

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Notice of Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 11:35 am
Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Meeting to be conducted electronically and in-person.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for Jan. 23, 2025 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1. Adoption of the Nov. 28, 2024 Minutes (**attached**)

Recommendation: That the minutes of Nov. 28, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of Jan. 9, 2025 (**attached**)

Recommendation: That the notes of the Jan. 9, 2025 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

7. VFCYJC Orientation

7.1. Committee Orientation (**attached**) + Qualification Matrix overview (**attached**)

8. Committee Meeting Schedule

9. Sub-Committee Business

9.1. Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)

9.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (B. McElroy)

9.2.1. MYST West Shore working group update

9.3. Family and Youth Matters (R. Stanton)

9.4. Court Watch (M. Little)

9.4.1. Discussion about need, feasibility and future of this sub-committee

9.5. **Communications** (J. Bateman)

9.5.1. Website update – monthly retainer with Honeycomb Web Services

9.5.2. Future meeting speakers

9.5.3. [Youth Issues panel discussion report](#) – next steps for advocacy

9.5.4. [SPLO backgrounder updated January 9, 2025](#)

10. Treasurer's Report

11. New Business

12. Correspondence

13. Notice(s) of Motion

13.1. Motion With Notice – M. Mclean

*Recommendation: “That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) directs the Communications sub-committee in the very near future to prepare letters to the various BC Ministers listed below but not limited to, for a **Call to Action(s)**, to address some of the many provincial shortfalls in providing services and/or gaps in services including integrated services which indeed are the responsibility of the Province of BC for children, youth, students and their families’ at risk including but not limited to: their mental health, health, including potential addictions and addictions to illicit drugs, poverty, safety including public & community safety, education and support needs including lack of funding and/or removed funding for such provincial responsible services.*

For example, services such as provided by the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Criminal Reduction & Exploitation Division (CRED), through Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Victoria BC and, currently City of Victoria/Esquimalt Police Departments who function within the Greater Victoria area including Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, as well as the Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU) also involved with youth and families at risk.

And further that specific core members of VFC&YJC request to meet with the Ministers to speak to the concerns in the very near future as these matters are critical and urgent due to the current issues within the Capital Region for youth, vulnerable youth, youth at risk and their families within the Capital Regional District”.

These future letter(s) to be sent to:

**Premier David Eby,*

**Attorney General & Deputy Premier: Niki Sharma,*

**Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General: Honourable Gary Begg,*

**Minister of Health: Honourable Josie Osbourne,*

**Minister of Children and Family Development: Honourable Grace Lore,*

**Minister of Education and Child Care: Honourable Lisa Beare,*

**Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: Honourable Christine Boyle,*

**Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson,*

**Minister of Finance: Honourable: Brenda Bailey*

**Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support Needs: Honourable Jodie Wickens,*

**Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services: Honourable Terry Yung,*

Cc: Jennifer Charlesworth, Representative for Children and Youth BC,

Cc: Integrated Police Units Regional Governance Council

14. Adjournment

Roundtable to be held after adjournment, time permitting.

Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday, November 28, 2024, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC

Present:

M. Little (Chair), K. Guiry (Vice Chair) (EP), B. McElroy, J. Bateman, C. Day, S. Duncan (EP), M. McLean, E. Paterson, J. Rondeau, M. Westhaver (EP), T. Vanwell (EP)

Staff: S. Carey, Senior Manager, Legal and Risk Services; S. Orr, Senior Committee Clerk; M. Essery, Recorder (EP)

EP – Electronic Participation

Guests: K. Petersen, Youth Empowerment Society; M. Olsen, City of Colwood; S. Riddell, Central Saanich

Regrets: C. Chaytors, A. Holeton, S. Rapoport, D. Brown, K. Loughton, K. Kwan, C. Lervold J. McClintock, D. Rotchford

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement.

