>Data Collection and recording</b>	Attendance, response, feedback: 40 hours	Staff costs: Education Manager - \$40/hr	Education Manager = \$1600	\$1600.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				\$23406.00
<b>Administration</b>	Payroll, accounting, team lead support, timekeeping	10%		\$2340.00
<b>Total</b>				\$25746.00
<b>Secured funding (Telus)</b>				-\$14000.00
<b>Pending funding</b>				(\$7000.00)
<b>Total Requested</b>				\$4746.00



**1.126 Vic Family Court & Youth Justice Committee**  
Fiscal period January-August 2024

	<b>2024 BOARD BUDGET</b>	<b>2024 JAN-AUG ACTUAL</b>
<b><u>OPERATING COSTS:</u></b>		
Internal Allocation	316.00	210.64
Honoraria		300.00
Meeting Costs	8,000.00	3,374.93
Operating - Other Costs	-	-
Grants in aid - unspecified	48,781.00	
Third Party Payments	1,500.00	10,500.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>58,597.00</b>	<b>14,385.57</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>58,597.00</b>	<b>14,385.57</b>
Internal Recoveries	-	-
Recoveries - Other	-	-
<b>OPERATING COSTS LESS INTERNAL RECOVERIES</b>	<b>58,597.00</b>	<b>14,385.57</b>
<b><u>FUNDING SOURCES (REVENUE)</u></b>		
Balance C/F from Prior to Current year	(42,773.00)	(42,773.54)
Interest Income	-	(838.54)
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	(824.00)	(824.12)
Requisition	(15,000.00)	(15,000.01)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(58,597.00)</b>	<b>(59,436.21)</b>
<b>(Surplus)Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45,050.64)</b>

- Format subject to change.

- Fiscal year is January to December in alignment with all CRD services.

**1.126 Vic Family Court & Youth Justice Committee**

Fiscal period January-August 2024

## Detail

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**Meeting Costs**

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Ali Baba Pizza	141.60
Zoom Reimbursement	229.94
January 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64
February 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64
March 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64
April 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64
Thrifty Foods Refreshments	322.92
Dollarama Supplies	12.04
Save On Foods Refreshments	44.13
Red Barn Market Refreshments	99.99
June 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64
Subway	66.47
July 2024 Secretarial (Including WCB)	409.64

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**3,374.93**

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**Third Party Payments / Honoraria**

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Pacific Centre Family Services	5,000.00
Moose Hide Campaign Development Society	300.00
Victoria Youth Empowerment	5,500.00

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**10,800.00**

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# PROPOSAL TO INCREASE STRATEGIC SUPPORT & BUDGET FOR THE MOBILE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM (MYST)

**Submitted to:**

Greater Victoria Area Police Chiefs

**Date:**

June 28, 2024

**Subject:** Three-part\* proposal:

- (1) To increase the annual budget allocation for the next five years (2024-2029) to secure long-term funding for two full-time MYST police officers – *financial impact detailed below*;
- (2) To participate with PCFSA, AU and other local and provincial agencies in several inter-institutional planning meetings (in 2024) to offer strategic leadership and collective support to secure long-term funding for 2 MYST counselor positions – *minimal financial impact (detailed below)*; and
- (3) To formally partner in the preparation of a 7-year inter-institutional partnership funding proposal to the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) with PCFSA and Athabasca University (AU) (among other institutional partners TBC) to seek long-term core federal government research funding that will support the collection of baseline data, ongoing monitoring, and the development of a comprehensive knowledge management system – *minimal financial impact (detailed below)*.

*\* Please note the proposal components have been separated to facilitate consideration of each element independent of one another.*

**Prepared by:**

This proposal<sup>1</sup> was prepared by Dr. Rebecca Nelems (PhD), Assistant Professor at Athabasca University (AU) & Associate Faculty in Leadership Studies at Royal Roads University (RRU). An Associate with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD), Dr. Nelems has extensive experience in research, monitoring and evaluation with a focus on child and youth well being. This report is based on a data and document review, as well as Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted with MYST team members Cst. Gord Magee (Victoria Police), Mia Golden (BA, Justice Studies) as well as a range of individuals representing

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<sup>1</sup> I would like to acknowledge the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC), Capital Regional District (CRD), whose pledge of Capacity Funding for Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Advocacy made the preparation of this proposal possible.

education, government, legal, health, police and child welfare agencies – all of whom work directly with MYST.

### **Summary of Request:**

Leaders interviewed from across sectors – municipal and provincial government, police, schools, healthcare, youth welfare, and the legal system – are in clear agreement: ***MYST offers urgent, unique and critical support to youth in crisis that directly increases child, family and community well being and safety across the Greater Victoria Region.*** The need for MYST’s unique and effective services has dramatically increased in the past 5-10 years. Like many other cities, Greater Victoria has witnessed a spike in youth exploitation due to increased gang activity, online exploitation, sexual exploitation and violence, drug use, the opioid crisis, poverty and homelessness – all amidst ongoing population growth. Despite the growing needs, the funding for MYST – and the size of the MYST team – has remained the same.

This proposal is a ***three-part request*** for the Greater Victoria Area Police Chiefs to support to MYST. It has been separated into three separate components to facilitate discussion and decision-making of each item, independently of one another. The components are proposals:

- (1) To increase the annual budget allocation for the next five years (2024-2029) to secure long-term funding for two full-time MYST police officers – *financial impact detailed below*;
- (2) To participate with PCFSA, AU and other local and provincial agencies in several inter-institutional planning meetings (in 2024) to offer strategic leadership and collective support to secure long-term funding for 2 MYST counselor positions – *minimal financial impact (detailed below)*; and
- (3) To formally partner in the preparation of a 7-year inter-institutional partnership funding proposal to the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) with PCFSA and Athabasca University (AU) (among other institutional partners TBC) to seek long-term core federal government research funding that will support the collection of baseline data, ongoing monitoring, and the development of a comprehensive knowledge management system – *minimal financial impact (detailed below)*.

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# 1. MYST PROGRAM: OVERVIEW, CONTEXT AND IMPACT

## 1.1 Overview

The Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) is a critical, multi-disciplinary, integrated unit that has served the CRD and youth at risk for ten years in its current form. The team is made up of one police officer, Const. Gord Magee, and one child, youth and family counselor, Mia Golden. While police agencies have had a MYST program since 2004, the unique collaboration between a police officer and community counselor was initiated by the police agencies and the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) in 2014 when following a community inter-agency meeting, they decided to pool resources and join forces in their shared goal of preventing youth exploitation, including from gangs. The police position is currently funded by the Greater Victoria Police Integrated Units, and the counsellor position has been funded by various funding sources secured by PCFSA.

Today, the two-person team carries a large case load, currently handling 250+ active case files involving Greater Victoria children and teenagers who are experiencing – or at severe risk of – exploitation (online and in-person), drug addiction, homelessness, mental health issues, sexual exploitation, violence, gang recruitment and entanglement. The team also maintains relationships and contact with 23 youth who have ‘aged out’.

The MYST approach is unique in the region, with a police officer and community counsellor working together to take a hands-on, strength-based approach to building relationships and trust with young people. Their multi-jurisdictional coverage follows youth across geographies and systems in ways that helps break down silos of information that often exists between institutions and sectors. They are often the first – *if not the only* – point of contact for *hundreds of young people in crisis, and their families*. The MYST approach supports both intervention and prevention, enabling the team to have their finger on the pulse of who is at risk, but may not yet have reached crisis or interacted with the criminal justice system. However, the team is often the liaison for both young people once they do enter crisis, whether their contact occurs with the education, health or criminal justice system, and professionals working within these systems.

The work of MYST is “24/7”. Documents, reports and interviewees testified to the fact that this team frequently works around the clock – for example, in schools in the mornings, on the streets in the afternoon, attending committee meetings in evenings, etc. – all whilst responding to calls and emerging crises on the street.

In addition to a sizeable case load and expansive geographical coverage, the scope of MYST’s work is considerable. It entails providing:

- responsive, ongoing counselling support and education to young people who are in crisis or at severe risk;
- support and education to parents and families of young people in crisis or at risk;

- strength-based support and opportunities to direct youth towards positive life alternatives (e.g. School of Rock);
- presentations, education and training in schools (children, teachers and administration);
- ongoing support to youth and families as they navigate health, education, housing, community services, and criminal justice systems;
- providing updates and presentations to the VFCYJC, municipal councillors, hospitals, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Child and Youth Mental Health centres, and Capital Regional District appointees about the mounting crisis experienced by vulnerable youth in the region;
- maintaining vital ongoing partnerships with provincial ministries and government agencies, Victoria and regional police departments, CRD municipalities, school districts, hospital and frontline health workers, including mental health workers, and the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT/SEY), which is affiliated with VFCYJC; and
- liaison, data-sharing and advocacy with wide range of actors, including municipal and provincial government workers, police, child welfare, youth justice advocates, educators and health workers.

## 1.2 Context

The population of greater Victoria has increased rapidly, reaching 470,921 in 2024. This represents a 2.9% population increase in the last year, an increase of roughly 85,000 people over a ten-year period (386,770 in 2014) and 124,000 over the past twenty years (347,239 in 2004). Langford currently has the fastest growing population, seeing a 31.8% population increase in just a five-year period – a statistic that directly impacts the entire Greater Victoria region. While it is expected that youth exploitation would rise in proportion to the population, Greater Victoria is seeing *an exponential increase in exploitation due to the intersecting crises that are affecting youth and families in the region*. These crises include increased: gang presence and activity; online exploitation; drug and opiate use; sexual exploitation and trafficking; peer-to-peer exploitation; targeting of younger children; weapon possession and use; homelessness; and mental health issues, including suicide.

While gang violence and youth exploitation are not new in the Greater Victoria area, lower mainland gangs have increasingly entrenched themselves in the region in the last five-seven years, including the Glory Boys, Brothers’ Keepers and Red Scorpion. Gang-affiliated local youth are increasingly being used to run “drug lines” whereby they are expected to create customer bases using online platforms and social media (e.g. Snapchat) to advertise and maintain this base.

The rise in unhoused youth and families has also increased youth vulnerability as unhoused youth are often exploited, trafficked, or used to deal drugs. MYST has documented youth being trafficked to the mainland, other parts of Vancouver Island, and in downtown Victoria. Skyrocketing cases

of mental health issues, drug use and addictions in the region – particularly in the past five years – are exacerbating these vulnerabilities significantly. With the normalization of opiates and other “party drugs”, youth between the ages of 11-18 are increasingly using. Predators will often use drugs as a tool to continually exploit the youth once they become addicted. Cases of fentanyl use amongst at-risk youth have resulted in some of the overdose deaths we have seen in the region, including one case of a twelve-year-old.

Online exploitation has also dramatically increased in the past five years, with significant mental health effects. It is noted that exploitation started via online grooming has a greater tendency to escalate into high-risk violence when this shifts to face-to-face. The dissolution of healthy families and extended family units – due to increased poverty – is one cause several interviewees cited as the reasons for young people’s susceptibility to online exploitation. Online and face-to-face sexual exploitation of both girls and boys has also been on the rise, also often preying on young people’s drug addictions or debts.

Overall, MYST has observed an increase in the number of youth being exploited, and a growing number of younger children are being targeted, exposed and exploited. MYST is increasingly being contacted by elementary schools and parents who are concerned about their kids who are under age 12. Cases in which youth are themselves the predators exploiting their peers are also on the rise. According to MYST: “the tide of violence on our streets is rising and online exploitation is increasingly normalized...Young victims are experiencing trauma, including suicidal ideation.” Significant trauma impact has been observed in youth who witness and/or participate in violent acts associated with gangs.

### **1.3 Impact of MYST**

MYST is a unique, multi-disciplinary, inter-institutional partnership and the team has built significant relationships of trust and support with young people from across the Greater Victoria Area. Youth have been highly responsive to engaging with the unique team of a police officer and youth counselor work together, and MYST has built significant trust and relationships, including maintaining relationships even after youth pass the age of 18. Interviewees commented that this is one of the most unique elements of MYST as most other actors within the various systems (health, education, justice, police, social services, etc.) simply are not able to invest the kind of time into relationship-building and meeting young people “where they are, and where they are at” that this team has. This gives them unique access to the latest information ‘on the street’, which has proved critical for a wide range of service providers and the police.

The result is that MYST is often the first – *if not the most critical* – point of contact for *hundreds of young people in crisis, and their families*:

- As of January 2024, MYST has 254 youth (active cases) to whom they are offering direct support, offering consultations to a wide range of agencies, monitoring for risk and/or



providing support to parents and caregivers. All of these youth are at severe risk of, or experiencing exploitation, related to drug addiction, homelessness, mental health issues, sexual exploitation, trafficking, violence, gang recruitment and entanglement

- MYST continues to support 23 youth who have “aged out” (over age 18), recognizing that this critical support has important downstream effects for both these individuals and the wider community
- MYST’s advancement of protection and/or intervention orders has resulted in the prevention of potentially numerous criminal offences by 100+ youth
- MYST has conducted presentations on healthy relationships, exploitation and gangs to 23 schools representing 2,530 students in 11 schools across the CRD
- MYST has made presentations to the following agencies: Crown, MCFD, Surrounded by Cedar, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Victoria Native Friendship Center, Child and Youth Mental Health, Detox
- Positive outcomes of MYST’s work for youth can be measured on a continuum of indicators, ranging from: reduced police contact; locating missing persons; exiting from gangs and exploitative relationships and situations; transitioning to long term counselling programs; reunification with families; strengthening foster parent relationships; engagement with services; increased mental and/or physical health; increased positive engagement in (and/or or a return to) school; and accessing employment programs and other pro-social activities. ***Progress along this spectrum has been documented for the significant majority (+/- 88%) of youth that MYST has supported to date.*** Positive outcomes for numerous families have also been tracked.

Insofar as they have been able to successfully support and direct young people away from exploitation, harm and risk, ***MYST is making an important contribution to the prevention and reduction of crime, exploitation and violence in the Greater Victoria Area.*** They are directly contributing to increased community safety on the streets, at schools and in the home. MYST is thus indirectly reducing the burden on numerous systems and actors in the region, at a time when these systems are facing unprecedented pressures from intersecting social, economic and health crises in the region.

However, beyond reducing the burden on other agencies and services, MYST was found to be directly contributing to the work of police, child welfare, youth justice advocates, health care workers, educators, school administrators, and government actors, due to the unique information and data to which they have access through their connections and relationships with young people.

Interviewees unanimously agreed that MYST offers unique value to the community in the following ways:

- **Providing multi-jurisdictional coverage:** MYST is not restricted to working in one sector or geography, instead following youth across geographies and systems. This offers

more effective wraparound support to youth that better meets their needs and the needs of their parents and families.