E. Paterson provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Little introduced everyone in attendance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by J. Bateman,
That the agenda for November 28, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved as amended by adding Item 11.2 Notice of Motion.
CARRIED**

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1. Adoption of the Minutes

**MOVED by J. Bateman, SECONDED by E. Paterson,
That the minutes of October 24, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted as amended.
CARRIED**

4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of November 14, 2024

**MOVED by B. McElroy, SECONDED by C. Day,
That the notes of the November 14, 2024 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.
CARRIED**

5. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Little asked members to please email anything you would like in the Annual Report

6. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6.1. Resource Agencies

There was no report.

6.2. Presenter - Cheryl Chaytors, Boys & Girls Club Greater Victoria

The presenter did not speak.

6.3. Delegation - Dr. Rebecca Nelems, re: MYST Business Case Study

The delegation did not speak.

7. Sub-Committee Business

7.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)

7.1.1. Report from Kisae Peterson, Operational Director, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society re: program outcomes from VFCYJC “Summer Opportunities” grant.

K. Peterson presented Item 7.1.1. for information and thanked the committee for their support.

7.1.2. Sanctuary Youth Centre/Cornerstone Society program outcomes report Priorities Subcommittee

M. McLean presented Item 7.1.2. for information.

7.2. Communications Committee (Jeff Bateman)

J. Bateman presented item 7.2. for information and provided the following information:

- The Communications subcommittee had an online meeting on November 20.
- More work needs to be done on our website.
- As a follow up to the panel presentation, the communications subcommittee is creating an Executive Summary Report.
- Committee members suggested that a list be created with gaps that exist and that can be tracked.
- VFCYJC is keen to have more indigenous representation on our committee.
- The committee would also like a representative from the Juan de Fuca Electoral District.

7.3. Capital Region Action Team (Bill McElroy)

B. McElroy presented item 7.3. for information and provided the following information:

- The ICE situation has been his focus.
- An Ad hoc group has started and will be meeting about the Mobile Youth Services Team.
- There is an Ad hoc committee on the West Shore re the Mobile Youth Services Team.
- If anyone from VFCYJC wants to join please contact B. McElroy.
- No one from Central Saanich/ West Shore RCMP has contacted M.Y.S.T.
- There has been no community consultation.
- C.R.A.T. is working on a graphic novel that will be handed out at school presentations.

- The graphic novel will have the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice logo on it.

8. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

8.1. 2024 Third Quarter Financial Statement

E. Paterson spoke to Item 8.1.

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by B. McElroy,
That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee approve the third quarter financial statement.**

CARRIED

8.2. 2025 Draft Budget

E. Paterson spoke to Item 8.2.

**MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by C. Day
That the committee approve the 2025 preliminary draft budget as presented.**

CARRIED

9. Committee Business

There was no committee business.

10. Correspondence

10.1. ICE report

Chair Little presented Item 10.1. for information.

10.2. Steve Carey report to CRD Board, July 10, 2024

S. Carey presented Item 10.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding

- MYST funding
- The Chair to meet with MYST and Pacific Family Services to determine other funding avenues

10.3. Westshore RCMP withdrawal from MYST and Regional Integrated Units

This item was received for information.

10.4. Officer and subcommittee positions – reminder

This item was received for information.

10.5. Terms of Member Appointments to VFCYJC + notification process (discussion)

This item was received for information.

10.6. VFCYJC Annual Report (discussion)

Discussion ensued regarding a brief Annual Report will be prepared and presented at the Annual General in January. Subcommittee Chairs and committee members are encouraged email information that they would like included.

10.7. Determining presenter honorarium for Cathy Peters

**MOVED by B. McElroy, SECONDED by C. Day,
To give \$300.00 honorarium to presenter Cathy Peters.
CARRIED**

11. Notice(s) of Motion

11.1. Motion with Notice (M. McLean)

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by J. Bateman,
That Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee directs the Chair to send a cover letter signed by the Chair together with the Mobile Youth Service's Team (MYST) Business Case Report (Report) dated September 2024 addressed to VFCYJC prepared by Dr. Rebecca Nelems to each municipal Council within the Capital Regional District (CRD), the JDF Electoral Area(s), and the CRD Board for informational purposes as well as for their consideration of support for the Report's proposed plan(s) and it's recommendations and further to please copy their letter(s) to:**