- **Partnering with all sectors and agencies:** Interviewees noted the way in which MYST was constantly partnering and liaising with different sectors, agencies and systems (education, health, legal, child welfare, etc.). MYST maintains vital ongoing partnerships with provincial ministries, local government and non-governmental agencies, Victoria and regional police departments, CRD municipalities, school districts, the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT/SEY), which is affiliated directly with VFCYJC, hospital staff, mental health workers and the Vancouver Island Health Authority. However, they also actively partner through events, training, and putting positive supports in place for young people.
- **Acting as advocates and “quarterbacks” for youth:** The team is cited as operating as “quarterbacks” for youth as they move through the legal system via Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (e.g. Westshore, Victoria), and plays important roles such as introducing youth to specialized investigator teams (where more involved investigations are needed) in ways that support these actors to more readily establish trust, safety and comfort with youth.
- **Breaking down information silos and connecting actors and information:** By moving across geographies and systems, MYST helps to break down silos of information and understanding that often exists within and between institutions and sectors. Interviewees reported receiving highly valuable information from MYST about youth that directly advanced their own ability to support them.
- **Relationship-orientation and long-term engagement with youth:** Relationship-building takes time and is particularly important when working with youth who are experiencing – or at risk of – exploitation. MYST was identified as being exceptionally skilled at building these relationships and maintaining long-term engagement with youth in the region. Having someone with a youth-centred counseling approach was also seen as critical to building trust, understanding and a sense of mutual respect. Having consistency of MYST personnel is crucial to the ability of this team to offer support, prevent exploitation and share information with different actors in the region, including the police.
- **Unique combination of a police officer and a youth counselor:** This was seen as a factor that has built curiosity and willingness amongst youth to build trust and relationships with the team. Interviewees noted that many young people would not necessarily ‘hang out’ with a police officer, but that the presence of a counselor has

enabled this trust-building to take place. Some noted that the particular information that the police officer could offer – about aspects of the criminal justice system – was incredibly valued and useful to the youth they too had interacted with.

- **Strength-based approach of the team:** Interviewees consistently noted that the style of the MYST personnel was non-hierarchical and empowering, working with them in respectful ways to identify other positive life pathways, such as through programs like the Rock School program.
- **Visibility in community:** Having a mobile team who ‘walks the street’ was seen as offering a critical service, making it known amongst youth that there was a resource available to them, and removing barriers many youth would experience in accessing support.
- **Having their ‘finger on the pulse’ of trends occurring with youth:** From being the first to identify online exploitation happening decades ago, MYST team members hear the ‘word on the street’ directly from young people who confide in them and share critical information. This information proves critical to advising many local agencies with respect to current trends, etc. Interviewees noted that many youth actively recommend to other youth that they trust and engage with MYST, again underlining the importance of staffing continuity within these roles.
- **Particular skills and expertise of current team members:** It would be remiss to leave out that all interviewees spoke of the particular skills, experience, qualities and capacities of the current MYST team members. Genuine concern and care, sensitive, innovative, youth-centred engagement and approaches, and highly knowledgeable about the systems they are navigating - are some of the qualities interviewees identified. *Whilst the below proposal focuses on the recommended expansion of the budget and strategic support for MYST, it is particularly noted that the long-term retention of the current MYST personnel is viewed as a critical element to ensuring that MYST’s current impact is maintained, and the strategic growth of MYST’s operations is optimized.*

## 2 RATIONALE FOR MYST TEAM EXPANSION & LONG-TERM PLANNING

*“The system, while stretched well beyond capacity, is positioned for improved outcomes through early intervention strategies that include education, collaboration, communication, parenting support and other resources. These strategies are becoming more sophisticated through engagement by parents, schools, police, probation officers and others community resources.”*

MYST has a proven track record with respect to its work in the areas of intervention and prevention into youth exploitation cases. This proposal is rooted in the following key rationales:

### **A. Current and anticipated future workload is untenable and unsustainable for existing MYST team**

- Current team cannot keep up with growing number of youth in need, as risks increase
- Gang presence is on the rise in the region
- Complexity of youth exploitation is dramatically increasing (e.g. predators grooming of youth now includes conditioning into child pornography, etc.)
- Increased demand on MYST for educational support and training of young people, educators, parents, community agencies and members
- MYST support and services are needed around the clock, which a single team cannot physically provide

### **B. HR plan is insufficient for the mandate and scope of MYST work**

- Need to ensure continuity of MYST personnel to secure current impact and to support the strategic growth of the program and its impact
- Need for transition, succession planning, mentorship, training and capacity building plans for additional and future team members
- Deployment model has not changed since inception, nor changed to match growth
- Current HR is completely reliant on only two individuals, and no HR plan is in place for when these team members are on holiday, sick or go on leave
- Currently the wide range of duties and roles involved in this work happens to be covered by particular skill set of individuals in the position, however it is unreasonable for the same individuals and team members to perform this range of duties
- Lack of adequate data tracking and monitoring system means institutional knowledge is not being passed on should team members change

### **C. Current funding structure and budget allocations are inadequate**

- MYST’s mandate affects the public safety and well being of families, young people and communities across the Capital Regional District

- Long-term commitment of funding for a minimum of two police positions is needed from police agencies
- Secure, long-term funding for a minimum of two counselor positions needs to be committed to and shared by multiple parties, including from municipal and provincial government agencies
- Inconsistent, precarious funding of MYST threatens staff retention and ongoing consistency of program staff and their relationships with youth, that are so critical to the program's effectiveness

**D. Need to invest in prevention**

- System and region are well poised for critical preventative intervention and support
- Trends towards increased gang presence and increasing exploitation needs to be acted upon now, to prevent compounding exploitations that are resulting (e.g. predators grooming of youth now includes conditioning these youth into child pornography and pedophilia).

**E. A comprehensive system and plan to gather MYST data, analyze statistics and support ongoing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is needed**

- This role is beyond capacity, scope and roles of current MYST team
- Current statistics tracking and data reporting needs strengthening to support institutional knowledge, gather baseline and ongoing monitoring data of youth exploitation
- Need for evidence-based and systematic approach that builds on lessons from other municipalities facing youth gang violence and involvement
- Inter-institutional research partnerships could leverage substantial federal government funds to support these components, through developing research funding proposals with the Social Sciences and Humanities and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and/or the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). Project funds such as these can draw up to an additional \$2.5 million for up to seven years in contexts where there are matching funds from other agencies, such as those currently being provided to MYST by police agencies and PFSA funders.

### 3 PROPOSAL DETAILS & FINANCIAL IMPACT

The following is a two-part proposal for increased police agency support to MYST from 2024-2029.

#### 3.1 Part 1: Requested increase in the annual budget allocation for the next five years (2024-2029) to fund two MYST police officers

Proposal: *to approve one-time annual increase of \$222,925 for a total budget of \$412,000 for 2025, and to approve in principle to fund two MYST police officers (approximately \$382,000 per annum) for the subsequent four years (2026-2029).*

A total budget of **\$412,000 budget for 2024-2025** (includes pay for two MYST police officer positions, and has incorporated overtime, training and the cost of purchasing a new vehicle for the second team) and *represents a one-time annual increase of \$222,925* compared to the 2024 budget of \$190,051 (includes salary, benefit, overtime, clothing allowance, vehicle allowance, cell phone, travel costs, vehicle insurance and miscellaneous). To clarify, this one-time 2025 budget is approximately double the 2024 budget, with an additional \$30,000 (approx.) for a one-time vehicle expense.

The total budget requested going forward per annum from **2026-2029** is to fund two MYST police officers, estimated to be approximately **\$382,000 per annum** (taking inflation, standard raises and benefits compensation into account). This proposal seeks police agency commitment, *in principle*, to doubling police resources allocated to MYST beyond 2025, creating the stable five-year (2024-2029) funding trajectory for MYST this program so urgently requires.

It should be noted that the particular skillset of current police personnel in MYST, Cst Gord Magee, and the relationships he has (together with MYST colleague Mia Golden) built was youth, was recognized as a critical success factor in the impact of MYST. Thus, as the police chiefs consider the above proposal, ***it is recommended that they also seek to retain current police personnel Cst Gord Magee as part of their long-term commitment to this funding.*** This would not only secure the ongoing impact of the team, and contribute to long-term planning of mentoring new personnel, but also support the needed longer-term strategic planning process for MYST.

### 3.2 Part 2: To participate with PCFSA and other local and provincial agencies in several inter-agency, multi-institutional planning meetings in 2024

Proposal: *to secure police agencies' strategic leadership in participating in inter-agency, multi-institutional planning meetings in 2024 to collectively explore and commit to the long-term strategic development of MYST, including securing long-term funding for two MYST counselor positions (2024-2029).*

*Please note: It is expected that the financial impact of this role would be minimal to police agencies, requiring that some leadership roles have time and responsibility assigned to advance this commitment.*

The primary goals for the multi-sector, inter-institutional meetings would be to: (i) establish clear, long-term (2024-2029) budget-sharing agreements across agencies and levels of government (municipal and provincial) to ensure the long-term funding for two counselor positions in MYST; and (ii) generate long-term planning with respect to MYST human resources, financial and monitoring and evaluation strategies.

Support and leadership are urgently needed to support PCFSA's fundraising efforts for the counselor position. ***If government and local agencies cannot raise the long-term secure funds to resource the counselor position of MYST – let alone the second position sought by the team – the community pays in the negative downstream effect this will have on youth and their families in Victoria.*** The counselor position within MYST – and the unique partnering of a police officer with a child, youth and family counselor – was noted by all interviewees as being critical to the success of the MYST team. As Insp. Brown of the VicPD states: *“The CRED Program has become the linchpin in the police-social work collaboration to combat the exploitation of youth in Victoria's Capital Regional District.”*

Police agencies have regularly written letters of support for applications to external agencies to fund this position. However, despite the proven need and impact of this role within MYST's work, jurisdictional issues and a challenging funding environment have made obtaining consistent, ongoing funding for this role uneven and challenging. Each year, it is uncertain whether PCFSA will be able to acquire funding for this position, a context that makes ongoing retention of trained and effective personnel untenable long-term. PCFSA – and MYST – has been fortunate that Mia Golden has retained this role due to personal commitment, however, such commitment can not be taken for granted long-term.

The financial impact of the counselor's position is approximately \$150,000 per annum, as funded through the PCFSA. The impact of two counselor roles as detailed above is approximately \$280,000 per annum. The position has been funded by different agencies over the years, drawing from different pockets of funding – including often only one-time funding, such as that received last year (2023) from the BC Government's Policing and Security

Branch Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General. Funding also often only focuses on a single issue, such as exclusively on sexual exploitation, which does not reflect the complex programming and support required to support exploited youth such as is provided by MYST. However, ongoing jurisdictional issues about which level of government should pay for such programs, and stretched budgets across agencies, have meant this funding has been precarious.

It is critical to note that a review of the data shows that PCFSA's fundraising challenges are not a shortcoming of this organization, nor a reflection of the value different actors place on the work of MYST. As the needs of our community grows, so too have the fundraising challenges for community agencies. ***Such challenges are an ongoing symptom of a sector that is also in crisis, in which agencies are struggling to fund some of the programs most needed and valued by our local communities.*** A review of documents shows that PCFSA's fundraising efforts have been valiant, ongoing and consistently of high quality. Silo-ed processes of fundraising and jurisdictional budgeting across agencies and funders place unreasonable burden on community agencies such as PCFSA who already have stretched resources.

In 2013, the Victoria police agencies held an inter-agency, multi-sectoral community meeting to problem-solve about how to best support the then one-person MYST team to be effective in their role – given the overwhelming case load. The discussions resulted in the partnership with PCFSA, which made MYST what it is today. It is the researcher's recommendation that police agencies offer targeted leadership and support to convene multi-sectoral inter-institutional meetings to strategize about long-term, sustainable funding plans for the counselor position within MYST. Additionally, beyond the counselor role, MYST needs support from the wider community to ensure that data and statistics are being collected and monitored moving forward, so as to better meet the information needs of all actors and track the well being of youth, families and the community.

### **3.3 Part 3: To formally partner in the preparation of a 7-year inter-institutional partnership funding proposal to Canadian federal research agencies with PCFSA and AU**

Proposal: *to approve police agency partnership in the preparation of an inter-institutional funding proposal to SSHRC (and/or CIHR) for 7-year program funding that would support the collection of baseline data, ongoing statistics collection and monitoring, and the development of a comprehensive information management system*

*Please note: It is expected that the financial impact of this role would be minimal to police agencies, requiring that some leadership roles have time and responsibility assigned to advance this commitment.*



The Social Sciences and Humanities and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has research funding of up to \$2.5 million for researchers and universities who are partnering with a range of institutions on research projects that address some of Canada's most urgent challenges. Project funds such as these can draw up to \$2.5 million for up to seven years in contexts where there are matching funds from other agencies. Current and future funding allocated to MYST by police agencies and PCFSA funders would qualify as such matching funds and could support the leveraging of these funds. It is believed that such funding could optimally support the strategic development of MYST, particularly with respect to the collection of critical baseline data, ongoing statistics collection and monitoring, and the development of a comprehensive information management system, whilst also directing some funding to each partnering institution. The details of the action research focus would be co-elaborated amongst partnering agencies based on the needs identified but could focus on how inter-institutional partnerships might optimally support the enhanced wraparound support of youth and their families, who are facing increased levels of exploitation, gang entrenchment and related risks in the greater Victoria area.

As faculty with Athabasca University, the author of this report has entered discussions with PCFSA about the possibility of putting forward such a funding proposal but would like to engage the police chiefs' support in also formally partnering in the preparation of this funding proposal, recognizing that MYST is an inter-institutional partnership, and that this is critical to its effectiveness and success to date. Additional agencies and institutions (including Royal Roads University, where this author is also Associate Faculty) could be included as potential partners in the funding proposal and project, however, it is important to first secure agreement of the core applicants, which would critically include local police agencies. Other research funding sources that could also be explored including partnership grants available through the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR).

#### **4 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Immediate expansion of the MYST team through doubling the number of police officers assigned to MYST will offer immediate relief and critical support to address the growing needs of young people most in need in the greater Victoria area, and their families. However, it is only one piece of a larger puzzle for how to maximize the effectiveness of MYST's work. Targeted and strategic leadership is needed now from police agencies to partake in multi-sectoral and inter-institutional meetings that will secure and establish long-term funding for two counselor positions within MYST, with a view to long-term research collaborations that can draw funding from federal agencies.

In addition to expected ongoing population growth in the Capital Regional District, increasing gang activity amidst compounding risk factors for youth related to poverty, homelessness, drug use, mental health issues, online and sexual exploitation, are placing our whole community at

risk. Youth are the most vulnerable members of our community and are the gateway through which gangs are getting a foothold in our region.

MYST is a critical upstream intervention that is proven, effective, and offers unique value to youth, parents and their families, the wider community, and multiple agencies working to make our community safe and healthy. Many interviewees advised that the MYST team should be “more than doubled”. With this in mind, this proposal aims to alleviate immediate team and community needs by immediately expanding the MYST team, whilst securing leadership and partnership moving forward, so we have a shared solution for achieving the thriving, healthy and safe community we all hope to have in the future.

For comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Rebecca Nelems @ [RNelems@athabascau.ca](mailto:RNelems@athabascau.ca).

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Nelems". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rebecca Nelems, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Sciences, Athabasca University (AU)  
Associate Faculty, School of Leadership Studies, Royal Roads University (RRU)  
Associate, International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)

## **5 APPENDICES**

5.1 MYST Team Testimonies

5.2 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

5.3 List of Documents Reviewed

5.4 Letters of Support for MYST Proposal

## 5.1 MYST Team Testimonies

### Testimony – Mia Golden, MYST Counselor

I have been working as the counsellor half of the MYST team since January 2014. The MYST mandate focuses on the prevention of youth exploitation which includes online exploitation, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and gang recruitment. It is busy. Never have I worked in a program that was so busy. The work is intense, challenging, emotional at times, enriching, and you never know what the day will bring. The only constant is every morning you hope there isn't a message or a voicemail alerting you of a youth passing. It's a strange way to start the day, but it's now second nature.