- The Premier of BC,
 - New or returning MLA's,
 - MP's and,
 - Ministers of Public Safety, Education, Children and Family Development, Addictions," others ??
 - VFC&YJC Chair (for our records)"
 - For the letter and the link and to send to the Federal Minister as well.
- CARRIED**

11.2. Notice of Motion

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

"That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) directs the Communications sub-committee in the very near future to prepare letters to the various BC Ministers listed below but not limited to, for a Call to Action(s), to address some of the many provincial shortfalls in providing services and/or gaps in services including integrated services which indeed are the responsibility of the Province of BC for children, youth, students and their families' at risk including but not limited to: their mental health, health, including potential addictions and addictions to illicit drugs, poverty, safety including public & community safety, education and support needs including lack of funding and/or removed funding for such provincial responsible services.

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And, further that specific core members of VFC&YJC request to meet with the Ministers to speak to the concerns in the very near future as these matters are critical and urgent due to the current issues within the Capital Region for youth, vulnerable youth, youth at risk and their families within the Capital Regional District”.

These future letter(s) to be sent to:

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*Attorney General & Deputy Premier: Niki Sharma,

*Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General: Honourable Gary Begg,

*Minister of Health: Honourable Josie Osbourne,

*Minister of Children and Family Development: Honourable Grace Lore,

*Minister of Education and Child Care: Honourable Lisa Beare,

*Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: Honourable Christine Boyle,

*Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson,

*Minister of Finance: Honourable: Brenda Bailey

*Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support Needs: Honourable Jodie Wickens,

*Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services: Honourable Terry Yung,

Cc: Jennifer Charlesworth, Representative for Children and Youth BC,

Cc: Integrated Regional Councils (correct name??)

12. Adjournment

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

That the November 28, 2024 Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:33 pm.

CARRIED

January 9, 2025

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Steering Committee discussed the agenda of the AGM and the election of the executive, sub-committee chairs and CRD appointments.

- Confirmation that Jamie Maclaren, ED of Access Pro Bono, will be speaking at AGM
- Review of the Annual Report and identifying any missing information. Next year Annual Report will include information about the gaps in services
- Moved the discussion of the meeting schedule for 2025 from the regular meeting to the AGM.

Steering Committee discussed the regular meeting

- Committee reviewed the sub-committee business and clarified if there were updates from the chairs of the sub-committee
- Added an update from the MYST West Shore working group update to sub-committee business
- Added a discussion of the future of the Court Watch sub-committee.
- Communications sub-committee will cover the SPLO Backgrounder, added a discussion on the youth issues panel and a review of the future meeting speakers for the upcoming year.
- Added orientation to the beginning of the agenda and moved the qualification matrix to this discussion
- Inclusion of the Motion with Notice as a follow-up to the Notice of Motion from the previous meeting.

Dates of the next Steering Committee Meeting to be determined after the AGM discussion on the meeting schedule for 2025

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

January 23, 2025



Agenda

1. Committee History
2. CRD Service-overview
3. Service Structure
4. Governance
5. Roles and Responsibilities
6. Purpose
7. Subcommittees
8. Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Committee History

- 1960's- The Victoria Family Court Committee was created with Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, and Esquimalt as members, under the now-*Provincial Court Act*.
- CRD was then tasked with constructing and paying for the Family and Children's Court Building.
- late 1980s- the Letters Patent were amended to task CRD with funding and participating in the Family Court Committee. The Committee was designed a "**Youth Justice Committee**" by BC's Min of Attorney General under the now-*Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- The Committee amended its Terms of Reference and Constitution and gave CRD additional membership;
- 1990s- Central Saanich, North Saanich, and Sidney joined the service and Committee as the Peninsula Courthouse had closed;
- Late 1990s, the Service was amended to provide grants to CRAT and other "Board approved" committees;
- Until 2019, the Committee continued to do advocacy and community granting work;
- In 2019, an informal service review was initiated, which resulted in the Committee deciding to become a CRD "Commission" and a commission bylaw being adopted by the CRD Board.