This is not a job for one person. It's not even a job for two. Yes, we have been doing it, but it isn't sustainable. The level of risks to youth has increased since I first began. When I first began, we still had SLOs in the schools. They too were building relationships with students and were often the first point of contact when a youth disclosed an exploitive experience. Now we are that point of contact. School staff understand the distress involved in a disclosure and reach out to our team knowing the response will be developmentally appropriate and trauma informed. Not everyone has that training, so they want to ensure the child is met with the best potential response possible. So, they call us.

The skillset involved for the team is unique given the complexities of the cases we are met with each day. The counsellor best suited for this position has significant experience working with youth, marginalized individuals, systems, and a strong parent education background. The police officer half needs to be cloned from my current partner, Cst. Gord Magee. His ability to see all the moving parts within a file is extraordinary. Despite MYST not taking on the investigative side of any files, Gord consistently knows the trajectory of a file and what needs to be done and as a result so many files that are forwarded to their designated investigator have significant background work done to support the continued work on it. And then there is his temperament. Members of this team require specific empathy and understanding of all the behaviors of those we work with. Whether it's the families or the youth. This job is riddled with frustrating scenarios. Having the capacity to see through it and debrief with your partner is what makes the people on this team able to continue on. Currently, with just the two of us, we only have each other to debrief and strategize with. We happen to do extremely well together, and I believe that is why we have been able to sustain the quality of work and attentiveness to those who reach out for services. But when one of us takes a few days off, the load is not manageable. Well, it is currently not manageable, but when having to go solo it is overwhelming.

There is nothing like this work. But it is heavy. A new trend we are seeing are youth are not only being groomed online for images and videos, but pedophiles are now also grooming children and youth to watch child pornography and abuse images within their sexual talks with the pedophiles. That a "MAP" is just another part of the LGBTQ continuum. What is a MAP? It's a Minor Attracted Person. Children and youth are being targeted for indoctrination into the world of pedophilia as well as the BDSM community.

We have gang members from the mainland recruiting middle and high school students, and we recently met with some elementary school students who were vaping.

The number of youth who are becoming addicted to substances and being sex trafficked and exploited is staggering.

Most days we get a call from a parent or school with at least one new referral. We cannot keep up. We are also relied on to provide school presentations on gangs, exploitation, consent, and the impact of pornography on the brain. We are also regularly asked to come in and give talks to school and community resources' staff.

I could go on about this work because there is so much involved, I could go on about how working with my partner has made all the difference in this work, I could go on about the intensity and often extremely dark side of this work and how critical self-care is to avoid or manage vicarious trauma. But I will also say there is nothing like this work. It is important, I would say it's critical. Not only for our youth and their families, but for our communities and society as a whole. We need the future to be healthy, and prevention and immediate interventions are what is needed. Two people doing this work (while collaborating with other valuable services and organizations) is a start, but it is not going to give us the outcomes we need. We need a bigger team.

Thank you,

Mia Golden

June 15, 2024

### **Testimony – Cst Gord Magee, MYST Police Officer**

I have been a police officer for 27 years in 2 countries. I have held various roles over the years. Since being the successful applicant for the police officer half of MYST in 2020, I have had the honour of working with Mia Golden as my partner. I remember her saying at the beginning of our partnership, “Hold on!” The nature of the calls we get from parents, community partners and youth themselves is nothing short of horrific. From drug addiction, mental health and exploitation to gang involvement and sex trafficking, the work takes an even greater personal toll because it involves kids. The complexity of these issues and the fact that meaningful, immediate intervention must be voluntary, certainly makes an already difficult job, much more so. One youth will have multiple contacts from MYST, forming strong, positive relationships. There will also be numerous meetings and consultations with parents, guardians and community partners in relation to this youth. Multiply this by approximately 160 youth and rising, and the sheer volume makes it quite clear that this is unsustainable for 2 people for the entire CRD. The number of contacts from schools has increased since School Liaison Officers have been removed. Issues that arise in the school community that would normally be addressed by SLO’s are now being handled by patrol and MYST, which is already overtasked. We also provide presentations in schools and community centres in the CRD on healthy relationships, consent and gangs which is part of the proactive role of MYST.

On a personal note, my daily routine starts with apprehension in checking my work phone in the morning to see if a youth has died. That’s before I leave my house. This is also not sustainable. As partners, Mia and I rely heavily on each other for our mental health. I have started seeing the department psychologist due to the pressure and gravity of this role. This is part of the proactive approach that enables me to manage all that this role entails.

The current model of MYST and the burden the workload places on Mia and myself is not sustainable. There needs to be more teams to effectively continue to support youth and their families. I want to make it clear that this particular role is the most important one I have undertaken in my 27 years as a police officer and one that I am honoured to hold. I would like to remain in this role for as long as I can. We have formed great working relationships with our community partners and have an excellent reputation in the community. We will be able to accomplish so much more with more staff.

Thank you,

Cst Gord Magee

June 11, 2024

## 5.2 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

In preparing this report, 8 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted, representing a range of education, government, legal, health and child welfare agencies who work directly with the MYST team.

KIIs were held with representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- Youth Services, BC Government
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Pediatrics, Victoria General Hospital
- Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (members include municipal councillors, school district trustees and Capital Regional District appointees)
- Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre
- Safer Schools Together
- School District 61
- School District 62

### 5.3 List of Documents Reviewed

- PCFSA, 2022-2023 Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) – Quarterly Progress Report – Quarter 1
- PCFSA, 2022-2023 Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) – Quarterly Progress Report – Quarter 2
- PCFSA, 2022-2023 Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) – Quarterly Progress Report – Quarter 3
- PCFSA, 2022-2023 Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) – Quarterly Progress Report – Quarter 4
- PCFSA, 2021 Year End Report, Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF)
- PCFSA, 2019 Year End Report, Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund (GGVAF)
- PCFSA Annual Report, CRED, 2016-2017
- PCFSA Annual Report, CRED, 2017-2018
- PCFSA Annual Report, CRED, 2018-2019
- PCFSA, External evaluation report, Youth Gang Intervention and Mentorship Initiative (YGIMI), April 2013
- MYST REPORT 2023 for VFCYJC
- Luring Investigation started by MYST
- [Surrey man faces luring, sexual assault charges | Vancouver Sun](#)
- Letter of Support – Laura Vye, Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre
- MYST YOUTH template – running active list (some have aged out, but are still being offered support from MYST as there are few other supports)
- Missing Youth Reports 2023
- PCFSA, Media Statement, CRED, March 15, 2018
- Rock School Proposal
- Letter of Support for Constable Gord Magee
- MYST: Explain your role
- 2022 CRED Advocacy letter VFCYJC
- Case Study of youth supported by MYST
- Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, “Increased Funding and Staff Resources for MYST/CRED”, October 7, 2022
- Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, “Letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General,” November 20, 2023
- Letter, “CRED Program and Civil Forfeiture Funding”, by Insp. Michael Brown Officer in Charge – MYST Victoria Police Department, November 22, 2022
- Marie-Terese Little, Mayor, District of Metchosin, Letter to The Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General The Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General, February 15, 2024



- Policing and Security Branch Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, BC Government, “One-time Funding: Pacific Centre Family Services Association”, March 31, 2023
- Greater Victoria Police Integrated Units, Annual Report 2020-2021
- Greater Victoria Police Integrated Units, Annual Report 2021-2022
- PCFSA Special Report to the Chiefs of Police for the Capital Regional District, BC, CRED Program, May 2014

## **5.4 Letters of Support for Proposal**

Letters submitted in support of this proposal are from:

- Laura Vye, Executive Director, Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre and the Victoria and West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYAC); Retired MYST police officer (Saanich Police Department)
- Jennifer Chambers, Senior Analyst & Trainer, Safer Schools Together; Former Counsellor, Esquimalt High School; Former District Counsellor, Greater Victoria School District (GVSD)
- Jennifer MacKenzie, Regional CYFMHSU Nursing Clinician & Rebecca Butler, Coordinator, South Island CYFMHSU, Island Health Child, Youth & Family Mental Health and Substance Use (CYFMHSU)
- Lee O'Neill, Youth Probation Officer, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- Monique Moore, District Counsellor, Greater Victoria School District (GVSD) 61
- Bill McElroy, Chair, Capital Region Action Team; Representative of sexually exploited youth to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (VFCYJC)

May 14, 2024

Chief Manak and Area Chiefs,

Please accept this letter of my support for the continuation of the MYST Team and potential to expand the program.

As many of you know, I am a retired Saanich Police Department member and was the MYST officer for many years in the early 2000s. During that time, I was greatly impacted by my experiences when I worked with youth and children who were at risk for or actively being sexually exploited both on and off the streets. Many of the youth were street entrenched, living in and out of foster care, or continually moved from one foster home to another. Many were living with addictions, mental health struggles, and were experiencing or had experienced sexual abuse, violence, or trauma from neglect or witnessing violence. Some youth came from apparently “normal homes” and were chronically missing. Some were full on actively working in the sex trade at the street level, online, or via their “boyfriends” who would take them to parties, locally and in other cities. At that time, the online aspect of sexual exploitation was just beginning. It became very apparent to me that there was an integral need for police officers, outreach workers, and counsellors to have a focused and dedicated approach to this vulnerable population in order to form trusting relationships in the hopes of them being influenced to make safer choices, locate them when missing, forming connections to community health and mental health resources, in the hope of extracting them from the exploitation or, ideally, gaining disclosures to hold the people who had exploited them accountable. One thing that was clear was that forming trust and meaningful relationships with the youth was a long-term project. For some it took years, which is why the MYST Team, once established, should remain in place as a team for as long as possible. It takes a significant amount of time to gain “street cred” with the youth, for the trust to form, and for them to allow you into their world. It also takes special people in these roles, roles that cannot be filled by just anyone.

Fast forward to now, following my retirement, I became the Executive Director of the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre and the Victoria and West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYAC). I have connected with the current MYST Team on many occasions, as they are part of our Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) of partners at the CYAC. From what I know about Gord and Mia, they have accomplished incredible things as a team together. I know that they have expanded MYST to include many youth and children at risk of or involved in gangs. Not surprisingly, this lifestyle is closely connected to the exploitation of youth in other ways by extortion, sextortion, human trafficking, and violence. The MYST efforts towards prevention strategies and taking action to help our most vulnerable youth is commendable. The MYST Team is highly regarded by the child and youth serving organizations in Victoria. They are active in attending local and provincial conferences dedicated to the protection and advocacy of children and youth. They recently attended our MDT Training-Enhancing Cultural and Community Safety for Children and Youth conference that included Indigenous organizations and presenters. They are also in discussions to be presenters at the BC Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres conference in September 2024.

The MYST Team is as needed today as it was in the 2000s, however as we know, Greater Victoria is not the small town it once was. We are a small city with big city problems. It is time for our local police, municipal, and provincial leaders to enhance and expand their resources to invest in the future of our young people, which in time, will likely see a decrease in many of our adult community and social issues that we see before us now.

Our agency Vision is for “Healing and Hope for all Children, Youth, and Caregivers affected by Sexual Abuse, and Other Trauma through Integrated Services and Respect for Diversity”. The MSYT Team is the perfect example of an Integrated Service for children and youth that can lead to healing and hope.

I would be happy to meet with anyone who requires additional information or has questions for me or the staff here at the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre.

Respectfully,

*Laura Vye*



To Whom It May Concern:

June 27, 2024

My name is Jennifer Chambers, and I am writing this letter in support of the long-term expansion of MYST for South Vancouver Island. I believe the team is in a unique position to be a responsive, strength-based support for the vulnerable youth in our community due to the multidisciplinary framework of the team, its geographic flexibility and connections to traditionally siloed organizations.

I have been an educator for thirty years and have been in the unique position of working with MYST in a variety of roles: as a school-based counsellor at Esquimalt High School, as district counsellor for Greater Victoria School District, and now as a senior analyst and trainer with Safer Schools Together. This letter of support reflects my own observations and is not written on behalf of any of these organizations.

MYST has created a unique role in our community that has allowed the team to develop proactive, strength-based relationships with vulnerable youth in our community. The counsellor/ police officer partnership means students can access a variety of resources and through this team, and receive support navigating the legal system, hospitalization, treatment programs etc. MYST has credibility with youth, families and community which can help bridge the gaps, biases and hurdles that exist for struggling youth and their families. I have referred parents to MYST when their youth is drug entrenched, at risk for exploitation and recruitment, and they are at a loss as to how to support their child in community. I have also consulted with the team about trends we may be seeing in our communities, and the team has been invaluable in terms of planning for students who are transitioning out of school settings or during school breaks. MYST has the flexibility in its mandate to work with youth in community and I have witnessed connections with students who may still be at risk for recruitment, violence and extortion but not yet entrenched in those behaviours, as well as the most vulnerable and exploited in our community. Over the years, I have witnessed many students and families inviting MYST to be their advocates in discipline hearings and it has been a crucial part of our support planning that this team can support students no matter where they end land in our community.

MYST is also helpful as we have seen an emerging trend in terms of geographic flexibility with our vulnerable youth. For example, students move between foster homes throughout the lower island, have far greater peer communities due to social media, and often move school to school, district to district. However, many of our community resources are still linked to specific municipalities or school districts; MYST has a unique position of maintaining connection regardless of a youth's mobility. From a trauma informed lens, this attachment availability is crucial for supporting kids struggling with little support, resources or trust. Moreover, the unfortunate, politicized decision by Greater Victoria school trustees to cut the police liaison program has further eroded the opportunity for vulnerable youth to have positive, trusting relationships with police and until there is a shift

to more proactive planning by trustees, MYST is the only non-emergency connection and resource for police support that students in Greater Victoria can access. I believe the MYST model linking a police officer with a mental health counsellor is an effective partnership that should be expanded and may be an interesting framework to further expand when school trustees are willing to acknowledge the importance of policing partnerships with our schools.

Over my career there have been many pilot projects and committees established, focusing on breaking down silos between organizations in our community. Quite frankly, I believe MYST consistently does a more effective job of linking organizations such as schools, police, youth forensics, MCFD and Island Health than any other initiative I have witnessed. They model youth focused problem solving, respectful information sharing that follows provincial FOIPPA guidelines, and professional respect.

My concern is that a team of two cannot hope to maintain the level of support, communication and advocacy that MYST has traditionally shouldered, particularly as the sheer number of vulnerable youths in our community continues to grow. I hope we can continue to support this team and take the opportunity to expand their capacity by increasing the team, so more of our vulnerable youth and families receive this powerful and important ongoing support.

With respect,



Jennifer Chambers  
250-818-0735  
Jenchambers9@me.com

**OUR VISION:**

Excellent health  
and care for  
everyone,  
everywhere,  
every time.

May 22, 2024

**Re: Letter of Support for the Mobile Youth Service Team (MYST)**

The ongoing toxic drug-poisoning crisis continues to have an increasing impact on youth living in the Island Health region. In a May 2023 BC Coroners Service release, youth data captured from Jan 1, 2017, to Dec 31, 2022, indicated 142 unregulated drug deaths under 19 years of age. Males accounted for 54% of deaths, and 62% of the deaths occurred among individuals between 17 and 18 years of age. 73% of decedents were in receipt of current or previous services offered through the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and 67% of decedents had a mental-health diagnosis or anecdotal evidence of a mental health disorder. Often in correlation to the toxic drug crisis, human trafficking of minor youth including gang-involvement and sex-trafficking is prevalent in several communities across Vancouver Island. This is particularly concerning in Port Alberni, Nanaimo, and Victoria where many of the minor youth we care for are engaged in survival sex work.