Legislated Purposes

Provincial Court Act – Family Court Committee with powers and duties under Section 4.1

- 4x per year to canvass resources for children and family matters
- Provide annual recommendation to Provincial Attorney General and member municipalities
- Do other tasks as directed by the Court

Youth Criminal Justice Act – Y/Justice Committee

- Tasks as assigned by the person creating the Committee
- If requested, act as a “conference” for designated organizations
- Was designated organization for youth custody

CRD Bylaw No. 2560 & 4453

- Grants to community organizations
- Take positions within its mandate and advocate on policy, legislation, and services affecting families and youth justice in the region

Service Structure

- **Bylaw 2560** is an “Establishing Bylaw”, setting out scope of the regional district “Service” and its participants
- **Bylaw 4453** sets out the structure of the regional “Commission”
- The Committee is responsible for its own administrative decisions, and is delegated the Board’s ability to grant and provide assistance to community groups from the Service budget
- Neither effect the legislated status of the Committee, but wrap around it for liability and structure purposes
- As an “administrative” commission, the Committee as a whole must decide its priorities. The Board is not involved in the Committee’s day-to-day business, subject to *LGA* requirements.
- The budget is meant for its administrative support and community grants
- The Committee does not have staff, though it may access some supports through CRD
- Amendments to Bylaw 2560 require two-thirds consent of participants and Provincial approval
- Amendments to Bylaw 4453 require Board approval with a two-thirds majority vote

Governance Overview



Committee Governance

- CRD Procedures Bylaw No. 3828
- Commission Bylaw No. 4453, includes requirements such as:
 - Mandate
 - Membership
 - Term of office
 - Appointment procedure
 - Delegated power
 - Financial plan and budget
 - Meeting procedures
 - Record keeping requirements
- Roberts Rules of Order

Governance Overview



Committee Governance

- Agendas set at “Steering Committee” meeting, where all members are welcome to attend or submit motions in writing in advance
- The Steering Committee sets the agenda of an upcoming meeting, but does not make binding decisions
- Meetings operate the same as typical council meetings
- Recommended to have reports and motions drafted in advance of Steering Committee meeting and to have agendas out a week before a meeting, but not required by Bylaw 3828

Role and Responsibility of Committee

Unlike most Regional District Committees, this is a “working” committee, not just a strategic committee.

Other projects and arrangements are possible.

Some members must have experience in education, health, probation, or welfare.

Sub-committees exist by resolution of the Committee; the Chair appoints sub-committee chairs; each committee must have a purpose.

Members are also “volunteers” working on projects, whether its grant assessment, court watch, or advocacy work.

PURPOSE

Responsibility Of Members of the VFC&Y committee



ADVOCATE – for Children and Families who may come in contact with the Courts & Resource Agencies



EDUCATE – your council and community regarding these needs

What can the Committee do?

- **EDUCATE** -Act as a conduit between service agencies, local governments, and Provincial and Federal authorities
- Make community grants (other than assistance to business)
- **Advocate** for changes to legislation, policy, or systemic structures
- Canvas community resources for reporting to AG, local governments, others
- Take on specific causes for **advocacy or funding**, as has been historically done
 - Examining funding options
 - Organizing volunteer or contracted resources
 - Fund third parties to engage in such works

What can't the Committee do?

Committee cannot:

- Pass or amend bylaws
- amend its final Board approved budget or the Financial Plan (but may change uses of funds within its approved budget in the Financial Plan)
- approve reimbursements not in keeping with CRD policy (travel outside Canada)
- Individual commissions have no “powers” outside the Commission structure, unless:
 - Registered volunteers working on a project of the Committee, assigned by resolution; or
 - Otherwise delegated by bylaw.
- Purchase items- Purchasing done by CRD staff

Sub- committees

Purpose

- **Communications** – Jeff Bateman
- **Financial** – Bill McElroy
- **Youth and Family Matters**- Rose Stanton
- **CRAT** - Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth - Bill McElroy
- **Grants & Priorities**- Marcie McLean
- **Court Watch** - Marie-Térèse Little

Three-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Mission:

- To facilitate connections between municipal and First Nations governments, school districts, service providers, and the broader community in order to educate and advocate on the challenges and shortfalls facing youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system.