Island Health Child, Youth & Family Mental Health and Substance Use (CYFMHSU) services endeavors to collaboratively plan, and deliver impactful initiatives, that focus on building capacity and resiliency for the youth we care for. The CYFMHSU collaborations in the South Island, include a strong connection to the Mobile Youth Service Team (MYST). MYST has been an integral community partner for the South Island CYFMHSU youth outreach services in various capacities, including:

- Facilitating referrals to Island Health services.
- Helping our teams and clients navigate interactions with law enforcement.
- Providing an approachable ‘face’ to law enforcement.
- Acting as a resource for mitigating negative outcomes associated with protection orders and other related scenarios.
- Any other questions or assistance that may arise.

Our South Island CYFMHSU outreach services maintain frequent communication with MYST officer (Gord Magee) and MYST Counsellor (Mia Golden) when concerning incidents arise with youth we serve. Particularly important is the consistent and low-barrier approach that Gord and Mia offer the teams and youth in the Greater Victoria Area. Youth who are accessing our services are often extremely vulnerable, with extensive histories of trauma which requires a longitudinal approach to building relationships. Having Gord and Mia as the consistent members of MYST has allowed youth and the outreach teams working with them to build a level of trust essential to bridging the divide between youth and policing. Additionally, there have been many scenarios that have happened outside of Gord and Mia’s schedule which has further highlighted the need for a more robust MYST team that can be present 7 days a week.



We have recently become aware that there is a possibility of a new MYST officer replacing Gord Magee, as historically this has been a term defined role. Please consider this a letter of support for maintaining the current MYST team members indefinitely in order for youth and community outreach services to preserve the relationship that has been established with Gord and Mia, over Gord's tenure. Further, we support the expansion of this critically important service, as the rise in youth exposed to human trafficking continues to escalate in prevalence and complexity.

We are happy to answer any questions or provide further detail, if required.

Kind regards,

Jennifer MacKenzie  
Regional CYFMHSU Nursing Clinician  
[Jennifer.mackenzie2@islandhealth.ca](mailto:Jennifer.mackenzie2@islandhealth.ca)

Rebecca Butler  
Coordinator SI CYFMHSU  
[Rebecca.butler@islandhealth.ca](mailto:Rebecca.butler@islandhealth.ca)





April 28, 2023

Deputy Chief Colin Watson  
Victoria Police Department,  
Victoria, B.C.

I am pleased to write a letter of support regarding Constable Gord Magee, current Mobile Youth Services Team Officer to extend his tenure past the usual 5 years as the MYST Officer.

I am a Youth Probation Officer with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and have worked with Constable. Magee for over four years in his capacity as our MYST Officer. There have been numerous occasions in my role that I have called upon Constable Magee and Mia Golden who works along side him to assist me in gathering more information or been there and responded to concerns I have had about various youth in the CRD region.

The mandate of the MYST team is to address the issues of at risk and sexually exploited youth in the CRD region and of course these are often the same youth that we as Youth Probation Officers are supervising. Since Constable Magee began with MYST his keen enthusiasm, care, concern open and honest communication along with his collaborative insightful approach has garnered the respect and trust of the youth within the CRD. Respect and trust take time to build, Constable Magee has built and earned the respect of the youth, professionals, and various stakeholders who he works with.

Arguably there has been an increase of youth violence, youth consuming illegal substances which has led to a marked increase in youth overdosing in the past 5 years. Through the relationships that Constable Magee and Mia have build with the youth, professionals, and various stakeholders that they have a vast amount of knowledge of the youth and their backgrounds which has only build over the past four years. It is my opinion that this criminal intelligence that they have and continue to expand is integral to crime prevention. Additionally, I believe that having a consistent police officer like Constable Magee who the youth trust in this role assists the youth's sense of safety as they know who they can go and talk to and it is more likely that youth who are needing to make a statement may consider doing so as they feel safer to do so.

Respectfully,

Lee O'Neill  
Youth Probation Officer  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
2814 Nanaimo Street, Victoria, B.C.  
(778) 698-3424  
Fax: 250-953-3710

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**Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development**

**Mailing Address:**  
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2814 Nanaimo Street,  
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(250) 387-3495



April 25, 2024

In support of the MYST Team

In my role as a District Counsellor for the Greater Victoria School District, I support students in our middle and secondary schools that profile with complex needs and behavior. The priority concerns are: mental health, complex substance misuse, gang recruitment, criminal involvement, concerning online behavior and vulnerability to predators. We see increasing complexity in our youth from K-12 and when these challenges expand beyond the scope of a school system, we rely heavily on the supports of our community partners. The MYST team, now consisting of Mia Golden (counsellor) and Gord Magee (Victoria Police), are pillars of support that we need to access on a regular basis. I also need to acknowledge that they are accessed by all three school districts.

The invaluable support that the MYST offers includes: consult and collaboration around the complex concerns listed above, connecting with youth and family to offer information/support/ and a pathway towards safety, guiding school staff in next steps as towards other needed supports including police and MCFD. The MYST team is readily available in spite of the demands placed on a team of two.

Furthermore, I would like you to consider the expansion of MYST to a team of 4-6 in order to meet the needs of our three school districts. Mia and Gord with their rich experience are well placed to mentor and train new members of the team. If you would like to discuss further, please reach out to me anytime.

Thank you,

Monique Moore, District Counsellor (250-888-3416)

GVSD61 556 Boleskine Road

mmoore@sd61.bc.ca



---

Dr. Rebeccah Nelems  
Athabasca University  
VIA EMAIL: rnelems@athabascau.ca  
June 28, 2024

**Re: MYST Proposal**

I am writing this letter in support of the MYST proposal prepared by Dr. Rebeccah Nelems.

The Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT) was formed in 1998 in response to the “kiddie stroll” where children were selling their bodies openly on the streets of Victoria. One of the proposals that grew from this activity was the Mobile Youth Support Team (MYST). In the beginning, MYST was comprised of a team of 4 people: one police officer and 3 youth workers. The youth workers were funded by a number of youth serving agencies in Greater Victoria, via a series of Provincial and Federal Funders. By the 2000s, funding was decreased to those agencies, and MYST became a team of one, a police officer.

This situation continued for about a decade, when funding through Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) resulted in an on again-off again position being made available to MYST.

In 1998, the Greater Victoria population was about 308,000. There were virtually no cell phones and social media was not considered to be a threat to youth. There was virtually no gang activity. By 2014 the population of Greater Victoria is about 402,000. By now, the exploitation had moved from the streets to escort agencies to the internet. It became harder to track the exploiters and youth were being exploited across all regions and income levels.

It would stand to reason that if the population had increased by 33%, then the MYST would have increased by 33%, so that there would be at least 5 members of MYST, but that has not happened

Without increased funding to MYST, the risk to our youth will continue to increase.

Sincerely,

Bill McElroy  
Chair, Capital Region Action Team.



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

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**SUBJECT**     **Advocacy to Sustain Funding for At-Risk Youth Counselling**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the “Committee”) requests an advocacy letter from the CRD Board to request ongoing Provincial support for the sole youth counsellor position servicing youth at risk of sexual exploitation in the capital region.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its June 27, 2024 meeting, the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee unanimously passed the following motion:

*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, with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families with the CRD.*

The MYST team consists of one youth counsellor and one police officer. Together they have thousands of support interactions with youth and families and conduct presentations in schools and in the community. The counselling position provides much-needed support and diversion services to youth at risk of sexual exploitation. The position is funded entirely by project-based grant funding, while the police officer is funded through a three-year rotation through Saanich, Victoria, and Oak Bay Police.

In January 2023, after the program’s three-year Provincial funding expired, Chair Plant drafted a letter of support along with several other local governments. This was responded by Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth, who confirmed one-time, one-year funding of \$130,000 to provide these necessary services.

Pacific Centre Family Services’ Association, which employs the youth counsellor position, had its most recent Provincial funding application denied, and as a result, the youth counsellor position funding runs-out in September. If there is no regular source of funding identified, PCFSA will no longer be able to provide youth counselling.

The MYST program arose in the early 2000s from the work of the Capital Region Action Team on Sexually Exploited Youth, and is heavily supported by the Committee, a *Provincial Court Act* family court committee which has as its mandate the canvassing of gaps in youth and family court and justice services in the capital region.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

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, with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families with the CRD.

### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implications*

A loss of the youth counsellor would have significant impact for young people serviced by the program, many of whom are LGBTQ2+ or First Nations and at risk of online luring, prostitution, sextortion, or sexualized violence. While other organizations do exist that provide drop-in assistance or counselling generally, the CRED program is specific for youth at-risk of sexual violence and exploitation, and works closely with police to ensure youth are adequately supported and can be diverted from negative impacts, personally and with the justice system. It is unique in the region and the committee was advised that there is heavy demand for its counselling services.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Given the continued advocacy from the CRD Board on this issue and the lack of sustained, secure, ongoing funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments, the CRD's member municipalities may wish to look at modifying an existing CRD contribution service to provide ongoing funding. CRD's municipalities, excepting North Saanich, currently participate in the Greater Victoria Victims Services under Bylaw No. 1998, "Greater Victoria Victim Services Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1992". The Committee's funding service under Bylaw No 2560, "Family Court Committee Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1997", also permits making of grants but has a small annual budget of \$15,000. Either service authority bylaw could be modified by two-thirds consent of participants to include a direct contribution to PCFSA to cover or contribute to the cost of youth counsellors.

## **CONCLUSION**

The MYST and CRED programs are of importance to the region, as determined by the Committee, and it has requested the CRD Regional Board continue its advocacy to the Province for sustained provincial funding. Should funding continue to not be sustained or supported by the Province or Federal Government, the CRD Board may wish in future to consider more direct funding from a CRD service.



**RECOMMENDATION**

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, with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families with the CRD.

Submitted by:	Steven Carey, B.Sc, J.D., Senior Manager, Legal Services & Risk Management
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Angela Linwood, CPA, CMA, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix A: January 2023 Letter from Chair Plant

Appendix B: April 2023 Response from Province



Executive Office  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3125  
F: 250.360.3130  
www.crd.bc.ca

January 19, 2023

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Mitzi Dean, M.L.A.  
Minister of Children and Family Development  
Room 134 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4  
Via email: [MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Dean:

**RE: PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION - MOBILE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM**

At the January 11, 2023, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting a motion was passed to encourage the province to renew its support for the Pacific Centre Family Services Association's (PCFSA) Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and its Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion (CRED) program.

The MYST program provides vital support to at-risk youth in our region, particularly those who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, and involvement in the criminal justice system. The program's focus on providing outreach, counseling, and support services has been shown to be effective in reducing crime and exploitation among youth in our communities.

The CRED program has been instrumental in addressing the issues of exploitation and trafficking among youth in our region. It has helped to provide support, education, and services to at-risk youth, while also working with law enforcement and other organizations to address the root causes of exploitation and trafficking.

The CRD Board urges the province to continue to support the PCFSA and its programs, including MYST and CRED, to ensure that at-risk youth in our region continue to receive the support they need to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Investing in programs like MYST and CRED is not only the right thing to do for the youth in our communities, but it also makes sense from a crime reduction and public safety perspective.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further and provide any additional information you may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Plant', is positioned above the printed name.

Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 637760

April 25, 2023

Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria BC V8W 2S6  
Email: [cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca)

Dear Colin Plant:

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2023, addressed to the Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development, concerning the Pacific Centre Family Services Association's (PCFSA) Crime Reduction & Exploitation Diversion (CRED) program and the Mobile Youth Service Team (MYST). Your correspondence has been shared with me and as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I am pleased to respond.

I want to first acknowledge the important work PCFSA and its MYST and CRED programs continue to do in providing much needed services to at-risk youth in the Capital Regional District. I appreciate your advice on the significant impact their efforts have had in Sooke and advocacy for the continued support for these community programs with respect to further funding.

I am pleased to confirm one-time funding was provided for PCFSA and its MYST and CRED programs. The total approved one-time funding for this initiative will be \$130,000.00 to enable CRED and MYST programs to continue to provide services to at-risk youth in the Capital Regional District.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your ongoing advocacy on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
and Deputy Premier

pc: Liz Nelson, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association  
The Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 659009

August 23, 2024

Marie-Terese Little  
Chair  
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee  
3300 Wishart Road  
Colwood BC V9C 1R1  
Email: [vfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com)

Dear Madam Chairwoman Little:

Thank you for your letter of November 20, 2023, expressing your support of the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion Program (CRED) run by the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA). I apologize for the delay in my reply.

Addressing vulnerable youth experiencing, homelessness, sexual exploitation, drug addiction, gang and gun violence is an issue that the Province takes very seriously. Improving the safety and security of British Columbia's is of the utmost importance and a matter for which all levels of Government share responsibility. Local governments and agencies play an active and important role in this shared responsibility through the provision of local prevention and intervention services.

The Province recognizes the intricate and interconnected landscape of crime, particularly as it pertains to gun and gang violence, and remains committed to addressing these issues through a multi-pronged approach that recognizes the interdependence of prevention/intervention, intelligence, enforcement, and legislation.

In 2023/24, the Province invested over \$100M into specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking across BC. This funding includes an increase to CFSEU-BC's total budget to reconcile RCMP salary updates, funding for priority initiatives within the Organized Crime Agency of BC, and support for municipal police department capacity through the federal Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF).

In addition, the BC government is also funding complementary justice sector initiatives to address gang-related violence and crime. This includes support to prosecution services to ensure expertise, reduce delays associated with gang-related trials, increase prosecutorial capacity, and

.../2

Marie-Terese Little  
Page 2

bring about more specialized and tailored legal responses to gun and gang-related cases. It also includes specialized, court-based victim service workers to assist witnesses and victims of serious crimes (thereby contributing to increased justice/sentencing), and support for corrections staff to collect gang-related intelligence within provincial correctional institutions and provide anti-gang education to inmates.

Over the last six years the PCFSA has received a total of \$777,000 of funding from the Province for their CRED and MYST Programs. The funding provided was a combination of one-time grant funding from the GGVAF as well as one-time funding from my Ministry's contingency fund. Grant funding, including GGVAF, is not intended to be a permanent funding source for programs and projects as one-time grants allow the province to optimize investments in serious and organized crime prevention disruption and enforcement efforts across the province. The Policing and Security Branch will be liaising directly with PCFSA should they require any additional information regarding current or future GGVAF applications.

Additional funding opportunities that PCFSA may want to consider outside of GGVAF are:

Canada's Youth Gang Action Fund:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/yth-gng-prvntn-fnd-en.aspx>

Canada's Crime Prevention Action Fund:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/crm-prvntn-ctn-fnd-en.aspx>

BC's Civil Forfeiture Grant:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants>

Local governments and agencies play a critical role in maintaining community programs. I appreciate your continued involvement and support of the MYST and CRED Programs.

Sincerely,



Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
and Deputy Premier

pc: The Honourable David Eby, KC  
The Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of State for Child Care  
The Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development  
The Honourable Niki Sharma, KC, Attorney General  
The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
His Worship, Kevin Murdoch, Mayor & Co-Chair, RGU-IPU  
Paula Kully, Executive Assistant, Oak Bay Police Department  
Liz Nelson, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association  
Colin Plant, Councillor & CRD Chair  
Her Worship, Maja Tait, Mayor & CRD Vice Chair  
Sharon Orr, Senior Committee Clerk, Legislative Services, CRD  
Tim Dunford, Board Chair, School District No. 63 (Saanich)  
Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
Amanda Dowhy, Interim Board Chair, School District No. 62 (Sooke)  
Marie-Pierre Lavoie, Chairperson, School District No. 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone)