Vision:

- Families and youth have access to timely and appropriate supports within their communities so that they may achieve their full potential.

GOALS

Strategic Plan

2023-2026

1. Increase awareness of the issues facing families and youth involved with the justice system and raise the profile of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.
 - a. Identify gaps in services.
 - b. Support youth initiatives.
2. Pursue and promote meaningful reconciliation with the Indigenous community
 - a. Committee members participate in Cultural Competency Training
 - b. Acknowledge and reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
3. Advocate for policies and initiatives that improve outcomes for families and youth who may come in contact with the justice system. Give a platform to youth/ amplify youth voices.
4. Support equity of access to resources across the region. Help other organizations leverage their resources in support of families and youth.
5. Facilitate collaboration between community service providers and governance bodies in the interest of better supporting youth and families. (Report back to Municipalities)

Thank you
Questions



VFCYJC Experience Matrix

Composition and Eligibility

3. The VFCYJ Committee shall have the following number of voting members, up to a total of 23, each having one vote:

- (a) Up to seven individuals as Capital Regional District appointed representatives under section 7;
- (b) Thirteen municipal council representatives, who may each have an alternate, under section 8; and
- (c) Three school district representatives, representing School Districts 61, 62, and 63, under section 9.

4. Available openings for voting membership vacancies will be advertised by November of each year of a vacancy in a term in a form acceptable to the appointing organization.

5. A majority of members have experience in education, health, probation, or welfare.

6. Members must represent the interests of their community or organization to the best of their ability.

Experience

The Succession Planning-Meetings Work Group Report included the provision to institute a matrix to identify knowledge and/or expertise of existing VFC&YJ Committee members, to aid recruitment and orientation training, and to fill gaps where expertise is required.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act, Provincial Court Act BC, and CRD Bylaw 4453 stipulate the VFCYJ Committee ensures a majority of members have experience in education, health, probation, or welfare.

The VFCYJ Committee further approved the Success Planning-Meetings Work Group recommendation that the stipulated experience be interpreted to have a broad scope of meaning that includes mental health, addictions, indigenous and restorative justice, family law and other issues that affect youth in our communities.

In the context of the broad scope of meaning, it was recommended that non-voting resource members may include representatives of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Education, Children and Family Development, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Restorative Justice Health, Housing and Social Development, Police Forces and First Nations.

Commitment

Voting Members will be appointed for a term of 2 years, to a maximum of 6 years, and be prepared to attend VFC&YJ Committee meetings held at least 6 times per year (2 – 3 hours), and to participate in a sub-committee.

Matrix

Please check where you have achieved the relevant employment, experience, or interest in the columns below

Legislation References	Employment	Experience	Interest
Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act (SC 2002)			
Provincial Court Act BC			
Canadian Charter Rights and Freedom			
UN Convention on Rights of the Child			
Family Court Youth Justice Committee			
Family Law Act (BC) 2013			
(BC) Declaration Act (2019) on the Rights of Indigenous People			
Truth and Reconciliation Report (94 calls to action)			
Education	Employment	Experience	Interest
Disabilities			
Inclusion			
Social Justice curriculum			
At-risk behavior/attitudes			
Advanced Education and Skills Training			
Health	Employment	Experience	Interest
Food Security			
Mental Health			
Addictions			
Abuse/Exploitation			
Probation	Employment	Experience	Interest
Goals: crime prevention/rehabilitation and re-integration and meaningful consequences			
Intervention/Prevention			
Restorative Justice			
Indigenous Law/Gladue rights & principles			

Welfare	Employment	Experience	Interest
Protective Services			
Youth & Family services and support			
Safe school and after school care			
Housing			
Adoption and Fostering			
Indigenous (Bill C-92)			

Notes:

VFC&YJ Committee must also consider best methods and practices for communication to reach a broader recruitment audience in the CRD communities.